

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 27 1987
date entered

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

Substantive Review

1. Name

historic The Scottish Rite Temple

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 900 East Oklahoma

NA not for publication

city, town Guthrie

vicinity of

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Logan

code 083

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	<input type="checkbox"/> NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social Org.

4. Owner of Property

name Guthrie Scottish Rite Building Company

street & number 900 East Oklahoma

city, town Guthrie

vicinity of

state Oklahoma

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Logan County Courthouse

city, town Guthrie

state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Logan County Historical Society

city, town Guthrie

state Oklahoma 73044

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 Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple consists of a two-building complex, joined by an enclosed access hall. The complex is located on ten acres originally designated as Capitol Park on Oklahoma Avenue along the eastern-most edge of the Guthrie Historic District.

The temple building, which measures 260 x 270 feet, sits adjacent to an earlier building and the overall complex, composed of the two buildings joined, measures some 260 feet by 470 feet, being essentially throughout the two buildings, two stories high with half-story basements.

The earlier building, now known as the east annex, was originally called Convention Hall and was constructed in 1908 by the City of Guthrie as a meeting place for the Oklahoma Legislature. This brick structure reflects the level of workmanship prevalent in the Guthrie area at the time. The building's configuration is unique for the time in that its central portion features a two-story atrium with a gallery promenade. Two, two-story wings and a basement complete the interior space.

The building has been somewhat altered from its original appearance through changes in the roof and all four elevations. The roof, which originally was a skylight barrel vault, has been closed in and covered. All elevations originally featured large entries, but these have been enclosed.

On the northwest corner, a one-story, connecting corridor has been constructed to the temple. On the southwest corner, a one-story, covered entry has been constructed. The east elevation originally served as the primary facade and exhibited most of the ornate features of the building. This elevation is now somewhat obscured by the addition of the temple.

Historic elements still visible are square brick, two-story buttresses on the east and west elevations, and the barrel vault roof over the central portion of the building. Ornamental battlements once entirely around the parapet are now present only in areas above former semi-pedimented entrances on the north and south elevations.

Used as a meeting place for one regular session of the legislature in 1909, and a special session in 1910, the upper wing and promenade floors of the building are now dormitory spaces. Dining and food preparation areas occupy the lower floor and basement areas. This building primarily functions as a support facility to the adjacent temple building. Due to the alterations described, the 1908 building's historic appearance essentially is now dated from 1919.

The Scottish Rite Temple building itself is located to the west of the annex building and is attached by an enclosed walkway constructed of brick and stone. Construction of this portion of the complex was begun in May, 1920; final completion of all interior work occurred in January, 1929.

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Continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 1

This building is a Neo-classical revival style constructed of Indiana limestone over a steel-reinforced concrete framework. The construction of the overall temple building is typical of the Neo-classical revival style in that the entire structure is based on an elevated basement plan, massive masonry unit walls, and decorative features, creating a monumental appearance overall.

The temple basically consists of four elements, all connected and yet recognizable. These are: the west, or entry, facade; a large auditorium; and two smaller appendages flanking the north and south sides of the auditorium. Continuity of each attachment is attained by matching courses of projecting stone moving from cornice on the low appendages to belt course on the auditorium. All portions are of matching limestone.

The western, or main, facade elevation features large, Doric, engaged and free columns; the latter supports a flat-roofed portico and the former frames multi-light window openings. Minor ornamental detail exists in the entablature at the cornice and frieze levels in the form of dentils and also by wreaths found the area of the portico. Access to the first floor level is by masonry stairs the width of the portico.

The western portion of the building encompasses an atrium overlooked by a promenade access to the upper auditorium and a dispersal hall to the lower auditorium, basement and appendages north and south of the main auditorium. A pitched skylight setting atop the roof of this portion of the building provides light to the atrium area.

The main auditorium features a pitched roof, rimmed with a short, standing parapet. The entablature below the parapet is accented with dentils on the cornice and a repetition of the wreath design from the front portico in the frieze. The side walls feature raised pilaster strips giving the impression of columns. Small rectangular windows penetrate the side walls.

The east gable end features a brick infill, matching that of the convention hall and the north connecting walkway. This end is penetrated by small rectangular windows in the upper gable and by semi-circular, stilted arch windows below. The latter match windows present in the northern covered walkway. The main auditorium's seating capacity is 3500, having a concert hall size pipe organ and large scale theatrical production equipment.

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Continuation sheet **DESCRIPTION** **Item number 7** **Page 2**

The southern appendage to the main auditorium is a smaller auditorium of two and one-half stories with a secondary, set back roof structure, which covers a vaulted ceiling in the auditorium. The exterior of this portion of the building is of matching limestone, with both the roof and the top of the secondary being flat.

The design motif of the interior of this south appendage is Egyptian in appearance. This auditorium has many of the production capabilities of the larger auditorium, but with a smaller seating capacity of 650 persons.

