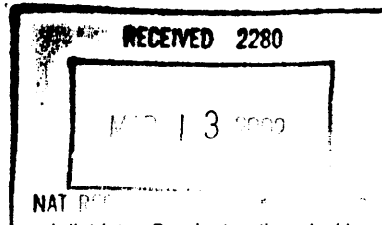


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the 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 Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple

other names/site number IOOF Building, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge Number 103; Williams

Building _____

2. Location

street & number 112 East Commonwealth Avenue not for publication

city or town Fullerton vicinity

state California code CA county Orange code 059 zip code 92832

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/11/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
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 of 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): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

4/26/02
Date 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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social _____ Meeting Hall _____

Commerce/Trade _____ Specialty Store _____

Government _____ Post Office _____

Recreation and Culture _____ Music Facility _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/trade _____ Department Store _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th Century Commercial _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete _____

roof asphalt _____

walls brick _____

other terra-cotta, ceramic tile, glass, wood, metal _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- 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

1927-1949

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Compton, Oliver Summerbell (1862-1947)

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:

Development Services Department, City of Fullerton;
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library (building plans, city directories, photographs, newspapers, etc.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

.24

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	6	414600	3748000	3	___	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___	___

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debora Richey _____

organization Fullerton Heritage _____ date August 30, 2001 _____

street & number 1233 Luanne Avenue _____ telephone 714-278-3094 drichey@fullerton.edu

city or town Fullerton _____ state CA _____ zip code 92831 _____

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 Brian Williams (Williams Family Trust) _____

street & number 112 East Commonwealth Avenue _____ telephone 714-525-5544 _____

city or town Fullerton _____ state CA _____ zip code 92832 _____

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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Narrative Description

Summary

A fine example of early twentieth century commercial architecture, the Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple was constructed in 1927-28 for one of the city's oldest fraternal organizations, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge Number 103 (1901-1981). Of steel-frame construction, the dark red brick, three-story Temple is taller than the surrounding buildings and is prominently located in the historic central business district in front of the Santa Fe Railroad, which passes through Fullerton. The attractive 75- by 110-foot plain box building has been enhanced by pale pink and blue terra-cotta tile, seemingly in imitation of marble, and three small copper turbans or onion-shaped domes capping piers that rise at the ends and in the center of the parapet on the main facade. Designed from the start as a profit-making venture, the building was designed to provide space for Odd Fellows meetings and activities as well as to generate rental income for the Lodge. Lodge members reserved the second floor for their secret and exclusive use while leasing and renting out the first floor for office and retail space and the third floor to other local patriotic, fraternal, and women's organizations. The focal point of the interior is the large second floor meeting and assembly hall, which features a stage, built-in tiered seating on the sides, and high, arched windows. A second hall, with many of the same architectural features, is also situated on the third floor level. These halls, which are almost unchanged, and the accompanying rooms, evoke the atmosphere and feeling of Odd Fellows' gatherings and activities, and are the most historically intact examples of fraternal meeting/activity space in Fullerton. Some alterations to both the exterior and interior have occurred, but the structure retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Temple was identified in the City's 1978-79 historic survey "one of the most outstanding of Fullerton's brick buildings,"¹ and was designated Local Historic Landmark #15 by the Fullerton City Council in November 1980 "because of its character and interest as part of the heritage of the City, its exemplification of the best remaining unaltered architectural type in the area, and its established and familiar visual part of the area."²

Overall, the property is in good condition.

Setting

The Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple is located at 112 (formerly 112-118 1/2) East Commonwealth Avenue in the original central core of the City laid out by town founders George Henry (1855-1942) and Edward Russell Amerige (1857-1915) in 1887. Commercial, residential, and institutional structures of both historical and cultural significance built between 1899 and 1930 surround the building. An alley runs along the west side of the building. A small parking area is located immediately to the south (rear) of the building.

