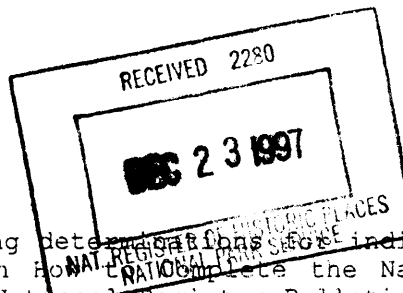


1658

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hood, William, House

other names/site number California State Historical Landmark No. 692

2. Location

street & number 7501 Sonoma Highway not for publication N/A
city or town Santa Rosa vicinity N/A
state California code CA county Sonoma code 097
zip code 95409-6597

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

for Daniel Abeyta, Deputy 12-5-97
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register
- ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Handwritten Signature] 2/6/99

Signature of Keeper Date
 tu of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> objects
	<u> </u> Total

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Hood House
Sonoma County, California

Page 3

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National
Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part
of a multiple property listing.) N/A

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

social history

Period of Significance 1924-1944

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Hood, William

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository: Sonoma County Architect, Santa Rosa, Calif.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	536940	4254900	3	---	---
2	---	---	---	4	---	---
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Buhler, Michael
organization Sonoma County Architect date 10-10-97
street & number 2300 County Center Drive, Suite A 220 telephone 707-527-3193
city or town Santa Rosa state CA zip code 95403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name County of Sonoma
street & number 2300 County Center Drive, Suite A 220 telephone 707-527-3211
city or town Santa Rosa state CA zip code 95403

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Hood House
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, CA

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION: ARCHITECTURAL

A. SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Hood House is located on the grounds of the Los Guilucos Youth Services Center, a juvenile detention facility outside Santa Rosa, California. Situated behind the facility, it is not plainly visible to the public (see Attachment A). Built in 1858 with bricks fired on-site by local Indians, the two-story mansion is the only known remaining pre-Civil War brick building in Sonoma County.¹ In 1905, it was expanded to its current size of 24 rooms and 6,813 square feet. The grounds include a sprawling front lawn which encompasses an oval reflecting pool and fountain, included in the resource count as a contributing structure. The mansion's design incorporates elements of style from both New England and Southern Colonial Architecture. With no major alterations since 1905, the house today appears basically as it did during its period of significance (1924-1944).

B. EXTERIOR

In 1905, U.S. Senator Thomas Kearns of Utah expanded the house to its current size by adding two second story wings and a dining room. William Hood's original design featured a two-story central section flanked by single story wings on each side, with 15 rooms and 4,243 square feet (see Attachment B).

¹ Del Miller, *Hood Mansion History: Los Guilucos Was Their Paradise* (Santa Rosa, Calif.: by the author, 1976), 1.

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Hood House
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An architectural description of the Hood House submitted with its 1959 State Historical Register application concluded:

The house bears the unmistakable influence of the Colonial or Georgian period of American Architecture. The period dated from the earliest Colonies to the Revolution (1775-83), but the influence persists to this day.

New England Colonial houses differed somewhat from the Colonial houses of the South. Isolated examples, however, can be cited to disprove any rule. The houses of New England were generally built of wood. The porches, if any, were one story high. In Williamsburg, Virginia, by contrast, the houses were built of brick and the porches extended the full height of the house. We mention the above differences in style in order to show that the Hood House borrowed from both the North and South.

The house is brick and shows signs of several additions.² The porch or verandah is only one story high, but extends the full width of the house. The supporting columns are square, with Doric mouldings (sic). The Colonial style generally employed round columns, but Mount Vernon (built in 1774), Virginia, is a good example of the square column with Doric style base, cap and entablature.³

In addition to these exterior details, the windows are framed by a plain cap and lower board trim, and the roof features a decorative cornice, dentils and modillions.

A circular driveway leads up to the front steps, curling around the lawn and an oval reflecting pool with fountain. Two covered walkways extending from the north and east of the house,

² Besides Kearns' additions, the Knights of Pythias fraternal organization added a downstairs bathroom in the 1930s or 1940s, and another owner constructed a new roof over the old (providing a unique opportunity to study old construction techniques).

³ Architectural description prepared by C.A. Caulkins, Jr., A.I.A. Heman G. Stark, California Youth Authority Director, to Aubrey Neasham, Historian, California Department of Natural Resources, Division of Beaches and Parks, 21 May 1959. Sonoma County Architect, Santa Rosa, Calif.

