

PH0076741

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Solano	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 16 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON: **Old Masonic Hall**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Benicia Masonic Hall**

2. LOCATION **See Solano Co. Planning Commission map attached**

STREET AND NUMBER: **106 West "J" St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Benicia**

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Solano** CODE: **095**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: No <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) X Lodge Hall

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Benicia Lodge #5 F. & A. M. of California**

STREET AND NUMBER: **106 West "J" St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Benicia** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Solano County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **600 Texas St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Fairfield** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **City of Benicia**

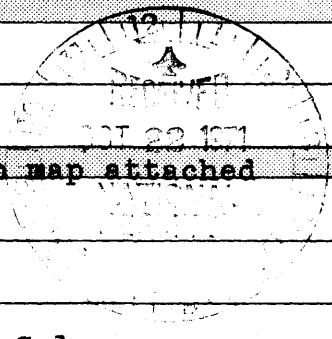
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Solano County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **600 Texas St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Fairfield** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Physical appearance much the same as when erected. This 120 year old structure has had necessary repairs carefully made and was refurbished in 1950.

The two-story frame building is 32' x 56' in plan dimensions and about 22' to the eaves. The foundations are brick and lap siding covers the exterior walls. Masonic history states the edifice cost \$18,000 to erect, with lumber donated by Robert Semple (a Benicia founder) and the lot donated by A. Riddell.

By 1887 Benicia Lodge #5, with twenty-two Master Masons in the charter membership, had outgrown this hall. A new temple was erected in Benicia and dedicated December 27, 1888. The subject building then was used as a public hall and was sold by the lodge for that purpose.

In 1950, one hundred years after erection, Benicia Lodge #5 repurchased this property. Necessary repairs were made and the hall was refurbished to closely resemble the original Benicia Masonic Hall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

10/1/51

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Dec. 27 1850 to present day.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | X Lodge Hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <i>(PRAETORIAL)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first Masonic hall built in California stands as State Historical Landmark #174 at 106 West "J" St. City of Benicia, California. It was formally dedicated on December 27 1850, about three months after California became a State. Many of California's prominent pioneers received their Masonic degrees in this two story modest building. Among them was George Yount, a noted early settler in Napa County.

Solano was one of the 27 original counties in the State, with Benicia named as the County seat. The lower floor of the Masonic hall was used by the Court of Sessions for two years until the pretentious "city hall" was completed. (This latter building became the third State Capitol.) The Masons sold their hall about 1888 for community purposes. But they re-acquired it in 1950, and refurbished the old building. Still in use, it is one of the three places in California where any Masonic lodge may hold meetings to confer degrees.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Historic Spots in California" 3rd Edition (1966), by Hoover & Rensch and W, N, Abeloe. Page 515

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

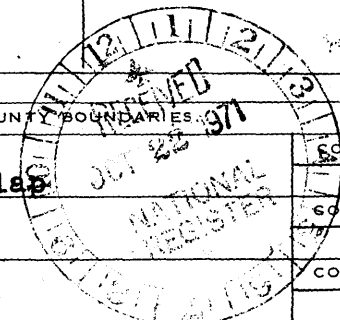
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
XX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	N38°	03'	08"	
XX	° ' "	° ' "	W122°	09'	25"	
XX	° ' "	° ' "				
XX	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres m/1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
No overlap		No overlap	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

UTM
10/5740
421176
CD



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wood Young

ORGANIZATION: Solano County Historical Society DATE: July 8 '70

STREET AND NUMBER: Rt. 1 Box 22

CITY OR TOWN: Suisun STATE: California 94585 CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: October 16, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Annally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: MAR 18 1972

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 17 1972