

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Scottish Rite Temple

and or common Scottish Rite Temple

2. Location

street & number 803 North 7th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Kansas City

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Wyandotte

code 209

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>fraternal organization</u>

4. Owner of Property

name The Scottish Rite Masonic Association

street & number 803 North 7th Street

city, town Kansas City

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 66101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk

street & number Wyandotte County Courthouse, 700 North 7th Street

city, town Kansas City

state Kansas 66101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas City, KS Historic Landmark has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date December 1, 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City Planning Division, City of Kansas City, KS

city, town Kansas

state Kansas 66101

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Scottish Rite Temple is a three story structure executed in rough-faced Indiana limestone and glazed red brick, the stone being restricted to the raised basement, the front quarter of the first floor, and various areas of trim. The building is essentially rectangular, symmetrical about its main east-west axis and essentially classical in form and proportions, despite its "Free Gothic" detailing. The building measures 64 by 150 feet exclusive of the front steps. The steps are centered in the west facade and lead up to the main entry. They are flanked by low, broad stone curbs which support a pair of ornamental carved or cast stone lamp posts at the upper level. The three pairs of entry doors may be among the building's finest features, being filled with beautifully executed beveled and leaded glass.

Above the entry doors is an oversized, stone-framed Gothic style window that extends up through the second and third floors. A stone-framed transom area serves as the third floor sill, the window otherwise being divided into three vertical panels by wood members. Double-hung windows are set within each division on both the second and third floor levels, the lower set of windows being capped by fixed transoms and the upper by pointed arches. The area between these three arches and the arch at the top of the window is divided into sixths by vertical wood members. All windows for the building contain operable double-hung sash. The windows on the first and second stories of the front quarter and the front facade of the third story contain stained and leaded glass.

The central or entry portion of the front is pulled very slightly forward of the flanks and extends one half story above, rather like a tower, although this effect is not obvious from the ground. The roofs are peaked and are hidden behind crenelated parapets and parapet gables. Similar crenelations crown the rear portion of the building. These Gothicisms are unique among the known designs of W.W. Rose, and may have been at the request of the client.

The stone facing of the first floor front is capped by a limestone string course. This extendeds entirely around the building, dividing the first and second stories. Above the string course flat brick pilasters with limestone capitals mark the various corners of the building. Similar pilasters adorn the sides of the building between the end blocks. Besides the capitals of the pilasters, the only other pieces of sculptural decoration are the carving of the moulding surrounding the large central arched window and a sphere encircled by a band which tops a short pedestal at the parapet peak above the entry.

On the interior, the first story contains a large central meeting room and two smaller rooms flanking the lobby. It was devoted to symbolic Masonry and its auxiliaries. The upper stories contain additional smaller rooms and a two story auditorium seating 800 persons, with a complete stage and equipment for the rites of initiation. On September 25, 1951, this auditorium was gutted by fire. It was subsequently rebuilt at twice the original cost of the entire building, and exists now as a good example of 1950s interior design, although it is not stylistically related to the rest of the building. The basement contains a banquet room seating 500 persons, with a complete kitchen and parlors.

Very few changes in the exterior appearance of the building have taken place. Flagpoles were once mounted on the upper portions of the north and south faces of the front section: they are gone, but the stone brackets for them remain. After the fire a number of window openings along the north and south facades were bricked in, but this was done with considerable care, making it difficult to differentiate the more recent closures from window spaces that have apparently always contained brick panels. To date, no other exterior changes have occurred.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908-09 ~~Builder~~ Architect William W. Rose

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Scottish Rite Temple is locally significant both for its architecture and its role in the social lives of the people of Kansas City, KS. One of the few public or semi-public buildings in the city to be designed in a non-classical style, it was a notable work by William W. Rose, an architect whose work dominated and shaped the development of Kansas City, KS from 1900 to 1930. It was the first element to be erected in the city's civic center that has developed along either side of 7th Street from Ann Avenue to Tauromee. Although it is the fourth structure to be located on its site, on the southwest corner of Huron Place, (the original town square), this remains the only corner not converted to wholly private use contrary to the intent of the town's founders. Through location and association it serves to link the present community to that earlier time.

