

DEC 2 1985

JAN 16 1986

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Tripoli Temple

Owner: Tripoli Temple of Ancient Arabic Order Nobles

Address: 3000 West Wisconsin Avenue

Owner's address: 3000 West Wisconsin Avenue

City: Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI 53208

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
- Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
- Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
- Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
- Boundary increased (BI)
- Boundary decreased (BD)
- Delisted (DL)

215 Criteria Considerations

- religious property (A)
- moved property (B)
- birthplace or grave (C)
- cemetery (D)
- reconstructed property (E)
- commemorative property (F)
- less than 50 years old (G)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

220 Area of Significance (code)

180 NRHP List Name Tripoli Temple

Architecture

190 Level of Significance

- national (NA)
- state (ST)
- local (LO)

Social/Humanitarian

200 District Classification

- pivotal (P)
- contributing (C)
- non-contributing (NC)

230 Period of Significance

1926-1934

210 Applicable Criteria

- event (A)
- person (B)
- architecture/engineering (C)
- information potential (D)

340 Review Board Date _____

70 USGS Quad Map

SW/4 Milwaukee 7.5 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-9999999)

16-422500-4765380

85 Listed Acreage 3.5 acres

60 Verbal Boundary Description Assessment subdivision No. 50, etc. in northeast quarter sec. 25-7-21, Vol. 26, p.46 block 2, lot 6, except north 200 feet and (lot 5 & S. 105', Lot 1 & Lot 2 except N. 60 ft. of east 29.29' & north 92', Lot 3 & S. 21' of W. 60' of Lot 3 & W. 50' of lot 4, Blk.2, sub. of parts of lots 3 & 4 etc., adjacent.

STREET: W. Wisconsin Avenue

NUMBER: 3000

SHSW INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM

LOCATION

10 County Milwaukee

20 City or Village Milwaukee

30 Civil Town _____

35 Unincorporated Community _____

40 Location 3000 West Wisconsin Avenue

50 Town-Range-Section _____

55 Quarter Sections _____

60 Verbal Boundary Description Assessment subdivision No. 50, etc., in northeast quarter section 26-7-21, Vol. 26, p. 46 block 2, lot 6, except north 200 feet and (lot 5 and South 105 feet, lot 1 and lot 2 except north 60 feet of east 29.29 feet and north 92 feet, lot 3 and south 21 feet of west 60 feet of lot 3 and west 50 feet of lot 4) block 2 subdivision of parts of lots 3 and 4 etc., adjacent.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax Case Number _____

260 Compliance Case Number _____

270 A or D Grant Yes No

275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____

320 Ownership

private (P)

local-public (L)

state-public (S)

federal-public (F)

mixed, private-public (M)

330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes MI 101-17, 18, 19, 20

100 Survey Map 388

110 Map Code 101-17

120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979

130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jensen

140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside

150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala

155 Intensive Survey FY 1983

235 Survey Evaluation

eligible (E) not eligible (N)

237 Survey District Classification

pivotal (P) non-contributing (NC)

contributing (C)

240 Survey Level of Significance

national (NA) local (LO)

state (ST)

243 Survey Evaluation Criteria

event (A) architectural/engineering (C)

person (B) information potential (D)

245 Proposed District _____

280 NHL Date _____

290 HABS No. _____ 300 HAER No. _____

310 Local Landmark (code) _____

315 Associated Archeological Site(s) _____

Street

Address

ARCHITECTURE

450 Date of Construction (source) 1926(A)

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

480 Builder (source) Bentley Bros. (WI Inventory of Hist. Places)

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

X architect: Clas-Shepard-Clas(A)

artist:

engineer:

interior designer:

landscape architect:

X other: (title work) U.F. Durner Co. clipping 3/9/1939
(unidentified newspaper)

510 Style or Form (code) Other

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code) Lodge

530 Building Materials (code) Ceramic Tile (roof)

Brick (foundation)

Cut Stone/Ceramic (trim) tile

540 Interior Visited Yes X No

550 Structural System (code) Rectangular

560 Plan Configuration (code)

570 Number of Stories 2

580 Roof Shape (code) Flat

590 Additional Description

620 Condition

X excellent — good — fair — poor — ruins

650 Related Buildings (code)

HISTORY

430 Common/Current Name Tripoli Temple

440 Historic Names (source) Tripoli Temple (A)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)

670 Associated Event (source)

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source)

DESCRIPTION

One of the most unique club and fraternal buildings in Milwaukee, the Tripoli Temple was completed in 1928 to house the Shriners, the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, a Masonic body. It was designed by the firm of Clas, Shepard and Clas.

The exterior walls of the two-story rectangular structure were built of alternate rows of dark red and buff colored face brick. This horizontal banding is juxtaposed with the vertical arched recesses, two stories high, which extend across the facade. The recesses incorporate paired horseshoe-shaped window openings on the second story while the first story windows have pointed arches accented with cut stone. The projecting, three-bay entrance pavilion extends up beyond the second story and is covered with geometric and floral designs of bright colored faience tiles. Ornamental stone cresting enriches the parapet. A 30' diameter dome tops the entrance pavilion and is flanked by two small ornamental domes. All three domes are tile covered. Miniature minarets rise from the four corner buttresses. A monumental staircase, ornamented with a pair of recumbent camels, rises in three stages to the main entry. A porte cochere is located at the east elevation. Additions have been made to the rear, west and north end of the building but do not mar the otherwise intact main building. Interior meeting rooms, lounges, drill room and auditorium are not as lavishly ornamented as the exterior.

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tripoli Temple is Milwaukee's supreme architectural oddity. Nothing like it is known to exist anywhere in Wisconsin. Built in the 1920s hey day of period revival fantasy architecture, Tripoli exhibits lavish materials, rich polychromy and skillful craftsmanship. The mosque embodies the oriental glamour, pageantry, exoticism and mystic splendor that the Shrine founders tried to capture in their ritual. For inspiration, the prestigious firm of Clas, Shepard and Clas (1913-1931) drew upon North African Moslem prototypes which were thought to best exemplify the Shrine ritual.

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- A. Milwaukee City Building Permits
- B. A Story of Masonry and the Shrine. The World's Philanthropy. Milwaukee: Tripoli Temple, 1980. pp. 19,31

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

350 Demolished

360 Date Demolished

_____ Yes _____ No

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine was founded in New York on August 13, 1870, by two Scottish Rite Masons, William J. Florence, a prominent actor, and Dr. Walter M. Fleming. On June 13, 1871, eleven Scottish and York Rite Masons were received into the new order, A.A.O.N.M.S. Mecca, the first formally organized Temple in the U.S., was established in New York City in 1872. The Shrine was founded for fellowship and recreation. By 1980, the original 13 members had grown to over 950,000 in over 181 Temples throughout North America. A Shriner has attained the highest degree of Masonry, having completed either the York or Scottish Rite. The colorfully-staged rituals, parades and red fez make the Shriners the most identifiable of the Masonic groups. The Shrine's principle philanthropic activities are directed to the aid of handicapped or burn victims. The Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children was founded in 1921. This has been expanded to include 21 orthopedic and burn hospitals throughout North America. Parental membership in the Shriners is not required for care at these facilities.

Milwaukee's Tripoli Temple traces its origins to the Medinah Temple of Chicago. Several Nobles from Medinah who lived in Milwaukee wanted to establish a temple here. A petition was made for a new temple in Wisconsin. It was to be known as Tripoli and have its headquarters in Milwaukee. Dispensation was granted on March 9, 1885 making Tripoli the 21st Shrine Temple of the A.A.O.N.M.S. The charter was granted on June 4, 1886. Titles of officers are Arabic in origin. The entire body of officers is known as the Divan and serves as a board of directors.

Milwaukee's A.A.O.N.M.S. met initially at the same Masonic Temple on North Plankinton as did many of the city's other Masonic orders. It then moved to the Masonic Building formerly on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Wells, where it remained until 1922 when the building became an annex of the courthouse. From 1923-27 the Shriners shared occupancy of the Scottish Rite Temple at the southeast corner of Van Buren and Wells Streets. In 1928 the Tripoli

HISTORICAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tripoli Temple is historically important as the first Shrine chapter in the State of Wisconsin. Coming just thirteen years after the first organized temple in New York City, Milwaukee's Temple was the 21st in the nation. From this beginning, Milwaukee's Tripoli sponsored the formation of Zor Temple in Madison and has chartered some 28 clubs throughout the state. One of the largest and most visible branches of Masonry, with colorful parades and red fezzes, the Tripoli sponsors the Annual Shrine Circus in Milwaukee and the Midwest Shrine Football Game. (B)

Historical Background Cont.

Temple moved into the quarters it occupies today at 3000 West Wisconsin Avenue. The site originally contained a large mansion and two carriage houses occupied by J. Oscar Ogden in the 1870's-1880's. From the 1890's through the mid-1920's, the residence was the home of the Hansen family, furriers in the Plankinton Arcade. The Shriners also acquired a residence to the east, fronting on West Wisconsin Avenue. The availability of such a large parcel would not have been possible in the heart of commercial downtown, but by that time, the large residences up and down West Wisconsin were giving way to apartment buildings or filling stations. The mosque-like structure which replaced the elegant Ogden Mansion resembles the Taj Mahal in massing & has been a highly visible city landmark ever since its completion. Designed by the firm of Clas, Shepard and Clas, it cost nearly a million dollars to construct.

The Tripoli Temple is still active and currently has 31 official units, seven of which are based outside Milwaukee. Tripoli sponsored the establishment of Zor Temple in Madison, much as Medinah had been its sponsor in 1885. Tripoli now has 28 chartered Shrine clubs scattered throughout Wisconsin. It sponsors the annual Shrine Circus in Milwaukee and Green Bay, and sponsors the Midwest Shrine Football Game which benefits the Shrine Hospitals and burn institutes.