

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE79-16-0007
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

India Temple Shrine Building

AND/OR COMMON

Law Journal Record Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

621 N. Robinson

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Oklahoma

VICINITY OF

CODE

40

COUNTY

Oklahoma

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dan Hogan

STREET & NUMBER

621 N. Robinson

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Oklahoma County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

320 Robert S. Kerr

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma County Commercial Sites Survey

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Shirk Collection, Oklahoma City University Library

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
XGOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Indian Temple Shrine Building is a six-story neo-classical structure measuring 260' x 140'. Designed by the architectural firm of Layton, Hicks, and Forsythe, the structure is constructed of limestone on the north and east sides and red brick on the south and west sides. The roof is flat-prepared.

On the east side, which faces Robinson Avenue, the first three levels are marked by rectangular windows and a projecting entryway. The entryway, with limestone blocks and marble columns, was added in 1947. The top three levels on the east side feature recessed windows, Ionic engaged-columns, capitals, and a projecting cornice. The north face of the building also is divided into the two distinct horizontal zones, but without the Ionic columns. The architectural design varies on the westernmost section of the northern facade; however, for the back section of the building originally was a massive auditorium which seated 2,000 people. On this section of the facade, which is only five stories, there is only one row of windows for the bottom two levels and there is no separating band between the third and fourth levels. Between the two distinct sections on the north facade is an entryway with a canopy. The south and west sides have no ornamentation and have only vertically aligned rows of windows for variation.

There have been slight modifications to the exterior. The entryway on the east side originally was flush with the facade; the projecting stone and marble was added in 1947. The entryway on the north side was enlarged in 1947 for the egress and ingress of movie customers. A marquee that was added at that time has been removed. The brick on the south and west sides has been painted white.

In contrast, the interior of the building has undergone extensive remodelling. The only original features in the lobby are the marble floors and wainscoting. Also, a corridor which at one time extended west from the lobby has been converted to office space. The remodeling projects of 1947, 1952, and 1978 have transformed the building's high ceilings, long halls, and ornate trim into efficient and practical office space. The best example of this transformation is the former auditorium, which seated 2,000 and featured a large balcony and stage; in 1952 an additional floor was constructed to double the floor space of what had been the auditorium.

Since 1947 the building has been well maintained and the exterior facade has been retained in near-original condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☐ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☒ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1923-1979

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Layton, Hicks, Forsythe

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1923 by the various Masonic Lodges of Oklahoma City, the India Temple Shrine is the largest non-governmental, neo-classical building in Oklahoma City. Located in the heart of the downtown business district, its massive columns, capitals, and cornice molding make it one of the most visually impressive structures in town. Moreover, the significance of the building is magnified by the importance of the structures only three owners: the Masons, the Home State Life Insurance Company, and the Law Journal Record Publishing Company.

The first Masonic Lodge was chartered in Oklahoma City in 1890, less than one year after the land opening. By 1919 the number of lodges in the capitol city had increased to sixteen. With an expanding membership and bulging treasury, the Masonic Lodges of Oklahoma City voted to pool their resources for a grand temple large enough to host every lodge. To design the structure, the Masonic Temple Building Association chose the architectural firm of Layton, Hicks, and Forsythe, one of the most prestigious and proven firms in Oklahoma. After two years of preparation, construction began on October 13, 1922. Similar to other Masonic temples, the exterior was to have a classical design, with Ionic columns and capitals adorning the front. Combined with massive cut-stone construction, the design gave the temple a solid and ageless appearance.

The interior was just as ornate. Rooms and halls were decorated in various styles, from Egyptian and Greek to Roman and Byzantine. The most impressive feature, however, was the auditorium. Hailed as the second largest in the West, the Shrine Auditorium had a seating capacity of 2,062, featured 2,400 lights, a \$30,000 organ with 3,000 pipes, a stage measuring 44' x 80', and scenery costing \$30,000. The Masons used the \$1,300,000 structure fewer than ten years, however, before failing to meet bond retirement debts when the depression worsened. After the Masons vacated the building, it sat empty in receivership for thirteen years.