Exterior

The Odd Fellows Temple covers nearly all of the 75- by 140-foot lot that it stands on. Built on a concrete foundation, the three-story brick rectangular building, which faces north, dramatically towers over the plain and simple single-story storefronts along East Commonwealth Avenue. The building has a flat asphalt roof hidden by a parapet which rises at each end and in the middle to piers capped by turban-shaped copper domes. The attractive front (north) elevation is enhanced by pale pink and blue terra-cotta tile. It is the only building in Fullerton with this unique type of material. The primarily pink ornamental tile is punctuated by a band of blue tile running across the rim of the building and above the third floor windows and first floor large storefront style windows. Pale blue tiles also outline the two rows of six pairs of double-hung sash windows evenly placed across the front of the building. Six rows of dark blue four-inch square ceramic tiles run along the base of the façade below the glass plate display windows. A wide band of opaque ribbed glass transoms runs across the front elevation. Public entrance to the building is through two sets of matching double-hung doors, one set leading directly to the first floor retail area, the other on the east side leading up to the second and third floors. The

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recessed door at the center is flanked on each side by large shop windows. The east entrance provided members of local organizations private access to the upper floors. Fire escapes on the roof and second and third floors are on the east and west sides of the structure.

Changes to the exterior have been minor and do not detract from the historic character of the Temple. A door on the west elevation was blocked off in the 1940s. Sometime also in the 1940s, large fixed-glass storefront windows replaced the front elevation's original pulley glass windows, which could be completely raised by pulling on metal chains, allowing easy delivery of produce and other items. In 1995, metal bracing for the earthquake retrofit, completed by 30th Street Architects, was added to the west side of the building.

Interior

The first level, which has always been used for office and retail space, currently provides commercial storefront shop space for the Williams Company, the building's current owner. It features the original tin pressed ceiling and matching crown molding. Tubular fluorescent lights in the ceiling, a later addition, light the interior space. Three rows of supporting rectangular columns run north to south.

The second and third floor plans and simple layouts reflect the functions of the Odd Fellows organization. The second level, which was dedicated exclusively to Lodge activities, contains the rooms seen most by Odd Fellows. It features a 40-by 70-foot meeting hall, known as the Temple of Truth, which has a seating capacity of 400, and tiered seating on the east and west walls. The focal point of the meeting hall is a fully functional, 8- by 13-foot proscenium stage at the south end. Single doors on either side of the stage provide access to areas behind the stage, including a dressing room, a rear exit to the fire escape, the kitchen and banquet room to the west, and wooden stairs up to a third floor trap door. The pediment or wooden frame above the arched stage was designed to hold the Lodge's shield and emblems. Sets of high, arched windows (ten on the east and west sides and four on the north and south sides) are evenly positioned around the hall. While the windows on the west and south sides contain eight lights, bringing ventilation and natural light into the interior, the matching windows on the east and north sides are decorative only and were obviously included to provide balance and symmetry. Wainscoting and paneling cover the walls which are painted a contrasting off-white. The floor is oak, but the other wood elements--wainscoting, benches, stage, etc.--are made of gum wood. Access to the hall is through two sets of pocket doors with the east door containing a small peephole. Situated around the central meeting hall are eight rooms with connecting hallways and gathering areas.

Like the second floor, the third level is simple, but functional. Odd Fellows used these rooms for additional activities but also leased them out to other Fullerton organizations. The third floor's focal point is a meeting and assembly room, a more modest and scaled down version of the second floor hall. Half the size of the second floor hall and running east to west, the meeting room has a capacity of 200, with similar built-in tiered seating at the sides. Instead of a formal stage area, there is a small 7- by 11-foot platform at the west end of the room. Single wooden doors, each with ten lights and a transom, on both sides of the platform lead out to the fire escape. Wainscoting covers the walls. The floor is oak, but the bench seating, platform, and wainscoting are made of gum wood, contrasting with the painted off-white walls and ceiling. Light is provided by a row of five two light windows, six black cast-iron wall sconces featuring flame-shaped glass shades, and six hanging lights with white globes decorated with gold-leaf pyracantha leaves. Access to the hall is through two entrances on the east wall, with the door on the north side featuring a peephole. Positioned around the meeting hall are six rooms. Both the second and third floors are currently vacant.

