



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 127-6076-0049

1. General Property Information

Property name: Scottish Rite Temple

Property address: 4204 Hermitage Road

City or Town: Richmond

Zip code: 23227

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Richmond

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 4.923

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban X Suburban _____ Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural _____

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Scottish Rite Temple stands on a 4.923-acre irregularly shaped open parcel located between Hermitage Road and the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike (I-95) at the northern limit of the City of Richmond. The Turnpike is located on the western side of the parcel with Hermitage Road on the eastern side and the residential Bellevue neighborhood to the east and south. To the southwest is the Acca Temple Shrine. The building is located at the northern end of the lot, which slopes to the west, enabling major entrances into both levels of the building. There is a public sidewalk across the front of the lot along Hermitage Road and a wide concrete sidewalk from the street to the front door. There are plantings across the front. There is a low, brick-sided circular pool within a circular driveway at the rear entrance. An asphalt-paved parking lot south of the building occupies most of the parcel.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): _____

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: MacIlroy and Parris

If the builder is known, please list here: James Fox and Sons

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1969

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

The Scottish Rite Temple is a two-story, red-brick rectangular building with white trim and entrances on both levels: on the front at the upper level and on the rear at the lower level. The building was constructed in 1969 using precast concrete units. The exterior is sheathed with brick with alternating panels of smooth brick laid in Flemish bond and brick with both recessed and projecting headers creating a textured exterior appearance. A concrete porch encircles the building with mushroom columns supporting the overhanging flat roof. The roof has a penthouse for the theatre fly tower. The edge of the roof is decorated with sections of the meander design alternating with medallions with a double-headed eagle, a symbol of the Scottish Rite. Access to the sides and rear of the porch is restricted by a decorative iron railing. The front entrance is located within four tall, pointed-arch windows separated by thin projecting sections of cast concrete and topped with cast concrete panels. Opposite the front entrance on the rear wall is an identical set of windows, but without doors. There are two entrances on the lower level at the rear. Both consist of aluminum-framed doors with transoms enframed by concrete.

There is a one-story, flat-roof addition on the southern end of the building at the lower level. The cornice of this addition is white like the main roof, and ties into the porch on this end. White concrete pilasters divide the southern elevation of the addition into sections repeating the rhythm of the columns on the main building. The entrance to the addition is on the western end and there are dark windows of decreasing size (front west to east) on the south side. A porte cochere was added to the rear to shelter the rear entrance at the lower level. The concrete columns supporting the concrete flat roof of the porte cochere are white and tied into the rear porch. The porte cochere from the building to the driveway has aluminum-framed windows on a low concrete base.

The interior plan consists of a two-story central hall/lobby the width of the building on the main level. On the north side of the hall is the auditorium that seats 650. On the south side of the hall is the ticketing area with a very plain lodge room at the front and a stair and an elevator at the rear or western end. There is an enclosed mezzanine on the south side of the center hall above the ticketing area. The auditorium wall in the hall is sheathed with wooden panels. Non-lobby walls are painted concrete block with acoustical tile ceilings.

The auditorium has painted concrete block walls, except for the rear wall, which has vertical acoustical baffles. The stage is located at the northern end and the seats are arranged in a slight semi-circle with two aisles. To the rear and western side of the auditorium are utilitarian service areas.

The lower level contains several main rooms in addition to utilitarian service rooms. The finishes in the lower level are mainly painted concrete-block walls and acoustical-tile ceilings. At the entrance is a lobby with the

stair and elevator on one side. Directly ahead to the east is a large room served by a kitchen that occupies much of the south side of this level. A second lodge room is located on the north side of this level. The lodge room features sections of columns with an entablature on three of the four walls. The western wall has two Doric columns with an entablature with a frieze with triglyphs and metopes. The southern wall has two Corinthian columns with modillions and dentils on the entablature. The eastern wall is the most elaborate, with a raised platform with four Ionic columns and two pilasters with a fairly plain entablature. The northern wall has seats on risers.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- There are no outbuildings for this property.
-
-

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.
If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that traces its origins to 13th-century guilds of stonemasons. Its popularity has spread throughout the world, primarily in Europe, the United Kingdom, and North and South America. A Grand Lodge oversees the local lodges in each country, province, or state. More than a dozen different degree systems or Rites of Freemasonry exist. A Rite is a progressive series of degrees conferred by various Masonic organizations, each of which operates under the control of its own central authority. The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is the most popular Rite in the United States. The Richmond Valley Scottish Rite constructed this building in which to hold its functions.¹

