

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received MAR 29 1982
date entered APR 29 1982

1. Name

historic Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Temple

and/or common Scottish Rite Temple

2. Location

street & number 200 E. Gray St.,

NA not for publication

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky

code 021

county Jefferson

code 111

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: fraternal

4. Owner of Property

name Grand Consistory of Kentucky

street & number 200 E. Gray St.

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson St.

city, town Louisville

state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Division

city, town Frankfort

state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Scottish Rite Temple is located on the western edge of Phoenix Hill in the Medical Complex, on the southeast corner of Gray and Brook streets. Across Brook street from the Temple is the Tyler Muldoon House (National Register, 1977).

The Temple is a two-story, smooth-course, limestone-clad structure in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The structure has six massive, fluted Doric columns which support an entablature with triglyphs and metopes and guttae. The cornice extends and is embellished by lion heads and mutules. A simple parapet rises above the cornice. Three double paneled doors with transoms pierce the facade. The doors have classical surrounds in stone. Two rectangular windows flank the doors. The second floor also has five windows with stone panels below. The entry is approached by a flight of steps. Large urns further embellish the approach.

The interior of the building consists of a foyer with flanking offices, an auditorium and a Blue Lodge Room on the second floor above the foyer. The foyer has a coffered ceiling detailed with rosettes and egg-and-dart molding, as well as a bead-and-reel molding and anthemions. (Photo 3) The floors are terrazzo with border patterns. The walls are designed in plaster to resemble weathered stone. All door frames are fluted horizontally, and the doors contain panels with enriched talon molding. All of the doors have knobs and plates which are brass and contain the double headed eagle, an official emblem of the Scottish Rite. The interior of the center door is bronze plated. (Photo 2) A crown molding of anthemions line the room. An office to the left of the foyer houses the administrator. The room to the right is the Inspector General's Room. It is paneled with a very thin veneer of Cedar of Lebanon and contains portraits of all of the Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals of the State of Kentucky. (Photo 4)

Beyond the foyer is a hallway which runs the width of the building, with stairs on either end, the entrance to the auditorium in the center, a cloak room to the right of the auditorium entrance, and a clerical office to the left. The doors and door frames in this hallway match those in the foyer. The ceiling contains a decorative plaster medallion from which a lighting fixture hangs. A plaster crown molding is layered with anthemion, acanthus leaves, enriched talon molding and wave molding.

The auditorium is the focal room of the building. It is a large, double-story room which seats 408. There are two small choir lofts on the back wall. Eight Ionic, fluted columns are positioned along the sides of the second level forming galleries. The walls are the same as those in the foyer: plaster designed to resemble weathered stone. The large stage has footlights, numerous drops and a highly sophisticated lighting board. A boarder of anthemion frames the stage. The double headed eagle crest is found in several places around the auditorium. (Photos 5 & 6)

On the basement level is a kitchen and dining area, and a lounge under the foyer.

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-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1930-31

Builder/Architect Ale Bornstein, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Nevin, Wischmeyer & Morgan, Architects

The Scottish Rite Temple is an important example of the pure Neo-Classical Revival style. Both the interior and exterior are unaltered and, as such, the building represents one of the finest examples of its type in Louisville

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite is a branch of the Free Masons and has been established in Louisville for 129 years. Today the Scottish Rite has a membership of 8200 in Louisville.

The present structure, built in 1930-31, was designed by the local firm of Nevin, Wischmeyer and Morgan and built by Ale Bornstein, contractors. Nevin, Wischmeyer and Morgan are important architects in Louisville history. They were responsible for many designs in the 1920s and 1930s, including the Schuster Building (National Register 1980) and the Pendennis Club, 1927-28. The style chosen for the Scottish Rite Temple was appropriately classical. The theme of antiquity is evident throughout the building, particularly with the introduction of the simulated stone interior walls. All of the interior decor is of the highest quality, most notable in the foyer and auditorium.

The Inspector General's Room bears considerable significance to the Scottish Rite. It is fully paneled with Cedar of Lebanon, the material from which King Solomon built his temple, according to the Bible. It took the Scottish Rite three years to locate the Cedar of Lebanon, after being told repeatedly that it was extinct. Finally, six small planks were found in Beirut, Syria. From those planks a very thin veneer was made to panel the walls of the Inspector General's Room. It is the only room of its kind, as far as is known, in the world. It was dedicated in 1935.

The Scottish Rite Temple is significant to Louisville as one of the finest examples of the Neo-Classical Revival. Both interior and exterior contain the highest quality of design and materials. The building is also an important example of the work of the prominent firm of Nevin, Wischmeyer and Morgan.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet.)

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Louisville West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	0	8	2	7	0	4	2	3	3	7	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

City Block 16G Lot 9 The boundary has been drawn to include only the portion of the lot upon which the building sits and the green belt along the Brook St. side. (See continuation sheet for boundary description and Map 2-Sanborn Map.) Excluded is a parking lot.