The town of Wyandott was first platted on May 14, 1857. The plat established a large block or town square which was to be known as Huron Place and set aside for public use, with lots 150 feet square marked off at the northeast, southeast and southwest corners and designated for church use. These lots were allotted to the Presbyterian, Episcopal, and German Methodist Churches respectively. The existing Huron Indian cemetery (a National Register property) separates the northwest corner from the remainder of Huron Place, while the corner itself remained in the hands of Hiram M. Northrup and the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The triangular Northrup tract was thus the only portion of Huron Place not originally intended for some form of public non-commercial development. Northrup may also have had some claim to the southwest corner, but his claim was apparently never exercised.

The German Methodists declined to build on their corner and instead gave it to the Saint James AME Church (later First AME) in 1863. Saint James was one of the two oldest black churches in Wyandott, having been founded in 1859. The congregation was glad to have the site, and quickly cleared it, using the timber and brush as building materials for their new church. Seats were constructed out of logs, and they left the stump of a very large tree inside the structure to serve as a pulpit. The makeshift structure served the congregation for five years, until 1868, when two members who were carpenters designed and directed the construction of a new church building.

Large numbers of freeman, many of whom were Methodists, continued to arrive in years that followed the Civil War. By 1873, the AME's again needed a larger building. This time a brick structure was erected, and with the arrival of the Exodusters a few years later, the membership grew still more.

In 1886, the City of Wyandott was consolidated with two smaller cities into a city of the first class named Kansas City, KS. This was followed by a period of strong growth and expansion. As a result, the site occupied by the First AME church became a valuable central location. No formal title had been drawn up at the time the German Methodists transferred the land to the AME congregation. In 1887, after considerable effort, the First AME obtained sworn affidavits from two former members of the German Methodist Board of Trustees. This was followed in July, 1890, by an assignment of title to the church by Hiram M. Northrup.

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 1

Despite this, the church remained under considerable pressure to sell, a situation made more difficult by a sizeable debt. Finally, on October 15, 1901, the church congregation agreed to sell the corner to Henry F. Wulf for \$12,343.00. The money actually received by the church was only a bit over \$3,000, as the purchase price included the assumption by Wulf of a mortgage and interest totaling \$8,300, and the congregation owed an additional \$850 to the Church Extension Society of the AME Church. The sale was finalized on February 14, 1902.

A friendly suit was filed against the County by the Board of Trustees of the First AME in order to eliminate any claim to the property the County might have had as the successor of the Wyandott City Town Company, as well as to eliminate the plat restriction designating the corner for church purposes only. The County Commission passed a resolution giving up all claim to the property on March 3, 1902, and the corner lot was now Mr. Wulf's.

The suit against the County and the subsequent resolution stated that due to the expansion of business in the community, the corner was no longer suitable for church purposes. This was apparently a legal subterfuge, however, as the church building was not torn down nor was the lot sold to any business. Instead, the church building became the home of the Coordinate Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Kansas City, KS, a Masonic organization.

The first organization of Scottish Rite Masons in Kansas City, KS, was the Lafayette Lodge of Perfection, which held its first meeting on October 31, 1898. Before the organization of the Lodge there were five Scottish Rite Masons in Kansas City, KS, and fourteen more were made in the conferral of the degrees at the first meeting. The organization of the Lodge was soon followed by Victory Chapter Rose Croix on May 10, 1899, John H. Brown Council Knights of Kadosh on January 16, 1900, and Caswell Consistory on February 26, 1901. Mr. Wulf was apparently acting on behalf of these bodies when he purchased the church building, but he nevertheless retained title to the property.

On October 20, 1906, an exposition and street carnival was being held in Ann Avenue from Sixth to Seventh and Seventh Street from Ann to Minnesota. Somehow a fire broke out and soon swept along the lines of makeshift booths. Before it could be brought under control it spread to the former church building, which was soon reduced to a burnt-out shell. The building had been extensively remodeled and the loss was determined at \$25,000.

Masonic leaders soon resolved to build a new and more substantial Temple on the corner site. A sizeable loan was necessary, which in turn meant that title to the property needed to be secured. Therefore, on November 17, 1906, Henry F. and Willie Wulf sold the corner lot to the Scottish Rite Masonic Association of Kansas City, KS for \$1.00. Nevertheless, it was over a year before a loan could be arranged.

