

PH0505382

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 29 1977 JUN 1 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS BUILDING

AND/OR COMMON

MASONIC - ODD FELLOWS HALL

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

526 Market Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Diego

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

42

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

San Diego

CODE

073

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
  - UNOCCUPIED
  - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
  - YES: UNRESTRICTED
  - NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

Cultural

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles P. Tyson and Robert E. Tyson

STREET & NUMBER

780 Kettner Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

San Diego

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

1222 First Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Diego

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey - Photograph - Data Book Report

CAL-429

DATE

February 20, 1964

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

(Copy attached) See Continuation Sheet

# 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

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### EXTERIOR

The building, built of brick brought from San Francisco for the purpose, was constructed in a pseudo Italian Renaissance style adapted to commercial buildings of its day. The two-story facades consisted of a first story Doric order with cast iron base and pilasters (housing structural columns) and the entablature. Each bay, typically, has intermediate pipe columns supporting the lintel on the Market Street side and one pipe column in the first bay from Market Street on Sixth Avenue. The second story is finished in plaster formed on a 16" brick wall to represent a second order with a base to the moulding at the sill line of the second story windows. The arched head windows are carried at the spring line on three quarter engaged columns to the sill of same window. The entire window is surmounted by a classic type pediment carried on brackets. The first story pilaster piers are continued on the second story as quoined pilasters up to the main cornice of the building, and surmounted by a balustrade parapet of piers and plain balusters which screen the low pitched roof. The main cornice is of sheet metal. A balcony with ornamental iron railing is located at second floor level of central bay on Market Street which is accented by coupled fluted pilasters and a segmental pediment breaking above cornice. The tympanum of this segmental pediment has been blanked off, apparently to conceal inscriptions or other devices of original owners.

Overall Dimensions: The overall length along Market Street is approximately 100'. The overall width along Sixth Avenue is approximately 76'.

Foundations and Basement: The basement extends under the sidewalks a distance of about 14'-9" with about 8'-0" head room. There are four sidewalk entries: two lift metal traffic doors on Market Street, one lift wood door with stairs (fenced, from sidewalk) and an elevator with a lift metal traffic door on Sixth Avenue.

In the basement the exterior wall from the building above is carried on a continuous 1'-6" brick wall, penetrated by doorways of varying widths with flat structural arch lintels. These doors give access to the basements of the five stores that front on Market Street and the one basement entered on from Sixth Avenue which has two doors. These doors connect the basements with the under-sidewalk area which is common to all of them. There is no basement under the north twelve and one half feet of the building.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Completed 1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Levi Goodrich

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows building (or I.O.O.F.) at the corner of 6th and H (now Market Street) represents a wealth of information from the past, not only with regards to the history of the Odd Fellows and Masonic organization of yester-year, but more specifically in its role as an integral part of San Diego in the late -18 and early -19 hundreds. The influence of this building and the activities initiated there were substantial, as evidenced by the numerous entries in the daily newspaper, leading citizens' journals, minutes from various meetings and such. But even aside from its influence on San Diego society, the building itself, structurally and architecturally, proves to be the work of one of California's first and finest architects of the time.

The histories of the organizations housed within the I.O.O.F. building during San Diego's early development are worth mentioning to demonstrate their importance even then:

(San Diego Union: 4/7/1869 1:6): "The origin of the order of the Odd Fellows is of an ancient date. It was established by the Roman soldiers in camp after the order of the Israelites, during the reign of Nero, the Roman Emperor, who commenced this reign A.D. 55. At (this) time they were called Fellow Citizens. The name of Odd Fellows was given to the order of men (A.D. 79), by Titus Caesar, Emperor of Rome....and with each Roman conquest the name "Odd-Fellows" spread.

(San Diego Union: "World Review Section, 1/7/1951): Free Masonry originated back in the middle ages when the great cathedrals were being built. Imbued with the importance of their work, the practical Masons formed guilds to protect the excellence and integrity of their craft. Later in the 17th century after the cathedral building waned, the lodges were opened to "speculative" members, nobles and gentlemen. But, not until 1717 was the first grand lodge formed in England"...and from there it spread.

San Diego was one such place affected by the spread of Masonry. As noted in One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California: Volume IV (published by the Grand Lodge, San Francisco): The City of San Diego is the logical place for the commencement of a history of Southern California Masonry.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

San Diego Union Historical Files, California Room, San Diego Library  
History of San Diego County, California with Illustrations, 1883 Wallace  
W. Elliot.

