

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
PHILADELPHIA'S MASONIC TEMPLE  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1 North Broad Street (NE corner Broad & Filbert Sts) NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Philadelphia VICINITY OF  
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Pennsylvania 42 Philadelphia 101

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>Fraternal Lodge</u>

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*  
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Free and Accepted Masons  
STREET & NUMBER  
1 North Broad Street  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Philadelphia VICINITY OF Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Hall, Records Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
Broad and Market Street  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Philadelphia VICINITY OF Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Philadelphia Historical Commission local survey  
DATE \_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Philadelphia Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Philadelphia VICINITY OF Pennsylvania

## 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 temple is made of granite ashlar. It has a five-bay front, approximately 138 feet by 245 feet on the flanks. It rises three stories with five and seven story towers. A 1868 article describes the building:

The larger tower on the southeast corner is 200 feet in height. The four corners of this tower are surmounted by pinnacles, with buttresses extending up a considerable distance; the balconies at the windows, and the balustrades and ornamentation introduced, add to the character of the design. The smaller tower at the northwest corner of the front is not as elaborate. The remaining three sides of the building are relieved by buttresses between the windows, and the general effect of the exterior is massive. The style is Norman-Romanesque.

On the first floor, raised eight feet from the ground, is a hall, twenty feet in width, which runs the entire length of the building from east to west. From this wall start two stairways, which are a magnificent entryway. Under the Northwest tower is the office of the Grand Master, and to the rear of this are the grand banqueting rooms, with kitchen, store rooms, and pantries attached. The banqueting room is one hundred and fifty feet by fifty-five feet, and is fitted up in the most costly and elaborate style. On the other side of the hall, fronting on Broad street, are the offices of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and in the rear of these are the library and committee rooms. The second story, or principal floor, contains the Grand Lodge room, three rooms for Blue Lodges, one Grand Chapter room, and the retiring rooms required for the transaction of business.

The Grand Lodge room is one hundred and fifty feet by fifty-three feet six inches. In the decoration and furniture of this apartment the prevailing color is blue relieved by gold. The rooms for the Blue Lodges are each fifty-nine by forty-three feet, and are handsomely decorated. The Grand Chapter room is eighty-one by fifty-three feet. Parlors fronting on Broad Street for the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter adjoin the rooms decorated in historic styles.

The building throughout is used solely for Masonic purposes. It is fire-proof, iron girders being used at all the stories. The most complete provisions for ventilation are made; the steam apparatus to be used for heating the building also drives a large fan to keep up a circulation of fresh air in all of the rooms. Provision is also made for a plentiful supply of water in every portion of the building.

The seven Lodge Halls, all completed by George Herzog, are nearly perfectly preserved and are Corinthian, Ionic, Italian Renaissance, Norman, Gothic, Oriental and Egyptian in style, including ceiling, walls, and the furniture therein. The Grand Lodge Museum also contains an extensive collection of Masonic memorabilia including a 1599 English Bible and an important collection of sculpture by the great early American sculptor, William Rush.

# 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 checked="" 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                      1873    BUILDER/ARCHITECT    James Windrim (1840-1919)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dedicated on September 26, 1873, the Temple in Philadelphia was then considered "the wonder of the Masonic world" and it is still one of the most elaborate structures of its kind in America. Built in the Norman-Romanesque style it has changed very little on both exterior or interior over the years. It contains some of the most beautiful detailed, ornate interiors of any late Victorian structure in the nation.

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of the most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, as the organization is properly called, had become so prosperous by the nineteenth century that their temples were designed by prominent architects, such as William Strickland and Samuel Sloan. Prior to the building that now stands just north of City Hall, the Masons had used at least fourteen different locations for meetings. In 1867, an architectural competition was held. The two most important contenders for the commission were John McArthur, Jr., architect of Philadelphia's City Hall and James H. Windrim.

James Hamilton Windrim (1840-1919), a native of Philadelphia, and a member of the first graduating class of Girard College, received his early architectural training as a draftsman under Archibald Catanach, a stonemason who was the builder of John Notman's Holy Trinity church on Rittenhouse Square.

Windrim as a young man also helped to superintend the construction of Samuel Sloan's Episcopal Hospital. He later designed such structures in Philadelphia as the Academy of Natural Sciences (19th and Race Streets; 1872, with subsequent additions in 1892, 1896, and 1909), the Centennial Agricultural Hall, the Bank of Northern Liberties (3rd and Vine Streets; 1871), the Western Savings Fund Society (10th and Walnut Streets), and the Richard Smith Memorial Gateway in Fairmount Park (1897).

