

PROSS 4101

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME **

HISTORIC Elks Temple (Old)

AND/OR COMMON
Elks Temple

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
614 S.W. 11th Ave.

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Portland, VICINITY OF Oregon First District

STATE OR CODE 41 COUNTY Multnomah CODE 051

CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Temple Investors, Ltd.

STREET & NUMBER
2626 First National Bank Tower,
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Portland Oregon 97201

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
1021 S.W. Fourth Ave.
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Portland Oregon 97204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Portland Historical Landmark

DATE
July 1, 1970
— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Portland Bureau of Planning 424 SW Main

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Portland Oregon 97204

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | interior only | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1921, to meet the need for new quarters due to an increased membership, Portland's Elks Lodge #142 purchased the 100 x 150 foot section (Lots 6-8, Block 252) at S.W. 11th and Alder Streets. The 100 x 100-foot tract on the corner was purchased from the Corbett estate, for \$100,000 while the 50 foot adjoining lot to the south was bought from the Holzman Brothers for \$40,000. At the time there was a filling station on the Corbett property and an old residence, being used as a repair shop on the Holzman property.

The architectural firm of Houghtaling & Dougan was contracted to design the new temple which was to be built on the site. The new temple was to be done in the ^{style of the} Italian Renaissance, based on Rome's Farnese Palace. Construction of the building began on New Years Eve 1922. On December 15, 1923 the Elks moved into their new building with a membership of 3,800. The new building was the fourth home of the Elks who had organized on November 3, 1889 with a membership of a mere 25 men.

Throughout the 20's the Elks prospered just as the rest of the country, and when the stock market crash came in 1929 the Elks felt the crash as hard as the rest of the country. Hundreds of members began dropping out for non-payment of dues. Measures were taken to try to curb the drop in membership, but instead of getting better matters got worse. At a meeting in March of 1932 an astounding 1,482 members were dropped in a single meeting. Then the final blow came in July of 1932, when the Elks went bankrupt, losing the lodge building and a garage they had purchased in 1907.

At this point membership fell to 450 diehard Elks, who held meetings in four rented rooms of the Seward Hotel, the present site of the Governor Hotel, 611 SW 10th Street.

The Elks Temple then laid vacant from the time the Elks left until 1939, when the Works Progress Administration moved into the building.

During the Second World War the building was used as a U.S. Armed Forces Induction Headquarters. Succeeding the Armed Forces occupancy of the building were two health clubs, The Cosmopolitan Club (1950) and the Columbia Athletic Club (1952-58).

In 1959 the building again became vacant and remained that way until 1973 when portions of the building were rented to various individuals. During the vacancy between 1959 and 1973 the lower stories of the building became the home of many vagrants during the evenings.

Today the building is occupied by an adult book store, antique clock

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1933 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1922-1933

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Houghtaling and Dougan, Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Elks Temple when built in 1922 was the most important building project undertaken in the city in ten years. It was ^{believed} the largest Elks lodge in the country. The building was inspired by the "Golden Age" of the Italian Renaissance period and is an excellent example of the Second Renaissance Revival Style.

The cost was over a million dollars for the building alone. The building was Houghtaling & Dougan's most lucrative commission during that time and reflected the steady development, not only of the Elks, but of the city during the first 20 years of the twentieth century.

The architectural firm of Houghtaling and Dougan was formed in 1914 and by 1921 had become a well patronized and respected firm as a result of their excellent work and reliable dealings.

During their partnership, which lasted until 1925, the firm was awarded many important engineering contracts. Some of the buildings designed during their partnership besides the Elks club were: Washington High School and the Medical Arts Building. They also designed numerous smaller structures, residences and commercial buildings.

Chester A. Houghtaling, the senior member of the firm, was a native of Cleveland, Ohio born October 27, 1882. He studied construction engineering at the Lewis Institute of Chicago, after which he was employed by the firm of Purdy and Henderson, engineers, for two years in Chicago. He next worked for J.S. Metcalf in the construction of grain elevators in Chicago and later did work for some of that city's leading packing firms. In 1903 he moved to Saskatoon, Canada. Three years later he moved to Spokane, Washington, where for another three years he worked with the firm of Cutter and Malmgren. Subsequent years saw him working in Twin Falls, Idaho and returning to Canada. In 1913 he opened an office here in Portland. Besides the building designs of the firm Houghtaling and Dougan, Houtaling was also the design engineer for the Burnside and Ross Island Bridges and the Fitzpatrick Bldg., all in Portland. Houghtaling died on March 31, 1940.