Pen Pictures From The Garden of the World or Santa Clara County, California  
H.S. Foote, Editor, Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Co. 1888.

Mother Lode Race Incident, Edited, Introduction by Theron Fox, Harlan-  
Young Press, 1966.---See Section 6 for other references.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 76' x 100'

UTM REFERENCES

A	1   1	4   8   5   1   4   0	3   6   1   9   1   4   0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

SARAH HAUGH and CHARLES P. TYSON

May, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

780 Kettner Blvd.,

TELEPHONE

714-235-6423

CITY OR TOWN

San Diego,

STATE

California

# 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

*Heckel Moore*

TITLE

DATE

JUL 25 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles P. Tyson*

DATE

1 31 78

DATE

1 30 78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Representation in Existing Surveys

Title:

Historical American Buildings Inventory, RCC 720 979498

The American Institute of Architects

Date:

December 10, 1960

Federal

Depository for Survey Records

Historical American Buildings Inventory (Library of Congress,  
Washington, D.C.) (Copy attached)

Title:

City of San Diego Historical Site Board Register  
No. 70 (RCC 979-498)

Date:

Local

Depository for Survey Records:

Junipero Serra Museum, California Room  
San Diego, California (Copy attached)

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The inner northwest corner of the building on the first floor only is occupied by four toilet rooms about twelve and one-half feet by fourteen feet with a fifth toilet adjacent under the two-story added structure. All of these floors in the twelve and one-half foot addition are on concrete slab at grade with no basement. There is, however, a wood floor of 6" wide T&G flooring over the concrete slab in the first floor of the two-story portion which was added in 1905. On the second floor above the first floor toilets in the northwest corner there is a small toilet, otherwise leaving this one story portion open to the sky.

Doorways and Storefronts: The present entrance doorway to the second floor stair is made up of a pair of stainless steel covered glazed doors 6'-0" x 8'-0" x 2" (new 1956) with two fixed transoms up to the entablature. There are heavy wooden jambs clad with the same metal trim.

Entrances to the rentals and stores seem to have been considerably modified, but in general are built of wood. The doors usually 8'-0" high with one undivided glazed panel above the lock rail and one unmolded wood panel below. Typically, there is a bulkhead and plain glass show window on one or both sides of the door with identification signs in the upper transom area.

Windows: The second floor windows are round head double-hung about 3'-6" x 5'-9" x 1-3/4", two light two high, surrounded on the exterior down to the spring line with a moulded plaster treatment and surmounted by a free pediment carried on two brackets in plaster work. There are six of these windows on the Market Street elevation with a wrought iron balcony at the fourth window from the corner; and five windows on the Sixth Street elevation with a wrought iron balcony (fire escape) and a counter balanced stair serving the second and third windows (emergency exits) from the corner - one from each large meeting room.

Roof: The roof is semi-flat composition with an east-west ridge. The original building roof has a low point and interior downspout at the northeast corner and at the southwest corner. The addition also is a composition roof separated by the original parapet and at a few feet lower level. The roof framing consists of 2" x 8" rafters at 32" centers, sloping down from and east-west ridge (8'-3" above the second floor ceiling) to the north and south walls. These rafters carry the roof sheathing. At 4'-0" above the second floor ceiling are doubled 2' x 8" bottom chord members parallel to the rafters and trussed to them with diagonal members. The rafters' chords and ceiling joists are full dimension stock. There is a roof hatch adjacent to the ceiling hatch which is reached from the second floor stairway hall. In addition to the rafter trussing there is trussing longitudinal to the building, parallel to the ridge at approximately mid-span of the rafters.

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INTERIOR

Floor Plans:

The first floor plan is so arranged that the stairway to the two lodge halls on the second floor is adjacent to the west wall of the building with double doors opening from Market Street to a small landing at the foot of the stairs.

The plan of the ground (first) floor is divided into seven rental spaces. The five entering from Market Street vary somewhat in width. The more westerly three are about sixty three and one-half feet deep and the two most easterly are about thirty three feet deep. The two entering from Sixth Avenue are about thirty feet and twelve feet in width and forty feet and thirty-five feet in depth respectively. These dimensions include a small (3'-0" approximately) "L" shaped hall that connects the three spaces with the toilets on the north side of the building. The twelve foot space (in 1905 addition) connects directly with the toilet rooms. There are two ground floor toilets in connection with the most westerly space; one under the main stairs and one in the one story structure at the northwest corner of the building. From the west wall of the building spaces one and three have stairs and space four has a ladder to their respective basements.