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Hood House
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, CA

respectively, are believed to have been built after the period of significance.⁴

C. INTERIOR

Upon entering the Hood House, one sees the staircase hall leading up to a landing and continuing to the second floor. The staircase includes a hand-turned newel, balusters and treads, with wooden wainscoting below the stairwell. Hardwood floors with original Douglas Fir planks span much of the interior. The ground level has 13 foot ceilings trimmed with decorative molding. Several rooms are augmented by wainscoting in a typical Dutch motif. The library to the right of the entryway includes vintage cabinetry believed to have been constructed by Hood.

Kearns added a large dining room (22' x 26') which connected the old kitchen quarters to the main complex.⁵ The walls are covered by oak paneling in a rail and stile square English design. A massive built-in hutch/buffet has curved wooden drawers and leaded glass doors with brass hardware. Eight wooden sconces jut out from the walls holding light fixtures. Because of Kearns' renovation, the interior of the Hood House differs from the standardized Colonial plan (that is, the living

⁴ The covered walkways are not depicted in photos of the mansion taken in 1934, ten years after the Knights of Pythias established the California Pythian Home.

⁵ Kearns also added an upstairs bathroom and fireplaces.

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Hood House
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, CA

room on one side of the central entrance and the dining room on the other).⁶ See Attachment C.

Because of its brick construction, the Hood House is well preserved. Although in relatively good condition, the mansion needs seismic retrofitting, plaster and window repairs, and some cosmetic refurbishing.

⁶ Architectural description prepared by C.A. Caulkins, Jr., A.I.A. Heman G. Stark, California Youth Authority Director, to Aubrey Neasham, Historian, California Department of Natural Resources, Division of Beaches and Parks, 21 May 1959. Sonoma County Architect, Santa Rosa, Calif.

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Hood House
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, CA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Hood House meets National Register Criterion A¹ for its association with the Knights of Pythias fraternal order and, in a broader sense, the proliferation of fraternal societies in the early twentieth century. Upon purchasing the Hood House (or "Los Guilucos") in 1924, the Knights of Pythias was at the height of its popularity, with nearly one million members nationwide.² At the time, approximately 30 million of the 60 million people in the United States (1920 census) claimed membership in some fraternal group.³ As the cornerstone of the California Pythian Home, the Hood House represents a bygone era when fraternal benevolence and mutual aid provided the only means of economic security for millions of Americans.

B. BRIEF CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

The Hood House is situated in Los Guilucos Valley, popularly known as the Valley of the Moon,⁴ outside Santa Rosa. Built in 1858, the mansion is the only known existing brick building from the pre-Civil War era in Sonoma County. Its original owner, William Hood, was among the state's early settlers and is noted for introducing affluent living to the

¹ "Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

² Alan Axelrod, *The International Encyclopedia of Secret Societies and Fraternal Orders* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1997), 154.

³ Alvin J. Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1980), 3.

⁴ "The Valley of the Moon" was popularized by a novel of the same name set in Los Guilucos Valley by Jack London.

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Hood House
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area.⁵ From 1905 to 1918, the Hood House was used as a summer residence by former U.S. Senator Thomas Kearns of Utah, who reestablished the mansion as a hub of social activity in Sonoma County. Ex-Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt are believed to have been among Kearns' distinguished guests.⁶

Ownership changed hands several times before the Knights of Pythias purchased the property in 1924 to establish a home for its elderly members. Dwindling membership forced the Knights to sell the property to the State of California in 1944, which established the Los Guilucos School for Girls. On July 31, 1959, the Hood House was dedicated as California Historical Landmark No. 692. In 1974, the property was purchased by Sonoma County.⁷

C. THE RISE AND FALL OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IN AMERICA

Most American fraternal societies were formed during the late 1800s and early 1900s.⁸ There are two types of fraternal societies, namely, the secret orders and the benefit societies. The Knights of Pythias is a secret order, similar to groups like the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Elks.⁹

⁵ Hood amassed his fortune by constructing much-needed housing for gold miners in San Francisco. He and his wife Eliza later prospered from the winery they established at Los Guilucos.

⁶ Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of California, *California Pythian Home* (1934). Kearns made several additions to the home, including a large dining room, new fireplaces, and two second story wings. He also purchased a number of properties adjacent to the ranch, increasing its size to nearly 1,700 acres. Kearns sold the Hood House to Peter Serck in 1918.