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In December of 1945 the Shrine Temple Building was placed on the auction block with a minimum price of \$200,000. The high bid was \$201,000, submitted by Joe D. Morris, president and founder of the Home State Life Insurance Company. This company had originated in 1929 as an Oklahoma-based insurance and investment enterprise. Under the direction of Morris, it grew quickly until it was one of the largest such firms serving Oklahoma City. With the resources of his firm for investment, Morris purchased the Indian Temple Shrine for conversion to office space. Under the direction of the Costin and Frankfort architectural firm, workers immediately began extensive remodelling. By 1947 most of the Masonic ornamentation had been removed, the entryway had been altered, air conditioning had been installed, and the window units had been replaced with metal frames. The auditorium was left intact for use as a stage and movie theater, the only alteration being a marquee and additional door on the north side of the structure.

The Home State Theater at first staged live acts, the most famous and successful being a week-long run of the Broadway musical, "Oklahoma." Like other theaters of its age, the Home State Theater had to turn to motion pictures for revenue. For three years the Home State Theater was the largest and most successful theater in Oklahoma City. In 1952 the building underwent further remodelling, however, prompted by the gradual financial failure of the theater. The old auditorium was gutted and a floor was added halfway up the walls, doubling the office space available. The Indian Temple Shrine for the next twenty-seven years served exclusively as office space.

In December of 1977 the building sold for only the second time to Dan Hogan, owner of the Law Journal Record Publishing Company. Established by the grandfather of Hogan in 1918, this publishing concern had printed various legal and business newspapers throughout its prominent history, including the American Guardian, the Daily Record, and the Daily Law Journal. The latter two merged in 1937, becoming the Daily Law Journal Record. As the foremost chronicler of business and legal news in Oklahoma, this newspaper has significantly contributed to the economic growth of the city and state. Since December of 1977, Dan Hogan has used the ground level of the old India Temple Shrine Building for production operations, while maintaining editorial and sales offices on the third level. Housed in the historic old building, Hogan's operations have continued the journalistic reputation established by his grandfather.

(cont.)

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The historic importance of the Daily Law Journal Record and the Home State Life Insurance Company to both Oklahoma City and the state enhances the architectural value of the India Temple Shrine Building. These two enterprises helped Oklahoma City develop; the building remains as the legacy of that accomplishment. The building also represents the heritage of the Masonic Order, complete with ornamental pageantry and mystical ceremony. From the grand auditorium to the hand-painted ceilings, the Indian Temple Shrine Building was the most overt expression of the secretive Masonic Order. The building alone, however, is significant to the physical environment of Oklahoma City, for Solomon Layton's neo-classical design and massive architectural elements provide the business district with a unique and visually impressive structure. The historical significance, combined with this architectural value, makes the India Temple Shrine Building worthy of preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City), February 10, 1924, Sec. E., pp. 1-3.
Daily Oklahoman, December 7, 1945, p.3.
Interview with Norman Morris, son of Joe D. Morris, August 13, 1979.
Interview with Dan Hogan, August 11, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Circa 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Oklahoma City

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 4 6 34 6 30 39 26 3 9 5

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the curb on the southwestern corner of 6th and Robinson Avenue, which is approximately 12' northeast of the building, proceed
(Cont.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, Project Director

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma County Historical Society