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The interior has been somewhat altered, but the changes do not detract from the historic character of the building. Although the banners, emblems, and flags that decorated the second and third floor assembly halls have long been removed, these halls, which are almost historically intact, evoke the atmosphere and feelings of fraternal organizations' gatherings. In the mid-1940s, the wall separating the first level's two commercial units was removed to provide larger retail space for the Fullerton War Surplus Company (now the Williams Company). In the 1970s, the walls and Dutch doors separating the second and third floor banquet rooms and kitchens were removed, along with sinks and cabinetry, to create large single rooms. The peephole in the door to the third floor hall has been boarded over. Cosmetic changes, such as window treatments and vinyl and carpeting placed over wood flooring, have also been made over the years. During the Prohibition Era, a speakeasy was added to the third floor banquet hall. To get to the speakeasy, visitors had to go through a series of doors and ring a number of entry bells on the stairs on the east side of the Temple. Entrance and exit were also through the fire escapes. After Prohibition, the three walls that surrounded the speakeasy were removed, but the outlines of the room and bar are still visible on the wooden floor, as is the floor drainage hole.³

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Statement of Significance

Summary

The Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple was constructed in 1927-28 at a cost of \$60,000 by one of the City's oldest and largest fraternal orders, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge Number 103, instituted on March 23, 1901. The Temple is historically significant under National Register Criteria A, for its association with events that made a broad contribution to the social history of Fullerton by its service to the community as a fraternal hall and active community center. It is historically significant for its long association with the development of civic life in Fullerton, and the building is an obvious and well-known reminder of the group of fraternal organizations that served the city so prominently during much of the 20th century. The IOOF Building was constructed as a meeting hall by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs (the female auxiliary of the Odd Fellows), who met on the second floor regularly throughout the period of significance. The building also immediately became the center of social and recreational activities in the Fullerton community with dozens of fraternal, patriotic, and women's associations using the third floor's meeting, assembly, and banquet rooms. The Temple served as a community center by hosting a diverse mixture of social events, entertainment activities, and town functions. The IOOF Building served the community in this fashion from the date of its construction until well into the 1970s. The Temple was the only fraternal building in the City designed and built as both a meeting venue and commercial venture.

Historical Background

In 1905, Lodge charter members purchased two small commercial buildings on the Commonwealth site in January 1905 with the idea of tearing down these historic structures to build a two-story brick building at a cost of \$8,500 to \$10,000.⁴ A building committee was established in 1905, but it was not until 1923, when a second building committee was formed, that plans for the building went ahead. A building permit for the Temple was taken out on August 2, 1927,⁵ and the imposing three-story brick building was formally dedicated on February 28, 1928.⁶ The building cost of the Temple was originally estimated at \$45,000, but the final construction cost was \$60,000. The Temple's designer and builder was Oliver Summerbell Compton (1862-1947), a local builder and long-time Lodge member and Fullerton resident (202 West Whiting). A native of Waterford, Indiana, Compton moved to Pasadena in 1905, then to Fullerton in 1910. Compton and his wife, Ida A. Berkey Compton (1885-1974), were also charter members of the Fullerton Rebekah Lodge Number 341 instituted April 21, 1913.⁷

The Odd Fellows Temple was constructed during Fullerton's optimistic "Golden Era," a period of rapid growth, marked by a corresponding increase in citywide lodge membership. The 1920s were years of great civic activity, business expansion, and population growth, sparked in part by an oil boom. The town's population grew from 4,415 in 1920 to 10,860 in 1930. In 1923, building permits set a record high--\$2,087,186--that was unequaled for another two decades.⁸ The first semblance of industrial development began to appear on the south part of the town in 1925. Area fliers began the Fullerton airport at the west part in 1927, and construction crews widened streets, installing curbs, while voters passed a \$175,000 bond sanctioning sewer connections with nearby cities. Oil and citrus tycoon Charles Chapman built the town's biggest and most modern department store, the Chapman Building (\$250,000)--then the tallest building in Orange County--at the corner of Wilshire and Spadra in 1923, and its most impressive theatre building (\$300,000) on North Spadra a few years later.⁹ When the Odd Fellows Temple opened in 1928, it was lauded by the local newspaper as "an advance in the progress of the Community"¹⁰ and as a "concrete demonstration" of the City's "growth and development."¹¹

