

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 416-420 North Washington Ave.

not for publication

city or town Scranton

vicinity

state Pennsylvania

code PA

county Lackawanna

code 059

zip code 18503

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 50. In my opinion, the property
 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments)

Dr. B. Glass, Exec. Dir. 9/11/97

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

PA Historical and Museum Commission

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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.) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

7. Description

Architctural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Other: Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/ Limestone

walls STONE/ Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(see continuation sheet)

Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

- 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. (corresponds to NHL Criterion 2)
- 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 values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. (corresponds to NHL Criterion 4)
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Period of Significance

1927-1930

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hood, Raymond M.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- 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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Masonic Temple & Scottish Rite Cathedral

Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .83 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 444800 4584350
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cultural Resources Group
organization Kise Franks & Straw, Inc. date August 1997
street & number 219 North Broad Street telephone (215) 561-1050
city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral Association
street & number 416-420 N. Washington Avenue telephone (717) 346-7369
city or town Scranton state PA zip code 18503

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the national Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Description

The Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral is located on .83 acre parcel on North Washington Avenue in downtown Scranton. The 1930 temple-cathedral is a highly-stylized Neo-Gothic and Romanesque pastiche executed by Raymond M. Hood, a nationally prominent architect trained in the Beaux-Arts tradition and proficient with historical styles. The rectangular-plan building is clad in coursed ashlar Indiana limestone supported by a structural steel framework. The front (west) facade is divided into three sections: the central and southern sections consist of five stories and the northern section consists of three stories. The temple-cathedral has not been subject to alterations or additions and retains its integrity. The temple-cathedral occupies an urban setting in downtown Scranton and is adjacent to the Scranton Public Library.

The temple-cathedral includes an auditorium and ballroom that are available to the Scranton community for various functions. As a result, the front (west) facade has a tripartite composition that correlates to the three uses of the building. The central section is the most elaborate of the three sections and contains the primary entrance to the temple-cathedral. Flanking the central section to the south is the entrance to the ballroom and to the north is the entrance to the auditorium. The side and rear facades are concealed from public view and, for the most part, are void of stylistic applications.

The central section consists of a truncated rectangular tower with a three-story, round-arched, recessed entryway. The entryway is two bays wide and contains two double-light doorways on the ground level. An elaborate carved framework surrounds the doorways and consists of pinnacles and a band of carved niches concealing a second floor balcony. Extending from the second floor balcony are two round-arched, two-story bays containing French doors on the second floor and arched windows on the third floor. An incised serpent motif is located under the arch above the third floor windows. Flanking the recessed entryway are decorative buttresses. The layered buttresses diminish as their elevation increases and are highly decorative, containing carved niches and pinnacles with crockets and finials. Balconies are attached at the first floor of the northern buttress and the third floor of the southern buttress. Two incised bands depicting Masonic symbols are located above the recessed entryway.

The stylistic details and bay configurations of the central section are also present on the northern section. The northern section is four bays wide. The bays are defined by decorative buttresses containing carved niches and pinnacles. The three southernmost bays have identical configurations. Each bay consists of a double-light doorway at ground level with a two-story, round arch extending between the second and third stories. Rectangular windows are located on the second floor and arched windows on the third floor. The northernmost bay is largely undecorated beyond a simple vertical window on the second story and a below-ground entryway. A decorative incised band is located near the roof. A carved niche topped by a pinnacle is located in the upper corner of the junction between the front and side facades.

The southern section is void of decorative buttresses and is the least decorated of the three sections. The southern section is three bays wide. Double-light doorways are located at ground level in two

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Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Description (continued)

of the three bays. Above these doorways, on the second story, are round-arched openings containing rectangular windows. The third bay consists of a second-floor stone balcony with a round-arched opening containing a French door. Similar to the northern section, a carved niche is located at the junction of the front and side facades and decorative incised band is located near the roof. The southern section contains a terrace delineated from the sidewalk by a coursed ashlar wall. The ashlar wall terminates with a prominent freestanding pinnacle with crockets.

Windows throughout the temple-cathedral are multi-pane, leaded-glass windows, either casement or fixed-in-place. Some of the windows on the front facade are leaded with Masonic symbols. Window shapes vary between rectangular, tripartite arched, and simple vertical. The double-light wooden doorways at ground level have raised-wood panels set in a geometric pattern. The entrance doors to the central section are more elaborate with metal bosses.

The interior of the temple-cathedral, like the exterior, is an eclectic pastiche of historical styles, including the French Gothic and related influences. The interior has not experienced any alterations or additions and retains its integrity. A vast majority of the primary spaces retain their original function. On the first floor, the auditorium and stage occupy the northern and central sections, respectively, and the ballroom occupies the southern section. Pocket doors in the entrance vestibules and other partitions throughout the building allow each space to be used independently. The upper floors are utilized by the masonic lodges. Primary spaces on the upper floors include a library, a former billiard room that now houses offices, and three ceremonial masonic halls: Flemish Hall, Norman Hall, and Tuscan Hall. Materials used to create the ornamental interior include terrazzo and tile flooring; carved wood partitions and wainscots; ornamental plaster walls and ceilings; and cast stone trim. Surfaces are richly articulated with stencils, mouldings, and inlaid details.

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Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Statement of Significance

National Significance

NHL Criterion: 4

Theme: III. Expressing Cultural Values

5. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, & Urban Design

Period of National Significance: 1927 - 1930.

The Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral is nationally significant as an example of the work of Raymond M. Hood (1881-1934), a prominent architect of the 1920s and early 1930s, and as a unique example of Neo-Gothic architecture. Raymond Hood's productive career spanned from 1922, when he and a collaborator won the Chicago Tribune design competition, to his untimely death at 53 in 1934. During those twelve years, Hood was the principal designer or primary collaborator in a number of high-profile progressive skyscraper designs, mainly in New York City. For this body of work, Hood has been characterized as "the outstanding commercial architect of the 1920s" and, by Vincent Scully, "our greatest skyscraper architect."¹ In 1926, Hood, a frequent competition entrant, was awarded first prize for the design of a new Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral in Scranton. Officially opened in May 1930, the temple-cathedral stands as a monument to Hood's proficiency with historical styles, particularly the Gothic. Hood's adept use of the Gothic architectural vocabulary was a reflection of his training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris between 1905 and 1911. The following is a brief survey of the skyscraper office buildings upon which rests Hood's reputation followed by a discussion of the temple-cathedral competition and design.

Raymond Hood gained prominence in 1922 by winning, in collaboration with New York architect John Mead Howells, the Chicago Tribune competition. The Chicago Tribune competition was an unprecedented international design competition that drew 260 entrants and was an early face-off between "traditionalists" and "modernists." Entrants included Eliel Saarinen and Walter Gropius and the competition was commented upon by Louis Sullivan in his essay "The Chicago Tribune Competition." Hood and Howells's Neo-Gothic "traditional" design was selected and executed as the Chicago Tribune Tower. The widely-held belief is that Hood, moreso than Howells, was responsible for the tower's design.²

Garnering first prize in the Chicago Tribune competition was the turning point in Hood's previously stalled career. The victory provided Hood with an impressive resume and name recognition in his adopted town of New York City. Hood's professional arrival on the New York architectural scene occurred in the midst of the burgeoning 1920s when Hood's new-found specialty, the skyscraper, was in much demand. According to Robert A.M. Stern, "the New York skyscraper of the 1920s represented American capitalism in its most exuberant and self-confident

¹Robert A.M. Stern and Thomas P. Catalano, *Raymond Hood: Pragmatism and Poetics in the Waning of the Metropolitan Era* (New York: Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, 1982), 2, 25.

²*Ibid.*, 7-8.

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Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Statement of Significance (continued)

phase."³ Throughout the late 1920s and early 1930s, Hood aligned himself with corporate clients, often represented by a powerful individual, who were seeking to build a skyscraper to monumentalize as well as advertise their corporation.

In 1924, Hood was commissioned by the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Company to design an office tower in midtown Manhattan. Previously, in 1920, Hood had been contracted by the same company to design radiator covers. Later in the decade, Hood was commissioned to design two other skyscrapers in mid-town Manhattan: the thirty-six-story Daily News Building (1929-31) and the thirty-three-story McGraw-Hill Building (1929-30). Each of these skyscrapers, though stylistically different, were bold and noticeable and quickly became business landmarks in Manhattan. The Daily News and McGraw-Hill Buildings (along with Rockefeller Center) have been called "the most prominent modern and near-modern American skyscrapers of the period."⁴

With his reputation firmly established as a progressive designer of skyscrapers, Hood was recruited in 1930 to be part of the team designing Rockefeller Center (1928-1934 and later). The team, known as the Associated Architects, was a marriage between three firms: Corbett, Harrison, and MacMurray; Hood, [Godley, until 1931] & Fouilhoux; and Reinhard & Hofmeister. The original architects, Reinhard & Hofmeister, recruited the other firms, particularly for the design skills of Harrison, Hood, and Corbett. Hood's personal impact on the design is revealed in the massing of the seventy-story RCA Building, the centerpiece of Rockefeller Center, and in the establishment of an architectural vocabulary for the Center's buildings as a whole.⁵ Concerning the Center's final design, Hood was considered the "key member of the team in the sense that his newly completed Daily News Building haunted the Associated Architects . . . This was so . . . because (the Daily News Building) climaxed a development from Beaux-Arts 'Gothic' toward a gothicized modern esthetic for the skyscraper."⁶

In 1925, Hood entered the competition for the design of a Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral in Scranton. Masonic lodges in Scranton for years felt the need for a suitable home or temple. At the time, they used an old armory, which had become increasingly inadequate with the growth of the fraternity in the city.⁷ Discussions for a new facility began as early as 1916 and continued over a period of years with a panel of local architects recommending a competition in 1920. In 1921, Warren P. Laird, Dean of the Graduate School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania, was consulted as an adviser for the competition. By 1925, the building program was established and six firms had been pre-qualified for the competition.⁸ That same year, the

³Ibid., 14.