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

On March 2, 1908, the Kansas Trust Company loaned the Association \$75,000 for the construction of a new Scottish Rite Temple. Plans for the building were drawn up by W.W. Rose, a member of the Caswell Consistory. Rose, a former mayor, was the most prominent architect in the City at that time. One of his most noteworthy achievements was the Carnegie Library of 1904 (now demolished) in the center of Huron Place, a short distance from the Temple site.

Construction proceeded rapidly, with the basement soon completed. The cornerstone was laid atop the basement at the southwest corner of the new building in a large civic ceremony on November 9, 1908. The building was completed and occupied in 1909.

In the years that followed, the Temple was more than just a Masonic meeting place. Until the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building was erected in 1924, the Temple provided the largest meeting place in the city and was frequently used for statewide gatherings of professional business people, as well as the state meetings of Masonic and other fraternal organizations. During World War I the Red Cross and Liberty Loan campaigns were housed there. At the close of the war the returning soldiers were welcomed home to their first meal in the old home town. During the disastrous 1951 flood, the Temple served as a center of relief activities. In all this it has remained a major element in the history, architecture, and civic character of Kansas City, KS.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .53 acres

Quadrangle name Shawnee, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	3	5	9	4	0	0	4	3	3	0	4	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification A tract extending from the southeast corner of Huron Place in the Wyandotte City plat of the City of Kansas City, KS, east 150 feet, thence north 150 feet, thence west 150 feet, thence south 150 feet to the corner.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date June 24, 1985

street & number 120 W. Tenth

telephone (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

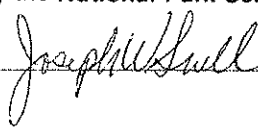
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



Executive Director  
title Kansas State Historical Society

date 7-3-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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 9

Page 1

Minutes and records of the Scottish Rite.

Grant W. Harrington, Historic Spots or Mile-stones in the Progress of Wyandotte County, Kansas. Merriam: The Mission Press, 1935.

First A.M.E. Church, Centennial History. Kansas City, Kansas: 1959.

This nomination was prepared from a draft submitted by Larry K. Hancks, City Planning Division, City of Kansas City, KS, 701 North 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101,



SHAWNEE QUADRANGLE  
KANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7052 11 NE  
(NORTH KANSAS CITY)

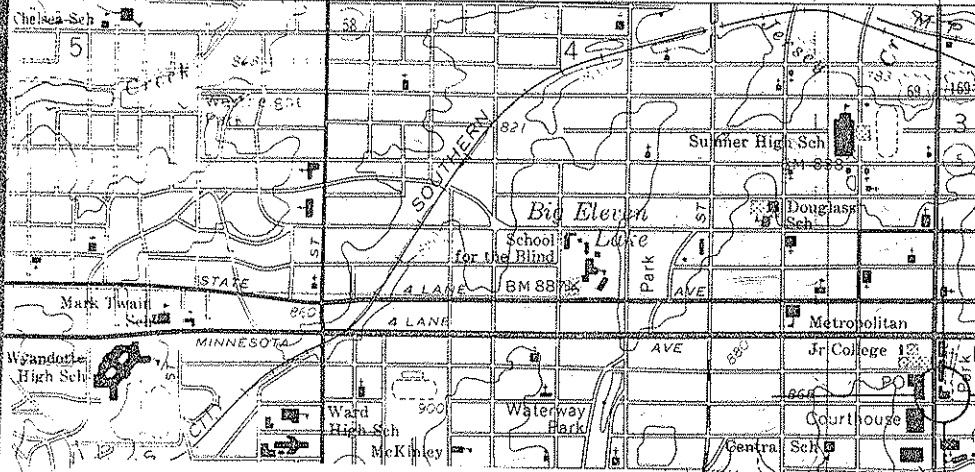
2950 000 FEET

0.9 MI. TO KANS. 5

6 MI. TO U.S. 71 & INTERSTATE 29

94° 37' 30"

39° 07' 30"



Scottish Rite Temple  
Kansas City (Wyandotte County) Kansas  
UTM Reference 15/359400/4330460

