



(Oct. 1990)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

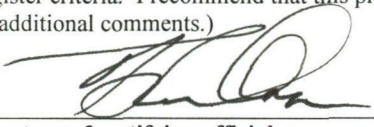
HISTORIC NAME: Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 311 West 7th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Austin
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Travis CODE: 453
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 78701

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

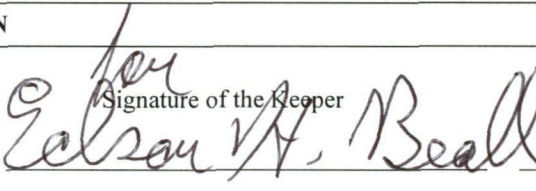
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x nomination) (_ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (x meets) (_ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (_ nationally) (_ statewide) (x locally). (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date: February 14, 2005

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):
Signature of the Keeper: 
Date of Action: 4/29/05

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL/meeting hall; COMMERCE/business, COMMERCE/professional

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL/meeting hall; COMMERCE/business, COMMERCE/professional

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Beaux-Arts

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE
WALLS BRICK, CONCRETE
ROOF ASPHALT
OTHER WOOD, STONE/Granite, METAL/Aluminum, Cast Iron

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

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Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Architectural Description

The Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge, located at 311 West 7th Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas, is a three-story Beaux-Arts brick building. The Masonic Lodge, built in 1926, was designed by prominent Texas architects J. B. Davies and W. E. Ketchum. The building, with an additional basement level, is symmetrical in plan with a basic rectangular form and flat roof. Both the interior and exterior of the building have classical-styled moldings, fixtures and ornamentation. The building's basement and first floor are leased for commercial use while the second and third floors are used to house Lodge meetings and activities. The Masonic Lodge retains a high level of integrity and is significant under Criterion A for its contribution to social history and under Criterion C as a noteworthy example of early-twentieth-century institutional/commercial architecture with Classical details.

Site

The Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge is located on the northeast corner of city block no. 72 between Sixth and Seventh Streets and Guadalupe and Lavaca Streets in the Central Business District of Austin. Located at 311 West 7th Street on the corner of West 7th and Lavaca streets, the Masonic Lodge shares the block with the "300 6th Street" Parking Garage and the multi-storied Comerica Bank Building. The parking garage and bank building were both constructed in recent years. The Masonic Lodge is the last historic property on the block.

An architect's office and small news journal occupy the ground floor. The basement level is rented by a printing business. Masons continue to use the upper two floors for meetings and ceremonies.

Properties that surround the Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge include commercial, institutional, governmental, and residential types. Congress Avenue, a National Register-listed historic district (two blocks east of Lavaca Street) is Austin's central business district with banks, office buildings, commercial businesses and restaurants. The National Register-listed Bremond Block Historic District located one block west of the Masonic Lodge contains a well-preserved group of nineteenth century residences. Many of the historic residences house professional offices today.

The city block occupied by the Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge was initially dominated by residential properties. At that time, 7th Street was known as Bois d'Arc, an exclusive residential block. The lot where the Masonic Lodge stands was, up to the early 1900s, the private residence of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Swearington. By 1935, commercial businesses including the Masonic Lodge, an auto sales lot, and the Myers Creamery, had begun infiltrating the block. By 1961, private residences that shared the 7th Street frontage with the Masonic Lodge were now apartments and the remainder of the block was occupied by commercial and institutional properties. The First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the 1912 Classical Revival U.S. Post Office were east of the Lodge across Lavaca Street.

Exterior

The Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge is a three-story Beaux-Arts brick building with street level commercial space. The building is a rectangular-shaped freestanding structure with a slightly protruding 5-bay section on its main façade. The building has varying roof levels, and an elevated roof story on the western side of the building. It has

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a steel frame structural system with a buff, beige brick veneer. Decorative detailing including medallions, crests, and cornices are of cast concrete. A simple cast-stone base is on the north and east elevations. A metal canopied awning on the main façade covers the first floor entrances. Symbols of Masonic ritual are found on the cast stone medallions, the central cornice on the main façade, the light fixtures, and the door hardware. A cornerstone and a cast concrete sign give the name and date of the organization's establishment.

The primary entrance to the Masonic Lodge is on the main façade facing West 7th Street. A second entrance is on the east elevation, on Lavaca Street. Both the West 7th and Lavaca Street façades have the most ornamentation, while the south and west elevations have little detailing and no ornamentation. Geographically, the land slopes toward the southwest corner of the block allowing for a basement level on the south side of the building.

The main façade is the most detailed of the elevations, though many of its elements continue along the east façade. The main façade is symmetrical, divided into 7 bays with a 5-bay central protruding portion with its own brick pedimented, parapet roof. The entablature consists of a cast-stone belt course, a brick frieze, and a cast-stone cornice with brick parapet above. Two cast-stone medallions and the cast-concrete sign that reads "Lone Star Chapter No. 6, RAM" are in the brick frieze. The Masonic seal with the letter "G" is in the center of the parapet roof, forming a semi-circle pediment.