⁷ The former grounds of the Hood House are now the site of Los Guilucos Youth Services Center, a juvenile detention facility.

⁸ Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations*, 3.

⁹ As a secret order, the Knights of Pythias view the role and function of its rituals as paramount: "To fraternal secret societies, rituals are the

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There are numerous reasons for the growth and prosperity of fraternities during this era. One reason was the feeling of importance that fraternal participation gave the common man: "Where else could John Doe experience and be part of a group or subculture that employed exotic names and titles and provided a touch of fantasy?"¹⁰ The Knights of Pythias indulged the fancy of its membership by using terminology with a medieval flavor. Lodge buildings are called Castles, and officials include the Chancellor Commander, Prelate, Master of the Work, Master of the Exchequer, Master at Arms, Inner Guard, and Outer Guard.¹¹

Along with providing a feeling of self-importance, the fraternal organization was often the only place where individuals could experience social prestige.

Numerous lodge groups enabled their members to adorn themselves in colorful regalia and then participate in public events. Such participation was especially important in small, rural towns. Fraternal members could impress their fellow townsmen, particularly nonmembers, in that by belonging to certain fraternal orders they were different and distinctive... After all, what transpired among the "brethren" was not known to the general public, not even their family members.¹²

The Knights of Pythias provided a similar outlet for its membership in rural Sonoma County. Lodges were organized in Healdsburg (1883), Santa Rosa (1884), Petaluma (1906), and Sebastopol (1912).¹³ Fraternal events and activities were

vehicle for teaching members high principles, virtues, brotherhood, morals, and even religious values." Ibid., 4.

¹⁰ Ibid., 9.

¹¹ Axelrod, *Encyclopedia of Secret Societies*, 153.

¹² Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations*, 18.

¹³ Ernest L. Finley, *History of Sonoma County, California* (Santa Rosa, Calif.: The Press-Democrat Publishing Co., 1937), 324. Moreover, the Pythian Sisters, the affiliated women's organization of the Knights of Pythias, founded "temples" in Healdsburg (Madrona Temple, No. 43), Santa

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regularly covered by local newspapers, and members dressed in elaborate ceremonial garb (pictured in Attachment D).

Perhaps more importantly, fraternal orders provided economic security in an era without a government safety net. "Seventy-five or a hundred years ago there were no governmental social security programs, nor were there labor unions that helped workers obtain fringe-benefit contracts with accident, sickness, and life insurance programs."¹⁴ Fraternal societies helped fill this void through charitable efforts and mutual aid.

Fraternal societies...provided economic security at a time when millions would have become wards of society or simply suffered extreme poverty... [W]ith the benevolent concerns manifested by hundreds of fraternal societies, a dimension of the American character came to a fore that has enabled the United States to prosper and flourish.¹⁵

It was in this spirit of benevolence that the California Pythian Home was established. In all, the Knights of Pythias opened 22 retirement homes nationwide, most of which have been closed or opened to nonmembers.¹⁶ Humanitarian endeavors such as this attracted thousands of individuals to fraternal orders.¹⁷

With the onslaught of the Depression, fraternal groups began experiencing a decline in membership which has continued to this day. The urbanization of American society and lack of

Rosa (Temple No. 90), Petaluma (Temple No. 104), and Sebastopol (Jonive Temple, No. 13). Ibid.

¹⁴ Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations*, 17.

¹⁵ Ibid., 19.

¹⁶ Axelrod, *Encyclopedia of Secret Societies*, 154. Today, nine Pythian Homes remain open; they are located in Ohio (3), Texas (3), Indiana (1), Pennsylvania (1), and Washington State (1). Alfred Salzman, Supreme Secretary, Knights of Pythias, telephone interview by Michael Buhler, 6 October 1997.

¹⁷ Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations*, 17.