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

state	code	county	code
NA			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission

date November 13, 1981

street & number 727 W. Main St.

telephone (502) 587-3501

city or town Louisville

state Kentucky

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Cronan Appel

title SHPO

date 3/11/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/29/82

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Scottish Rite Temple
200 E. Gray St.
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Architecture and Design. Vol. II (November 1938), New York: Architectural Catalog
Company.
Caron Directories of the City of Louisville, 1925-1932.
History of Kentucky. Chicago; S. J. Clark, 1928.
Personal Interview, Mr. John W. Deaver, Registrar, Scottish Rite Temple.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Scottish Rite Temple
200 E. Gray St.
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Beginning at the southeast corner of Brook St. and Gray St., thence southwardly following the east right-of-way line of Brook St. 200 feet to a point, thence eastwardly following the north right-of-way line of the first alley south of Clay St. 130[±] feet to a point, thence northwardly 200 feet to a point in the south right-of-way line of Clay St., thence westwardly following said right-of-way line to the point of beginning.

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

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

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Temple
Continuation sheet Jefferson County

Item number 10

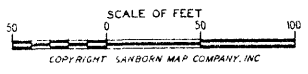
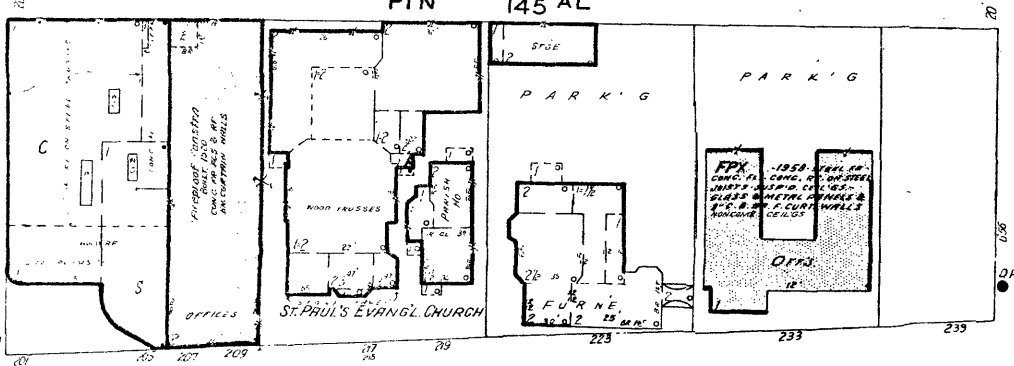
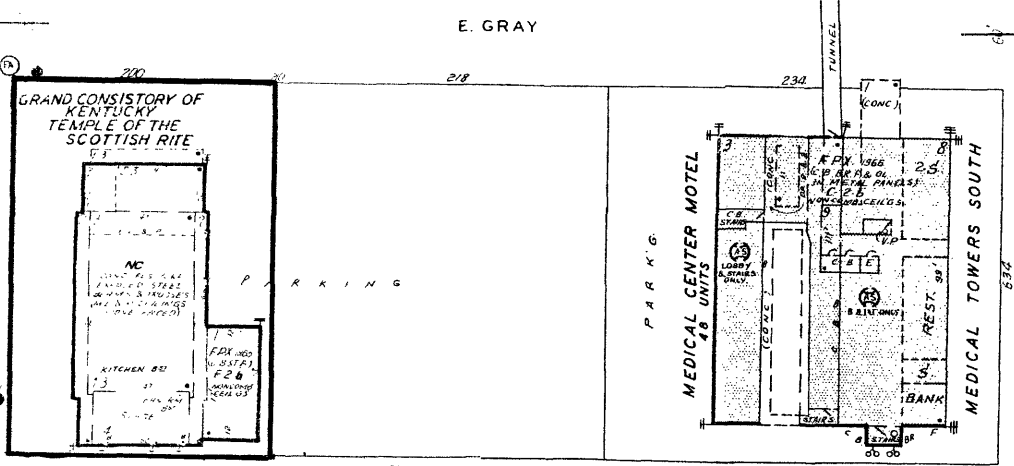
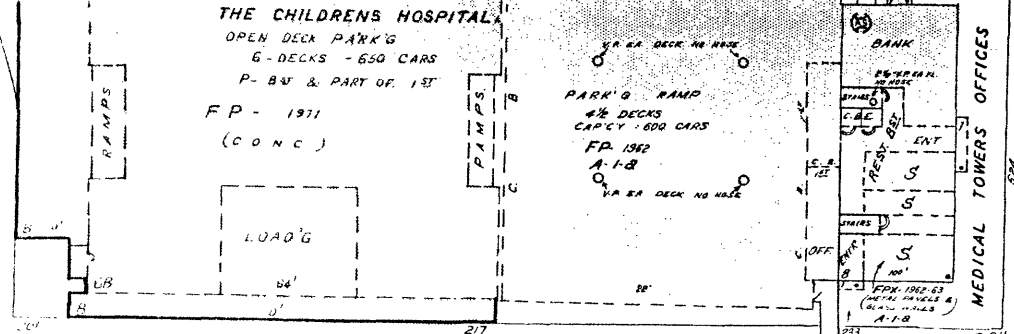
For NPS use only
received APR 16 1982
date entered

Page 3

Acreege of nominated property .8

82

84



E. BROADWAY

Scottish Rite Temple
200 E. Gray St.
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY
Sanborn Map - 1974
Sanborn Map Co., Pelham, NY

Map 2. Nominated area shown in green.