

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 4 1980
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1980

**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 Masonic Temple

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
410 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

___ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3

STATE
Florida

CODE
012

COUNTY
Duval

CODE
031

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 checked="" 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"/> 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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida, PHA, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER
410 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Florida 32202

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Duval County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

STATE
Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Duval County Historic Sites Survey

DATE
1975-76
___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

CITY, TOWN
Tallahassee

STATE
Florida

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Classical in nature, the facades of the common bond, red brick Masonic Temple can be described in terms of a column, having a base, a shaft and a capital. The one-story base of the Masonic Temple is delineated by a projecting cornice. The first story fenestration varies with the elevations: the east elevation having five bays and the south having three. The west and north elevations are not articulated; fenestration for all stories is irregular and the detailing of the street facades (south and east elevations) terminate at the southwest and northeast corners.

The main entrance of the Temple is through the northernmost bay on the east elevation. Additional entrances provide access to individual stores or to the upper story offices.

The plain second story is a transitional element between the base and the shaft. It is separated from the rest of the shaft by a projecting belt course which runs along the top of the second story fenestration. Decorative pressed metal pendants which intersect the belt course are spaced between the windows.

The second story, although dissimilar in detailing from the third through fifth stories, marks the actual beginning of the shaft. All windows of the shaft were originally one-over-one double hung sash but are now six light awning sash with those of the fourth and fifth stories having single light transom sashes. The fifth story (the Masonic Auditorium) transom sash is ornamented by Roman grill detailing. The windows, set between the piers, are defined by white pressed brick on the third through fifth stories. The spandrels of the fourth story windows are recessed and have a glazed brick design; those of the fifth, are also recessed but have the Masonic emblem.

A small, white pressed metal Roman grill terminates the vertical window bays. Small escutcheons terminate the brick piers. Diamond pattern brickwork set within flush brick panels defines the corner piers of the upper stories. Square white brick motifs terminate this brickwork at each corner. The building has a projecting cornice of pressed metal. Four large stylized pressed metal consoles at the corners provide visual support for the broad cornice both on the east and south elevations.

The interior, except for the repartitioning of some spaces, remains intact. A decorative tile floor, wood and plaster cornice, and marble wainscot in the lobby are original. Several stores occupy the first floor commercial spaces while the auditorium of the Masonic Temple occupies the fifth. The auditorium stage is situated in the south end of this floor.

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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Ethnic
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES +1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mark and Sheftall (Jacksonville)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Masonic Temple Building is significant as one of Jacksonville's best examples of the Commercial style. It has served as the focal point for the black community's commercial and fraternal activities. The building was designed by local architects, Victor Earl Mark and Lee Roy Sheftall who, from 1907 to 1911, were pupils of Henry J. Klutho, the noted Florida architect.¹ The design of the Masonic Temple Building (1913)² clearly reflects the influence Klutho had on these two architects. The contractor for the building was O. P. Woodcock who was responsible for the Aragon Hotel (demolished 1972) and Hotel Monroe (both in Jacksonville).³

After the fire of 1901 which devastated downtown Jacksonville, new construction in the following decades reflected architectural styles prominent in other cities throughout the United States. The Masonic Temple Building was designed in the Commercial style. Its three part elevation -- the base for support, the brick piers for vertical emphasis and the projecting cornice to terminate the composition -- closely resembles other buildings of this style. The fenestration is vertically arranged between brick piers, which arise uninterrupted from the second story, and terminates at the cornice. The recessed spandrels of the upper two stories have raised brick detailing. Terra cotta ornamentation is limited to the projecting belt course of the second story and the projecting cornice of the building.

The Masonic Temple Building was designed to house the Free and Accepted Masons of Florida (Colored). As early as 1902, the Masonic Lodge had planned to construct a building to serve as a temple. They were aided in this goal financially by the fund-raising efforts of various affiliated organizations, such as the Ladies of the Eastern Star, the Royal Arch Mason, the Heroines of Jericho, and the Knights Templar.⁴ The endeavor was also partially financed by the Jacksonville members of the National Negro Businessmen's League to provide office space for black businessmen in the city.⁵ Ground breaking ceremonies took place September 18, 1912, with the oration delivered by W. S. Jordan, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville. On August 13, 1913, the cornerstone was placed. A large parade was held in Jacksonville in celebration.⁶