On August 23, 1965, Richmond Scottish Rite officers voted to approve the sale of the 1919 temple at 311 North Harrison Street to Richmond Professional Institute.² Richmond City Council approved, on May 23, 1966, rezoning a tract "on the west side of Hermitage Road between Bellevue Ave. and the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike" for "the development of a Scottish Rite Temple."³ The Richmond Valley Scottish Rite members formally announced plans to build the new \$1.4 million temple "next to Acca Temple Shrine" on Hermitage Road on May 9, 1967.⁴

By February 4, 1968, the city had issued a building permit for the project; the contractor was James Fox and Sons.⁵ According to the *Concrete Industries Yearbook*, "the precast concrete units for this structure, made with Universal Atlas Cement, were produced by Economy Cast Stone Co. at South Richmond, Va."⁶ The Richmond architectural firm of MacIlroy and Parris, 3805 Cutshaw Avenue, designed the new temple. Kenneth G. MacIlroy and Fred P. Parris were the principals in the firm. Their other significant Virginia projects were Manchester High School in Chesterfield County; Hermitage Methodist Home in Onancock; Franklin High School in Southampton County; and Richmond Technical Center.⁷

On April 12, 1969, members of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia, led by Grand Master Julian Cooke Roden, laid the cornerstone of the new temple.⁸ The building, which already was under construction when the cornerstone was laid, likely was completed by September 16, 1969, when Betsy Ross Chapter 90, Order of the Eastern Star, held a ceremony there "to honor all past matrons and past patrons."⁹ On February 12, 1970, the Blanch Spencer Chapter 11, Order of the Eastern Star, met in the finished temple.¹⁰

The Scottish Rite Temple has been described as

¹ "Freemasonry," Wikipedia website, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasonry>, accessed Feb. 27, 2023; "List of Masonic rites," Wikipedia website, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Masonic_rites, accessed Feb. 27, 2023; "Scottish Rite," Wikipedia website, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Rite, accessed Feb. 27, 2023.

² *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Aug. 24, 1965. The former temple was later demolished to construct Virginia Commonwealth University's W. E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in 1982.

³ *Ibid.*, May 24, 1966.

⁴ *Ibid.*, May 10, 1967.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Feb. 4, 1968.

⁶ *Concrete Industries Yearbook*, 1971, p. 281.

⁷ John F. Gane, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker Co. for American Institute of Architects, 1970), 567, 695.

⁸ *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Apr. 13, 1969.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Sept. 16, 1969.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Feb. 12, 1970.

a two-story, one-bay, International style building clad in brick with a rectangular plan, a flat roof, and fixed metal windows. The entrance is marked by a glass and metal frame door. Stylistic elements include unornamented walls and asymmetrical façade. It sits on a deep rectangular lot featuring a large paved parking lot and a well-kept landscape along the street front.¹¹

The parcel, the temple, and the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center were listed for sale on August 6, 2018.¹² The announcement that the Virginia Repertory Theatre purchased the temple was made on October 12, 2022.¹³

¹¹ National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Hermitage Road Historic District, DHR File 127-6076, 2005, on DHR website, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/VLR_to_transfer/PDFNoms/127-6076_HermitageRoadHD_2006_NR_final.pdf, accessed Nov. 16, 2022.

¹² *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Aug. 6, 2018. The language center building is named for Earl H. Wicker, a Richmond builder and developer who was a Mason.

¹³ *Ibid.*, Oct. 12, 2022.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969, 2018, 2022.
- *Concrete Industries Yearbook*, 1971.
- Lisa Wood, Bonnie Alberts, Catherine Easterling, Robert Taylor, Sevanne Steiner, and Jean McRae, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Hermitage Road Historic District, DHR File 127-6076.
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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Phil Whiteway, Managing Director

organization: Virginia Repertory Theatre

street & number: 114 West Board Street

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23220

e-mail: pwhiteway@virginiarep.org telephone: 804-592-4552

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: 2/24/23

P. Whiteway, En Virginia Repertory Theatre

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Phil Whiteway, Managing Director