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While there were other fraternal buildings in Fullerton, most notably the Masonic Temple (501 North Harbor), the Odd Fellows Temple was the only one designed to serve as a meeting hall while also generating continuous income. When the Temple opened, the first floor tenants were the United States Postal Service¹² and the Sanitary Market (a wall divided the floor into two units). Other tenants of the first floor commercial space included the Gold Furniture Company, Herbert Kenwald's Grocery, the ABC Food Bank, the Linoleum and Awning Store, the Economy Food Store, and Laufman Brothers' Produce. In the late 1940s, the War Surplus Company (now the Williams Company) permanently took over first floor. Situated in a retail area, the IOOF Building was deliberately designed to blend with the commercial architecture of the community and to serve as a reminder of Fullerton's burgeoning downtown economic development and the Odd Fellows' contributions to the City's growing prosperity. During the 1920s, Fullerton's commercial brick buildings were usually simple, one-story, plain boxes with a parapet. The Temple impressively stands out with its dramatic height and unusual terra-cotta façade, contrasting sharply with the simple, single-story shop fronts on East Commonwealth Avenue.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF)

The IOOF was one of several, secret, self-governing groups with ritualistic ceremonies and varied degrees of rank which were highly popular in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These included such groups as the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Royal Neighbors of America, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. The Odd Fellows and Masons were the models for numerous other societies that came into existence during this period. The first fraternal rituals for American women were the Odd Fellows' Rebekah degree and the Masonic degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star, both devised in the early 1850s. Fraternal organizations in both rural and urban settings became one means by which male and female residents could demonstrate their belonging to, and influence within, a community. Along with clubs, patriotic organizations, women's groups, and churches, fraternal orders were in many ways a force for social good within small towns.

Originally a men's social club, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows originated in England in the 1730s and spread to the United States with its lodge system in the early 1800s. There are different reasons given for the organization's strange name, but the common explanation is that the original Odd Fellows were men who engaged in various or "odd" trades, as there were organizations, such as the Freemasonry, for some of the larger trades.¹³ The order flourished in the United States. The Odd Fellows society grew from 30,000 members in 1843 to 200,000 by 1860, to nearly a million by 1900, and by 1915, boasted a roster of 3,400,000 members. The IOOF was the first American fraternal order to offer its members financial aid for the sick and distressed, care and assistance for orphans, and burial of deceased members.¹⁴

Fullerton Odd Fellows Lodge

Fullerton's Odd Fellows Lodge was founded on March 23, 1901. While Americans have been characterized as a nation of joiners, this trait was especially true in Fullerton, which had a dozen fraternal orders established before the town was incorporated in 1904. The Odd Fellows Lodge was the seventh fraternal benefit society instituted in Fullerton. The Odd Fellows and Masons were the two largest fraternal organizations in Fullerton, and during their peak periods in the 1920s and 1930s each order had the largest number of lodge members in Orange County. The Odd Fellows and Masons regularly competed for new members from the town's growing influx of new residents. Even after World War II, Fullerton residents continued to join fraternal organizations in record numbers. When the Fullerton Elks Lodge Number 1993, which met briefly at the Temple, was established in 1956, it was the largest Elks Lodge in history.¹⁵

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Because of the large number of voluntary associations in Fullerton, there was a continual shortage of meeting space. Until construction of the Temple, Odd Fellows leased various rooms around the City, including space in the Mason's two lodges, but soon outgrew these meeting rooms. By 1927, the Lodge and its auxiliary groups had grown to 650 members, which was to peak with 800 members in the early 1930s. Construction of a Temple was very much needed and was an Odd Fellows endeavor from beginning to end. Funds for the Temple were raised by the brothers and the Rebekahs. The property for the Temple was purchased from wealthy town pioneer Peter A. Schumacher (1843-1933), the brother of charter member and Vice Grand William Schumacher. Cavalier Oliver S. Compton, who was then aged 65, was called upon to design and build the Temple. A number of the building's subcontractors were also Odd Fellows.¹⁶

