

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

For NPS use only

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

received **SEP 5 1986**
date entered **OCT 2 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Gabilan Lodge Number 372, Independent Order of Odd Fellows

and/or common Odd Fellows Lodge

2. Location

street & number 117 Fourth Street N/A not for publication

city, town Gonzales N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county Monterey County code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Gonzales

street & number 109 Fourth Street

city, town Gonzales N/A vicinity of state California 93926

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk and Recorder - County Court House

street & number 312 E. Alisal Street

city, town Salinas state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gabilan Lodge Number 372, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (known as the Odd Fellows Hall), in Gonzales, California, is a one-story vernacular neo-classical building. Its appearance suggests a free-standing public building; however, it is joined at the northeast side by a one-story commercial building and nearly joined at the southwest side by the Gonzales City Hall. The building is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, an unusual material for the time of construction. A 30' by 65' addition to the rear of the original 30' by 70' structure was made in the 1940s to accommodate a kitchen and dining room. The original building, the addition, and the interior remain virtually unchanged and intact.

Site

The Odd Fellows Hall occupies nearly its entire 30' by 140' site. The original 30' by 70' building extended from the side property line to side property line, fronting on Fourth Street. In the 1940s, a 30' by 65' addition was placed at the rear of the original structure, extending almost to the alley. The northeast side is joined to a one-story commercial building, and the southwest side is separated from the Gonzales City Hall by a roofed accessway extending from Fourth Street to the alley on the City Hall property. The addition is one-story, utilitarian, with wood siding.

Building Exterior

The front or Fourth Street facade is one-story in height and divided into three equal bays by simply-detailed pilasters. The entry is in the center bay, which has a tall rectangular opening divided by a transom bar. A single aluminum frame door with transom light is recessed in the entry. In each bay on either side of the center bay, are large windows with round arch heads and fan lights. Below each window is a decorative panel with a diamond motif. Resting on the plaster capitals is a pressed metal cornice with dentil band. Above the cornice is a parapet with pilasters continuing the line of those below, and with the I.O.O.F. sign identifying the building located above the entry bay on the parapet. The remaining three facades are either covered or undetailed. The window and door openings remain unchanged, although there have been changes to the actual windows and the entry door. These changes were made in the 1950s.

Building Interior

The interior is divided into two large rooms, one of which is the original building and the other of which is the 1940s addition. Restrooms have been enclosed in each room. The original hall has wood wainscot approximately 5' in height, plaster walls, wood picture rail and cornice, and pressed metal ceiling which extends down the side walls to the wood cornice. The addition has knotty pine wainscot and plaster walls. The interior of the building is nearly intact, with the original light fixtures and special furnishings used by the Odd Fellows. The wainscot in the original portion of the building has been painted and the floor has been carpeted. The wainscot in the addition has its original finish.

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 1914, addition 1940's **Builder/Architect** H. B. Douglas

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The architectural significance of the Gabilan Lodge 372, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (commonly known as the Odd Fellows Lodge), lies in the fact that, while small in scale, it is one of the three remaining grand public buildings in Gonzales, a rural community of simple structures. Constructed of cast-in-place concrete, an unusual technique for that time, the simple classical detailing announces the importance of the building as a community landmark, and distinguishes it from the commercial buildings of the streetscape. Also of significance, is the fact that the Odd Fellows Lodge is virtually in its original condition, inside and out. The social/humanitarian significance of the Odd Fellows Lodge is that, like each one of the network of such lodges across the United States, it was an important social and financial center of its community. This was because the Odd Fellows provided its members not only with secret ritual and ceremony, but the with the only forms of life and health insurance commonly available at the time. In many small rural and mountain communities, the Odd Fellows came to occupy a role of importance in the community beyond its stated purpose, because as Fred Rianda, a member of the Gabilan Lodge Number 372 for 58 years, put it, "Anyone who was anyone in Gonzales was a member of the Odd Fellows."¹

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows began in Manchester, England, in 1810. It was one of many of England's friendly societies which were organized to protect dues-paying members and their families against the financial consequences of death and injury. The first American lodge was formed in Baltimore in 1819. While, over the years, many refinements were made in the rituals of the Odd Fellowship, their stated purpose remained to bring mankind into one brotherhood, and that the remedy for the world's evils would always be fraternity.² The Odd Fellows society is a secret one whose members pass through degrees representing steps to fraternal enlightenment. Although outside the organization the degrees and rituals are not well known, every community is familiar with their local Odd Fellows hall, its social events, and its position as a focal point of the community. Probably the most important function of the Odd Fellows, and what was largely responsible for the growth of the society, was the insurance they offered their members. Membership dues were used to care for a sick or injured member's family, to provide funeral expenses in case of death, and to support widows and orphans.