The northern appendage to the main auditorium is of similar configuration to the southern, but lacks the secondary roof addition. Several of the theme motif rooms are located in this area, as well as the library and other spaces.

The basement area of the building is occupied by a small museum and memorial hall, a recreation hall, and storage spaces.

Most interior spaces in the temple consist of elaborate style motif rooms, with designations referencing the room and furniture decor used. These include: the Egyptian Room (small auditorium); the Assyrian; Pompeian; Crystal; Blue, Rose and Italian rooms (formal sitting rooms; and the Indian Room (recreation hall). The main auditorium and the atrium/dispersal hall are both Romanesque in style.

The ownership of the grounds and Convention Hall passed from the City of Guthrie to the Masonic Grand Lodge on June 27, 1919. Ground-breaking for the Temple construction was in May, 1920.

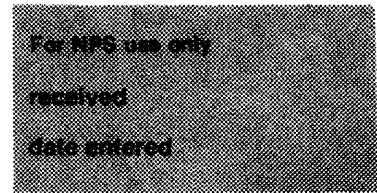
The architectural firm of Hawk and Parr, Oklahoma City, designed the building and the construction contract was awarded to the James Stewart Construction Company, a New York firm. The first portion of the building to be completed was the main auditorium. Exterior work of all sections was completed in 1923.

The interior designs and furnishing, excepting the main auditorium, were overseen by Marion and Kathryn Davis. This team was hired to complete the interior work on the Rockefeller Center in New York City. The interior finishes of the Temple were completed in 1929, following designs prepared by the Davis team.

The appearance of the Temple building today is essentially as originally constructed.

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Continuation sheet

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7

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3

CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

Resource Type:

Building

Number

1

NONCONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

None

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1919-29		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1919-1929 **Builder/Architect** Parr & Hawk Architectural Firm, OKC

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Scottish Rite Temple of Guthrie is architecturally and historically significant because it is one of the best examples of large scale, Neo-Classical Revival style in Oklahoma; it is the largest, most elaborately designed and constructed Masonic Temple in the state; and because of its importance historically to the Masonic fraternal organization in Oklahoma.

The Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie is one of the best examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style in Oklahoma and the largest example of the style not publically constructed or owned. Other examples of the style on this scale in the state are: Tulsa Federal Building, 1912; State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, 1917; and the Oklahoma Historical Society Building, 1929 (based on a design of 1910) - all public buildings.

The basis of the Neo-Classical Revival style, adherence to simplified classical designs executed with modern construction technology, is thoroughly addressed in this building. This is evident in the use of the Greek order and style elements and the monumental scale requisite to the style. Adherence to the style is also visible in the fairly large expanses of wall areas, composed of massive masonry units, penetrated only by unadorned, rectangular openings, use of Doric columns, and the comparatively unadorned entablatures and roof lines.

The architectural firm of Hawk and Parr, Oklahoma City, was known in the state for design of large, public and commercial buildings. Hawk had previously been with the firm of Layton and Smith, prominent architects in the state and designers of the State Capitol Building.

The Scottish Rite Temple has been recognized as the center of state-level Masonic activities since 1923, when first used even before completion. It is the largest facility in the state and the site of the Mason's statewide functions. The auditoriums, formal social halls and dormitory facilities figured prominently in the exercises connected with the statewide Masonic activities during the period of significance and continue to do so today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Guthrie Daily Leader, June, 1908 (various dates); 5 Jan 09, pg. 1, 20 Jan 10, pg. 1
 Guthrie Industrial and Commercial Review, Jan, 1910
 Blue Book of Oklahoma, 1910 edition

Scottish Rite Temple records. Temple museum. Guthrie

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10.62 acres

Quadrangle name Guthrie North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4
Zone	

6	4	3	3	4	0
Easting					

3	9	7	1	4	9	0
Northing						

B

1	4
Zone	

6	4	3	3	4	0
Easting					

3	9	7	1	2	7	0
Northing						

C

1	4
Zone	

6	4	3	1	2	0
Easting					

3	9	7	1	2	7	0
Northing						

D

1	4
Zone	

6	4	3	1	2	0
Easting					

3	9	7	1	4	9	0
Northing						

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification A tract of land six hundred, eighty (80) feet square, containing ten and sixty-two hundredths, (10.62) acres; located within that part of the City of Guthrie, designated as Capitol Hill park. Bounded as follows: On the North by Cleveland Ave; on the West by Capitol Blvd; on the South by Harrison Ave; and on the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries East by Drexel St.

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John R. Hill, Architectural Historian

organization Oklahoma Historical Society date 24 Oct 85

street & number Wiley Post Historical Building telephone 405/521-2491

city or town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

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 C. E. Peters date 2-26-87

title date

For NPS use only

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

William B. Bushong date 4/9/87
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration