UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PHO682781

	PC		

RECEIVED

AUG 231978

DATE ENTERED

NAME		•	
HISTORIC			
Masonic Temple AND/OR COMMON			CALLED TO THE CA
LOCATION			Tola .
STREET & NUMBER U			
East Fourth Avenue and State	Street	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	BIRE BRE STOOL I LED	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	СТ
Pine Bluff -	VICINITY OF	Fourth	Mgso.
Arkansas Arkansas	CODE 05	COUNTY Jefferson	CODE 069
CLASSIFICATION	and the second	confidence for white con	
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICTPUBLIC	_XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	X_COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTUREBOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECTIN PROCESS	_XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
	_NO	MILITARY	X_OTHER: Frater
OWNER OF PROPERTY			
NAME			
M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge	of Arkansas		
STREET & NUMBER	<u> </u>		
East Fourth Avenue and State	Street		
CITY. TOWN Pine Bluff		STATE	
	_ VICINITY OF	Arkansa	S
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE,			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Circuit Clerk!	s Office, Jefferson	County Counthouse	
STREET & NUMBER	office, perferson	country courthouse	
1800 East Hard	ling Avenue		
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
Pine Bluff		Arkansas	
REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	TING SURVEYS		
ŤĬTLE			
DATE			
	FEDERALS	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR			
SURVEY RECORDS			
CITY, TOWN			

\* EXCELLENT

\_GOOD

\_FAIR

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE** 

CHECK ONE

\_\_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Black Masonic Temple is a four story masonry building of rectangular plan. The building is divided into three bays with the middle projecting slightly forward. On the first story, rusticated stone piers mark the corners and a stone pediment with full entablature articulates the entrance. Between these elements, store fronts infill. The second story has two narrow windows in the center bay and two wider windows on the flanking bays. Below the windows is a stone storyline and above is a stone cornice. Openings on the third and fourth floors are vertical with terra cotta infills between floors and arched tops. Arches spring from the capitals of pilasters which divide the five windows and begin at the cornice. There is stained glass in the arch above the impost. The motif is the masonic insignia.

The side elevations (east and west) have the same conformation as the front (south) and are three bayed with ten rows of windows, the center containing four.

The interior contains the original stairs and wainscots. The second story is divided into offices working from a central hall. The third and fourth stories are large open meeting spaces.

Alterations include an elevator and the partial restoration of the top floor, which was damaged by fire.

SPECIFIC DAT	TES July 7, 1902 August 9, 190 DE SIGNIFICANCE	04 BOILDEN/ARCI	Pat Powers, ibbs & Sanders, Litt	Little Rock
	T1 7 1002		W.S. Helton,	Pine Bluff
		INVENTION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
<u>x_</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	*ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

When it was completed, the Masonic lodge on the corner of Fourth and State Streets was the tallest building in Pine Bluff. The structure was built in stages during 1902, 1903 and 1904 by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Arkansas, the state's black Masonic order.

The first black masonic organization in Arkansas was the J.M. Alexander Lodge Number 4 established at Helena in June, 1866, by the Grand Lodge of Missouri. On March 28, 1873, representatives from the three black Masonic Lodges met in Little Rock to form a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Arkansas. The organization of the grand lodge was perfected on March 31, 1873, and William Henry Gray, a free-born native of Washington, D.C. was elected the first grand master. 1

Black masonry thus began a period of rapid growth and by the 1880's a movement began to construct a grand lodge building. A group headed by Wiley Jones initiated efforts to persuade the grand lodge to locate in Pine Bluff. Jones bought two lots on East Second Avenue and presented them to the lodge. Edwin Cook, a local architect, drew plans for a building. When the Grand Lodge met in Pine Bluff during August, 1891, after a "stormy session", the organization gave approval to locate the temple in Pine Bluff. 3 However, the proposed building was never started as the financing of the structure proved to be an insurmountable problem.

