

7/1/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Paris Elks Lodge #812 Building

and/or common Francis Associates Consulting Engineers

2. Location

street & number 111 East Washington Street not for publication

city, town Paris vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Edgar code 045

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dale E. Francis

street & number 10 Lakewood Drive

city, town Paris vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Edgar County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Paris state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. RP3 for Paris, Illinois has this property been determined eligible? yes no
2. Illinois Historic Structures Survey

date 1. November, 1982 federal state county local
2. October, 1974

depository for survey records 1. University of Illinois Department of Urban Planning
2. Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

city, town 1. Urbana state 1. & 2. Illinois
2. Springfield

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Paris Elks Lodge Building is a substantial three-story and basement red brick vernacular structure with a Moorish or Mission architectural flavor. It was constructed in 1927 and faces south at 111 East Washington Street. The building is encompassed by a parking lot to the east, an alley to the west, the adjoining France Hotel to the north, and commercial buildings across the street. The exterior of the Lodge retains its original architectural integrity, characterized by a fanciful diversity of fenestration.

The street facade features a three bay arcaded loggia at the first story, leading to the main entrance and meeting rooms. The flat roofed loggia is highlighted by white stone rondelles and a parapet outlined in stone. To the east of the loggia is a three-story square tower with a parapet and corbeled projections suggestive of elk antlers. Impressive features of the tower include the stone arches-within-an-arch above the third floor windows, the thin arched windows at the second floor level, and the varied stone arches above the first floor windows. The tower leaves an overall impression of elk-like characteristics.

The building is an ell shape and is characterized by the dominating tower and front loggia, as well as the white stone decorations and varied uses of arches. Brick beltcourses divide the first floor at the basement window head level and third floor at the window sill level. The deep overhang with supporting brackets of the low hipped roof lend a Mediterranean feeling to the architecture. The original copper gutters remain intact.

Inset stone rondelles, squares, and rectangles add decorative elements to all four facades of the building. Large stone window heads in arched or rectangular patterns highlight the various sizes of the many double hung six over six windows. A stairway entrance punctuates the southeast corner of the building. This stairwell is reflected in the architecture on the east side by two sets of ascending six over six windows capped by large stone arches outlined in brick.

The first two floors housed meeting rooms and a large ballroom for the Lodge; the third floor contained rooms and suites as an addition to the adjoining France Hotel. The original light fixtures remain in place in the ballroom. There is no access from the Lodge to the third floor of the building except by the fire escape since the Hotel and Elks activities were intended to remain entirely independent. The third floor of the Lodge and the fourth floor of the Hotel are connected by an enclosed brick walkway. The basement of the Elks building had four bowling lanes at one time although they were not original to the building and have since been removed.

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The front entrance is comprised of a large wooden and glass door with arched leaded glass sidelights and a glass transom surmounted by a stone panel with the letters B.P.O.E. carved into the stone. The original hardware on this door includes a detailed elk insignia and a handle designed to look like an antler.

At present, the first floor of the building is in use as modernized office quarters for a consulting engineering firm which acquired the building in 1978 after the Elks Lodge filed for bankruptcy. The second floor is operated as "The Bench Mark," a social hall with bar and catering services available to the public. Neither the basement or the third floor are currently in use.

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 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 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 1927 **Builder/Architect** Everett Blackman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Paris Elks Lodge #812 exemplifies the ambitious spirit and social orientation of the Elks organizations throughout the small towns of America. It is illustrative of an unusual collaboration between a charitable organization and a hotel corporation. This building is a fine example of the ambitious program activities of early Twentieth Century Elks Lodges in Central Illinois (Criterion A).

