

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received JUL 6 1987

date entered AUG -6 1987

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street & number 111 East Washington Street not for publication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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Paris Elks Lodge #812 Building

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

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

Acreage 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	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C

Zone		Easting				Northing									

D

Zone		Easting				Northing									

E

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H

Zone		Easting				Northing									

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.

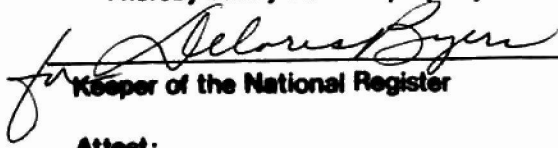
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 


title Director

date June 30, 1987

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in 
National Register

date 8/6/87

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3Paris Elks Lodge #812 Building

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.

87001343

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Paris Elks Lodge No. 812 Building
Edgar County
ILLINOIS

Working No. JUL - 6 1987
Fed. Reg. Date: 3/2/87
Date Due: 8/6/87 - 8/20/87
Action: ACCEPT 8-6-87
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Paris First Lodge No. 812 Building
Paris, Illinois
TAMM

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



- 1) Elks Lodge ^{#812} 6) Northeast view
- 2) Paris, IL ^{Bldg} 7) Photo #1
- 3) Dana L. Pratt
- 4) April 23, 1987
- 5) The URBANA Group-Urbana, IL



- 1) Elks Lodge #812
- 2) Paris, IL Bldg
- 3) Dana L. Pratt
- 4) April 23, 1987
- 5) The URBANA Group-Urbana, IL
- 6) Northwest view
- 7) Photo # 2



- 1) Elks Lodge ~~#1~~ ^{#2} 6) North view of
- 2) Paris, IL ^{Bldg} street facade
- 3) Dana L. Pratt 7) Photo ^{#3}
- 4) April 23, 1987
- 5) The URBANA Group-Urbana, IL



PARKING FOR
HOTEL GUESTS

- 1) Elks Lodge^{#8126}) Southwest view
- 2) Paris, IL^{Bldg. 7}) Photo # 4
- 3) Dana L. Pratt
- 4) April 23, 1987
- 5) The URBANA Group-Urbana, IL



- 1) Elks Lodge #812
- 2) Paris, IL Bldg.
- 3) Dana L. Pratt
- 4) April 23, 1987
- 5) The URBANA Group-Urbana, IL
- 6) East view
- 7) Photo #5



- 1) Elks Lodge #8126) Southwest roof
- 2) Paris, IL Bldg. corner
- 3) Dana L Pratt 7) Photo #6
- 4) April 23, 1987
- 5) The URBANA Group-Urbana, IL