⁴William H. Jordy, *The Impact of European Modernism in the Mid-Twentieth Century*, vol. 5 of *American Buildings and Their Architects* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), 144.

⁵Stern, *Raymond Hood*, 14.

⁶Jordy, *Impact of European Modernism*, 59.

⁷Thomas Murphy, *Jubilee History of Lackawanna County* (Topeka, KS: Historical Publishing Co., 1928), 309.

⁸*Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral*, Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, 1987. Located on file at the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Harrisburg, PA.

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Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Statement of Significance (continued)

Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral Association purchased a tract of land in downtown Scranton from the Scranton Coal Company for \$10,000.

The building program called for the design of a building which would be "a monument to Masonry." The maximum allowable volume of the design was two million cubic feet and the design was to have as few stories as possible. The program did not impose an architectural style, but did indicate that "the Scottish Rite Cathedral may well be suggestive of Gothic architecture." The jury consisted of F.H. Bosworth, M.B. Medary, Jr., and Egerton Swartwout.⁹

After two days of deliberation, the jury recommended Hood's submittal be commissioned for the new temple-cathedral. The jury wrote "In this design, not only are the various parts of this building simply and directly planned but they are so arranged that each may be used independently . . . this design is pre-eminently one of distinction and, as an executed building, would have that monumental quality which should be inseparable from the tradition of masonry." Hood's design was a highly-stylized Neo-Gothic and Romanesque amalgam that reflected the power and prominence of the Scranton Masonic membership. Paul Cret's design came in second place and Carrere & Hastings entry came in third place. The other competitors consisted of Langley & Murchison, Helmle & Corbett, and Davis & Lewis.¹⁰

Bids for construction were taken in January, 1927. The low bidder was Central Construction Company of Harrisburg for 1.4 million dollars. Along with the cost of furnishings, the actual cost of the new temple-cathedral was 2.2 million dollars. Groundbreaking occurred on April 2, 1927 and was attended by several thousand Masons, public officials, and the public. Celebrations for the groundbreaking included a parade of over 4,000 Masons and a principal address delivered by Col. L.T. Watres, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons. Over two and a half years later, the building was completed in December 1929.¹¹

The Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral was put into use on January 2, 1930 when the first meeting was held in the new building. The grand opening ceremony followed on May 18, 1930. The finished product was an outstanding Neo-Gothic and Romanesque-style landmark containing an auditorium, lodge meeting rooms, library, and ballroom. The auditorium and ballroom were as much the domain of the Scranton public as the Masons. The ballroom quickly established itself as the primary choice of Scrantonians for dances, balls, and society functions. In August, 1930, a lease was granted to Comerford-Publix Corporation to present stage shows in the auditorium. Thereafter followed opera companies, orchestra performances, community and big band concerts, traveling theater shows, and performance concerts. The Masonic Temple became the primary performance space in Scranton and attracted such nationally-famous performers as Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, and Liberace; organizations such as the University of

⁹"Competition and Working Drawings from the Office of Raymond M. Hood," *Pencil Points* 8 (January 1927): 85.

¹⁰*Ibid.*

¹¹*Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral*, Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, 1987. Located on file at the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Harrisburg, PA.

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Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Statement of Significance (continued)

Pennsylvania's Mask and Wig Club, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Community Concert Association, Broadway Theater League, and the Philadelphia Orchestra; and such notable speakers as former California Governor (and later President) Ronald Reagan, former Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton, Senator Charles Percy, and Henry Cabot Lodge.¹²

¹²Ibid.

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Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Bibliography

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- Jordy, William H. *The Impact of European Modernism in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. Vol. 5 of *American Buildings and Their Architects*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1972.
- Kilham, Walter H., Jr. *Raymond Hood, Architect; Form Through Function in the American Skyscraper*. New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1973.
- Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral*. Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, 1987. Located on file at the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Harrisburg, PA.
- Murphy, Thomas. *Jubilee History of Lackawanna County*. Topeka, KS: Historical Publishing Co., 1928.
- North, Arthur Tappan, ed. *Contemporary American Architects; Raymond M. Hood*. New York: Whittlesey House, 1931.
- Stern, Robert A.M. and Thomas P. Catalano. *Raymond Hood: Pragmatism and Poetics in the Waning of the Metropolitan Era*. New York: Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, 1982.