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks is a national men's fraternal society which was founded in 1868. The organization includes 50 state and 2,280 local groups with over 1,620,000 members. There are currently 92 chartered Elks Lodges in Illinois. The Elks operate a national trust fund which supports charitable programs focussing primarily on assistance in payment for the care, hospitalization, and operation costs for handicapped children. Similarly, the Elks award more educational scholarships than any other organization except for the U.S. Government. The Order of Elks is strongly supportive of Americanism and is responsible for the introduction of the national observance of Flag Day. Elks have an on-going policy of sponsoring and making substantial donations to programs within their local communities.¹

The handsomely designed Paris Elks Lodge Building represents a significant investment sponsored entirely through member contributions. The chairman of the eleven person lodge building committee, Alan J. Parrish, was also the owner of the excavation company which did the work for both the lodge and the France Hotel. Mr. Parrish and another member of the building committee, H.B. O'Hair, both contributed heavily to the Lodge construction expenses.² Both Parrish and O'Hair were also members of the earlier nine man board of directors entrusted with overseeing the building of the adjoining France Hotel in 1924.³

The Paris Elks entered into an agreement with the management of the France Hotel whereby a third floor of hotel rooms and apartments was built in the lodge which was leased and managed by the Hotel. An enclosed walkway connected the two buildings so that the only access to the third floor of the lodge was through the fourth floor of the France Hotel or by the fire escape on the west side of the lodge building. The same local contractor constructed both of the buildings.

The cornerstone of the BPOE Lodge #812 in Paris was laid on July 31, 1927. Within this stone was placed a small copper box containing data relative to the history of the Elks, a Paris roster and program, a

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Paris Elks Lodge #812 Building

current issue of Elks magazine, and sets of coins from 1902, the charter year of the lodge, and 1927, the year of construction. The dedication of the building included the following quotation. "Brothers and friends, this temple signifies our aspirations, hopes, and very lives; Let us live that all the world may be better because we lived."4

The surprisingly large size of the building and considerable investment it involved attest to the fact that the Paris Lodge, chartered in 1902, has had a significantly large and active membership for a community of its size. The lodge has been one of the major centers of community welfare work which was not connected with religious or political affiliations. The Elks have played an active role in community programs by sponsoring and donating funds to such programs as the Boys Club, referring local handicapped children to the national foundation for funding, Youth Programs for sports and community recognition awards, and a nursing home visitation program. The Paris Elks Lodge building has served as an important center of social life in the community. The second floor ballroom and bar have been the scene of many banquets and dances. Bowling tournaments were frequently held in the four bowling lanes located in the basement.

The Lodge building was designed by Everett Blackman, a partner in the firm of Blackman and Strader in Danville, Illinois. Mr. Blackman was born in Paris in 1896 and was a member of the Paris Elks Lodge. He studied architecture at the University of Notre Dame graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in 1919. Blackman designed many buildings in Central Illinois including the Catholic Church Grade School in Paris, the Northeast Grade School, the F.L. Jacobs Co. plant, the Electric Eye building, and the Eureka Specialty Printing building, all in Danville.

The architectural character and style of the Paris Elks Lodge is imposing and at the same time unique and inviting. The Mediterranean architecture is uncommon among prominent buildings in the small towns of Central Illinois. Similarly, the construction of a three story lodge building is atypical and was only possible in Paris through the joint Elks/Hotel agreement. The unusual architectural character, created during an era of rampant eclecticism, appears as a skilful blending of motifs drawn from Spanish Colonial roots and elements suggestive of Prairie School influence. The arcaded loggia, deep roof

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overhangs, stepped set of arched stair windows, and asymmetrical tower composition convey a Spanish feeling even though the building is not stuccoed. The horizontal band of hotel windows with a continuous sill gives a Prairie Style look to the structure reinforced by the horizontal patterning of the brickwork. Unlike many Elks Lodges which attached conspicuous reproductions of the head of an elk to the facade of their buildings, the Paris Lodge reflects its use in a more subtle architectural statement. The near-anthropomorphic resemblances to an elk in the antler-like projections and fenestration of the tower places the stamp of the Elks on the face of the community.

The Paris Lodge is one of only four Elks buildings in Central Illinois built by the Elks for the Elks during the early part of the Twentieth Century. Of these four lodges, only the one located in Lawrenceville retains vestiges of its original integrity and is comparable to the Paris Lodge although its only distinguishing architectural feature is a second story porch and it has had a new addition in recent years. The Paris lodge has had no exterior alterations and retains its original architectural integrity.