There are five entrances on the ground floor of the main façade, four are the entrances to the street level commercial spaces and one is the main entrance to the Masonic Lodge. Each of the four separate commercial spaces has its own entrance with a glass-paneled door with sidelights and transom above. The Masonic Lodge entrance, in the westernmost of the 5-bays, is a pair of glass-paneled doors with sidelights and transom above. The westernmost bay along this façade has no window or door openings and the easternmost bay has only one window on the ground floor. Windows on the second and third floors are directly above the ground floor entrances in the 5-bays. Windows on the second floor are pairs of 9/9-double hung-sash windows with cast concrete sills and windows on the third floor are 6/6-double hung-sash windows with cast concrete sills. Door and window surrounds are wood.

A stylized metal canopy covers the ground floor entrances on West 7th Street. It is a flat awning with slightly arched ends that hangs from tie rods attached to the building. The painted canopy is styled in a modified egg and dart pattern alternating with a fleur-de-lis pattern. The canopy has vertical ribbing along its edges. Tie rods that suspend the awning also have a scrolled detail and star-shaped anchors.

The Lavaca Street façade shares stylistic characteristics of the main façade. Only the first and second floors are apparent from this façade because of the slope and cast concrete base basement level. This secondary façade mimics the primary façade with a slightly protruding central section that has a parapet roof above a cast concrete cornice. The façade is divided into 5 bays with a central protruding 3-bay portion. The bays to each side of the central protruding portion have no openings. The central 3-bay portion has pairs of 9/9 double-hung sash windows on the first and second floors and a central classical-influenced doorway accessible by a few stairs. This second entrance into the building is a pair of glass paneled doors with a stylized transom window and a classical pediment and frame door surround. Detailing is continued with the cast concrete medallions, cornice and sills, as well as the building base.

Classical-influenced detailing on the north and east façades of the building includes cast-stone cornice, belt course, base, round and swag medallions, and symmetrical fenestration. Masonic symbols are apparent in specific pieces on the exterior

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Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
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of the building. Decorative globes on the exterior light fixtures are engraved with Masonic images symbolizing duty, geometry and virtue. Masonic symbols are used in the pediment and the small medallions on the building's main façade. The use of the compass and rule, anchor and arc, and the letter "G" are apparent on other details such as the door hardware and the building's cornerstone.

Floor Plan

Although the first floor of the Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge was designed for commercial space, the primary function of the building was to house lodge meetings and activities. The 6,000-square-foot first floor has a central corridor running east to west, restrooms, and commercial spaces on the north and south sides of the corridor. There are five entrances on the ground floor main façade, four of which are entrances to the office spaces on the north side of the corridor. The largest entranceway on the main façade is the entrance to the Masonic Main Hall and meeting rooms. This entranceway, in the fifth bay, acts as a lobby or reception area for the Masonic Lodge. This space continues as the lobby and staircase on the upper floors. The west side of the building contains the primary stairway and elevator to the upper floors. A fire escape was later added to the exterior of the building, in the first bay of the main façade, as a secondary means of egress.

Office spaces and the Mason's Main Hall occupy the 6,000 square feet second floor. The commercial spaces are along the north side of the east west central corridor separating them from the main Masonic Hall that is along the south side of the building. The northeast end of the building serves as a smaller meeting chamber and library.

The 2,115-square-foot third floor contains a kitchen and dining hall for the masons. The third floor covers only half the area of the lower floors and is divided into two spaces. One-third of the space is a kitchen while the dining hall comprises the remaining two-thirds of the floor.

The Masonic Lodge has an additional partial daylight basement level due to the slope in grade of the block. The basement has 4,700 square feet and its own entrance at the south side of the building. A printing company currently occupies the basement.

Interior

The interior of the lodge is largely the same as when it was built in 1926. The basement level of the lodge was originally an unfinished space. Today, it has exposed concrete beams and walls. The public spaces of the ground floor retain their 1926 finishes. The floors have cream-colored hexagonal tile throughout the corridor and lobby spaces. Marble bases wrap the walls with a dark wood paneling above. Painted walls continue above the millwork. The light fixtures are original to the building evidencing the only Art Deco details in the building. On the third floor, features of some significance are crown molding and decorated ceilings in the Lodge rooms.

The primary interior space of the Masonic Lodge is the Main Hall on the second floor. It was planned in a traditional Masonic layout in an east west direction. An altar occupied the center of the hall. Symbolic details were incorporated in the Main Hall including the use of Ionic columns on the eastern walls representing wisdom, checkered-floor patterns evocative of a disciple's "checkered" life of good versus bad, and the ceiling being the "clouded canopy of God." The

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ceiling is also detailed with a stylized sunburst pattern and medallions. Raised pilasters with Doric capitals segment the walls.

The Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge maintains a high level of integrity with its few alterations. The original mechanical systems are still intact. Several window air-conditioning units have been installed. The heating system has been retrofitted incorporating portions of the original system. The building embodies distinctive Beaux-Arts characteristics and possesses high artistic and workmanship value. It remains the only historic property on the block and one of the oldest buildings in this part of Austin's central business district. Overall, the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: SOCIAL HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1926-1955

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1926

SIGNIFICANT PERSONS: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Davies, J. B., and Ketchum, William E.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-12)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-13 and 9-14).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government (Austin History Center, City Landmark Preservation Commission)
- University (University of Texas at Austin, Center for American History)
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge, located at 311 West 7th Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas, is a three-story beige brick Beaux-Arts building. The Masonic Lodge, built in 1926, was designed by Texas architects J. B. Davies and W. E. Ketchum. The Lodge is an example of an early-twentieth-century commercial and institutional building in Austin that retains a high level of integrity, has had few alterations, and continues to function as commercial space as well as a space for the fraternal organization. The Royal Arch Masonic Lodge is nominated under Criterion A on the local level for its contribution to social history and under Criterion C on the local level as a good example of an early-twentieth-century Beaux-Arts institutional building in Austin. The City of Austin designated the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge as a historic landmark in 2000.

The evolution of the early craft-based Freemasonry into the fraternal beneficiary system today was strongly prompted by concern for general public welfare. As craft unions and guilds dissolved in the face of industrialization, associations of Masonry became "Friendly Societies," which instituted a form of life insurance. With the foundation of the Ancient Order of United Workmen by Jordan Upchurch in 1868, the societies of Freemasonry altered their focus from building trades to fraternal organizations. Freemasonry became a vehicle for spreading the ideals of the Enlightenment including reason, equality, religious tolerance, and the natural laws.

The origins of Freemasonry, including several diverse chapters such as the Scottish Rite and York Rite Masons, links back to 1278 with the foundation of ancient guilds of masons' workshops. The term "Lodge" was employed to indicate a group of Masons working on a major project who in turn acted as a society, which established rules, settled disputes, set conditions of apprenticeship, and distributed funds for its members. In physical terms, the "Lodge" was a structure erected on site to store supplies, act as a workshop, and allow social gatherings of Masons. Certain rites and rituals slowly became integrated into the Masons' Marks or rules, including forms of greeting for members.

Freemasonry was brought to the American colonies in the mid-eighteenth century and was established in all of the United States by 1820. The Masonic fraternity arrived in Texas in the 1820s when Stephen F. Austin, one of the early settlers of Texas, attempted to organize a Masonic lodge in 1828 at San Felipe. Mexican law prohibited the practice of Masonry in Texas. A group formed in 1835 near Brazoria and met at the Holland Lodge No. 36, with John Henry Holland presiding as worshipful master. The Holland Lodge struggled for months and was destroyed by the Mexican Army during the Texas Revolution. Texas revolutionaries such as Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston and David Crockett were all Masons. Between 1838 and 1845, the Texas Grand Lodge issued charters to 21 lodges throughout the state and membership grew from 73 to 357. Lone Star Chapter No. 6, the owners of the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge in Austin, was chartered November 8, 1872.

Masons soon became a driving force in Texas political and social circles. Though its membership only consisted of 1½ percent of the Texas population in 1845, its ranks included nearly 80 percent of Texas' higher held public offices. Membership generally rose during the twentieth century and then fluctuated downward with the onset of the Great Depression. Masonic membership in Texas increased from 17,000 in 1878 to 94,000 in 1920, reaching 134,000 in 1929. With the onset of the Depression, many lodges lost their gains in numbers, with membership decline, and in lodge buildings. Following World War II, however, membership rebounded and Texas Masons numbered 245,000 by 1961. Since the early 1960s, membership in Masonic organizations has faced declines. As of 1985, 960 lodges were active with over 201,000 members in Texas.

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Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masons (the Masonic organization that owns the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge) was chartered November 8, 1872 (Charter No. 74). The chapter was re-chartered June 15, 1866. Royal Arch is a York Rite body of Freemasonry. Royal Arch Masonry was founded in England in the early 1700s and its first charter in the United States was in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1797. Today it is one of the oldest and largest rites of Freemasonry. Masons who have first joined an "Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons" (A. F. & A. M.) Blue Lodge may additionally join the Scottish Rite body, York Rite body, or the Shrine body. The first notice of Royal Arch Masons in Texas was on September 8, 1835, when application was made and granted for San Felipe de Austin Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1, in San Felipe de Austin.

Originally established in 1839 to serve as the capitol, Austin was laid out in a 16-square-block grid bisected by Congress Avenue. Congress Avenue extended northward from the Colorado River to "Capitol Square," roughly the location of today's Capitol grounds. By 1871, the railroad had transformed Austin into a trading center for Central Texas. Its population of 10,363 enjoyed such luxuries as gas street lamps, a streetcar line, and an elevated bridge across the Colorado River. By the turn of the century, following some difficulties in economics, Austin had grown from an area of 4½ miles to 16½ square miles. Municipal water and electric service was in place, as well as Austin being the residence of notable artists and writers. By 1920, the population of Austin had grown to 34,876.