The second floor was originally planned to accommodate the Masonic Lodge #35 of San Deigo, California, and the Odd Fellows Lodge #153 of San Diego, California. There are two large halls served by a common stairway with a kitchen (over stair) and two toilet rooms at the end of the stairway. The meeting hall for the Odd Fellows at the Market Street side is about twenty-nine and one-half feet wide by fifty-seven and one-half feet long and separated by a double longitudinal wall from the Masonic meeting hall which was about thirty feet wide by about sixty feet long. Each meeting hall has an ante room and the Masons had an additional toilet at the northwest corner of the building. Also, there is a locker room twelve feet by eighty five feet, approximately, added in 1905.

Stairway: The main stairway to the second floor from Market Street is seven feet wide with an entryway at the bottom, sixteen risers to a landing at mid-height and sixteen more risers to the top. The risers and treads are wood. At either side is a raised panel wood wainscot and hand rail. The easterly hand rail is received by a rather massive newel post of wood and in the form of a trunkated polygonal pyramid with a turned cap and returns to the kitchen wall as an open stair well banister. The other stairs mentioned are simple wood stairs. A wood ladder and a sidewalk stair (the latter is stock metal) all are from ground floor level to the basement. The exterior fire escape previously mentioned is of metal, stock type (counterbalanced).

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Flooring: The flooring on the first floor is of 1 x 6 T&G (not hardwood) on wood sub-flooring, except in the twelve and one-half foot addition which seems to be a similar wood flooring over concrete slab (about 12 inches above). The first and second floors of the original structure are carried on 2" x 12" joists; the first floor joists are spaced at 16" o.c.

Wall and Ceiling Finish: The typical wall finish is plaster throughout except for the toilets and the two adjacent rooms on the second floor which have in addition a tile wainscot. In the lodge meeting halls there is a 4'-3" high wainscot (rather ingeniously finished with oak graining). The wainscot cap, which is a heavy moulding, receives vertical boards about 4" in width which extend up from the 6" wood base. A platform, the same height as the base, extends out from the wall about four feet from the sides and six feet from the east wall of the meeting halls, in the riser of which are about five grilles per side serving as air passages from ducts in the walls which extend through the parapet.

Ceilings on the first floor are plastered plain about sixteen feet high. Ceilings on the second floor are plastered plain except in the meeting halls which have a deep cove above an ornamental plaster cornice. There is one large octagonal skylight in each meeting room and three ceiling vents to roof louvers in other rooms, (south ante room, foyer, vestibule). In the southerly meeting room there is a new acoustic ceiling and flush lighting.

Doors: The entrance doors to the main stair were new in about 1956. They are a pair of wood doors, each with a single glazed panel, a low flush panel and with two fixed transoms, one above the other. The Centre assembly is sheathed on the exterior with stainless steel. The doors are fitted with panic hardware. Doors on second floor from kitchen to southerly meeting hall are multiple 3'-6" x 8'-0" x 2" with six raised panels, three above and three below the lock rail. The panel mould is one by two and one-half inches. There is a two-inch transom bar and a wood transom 3'-10" high which repeated the door panels below. In the northerly meeting room separating the ante room from it, are similar doors to those just described except that there is no transom and they are twelve feet high. The remaining doors on the second floor usually are similar in detail but are 3'-0" x 8'-0" x 2" four panel with 10" bottom rail 7-3/4" lock rail and 7-3/4" stiles and rails.

Trim: The typical door and window trim is heavily moulded 7-3/4" wide and 2" deep.

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Geographically, it is in the most southerly portion of the state. Chronologically, it was there that the first white man arrived in California. (page 1624).

More specifically, San Diego Lodge No. 35 was mentioned in this same volume: "San Diego Lodge No. 35 was the first lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of California in the southern portion of the state, and is now one of the largest and most active. This, together with the colorful character of its first members and of the first years of its existence make it a proper place for beginning this history". (page 1624).

Orion M. Zink, Historian of the S.D. Lodge No. 35 F & FM, in his "Masonry at Old Town" said of the early Masons: "It has often been said that the history of the S.D. Lodge is almost the history of San Diego itself. Due to the fact that so many of its members played such important parts in the city's civic, cultural and spiritual growth". The list of the nine charter members supports Zink's claim. John H. Ames, one of these, was editor and publisher of the San Diego Herald, the daily paper. It was he who inserted a notice in a 1851 issue that called Masons in the area to a meeting to celebrate St. John the Baptist's Day. The San Diego Herald, dated June 19, 1851 read as follows: "All Masons in good standing with their respective lodges are requested to assemble at the Exchange Hotel in the City of San Diego, on Friday evening of the twentieth to make arrangements for the celebrating of the anniversary of our patron saint, John the Baptist-.