- 1 Telephone interview with Bill Grimes, Coles County Treasurer, Past State President of the Illinois Elks Association, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Current member of the Grand Lodge State Association Committee.
- 2 Telephone interview with Frank O'Hair, 90+ year old Paris Elk member during the era of the lodge construction.
- 3 The Chamber of Commerce Bulletin, Paris, Illinois, July 1921, Volume IV, Number 2.
- 4 The Paris Daily News, August 1, 1927, Paris, Illinois.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Paris Daily News, Various 1926 and 1927 issues, Paris, Illinois.

Telephone interview with Bill Grimes, April 29, 1987.

Telephone interview with Frank O'Hair, May 4, 1987.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Paris South, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	4	0	4	6	0	4	3	8	4	5	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The West 40 feet and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of even width of Lot No. 53 in Original town (now City) of Paris, in Edgar County, Illinois Lot No. 54 in the Original Town, now City, of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois

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 Lachlan F. Blair/Dana L. Pratt

organization The URBANA Group

date May 7, 1987

street & number 110 South Race St. P.O.Box 1028

telephone 217-344-7526

city or town Urbana

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director

date June 30, 1987

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AUG 14 1987

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning August 2, 1987 and ending August 8, 1987. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ARIZONA, Coconino County, Flagstaff, South Beaver School, 506 S. Beaver St. (08/06/87)

ARIZONA, Gila County, Globe, Elks Building (Globe Commercial and Civic MRA), 155 W. Mesquite (08/06/87)

ARIZONA, Gila County, Globe, Gila Valley Bank and Trust Building (Globe Commercial and Civic MRA), 292 N. Broad St. (08/06/87)

ARIZONA, Maricopa County, Wickenburg Wisdom House (Wickenburg MRA), 48 Kerkes (08/06/87)

ARIZONA, Santa Cruz County, Nogales, US Custom House (Nogales MRA), Jct. of International & Terrace Sts. (08/06/87)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Osceola, Bank of Osceola (Osceola MRA), 207 E. Hale St. (08/06/87)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Osceola, City Hall (Osceola MRA), 316 W. Hale (08/06/87)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Osceola, Florida Brothers Building (Osceola MRA), 319 W. Hale St. (08/06/87)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Osceola, Mississippi County Jail (Osceola MRA), 300 S. Poplar St. (08/06/87)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Osceola, Old Bell Telephone Building (Osceola MRA), 100 Blk. Ash St. (08/06/87)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Osceola, Osceola Times Building (Osceola MRA), 112 N. Poplar St. (08/06/87)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Osceola, Planters Bank Building (Osceola MRA), 200 E. Hale St. (08/06/87)

CONNECTICUT, Hartford County, West Hartford, Whiting Homestead, 291 N. Main St. (08/03/87)

CONNECTICUT, New London County, Sprague, Baltic Historic District, Roughly bounded by Fifth Ave., River, High, Main, W. Main, & Shetucket River (08/03/87)

FLORIDA, Santa Rose County, Arcadia Sawmill and Arcadia Cotton Mill (08/03/87)

GEORGIA, Long County, Walthourville, Walthourville Presbyterian Church, Allenhurst Antioch Rd. (08/06/87)

GEORGIA, Walker County, Kensington, Miller Brothers Farm, GA 912 (08/06/87)

GEORGIA, Washington County, Sandersville, City Cemetery, W. Church, Cemetery, & Haynes Sts. (08/03/87)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Roycemore School, 640 Lincoln St. (08/03/87)

ILLINOIS, Edgar County, Paris, France Hotel, 118 E. Court St. (08/03/87)

ILLINOIS, Edgar County, Paris, Paris Elks Lodge No. 812 Building, 111 E. Washington St. (08/06/87)

ILLINOIS, Fulton County, Table Grove, Carithers Store Building, Table Grove Village Sq., W of US 136 (08/03/87)