

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

FEB

1 1985

date entered

FEB 28 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Hollywood Masonic Temple

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 6840 Hollywood Boulevard

N/A not for publication

city, town Hollywood N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☒ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
	☒ n/a	☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name 6840 Hollywood Associates

street & number 10900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite

city, town Los Angeles N/A vicinity of state California 90024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Hall of Records

street & number 511 W. Temple Street

city, town Los Angeles state California 90012

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle HRC Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ nodate 1978-79 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records State Office Historic Preservation

city, town P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento state California 95811

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hollywood Masonic Temple is a two-story Neo-classical Revival concrete structure located in the midst of commercial development on busy Hollywood Boulevard. The imposing facade with its two-story Ionic columns gives the structure visual impact beyond its size. Alterations to the building have been minimal since its construction in 1921.

The two-story Hollywood Masonic Temple is designed in Neo-classical Revival styling. Primary building materials are brick and concrete, with details of iron and carved wood. The structure fills an 85 x 180-foot lot on the south side of Hollywood Boulevard at the intersection of Orchid Avenue. The principal feature of the main (north) facade is a colonnade formed by six outsized Ionic columns. Set at street level, the columns protect the recessed entry. A series of eight stone steps lead up to heavy wooden double doors, decorated with inserts of glass covered with ornamental iron grillwork. There are two street-level entrances, slightly recessed, at the east and west corners of the building. These entrances are framed by tall pilasters. Iron grillwork in a crosscut pattern covers the second-story windows placed directly above the main entry, creating a continuous second-story transom. The horizontal line of the parapeted roof is in contrast to the verticality of the columns. The parapet is decorated with a design of acanthus leaves. The Masonic motto "Freemasonry builds its temples among the nations and in the hearts of men" is inscribed on the wide cornice. On either side of the inscription is a circular medallion. The architrave and the frieze are of patterned stone and have no embellishment. Molding around the entry doors mirrors the patterns of the stonework on the exterior facade.

A wide, tiled hallway bisects the interior of the first floor, culminating at the rear of the building in the stepped-down entrance to the main auditorium. This area contains a stage and dressing rooms. Further storage is in the basement. Meeting spaces with tiled fireplaces are located on either side of the central hall. A stone stairway with wrought iron railings and freestanding light fixtures leads to the second floor, where two additional auditorium spaces are housed. Both the main auditorium on the first level and the front theater space on the second level have intact stages, framed with a carved and painted border depicting Masonic ritual. Elaborate beamed ceilings and carved wooden balconies remain part of the auditorium's decor. There have been few significant alterations to the interior, which is reminiscent of Spanish Renaissance interior design with its carved wood, fireplaces, and wrought iron fixtures. Several windows on the east and west have been filled in to conform to fire code regulations; however, their position is visible. There have been no major alterations to the primary facade.

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/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1921 **Builder/Architect** John C. Austin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hollywood Masonic Temple is an excellent example of classical architecture on a modest scale which harmonizes with surrounding commercial structures on Hollywood Boulevard, the main social and commercial thoroughfare of Hollywood. Designed by a major Los Angeles architect recognized for his conservative designs, the structure is representative of Neo-classical Revival styling and serves as a physical reminder of a fraternal organization whose members were instrumental in the development of Hollywood.

Lodge Number 355 was formed at the time of the community's inception in 1903. Its meetings were held in a harness shop and then in a second-story space north of Hollywood Boulevard on Highland. Among its members were E. O. Palmer, surgeon and Hollywood historian; George Dunlop, an early mayor; and C. E. Toberman, a prominent real estate developer. In 1921, the lodge commissioned prestigious architect John C. Austin of Austin, Field, and Frey to build the present structure at a cost of \$250,000. Austin, known for the quality of his classical designs, and his various associates were responsible for several of Southern California's most ornate and conservative structures, including Los Angeles City Hall (with Albert C. Martin), the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Building, Los Angeles High School, Griffith Park Observatory, and the Shrine Auditorium. His Hollywood commissions include the Guaranty Building (1923), which is listed on the National Register. The Masonic Temple became home to two lodges after its completion. In addition to Number 355, whose membership had grown to over 1,300 by 1930, the building was used by Pacific Lodge 233, a West Coast affiliate of a lodge based in New York City. This unusual organization was to have ten members of the theatrical profession for every layman. The membership put on plays, giving many performances for community causes. At one time, their membership was close to 2,000. Lodge activities continued at the site until 1982, when the order sold the building. It continues its position in the community, providing auditorium, rehearsal, and community space. Its intact exterior and interior make it a prime contributor to the Hollywood Boulevard streetscape and a visual reminder of community life during Hollywood's prime period of significance.