The Great Depression brought some economic hardship to Austin, but due to its government and educational foundations the city weathered the storm well. The era of development in which the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge was constructed was one of prosperity for Austin. A 1928 city plan provided guidelines for the city to develop its residential, cultural, and educational resources. By 1930, street improvements, sewers, a city hospital, public library, and the first municipal airport were all established.

By 1900, numerous Masonic lodges and chapters had been granted charters and were holding their meetings in and around Austin. Groups held meetings in various places including private homes, rented offices, and even the Driskill Hotel. By 1912, lodges and chapters of York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine bodies held meetings at the Masonic Temple at the southeast corner 7th and Colorado streets. By 1920, the Scottish Rite Cathedral at 205 W. 18th Street was available for meetings. By 1927, with the construction of the Masonic Lodge at 311 W. 7th Street, Austin Masonic groups now held meetings at either the new Lodge (Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge) or the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The Royal Arch Masonic Lodge and the Scottish Rite Cathedral were the predominant institutions of Masonic activity in Austin between 1927 and the 1950s. In 1940, the St. Joseph Grand Lodge was built at 1017 E. 11th Street for black Masonic organizations.

The Royal Arch Masonic Lodge, commonly referred to as the Masonic Temple, was constructed in 1926. The dedication for the Lodge was held August 30, 1926. According to the 1935 Sanborn map the building was called Masonic Temple and York Rite Building. Other York Rite Masons including Colorado Commandery, No. 4; Hill City Lodge, No. 456; Austin Council, No. 2; and Order of the Eastern Star Masons held their meetings at the lodge. Annual dues for members of the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge at the time it was built were \$3.00 per person. In 1927 Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masons membership was 303 individuals. Years later, membership grew to 1000 individuals before leveling off in 1936 at 750 members.

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Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
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The construction of the Austin Lone Star Chapter No. 6 Masonic Lodge was initially financed through fixed payments with a down payment between \$40,000 and \$45,000. The term of the loan was for 10 years with a 6 percent multiple option. The property value was approximately \$25,000. The initial cost of the building was approximately \$95,000, resulting in an overall total of \$120,000 for the entire project. After four years the amount of the fixed payments were too high for the Lodge to meet, due in part to the Great Depression and declines in membership. At this time, the loan was renegotiated through Whitney Central Trust and Savings of New Orleans with more favorable terms. Initial income for the property included annual rentals of \$4,700 and membership dues of \$864.

The Royal Arch Masonic Lodge's floor plan and purpose was traditional and not unlike other Masonic lodges. The Lodge needed to provide for large assemblies of people for various activities as well as generate an income for its operation. The building followed the model of many of its Texas counterparts by placing the assembly hall and meeting rooms on the upper floors and designating ground floors as offices and retail space for additional revenue.

During the 1930s, the basement level of the building was leased to the State of Texas Book Depository. Out of a total of 20,115 square feet, 9,217 was for Masonic use and the remaining 10,700 square feet was available for commercial use. The first floor offices were leased to real estate professionals, contractors, and other businesses including the Austin Musicians Union and Gibraltar Savings and Building Association. The second and third floors were used as meeting spaces for local Masonic bodies. The second floor was used as chapter rooms and the third floor was used for Blue Lodge and local York Rite meetings.

The floor plan of the Main Hall in the Masonic Lodge generally follows historic standards that were established in Europe, with the main hall representing the world and the temple serving as an assembly room. The Main Hall is oriented east west, is isolated from other buildings, and on the upper level. The symbolism of the eastern orientation was one based on association with the sun, light, and life. Brethren, or members, were seated along the long sides of the hall while leaders of varied hierarchy were positioned on axial points of the north, south, east and west. An altar occupied the center of the hall. Other symbolic details incorporated in the Main Hall include the use of Ionic columns on the eastern walls representing wisdom, checkered-floor patterns evocative of a disciple's "checkered" life of good versus bad, and the decorated ceiling being the "clouded canopy of God."

The architectural design of the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge is classical, symmetrical, and heavily concentrated on the outward expression of Masonic symbolism. Symbols including the letter "G," the ruler, and the compass are icons conveying meanings of the ideals of Freemasonry. Decorative globes on exterior light fixtures are engraved with Masonic images symbolizing duty, geometry and virtue. The letter "G" used throughout the building and in the pediment is equivalent to the sacred name of God as well as numerical preeminence. The symbol of an arc represents safety and "the Lodge." The arc, in conjunction with the anchor, represents hope and a good life. This symbolic imagery is featured on each of the small medallions located above the engraved sign of the Lodge. The use of the compass and ruler, anchor and arc, and the letter "G" are apparent on details such as door hardware and the building's cornerstone.

