

County of Nevada  
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission  
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark: Grass Valley Elks Lodge No. 538

Location, including Assessor's Parcel Number: APN 08-344-01

109 South School St., Grass Valley. CA 94945

Name of applicant: Auburn-Grass Valley Elks, B.P.O.E., No. 538. A  
Fraternal Organization.

Address: 195 Pine St, Auburn, CA 95603

Cell phone: [REDACTED]

Name and address of owner upon whose property proposed landmark  
is located, if owner is not applicant: N/A

I consent to this application and authorize the placing of a plaque or marker  
on site:

Kathy Madeiros  
California-Hawaii Elks Northeast District Leader  
Past Northeast District Grand Exalted Ruler, Past State Vice President,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's signature  
Authorized Representative

November 14, 2024  
Date

Brief history and description of proposed landmark:

See attached essays.

Historically significant aspects or properties of proposed landmark:

The building has been the center piece of Grass Valley since 1912, hosting many events, both inside and outside the building. It has been famous throughout northern California for its distinctive architecture. Many influential citizens of Grass Valley have been members. John Kidder, owner of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad was the first exalted ruler.

How will the landmark be protected and maintained? The plaque will be mounted to the building.

Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark.

Books and articles:

Grass Valley Union

San Francisco Call


Sacramento Bee

Grass Valley Elks Lodge History 1975 - Author unknown.



Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments etc.)  
Attached.

Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's signature  
Authorized Representative

November 14, 2024

Date

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This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission  
Attention: Chairman  
P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

Attachments and related documents may be submitted in electronic format to [info@nevadacountylandmarks.com](mailto:info@nevadacountylandmarks.com).

An application must be considered solely on its historic or architectural merits and not for commercial gain, political benefits, or other non historical reasons.

An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.



State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings  
Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Historic Rating: 1

Page 1 of 2

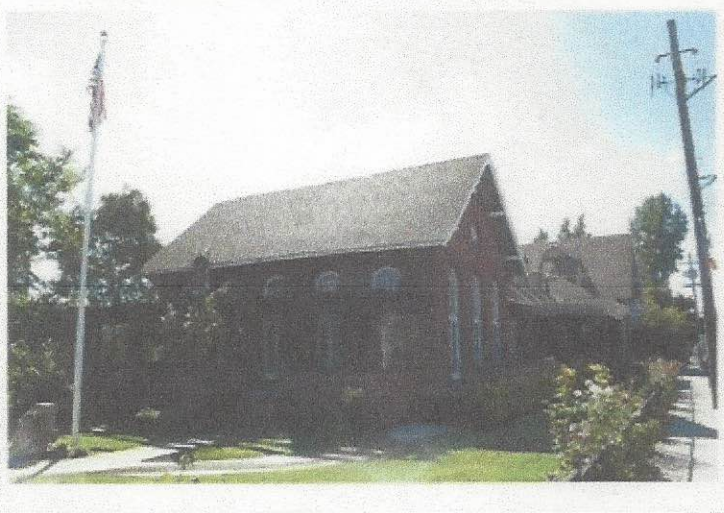
\*Resource Name or #: 109 South School Street

- P1. **Other Identifier:** West Grass Valley/APN 08-344-01/Elk's Lodge 538
- \*P2. **Location:** ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted \*a. **County:** Nevada
- \*b. **USGS 7.5' Quad:** Grass Valley, CA **Date:** revised 1973
- c. **Address:** 109 South School Street **City:** Grass Valley **Zip:** 95945
- d. **UTM:** (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) N/A **Zone:** N/A
- e. **Other Locational Data:** The subject property is located at the southeast corner of South Auburn Street and Conaway Avenue. APN 08-344-01.
- \*P3a. **Description:**

The property consists of Elk's Lodge No. 538. The one to two-story brick lodge building was designed in the Neo-Gothic/English Tudor style of architecture accentuated by rows of Neo-Classical palladium windows facing W. Main Street and S. School Street. The building's massing is formed by two parallel gable wings facing S. School Street that are connected by a perpendicular wing with a large veranda and grand entrance. Other character defining features of the lodge include the exaggerated roof eaves with exposed purlins, a asphalt shingle clad roof, rows of wood French style doors with arched top lights with the door openings facing S. School embellished by quoins around each door opening and window openings, a bullet or port-hole style window in the front gable of each wing, a series of four roof dormers facing S. School on central wing or main entrance roof, gable vents on opposing roofs. A brick screen wall runs nearly the length of the building facing S. School and a wood pergola extends to the north on the side of the building facing W. Main Street covering an open elevated porch or deck. The gable on the south elevation facing S. School features a second-floor wood veranda extending from three French door openings with arched top lights. In the center of the gable is a second port hole or Rose style window with a Neo-Gothic design and the arched windows are surrounded by raised bricks. The entire property is tastefully landscaped with a flagpole, lawns, shrubs, flowers, etc. A handicapped ramp has been added to the main entrance facing S. School Street.

