

39-20-M065-54

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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7-27-79

364

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

Elks Club

AND/OR COMMON

Community House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

67 West Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marianna

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Lee

CODE

077

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: Public meetings

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Marianna

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Marianna

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Circuit Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Lee County Courthouse, Chestnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Marianna

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Arkansas State Inventory Files

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1911

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marianna Elks Club sits on the fringes of the Marianna business district. It was constructed in 1911 by S. A. Keady, a local builder. The building was commissioned by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as a meeting place. The bricks used in its construction were those that remained from the paving of the streets surrounding the city square. The horizontal massing, window placement, and design of the stained glass work is reflective of the beginning of the Modern period in Arkansas.

The irregularly shaped structure has a central entrance with a covered porch. The porch is supported by two outer brick posts and two inner Doric columns. The columns support a simple pediment which is set back from the roof line. Under the outer windows on the second storey of the front (north) facade are two iron balconies. On the east side of the building is a one-storey wing whose roof supports a balcony. The balcony can be entered from the second storey ballroom through French doors. The one storey wing is used as office space by the Marianna Chamber of Commerce. The space housed the Marianna Public Library before it moved to a larger space in the building.

As one enters the Elks Club building, one is impressed with the oak woodwork which remains unaltered. On either side of the entry (east and west) are two large areas which resemble parlors. These areas were used as sitting rooms. The space on the west side of the building is now the library. Some slight alterations were made here. The open space which is bounded on either side by oak Doric columns was closed off with paneling for the library.

From the first storey one may ascend the great staircase to the ballroom on the second floor. On the landing of the staircase the width of the south wall is filled with beautiful stained glass windows which depict the elk, the emblem of the BPOE. The ballroom comprises the entire second floor of the building. The room has its original oak flooring. The walls rest on a raised platform. The ceiling of the ballroom is accented by the lovely oak beams which are partially exposed.

The structure has a basement kitchen. The room has concrete piers. There are windows located near the ceiling.

The building designed with ample large open spaces has proved to be the perfect place for the citizens of Marianna and Lee County to conduct important functions of a varied nature.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
FORMIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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 1911 BUILDER/ARCHITECT S. A. Keedy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elks Club in Marianna is an architecturally significant structure which has played a key role in the social activities of the small town. The building is a horizontally massed structure with wide bracketed overhangs. Window placement and stained glass work are reminiscent of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright in this period. The building reflects the beginning of the period of modern architecture in Arkansas.

This red brick structure was built in 1911 by the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks, Lodge number 1178, to serve as a meeting house for their activities. To lower the costs of construction, the Elks acquired from the city of Marianna the surplus bricks which remained following the paving of those streets surrounding the court square.

In 1934, due to a lack of funds, the Elks were forced to place the property on the market. The Marianna Civic Club stepped in at this time and offered to pay off the mortgage if the building would be turned into a community center. In order to obtain the necessary money for this venture, the Library which was in another building at this time, agreed to sell their present building and contribute the money to the purchase of the Elks Club, if they would be granted a rent-free space in the new building. Thus, in February of 1934, the City of Marianna was issued a warranty deed from the trustees of the Elks Club.

The Marianna Civic Club's wish that the building be used as a community center has been filled many times over. Under the title of the Marianna Community House, this structure has been the site of many dances, community suppers, scout meetings, dancing classes, fund raising drives, state Student Council meetings, and school oriented functions. In the 1930's the building was often the setting for birthday parties for local children. The Lions Club, whose charter dates from 1949, has held every one of their meetings in this building, as has the Rotary Club which recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. In the 1940's a few Chinese weddings even took place in the upstairs ballroom, as there were no Bhuddist temples in this area. In the early 1960's when Lee County was attempting to interest industry to locate in the area, a local labor survey was undertaken, and this structure served as the central reporting station for those who wished to express their desire to be included in a factory labor force.

In recent years, as race relations in Lee County have stabilized, the Community House or Elks Club has truly come to serve all of the citizens of Marianna. Black fraternities, such as Alpha Phi Alpha as well as white high school-level

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

fraternities, use the building for many of their social functions. The building has often served as a temporary home for church congregations and is often used for church related banquets.

The Elks Club is often used to house political rallies and campaign functions. Many prominent Arkansas politicians have spoken to audiences in the building; persons associated with national groups, such as Ben Hooks of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have also spoken to audiences in the building.

The Elks Club continues to serve the people of Lee County and Marianna as well today as it has in the past.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"MARIANNA CENTENNIAL," compiled in 1970 by the Centennial Committee.

Deed Book #159, page 57 in the Circuit Clerk's office.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Marianna, Arkansas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1/62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 705010 3849980

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northwest 16 Southwest 9 Township 2 Range 4

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Thomas Gist, Sr.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

February 20, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 261

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Marianna,

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL xx

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 Joan Williams Baldrige

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/19/79

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

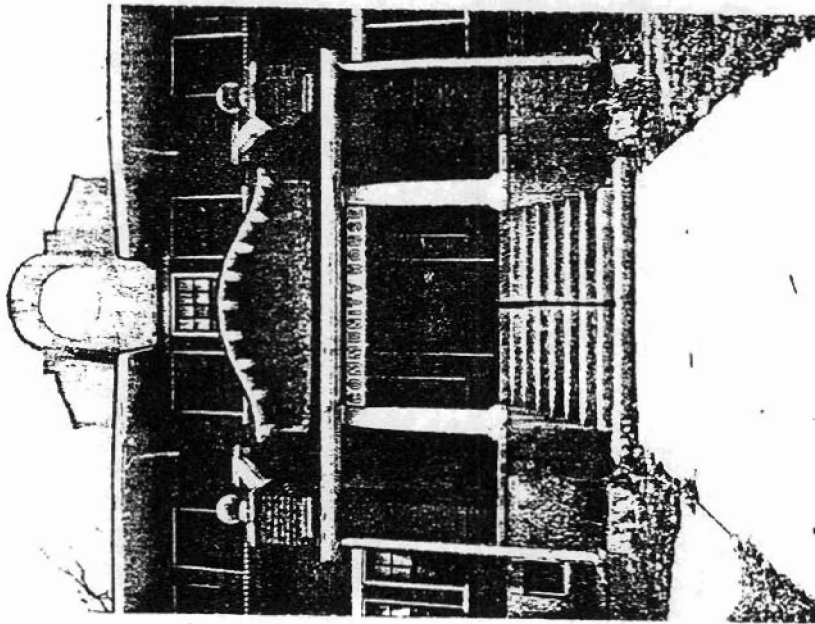
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Main Street
Elks Club
Marianna, Arkansas

Alice Jones

1979

AHPP

Northwest elevation

#1

Main Street
Elks Club
Marianna, Arkansas

Alice Jones

1979

AHPP

North elevation

#2

Main Street
Elks Club
Marianna, Arkansas

Alice Jones

1979

AHPP

Southwest elevation

#3