Daytime Telephone: 804-592-4552

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Ashley Neville

organization: Ashley Neville LLC

street & number: 11311 Cedar Lane

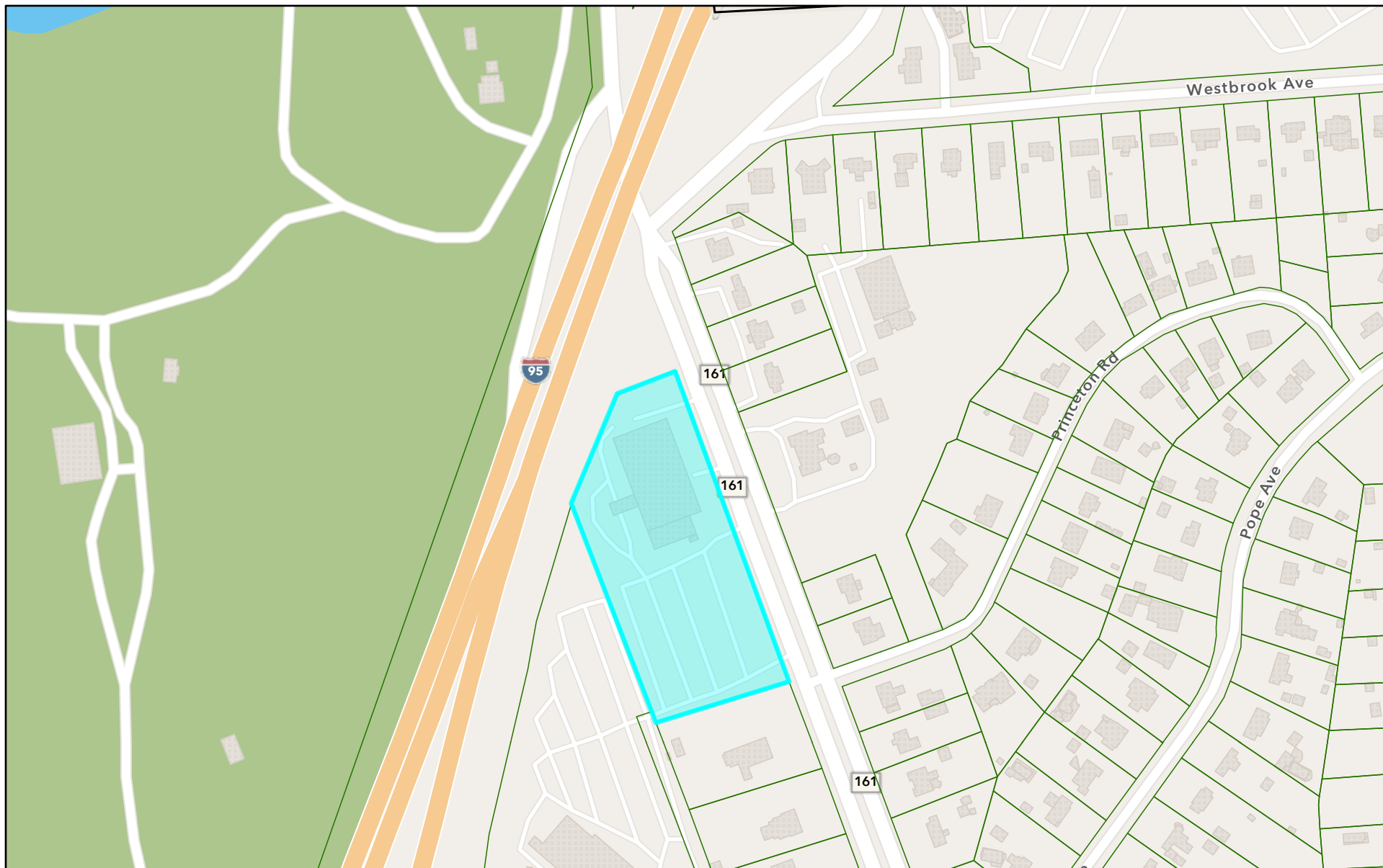
city or town: Glen Allen state: VA zip code: 23059

e-mail: Ashley Neville telephone: 804-307-4601

Date: _____

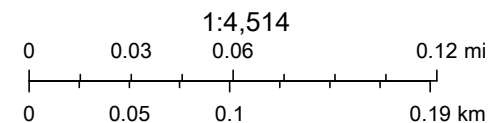
PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

