

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only
received _____
date entered _____

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

1. Name

historic *Aurora Elks Lodge #705*

and/or common *Aurora Elks Lodge #705*

2. Location

street & number *77 South Stolp Avenue* _____ not for publication

city, town *Aurora,* _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district *15th Congressional*

state *Illinois* code _____ county *Kane* code _____

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

4. Owner of Property

name *Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, Lodge #705*

street & number *77 South Stolp Avenue*

city, town *Aurora* _____ vicinity of _____ state *Illinois*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *Kane County Courthouse*

street & number *719 South Batavia Avenue*

city, town *Geneva* _____ state *Illinois*

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title *Illinois Historic Structures Survey* has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date *October, 1972* _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records *Illinois Department of Conservation*

city, town *Springfield* _____ state *Illinois*

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Aurora Elks Lodge #705 building is two flat-roofed attached cubic rectangles of three and four storeys, arranged in a "T", built as a steel reinforced, concrete structure with brick and terra-cotta exterior, of Prairie School design with interior and exterior ornamentation taken from the Late Classic and Early Post-Classic periods of the Maya Civilization in Meso-America.

The building has not been changed structurally or visibly, with the exception of interior painting, since the plans were drawn in 1925.

In addition to the brass door hardware which depicts symbols of the Elks Organization, several pieces of original furnishings and many interior finishing details remain that were apparently also influenced by Maya architectural design.

The southerly and easterly facades of the easterly portion of the building, the sides within public view, were executed in wide horizontal bands of highly textured, twisted brick, dark red-brown in color, and of medium beige colored terra-cotta resplendant with stylized bas-relief Mayan glyphs. The openings for doors and windows are slightly recessed, emphasizing the horizontal nature of the design. All of the openings are grouped in odd quantities and placed symmetrically on the face of the building within the parallel bands. The facades of the other sides of the building along an alley, behind a gas station and along the river, are plain with deep red common brick in common bond with windows and door openings placed as interior needs determined.

The three-storey, easterly cube of the building contains the main lobby, several private dining rooms, club offices, meeting rooms, lounge with beamed ceiling and terra cotta Mayan detailed fireplace, large high-ceilinged ballroom, and two bars. The westerly four-storey wing of the building contains the dining room which seats about 120 people, kitchen, bar, bowling alley in the basement and 46 sleeping rooms for travelling club members' overnight accommodations.

The organization decided about a year ago to keep the building rather than follow the current trend to build anew, and have undertaken renovation work to bring the structure back to its original splendor.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" 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 *November 17, 1926* Builder/Architect *Zimmerman, Saxe & Zimmerman, Architects, Chicago*

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Elks Lodge #705 building is significant for the unique use and application of Mayan design to the exterior and interior of a Prairie School design building.

During the early 1920's, major archeological discoveries were taking place in Meso-America and it has been handed down from a previous generation of Club Members that the architect, W. C. Zimmerman, spent some time at the then recently discovered sites, studying the remains of which was probably the Late Classic and Early Post-Classic periods of the Maya Civilization. Significant details, symbols, architectural shapes and placements from these Maya Periods are used in a wealth of detail throughout the building exterior and some interior areas. However, it is not apparent that any of these details hold religious significance for the Elks Lodge, even though many of them did for the Maya. The architectural elements, textures of the Horizontal bands, the placement and recess of the exterior openings, and the stepped back design of the building cornice are also drawn directly from Maya construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. 1979 telephone interview with Walter E. Deuchler, Jr., son of deceased Club Member involved at time of design of the building.
2. Interviews with Paul and Stephanie Olson - anthropologist and archeologist who specialize in and teach Meso-American studies.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Aurora North, Illinois

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification *The building is situated on Stolp Island in the Fox River, at the northwesterly corner of the intersection of Benton Street and Stolp Ave. The main entrance faces Stolp Avenue and the building extends westerly toward the easterly bank of the westerly channel of the river.*

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 Deborah J. Kramp, Administrative Assistant

organization Aurora Civic Center Authority

date October 31, 1979

street & number 17 East Galena Boulevard

telephone (312) 892-1002

city or town Aurora

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 _____

title _____ date _____

For HCRS 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