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organizational change are blamed for the increased obsolescence of fraternal orders in modern times:

[A]s American society became urbanized, the social advantage of belonging to a fraternal order lost much of its appeal in the context of anonymity... Thus, the present decline in membership of most fraternal societies is caused not only by the lack of organizational change, ...but also by the inability of fraternal orders to provide social prestige for their members as they once did.¹⁸

The Knights of Pythias are no exception to this trend, having been dubbed "a classic example of the rise and fall of a fraternal order."¹⁹ Today, the Knights are "barely surviving,"²⁰ with less than 70,000 members nationwide.²¹

D. HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

On February 19, 1864, Justus H. Rathbone and several federal government clerks founded the Knights of Pythias in Washington, D.C. Rathbone was inspired by a school play he directed that portrayed the loyal friendship between Damon and Pythias (an erroneous spelling for Phintias), two Syracusans who lived during the fourth century B.C.²²

Phintias was condemned to death for opposing Dionysius, tyrant of Syracuse from 405 to 367 B.C. Damon offered himself as security so that Phintias...could go home and see his wife and children. The time for Phintias's

¹⁸ Ibid., 18.

¹⁹ Ibid., 185.

²⁰ Ibid., 13.

²¹ Lester Bernstein, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of California, telephone interview by Michael Buhler, 25 September 1997.

²² The play was written by Irish poet and dramatist John Banim. William J. Whalen, *Handbook of Secret Organizations*, 2d ed. (Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Co., 1967), 85.

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execution drew near, but he had not returned. Damon held true to his promise, permitting himself to be led to the place of the planned execution, when suddenly Phintias rushed forward embracing his friend. Dionysius was so moved by this incident that he released both men and asked if he could join their friendship.²³

Rathbone developed the Knights of Pythias' ritual based on the play, also borrowing elements from other fraternal orders to which he belonged, including the Masons and Red Men.²⁴ Emphasizing the principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence, the Pythian motto is: "Be Generous, Brave, and True."²⁵

At the recommendation of President Abraham Lincoln, the Knights of Pythias became the first American fraternal order to be chartered by the U.S. Congress.²⁶ Spurred by this recognition, the Order experienced phenomenal growth. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Knights had more than a half million members. "Hundreds and even thousands marched down the main streets of American cities wearing the military costume of the Uniform Rank."²⁷ Membership continued to grow until the 1920s, when, at its peak, the Knights claimed 908,000 members.²⁸ (The California Pythian Home was established in 1924.)

²³ Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations*, 183.

²⁴ Whalen, *Handbook of Secret Organizations*, 85. The ritual employed some scare tactics. For example, candidates for initiation were led to believe that they would have to jump barefoot onto a spiked board, only to have the spikes removed before the jump. Axelrod, *Encyclopedia of Secret Societies*, 154.

²⁵ Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations*, 184.

²⁶ Lincoln had hoped that the fraternity's message of brotherly love would help heal the wounds brought about by the Civil War. Harry W. Hellam, Supreme Representative, Knights of Pythias, to William Mulligan, Chief Probation Officer, Sonoma County Juvenile Department, 25 May 1975. Sonoma County Architect, Santa Rosa, Calif.

²⁷ Whalen, *Handbook of Secret Organizations*, 86.

²⁸ Axelrod, *Encyclopedia of Secret Societies*, 154.

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In 1928, there were 34,000 members in California alone. Sonoma County lodges thrived during this period. The California Grand Chancellor (1922-1923), Dr. Orris E. Jackson, hailed from the New Era Lodge in Petaluma.²⁹ He also served as the first superintendent of the Pythian Home (1924-1926). Santa Rosa Lodge No. 87, with over 200 members, was very prominent under the leadership of Noah C. Grider. In 1921, the lodge had the honor of hosting the California Grand Convention.³⁰ Grider succeeded Jackson as the Pythian Home Superintendent (1926-1942).

The Great Depression of the 1930s brought an end to the popularity of the Knights of Pythias. During this period, the Order lost tens of thousands of members a year; "in one two-year period more than 125,000 Knights abandoned their Castles."³¹ The enrollment of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936 did little to stem the decline.³² The Knights were forced to sell off much of their land holdings, including the Pythian Home at Los Guilucos in 1944. By the 1960s, membership was down to about 200,000, where it remained throughout the 1970s.³³ One author summed up the fraternity's predicament as follows:

²⁹ Herbert W. Slater, "Many Noted Pythians at Dedication," *Santa Rosa (Calif.) Press-Democrat*, 21 May 1924. It is interesting to note that a charter member of the Mespah Lodge in Sebastopol, Herbert Scudder, was an early advocate of historic preservation in California: "Through [his] influence" as a State Assemblyman, Fort Ross (California Historical Landmark No. 5), was "restored and preserved as an historical monument by the State of California." *The Grizzly Bear* (May 1926): 9.