Texas lodges built contemporaneously to the Royal Arch Lodge tended to be grandiose in gesture and size or severely understated and plain. Lodges with greater financial resources were usually built in a more grandiose architectural style. The grandiose 1924 Scottish Rite Cathedral in San Antonio cost approximately \$1.6 million dollars to construct. Other temples with large budgets include Houston Scottish Rite Lodge (\$300,000 in 1923) and the Galveston Cathedral

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(\$500,000 in 1928). The National Register-listed South Side Masonic Lodge in Fort Worth, on the other hand, is very similar in scale, massing, form, and design to the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge in Austin. William E. Ketchum and J. B. Davies designed Fort Worth's South Side Masonic Lodge together in 1924. J. B. Davies and William E. Ketchum, the architects of the Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge, were both Masons. During the early twentieth century, Ketchum was a prominent architect in Austin while Davies was a prominent architect based in Fort Worth.

J. B. Davies, Architect

J. B. Davies was born in Austin in 1891. He arrived with his family in Fort Worth 2 years later. After graduating from Austin College, Davies earned a degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas. Davies was in private practice in Fort Worth by the early 1920s. During the 1920s and 1930s Davies completed a number of institutional and commercial projects throughout Texas. After taking a job with the federal government in 1938, Davies moved to Washington, D.C. and New Orleans. He returned to Fort Worth in 1962 and died there in 1966.

Davies designed several institutional and commercial buildings in Texas including the South Side Masonic Temple in Fort Worth. Davies designed institutional buildings such as the Weatherford City Hall, the Medical Arts Building and a school in Brownwood. Commercial buildings attributed to Davies include the Cooke-Fillingham Ford Agency in Magnolia, a movie theater in Coleman, and the Art Deco Western Union Telegraph Company Building in Fort Worth's Sundance Square.

William E. Ketchum, Architect

William E. Ketchum was born in Indiana and moved to Galveston, Texas, with his father Harry J. Ketchum, an electrotyper, in 1886. They moved to Austin in 1889. Ketchum attended public schools and graduated from Austin High School in 1901. For the next 9 years he was a draftsman in the office of A. O. Watson, an architect of several courthouses, schools, and banks in Central Texas. In 1910, Ketchum opened his own office and began designing a number of public schools and university buildings. As a Mason he pledged his allegiance to the Scottish and York Rites and was a loyal member of the Ben Hur Temple Shrine in Austin, Texas.

Ketchum mainly designed public school buildings as well as business and factory buildings throughout east and south Texas. Ketchum designed the Stephen F. Austin Building (1922–1923) and Thomas J. Rusk Buildings at Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College in Nacogdoches (1926). Other works he designed include the Thomas Arnold School in Salado (1930) and the National Register-listed Mayo Hall at East Texas State Teacher's College (1935–1936). In the early 1930s, Ketchum redesigned Jacob Larmour's 1875 Travis County Courthouse in Austin for conversion to the State Office Building. Ketchum moved to Dallas in 1940 to continue his professional career until his death in 1951.

The Lone Star Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge is significant under Criterion A, social history, for its long and continued use as a Masonic Lodge in Austin. The building was constructed in 1926 and has been used continuously by Masons for meetings and activities. The Lodge also is significant for its architecture as a good representation of an early-twentieth-century Beaux-Arts fraternal building.

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- _____. *Austin City Directory*. Houston: Morrison and Fourmy's Directory Company, 1920.
- _____. *Austin City Directory*. Houston: Morrison and Fourmy's Directory Company, 1922.
- _____. *Austin City Directory*. Houston: Morrison and Fourmy's Directory Company, 1927.
- _____. *Austin City Directory*. Houston: Morrison and Fourmy's Directory Company, 1930-1931.
- _____. *Austin City Directory*. Houston: Morrison and Fourmy's Directory Company, 1935.
- _____. *Austin City Directory*. Houston: Morrison and Fourmy's Directory Company, 1940.
- _____. *Austin City Directory*. Houston: Morrison and Fourmy's Directory Company, 1947.
- National Register of Historic Places Nomination – San Antonio Scottish Rite Cathedral. Austin, Texas. On file at the Texas Historical Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 14

Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
Austin, Travis County, Texas

National Register of Historic Places Nomination – Fort Worth South Side Masonic Lodge. Austin, Texas. On file at the Texas Historical Commission.

Photo files available at the Austin History Center.

Shaffer, Richard. Interview with Richard Shaffer, October 6, 2004, over telephone, by Lannie E. Kittrell, Austin, Texas.

Vaughn, William Preston. "Freemasonry." In The Handbook of Texas Online. Available online from "<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/FF/vnf1.html>[accessed October 6, 2004]."

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	620704	3349311

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: N. 68' of Lots 7-8 and N. 68' of E. 8' of Lot 9. Block 72, City of Austin, Travis County, Texas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historical associated with the building

11. FORM PREPARED BY (With assistance from Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator, THC)

NAME/TITLE: Christie M. King (edited by Lannie Ethridge Kittrell, Architectural Historian, Austin, Texas, August 2004)

ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas at Austin, student

DATE: December 13, 1999

STREET & NUMBER: 5200 North Lamar Blvd. #J101

TELEPHONE: (512) 419-9560

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78751

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-15)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-17)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheet Figure-16)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Lone Star Chapter 6, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge

STREET & NUMBER: 311 West 7th Street

TELEPHONE: (512) 478-7030

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78701

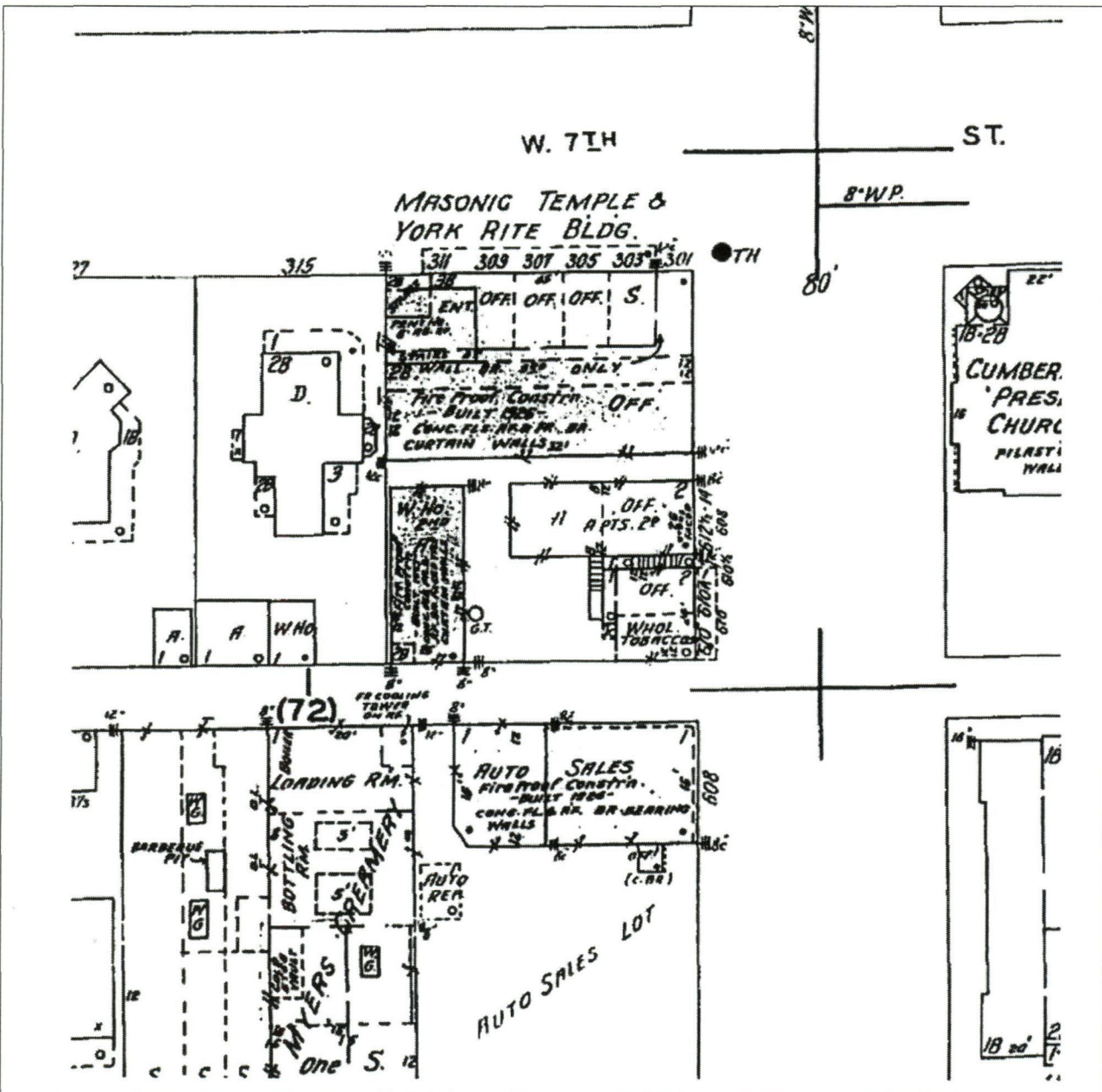
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 15

Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Map of Royal Arch Masonic Lodge at southwest corner of 7th and Lavaca Streets and surrounding buildings. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Austin, Texas, 1935, Sheet 2.