Scottish Rite Temple (127-6076-0049), Richmond, VA



2/27/2023, 5:29:04 PM

- CityBoundary
- Parcels

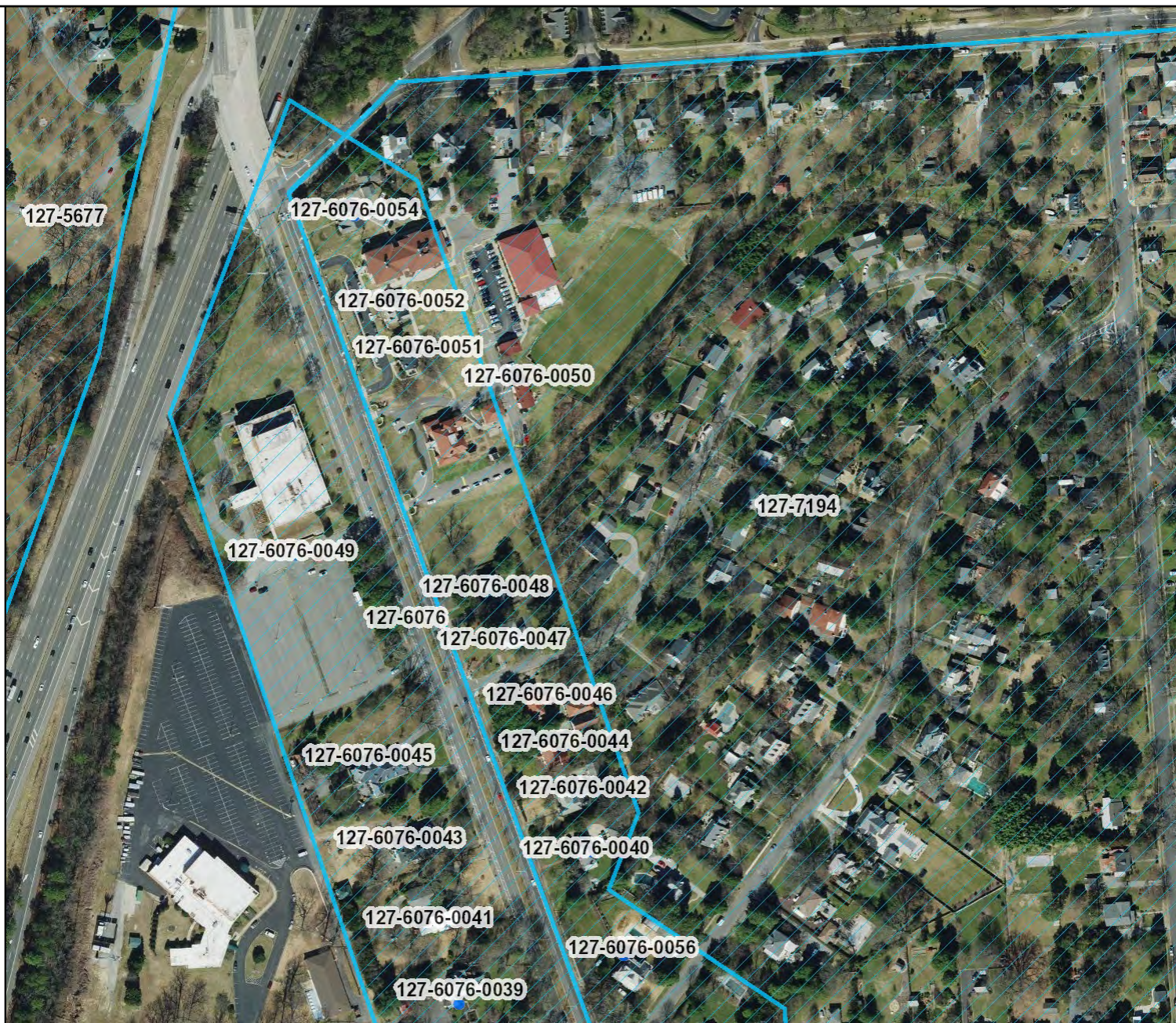


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Legend

- Architecture Labels
- Public View Architecture Points
- Public View Historic Districts
- County Boundaries



Title: Scottish Rite Temple (127-6076-0049), Richmond,

Date: 2/27/2023

VA
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Feet

0 100 200 300 400
 1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

Scottish Rite Temple (127-6076-0049)

