

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

MAR 23 1982

**1. Name**

historic Masonic Temple and Lodge

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 1329-31 Park Street & 2312 Alameda Avenue  not for publication

city, town Alameda  vicinity of                      congressional district (9)

state California code (06) county Alameda code (001)

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple ownership (sheet attached)

street & number

city, town Alameda  vicinity of                      state California

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alameda County Courthouse

street & number 1225 Fallon Street

city, town Oakland  vicinity of                      state California

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Reviewed by: Alameda Historical Commission, City of Alameda  
title Alameda Historical & Architectural Survey  has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date February 1, 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alameda Historical Survey, City Hall

city, town Alameda 94501 state California

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The old and new Masonic Temples are situated in the Central Business District of Alameda. The old Masonic Temple and many of the brick commercial buildings located in this area reflect the architecture of an earlier turn-of-the-century era. At the southwest corner of the intersection of Park Street and Alameda Avenue is the old Temple that was designed in the **Victorian Eclectic** style. Along Alameda Avenue, its northside is adjacent to the new Lodge, which was built to eventually replace the original Temple. The new Lodge completed in 1927, clearly reflects a Spanish Renaissance style. There is a 36-year separation between the time of construction of the more recent Lodge building and the old Temple which was completed in 1891. Both buildings have distinct styling and some related design features.

The old Temple is a massive three-story monochromatic brick masonry building, which roughly covers a 65' x 100' area. The eclectic Victorian craftsmanship of the building directs attention to its **various architectural motifs**. The following design features are evident on both street elevations.

1. The bays found on both the first and second floors are separated vertically by flat pilasters and piers;
2. At the second story level, both elevations present recessed, elongated windows with segmented brick arched openings;
3. Exterior distinction of floors is made by projecting belt courses;
4. La yish stone engravings occur where the pilasters and piers intersect the belt courses;
5. The uppermost belt course is enlarged to display elaborate frieze and cornice details; and
6. The exterior design of the third floor is primarily reserved for roof treatment.

As seen from Park Street, the building is spacially divided by three brick engaged piers which rise above the roof. There is one pier at each corner of the roof, and a third pier is off-center, which separates a cross gable and tower. The cross gable has stone panels that are bisected by a masonry cylindrical shaft capped with an ornamental, conical pinnacle. South of the center pier is the mansard roofed tower which rises above the third floor. Steeply pitched gabled dormers are present on all elevations of the roof. Originally, the roofing material was tin and slate and capped with galvanized iron cresting.

The north elevation of the old Temple displays a continued use of the pier system which creates seven bays. At the west end, the last bay contains a rough chiseled stone semi-circular archway which has ornately carved double doors. Glass panels are set in the upper half of these doors which open to a grand staircase that leads to the upstairs Temple rooms. As previously mentioned, the new Lodge adjoins the old Temple at this elevation. At one time, the large arched entry served as the main access for both buildings in the late 1920's and 1930's. All passage ways between the buildings have since been sealed

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	Old Temple: 1890		Charles Mau/Architect	Civic

**Specific dates** New Lodge: 1927      **Builder/Architect** Edwin Symmes/Architect

## Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The historical significance of the architecture and ornamentation of both buildings is their uniqueness within the urban design context of Alameda's downtown area. The design style of the old Temple, which borrows from Queen Anne and Romanesque styles in Alameda and also in Northern California. The new Lodge reflects a Spanish Renaissance theme which was popular during the years from 1915 to 1940. However, this particular building is one of two structures within the downtown area having the Spanish Renaissance design theme.

The old Temple and new Lodge serve as an important link with the history of the Masonic Association of Alameda and the East Bay. They physically represent the fraternal organization and display the accomplishments of the ancient skill of Masonry. Within the walls of these buildings gathered many individuals who were culturally, socially and politically influential in the City's development.

The early members as well as present members have contributed to manifold civic efforts. Members of the Oak Grove Lodge, one of several Masonic groups to meet in both the old and new Lodge, were instrumental in constructing the first school house in Alameda, and the First Methodist Episcopal Church. Another area of involvement was in education. Dr. William Gibbons was President of the first Board of Education in Alameda, and one of the founders of the Alameda Free Library. Another member, James Russell Knowland was Master of the Lodge in 1904, and became a Congressman from California. The Oakland poet, Joaquin Miller, was also a Lodge member. William Knowland was introduced to the Association by his father James Russell Knowland. The younger Knowland was widely known as the publisher of the Oakland Tribune and as a U.S. Senator. Many members involved themselves in local government. Eight former Mayors and two former Vice Mayors emerged from the Oak Grove Lodge to participate in civic affairs.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Alameda Semi-Weekly Argus: Saturday, December 13, 1890.,
2. A Walking Tour of Alameda's Historical Downtown & Civic Center Districts., Prepared by the Historical Advisory Commission of the City of Alameda., April 1977.
3. Masonic Temple Application to the National Register., Prepared by Italo Calpestri, March 30, 1979.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property .41 acres

Quadrangle name Oakland East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	0
---	---

5	6	6	6	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	7	9	6	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached Sheet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>7/c</u>	code	county	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title See Attached Sheet.