Apparently the approval of Pine Bluff as the location of the temple by the Grand Lodge in 1891 at least decided the question as to where the lodge would be built. By 1902 the Grand Lodge has accumulated enough money to but a lot and start the building. On March 24, 1902, the Grand Lodge bought Lot 3, Block 40 of Old Town Pine Bluff for \$7,000.4 Gibbs and Sanders, Little Rock architects, were employed to design the building and on July 7, 1902, W.S. Helton, a Pine Bluff builder, was given a contract to construct a four-story brick and stone structure.<sup>5</sup>

As part of the Grand Lodge meeting the cornerstone of the building was laid August 14, 1902, with elaborate ceremonies which involved local dignitaries as well as officials of the Grand Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. "Fully 900 Masons" marched up Main Street from Jones Park (located at Harding and Main Streets) to the site of the new building for the services.6

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Footnotes

MAJATIKAMUS IANGS	CONTRACTOR MANAGEMENT		
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	38:W	ENGINEERING.	79/42
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1e	ss than one	acre	
QUADRANGLE NAME Pine Bluft		PORVEYED	UADRANGLE SCALE
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G		H_1_1_1_1	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION		A Date Lucia (Keck)	Parun appara an alige
Lot 3, Block 40, Old Town 1	Pine Bluff		of Tree and Accepted M
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIL	ES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPING STA	TE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
FORM PREPARED BY  NAME/TITLE  James W. Leslie  ORGANIZATION	arot one	Decre a control of the control of th	TLACE MASSON DO AND SELECTION OF THE SEL
NAME/TITLE James W. Leslie	More Diene	To foliate a decrease a control of second as a decrease as a decrease as a decrease a de	DATE
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NOV 3 0 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Funds available for ocnstruction were exhausted by the time the lot was bought and foundation was laid. For over a year work was suspended on the structure. Through the efforts of J.N. Donohoo and J.C. Corbin, Grand Lodge Trustees, a loan of \$25,000 was obtained from the Peoples Savings Bank of Pine Bluff to complete the building. Pat Powers of Little Rock was given a contract to finish the structure on the foundation built by Helton. 7

Enough had been completed on the temple to permit the Grand Lodge to hold its annual meeting there beginning on August 8, 1904. Stairways were improvised and the sessions were held in the lodge hall on the third floor. In opening the first session, Grand Master Moses A. Clark said: "I now sound the gavel for the first time ever in a building of this kind, built and owned by Negroes.8

When the Grand Lodge met in August, 1912, the last payment was made on the temple mortgage. At a special ceremony held at exactly the same houe and date (August 14) that the cornerstone was laid 10 years previously, the payment was made and the temple dedicated. 9

In the early morning hours of May 25, 1954, fire struck the building and burned out the third and fourth floors. The loses were covered by insurance and the building was restored except for a dormer on the roof. As part of the remodeling a self-service elevator was installed to make it easier to reach the upper floors of the temple. The work was completed in 1955 and a second cornerstone was installed on the northeast corner of the building above the original stone.

The first floor of the building contains stores ans shops. The second floor in asdition ot the Grand Lodge's Offices has several offices which are rented to doctors and dentists. The state now has 184 lodges with 6,000 to 7,000 members and Grand Lodge continues to hold its annual communications in Pine Bluff each year. 10

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1. Centennial Souvenir, 100 years of Free Masonry 1872-1972, M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge. (Pine Bluff, M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, 1972), pp.8-9.
- 2. Pine Bluff Weekly Commercial, February 15, 1891, p.4
- 3. Weekly Commercial, August 16, 1891, p.4
- 4. Deed Book 40, Jefferson County Land Records, p. 269
- 5. Pine Bluff Weekly Graphics, July 9, 1902, p.4
- 6. Pine Bluff Graphic, August 15, 1902, p.1
- 7. Graphic, October 5, 1902, p.1
- 8. Graphic, August 9, 1904, p.8
- 9. Commercial, August 14, 1912, p.1
- 10. Statement by Reverand Horace J. Evans, Grand Master of M.W. Prince

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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WOV 3 0 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 3

Footnotes cont'd:

Hall Grand Lodge, Personal Interview, January 27, 1978. Special Note - Name of the Grand Lodge was changed to "The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Arkansas" on August 8, 1944.