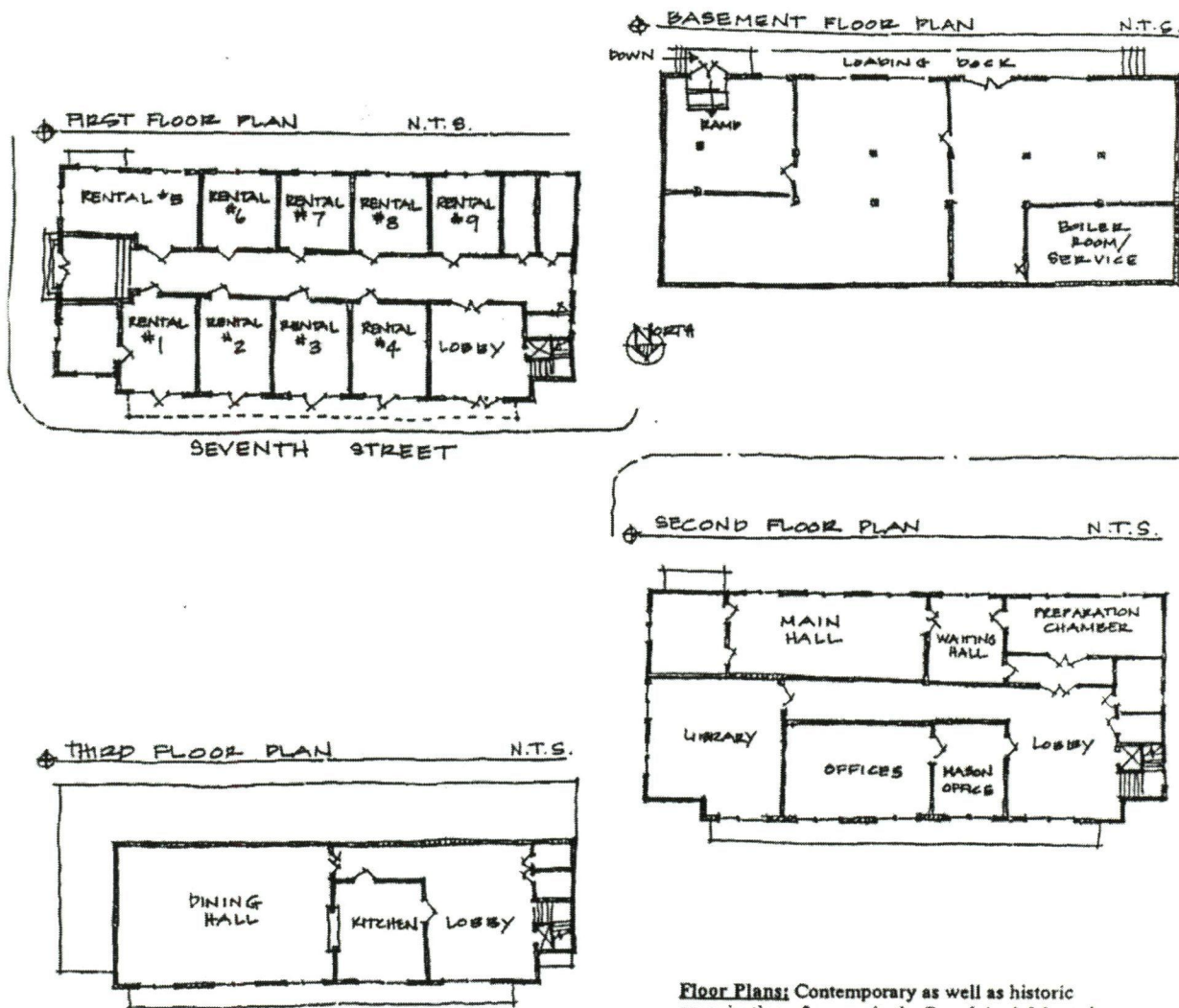
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 16

Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
Austin, Travis, County, Texas

Figure 1



Floor Plans: Contemporary as well as historic organization of spaces in the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge. Few alterations have been completed over the life of the building aside from temporary dividing walls in the basement level.

Arch Masonic Lodge
Floor Plans

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 17

Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
Austin, Travis, County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

Royal Arch Masonic Lodge
311 West 7th Street
Austin, Travis County, Texas
Photographed by Lannie Ethridge Kittrell
October 2004

Photograph 1 of 2
North elevation
Camera facing southeast

Photograph 2 of 2
East elevation
Camera facing west

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Royal Arch Masonic Lodge

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Travis

DATE RECEIVED: 3/17/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/06/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/21/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/30/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000362

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/28/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