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*[Handwritten Signature]*

title

date 12/1/80



FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 10 1980  
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

---

Owner of Property: 1329-31 Park Street (The Old Masonic Temple)

John Lineweaver  
45 Quail Court, Suite 110  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Owner of Property: 2312 Alameda Avenue (New Lodge)

Masonic Hall Association  
2314 Alameda Avenue  
Alameda, Vicinity of Oakland, California 94501

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 10 1980
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

Both buildings are visually abutting and can be considered structurally related. Other similar features of the buildings include that of scale and massing. The new Masonic Lodge is three-storied and has a rectangular configuration which is similar to the original Temple. It is apparent that any other similarities, such as those relating to architectural styling, do not exist.

The new Lodge has a metal frame construction, which is concealed by finely cut ashlar masonry facing. Built in 1927, the new Lodge borrows from the Spanish Renaissance style. The main features of this style is the ornate, low-relief carvings highlighting arches, entrys, window surrounds and cornices. Stone exterior walls often are left exposed or finished in stucco or plaster. Iron window and door grilles may be used. The facades of large buildings may be enriched by decorated cornice window heads. Red tiled hipped roofs are typical.

The ground floor level was planned to include small commercial stores. The exterior facade of each business is defined between two lathed wood pilasters resting on marble plinths. The pilasters are capped by wood finials, which rise above a cornice positioned between the first and second floors. Above the entry of several businesses are fixed transoms with six panes. Below these transoms are galvanized iron awning boxes used to sotre awnings. The recessed main entry for the new Lodge also has a fixed transom. Transom and door glazing is entirely covered by wrought iron grille work having a quatrefoil motif.

The solid wall surface from the first floor wall cornice to the roof cornice is eased by regularized fenestration occurring at the second floor level. All window sashes are rectilinear. Varied exterior window treatment of plain patent sashing and of elaborate bas-relief casting is alternated. It is the ornate window surrounds projecting from the face of the building that highlight the building. The bas-relief casting includes quatrefoil design in open concrete work on a semi-circular area above the window. Engaged cement columns flank the sides of the windows and repeat the shape of the previously mentioned wood pilasters and enriched cornice window surrond. Cast cement Masonic emblems horizontally line up with the window heads and are several feet below the moulded roof cornice. Above the cornice is the dark red tile roof which caps the entire front massing along Alameda Avenue.

The old Temple was recently purchased by John Lineweaver. It has remained up to the present the property of the Masonic Order. As a result of the continuous ownership, the architectural and historical integrity of this building has remained virtually unchanged either in design or construction. The original roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles, and the second story window frames have been replaced with aluminum frames. The only major change to the old Temple building has been the addition of the sign by the present occupant of the corner store, "Morewear Paints".

The new Lodge is still owned by the Masonic Association, and continues to display its original design features.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 10 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at a point on the southwest corner of the intersection of Alameda Avenue and Park Street to a distance of 65.32 feet, S33°30'W, then a distance of 94.33 feet N61°28' W, then a distance of 35 feet S28°32'W, then a distance of 39.08 feet N61°28'W, then a distance of 50 feet S28°32'W, then a distance of 150 feet N28°32'E, then a final distance of 186.96 feet N61°28'E to the said point of the beginning.

then a distance of 50 feet N61°28'W,

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 10 1980  
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

---

Form Prepared by:

Italo A. Calpestri III  
Architect AIA  
1504 Park Street Suite No. 7  
Alameda, California 94501

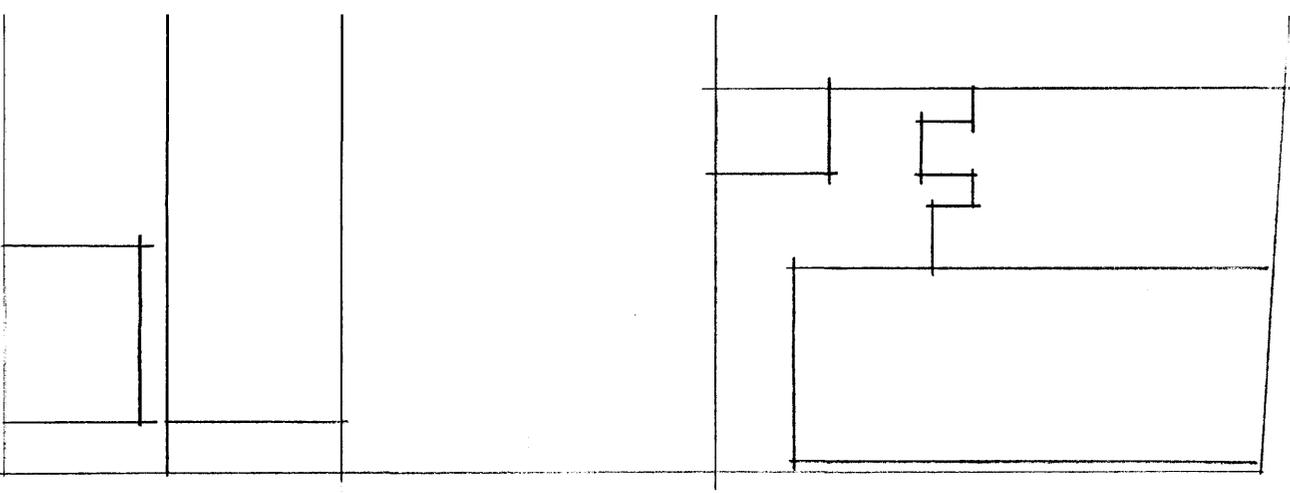
March 30, 1979  
(415) 522-6769

Form Revised by:

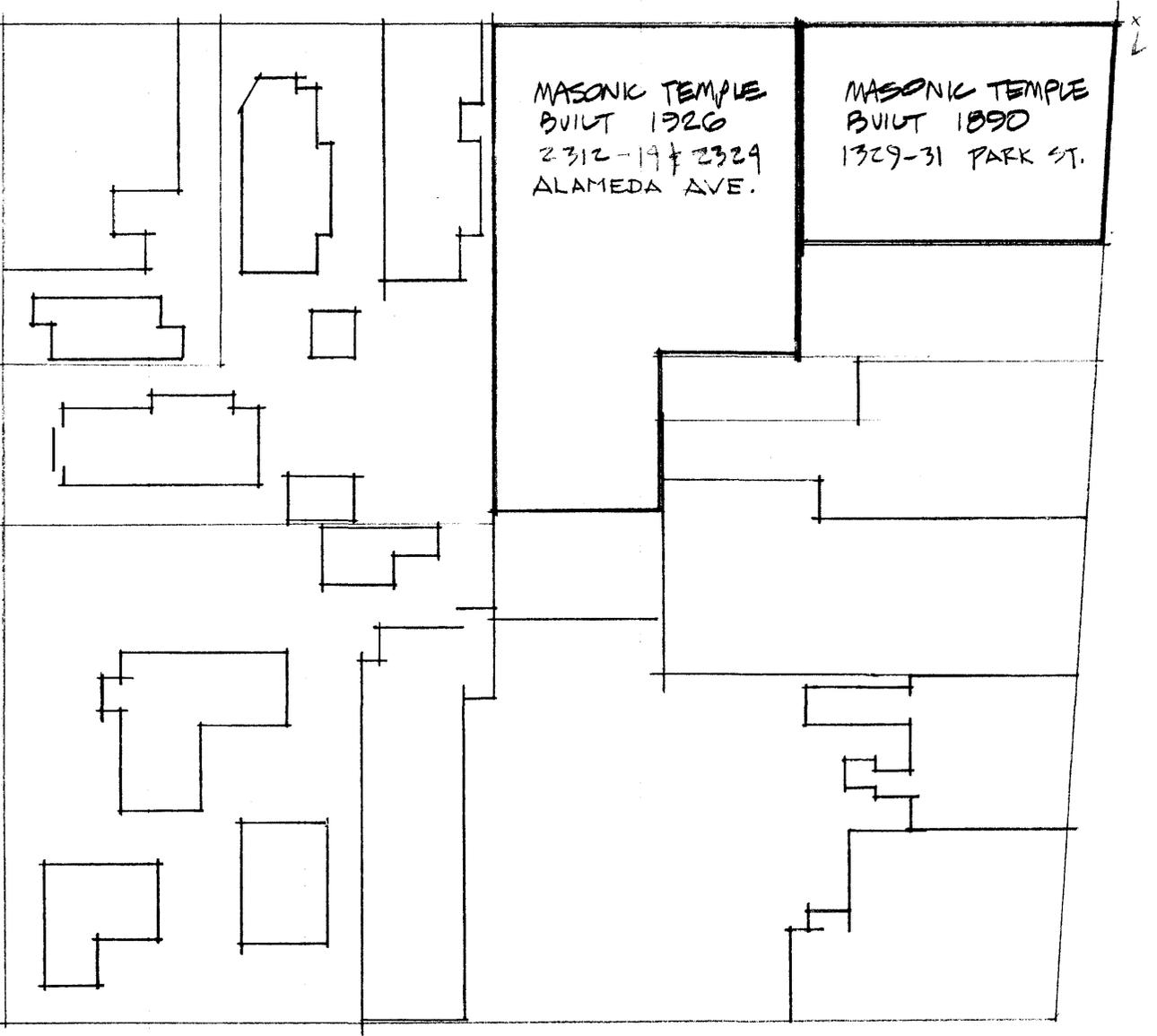
Charlene Millett  
Historical Advisory Commission Staff  
City Hall  
Alameda, California 94501

February 20, 1980  
(415) 521-6830

OAK STREET



ALAMEDA AVE



MASONIC TEMPLE  
BUILT 1926  
2312-19 & 2329  
ALAMEDA AVE.

MASONIC TEMPLE  
BUILT 1890  
1329-31 PARK ST.

PARK STREET ↗

DEC 1 0 1965

ENCINAL AVE

JUL 24 1979

VICINITY MAP MASONIC TEMPLE, ALAMEDA CA 94501  
SOURCE: SANBORN MAP  
NO SCALE