In 1916, David D. Powell was inducted as the Grandmaster of the Masons of Florida. A 1921 lodge publication remarked, "He inherited \$109,000 worth of indebtedness, and a jurisdiction with craftsmen whose confidence were in the utmost state of lethargy. The honor of Negro Masonry laid prostrate in the gutter, and a by-word for every passerby."⁷ David Powell transformed the lodge, reinvigorating the member's spirit and repaying by 1921 (less than five years later), the entire mortgage indebtedness along with other debts, which all totaled to more than \$200,000.⁸ At that time the Temple Building was valued at one-half-million dollars and was described by the lodge as "the most palatial and magnificent building owned by Negroes the World over."⁹

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less Than One (1)

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7
---	---

4	3	6	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	5	5	4	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of that part and parcel in lots 10-13 and part of lot 9 of block 106 in the Hulls s/d LaVilla subdivision.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Strassburger, Robin R. (Historic Sites Specialist)

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History & Records Management

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

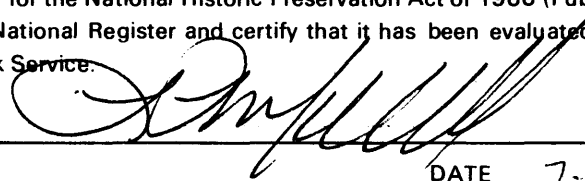
NATIONAL

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



TITLE

DATE

7-16-80 ?

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce

DATE

9/22/80

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST:

Carol Dubie

DATE

9/20/80

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Black insurance agents, dentist, doctors, attorneys, and hairdressers, at one time or another, established their headquarters in the Masonic Temple Building. In 1921, the building housed the State YMCA "(col'd dept.)",¹⁰ and in 1929, the Jacksonville Journal (col'd dept. newspaper)¹¹ had offices in the building. In 1946, the office for the Negro Businessmen's League was located in the Masonic Temple; its purpose was to stimulate growth and greater activity in business enterprise.¹² Besides providing office and fraternal spaces, the building became a place where the middle class black community met to discuss various aspects of business and politics.¹³

The building itself was the cause of great pride to the black community. In 1926, it was described in the Negro Blue Book as being "one of the finest buildings owned by Negroes in the world."¹⁴ The Crisis, the NAACP's newspaper, described the Masonic Temple as being ". . . rated among the leading buildings of the South among either race."¹⁵

The Masonic Temple Building remains in good condition and is one of the few buildings in the area remaining from the early 20th century associated with the development of the Black community.

¹Robert D. Broward, "Jacksonville: Southern Home for the Prairie School," Historic Preservation 30 (1978), p. 19.

²Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Jacksonville, Florida, Volume 1A, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1949).

³Jacksonville, The Florida Times-Union, "Jacksonville in 1914" Edition, 6 May 1914.

⁴Publication of the Black Masonic Temple on the Celebration of the Mortgage Burning Ceremony, August, 1925 (n.p.: n.d.), p. 6.

⁵Booker T. Washington Papers, Container 833, 934 NNBL, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. (As per research by Dr. Daniel Schaefer).

⁶"Mortgage Burning," p. 10.

⁷Ibid., p. 6.

⁸Ibid., p. 10.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

⁹ Ibid., p. 11.

¹⁰ R. L. Polk and Company, Jacksonville City Directory (Jacksonville: R. L. Polk and Company, 1921).

¹¹ Ibid., 1929.

¹² Council of Social Agencies, Jacksonville Looks at its Negro Community (Jacksonville: Council of Social Agencies, 1946), p. 68.

¹³ Dr. Daniel Schaefer, personal communications with Robin R. Strassburger, Tallahassee, Florida, December 5, 1979.

¹⁴ Negro Blue Book, North Florida Edition (Jacksonville: Florida Blue Book Publishing Company, 1926).

¹⁵ The Crisis, January 1942, p. 35.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 3 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Broward, Robert C. "Jacksonville: Southern Home for the Prairie School." Historic Preservation 30 (1978): 16-19.
- Council of Social Agencies. Jacksonville Looks at its Negro Community. Jacksonville: Council of Social Agencies, 1946.
- Federal Writers' Project. Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1939.
- "Free and Accepted Masons of Florida." The Crisis, January, 1942.
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- Jacksonville. Times Union and Journal, 16 April 1978.
- Masonic Forum. 1921.
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- Schaefer, Daniel, Ph.D. Personal communication with Robin R. Strassburger, Tallahassee, Florida, December 5, 1979.
- Washington, Booker T. Papers. Containers 833, 934NNBL, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. (As per research by Dr. Daniel Schaefer).