BENEVOLENT
AND
PROTECTIVE

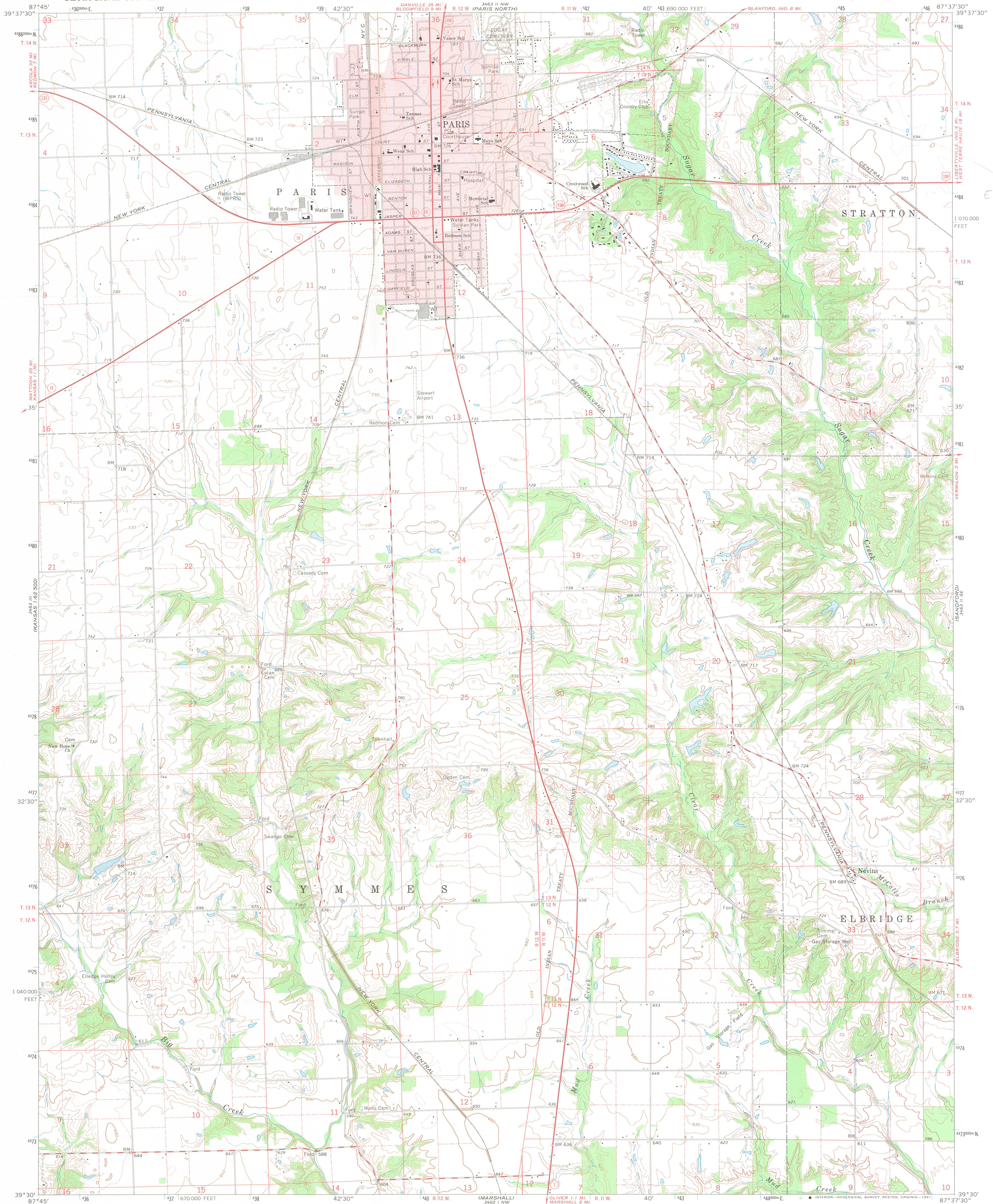
ORDER OF ELKS. No. 812

CHARTERED 1902

ERECTED 1927

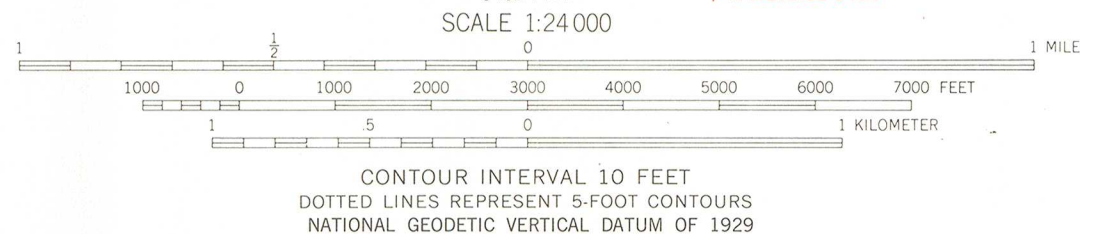
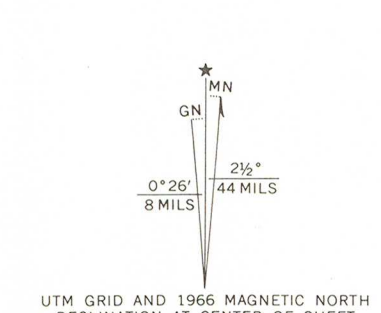
- 1) Elks Lodge #812 Bldg.
- 2) Paris, IL
- 3) Dana L. Pratt
- 4) April 23, 1987
- 5) The URBANA Group-Urbana, IL
- 6) Northview of cornerstone
- 7) Photo #7

Elks Lodge



Elks Lodge
E 440460
N 4384560
zone #16

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 1 meter south and
3 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Map photoinspected 1977
No major culture or drainage changes observed



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PARIS SOUTH, ILL.
SW/4 PARIS 15' QUADRANGLE
N3930—W8737.5/7.5
1966
PHOTOINSPECTED 1977
AMS 3463 II SW—SERIES V863



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Old State Capitol • Springfield • 62701

July 1, 1987

Beth Grosvenor
National Register Program
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the signed nomination form and accompanying documentation for the Paris Elks Lodge #812 Building, 111 East Washington Street, Paris, Illinois.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann".

Ann V. Swallow
Assistant National
Register Coordinator

AVS:st

Enclosure

JUL 6 1987