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Title: Extra Credit - Influence of Greek and Roman Architecture on *Scottish Rite Temple*

A three-story Neoclassical building¹ located on the east corner of North Third and St. James Street, downtown San Jose, shows the influences of Greek, Roman and Egyptian Architecture on a Bay Area building. It was designed by Carl Werner² in 1925 for the local Masonic order as *Scottish Rite Temple*³ and is now known as *Corinthian Grand Ballroom*. During the 1980's this building was functions as the *San Jose Athletic Center*⁴.

The front door portico is rising up on a podium, following the Roman temple design observed in *Maison Carrée (Square House)* in Nimes, France⁵. The perron has 14 steps⁶ and is guarded by twin buttresses on each side with a large ornamentation⁷, supported by three Egyptian atlantes, on top of each. Meandros, also known as Greek fret⁸ or Greek key design, decorates the buttress⁹ and the extended ground edges of the portico. The Meandros motif, which decorates many old Greek artifacts, follows the pattern of the meander mosaic¹⁰ found on the floor of *VI.8. Women's Baths Tepidarium*¹¹ in Herculaneum, Italy. The portico is supported by six Greek columns in Ionic order¹², resembling the look of the columns on the East façade of *The*

¹ See Fig A-1.

² Johnson, Bob. *San Jose*. Arcadia Publishing, 2010. (112)

³ "Scottish Rite Temple Historical Marker." *Historical Marker*, 13 Feb. 2021, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=30285>.

⁴ Calande, Nicole, and Alyson Chuyang. "San Jose's Historic Landmarks: Then and Now." *SJtoday*, SJtoday, 18 Jan. 2023, <https://sjtoday.6amcity.com/historic-landmarks-san-jose-ca>.

⁵ See Fig A-1, A-6 and compare with Fig B-1.

⁶ See Fig A-1 and A-6.

⁷ See Fig A-2.

⁸ Baum, Henry Mason, et al. "The Evolution of the Greek Fret." *Records of the Past*, vol. 6, no. 4-7, 1907.

⁹ See Fig A-2 and A-6.

¹⁰ See Fig B-2.

¹¹ "Herculaneum VI.8. Women's Baths Tepidarium." *Herculaneum in Pictures: Ercolano Insulas, Theatre, Villa Dei Papiri, Casa Dei Rilievi Dionisiaci*, <https://herculaneum.uk/Ins%206/Herculaneum%206%2008%20p2.htm>.

¹² See Fig A-1, A-2, A-4, and A-5.

Erechtheion¹³ in Athens, Greece. Each shaft of the column was carved with 24 flutes¹⁴ and was built by 8 levels of stones, the same as how the columns were built in The Erechtheion¹⁵. A close up examination of the shafts revealed that each level was composed of two half circles shaped stones together and therefore required smaller stones. The connection of the two halves on adjacent levels alternatively rotates 90 degrees to keep the columns strong.

On top of each column, a double laurel ring ornament decorates the frieze¹⁶. On the cornice, small lion head ornaments are placed on top of each column. Groups of flowers, each modeled after those found on the anthemion frieze fragment of The Erechtheion¹⁷, currently displayed in the British Museum¹⁸, carved between a pair of lion heads. Between the first and the second columns on each side, there are six flowers in the group, but the center three groups have seven¹⁹, showing the gaps in outer columns are slightly shorter and follows the design in The Parthenon²⁰, Athenian Acropolis, Greece. The lion heads imitate the head of ancient Greek Piraeus Lion²¹, which was sculpted in about 360 BCE as a famous landmark in Piraeus. Piraeus was the chief sea port of Athens. In 1687, Venetian navy attacked Piraeus and looted the lion heads back to Arsenal, Venice, Italy²². There is no pediment on top of the entablature but a large Attic²³ instead. This is influenced by the design of the Roman Arch of Constantine²⁴, Rome. Two

¹³ See Fig. B-3, B-4, and B-5.

¹⁴ See Fig. A-4, A-5, and A-6.

¹⁵ See Fig. B-3.

¹⁶ See Fig. A-5.

¹⁷ See Fig. B-6

¹⁸ Loth, Calder. "Greek Architectural Treasures in the British Museum." *Institute of Classical Architecture & Art*, <https://www.classicist.org/articles/classical-comments-greek-architectural-treasures-in-the-british-museum/>.

¹⁹ See Fig A-7.

²⁰ See Fig. B-7.

²¹ Chrysopoulos, Philip. "Ancient Greek Lion from Piraeus Now Adorns Venice's Arsenal." *GreekReporter.com*, 28 Mar. 2022, <https://greekreporter.com/2022/03/28/ancient-greek-lion-piraeus-venice/>.

²² See Fig. B-8.

²³ See Fig A-7.

²⁴ See Fig. B-9.

statues are placed on the Attic, each within a niche, to surround a center rectangle area for unknown purpose.

The building is three times wider than the entrance podium, with three columns of rectangle windows on each wing. Two Sphinx statues²⁵ were placed on each side in front of false doors. All the windows and the two false doors are in Greek Post and Lintel style without round arches nor pointed arches. The four windows on the first floor were protected by steel grids and there are plates of engraved text on top of them and the two false doors. The engraved English words are all in uppercase old Roman typeface with the glyph V designated for letter U.

