



South Side Masonic Temple

Address: 6400 S. Green Street

Date: 1921

Architect: Clarence Hatzfeld

**CHRS
Rating:** Orange

Threat:

Abandoned since the mid-1980's, the South Side Masonic Temple commands a powerful presence in its mostly low-rise Englewood neighborhood. Owned since 1997 by Prologue, a highly regarded alternate high school for inner-city youth, they have been fighting a two-front war to both keep the building standing and raise the funds to renovate the building into its new campus. They have been mired in housing court for the last two years fighting a variety of code violations, which may eventually force the city to order its demolition.

Description:

Three stories of Ionic columns dominate the facades of this classical revival styled building. It was originally built as the home of a fraternal organization and contained multiple meeting halls decorated in a variety of historic architectural styles including Art Deco, Egyptian Revival and Moorish. Though little of this original décor remains intact, the building itself remains structurally sound. However, the building remains open to the elements and continues to deteriorate.

Architect:

Clarence Hatzfeld was perhaps best known for the large number of park district buildings that he designed, including those at Indian Boundary Park, Jefferson Park, Portage Park, Revere Park, Independence Park, Gompers Park, and Greenbrier Park.

Fulfillment of Landmark Criteria:

The South Side Masonic Temple meets a required number of the criteria established by the Chicago Landmarks Commission for preliminary landmark status.

Integrity: Despite a certain amount of decay over time, the South Side Masonic Temple retains a high degree of its original features, including limestone cornice and some exterior details. Certain interiors of the once-lavish building also survive.

1. **Significant Architect:** Clarence Hatzfeld is best known for the large number of park district buildings that he designed, including those at Indian Boundary Park, Jefferson Park, Portage Park, Revere Park, Independence Park, Gompers Park, and Greenbrier Park. Hatzfeld's contributions to Chicago architecture are not widely known, but his solid and well-crafted buildings never fail to enrich their environments.
2. **Significant Architecture:** Perhaps most architecturally significant about the South Side Masonic Temple is its commanding presence in the Englewood Community. Anchoring the southwest corner of the traditional Englewood "city center," this building is one of the only few relics from Englewood's heyday, when at one time the nearby commercial strip at 63rd Street was a destination surpassed only by State Street.

Measuring in at seven stories, the structure is easily one of the most grandest, and most distinguishable, left in Englewood. A restoration project of this magnitude could easily serve as a beacon of promise to surrounding residents. Coupled with the newly-created Kennedy King College in a campus setting, this building can serve as a link to Englewood's glorious past, while escorting its residents into a brighter future. Englewood would not be the same without its presence.

Three stories of Ionic columns dominate the facades of this classical revival-styled buildings. It was originally built as a lodge of the Masons fraternal organization, and contained multiple meeting halls decorated appropriately in a variety of historic architectural styles including Art Deco, Egyptian Revival and Moorish Revival. Though only a fraction of this original décor remains intact, the building itself remains structurally sound. Masons, whose deep roots extend into the building and construction arts, built buildings intended to stand the test of time. The South Side Masonic Temple is no exception. Its solid construction is admirable, and its decoration too is designed to convey a richness and stability so often lacking in today's mass-produced designs.