

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 any 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 Allentown Masonic Temple
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1524 West Linden Street not for publication N/A
city or town Allentown vicinity N/A
state PA code PA county Lehigh code 77 zip code 18102

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Jean A. Cutler
Signature of certifying official

March 22, 2004
Date

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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 Keeper

Date of Action

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	sites
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	structures
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall
Education/Library

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall
Education/Library
Commerce/Professional
Commerce/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete
roof Concrete
walls Concrete, Limestone, Ceramic, Brick
other Limestone, Terracotta

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

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)

- 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 represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, 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 (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance
1923-1953

Significant Date(s)
1923

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Schmid, Richard G.
Williams & Gangrene & Co

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- 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
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	458510	4494100	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	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 Charles S. Canning, Vice President, House Committee Chair
organization Masonic Temple Association date 10/19/03
street & number 1524 West Linden Street telephone 610-432-
9388
city or town Allentown state PA zip code
18102

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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 the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Allentown Masonic Temple
Lehigh County, PA

Page 7

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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Allentown Masonic Temple
Lehigh County, PA

Section 7 Page 1

The Allentown Masonic Temple is located in Allentown, Pennsylvania, fronting on the south side of West Linden Street between Fulton and Sixteenth Streets. The entire city block bound on the north by West Linden Street, on the south by West Hamilton Street, on the east by North Fulton Street, and on the west by North Sixteenth Street, is the site of two Masonic buildings: the Allentown Masonic Temple, built in 1923, and the Scottish Rite Cathedral, built in 1968. Adjoining these buildings to the west are parking facilities. The Masonic Temple building occupies the northeast portion of the site. The building faces north and is in the Classical style fronted by four large and imposing fluted composite columns with an entry porch and main vestibule. The building is constructed of limestone and brick. There have been no structural changes to the exterior since its erection. The Scottish Rite Cathedral of the Valley of Allentown of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons occupies the southeast portion of the site and has a deep setback from Hamilton Street, which it faces. This is a non-contributing building which shares a party wall with the Masonic Temple building. When the Scottish Rite building was constructed in 1968, a low, flat roofed exterior vestibule approximately 16 feet wide and 12 feet deep and 10 1/2 feet in height, of concrete and masonry construction was added to connect the rear of both buildings on the east.

The building is directly across Linden Street from the city's West Park and situated in a residential and business neighborhood. Twin, row and Victorian single homes occupy the area among tree-lined streets. Also in the surrounding neighborhood are churches, public schools, hospitals, a bank, funeral homes, a hotel, apartment buildings, and professional offices. The site of the Masonic Temple is one of the highest elevations in the city. At the time of its construction, from July 1923 to July 1925, this was the western extent of city development.

The Allentown Masonic Temple is 97 feet, 6 inches in gross width, 150 feet in gross length, with a height of 77 feet, 4 inches. The building above the basement is 53,379 square feet and 14,320 square feet of basement. The foundation is of reinforced concrete perimeter wall and column footings with a framework of reinforced concrete columns and joists. The decks consist of reinforced concrete and concrete beams. The roof is a reinforced concrete joist system with a concrete deck. The exterior is Indiana limestone on the east and north elevations with brick and limestone trim on the west and south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Allentown Masonic Temple
Lehigh County, PA

Section 7 Page 2

elevations. Elaborate stone and terra cotta trim are used over the entire building. The elevation consists of three main floors with three mezzanines and a fan room on the roof.

The building is of Neoclassical Revival architecture with broad steps, which are flanked by decorative lamp standards and lead to a main entry portico accented by four fluted composite columns twenty-five feet in height. The entablature bears the inscription "Masonic Temple" and is decorated with dentil and floral molding. Decorative ornamentation of squares divided into eight radial segments graces the limestone below the pediment. At the apex and outer corners of the pediment are acroterium. The detail at the roof cornice includes triglyphs and metope on the frieze and guttae on the soffit. Along the entire roof perimeter are more than 120 cheneau. The face of the building is limestone block. To each side of the porch are sets of large double windows on the first floor, first mezzanine and second floor levels. On the second mezzanine level there are five sets of smaller double windows. The sash and frames are wood with limestone trim around the openings.

The east side of the building is limestone block with an ornamental projection and an ornamental cornice at the third mezzanine level. There are nine sets of large double windows on the first and first mezzanine levels. On the second floor level there are four large double windows to the front, with blank window spaces to the rear of the building. On the second mezzanine level are nine sets of smaller windows. On the third floor level there are nine sets of ornamentation consisting of three squares, each divided into eight radial sections. The third mezzanine level consists of nine sets of smaller double windows. A basement window well encompasses four sets of windows and a double door fire exit, with a steel stairway leading to the street level. The window well is topped with decorative ironwork.

The south wall of the building consists of a continuation of limestone with a set of double windows on the east end on both the first and first mezzanine levels. The second floor and second mezzanine level exhibit a large arched stained glass window. The remainder of the south wall is of buff brick consisting of a fire tower indented from the east side of the building. Between the fire tower and a freight elevator shaft is a continuous brick wall to the second mezzanine level. A slightly pitched roof is between the fire tower and the freight elevator shaft.

The west side of the building is windowless, with limestone trim below the first floor level. A portion of the wall adjacent to the front of the building is limestone block. The remainder of the wall is buff brick with raised panel ornamentation. A large air vent opening is to the front, just below the roof level.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Allentown Masonic Temple
Lehigh County, PA

Section 7 Page 3

The historical structure built between 1923 and 1925 consisted of the building as described.

Originally, plans called for an adjoining theater, which was never built. The southwest corner of the proposed theater was to house the heating facility for the Masonic Temple/Theater complex. When the plans for the theater were cancelled, a boiler house was constructed at that same location. The boiler house functioned as a heating facility for the Masonic Temple, with an air chiller for the basement banquet areas. While the furnaces served the Masonic Temple until 1992, the air-chiller had long since been abandoned. In 1992, a new gas-fired furnace was installed in the Masonic Temple building and, in 1993, the boiler house was demolished.

In 1968, the Valley of Allentown, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, purchased the lot to the south of the Masonic Temple fronting on Hamilton Street. The Scottish Rite Cathedral was built abutting the south wall of the Allentown Masonic Temple. The two structures are built independently of each other.

A vestibule was built between the two buildings on the east side along the fire tower wall. Two sets of double steel doors exit to the street under a four-foot roof overhang to allow access from the Scottish Rite building to the banquet halls of the Masonic Temple. The northwest corner of the Scottish Rite Cathedral forms an adjacent corner with the southwest corner of the Masonic Temple building. An open steel canopy with built up roofing covers a 9 foot by 11 foot stairwell, three feet below grade, giving access to the Scottish Rite Cathedral stage doors and to the Masonic Temple kitchen. Added in 1968, the vestibule on the east side and the canopy-covered stairwell on the west side are the only exterior changes made to the original building. There are no internal doors from one building into the other.

The 1968 building is constructed in an architectural style typical of its contemporary period. It was built of buff brick to compliment the tone of the Masonic Temple. The overall height of the building is 28 feet, with the stage projecting 26 feet above the roof. The contrast in architectural styles makes the two buildings distinct from one another.

The Masonic Temple building is the only contributing resource. The Scottish Rite building and the connecting vestibule are non-contributing resources.

The Masonic Temple building is entered from Linden Street through three sets of large double wood doors with single plate glass lights, opening into a vestibule 6 feet deep and 30 feet wide. The walls are clad in gray marble with bronze cornice at the ceiling. Three additional sets of double French doors enter into the main lobby. The main lobby is 36 feet wide by 28 feet deep, with a balcony opening