DATE

August 14, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3801 N. Shartel

TELEPHONE

405-528-5091

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

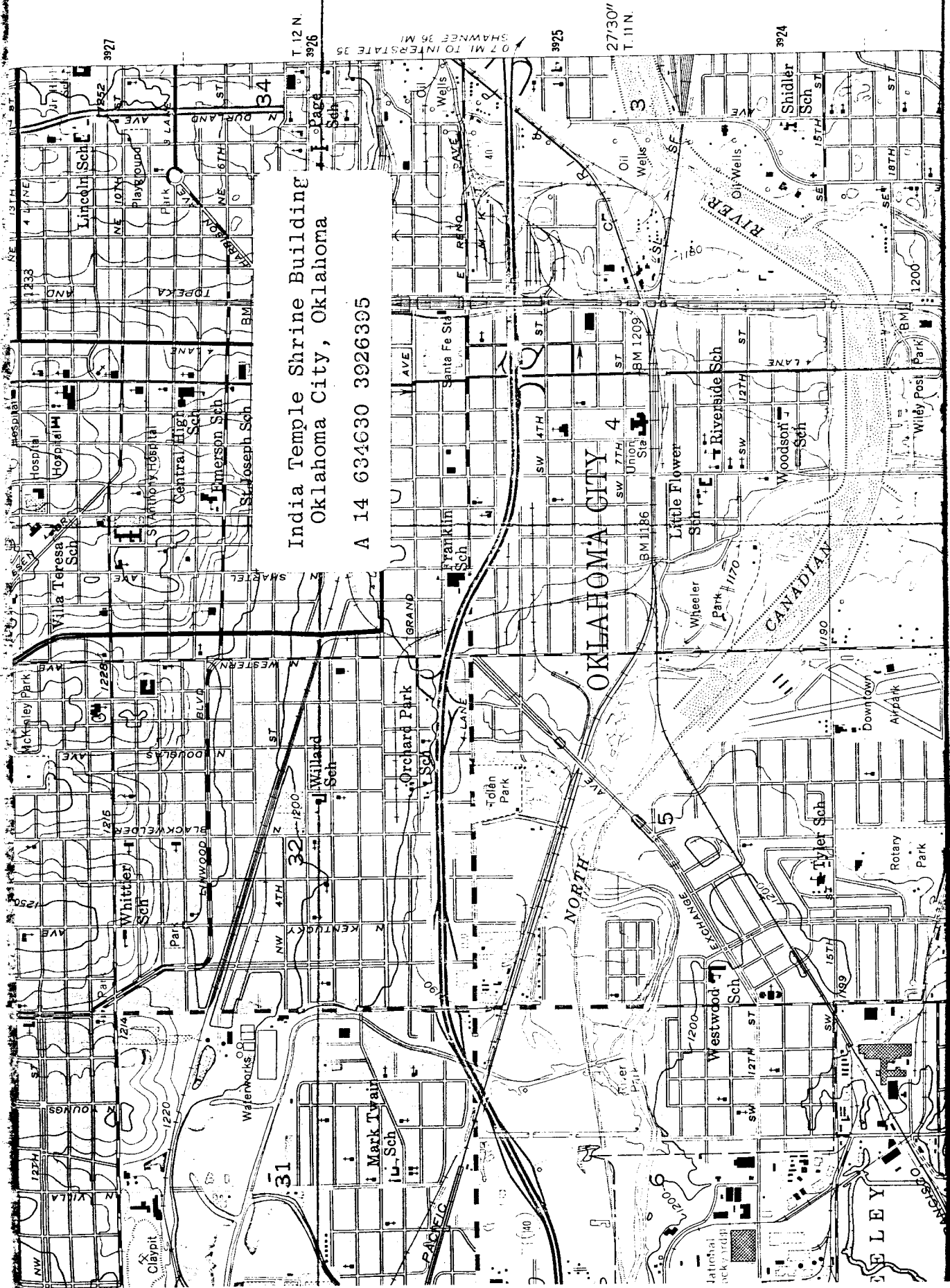
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south 160' along the curb to a point 10' beyond the south corner of the building. Then proceed west 280' through the parking lot to a point 10' beyond the southwest corner of the building. Then proceed north 160' through the alley to a point 10' beyond the northwest corner of the building. Then proceed down the alley 280' to the curb on Robinson, the original point of departure.



India Temple Shrine Building (Journal Record Building)





India Temple Shrine Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

A 14 634630 3926395

0.7 MI TO INTERSTATE 35
SHAWNEE 36 MI

27'30" T. 11N.

3924

3925

T. 12 N.
3926

3927