This neoclassical structure in downtown San Jose which was constructed almost 100 years ago demonstrates the influences of Greek and Roman architectures toward the taste of building in the modern-day United States from many different aspects. Some of the influences can be easily spotted while others require in depth research to understand the linkages. The style and placement of the columns, the decoration motif, the details on the frieze, and the use of the attic all point us back to ancient Greek and Roman structures.

²⁵ See Fig. A-3.

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Appendix A- Images of Scottish Rite Temple, 196 North Third Street, San Jose, California

Fig A-1 The front view of the Scottish Rite Temple.



(Left) Fig A-2. Ornamentation, supported by three Egyptian atlantes on top of a bustress decorated in Meandros motif.

(Right) Fig A-3. Sphinx

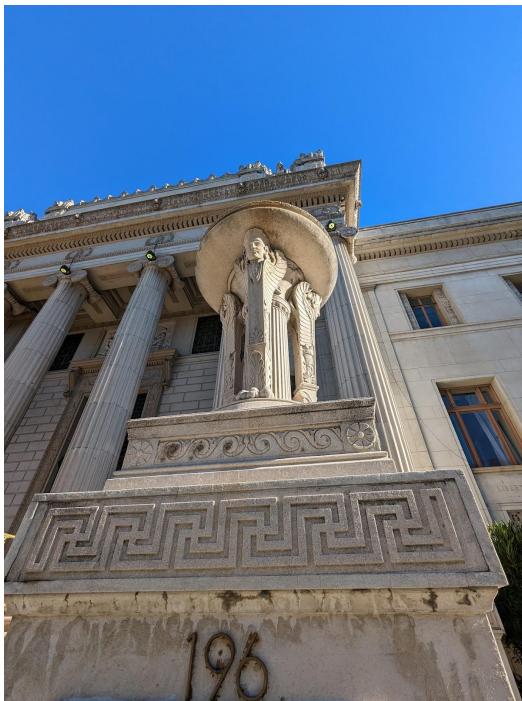


Fig A-4. Column and ceiling.



Fig A-5 Columns in Ionic order. Frieze decorated by double laurel ring ornament.