Leigh L. Dougan, the junior partner of the firm, was born in Prince-

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .344

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | |
|---|------|----------|-----------|
| A | 1,0 | 52,488,6 | 5,040,640 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 6, 7 and 8, Block 252, Plat of Portland.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John M. Tess Historian/Consultant and Bill Hefner

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1970 SW Roxbury Ave. Apt. #3

TELEPHONE

503-297-5146

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97225

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE December 12, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Pettig

DATE 2/17/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE 2-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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shop, retail store, and hair style shop on the first floor; an art gallery on the second floor; a small theatre group and Alderbrook Big Band Ltd. on the third floor; a table tennis club on the fourth floor; an apartment on the fourth floor mezzanine, and the Oregon Historical Society on the fifth floor. The basement of the building which served as the Elks Athletic facility is vacant.

STRUCTURE

The basic structure of the Elks Building is a spandrel steel frame supporting poured concrete floors and roof. The exterior walls are non-bearing. The basement which extends to curbside has 13" thick poured concrete walls. Anchored there on piers that extend 24' below the lower-most basement floor level are 45 steel columns encased in poured concrete. The columns are laid out on a grid plan which is reflected on all floors above, except two. From the front of the building (west) to the rear, the columns are spaced 25'-6", 18'-6", 14'-6", 24'-6", and 17'-0". Along the front from north to south the spacing is: 25'-0", 22'-0", 22'-0", 22'-0", 22'-0", 22'-0", and 14'-6". At the rear a 16' light court above the first floor running the full length in back contains steel fire escape stairs.

On the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors the poured concrete floors are supported by a system of steel concrete encased girders running north-south with five smaller connecting steel beams per intercolumniation running east-west. On the 4th floors and fifth floors the scheme is reversed to accommodate the large span of the Ball Room and Lodge Room below the respective floors. Three intercolumniations are missed on both axis, oversize girders run east-west to compensate. The roof structure is slightly sloped and is poured concrete with a steel skeleton.

The floor heights are as follows: first floor, 23'; second floor, 18'; third floor, 25'; fourth floor, 20'; mezzanine floor, 17'-4"; and the fifth floor, 9'6".

EXTERIOR

The facade is elegantly detailed with classical elements organized in a manner that is Renaissance in spirit. The decoration is executed in terra cotta applied over a brick fill wall.

Each level of the building is unique in its articulation. A general

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scheme of 13 windows of equal width across the front and seven on the side is repeated on all but the first floor which, with the exception of the entrance, is covered with a plate glass curtain wall. The heights of the windows vary, those of the mezzanine and fifth floor beings square; the windows of the second floor rectangular and $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the height of the previous; and large windows on the third and fourth floors, two times that height.

The first floor facade is plate glass divided into two panels (an upper and lower) with entrances for stores. In the middle of the west wall, flanked on each side by a pair of Doric half columns, is the entrance bay. Two Doric columns on granite pedestals divide it into three parts with three doors and three neo-classical reliefs immediately above each one. The columns support a frieze of triglyphs and sculptured metopes which is interrupted over the entrance to spell the words "Elks Temple". The frieze is part of the entablature that separates the 1st and 2nd floors. The small cornice of this entablature uses a system, appropriate to the Doric order, of regulae on gutae plates, a simple balastrate rests on the entablature and forms a sort of aborted balcony for the second floor.

On the second floor each window is crowned by an architrave-cornice with cyma recta, fascia, and cyma reversa moldings and flanked by a pair of simple pilasters of Renaissance design. A molding with a Minoan wave crest design comprises the bottom element of an improvised entablature with a large fascia flanked by cyma recta and cyma reversa mouldings which divides the second and third floors (a similar mounding separates the third and fourth floors). The windows of the third and fourth floors are framed by aedicules with alternately curved and straight sided pediment, a straight sided pediment occupies the center and end positions. Aside from the pediment, the articulation is the same as the second floor with the exception of the dentils that run just below the cyma recta on the entablature and pediments on the fourth floor only.

