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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 11 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Eastern Star Hall _____

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 2719 K Street

not for publication: _____

city/town: Sacramento

vicinity: _____

state: CA county: Sacramento

code: 067

zip code: 95816

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: _____ NA

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

Stead R. Craig
Signature of certifying official

12/8/92
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): _____

Entered in the
National Register

Delores Byers 1/7/93

for Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Social

Sub: Meeting Hall

Current : Social

Sub: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Romanesque

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation: concrete roof: terra cotta
walls: brick other _____
terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1928-1942 _____

Significant Dates : _____

Significant Person(s): _____

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: Coffman, Salsbury & Stafford, Architects
Gould, L. Frederick, Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

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:

- x State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	10	633040	4270230	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Assessor's Parcel No. 007-111-15

Boundary Justification: This is the lot that has historically been associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Tom Winter and Maryln Bourne Lortie

Organization: Sacto Old City Association
& CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Street & Number: P.O Box 942896

Date: September, 1992

Telephone: (916) 653-8911

City or Town: Sacramento

State: CA ZIP: 94296-0001

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Eastern Star Hall

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Eastern Star Hall is a large and imposing polychrome brick and terra cotta building located on the edges of downtown Sacramento in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood. Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is across the street. Romanesque Revival in style, with Moorish or Byzantine elements, the building is more than three stories in height, has a gabled roof covered with terra cotta tile, and a brick chimney at either end. The hall was completed in 1928.

The building facade is divided into three bays. The widest, the central bay, projects slightly forward from the rest of the building and contains an entryway of three arches, each with a set of French doors with transoms overhead. Corinthian columns separate the doorways and support a large decorated base for another arched opening, tall and slender, with five arches and four Corinthian columns. At the roofline, the terra cotta cornice is corbelled.

At either side of the central bay are identical bays, each with a vertical terra cotta panel framing two windows, one above the other. These terra cotta frames each have a keystone at the top and corbels at the bottom.

Horizontally, the building is divided by both wide and narrow courses of terra cotta within the lower third of facade. Four broad steps rise from the sidewalk to the entryway which is only a short elevation above the sidewalk.

The rear and side walls are plain and unremarkable. The interior, however, has a grand staircase foyer which begins on axis with the doors and splits into two, wrapping around the lobby and continuing on to the ballroom/auditorium on the third floor. The auditorium has a coffered and beamed ceiling with ornate painting, one of the largest maple floors in the area, a large stage, and balcony. The second floor has two chapter rooms with similarly beamed and coffered ceilings. The original soft colors of the decorative plaster work in these rooms have been painted over. Alterations to the building have been minimal, though, and overall, it retains a very high level of integrity.

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The Eastern Star Hall is significant both for its architecture and its role in the social history of the community. The building is an impressive public structure, exhibiting fine craftsmanship in its brickwork and terra cotta decoration. According to the inventory form prepared for the hall, "The structure is an outstanding design and a fine representative of its stylistic derivation. The dramatic use of contrasting terra cotta and brick creates a skillful, bold, and imaginative composition." The Order of the Eastern Star Hall is the oldest building extant in Sacramento devoted to a women's institutional organization.

The Masonic Order had been the domain of males until the year 1850 when Dr. Rob Morris, a Master Mason living in Jackson, Mississippi set about to devise a ritual for the adoption of females into Masonry. From this originated the Order of the Eastern Star. The first members were friends and acquaintances, but soon lectures and assemblies created a growing order. By 1859 Dr. Morris published a system for the creation of "Families of the Eastern Star". After the Civil War another system was devised which set up the Chapter system still in use today.

The Eastern Star is an order of both men and women, where women take the major roles and positions. It was devised to bring women into Masonry and not to establish a women's Masonic order. Because of this relationship the overall majority of OES chapters meet in Masonic Halls created for other branches of Masonry. The OES has a membership of 90,550 in California, and numbers over two million members worldwide. However, the average age of members is rising, and the total number of members is slowly declining.

The Sacramento Order of the Eastern Star was first established in 1879. During the years from 1923 to 1928 five OES chapters in Sacramento planned and raised funds for the Temple. The five chapters were Naomi #36, Columbus #117, Sacramento #190, Ada #301, and Fort Sutter #420. The chapters had been meeting in the Masonic Temple at 12th and J Streets. No doubt the schedule of meetings at the Masonic Temple was quite crowded and gave rise to the need for a separate building. (Currently the Eastern Star is used by thirteen other Masonic related groups as well as the Music Circus for dance and theater auditions and practice sessions. The Camellia Symphony held the "Vienna" Waltz concert in the auditorium for many years.)

Money was raised through "events" but the main method was the issuance of "stock" of which 20,000 shares were released at \$5 per share. Each of the five chapters, the Grand Chapter of California, individuals and even Masonic Lodges bought shares. The corner stone was set on May 19, 1928, and presided over by The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of California, Will H. Fisher. The Temple was dedicated on October 16, 1928.

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The building is significant as an example of auditorium architecture of the period. It is a significant representative of the brick commercial and institutional buildings that boomed throughout the Central Valley in the 1920s.

Unlike most institutions which profit from construction of facilities or are concerned with the lasting image created by construction of buildings, the OES has been so interwoven into the fabric of Masonry that construction of separate OES halls has not been necessary.

After 140 years of the existence of the Order of the Eastern Star, only four temples or halls have been constructed. The OES Hall in Sacramento is the only surviving structure that was designed and constructed by the OES.

The OES Hall, the YWCA (1122 17th Street), the Tuesday Club (2722 L Street), the Young Ladies Institute (1400 27th Street) all are examples of women's organizations which have made significant contributions of buildings to the fabric of Sacramento. These buildings were all constructed within a nine year period. Since then, no additional significant women's institutional architecture has been added to Sacramento. Of these structures, the oldest was the Tuesday Club, but the existing building is a 1950 reconstruction of the original, which had burned. Of the remaining, the oldest by several years is the OES Hall, built in 1928.

Thus the OES is one of the most important architectural statements of institutionalized women's interests in Sacramento. The architecture of the OES Hall was of high quality in 1928, using high-fired brick elements with other expensive and lasting materials such as cast stone and terra cotta. In sum, architecturally this building has significance as a fine example of the Romanesque Revival style, but beyond that is one of only a handful of historically significant buildings in Sacramento devoted to the interests of women. It is also the only one of its type -- an Eastern Star Hall built by its membership for the use of the order, the largest fraternal organization in the world admitting members of both sexes.

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Eastern Star Hall, 1920s (Architect's Rendering)