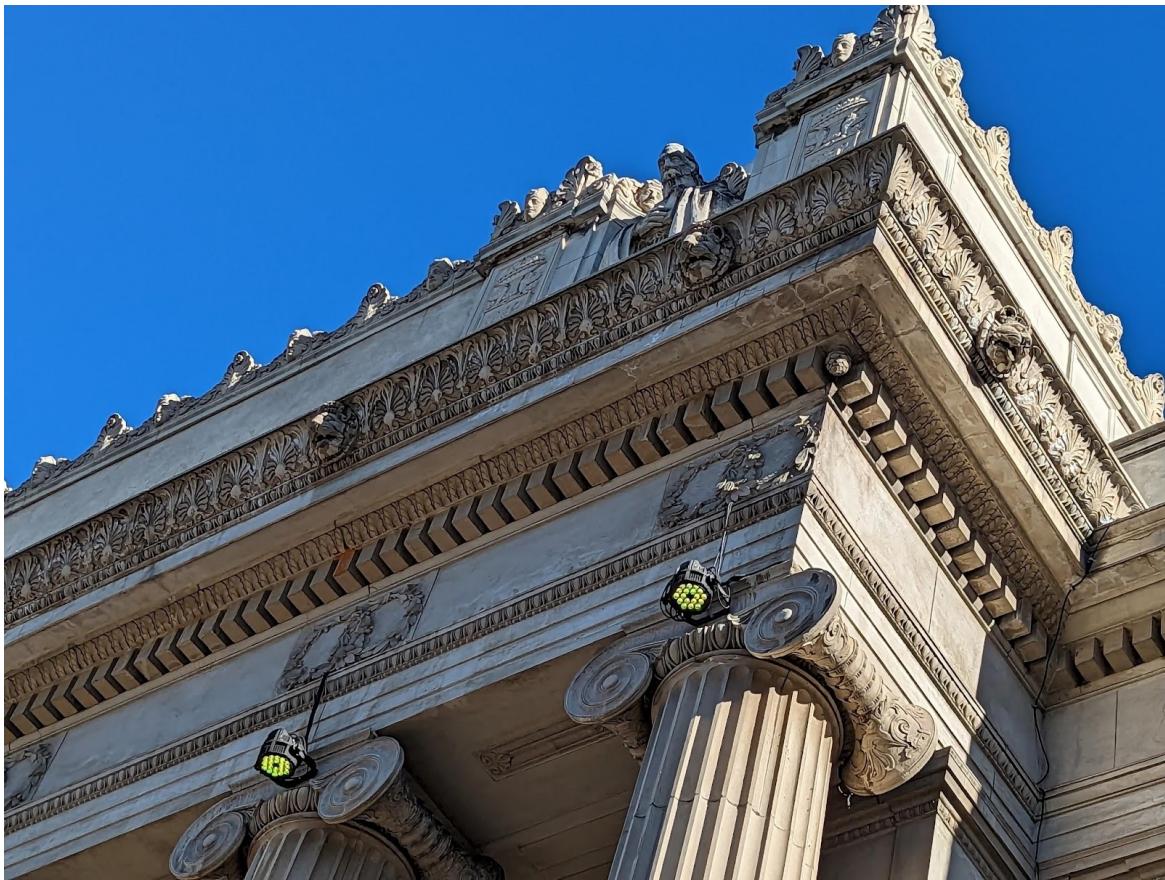
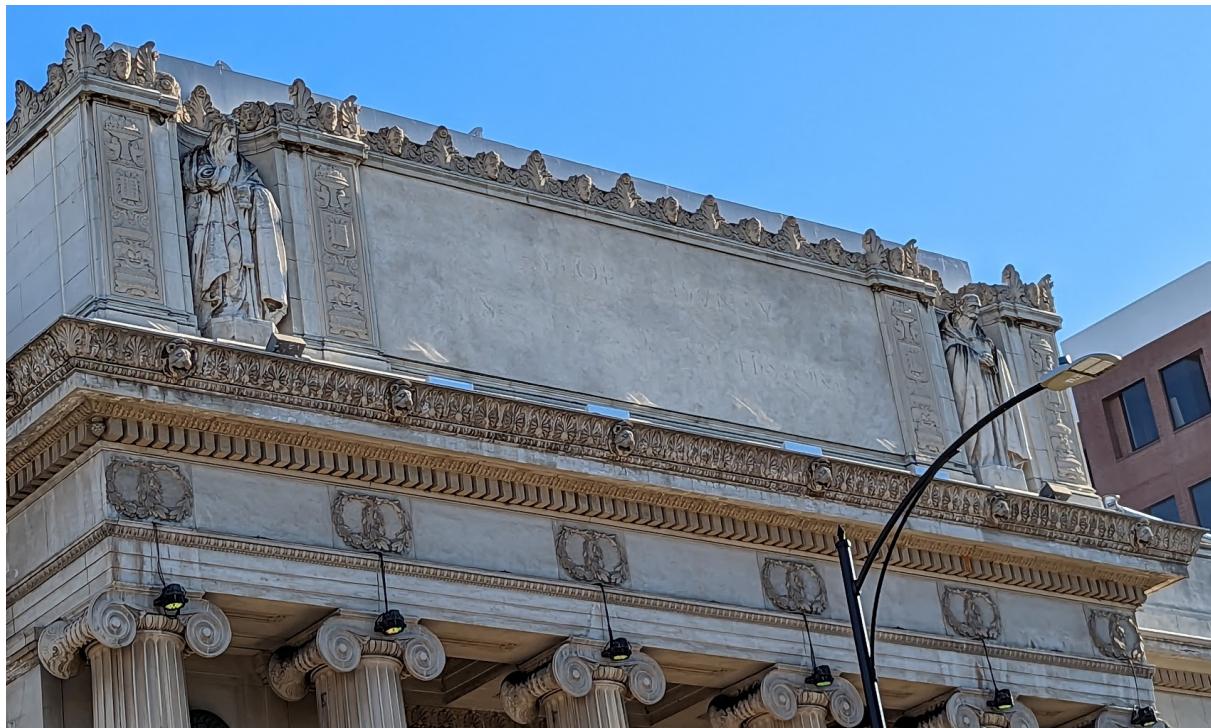


Fig A-6 Perron, based on the columns, bustress, and the large Egyption style ornamentation.



Fig A-7 Attic and the details of frieze. Notice in the frieze, there are only six flowers between the outer and inner lion heads, but seven between inner lion heads, showing the outer columns are placed in closer distance. Statues inside niches on both sides.



Appendix B- Images of Greek and Roman Architecture Influenced This Work

(Left) Fig B-1. Podium of Maison Carrée (Square House) in Nimes, France.

(Right) Fig B-2. The Meandros motif in the meander mosaic of VI.8. Women's Baths Tepidarium, Herculaneum, Italy.



(Left) Fig B-3. Ionic order columns in the East façade of The Erechtheion in Athens, Greece.

(Right) Fig B-4. Capital of the Ionic order column in the East façade of The Erechtheion.



(Left) Fig B-5. The base of the Ionic order column in the East façade of The Erechtheion.

(Right) Fig B-6. The anthemion frieze fragment of Erechtheion. Currently displayed in British Museum, London, England,



(Left) Fig B-7. The Parthenon, Athenian Acropolis, Greece. This old photo of my stepfather during the 1960's shows the width between the outer column and the second column is narrower than the width between other columns.

(Right) Fig B-8. Piraeus Lion (cc 360 BCE), a famous landmark in Piraeus, the chief sea port of Athens, Greece. Later looted by Venetian navy in 1687 to Arsenal, Venice, Italy.



Fig B-9. Children of the author filmed on the second floor of the Colosseum with the Arch of Constantine in the background. June 17, 2007 in Rome, Italy. Many Roman triumphal arches exhibit the design of tall Attic.