³⁰ Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of California, *California Pythian Star and D.O.K.K. Tiger* (16-20 1921): 51. On hosting the 1921 Grand Convention, the brethren of Lodge No. 87 observed: "When it was proposed to entertain the Grand Lodge in Santa Rosa, it was said, 'Can't be done,' but 'Can't' is not incorporated in the by-laws of the Pythian lodges of Sonoma County, therefore, the delegates to the next Grand Convention will not be disappointed." *Ibid.*

³¹ Axelrod, *Encyclopedia of Secret Societies*, 54.

³² *Ibid.*, 154.

³³ *Ibid.*

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Hood House
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, CA

Except in a few small communities the Knights of Pythias lodges have lost almost all prestige and influence. The banality of its ritual, the feuds and jealousies among its top officials, the competition of Freemasonry, and poor leadership have contributed to its rapid decline. Whether Rathbone's invention will see the twenty-first century seems doubtful.³⁴

Indeed, current numbers are not encouraging. In 1997, the beleaguered Order has fewer than 70,000 members nationwide, and in California, less than a thousand. In Sonoma County, only the Friendship Lodge in Healdsburg and the New Era Lodge in Petaluma remain open, with about a dozen members each.³⁵ As with many fraternal orders in modern times, the Knights of Pythias appears to be facing a gloomy future.

E. THE CALIFORNIA PYTHIAN HOME (1924-1944)

In 1920, the California Grand Lodge appointed a committee, headed by former Governor Frank Merriam, to investigate twelve potential sites for the establishment of a home for its aged members. The Sonoma County lodges launched a campaign in support of Los Guilucos. In a booklet prepared for the selection committee, the local Pythian membership enthused:

In the selection of our fraternal home we must reckon with the centuries of a vast future. No ordinary, no perfunctory selection would suffice... Seldom in life are ideals ever realized. The selection of the property herein described and pictorially shown for a Pythian home would bring into reality our fondest dreams.³⁶

³⁴ Whalen, *Handbook of Secret Organizations*, 91.

³⁵ Lester Bernstein, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of California, telephone interview by Michael Buhler, 25 September 1997.

³⁶ Sonoma County Knights of Pythias, foreword to *A Home for the Pythians in the Valley of the Moon* (1922).

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Hood House
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The committee agreed, concluding that the weather conditions, agricultural advantages, and goodwill of the surrounding community made Los Guilucos an ideal site.³⁷

The California Grand Lodge announced its purchase of the Hood House and 111 acres of property on January 20, 1924.³⁸ Subsequent land acquisitions brought the total acreage to 1,308 acres. On May 20, 1924, a dedication ceremony was held on the grounds of Los Guilucos. Pythians from throughout California attended the event, which received front page coverage in the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat:

"We dedicate this place to the service of humanity and in the name of a great American fraternity," was the pronouncement of Superior Judge George Samuels of Oakland, yesterday when more than 1000 members of the Knights of Pythias assembled to dedicate the California Pythian Home, in that wondrous spot where nature has so lavishly bestowed its gifts and where Los Guilucos leads into the historical Valley of the Moon.³⁹

Construction began immediately as the Knights sought to finally realize their dream of establishing the California Pythian Home.

Three large brick buildings were completed, including a kitchen/dining room and two dormitories. Built in 1924, the kitchen/dining room is located directly behind (north of) the Hood House.⁴⁰ To the east of the mansion lies Casa Mañana, a dormitory erected by the Pythian Sisters of California in

³⁷ Harry W. Hellam, Supreme Representative, Knights of Pythias, to William Mulligan, Chief Probation Officer, Sonoma County Juvenile Department, 25 May 1975. Sonoma County Architect, Santa Rosa, Calif.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Slater, "Many Noted Pythians at Dedication," *Santa Rosa (Calif.) Press-Democrat*, 21 May 1924.

⁴⁰ The kitchen/dining room has been converted into a training facility by the Los Guilucos Youth Services Center. All that remains of the kitchen are two sinks and a large counter that spans two walls. The dining room is a large, open room with three French doors facing the mansion.

