

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FO S USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

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

Masonic Temple

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 Court Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Atoka

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

003

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Atoka

CODE

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

NAME

Masonic Order

STREET & NUMBER

301 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Atoka

VICINITY OF

STATE

OK**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Atoka County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Atoka

STATE

OK**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSPreservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

OK

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Masonic Temple in Atoka, Oklahoma is a three story, red brick building that measures approximately 51' wide and 95' long. Situated on the northeast corner of Court and Pennsylvania streets, it is characterized by brick pilasters, a decorative cornice that encloses a marble slab upon which is inscribed the masonic emblem and the words "Masonic Temple," stained glass third story windows on the front that are art nouveau in motif, symmetry of second and third story windows, and marble block inlays on the southern facade between the second and third stories which contain masonic emblems. On its front, the lower story originally consisted of plate glass windows and two entry ways; on its western side, it contained one plate glass window, three one-half windows, and two entry ways. The most northern of the latter provided access to the second and third stories.

Since it was originally constructed, the exterior of the structure has been only slightly altered. The lower level brick window and entry way encasements along the building's southern front were removed and replaced by aluminum encased windows and doors. Above this on the first floor were added aluminum siding and an aluminum awning. The windows on the western side of the building were bricked up. Despite these changes, the building retains much of its architectural integrity and could be restored to its original condition with little difficulty.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Masonic Lodge

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1915, the Masonic Temple in Atoka is symbolic of the birth and growth of Masonry in Oklahoma, one of the state's foremost social and humanitarian institutions. By 1855 some five chapters of the Masonic Lodge existed in what is now Oklahoma, but of these only two survived the Civil War. In the post-war period organizational activity was resumed under the leadership of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas. Of the new chapters chartered the first was the Ok-la-ho-ma Lodge at Boggy Depot in 1868, the Grand Master of which was J. S. Murrow. The following year the lodge was removed to Atoka and thereafter, under the guidance of Murrow, the "Father of Oklahoma Masonry," became one of the foremost chapters in Indian Territory and later Oklahoma. In 1875 it was the fourth chapter to affiliate with the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory; in 1880 it organized the second chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the Territory, and in 1883 it formed the first Council of Royal and Select Masters. Murrow himself served as Grand Master of the Indian Territory Lodge in 1877-1878, as Grand Secretary between 1879 and 1912, and as Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in 1880-1881. Ok-la-ho-ma Lodge also had responsibility for the Masonic Orphan's Home which was located in Atoka between 1908-1910. The contributions and strength of the Atoka chapter were confirmed by the dedication of their new temple in 1915, the ceremonies of which were performed by "Father" Murrow. The present structure, then, symbolizes the role of the Ok-la-ho-ma Lodge in the formation and development of Masonry within the state.

The Masonic Temple property is also significant because it is of an architectural design unique to the community. Excepting one other building (the Zweigel & Weintraub Hardware Store), it is the only three story structure in the town, and it is by far the largest public and private building. Moreover, the integrity of its original design is largely unimpaired, except for the aluminum facade on the southern front along its lower story.

The property is also important because it is one of seven substantial buildings that still remains in "downtown" Atoka. As such it has considerable potential to community planners who seek to revive the commercial district. The lower floor has always been utilized by different business enterprises, the occupant with the longest tenure being the electric company--Public Service Company of Oklahoma.

Because it is symbolic of the birth and growth of Masonry in Indian Territory and Oklahoma, because it has a locally unique architectural design,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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and because it has community planning value, the Masonic Temple of Atoka, Oklahoma is worthy of being added to the National Register of Historic Places.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Creager, Charles, et al. History of Free Masonry in Oklahoma, Muskogee: Grand Chapter R. A. M., of Oklahoma, 1935.