Windrim was Supervising Architect of the United States from 1889 until 1891, when he resigned to become the Director of Public Works for the City of Philadelphia. His architectural practice from 1889 on was largely handled by his son, John Torrey Windrim (1866-1934), although his name continued to appear on work designed by the office.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	4861070	4422420	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that certain lot or piece of ground with the Building thereon erected Situate on the East side of Broad Street between Filbert and Cuthbert Streets in the Ninth Ward of the City of Philadelphia. Containing in front or breadth on said Broad Street One hundred and fifty feet and extending of that width in length or depth Eastward along the North side of Filbert Street and South side of Cuthbert Street Two hundred and fifty feet to Juniper Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service History Division

DATE

August 10, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

(202) 343-8166

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, DC 20240

STATE

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ NONE\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_National \_\_\_State \_\_\_Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 2

It is particularly the quality and detail of the Lodge Halls, all in marvelous state of preservation that make Masonic Temple a superb example of late 19th century architecture.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 2

Apparently the Architectural competition for the commission to design the new Masonic Temple was not entirely smooth as letters in the Masonic archive allude to some friction between Windrim and McArthur. It is worth noting, however, that Windrim was a member and Worshipful Master of the Philadelphia Lodge 22. Wildrim was only twenty-seven years of age when he won this competition, and evidently had designed only one significant structure in the Philadelphia area—Jay Cook's palatial residence "Ogontz" at Cheltenham Hills.

Two of the earlier Masonic Halls were designed in the Gothic style while the present Temple, apparently attempting continuity and proposing to "educate" the scholar and craftsman in the architectural language, finally evolved into a unified Romanesque facade. A richly textured "Norman" porch of great finesse was designed in 1870, built in 1871, and is today one of the finest features of the building.

When the cornerstone was laid on St John the Baptist Day, June 24, 1868, approximately 10,000 Brethren attended the ceremony. The gravel used was the one George Washington used laying the cornerstone of the Capitol in Washington, DC, 75 years before. The Temple cost \$1,600,000 excluding decorations and furnishing -- a handsome sum for the 1870s.

The interiors are still dazzling by any architectural standards. The decorator, George Herzog was born in Munich in 1852. He was educated there in the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and apprenticed to Joseph Schwartzmann, the designer of the public edifices and palaces of Ludwig I. Herzog came to America in 1873 and formed a partnership with Constantine Kaiser, a prominent Philadelphia designer. The firm expanded rapidly after winning prizes and critical praise at the 1876 Centennial Exposition. In addition to the Masonic Temple, he was responsible for some of the rooms in Philadelphia City Hall. His work for the Liederkranz Society of New York brought further honors and commissions such as decorations for the homes of John H. Converse, James Elverson, P.A.B. Widener, and William S. Elkins.

When the cornerstone was laid, a great celebration was held including a parade of 14,000 marchers. The ceremonies were described in current newspaper accounts:

The parade will begin at 8:30 a.m., the line and route of march are described. All of the Officers, Masters, Wardens and Past Masters marched with vocal and instrumental music. There were prayers and speeches and invocations. The cornerstone was laid precisely at twelve o'clock and each member was instructed to wear black dress, frock or sack coat, black cravat, black silk hat, white gloves (silk, cotton or kid), and plain white leather apron, such as ordered by the

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Grand Lodge Master. Officers were instructed to wear their appropriate jewel suspended around the neck by a blue ribbon and they were advised to wear heavy-soled boots or shoes for the march. There were meetings and banquets all over the city culminating in a grand evening banquet at the Academy of Music for 1,000. The balconies were filled with the ladies of the members of the order, there was statuary, decorations, two full bands and many dignitaries from other cities.

The Temple was finally dedicated on Friday, September 26, 1873, in another even more lavish celebration. The current structure is still today very much the center of Masonic life in Pennsylvania and is beautifully maintained.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Bibliographical Reference

Barratt, Norris S. and Julius F. Sachse. Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, 1727-1907.  
Philadelphia, 1908.

Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, guidebook, privately printed by Grand Lodge Free  
and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, 1960.

Sloane, "Account of New Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert," Architectural Review,  
Vol. I, pp. 71-72.

Tatum, George B. Penn's Great Town, Philadelphia, 1961, pp. 105 and 192, Pl. 112.

Poppeliers, John C. "The 1867 Philadelphia Masonic Temple Competition." Journal  
of the Society of Architectural Historians. December 1967. Vol. XXVI.  
No. 4, pp 279-284.