The building's significance has been recognized by its inclusion in the Hollywood Historic and Cultural Resources survey in 1978 and the references to it in Gebhard and Winter's Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, Torrance's Hollywood: the First Hundred Years, and architectural publications of the day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Palmer, E.O., History of Hollywood, (Arthur Cawston, Los Angeles, 1937).
Torrence, Bruce, Hollywood: The First 100 Years, (HCC, 1979).
Winter, Robert, and David Gebhard, Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, (Peregrine Smith, Salt Lake City, 1977).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 85' x 180' (0.35 acre)

Quadrangle name Hollywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

West 18' of Lot 12, east 67' of Lot 14 of Hollywood Bonnie Brae Tract, as per maps Book 5, Page 90 of maps of Los Angeles County Recorder. Boundaries encompass the building and its original 85' x 180' lot.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christy Johnson McAvoy, Consultant to

organization 6840 Associates

date June 15, 1985

street & number 10900 Wilshire Blvd., #601

(213) 851-8854 (CJM)
telephone (213) 208-1236

city or town Los Angeles

state California 90024

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

Marion Mitchell Wilson

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/3/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/28/85

Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

SKETCH MAP

HOLLYWOOD MASONIC TEMPLE
6840 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90028



Hollywood Blvd.

Hawthorn Ave.

Orange Drive

Orchid Ave.

Highland Ave.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Hollywood Masonic Temple
Los Angeles County
CALIFORNIA

Working No. FEB 1 1985

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86

Date Due: 2/28/85 - 3/8/85

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2-28-85

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in
National Register

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FREEMASONRY BUILDS ITS TEMPLES
AMONG THE NATIONS
AND IN THE HEARTS OF MEN





