Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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ш ш UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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	ENTRY DATE

			EN	TRY DATE		
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)			ns)	MAR 1 8 1975		
1. NAME						
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GRANGER HALL				\wedge	A	%
AND/OR HISTORIC:					RECEIVED	
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2. LOCATION				101	1 2 131	
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☐ Object	☐ Both	XX Being	Considered	Preservation work	Unrestricted	'
				in progress	□ No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or I	More as Appropriate)					
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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

GRANGER MUSIC HALL was built by Ralph Granger in 1898. The HALL is a 19th Century single-story wood frame structure with two entrances on the west*-one for the public and one for performers. A music room which Granger built on his Paradise Valley estate in 1896 was expanded by the addition of an 80x32 foot auditorium to the south*. The original room became the foyer of the present HALL which measures 100x32 feet and has a seating capacity of 150. The cedar shingle exterior, painted red, contains four 5-1/2 foot oval windows of solid glass, two on each side of the auditorium. These, with the small dormer windows in the foyer aesthetically highlight the interior. Granger was in Colorado on business during construction of the auditorium and rectangular windows were installed. Shortly after his return, the oval windows replaced the rectangular ones.

"General construction consists of tongue in groove maple hardwood floor covering over a one-inch douglas fir subfloor, supported by 2x10 inch douglas fir studs, spaced 16 inches on center. The exterior wall covering consists of cedar shingles, laid over 1x6 inch redwood horizontal solid sheathing. All interior wall coverings are lime plaster supported by 2x3/8 inch king truss assemblies at approximately 24 inches on center. Skid sheathing spaced at 4 inch intervals support a base roof of cedar shingles. An estimated build-up of six additional layers of mineral-surfaced composition roof coverings have been installed."

Irving John Gill,** who worked under Adler and Sullivan mastering acoustical technique, was the architect. "Designed so that no two walls or surfaces are parallel, the floor slopes forward from the back of the auditorium approximately six inches. The ceiling and walls have a slight canter which was done deliberately for acoustics." Wood panel wainscoating extends five feet up the wall. From the panel to the ceiling, the wall is covered with seamless Irish linen. A simple border of garlands adorns the cove to the ceiling on which is painted a 75' mural of Euterpe, Goddess of Music. Plaster decorations surrounding the mural are finished in gold leaf. At the south end of the HALL is a stage, behind which the elaborately carved white cedar casing once housed a 1060 pipe concert organ. The HALL was nearly soundproof and considered acoustically perfect.

PRESENT CONDITION: On November 6, 1969 the structure was relocated to a park site. Its original N-S orientation is now W-E. The structure has suffered fire, water and vandal damage."... damage due to fire occurred in the roof area (foyer) in 1937 and in the south wall, roof and ceiling on January 4, 1969"³ The organ has been removed for repair. "The structural condition of the relocated building has been analyzed by a California State-licensed civil engineer. Complete rehabilitation plans and specifications have been prepared. The building now rests upon a new foundation and new floor substructure."⁴

*Original Location Orientation
**Verification Source--Rachel Granger Wegeforth

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	🚺 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
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Communications	Military	👿 Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

GRANGER MUSIC HALL was built by Ralph Granger who made a fortune from the "Last Chance" Silver Mine in Colorado in the 1890s. His new fortune enabled him to indulge his lifelong love of music in grand style.

The design of the HALL is attributed to IRVING JOHN GILL, famous Californian architect whose innovative simplicity of style is evident in the HALL's uncluttered natural beauty. Gill was an expert in acoustical design and the HALL is considered acoustically perfect. GRANGER MUSIC HALL is believed to be one of two privately owned music halls in the United States.*

A Seventy-Five Foot Mural of EUTERPE, GODDESS OF MUSIC, with her hand-maiden and 15 cherubs adorns the auditorium ceiling. It was painted by a muralist from Chicago** who lay on his back on a scaffold to do the work. Rachel Granger Wegeforth, Ralph Granger's daughter, said he worked quickly, finishing in a few weeks. This was fortunate as he was a guest in the Granger home during the entire time and had brought along his two pet St. Bernards.

A Murray Harris Concert Organ, one of the largest built at the time, having 1060 pipes filled the entire south wall. Gracing the stage in front of the organ casing was a Knabe Concert Grant Piano with a twelve foot keyboard, one of two made. The foyer contained a fireproof safe which housed the famous Hawley Violin Collection purchased by Granger in 1896. The 12 violins comprised the best small collection in the world. Granger sold the collection in 1902.

World-Famous Performing Artists such as YSAYE, HAMBOURG, and FRIML appeared in the Hall. Granger paid full concert fees and often guaranteed artists fees for San Diego performances enabling residents to enjoy the finest musical entertainment. The Granger family provided financial assistance for the education of ROYAL BROWN, Well-Known San Diego Organist.

Although Granger moved to National City to "enjoy the fruits" of his hard work, he became a civic leader constructing a bank building (8th & National) and the first major structure in downtown San Diego, the Granger Block (5th & Broadway). He purchased the Merchants National Bank in San Diego and became its president. Eventually he sold his interests to Bank of America. He moved to San Diego in 1906 when fire destroyed his home in National City's Paradise Valley.

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	Historic Preservation A				by certify t		operty is i	ncluded	in the
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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GRANGER MUSIC HALL was moved from the original site at 2600 East 8th, National City, in 1969 when the acreage was sold to a developer. The twelve block move to El Toyan Park at 1700 East 4th, National City, costing approximately \$10,000., was paid for by donations from local businesses and civic groups. The HALL's interior and exterior have not been materially changed but are in need of restoration and repair.

GRANGER HALL has been set on a concrete brick foundation with concrete steps to the foyer and a concrete ramp to the musicians' entrance. The National City Kiwanis Club is repairing and replacing exterior shingles; the Lyons Club is providing new window glass; the Rotary Club and City of National City have repaired the roof and restored the eaves; the Altrusa Club is rebuilding the fireplace and the National City Chamber of Commerce has raised \$1400. for installation of utilities. Labor is being donated by Cooper Plumbing and Bridgeman Electric. The Chamber of Commerce will continue collecting donations for restoration.

IT IS HOPED THAT GRANGER MUSIC HALL'S PLACEMENT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CAN BE EXPEDITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INCREASED INTEREST IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION INSPIRED BY THE UPCOMING BE-CENTENNIAL.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Form 10-300a (July 1989)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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- *Cited in Mabel Small's Scrapbook
- **Cited in Small's and Phillips' Scrapbooks #1 and #3

The above reference material is located in the NATIONAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY (Artifacts Room), the NATIONAL CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Historic Data File). and the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, except for the following: The New Eldorado (San Diego City Library)

The Hawley Violin Collection (Fiddle & Bow, 839 Broadway)

Granger Momentos and Pictures are on file in the Historic Section,

Title Insurance & Trust Company (220 A Avenue)

South Bay Historical Society has film tapes of Granger Music Hall and Granger Family Photographs

FOOTNOTES

- ¹N. S. Biggs. Inspection Report, Granger Hall, August 5, 1969
- ²Thomas B'hend. "Music Hall in the Country", The Console. July 1967, Page 4
- 3_{Biggs}.