Although the Odd Fellows are often referred to as "the poor man's Masonry," this was not the case with the Fullerton Lodge. The Lodge's thirteen charter members and officers were some of the most powerful and wealthy men in Fullerton and Orange County, reflecting the prestige associated with Odd Fellows membership. Livery store owner Dallison Smith Linebarger (1862-1937) served as Orange County Supervisor from 1902 to 1912.¹⁷ Vice Grand William Schumacher (1848-1917) was a successful and extensive orange grower.¹⁸ Conductor Richard Hall Gilman (1845-1942) planted the first Valencia orchard in California in 1880, and went on to establish a series of irrigation companies that ensured enough water for Orange County's growing agricultural industry.¹⁹⁻²⁰ Financial Secretary Albert H. Sitton (1878-1967), who pioneered the automobile industry in northern Orange County, was honored in 1959 by having the County's first juvenile facility (the Albert Sitton Home) named after him.²¹⁻²² Inside Guardian Joseph (Josef) Hiltcher (1873-1953), an Austrian emigrant, established Fullerton's first meat market, then went on to become a wealthy citrus grower.²³ The original forty-five members of the Lodge reflected the Fullerton business community at large. Nearly all of the early members were immigrants from Europe or transplants from other areas of the United States attracted by Fullerton's economic and land boom of the 1880s. Many were veterans of the Civil or Spanish American Wars, and all were wealthy or prosperous middle-class merchants, growers or businessmen who saw their futures linked with the economic development of the town. Many of the occupations covered by the Odd Fellows required participation in the economic community, and the Lodge provided personal connections to clients and creditors who could help in the City's new and risky economic climate.

Members of the Fullerton Lodge and its four divisions--Subordinate Lodge, Encampment, Patriarchs Militant, and Rebekahs--used the Temple for formal events such as initiations, meetings, and lectures, but also for social and entertainment activities (e.g., cards, billiards, dances, banquets, pot-luck dinners, motion pictures, etc.). Until the late 1940s, the Rebekahs met on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The second floor meeting rooms and Lodge hall were used to discuss the disbursement of pensions and charity work, but the IOOF also had a highly developed sequence of nine elaborate rituals, most of them derived from the Old Testament, and the second floor hall (known as the Temple of Truth) was regularly used for initiations, pageants, and other ritualistic ceremonies. In 1931, the local Lodge was honored by its selection as the site for the IOOF's 77th Annual Grand Encampment. Thirty-five large tents were set up at nearby Commonwealth (now Amerige) Park and over 2,000 Odd Fellows from around the state attended the annual event.²⁴ After World War II, the Lodge's membership began to decline and by 1956 had dwindled to forty, but the brothers, who had moved from the Temple around 1949,²⁵ continued to meet every Monday night in various locations around Fullerton.²⁶ The Fullerton Lodge surrendered their charter on January 27, 1981, but members of the IOOF continue to meet in Orange County.

Social Context

The place of the Fullerton Odd Fellows Lodge can be understood within the historical and social context of fraternal societies in American history. At the turn of the 20th century, up to 40 percent of all adult men belonged to at least one lodge, with many joining more than one.²⁷ In an era that was largely laissez-faire economically, the Odd Fellows and other

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fraternal societies offered insurance and some economic security. When a member died, his funeral expenses were covered, and extra funds were available for his widow and children. The fraternal societies also provided order and stability to a highly mobile and diverse population by offering friendship, fellowship, and social integration to newcomers and immigrants. The lodges provided a sense of belonging and social prestige, and membership itself, which required a formal vote, conferred a certain status. Lodge groups enabled members to dress up in colorful regalia and participate in public events, while the secret signs, passwords, and rituals made members feel different and distinctive. In addition, the rituals, prayers, hymns, and moral teachings of the orders provided a religious function for many initiates. At the local level, the lodges represented their organization's nationwide efforts to establish ties of brotherhood and mutual aid among members and reflected a broader social purpose characterized by charitable work and educational fund-raising.²⁸ For these reasons, the lodges served as a cohesive force in the development of feeling of community life and civic responsibility in America. These factors were important in an early-day community, and especially in Fullerton, which was moving from a rural to an urban environment.