The Gabilan Lodge Number 372 was formed in Gonzales, California, in 1892. Gonzales was founded in 1874 by the Gonzales brothers, and economic life centered around the development of typical town businesses, and cattle and dairy farming. By 1894, the population had grown to 500 and schools, churches, and other social institutions were well established in this rural community. Meetings of the Gabilan Lodge were held in the wood-frame Brockman house until it burned in a town fire in September of 1914. Prior to the fire, architect H. B. Douglas was in the process of developing plans for a new lodge, utilizing an unusual material for that time: cast-in-place concrete.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property .096 Acre

Quadrangle name Gonzales, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	6	3	9	4	8	0	4	0	4	1	1	9	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 northwest 20 feet of lot 2 and 10 feet of lot 3, Block 21, also known as Assessor's Parcel Number: 20-073-04, with 30 feet of frontage on Fourth Street, extending 140 feet to the northwest to an alley running NE/SW between Belden and Centre Streets. This is a boundary of convenience to encompass the historic structure.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allyn Feinberg

organization Community Services Collaborative (CSC) date July 7, 1986

street & number 1315 Broadway telephone (303) 442-3601

city or town Boulder state Colorado 80302

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 Kathryn Swaiter

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/28/86

For NPS use only

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

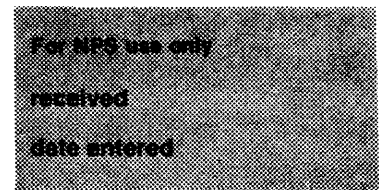
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]
Chief of Registration

8/28/86

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

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The lodge was constructed by Contractor Perry, and the first lodge meeting in the new building was held in January of 1915.³ As was typical of fraternal organizations in small communities across the country, the Odd Fellows Hall in Gonzales became the center of men's social life. The national Odd Fellows organization formed the Rebekahs as a way to include the member's wives. The importance of the Gabilan Lodge in Gonzales is indicated by its membership, which numbered about 200 in a community of 500 to 1,000.⁴ Because of its membership, the lodge became a center of political and financial power, as well as a social one.

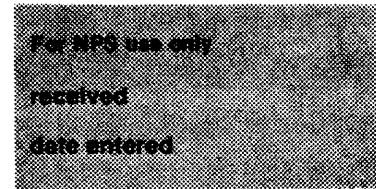
The Odd Fellows Hall has been in continuous use as the Gabilan Lodge meeting hall since its construction until it was purchased by the City of Gonzales in 1985. The use the City proposes for the building is meeting space in the original part of the structure, and a senior center in the addition. The building remains virtually intact, including original light fixtures, pressed metal ceiling, and skylight, and the new uses will not appreciably change the building.

Footnotes:

1. Interview with Mr. Fred Rianda, December 1985.
2. Ridgely, James L., History of American Oddfellowship; The First Decade, (James L. Ridgely: Baltimore, Maryland) 1898, pp. 2-3.
3. Minutes - 1914-1915, (Gabilan Lodge Number 372, I.O.O.F. Gonzales, California).
4. Gonzales Town History, (City of Gonzales: Gonzales, California).

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

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Gonzales Town History, (City of Gonzales: Gonzales, California).

Minutes - 1914-1915, (Gabilan Lodge Number 372, I.O.O.F. Gonzales, California).

Interview with Mr. Fred Rianda, December 1985.

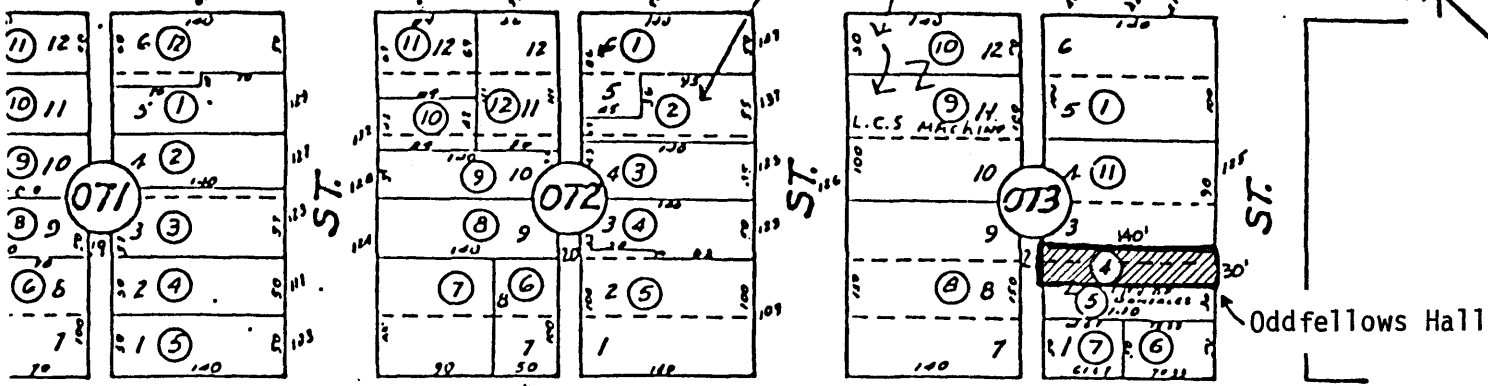
Gosden, P.H.J.H.,
1974 Self-Help; Voluntary Associations in 19th Century Britain, Barnes and Noble: N.Y.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings
1985 American Vernacular Design 1870-1940; An Illustrated Glossary,
Van Nostrand Reinhold: New York.