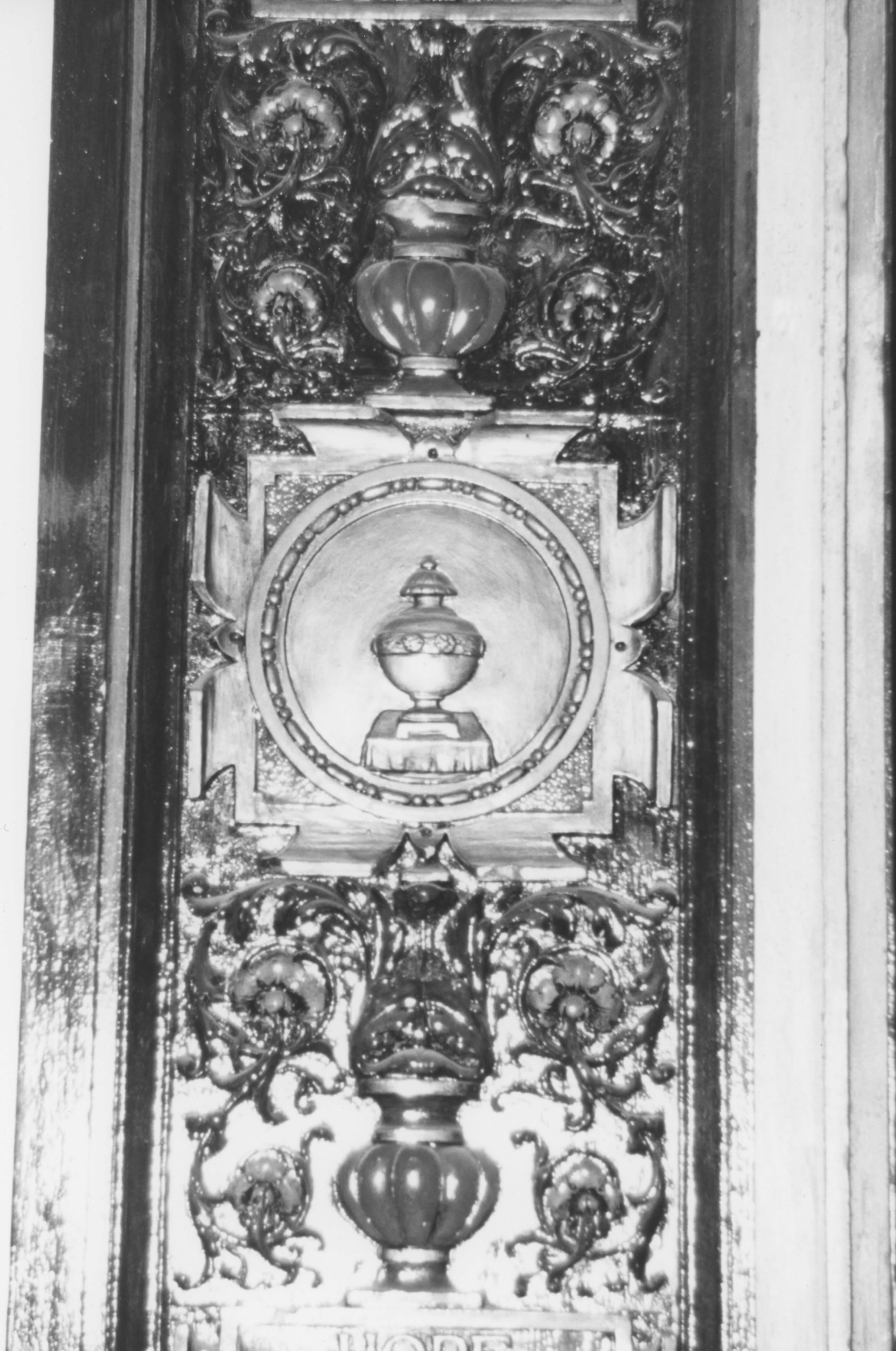










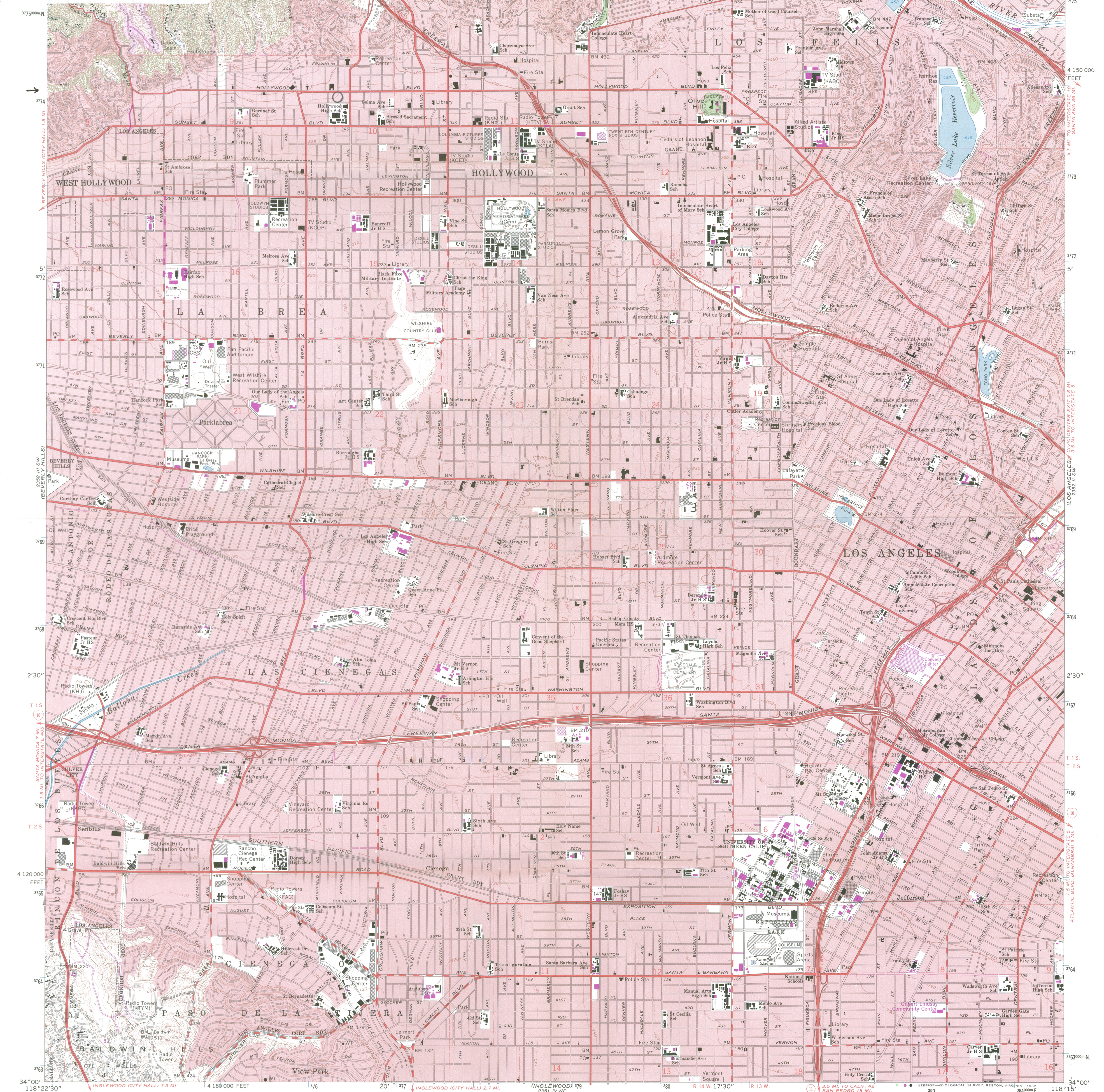






Hollywood Masonic Temple
6840 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, Los Angeles County
California

UTM REFERENCE
11/376320/3774040



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Los Angeles City and County

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966. Supersedes map surveyed 1923-25, revised 1953.

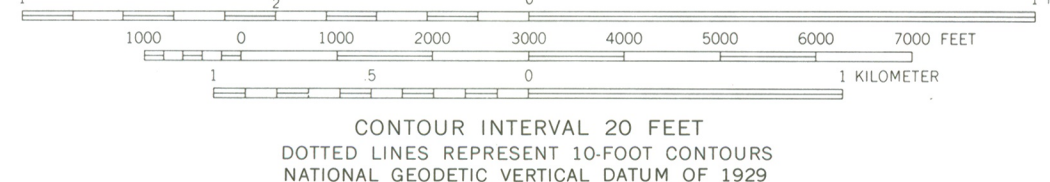
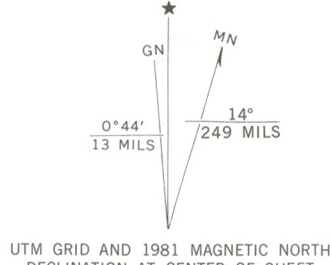
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on California coordinate system, zone 7. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 11, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters north and 85 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks.

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

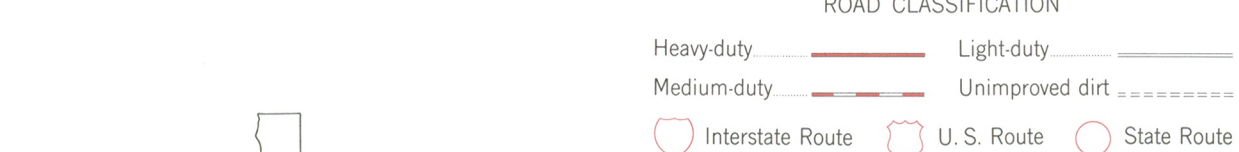
A portion of the south half of this map lies within a subsidence area.

Vertical control based on latest available adjustment.

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

1966
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 2352 III SE—SERIES V895

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.
N3400—W1815/7.5

MICHAEL J. KRETZMER
LAWYER
10900 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SUITE 601
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024
(213) 208-1236

June 20, 1984

Mr. Aaron Gallup
State Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

RECEIVED
JUN 25 1984
OHP.