Civic Associations/Development

Because there was a shortage of meeting space in Fullerton, the IOOF Building, with its substantial size, prominent location, and room availability, became the natural place to hold any type of gathering. Although other Fullerton associations had constructed buildings for their organizations, such as the Masonic Temple, American Legion Hall, and the Ebell Club, the Odd Fellows were the only group in the City to provide meeting space for other voluntary associations. Upon construction, the Temple became the center of social and recreational activities in Fullerton. Even before the Temple opened, three organizations--the American Legion, Royal Neighbors of America, and Woodmen of the World--had leased the third floor meeting rooms and assembly hall (known as Fraternity Hall). As membership in the Odd Fellows declined, voluntary groups also began to use the assembly hall and meeting rooms on the second floor. City telephone directories, association records, club directories, and the social calendar section ("Society and Personal") of the local newspaper from 1928 to 1960 indicate that aside from the town's Masonic groups, nearly half of Fullerton's voluntary organizations met at the Temple.

The Fullerton Business and Professional Women's Club, organized in 1922 to promote a spirit of cooperation and goodwill among professional women of the community, met in the IOOF Building on the first and third Mondays of each month; the Brotherhood of American Yeoman met Friday nights; the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Grace Parlor, met the first and third Thursdays; and the Knights of Pythias the second and fourth Wednesdays. The Temple also hosted the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Order of DeMolay, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Women of the Moose, Loyal Order of the Moose, Neighbors of Woodcraft, and the Ancient Egyptian Order of Sciots. After World War II, when service groups and clubs began to supplant fraternal organizations in the city, the Temple was leased by the Kiwanis Club, Optimists Club, Exchange Club, Professional Women's Luncheon Group, Business Men's Club, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Twenty-Thirty Club, Fifty-Fifty Club, Soroptimists, Toastmasters Club, and the Salvation Army. In addition, organizations around the City would rent out the banquet and meeting rooms for special events. In the late 1940s and 1950s, the second floor hall was used for public dances. The stage, large wooden floor, and bench seating made the Temple the perfect location for small dance bands, which regularly performed Friday and Saturday nights.

In addition to these voluntary organizations, the IOOF Building was the prominent meeting place for veterans' groups. In 1928, the United Spanish War Veterans (Warwick Camp), organized on May 11, 1927 with ten members, began meeting in the Temple on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. The ladies auxiliary of the USWV also met at the same time.²⁹ They were joined in 1930 by the eleven remaining members of the Grand Army of the Republic--Malvern Hill Post Number 131, which was formed on September 3, 1886. The Civil War veterans met at the Temple, sometimes in conjunction with the Daughters of Union Veterans, until 1941 when the Post had only two remaining members.³⁰ The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Julia Ward Tent Number 7, organized on October 17, 1910, continued

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to meet at the Temple the third Monday of each month until the late 1940s. In addition, the Sons of Union Veterans and the Women's Relief Corps (Malvern Hill), an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic organized in 1921, held regular meetings at the Temple.

The voluntary associations that met in the IOOF during its period of significance touched the lives of many Fullerton residents, bringing order and continuity to the community. The public gatherings, social and recreational activities conducted at the Temple contributed to the civic and community development of Fullerton, reflecting the importance and growing role of voluntary associations in the life of American communities in the early 20th century.

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¹City of Fullerton Historical Building Survey, February 1, 1978-March 31, 1979. Fullerton, CA: City of Fullerton, 1979. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library.

²"Historical Landmark HL-15: RDRC/Landmarks Commission Staff Report." Fullerton, CA: City of Fullerton, 1980. On file in the Fullerton Development Services Department.

³Interview with Brian Williams, the building's current owner, April 11, 2001.

