

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 684 571
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RECEIVED SEP 19 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 18 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

RECEIVED

APR 27 1978

OHP

HISTORIC ^{No.}
Suisun Masonic Lodge #55 F. & A.M.

AND/OR COMMON

Stanley Y. Beverley Lodge #108

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

623 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Suisun City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

California

VICINITY OF
CODE

06

COUNTY

Solano

CODE

095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Masonic Lodge

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Stanley Y. Beverley Lodge #108 (Leonardo Largo)
736 Buck Avenue
623 Main Street Vacaville, California 95688)

CITY, TOWN

Suisun City

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Solano County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

West Texas Street

CITY, TOWN

Fairfield, California

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None Known

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Suisun City, the Suisun Masonic Lodge Number 55, F. & A.M., is a three-story rectangular building of brick construction. The building is 38 feet wide by 100 feet long. The front of the building faces east and is divided into five bays. On the first floor the bays are separated by embossed cast iron columns. The southernmost bay contains the entrance to the Masonic rooms upstairs. The original doors have been replaced with modern steel-framed fire-resistant doors set back about four feet from the sidewalk to form a paneled alcove. Three of the remaining bays have large plateglass windows topped with a four-light panel and a two-light panel. The fourth bay contains an entrance to the ground floor shop, which now houses an antique store. There was probably an awning over the sidewalk between the first and second floors. The second and third floors are divided into bays by five lancet arches. The second and fourth arches meet to form a sixth arch. Four arches are filled with stained glassed windows. The colorful panels depict masonic symbols, crucifixes and stars. The center arch is filled with brick and has a granite plaque embossed with the masonic symbol and lodge number. Each of the arches is fitted with a granite keystone. The roofline shows signs of repair work. The work was probably done to repair damage from the great 1906 earthquake which devastated San Francisco.¹ The rear of the building has four openings on each floor. On the first floor, two of the openings accommodate doors. One is original and the other is a modern steel-framed fire-resistant door that was installed to meet current safety requirements. The other openings serve as windows. All openings were originally covered with metal covered wooden fire doors, but only three of these remain on the ground floor. Early in the century a steel fire escape was added to the rear of the building. The north and south walls of the building adjoin neighboring structures. The roof is a slightly pitched gable covered with asphalt composition roofing paper. The interior is decorated with hardwood wainscoting chair-rails and molding. There is a high vaulted ceiling and a balcony for musicians in the main lodge room.

The building has been altered structurally as noted above. These changes do not significantly affect its integrity.

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1. The Solano Republican, April 20, 1906, Page 1, Column 2, reported that the front wall of the Masonic Hall had been cracked by the earthquake and that some bricks had fallen as a result. The repair may have changed the shape of the roofline, but this cannot be determined. A diligent search of private photographic collections in Suisun City and the California State Library of Sacramento did not reveal any pre-1906 pictures of the Suisun Lodge. The files of the Suisun City Planning Department do not contain information regarding repair work on 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 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 1868 1855 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hiram Rush

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Suisun Lodge Number 55 F. & A.M. built in 1855 is significant for its architectural style and for its historic associations with the development of Suisun City. Constructed originally as a lodge and retail store, the building has been continuously used for these functions since 1855. It is a good example of public and commercial architecture, common during the mid-19th Century in California and is significant for the excellence of its craftsmanship and design.

The Masonic Lodge was erected in 1855 by Hiram Rush, a mason and prominent Solano County rancher. Rush was prevailed upon by fellow lodge members to add additional floor space for a new lodge in the store building, which he was then constructing. In return, the lodge paid for the cost of the third floor. Rush subsequently deeded the property to the Masonic Order.

Rush was closely associated with the agricultural development of Solano County and California. He immigrated to California in 1849, engaged in livestock raising and eventually acquired 51,000 acres of land. This made him one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens in Solano County. The methods and materials employed in the construction of the lodge are in many ways typical of the period. Brick was considered to be superior for commercial construction because of its fire-resistant qualities. Because of the threat of fire in the 1850's, some cities required that buildings in commercial sections be constructed of brick or stone. Metal fire doors were usually employed as well, and such buildings were widely regarded as fireproof.²

Cast iron fronts were also popular architectural details during the 1850's.

The Masonic Lodge's unique contribution to the Suisun City streetscape is the four colorful stained glass windows. The windows rise nearly two stories above the first floor. The Masonic Lodge is the largest building on Main Street, but the windows make its presence pleasant rather than oppressive or overbearing. Although the surrounding buildings are smaller, their design is compatible with the lodge. It has been noted in Item 7 that the building has been altered and repaired during the course of the century; nevertheless, the Suisun Lodge retains most of its original fabric and design character and remains as an impressive reminder of Suisun City's early years.

2. Harold Kirker, California's Architectural Frontier: Style and Tradition in the 19th Century (Santa Barbara, 1973), Pages 60-61.