Property Masonic Jemp	le		99
	per8.23. 78.3924	780005	11
TECHNICAL, U+M	neoprect OKBB	C	CONTROL
Photos date	OK BB	CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF	8.24.78
			STORIAN
Significance: Although not well of the property is well in just community black historywith a for which it was built. Fire o elements that give building ass	tified in context of stabulating still used for for 1954 did not destroy	ate and r purpose major	Sherfy 11-22-78 accept
Arcgutecture is indicated as an significance. There is now just however. Some apparant alteration severally affect the appearance from the period of its important	area of ARCHITEC ification of this in the cons are not included in of the exterior. Also,	e statement of the description any alterations	n; they do not
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Less than well-presented or co		Dee	for fact
of significance, but very impo	rtant listable property	•	11-29-78
			accept
		BRANC	H CHIEF
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National Register Write-up	Send-back	Entered	NOV 3 0 1978
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79	Re-submit		INT:2106-74



- Masonic Temple
- 2. 3. Pine Bluff, Arkansas
- Sandra Taylor Smith
- April, 1978 4.
- 5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6. viewed from the southeast
- photo # 1

AUG 231978



1. Masonic Temple

2. Pine Bluff, Arkansas

3. Sandra Taylor Smith

NOV 3 0 1978

4. April, 1978

5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

6. viewed from the south

7. photo # 2

AUG 23 1978



Masonic Temple

2. Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Sandra Taylor Smith

4. April, 1978

5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

6. detail of entry door on south elevation

photo #3 7.

AUG 2 3 1978



Masonic Temple

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

3. Sandra Taylor Smith

4. April, 1978

5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

6. stairway leading from entry door

7. photo # 4

AUG 2 3 1978

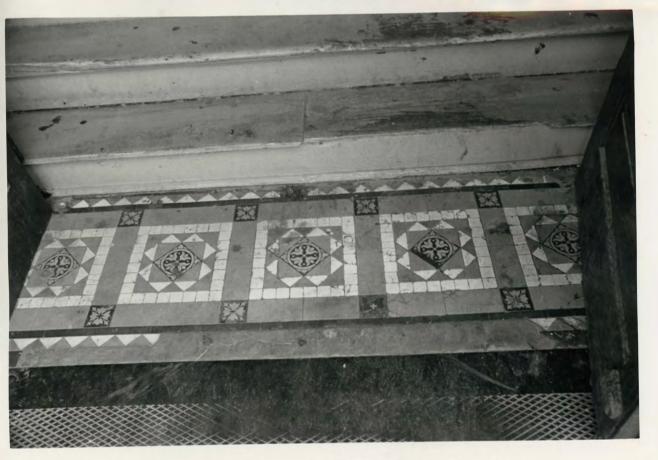
NOV 3 0 1978

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- 1. Masonic Temple
- 2. Pine Bluff, Arkansas
- 3. Sandra Taylor Smith
- 4. April, 1978
- 5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6. second floor meeting hall
- 7. photo # 5

AUG 2 3 1978



1. Masonic Temple

NOV 3 0 1978

- 2. Pine Bluff, Arkansas
- 3. Sandra Taylor Smith
- 4. April, 1978
- 5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6. tile floor on first floor
- 7. photo # 6

AUG 2 3 1978



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building Markham and Main Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RECEIVED

Phone: (501) 371-2763

May 26, 1978

M. W. Prince Hall Grant Lodge of Ark. East Fourth Ave. & State Street Pine Bluff, AR 71601 AUG 2 3 1978 NATIONAL REGISTER

Re: Masonic Temple, Pine Bluff

Dear Sirs:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the above captioned property which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their June meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation. Entry in the National Register is an honor which places an obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination, please contact Sandra Taylor Smith of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard Deputy Directo

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

I approve of the nomination of the above property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Comments: Thompy

8 1

Signature

Ewans

aster M.W.

M.E. of ang & State

A Division of the Department of Arkansas Natural
An Equal Opportunity Empolyer.

JAMES BROWN DEPUTY GRAND MASTER 1504 TENNESSEE PINE BLUFF, ARK. 71601

CLAUDELL SMITH GRAND SENIOR WARDEN 406 N. CAROLINA CROSSETT, ARK. 71639

REV. V. J. JOHNSON GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN BOX 21 HUTTIG, ARK. 71₹47

HOWARD WOODS GRAND SECRETARY 3023 W. 11TH LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 72203 RT. 5, BOX 573

made Jumple Raising

## MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE

F. & A. M., Jurisdiction of Arkansas



SILAS DOLPHIN GRAND TREASURER ROUTE 1, BOX 226 HELENA, ARK, 72342

M. J. CARUTH SEC'Y .- TREAS. RELIEF DEPT. 1114 PULLASKI STREET LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 72202

FRED JOHNSON SEC'Y .- TREAS. ED. & CHARITY P. O. BOX 2973 LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 72203

SIDNEY O. OWENS C. C. F. C. 2509 SPRING STREET LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 72204

Rev. Horace J. Evans, Grand Master

OFFICE PH. 534-5467: RES. PH. 535-0983 MASONIC TEMPLE - 4TH & STATE STREETS UPSTAIRS PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71601

September 15, 1978

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Washington, D.C. 20240 Att'n. Dr. William J. Murtagh

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

For a number of years, the Grand Lodge Temple of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, has stood as a beacon of masonic light and moral enlightment for over 20,000 members of its masonic family, thereby making Pine Bluff, Arkansas the center of Prince Hall Masonry in Arkansas.