⁴"Fullerton." *Fullerton News Tribune* January 12, 1905, p. 5. The two razed buildings housed the City's first grammar school and offices of the *Fullerton Journal*, one of the City's first newspapers ("Historic Angle of Buildings Now Being Razed Told," *Fullerton News Tribune* July 16, 1927, p. 3).

⁵"Inspector Issues \$45,000 IOOF Building Permit." *Fullerton News Tribune* August 2, 1927, p. 10.

⁶"800 Throng Odd Fellows New Temple as Beautiful Edifice Costing \$60,000 is Dedicated." *Fullerton News Tribune* March 1, 1928, p. 3.

⁷Phylicia Bernstein. "Oliver Summerbell Compton: Genealogical and Biographical Sketch." July 2001. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library. Men from the IOOF were allowed to join the Rebekah Assemblies, but the reverse was not possible. Compton was born March 19, 1862 in Waterford, Indiana during the Civil War. Compton married Ida A. Berkey on January 25, 1885 in Elkhart County. He was employed as a clerk in the Goshen, Indiana local hardware store operated by James A. Riley in 1885 and later worked as an implement dealer. The Comptons moved to Pasadena in 1905, then to Fullerton where Compton worked as a building contractor. After Compton retired, the couple moved back to Pasadena in 1931 (439 North Euclid), but continued to come back to Fullerton for Odd Fellows events and activities. The couple celebrated the organization's fortieth anniversary in 1941 ("Odd Fellows Observe 40th Anniversary at Fullerton Lodge," *Fullerton News Tribune* March 25, 1941, p. 1) and also observed their golden wedding anniversary at the Temple ("Observing Golden Wedding Anniversary," *Fullerton News Tribune* January 25, 1935, p. 4, includes a photograph). Compton died March 10, 1947 in Pasadena and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

⁸"City Hall Plans, Zoning Got Start in the 1920's." *Fullerton News Tribune* July 24, 1956, p. E-4.

⁹"Fullerton Experiences Golden Age." *Fullerton News Tribune* July 24, 1956, p. E-1.

¹⁰"800 Throng Odd Fellows New Temple as Beautiful Edifice Costing \$60,000 is Dedicated." *Fullerton News Tribune* March 1, 1928, p. 3.

¹¹"Formal Dedication of I.O.O.F. Temple Costing \$60,000 Will Be Carried Out Here Tonight." *Fullerton News Tribune* February 29, 1928, p. 3.

¹²The post office leased space in the Odd Fellows Temple from 1928 to 1938. In 1938, Fullerton used WPA funds to construct its first post office building down the street at 202 E. Commonwealth Avenue.

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¹³*History of the Odd Fellowship*. Independent Order of Odd Fellows. 30 July 2001.
<<http://norm28.hsc.usc.edu/loof/IOOF/IOOF/IOOGHistory.html>> Excerpted from *Three Link Fraternity--Odd Fellowship in California* by Don R. Smith and Wayne Roberts.

¹⁴Alvin J. Schmidt. *Fraternal Organizations*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1980, p. 244.

¹⁵"Record Elks Lodge to Be Chartered Here." *Fullerton News Tribune* March 16, 1956, p. 1.

¹⁶"Odd Fellows Building Is Complete: Firms Finish Operations on Beautiful \$60,000 Temple of Progressive Order." *Fullerton News Tribune* February 29, 1928, p. 4.

¹⁷Wayne Allen Linebarger. "Biographical Sketch of Dallison Smith Linebarger." April 19, 2001. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library.

¹⁸"William Schumacher Dies at Fullerton." *Fullerton News Tribune* February 1, 1917, p. 1.

¹⁹⁻²⁰Francis Bowen Sterling. "Richard H. Gilman Had a Hand in Establishing Valencia Orange Industry Back in 1880." *Fullerton News Tribune* January 19, 1956, p. 17. "Richard Hall Gilman," In *Historical Volume and Reference Works*. Ed. Thomas B. Talbert. Whittier, CA: Historical Publisher, 1963, Vol. II, p. 690-694.

