

Survey Number LR0070Owner Scottish Rite BodiesProperty Name Albert Pike Memorial TempleAddress 720 Scott StreetLittle Rock, AR 72201

Original Name _____

Location 700-24 Scott StreetConstruction Date 1924

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Albert Pike Memorial Temple is one of the most impressive institutional structures in Little Rock. Rectangular in plan, it occupies half of a city block and, since its completion in 1924, has exerted an imposing presence on Scott Street. The Temple, a Classical Revival design, is a three-story, limestone structure featuring a monumental columnade. The nineteen Ionic columns are each 40 feet tall and 4½ feet in diameter. The Scott Street elevation provides three entrances into the building, each with massive bronze doors. The main entrance steps are guarded by large stone eagles. Windows throughout the Temple are multi-paned, double-hung, and on the Scott Street facade the windows are protected by bronze grills. The words "ALBERT PIKE MEMORIAL TEMPLE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE OF FREEMASONRY" are carved along the frieze and an ornamental parapet is centered above the main entrance. An interesting element of the south facade is a second story balcony projecting in front of a set of three arched windows. This is a last vestige of the 1902 Albert Pike Consistory which was incorporated into the present building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Massonic organization in Arkansas was established in the 1830s. Albert Pike was one of the most colorful figures in the history of Arkansas and was the highest ranking member of the Masonic fraternity before the Civil War. Although Masonry in the state entered a dormant period immediately after the war, it resurfaced and grew steadily after 1890. This revived interest and growth dictated the necessity of three new facilities during the years from 1896 to 1922. When a decision was reached to build yet another Temple, fellow Mason George R. Mann and his partner Eugene Stern began what would be two years of planning and design. Upon its completion in 1924 the Albert Pike Memorial Temple was described as the most beautiful consistory in the United States. At the formal dedication of the building, the Sovereign Grand Inspector General made the following statement: "As a monumental building, aside from its uses for Masonic purposes, it would be a credit to any city or state, and for years to come it will stand as one of the finest and highest types of buildings in this city or throughout the Southwest." The exterior has not been altered in any significant way.

Verbal Boundary Description Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Block 8, Original CityAcreage Approximately oneQuadrangle Name Little Rock, ArkansasQuadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone 15Easting 566775Northing 3844430

NOV 13 1986

OCT 1 1986

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Little Rock Main Street MRA
State Pulaski County, ARKANSAS

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Albert Pike Memorial Temple

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

Date/Signature

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

2. Rose Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

3. Fulk Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

4. Gus Blass Department Store

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

5. Taylor Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

6. St. Andrews Catholic Cathedral

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

7. First Presbyterian Church

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

8. Worthen Bank Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

11/13/86
William B. Bushong

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

9. Donaghey Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

10. State Bank Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

86003118

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Albert Pike Memorial Temple (Little Rock Main
Street MRA)
Pulaski County
ARKANSAS

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. 107 | 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88

Date Due: 11/1/86 - 11/15/86

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 11-13-86

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Completed in 1924, the Albert Pike Memorial Temple features Classical Revival design. Named for Albert Pike, the highest ranking Mason prior to the Civil War.

Recom./Criteria Accept, C

Reviewer Noble

Discipline Historian

Date 11/7/86

____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



OCT 1 - 1986

Albert Pike Memorial Temple- LR0070

Little Rock Main Street MRA

Little Rock, Pulaski Co.

Photographed by Sarah Brown, 1985

Negative on file at AHPP

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000028