From this meeting and the seven who came, sprang the beginning of Masonry in San Diego county. Also among them were: W. C. Ferrell, S. D. District Attorney; William H. Davis, responsible for "Davis Folly"--an unsuccessful attempt to found a town on the present site of downtown San Diego; James W. Robinson, once governor of Texas; Agostin Haraszthy, sheriff city marshall and later assemblyman of San Diego, once a Hungarian count, who later founded the Sonoma grape industry; others were: R. E. Raimond, a shipping and commission merchant; Daniel Barbee, an Army major; John Cook, later an assemblyman and William H. Moon, a Georgian. (from "First One Hundred Years of Masonry" by Bryant Evans, S.D. (Union 1/7/1951 and S.D. Union, "World Review" 1/17/1951).

These men, with others who joined later, formed the group of interesting and diverse personalities, who not only made a lasting impression in the beginnings of the lodge and San Diego, but did it colorfully!

One such personality was Lieutenant George H. Derby of the United States Army Engineer Corp. In 1853, he was sent "out west" to San Diego to take charge of the work of diverting the waters of San Deigo River into Mission Bay, then known as False Bay. On his first visit to San Diego Lodge on March 7, 1853, he was made aware of the plight of the lodge in obtaining a charter. That April Derby became a member of the San Diego Lodge and at that time, a resolution was adopted authorizing

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him to represent San Diego at the next communication of the Grand Lodge (San Francisco), with full power to take whatever action was necessary to obtain a charter. His trip northward was booked on the steamer, Ohio. For reasons unknown the Ohio's departure was delayed and Derby with it. He arrived in San Francisco barely in time to attend the meeting of o the Grand Lodge on May 7, 1853. On that day, the Committee on Dispensation and Charters reported the books and work of the San Diego Lodge to be in order and a Charter was authorized (one of 13 lodges to be authorized, numbers running from 23 to 35). Because San Diego was the nineteen oldest Lodge in the state (and first in southern California) it was entitled to preference in the allotment of numbers. But, because of Lieutenant Derby's delay San Diego received the last number, 35, instead of the coveted smaller number (One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California, p. 1829) with its charter dated May 7, 1853, San Diego Lodge No. 35 officially came into being.

The Odd Fellows of San Diego had their beginnings in "New Town", San Diego. A meeting was held at the house of James Pasco on December 5, 1868. It was then that they resolved to organize and they soon realized that their growth and stature within the community would necessitate a more permanent structure. (History of San Diego County, California with Illustrations. 1883, Wallace W. Elliot and Co. S.D. CA. p. 1 26).

This need for permanent meeting halls by both the Masons and the Odd Fellows evolved into the formation of the Masonic Building Association. San Diego citizens were made aware of the decision and facts: (S.D. Union 12/4/1872) "Capital stock of the building association incorporated for building a Masonic Hall is \$30,000; large part has been subscribed and the rest will be shortly; Masons are excluded from taking stock in the Association; site 75 feet wide has been purchased on 6th Street." the town's participation was essential.

On January 30, 1873 the architectural firm of Payne and Lacy was commissioned to draw plans. However, fund raising and building difficulties occurred and it was years before major construction followed. The building difficulties were mentioned by businessman, John W. Thompson in his memoirs: "There was considerable confusion all the time, trying to work with inferior materials--brick principally--slighting the specifications, etc.---so when the building was finished there was a bad controversy; the contractor claiming extra pay for the changes in the specifications and the Association claiming damages for non fulfillment of contract."

During these years of difficulties, principally 1881, the architect, Mr. Levi Goodrick of San Jose, arrived to make some necessary modifications on the plans that he had originally designed eight years before. Goodrich had embarked on his architectural career at the age of 19. He studied under the then famous New York architect, R. G. Hatfield, until the "gold fever" struck and he found himself headed to California, destination, San Francisco. There he drew up the plans for a three

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story building on the corner of Washington and Kearney Streets, the present site of the old Hall of Records. This was the first work done in San Francisco by a professional architect, and there began a track record of other "prominent and elegant" buildings. It was on a visit to San Diego in April of 1887, that Goodrich was stricken while dining with his wife at the Horton House, and died, but fortunately much of his work remains. (Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World or Santa Clara County, California, H.S. Foote, Editor, Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Co. 1888).