²¹⁻²²"New Juvenile Dependents Home Named in Honor of City Resident: Veteran Worker with Youth." *Fullerton News Tribune* May 9, 1956, p. 1. "Dies at Amerige Rest Home." *Fullerton News Tribune* September 11, 1967, p. 1. A Spanish American War veteran, Sitton is also honored on a monument located in Irvine Regional Park, City of Orange, California.

²³Samuel Armor, *History of Orange County with Biographical Sketches of Leading Men and Women of the County Who Have Been Identified with Its Growth and Development from the Early Days to the Present*. Los Angeles: Historic Records Company, 1927, p. 1511.

²⁴"Odd Fellows Register for Encampment." *Fullerton News Tribune* October 10, 1931, p. 1.

²⁵"Moose Lodge Gets New Lease." *Fullerton News Tribune* October 5, 1949, p. 7. The Loyal Order of Moose, Chapter 339 of Fullerton, signed a ten-year lease to use both the second and third floors of the IOOF Building. The Moose Lodge allowed service groups to use the floors as well. At the time of the lease, the Odd Fellows Lodge had 65 members and were meeting every Monday night at 101 West Commonwealth ("Odd Fellows One of City's Oldest Lodges." *Fullerton News Tribune* October 5, 1949, p. 4).

²⁶"Odd Fellows Met in 1901." *Fullerton News Tribune* July 24, 1956, p. D-7.

²⁷Mike Carnes. "Iron John in the Gilded Age." *American Heritage* September 1993, p. 41.

²⁸Alvin J. Schmidt. *Fraternal Organizations*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1980, p. 16-17.

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²⁹Fullerton Golden Jubilee Pageant Scrapbook, 1937. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library. On May 11, 1927, ten veterans of the Spanish American War met in the council chamber of the Fullerton City Hall to form a unit called the Warwick Camp named for Captain O. B. Warwick, 18th Infantry. One year later, a ladies auxiliary was formed. The organization was composed of veterans who served in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippine Islands, and China (the Boxer Rebellion).

³⁰Grand Army of the Republic--Malvern Hill Post Number 131. *Meeting Minutes 1908-1942*. The Malvern Hill Post was originally founded in Anaheim on September 17, 1886 with a charter membership of twenty. The total membership throughout the Post's existence was 125. In April 1891, the Post moved to Fullerton. On October 14, 1942, Commander William Burton Crandall, the Post's last surviving member, surrendered its charter and transferred the organization's papers to the Fullerton Public Library.

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Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
Name of Property

Orange County, CA
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Fullerton City Lot 22 Block 28 (and Lots 23 and 24 Block 28)

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the entire city lot historically associated with the Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple proper.

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112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
1929
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Exterior, facing east
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Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Williams Family Trust
1950
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Exterior, facing north
2 of 11

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Fullerton City Staff (part of 1978 historic survey of Fullerton)
1978
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Exterior, facing north
3 of 11

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Exterior, facing north
4 of 11

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Black and White Photographs (Continued)

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Exterior, facing north
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Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Exterior, west elevation
6 of 11

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Exterior, south (rear) elevation
7 of 11

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Interior, second level hall/assembly room, facing south (known as Hall of Truth)
8 of 11

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Black and White Photographs (Continued)

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Interior, second floor hall/assembly room, facing south (known as Hall of Truth)
9 of 11

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Interior, second level hall/assembly room, facing north (known as Hall of Truth)
10 of 11

Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple
112 East Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832
Orange County
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
2001
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Interior, third level hall/assembly room, facing west (known as Fraternity Hall)

Color Slides

- Slide 1: Exterior, facing north, 2001
- Slide 2: Interior, first level, facing north, 2001
- Slide 3: Interior, second level hall/assembly room, facing south, 2001
- Slide 4: Interior, second level hall/assembly room, facing south, 2001
- Slide 5: Interior, second level hall/assembly room, facing south, 2001
- Slide 6: Interior, second level hall/assembly room, facing north, 2001
- Slide 7: Interior, third floor level hall/assembly room, facing west, 2001
- Slide 8: Interior, third floor level/assembly room, facing east, 2001