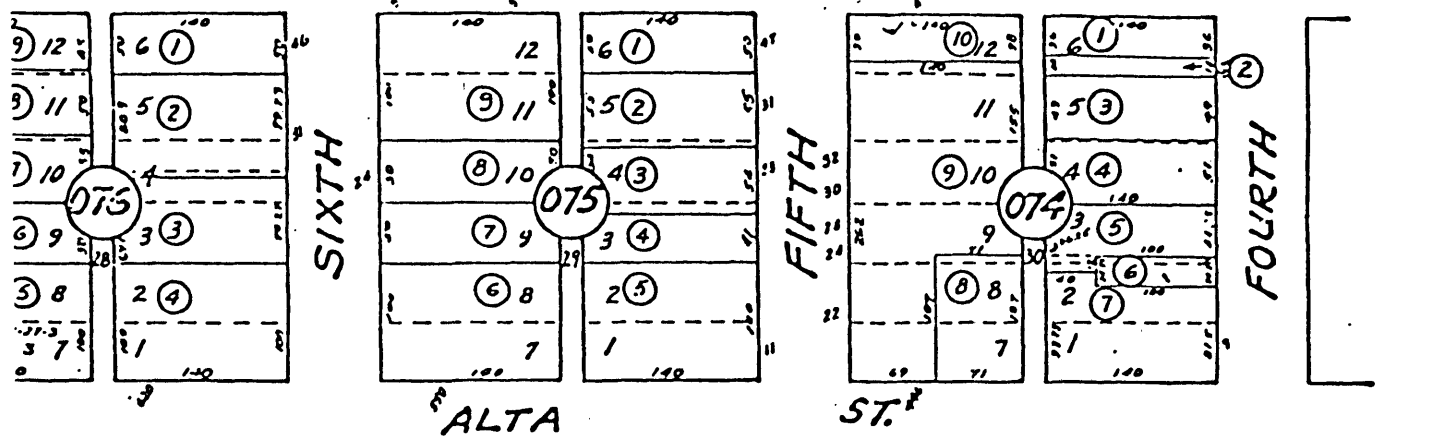
Ridgely, James L
1878 History of American Oddfellowship; The First Decade, James L. Ridgely:
Baltimore, Maryland.

B-3976H

CENTRE



BELDEN

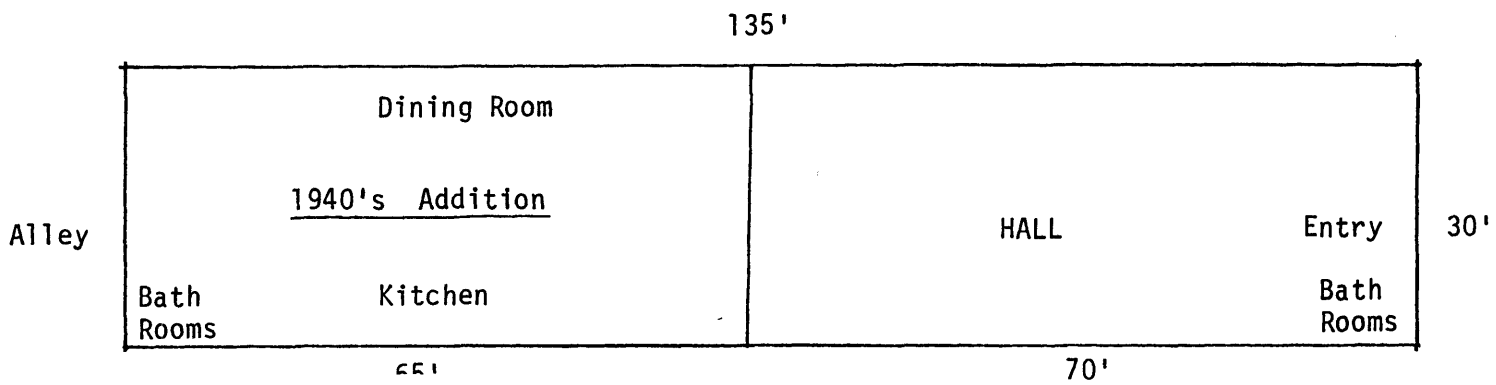


CALIF. STATE HWY. (ALTERNATE) No. 101

02

MAP OF GONZALES
 BLKS 19 TO 21 & 28 TO 30

SKETCH MAP



Gabilan Lodge Number 372, IOOF
 117 Fourth Street, Gonzales, Monterey Co.
 California

Scale 1" = 20'