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1925.⁴¹ The second dormitory, Primera Hall, completed in 1927, is west of the Hood House. Including land, buildings, furniture, ranch equipment, roads, fences, irrigation, water, sewerage, and fire prevention systems, the institution cost approximately \$385,000.⁴²

The Hood House itself was converted into an administration building, with office space for nine employees.⁴³ The former dining room was designated the administration room, wherein the Board of Governors held its meetings.⁴⁴ There was also an infirmary in the mansion, as well as individual rooms occupied by Pythian Home residents.⁴⁵

Although the Pythian Home was established to take care of the elderly, provisions were also made for orphaned children. The number of guests averaged sixty, with as many as six children on the premises.⁴⁶ One such child, Harry W. Hellam, gave this account of his upbringing at Los Guilucos:

[The Home] raised much of their own beef and pork; milk from their dairy took care of all their needs. There was also a chicken ranch on the property which supplied all of the eggs and chickens we needed for the Home operation. The Home also sold several thousand dollars worth of eggs to the Poultry Producers annually.

⁴¹ Founded in 1888, the Pythian Sisters is the women's auxiliary group of the Knights of Pythias. In 1997, they have 400-500 members in California. Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations*, 185. Casa Mañana was modified by the Los Guilucos Youth Services Center for use as an administration office.

⁴² Finley, *History of Sonoma County*, 325.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ "Around the solid oak table, in the solid oak chairs have sat ex-Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. This room is now the administration room in which the Board of Governors hold their meetings." Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of California, *California Pythian Home* (1934).

⁴⁵ Lester Bernstein, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of California, telephone interview by Michael Buhler, 25 September 1997.

⁴⁶ Finley, *History of Sonoma County*, 325.

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All the grain to feed the livestock was home grown. Corn was also raised and filled the two silos used to feed the stock during the winter. Angora goats were brought in [to supply] needed meat as well as being sheared annually for their wool.

A number of acres were devoted to the Muir Peach as well as many acres of prunes which both were dried and [packaged] and sold through our Pythian Lodges... Walnut and fig trees lined the drive from the highway to the Home and these too were harvested annually. There were two reservoirs on the property [and] a deep well which supplied all the water needed for irrigation and domestic use...

[Lodge No. 87], as well as other interested groups in Santa Rosa, were continually putting on some program of entertainment for the guests of the Home.

You could not consider the Home as an institution in the respect that each had his own private room and was allowed the freedom to go to town or even out of town to visit... No demands were made on [the guests] to work, although many assumed jobs they felt they could do.⁴⁷

As is evident, the Pythian Home was an industrious, virtually self-contained community. There was even a cemetery on the grounds for deceased members.⁴⁸ Any additional expenses were paid by a per capita tax on members of the Order, interest from an endowment fund, and voluntary contributions.⁴⁹

Under the leadership of Superintendent Noah Grider, the Home was kept solvent until the Great Depression. Financial difficulties were exacerbated when World War II caused a

⁴⁷ Harry W. Hellam, Supreme Representative, Knights of Pythias, to William Mulligan, Chief Probation Officer, Sonoma County Juvenile Department, 25 May 1975. Sonoma County Architect, Santa Rosa, Calif.

⁴⁸ The Pythians began a 2.5 acre cemetery which is still in existence today (located several hundred yards from the Hood House). All property trans-actions have made allowances for its continued maintenance.

⁴⁹ Finley, *History of Sonoma County*, 325.

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further decline in membership, forcing the Knights to shut down their operation at Los Guilucos. On April 17, 1943, the property was leased to the State of California for \$600 a month, with an option to buy. All the remaining Pythian guests were moved out and, on October 27, 1944, the State exercised its option and purchased the property for \$100,000.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Harry W. Hellam, Supreme Representative, Knights of Pythias, to William Mulligan, Chief Probation Officer, Sonoma County Juvenile Department, 25 May 1975. Sonoma County Architect, Santa Rosa, Calif.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (LEGAL DESCRIPTION):