McDaniel, Amanda E. "History of Masonry in Indian Territory, 1874-1892", M.A. Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1928.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Lehigh, OK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

A 114 7614 31810 31810 84310

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 11, Block 26, Atoka City

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

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. David Baird

Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

December, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma State University

TELEPHONE

(405) 624-5678

CITY OR TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

OK

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

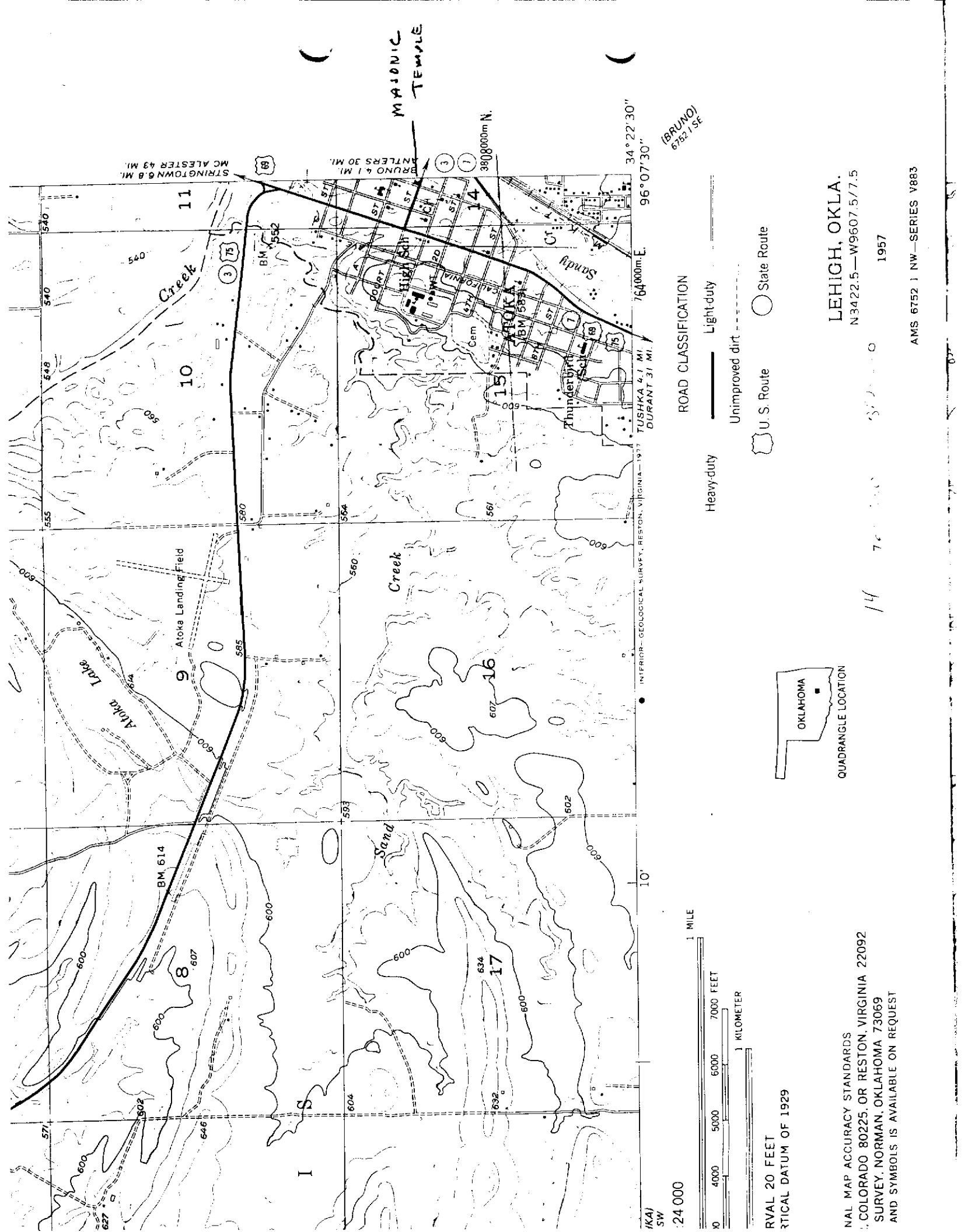


Masonic Temple



Masonic Temple





STRINGTOWN 6.8 MI.
MC ALESTER 4.3 MI.

BRUNO 4.1 MI.
ANTERS 3.0 MI.

3808000m N.

34°22'30"
96°07'30"

(BRUNO)
6782 1SE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty

Light-duty

Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route

State Route

LEHIGH, OKLA.

N3422.5—W9607.5/7.5

1957

AMS 6752 1 NW—SERIES V883



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

RVAL 20 FEET
RTICAL DATUM OF 1929