**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** Odd Fellows Temple

**AND/OR HISTORIC:** Jackson, Andrew, Residence

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 277 East Mill Street

**CITY OR TOWN:** Akron

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 14 - John Seiberling

**STATE:** Ohio

**COUNTY:** Summit

**CODE:** 039

**CODE:** 153

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
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<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<td>Site</td>
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<td>Both</td>
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**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify): fraternal lodge
- Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNER'S NAME:** Akron I. O. O. F. Temple Company

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 277 East Mill Street

**CITY OR TOWN:** Akron

**STATE:** Ohio

**CODE:** 44308

**CODE:** 039

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:** Summit County Building

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 72 South High Street

**CITY OR TOWN:** Akron

**STATE:** Ohio

**CODE:** 039

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**

**STATE:**

**CODE:**

425-16
This was a very large brick mansion in the Second Empire style. It is exactly symmetrical in form, a large rectangular block broken only by a slightly projecting center facade bay and a polygonal bay on each side elevation. A pair of windows with heavy drop moldings marks each of the three facade divisions. On the side elevations the windows also have moldings on the front half of the house, but are flush with the wall to the rear of the bays. The steep mansard roof rests on a densely bracketed cornice. Over each projecting bay there is a hipped roof.

After the acquisition of the mansion by the fraternal order in 1918, major alterations were made. A rectangular porch with square brick piers was placed across the facade. A smaller enclosed porch was added to the rear elevation. On the interior, the major change was the creation of a large meeting hall by removing bedroom and hallway partitions. It occupies the entire width of the second floor, from the front wall to a point a few feet beyond the side bays. This makes an impressive space in a rather sombre early twentieth century taste, with the walls paneled with raised molding, a raised platform around the circumference of the room, a coved ceiling cornice, and heavy dark furnishings reflecting the "Mission" style.

On the first floor the original mid-nineteenth century woodwork, with paneled doors, heavily molded casings and wide baseboards, is intact. The floors have been covered with vinyl tile, and modern hanging light fixtures installed. The original parlor mantelpiece was replaced with a brick fireplace of the same period as the porches. The usual utilitarian additions for plumbing, electricity and heating have been made.

The building stands on a corner at the intersection of two perpendicular and two diagonal streets, and faces a small triangular park. Thus the structure is an important environmental amenity and focal point on its site. At present it is threatened with acquisition under eminent domain by the Board of Education and demolition to provide a parking lot.
This handsome example of a Second Empire house converted to a fraternal lodge hall was originally built as a mid-nineteenth century merchant's residence by a man whose associates were among the most important citizens of industrial Akron.

Andrew Jackson was one of the founders of Jackson, Buchtel and Company in 1865, a lumber firm which developed large logging tracts in Michigan. His partner William Buchtel was the brother of John R. Buchtel, the founder of Buchtel College which was the forerunner of the University of Akron. Buchtel remained with Jackson only until 1871, when he organized his own lumber company, and later became an important banker. Jackson probably built this house a few years before the earliest available record of his living at this address (1870).

Jackson was then associated with John H. Hower, the industrialist who built the great Fir Hill Second Empire mansion which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. By 1879 Jackson also became a contractor and builder in addition to dealing in lumber, sash, doors, blinds, etc.

At the turn of the century the house was owned by John T. Johnson, general superintendent of the Cleveland Terminal and Valley Railroad and of the Akron Division of the B. & O. It was acquired from Johnson by the Akron I.O.O.F. Organized in 1845, the Akron lodge had built its own temple on Main Street in 1892. They sold that building and purchased the Jackson-Johnson house in 1918, occupying it in 1919. Among the original incorporators were A. G. Bachtel, Clerk of Common Pleas Court and I.O.O.F. Grand Master of Ohio, and James Corey, Chairman of the Republican Party of Summit County. The membership of the Odd Fellows has included the most important city officials and experts in all professions in the life of Akron. The building still serves a large number of fraternal organizations as a meeting place, and as a structure constitutes an important environmental asset to its location.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scott Dix Kenfield, Akron and Summit County, Ohio (Chicago, 1928), 523.
Karl H. Grismer, Akron and Summit County (Akron, n.d.), 656.
History of Summit County, Ohio (Chicago, 1881), 669.
Akron City Directories, 1870-1899.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
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<th>CORNER</th>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE: 

CODE 

COUNTY: 

CODE 

STATE: 

CODE 

COUNTY: 

CODE 

STATE: 

CODE 

COUNTY: 

CODE 

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: The Western Reserve Historical Society

DATE: October 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 10825 East Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland

STATE: Ohio

CODE: 039

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [X]

Name

Title

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
1. NAME

COMMON: Odd Fellows Temple
AND/OR HISTORIC: Jackson, Andrew, Residence

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 277 E. Mill Street
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Akron West Quadrangle
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1967

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

North and west elevations, looking southeast.
1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON**: Odd Fellows Temple
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC**: Jackson, Andrew, Residence

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER**: 277 East Mill Street
   - **CITY OR TOWN**: Akron
   - **STATE**: Ohio
   - **CODE**: 039
   - **COUNTY**: Summit
   - **CODE**: 153

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - **PHOTO CREDIT**: Lewis Henderson
   - **DATE OF PHOTO**: October 1974
   - **NEGATIVE FILED AT**: Lewis Henderson, Akron, Ohio

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**
     South facade and east elevation, looking northwest.
February 24, 1975

IOOF Temple Co.
277 East Mill St.
Akron, Ohio 44320

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to inform you that the Odd Fellows Temple (Andrew Jackson Residence), 277 East Mill St., has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is a brochure explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Pratt, Acting Director
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

CP/eml
enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Akron
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Jackson, Andrew, House

County: Summit

☑ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

☐ Multiple Property Nomination form

☐ Photograph(s)

☒ Photograph(s) (copies)

☐ USGS map(s)

☒ USGS map(s) (copies)

☐ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

☒ Correspondence

☒ Other news clippings

CES: 9/01