The final changes were arranged, "The edifice, a joint hall for the Odd Fellows and Masons, will be two stories and a half in height, with a basement, having a frontage of fifty feet on Sixth Street, and a 75 feet on H Street. Under the present arrangement, the Masons are to occupy the Sixth Street front and the Odd Fellows the H Street front. The building will cost from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and the design is a most handsome one, making it the most imposing edifice in the city. Work will commence early next week, and be pushed to a speedy completion." (S.D. Union 10/1/1881).

Its completion was marked by the placement of the final corner-stone on March 7, 1882. This occasion was marked, celebrated and attended by the citizens of San Diego: "A very large audience of ladies and gentlemen were assembled, Sixth and H Streets, in front of the Temple, being crowded while every seat, and every inch of space within the enclosure was occupied; and the front rooms of the California Southern Railroad building, as well as the roof, were also crowded with spectators." (S. D. Union 3/8/1882, page 3).

The ancient ceremonial and lengthy speeches were printed verbatim the next morning in the newspaper, perhaps suggestive of the influence that the two organizations would bring to bear on San Deigo in subsequent years.

Influence, unlike a commodity or measured amount, cannot be easily determined. Perhaps the best way of assessing the influence of these two fraternal orders in their day is to quote from articles of that time. An excerpt from the Mother Lode Race Incident, (Edited, Introduction by Theron Fox, Harlan-Young Press, 1966), is indicative: "Fraternal orders of a century ago formed a community function that is today hard to realize. Long before the times of rapid transportation, movies, radio and television, and especially the welfare state, these organizations were the center of the social life as well as administering to the aid and care of their members and dependents.

"Membership added strength to the individual and there was a fraternal lodge to care for every creed and national interest...

"They all had a leading part in the community and a major influence on the life of the individual."

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From a speech to fellow Masons, Claude Morrison, a past grand worshipful master of California and a member of San Diego's Lodge #35, said of Masonry: "As we know Masonry in England and America, it is partly religious but it has stayed away from creeds. It has upheld good government, but has fought shy of politics. It has provided social life for its members, but it has never become class conscious." (S.D. Union 1/7/1951).

Of the Odd Fellows, Clarence Alvis, then that organization's state Grant Master, stated: "If every club, church and fraternal order followed the tenets of the International Order of Odd Fellows, there no longer would be trouble in the world--" (from a speech in San Deigo; S.D. Union 5/16/1967 4:5)... Its influence, apparently, was thought to be not only great, but a universal cure-all.

Locally, the I.O.O.F. building was situated in the heart of what was then the center of business and commerce. It commanded an influential position, being located almost opposite The Bank of San Diego, and its presence was felt in the commercial proceedings of the day. For instance, from a notice in the Union, dated April 12, 1888, the citizens were made aware that the 69th anniversary of the American Odd Fellows was to be observed by the closing of banks and business houses. Other annual anniversary celebrations involved more socially oriented affairs for the city. One, a ball in honor of the 65th anniversary of the American Odd Fellows, was said to have been "one of the finest affairs of the kind ever given in the city" (S.D. Union 4/26/1884). Another anniversary in 1887, was celebrated on a "larger scale than heretofore; the programme embraces a parade, an oration by J. E. Benton of Oakland, musical and literary exercises and a ball in the evening." (S.D. Union 4/12/1887).

Even more suggestive of its influence in San Diego, was the rapid spread of new Masonic lodges. By the early 1900's, San Diego could boast of at least twelve lodges other than the Hall on Sixth and H, downtown. Some of these included Coronado, Lodge #328, Centennial Encampment #54, Canton #22, Escondido Lodge #344, Monument Lodge #351, Mystic Tie Lodge #338, National City #336, Oceanside Olive #336, Orange Lodge #88, Silvergate Lodge, and Sunset Lodge #328.

Today, although the Odd Fellows and Masons no longer inhabit the old I.O.O.F. building, still, at least temporarily, it serves a function for culture in San Diego. It houses on its second floor, the San Diego Ballet, founded in 1961. Their productions range from the lavish full orchestra with international stars to the more intimate local performances.

In 1972, the I.O.O.F. building was recognized for its past role in the city's history, being designated a Historical Landmark by San Diego's Historical Site Board.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The historical and architectural importance of this building is undeniable. As it was so well stated in a recent association city report on the Gaslamp area (of which the I.O.O.F. building is a part): "The Gaslamp District could stand as an architectural oasis in the shadow of today's high-rise buildings; providing historical and cultural perspective to both eras and revising an economically decayed area."