Started in 1902, this building was completed in 1912. This may not seem of any consequence, but the period of time mentioned, was a time when the median income for blacks in Arkansas was less than \$30.00 per month. To even attempt such a task is astronomical, but to complete it tends to be phenomenal. Today this building stands as evidence of the character and strength of Prince Hall Masons in this jurisdiction.

From the Grand Lodge Temple, men and women have gone forth to make their marks in various stations in life, fortified with the teachings of masonry that emanated from the main source of light. The various cities and states are the beneficiaries of their labor, and the country, therefore, is the better because of their works. We beam with pride because of their accomplishments, and know that members of the fraternity will still continue to do good.

The Grand Lodge Temple also stands as mute testimony that there is still a God in this country, and he is alive. Working with the churches of the community, the temple is a center of philosophical, moral, and historical significance, not only to the Black Community, but to the city and state as well. It is an old building but it is a well-built building. To continue to be a beacon to its members and others would be a continuation of the foresightedness of our foreparents.

For the reasons listed, we would like for the Grand Lodge Temple to belisted in the National Register.

Attest:

Howard L. Woods, Grand Secretary

Sincerely and Fraternally,

DATE REC'D	SEP 2 1 1978
48	IVIDEL SESPONSE (ATTACHED)
	The distance of the
DATE OCIDAN TA	9-28-78
	10

#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

ARKANSAS

Date Entered

NOV 3 0 1978

Name

Williams-Wootton House

Masonic Temple

Location

Hot Springs Garland County

Pine Bluff Jefferson County

## Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr. Honorable John P. Harmerschmidt Honorable Ray Thornton

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET OTHER NAMES (4) county code: adate of entry: NAME as it appears on federal register: NOV 3 0 1978 069 Masonic Temple county (6)NPS REGION: 5 LOCATION street & number city / town vicinity of state E. 4th Ave. and State St. Pine Bluff AR Jefferson OWNER XIPRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIFLE FEDERAL (agency name) BADMINISTRATOR: (9) EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER HAER HALL (10) FUNDED? TYES HO (11) CONGRESS. DISTRICT SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE if state who prepared form? MUTHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANGMARK? MOWETHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION Dise C YES, MAME LIYES, NAME original site CONDITION altered deteriorated 17 features: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 Dexcellent Oruins unaltered moved ONOT INTACT-O 2□ NOT INTACT-O O DNOT INTACT - O E UNKNOWN-4 good unexposed Dreconstructed Dunknown UNKNOWN-5 5 UNKNOWN -6 Dfair □ unexcavated Dexcavated ≧□ NOT APPLICABLE-7 MO NOT APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE - 9 19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no BACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted □ No Access □ Unknown SAVED? YES CLAIMS: explain 21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.- 15 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.- 21 RECREATION -28 DENGINEERING-11 'first' ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2 COMMERCE - 6 ☐ LAW - 16 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT - 26 ☐ RELIGION - 22 SETTLEMENT-29 ARCHEOLOGY - historic - 1 ☐ LITERATURE - 17 COMMUNICATIONS - 7 ☐ EXPLORATION - 12 SCIENCE- 23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 'oldest' AGRICULTURE -3 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) CONSERVATION - 8 HEALTH - 27 MILITARY - 18 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 □ ECONOMICS-9 MUSIC - 19 ☐ INDUSTRY - 13 SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30 'only' ☐ EDUCATION-10 O INVENTION - 14 ☐ TRANSPORTATION - 25 ART-5 PHILOSOPHY - 20 ETHNIC GROUP dates of initial construction: functions ASSOCIATION major alterations: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: historic events: CURRENTLY: architect: master builder: architectural style(s): engineer: artisan: andscape architect/garden designer: minterior decorator: artist: builder/contractor: NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL: MATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

IF ADDITIONAL SF E NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE

reviewers initials.

date.