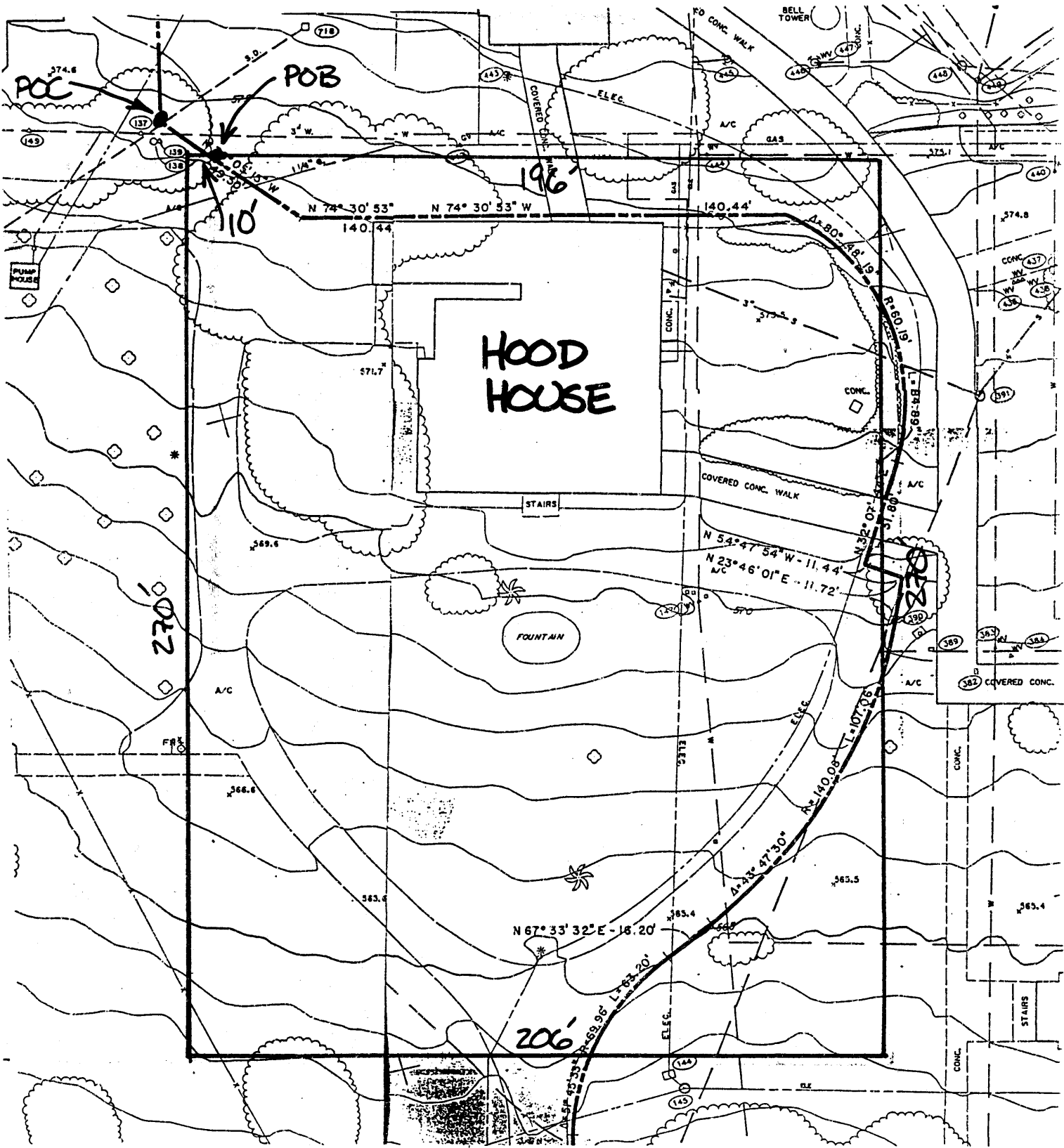
All that certain real property lying within the Rancho los Guilucos, City of Santa Rosa, State of California, being a portion of the lands of the County of Sonoma as described in Book 2870 of Official Records, at page 198, Sonoma County Records, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the southerly end of Line L22, as designated and shown on that certain record of survey filed in the Office of the Sonoma County Recorder on November 22, 1991 in Book 483 of Maps, at page 44, said line having a bearing and distance of North $13^{\circ}16'09''$ East 247.71 feet; thence along Line L23 as designated and shown on said record of survey South $39^{\circ}05'15''$ East 21.00 feet to the true point of beginning of the parcel hereby described' thence leaving said Line L23, South $74^{\circ}30'53''$ West 206.00 feet; thence North $15^{\circ}29'07''$ East 270.00 feet; thence South $74^{\circ}30'53''$ East 10.00 feet to the point of beginning.

Bearings based on and identical to said Record of Survey filed in Book 483 of Maps, at page 44, Sonoma County Records.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary is drawn to encompass only the Hood house and grounds with reflecting pool and fountain. The kitchen/dining room building and two dormitories built by the Knights of Pythias and dating within the period of significance are excluded from the designation. The boundary is justified on the grounds that the Hood house functioned as the administration building and center of the operation.