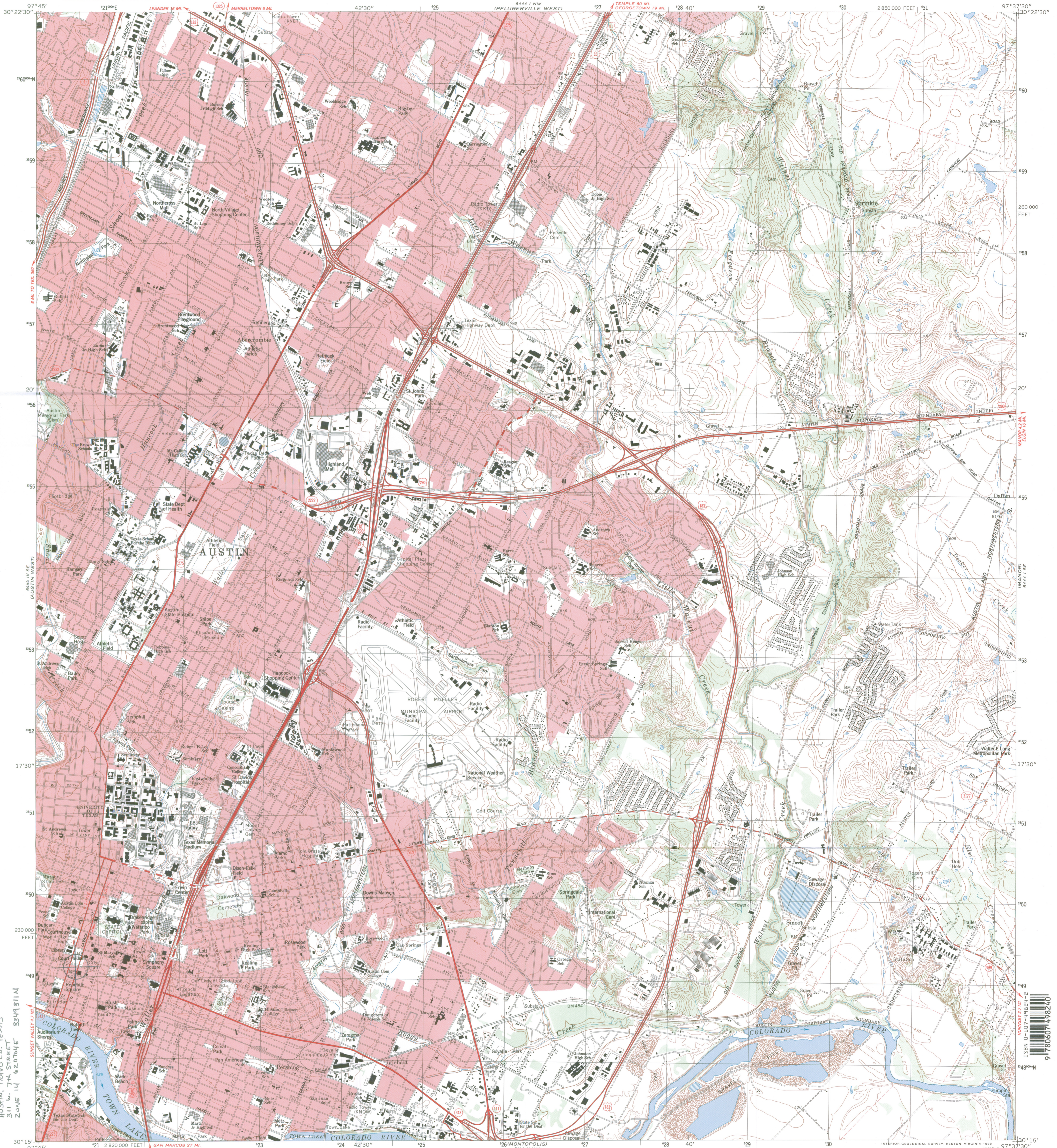
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



ROYAL ARCH MASONIC LODGE
311 W. 7TH STREET
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO. TEXAS
PHOTO 1 of 2



ROYAL ARCH MASONIC LODGE
311 W. SEVENTH ST.
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS
PHOTO 2 of 2

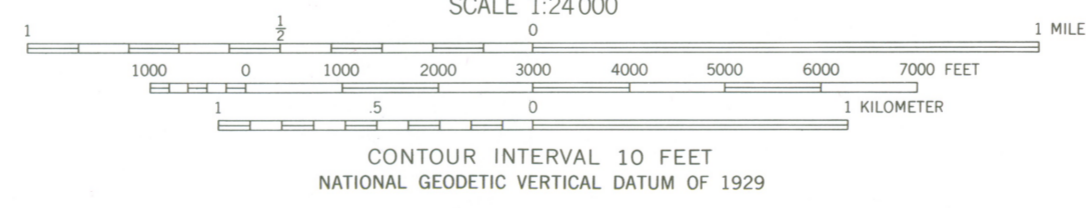
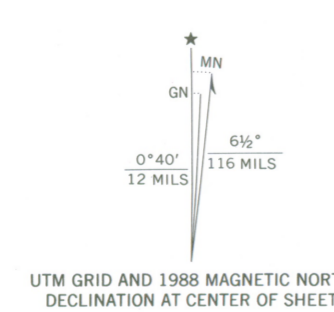


ROYAL ARCH MASONIC LODGE
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS
311 W. 7th STREET
ZONE 14 62.0784E
3349.311N

OAK HILL
6th STREET

ISBN 0-607-49824-2
9 780607 498240

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with City of Austin
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1985. Field checked 1986. Map edited 1988
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas
coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 18 meters south and
28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

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Rick Perry • *Governor*
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F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

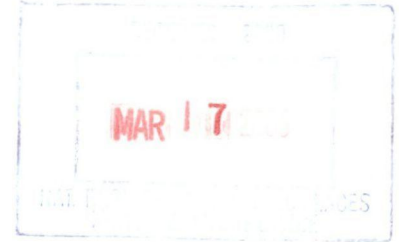
The State Agency for Historic Preservation

TO: Linda McClelland
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Royal Arch Masonic Lodge, Austin, Travis County, Texas

DATE: March 7, 2005



The following materials are submitted regarding: Royal Arch Masonic Lodge

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
	Correspondence
	Other:

COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

The enclosed owner objections (do) (do not) constitute a majority of property owners

Other: _____