RE: HOLLYWOOD MASONIC TEMPLE
6840 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

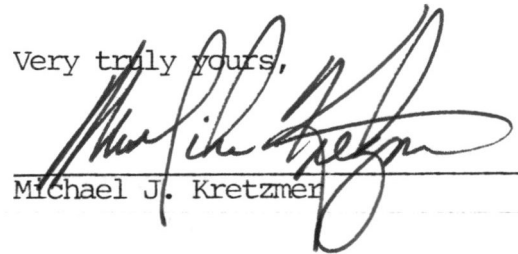
Dear Mr. Gallup:

I am writing on behalf of the owners of the Hollywood Masonic Temple located at 6840 Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood, California. This building was purchased by 6840 Hollywood Associates on November 16, 1983. It is our understanding that this building is on the list of those buildings eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The attached nomination papers were prepared at the request of the owners of the Hollywood Masonic Temple. We would appreciate anything that you might be able to do in expediting this application and the designation of the Hollywood Masonic Temple as a historic landmark.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Kretzmer

MJK/ds

cc: Thomas L. Harnsberger
Nicholas E. Olaerts
Christy Johnson McAvoy

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
POST OFFICE BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811



January 3, 1985

MR. Jerry Rogers, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
1100 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We are submitting the Hollywood Masonic Temple for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The property is located in Hollywood, Los Angeles County, California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion Mitchell-Wilson".

Marion Mitchell-Wilson, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

MMWcm

Enclosures

2/1/85