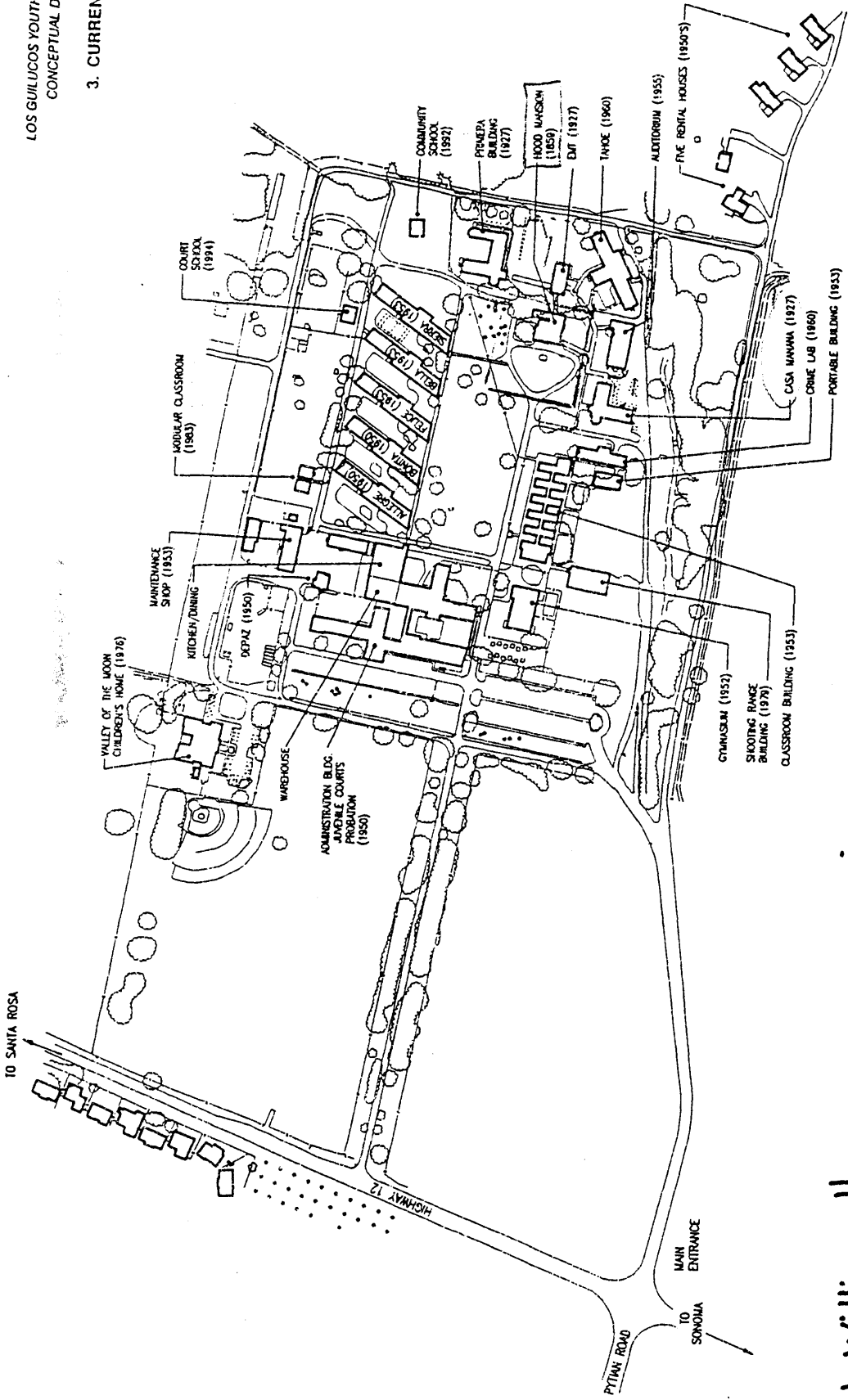
SCALE: 1" = 40'

Hood, William, House
 7501 Sonoma Highway
 Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., CA

PRINTED
 FEB 05 1997

CARLENZOLI & ASSOCIATES
 365A Tesconi Circle
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

3. CURRENT CONDITIONS



LOS GUILUCOS CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
 EXISTING CONDITIONS
 0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500 FEET
 N
 EAST

Hood, William, House
 7501 Sonoma Highway
 Santa Rosa, CA
 Sonoma County