PIF Photo List

1. Façade, view to the northwest
2. Façade, view to the northwest
3. Façade, view to the southwest
4. Façade entrance, view to the west
5. South side and rear, view to the north
6. West side showing columns and textures wall finish
7. Cornice detail
8. Rear and porte cochere
9. Upper level lobby looking to the front, view to the east
10. Upper level lobby looking to the rear, auditorium on right side, view to the west
11. Auditorium, view to the northwest
12. Auditorium, view to the south
13. Auditorium rear wall, view to the southeast
14. Lodge Room No. 1, upper level, view to the east
15. Lodge Room No. 2, lower level, view to the southeast
16. Lodge Room No. 2, lower level, view to the southwest
17. Lodge Room No. 2, lower level, view to the northeast
18. Lower level large room, view to the south





1204



Virginia Repertory
Theatre



4204





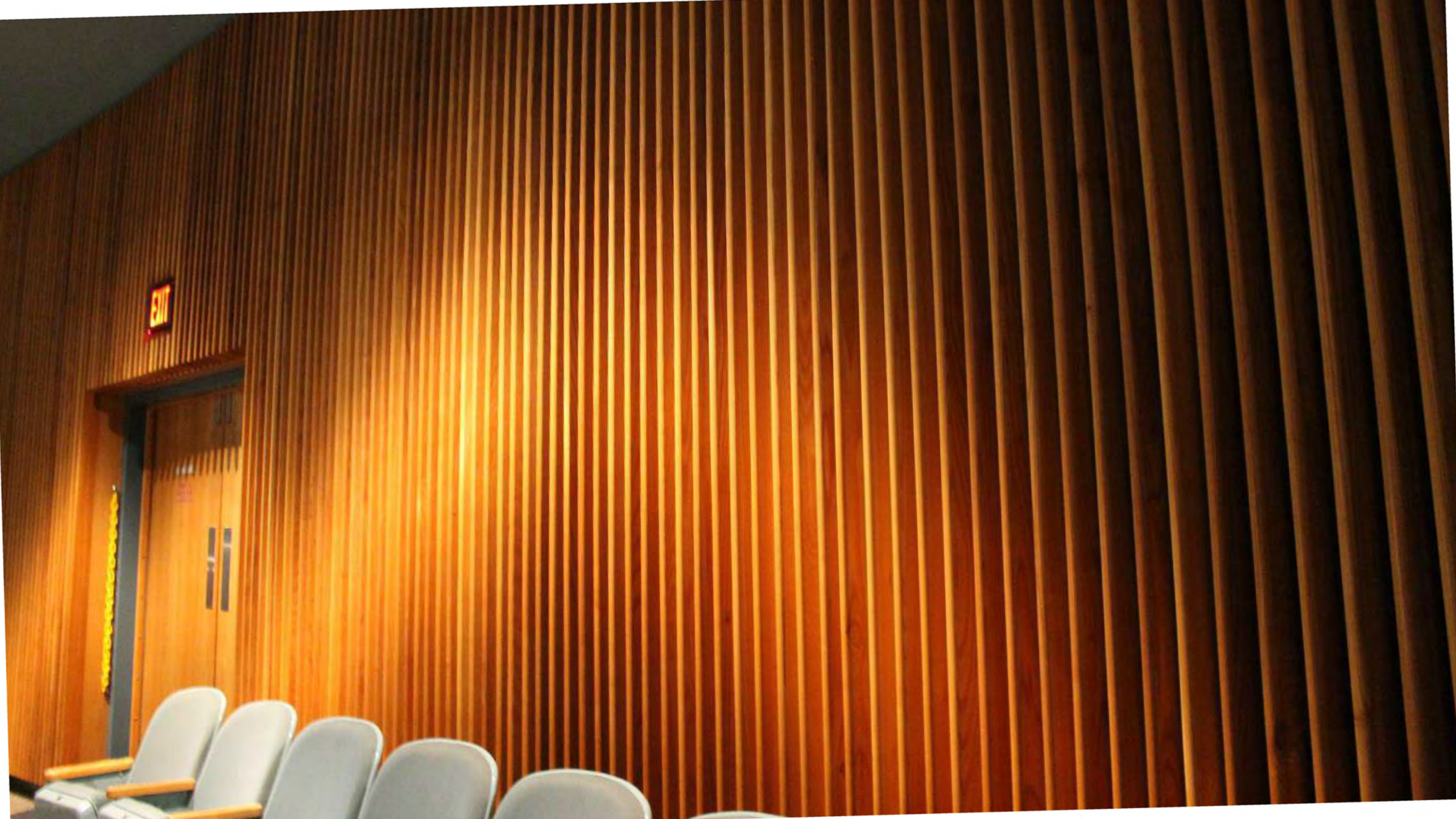




















our Court