

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

Washington

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received

date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Jacksonville Labor Temple

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 228 South Mauvaisterre Street not for publication

city, town Jacksonville vicinity of congressional district 20th

state Illinois code 012 county Morgan code 137

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of the Jacksonville Trades and Labor Assembly

street & number 228 South Mauvaisterre Street

city, town Jacksonville vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Morgan County Court House

city, town Jacksonville state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Landmarks title in Morgan County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November, 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

city, town Carbondale state Illinois

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 Jacksonville Labor Temple is a three-story, rectangular brick building, approximately 80 feet long and 20 feet wide, located at 228 South Mauvaisterre Street in Jacksonville, Illinois.

The front (west side) contains on each floor three standard-sized windows about 48 inches high. Four concrete steps lead up to the front entrance from the sidewalk. There are two front doors, each about 10 feet high, with a small window above each door measuring about 36 inches by 30 inches. The north door opens to a wooden stairway to the second and third floors, and the south door opens to the first floor lobby. The first floor lobby faces the street with an L-shaped glass office front. This front contains three large glass panels, about 52 inches high and 36 inches wide, with a smaller pane measuring about 30 inches high and 36 inches wide above each large panel. This aluminum and vinyl front is a modification of the original front. An aluminum awning, about 8 feet long and 3 feet wide, was added recently. The cornerstone, located at the northwest corner of the building, reads: "Trades & Labor Assembly Hall Erected 1904." A ~~pi~~ stone or concrete block embedded above the middle window of the third story reads: "Trades And Labor Assembly--Organized May 14, 1892--Labor Omnia Vincit."

On the north side of the building, there are four standard-sized windows on the third story, three on the second story, and two on the first story. The basement has one small window, about 30 inches high and 26 inches wide, towards the west end. Two other windows were altered from their original size and converted to small vents. A standard-sized door has been added near the east corner of this side for access to the first floor. A pair of black steel studs, about 10 feet apart, appear near the west and east corners. These are end brackets of long reinforcing rods running immediately above and below the third story.

The east (back) side has three standard-sized windows on each of the three stories and two basement windows which were modified from their original, larger size.

The south side is almost completely blocked from view by the north wall of the adjacent building. Four standard-sized windows are located on the third floor.

The interior of the building has not been ~~structurally~~ structurally altered, although there have been some minor modifications.

The basement contains one large meeting room about 36 feet long and 12 feet wide. The pressed fiber ceiling is an artificial lowered ceiling. The walls are covered with pressed fiber paneling. A small boiler room, about 12 feet long and 15 feet wide, is located at the west end of the basement. The wooden stairway to the first floor on the north side is original, but the other wooden stairway, on the south side, was added about 1975.

The first floor entrance lobby is about 14 feet long and 12 feet wide. This room is the site of a hand-made, decorative plaster ceiling and walls. A bas-relief design of flowers, stems and leaves radiates from the middle of the ceiling. On the walls, except the west side which has windows, the same general design was continued, but instead of radiating from a central point, the flowers and leaves are draped gracefully from one wall to the next. The union painters who did this work tinted the patterns against the plain background, making the blossoms various colors. Today the bas-relief is obliterated in two places, plaster patching having been done to repair water damage. The entire plaster bas-relief is now covered with white

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**Jacksonville Labor
Temple

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

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paint and is in obvious need of restoration. Installed in the walls of building was a system of speaking tubes which have been removed. The tubes extended from the ground floor to the third floor. This is another feature which could well be restored. There are two entryways on the east wall of the lobby, one leading to a short hall to the north stairway to the basement and the other leading to the main room, which measures about 36 feet long and 15 feet wide. This space is partitioned for office and storage use on the north side, making an enclosed space about 24 feet long and 9 feet wide. The original ceilings of the first floor are approximately 13 feet high, but an artificial ceiling is suspended about 8 feet above the office and storage space.

Access to the second floor is gained from a front entrance door and a wooden stairway which continues to the third floor. The second floor consists of a large meeting room, about 48 feet long and 12 feet wide. The ceiling is about 11 feet high. A storage closet and a small toilet are built into the north partition wall at the east end.

The third floor consists of another meeting room of the same size as the one on the second floor. The ceiling is about 11 feet high. The room has recently been redecorated, with new stucco applied to the walls. A small toilet is located at the top of the flight of stairs leading from the second floor to the third floor.

Overall, the building appears to be in good repair and in much the same state as it was when first built.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1904 Builder/Architect Jacksonville labor union members

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jacksonville Labor Temple is the oldest building of its type still in use in the United States. Jacksonville area union members were among the pioneers in erecting a labor temple, a central meeting place and recreation center for the members of the Jacksonville Trades and Labor Assembly, a federation of labor organizations in the area. Jacksonville's Labor Temple was the third labor temple erected in the United States, preceded only by similar structures at Los Angeles, California, and at Belleville, Illinois. Since the labor temples at Los Angeles and at Belleville are no longer in use, Jacksonville's is now the oldest continuously-used labor temple in the country. Built in 1904, Jacksonville's Labor Temple was followed by numerous others constructed throughout the nation. Jacksonville's Labor Temple now stands as the oldest representative of its particular approach to the cooperation of labor unions and their members in the United States.