There is no device of separation between the mezzanine floor and the fourth. The frieze of the entablature has small rectangles of acanthus decoration that frames the words "DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD THEY SHOULD DO UNTO YOU", on the front with "CERVUS" and "ALCES" on the side. A row of dentils and an Orola moulding lead to the cornice with acanthus decoration on the modillions and rosettes outlined in smaller ovolo mouldings.

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The only changes that have been made in the exterior of the building are on street level. Most obvious is the replacement of glass with plywood and the addition of a service door at the southwest part of the facade. Metal frames appear to have replaced the original wooden frames on the lower level of windows on the first floor. With the exception of the front halves of the capitals of the two full columns in the entrance bay (which is currently patched with plaster), the exterior of the building is in original condition.

INTERIOR

The Old Elks Temple is a six-story structure, including the basement. The fifth floor and fourth floor mezzanine stories of the temple were originally used for dormitory purposes. There were 50 rooms each with their own sinks made of porcelain. Today the rooms are empty with parts of the sink sets missing.

On the fourth floor of the building is the lodge room which measures 80 by 103 feet in area and has a seating capacity for 1,200 persons. This room was reportedly the largest lodge room at that time in the entire country. Besides the lodge room, committee rooms, a photograph filing room, lounge rooms, and the candidates room also occupied the floor space. The lodge room has since been painted by the present tenant, although the decorative part of the ceiling has been left untouched. Additional lights have also been placed in the ceilings and the original chandeliers have remained intact. The other rooms on this floor have been completely painted over, including any decorative ornamentation.

The third story of the building housed the grand ballroom with sufficient floor space for 700 dancers and the banquet hall with the capacity to seat 200 guests comfortably. The ballroom has a wood floor and a stage, whose original backdrop is still used. Six of the original chandeliers are still hanging. In the hall between the ballroom and banquet room the original ceiling painting is intact and in good condition.

The banquet room is perhaps the grandest of all the rooms in the building, with an elaborate ceiling painting which has been restored. Opening off the banquet room is a kitchen and pantry.

The library of the club occupies 1,850 square feet on the second floor. The walls are panelled in black walnut with a black and gold marble

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base. A large Roman fireplace of black and gold Italian marble and Sienna marble is one of the main features of the room. To the west of the library is the old billards room. The billard room occupies 2,100 feet of the second story and had room for 11 tables. Other rooms on this floor include business offices, a ladies lounge, telephone exchanges, and a card room.

The main entrance of the temple is on the west or Eleventh Street side of the building and is emphasized by a loggia 28 feet wide and 25 feet high, sheltering three large double door openings. Over the doors are two sculptured medallions and panels symbolic of the cardinal principles of the order of Elks. The walls and ceilings of the lobby are decorated in low relief and the floors are paved in Italian marble.

Besides the club lobby and entrance, the ground floor space is also divided into seven rooms for retail shops. The ceilings are 25 feet high and each store includes a mezzanine, which was innovative for the time.

The basement is occupied by baths, a swimming pool, gymnasium, weight room, and handball court. Bowling alleys were to be installed in a sub-basement, but these plans were cancelled.

None of the original furniture remains in the building. Both elevators are still in operation.

The interior is generally in fair condition with most of the decorative ornamentation being in original condition.

PLANS FOR RESTORATION AND REMODELING

Present plans for the building include:

- Keep the exterior as is and restore.
- Make use of the basement as a commercial health club, possibly including dining facilities.
- Retain the original office space.
- Leave the first floor as is.
- Change the second floor for use as office space.
- Leave the third floor ballroom intact.
- Make the fourth floor mezzanine and fourth floor into two separate floors.
- Change the fifth floor for use as office space.
- Possibly add a garden and trees on the roof, including, possibly, a portable tennis facility.

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ton, Indiana on July 28, 1883. L.L. Dougan received his general education in the Indiana public schools and subsequently entered the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago, studying architecture. At the end of his junior year he withdrew from school to obtain practical experience in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he stayed for two years before arriving in Portland in 1911.

In 1925 Dougan went into private practice, and he designed much in the Pacific Northwest. Among some of the buildings he designed after his partnership with Houghtaling were the Medical Dental Building, the First National Bank Building of Salem, the Studio Building in Portland, The Oregon State Tuberculosis Hospital at Salem, and the Monastery at the Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland, to name a few.

Dougan gained a reputation for his authoritative scholarship, which enabled him to draw upon the classical styles for usage in large design and ornamentation which is evident in the Old Elks Temple.

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