

Survey Number LR0070Owner Scottish Rite BodiesProperty Name Albert Pike Memorial TempleAddress 720 Scott StreetLittle Rock, AR 72201

Original Name _____

Location 700-24 Scott StreetConstruction Date 1924

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Albert Pike Memorial Temple is one of the most impressive institutional structures in Little Rock. Rectangular in plan, it occupies half of a city block and, since its completion in 1924, has exerted an imposing presence on Scott Street. The Temple, a Classical Revival design, is a three-story, limestone structure featuring a monumental colonnade. The nineteen Ionic columns are each 40 feet tall and 4½ feet in diameter. The Scott Street elevation provides three entrances into the building, each with massive bronze doors. The main entrance steps are guarded by large stone eagles. Windows throughout the Temple are multi-paned, double-hung, and on the Scott Street facade the windows are protected by bronze grills. The words "ALBERT PIKE MEMORIAL TEMPLE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE OF FREEMASONRY" are carved along the frieze and an ornamental parapet is centered above the main entrance. An interesting element of the south facade is a second story balcony projecting in front of a set of three arched windows. This is a last vestige of the 1902 Albert Pike Consistory which was incorporated into the present building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Masonic organization in Arkansas was established in the 1830s. Albert Pike was one of the most colorful figures in the history of Arkansas and was the highest ranking member of the Masonic fraternity before the Civil War. Although Masonry in the state entered a dormant period immediately after the war, it resurfaced and grew steadily after 1890. This revived interest and growth dictated the necessity of three new facilities during the years from 1896 to 1922. When a decision was reached to build yet another Temple, fellow Mason George R. Mann and his partner Eugene Stern began what would be two years of planning and design. Upon its completion in 1924 the Albert Pike Memorial Temple was described as the most beautiful consistory in the United States. At the formal dedication of the building, the Sovereign Grand Inspector General made the following statement: "As a monumental building, aside from its uses for Masonic purposes, it would be a credit to any city or state, and for years to come it will stand as one of the finest and highest types of buildings in this city or throughout the Southwest." The exterior has not been altered in any significant way.

Verbal Boundary Description Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Block 8, Original CityAcreage Approximately oneQuadrangle Name Little Rock, ArkansasQuadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone 15Easting 566775Northing 3844430

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