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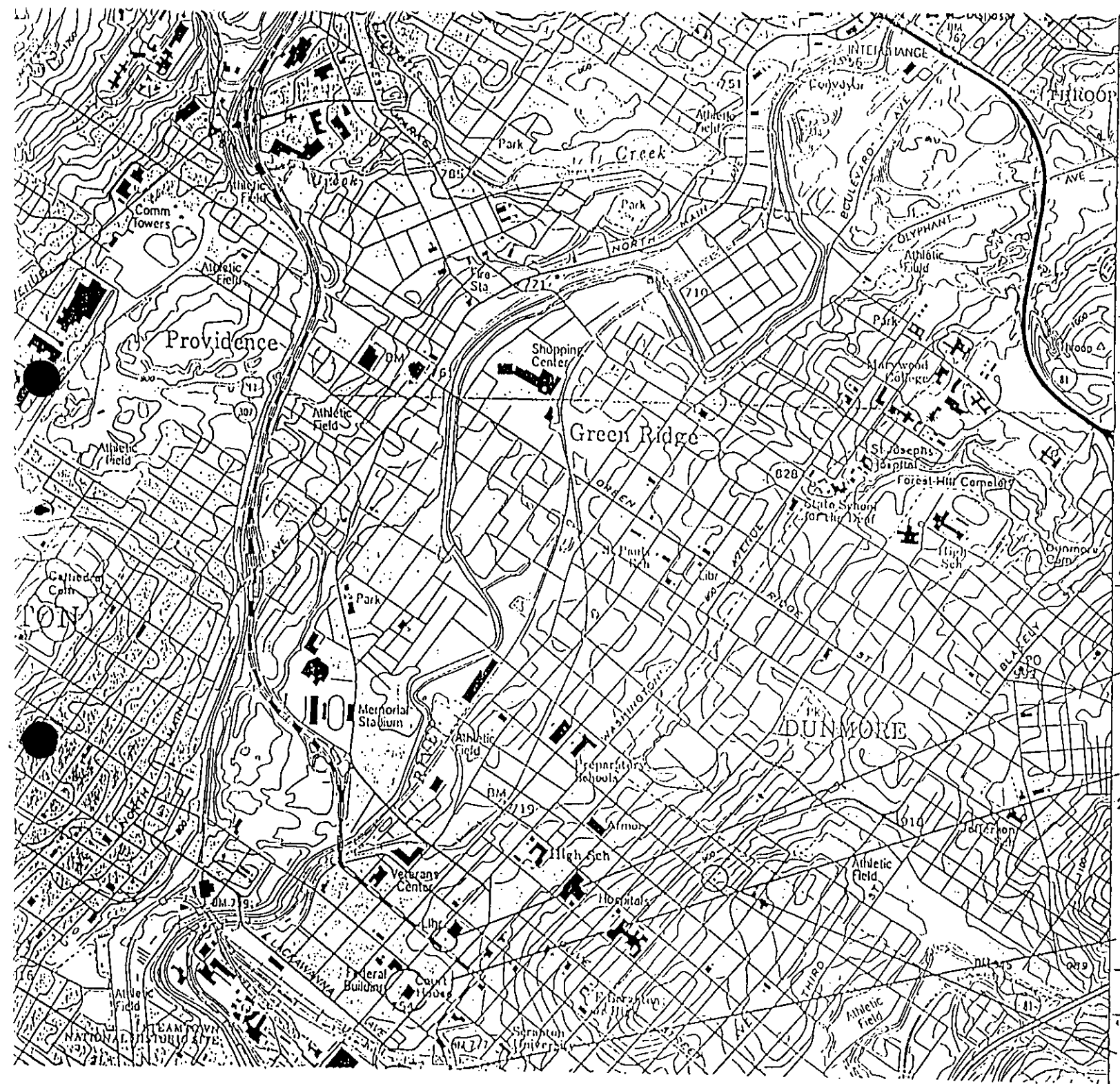
**Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania**

Verbal Boundary Description

Tax Map 14584, Block 1, Lot 14 (shown on the accompanying sketch site plan).

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral.



MASONIC TEMPLE AND SCOTTISH
RHE CATHEDRAL (NHL)
SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PA
UTM: 18/444800/4504350

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
and JOHN MITCHELL
MONUMENT (NHL)
SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
PA
UTM: 18/444600/4584050

LACKAWANNA IRON AND COAL
COMPANY FURNACES (NHL)
SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PA
UTM: 18/444625/4583660

JOSEPH CASSESE HOUSE (NHL)
SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PA