

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received FEB 1 1985
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hollywood Masonic Temple

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 6840 Hollywood Boulevard

N/A not for publication

city, town Hollywood

N/A vicinity of

state California code 06

county Los Angeles

code 037

3. 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name 6840 Hollywood Associates

street & number 10900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite

city, town Los Angeles

N/A vicinity of

state California 90024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Hall of Records

street & number 511 W. Temple Street

city, town Los Angeles

state California 90012

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HRC Cultural Resources

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-79

federal state county local

depository for survey records State Office Historic Preservation

city, town P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento

state California 95811

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hollywood Masonic Temple is a two-story Neo-classical Revival concrete structure located in the midst of commercial development on busy Hollywood Boulevard. The imposing facade with its two-story Ionic columns gives the structure visual impact beyond its size. Alterations to the building have been minimal since its construction in 1921.

The two-story Hollywood Masonic Temple is designed in Neo-classical Revival styling. Primary building materials are brick and concrete, with details of iron and carved wood. The structure fills an 85 x 180-foot lot on the south side of Hollywood Boulevard at the intersection of Orchid Avenue. The principal feature of the main (north) facade is a colonnade formed by six outsized Ionic columns. Set at street level, the columns protect the recessed entry. A series of eight stone steps lead up to heavy wooden double doors, decorated with inserts of glass covered with ornamental iron grillwork. There are two street-level entrances, slightly recessed, at the east and west corners of the building. These entrances are framed by tall pilasters. Iron grillwork in a crosscut pattern covers the second-story windows placed directly above the main entry, creating a continuous second-story transom. The horizontal line of the parapeted roof is in contrast to the verticality of the columns. The parapet is decorated with a design of acanthus leaves. The Masonic motto "Freemasonry builds its temples among the nations and in the hearts of men" is inscribed on the wide cornice. On either side of the inscription is a circular medallion. The architrave and the frieze are of patterned stone and have no embellishment. Molding around the entry doors mirrors the patterns of the stonework on the exterior facade.

A wide, tiled hallway bisects the interior of the first floor, culminating at the rear of the building in the stepped-down entrance to the main auditorium. This area contains a stage and dressing rooms. Further storage is in the basement. Meeting spaces with tiled fireplaces are located on either side of the central hall. A stone stairway with wrought iron railings and freestanding light fixtures leads to the second floor, where two additional auditorium spaces are housed. Both the main auditorium on the first level and the front theater space on the second level have intact stages, framed with a carved and painted border depicting Masonic ritual. Elaborate beamed ceilings and carved wooden balconies remain part of the auditorium's decor. There have been few significant alterations to the interior, which is reminiscent of Spanish Renaissance interior design with its carved wood, fireplaces, and wrought iron fixtures. Several windows on the east and west have been filled in to conform to fire code regulations; however, their position is visible. There have been no major alterations to the primary facade.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1921 **Builder/Architect** John C. Austin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hollywood Masonic Temple is an excellent example of classical architecture on a modest scale which harmonizes with surrounding commercial structures on Hollywood Boulevard, the main social and commercial thoroughfare of Hollywood. Designed by a major Los Angeles architect recognized for his conservative designs, the structure is representative of Neo-classical Revival styling and serves as a physical reminder of a fraternal organization whose members were instrumental in the development of Hollywood.

Lodge Number 355 was formed at the time of the community's inception in 1903. Its meetings were held in a harness shop and then in a second-story space north of Hollywood Boulevard on Highland. Among its members were E. O. Palmer, surgeon and Hollywood historian; George Dunlop, an early mayor; and C. E. Toberman, a prominent real estate developer. In 1921, the lodge commissioned prestigious architect John C. Austin of Austin, Field, and Frey to build the present structure at a cost of \$250,000. Austin, known for the quality of his classical designs, and his various associates were responsible for several of Southern California's most ornate and conservative structures, including Los Angeles City Hall (with Albert C. Martin), the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Building, Los Angeles High School, Griffith Park Observatory, and the Shrine Auditorium. His Hollywood commissions include the Guaranty Building (1923), which is listed on the National Register. The Masonic Temple became home to two lodges after its completion. In addition to Number 355, whose membership had grown to over 1,300 by 1930, the building was used by Pacific Lodge 233, a West Coast affiliate of a lodge based in New York City. This unusual organization was to have ten members of the theatrical profession for every layman. The membership put on plays, giving many performances for community causes. At one time, their membership was close to 2,000. Lodge activities continued at the site until 1982, when the order sold the building. It continues its position in the community, providing auditorium, rehearsal, and community space. Its intact exterior and interior make it a prime contributor to the Hollywood Boulevard streetscape and a visual reminder of community life during Hollywood's prime period of significance.

The building's significance has been recognized by its inclusion in the Hollywood Historic and Cultural Resources survey in 1978 and the references to it in Gebhard and Winter's Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, Torrance's Hollywood: the First Hundred Years, and architectural publications of the day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Palmer, E.O., History of Hollywood, (Arthur Cawston, Los Angeles, 1937).
 Torrence, Bruce, Hollywood: The First 100 Years, (HCC, 1979).
 Winter, Robert, and David Gebhard, Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, (Peregrine Smith, Salt Lake City, 1977).

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 85' x 180' (0.35 acre)

Quadrangle name Hollywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

West 18' of Lot 12, east 67' of Lot 14 of Hollywood Bonnie Brae Tract, as per maps Book 5, Page 90 of maps of Los Angeles County Recorder. Boundaries encompass the building and its original 85' x 180' lot.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	code	county	code		

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christy Johnson McAvoy, Consultant to

organization 6840 Associates date June 15, 1985

street & number 10900 Wilshire Blvd., #601 telephone (213) 851-8854 (CJM)
(213) 208-1236

city or town Los Angeles state California 90024

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 *Marian Mitchell Wilson*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/3/85

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.
Melora Byrum
 Keeper of the National Register date 2/28/85

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

SKETCH MAP

HOLLYWOOD MASONIC TEMPLE
6840 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90028