The Jacksonville Trades and Labor Assembly was first chartered by the Illinois secretary of state in 1892. The current charter issued by the American Federation of Labor is dated October 21, 1902, and the Assembly is still affiliated with the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations. At the time the A.F.L. charter was granted, the Jacksonville Trades and Labor Assembly members were dissatisfied with their rented quarters. On January 3, 1904, a mass meeting of the city's union members was held to discuss plans for buying a suitable building or purchasing a lot and constructing a building. At a meeting February 17, 1904, assembly members voted to purchase a dilapidated building at 228 South Mauvaisterre Street, raze the structure and erect a new building. The old building and lot were purchased for \$1,000, and members of Hod Carriers Local 11 began demolishing it immediately. The men working at the construction trades volunteered their labor if the material were furnished, and those unions not belonging to the construction trades were assessed a per capita tax. In addition, some Jacksonville businessmen donated \$250. A brick maker furnished brick worth \$100, and this was used in addition to the brick which was salvaged from the razed structure. City plumbing firms furnished the fixtures free of charge, and a sheet metal dealer donated the material for the tin roof. All of the carpentry work on the building was done by members of the carpenters union, by day and by night, depending on who could work when. The only labor group to be paid were the members of the Hod Carriers Local 11, and they received only \$100; they were paid because they did so much more than their fair share. No cornerstone ceremony or dedication was held, but when the stone was put in place at the corner of the building, it contained the names of 900 union men in Jacksonville.

The building has been used continuously by most of the unions of the city since it was erected. The majority of unions in Jacksonville still meet in the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hildner, Ernest C. (editor), Morgan County, The Twentieth Century (1968, Jacksonville, Illinois, Morgan County Board of Commissioners).
 Minutes of the Jacksonville Trades & Labor Assembly, 1892-present, Labor Temple, Jacksonville, Illinois. 1904 Jacksonville Daily Journals

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Jacksonville

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References UTM references not available.

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Part of Lot 141 in the original plat of Jacksonville. Beginning 80 feet 4 inches south of the northwest corner of said lot 141, thence east to the east line of said lot, south 20 feet, west to the west line of said lot, north 20 feet to the place of beginning.

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 John Robert Power, Chairman

organization Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

date January 24, 1980

street & number Jacksonville Journal Courier Company

telephone 217-245-6121

city or town Jacksonville

state Illinois

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David Pennington*

title Director, Ill. Dept. of Con.

date 3/31/80

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered NOV 13 1980

Name

Location

Jacksonville Labor Temple

Jacksonville
Morgan County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Paul Findley

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

200267

1. Name of site:

CommonHistoric Jacksonville Labor Temple

2. Location:

Street and number228 S. MauvaisterreCity or TownJacksonvilleCountyMorganZip CodeTownship15NRange10WSection21¼ SectionNW

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- () District () Building
 () Site (X) Structure

Integrity (check one)

- () Altered (X) Unaltered
 () Moved (X) Original Site

4. Ownership

- (X) Private
 () Public

Status (check one)

- (X) Occupied
 () Unoccupied
 (X) Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public

- (X) Yes (X) Restricted () Unrestricted () No

Present Use (check one or more)

- () Agricultural () Industrial () Religious
 () Commercial () Military () Scientific
 () Educational () Museum () Transportation
 () Entertainment () Park (X) Other (specify)
Labor Meeting Hall
 () Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's nameStreet and numberCity or TownStateCountyPhone NumberZip Code

6. Description

Condition

- () Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins () Unexposed
 Is there a program of preservation underway? (X) Yes () No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- () Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
 () Archaeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
 () French Influence 1673-1780
 () Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
 () Illinois Early (1818-1850)
 () Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
 (X) Illinois Late (1900-present)
 () Famous People (give names & dates)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



111

8. Specific Date: 1904

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | organized labor |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates.) Use additional sheets if necessary. **over**

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: _____ Date: _____
Organization: _____
Street and number: _____
City or town: _____ County _____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

The structure is still used as a meeting hall for the local building trades' unions; "called the 'Labor Temple', the structure was lacking in many details but has been used continuously since that time. The building was the third labor temple to be constructed in the U.S.

"The crowning glory of the 20 by 80 feet, three story brick structure was the hand-made, decorative plaster ceiling and walls of the ground floor main room. Made by painters Frank Hayden and James Bowen among others, a bas-relief design of flowers, stems and leaves radiated from the middle of the ceiling. On the three walls, excepting the plate-glass west side, the same general design was continued, but instead of radiating from a central point, the flowers and leaves were draped gracefully from one wall to the next. The craftsmen tented the patterns against the plain background, making the blossoms various colors. Today the bas-relief still survives but the ceiling and walls are painted a solid color, greatly neutralizing the effects of this excellent example of turn of the century interior decorating. Installed in the walls of the building was a system of speaking tubes."