- \*P3b. **Resource Attributes:** HP-2, single-family property.
- \*P4. **Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☒ Element of District

- P5. **Photograph or Drawing** (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



- P5b. **Description of Photo:** View looking south at the residence from the intersection of South Auburn Street and Race Street.

\*P6. **Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** ☒ Historic 1915. City of Grass Valley Historical Files; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Grass Valley, CA.

\*P7. **Owner and Address:** BPOE Lodge 538 Grass Valley, 109 South School Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

\*P8. **Recorded by:** Dana E. Supernowicz, Architectural Historian, Historic Resource Associates, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762.

\*P9. **Date Recorded:** April 28, 2009

\*P10. **Type of Survey:** ☒ Architectural

**Describe:** Historical Resources Inventory, Grass Valley 1872 Townsite.

\*P11. **Report Citation:** City of Grass Valley Historical Resources Inventory, Grass Valley, Nevada County, California. Prepared for the City of Grass Valley, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Prepared by Historic Resource Associates, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762.

\*Attachments: Property Location Map





**PROCLAMATION HONORING THE NUMBER 1 RATED  
BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY**



**WHEREAS**, the City of Grass Valley recognizes that the preservation of its historic heritage is vital to its resident's understanding of the past and the enjoyment of the present and that significant historic sites represent irreplaceable assets; and

**WHEREAS**, while Grass Valley's architecture, at first glance may appear to be representative of many other gold rush era towns, at closer examination it is apparent that Grass Valley developed its own rather unique style; and

**WHEREAS**, the transcendent architecture of the City of Grass Valley reveals, perhaps better than anything else, the fabric that characterizes the community's cultural and economic history; and

**WHEREAS**, within the City of Grass Valley, there are historical very significant No. 1 rated buildings which are defined as: "The most unique and important resources and properties in terms of age, architectural or historical significance, rarity, or association with important persons or events in the City's past, which are rated a Priority 1 in the Inventory of Historic Resources"; and

**WHEREAS**, in the City of Grass Valley there are twenty-five such No. 1 very significant rated historic buildings located in the City's 1872 Historic Townsite; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historical Commission and City Council would like to recognize the wonderful contribution these No. 1 very significant rated buildings provide to the City's 1872 Townsite; and


**WHEREAS**, the Historical Commission and City Council would like to recognize the property owners of these historic resources with the presentation of a historically significant rated plaque to be installed on the front of their building.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Grass Valley recognizing the No. 1 rated properties in the City's 1872 Historic Townsite with the dedication of a Historically Significant Plaque.

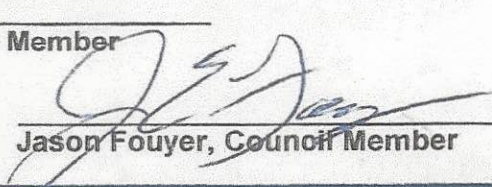
Dated this 23rd day of January 2018

  
Howard Levine, Mayor

  
Lisa Swarthout, Vice Mayor

  
Jan Arbuckle, Council Member

  
Ben Aguilar, Council Member

  
Jason Fouyer, Council Member



## **IT STARTED IN 1900**

### **From the Diamond Jubilee Pamphlet 1975**

On January 27, 1900 the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks instituted a subordinate lodge in Grass Valley. For many weeks, local men assisted by members of Nevada City Lodge No. 518, had been obtaining signatures of prominent citizens interested in becoming charter members in the new lodge. When thirty-seven gentlemen had signed, the application for a charter was temporarily closed, and the lodge was ready for organization.

Nevada City Lodge No. 518 was the mother-lodge, although it was only a few weeks old when the dispensation to organize a new lodge was granted. Sacramento Lodge No. 6, B.P.O.E., was interested, and sent word that they would send a large delegation to attend the institution of the Grass Valley lodge. The local signers arranged with the Grass Valley City Band, headed by W. T. George, to join them in Colfax to meet and escort the Sacramento delegation via the Narrow Gauge Railroad to Grass Valley. Here at the station were others, and on the train's arrival they were all invited to the Kidder mansion for refreshments. John F. Kidder had been selected as the first Exalted Ruler of the new lodge, and had arranged to greet his guests and entertain them most generously.

Dinner followed at the Holbrooke Hotel, and upon completion, all continued to the Fraternal Hall, which was located over a grocery store on the corner of Auburn and Neal Streets. Here the new lodge was instituted, initiatory work exemplified, and officers installed. The Grand Lodge was represented by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler E. R. Gary, of Sacramento Lodge No. 6, and he was assisted in conducting the ceremonies by officers from the Nevada City and Sacramento lodges.

A banquet for members and their visitors was held in Lord's Hall, which was located on East Main Street, across from City Hall. It was a banquet that for lavish expense and ambitious effort to obtain rare food has seldom been equaled in the county. Besides the roast capon and the rare steaks, there was all the champagne that could be consumed.

It was a night of nights and one long to be remembered, and it cost the new lodge over \$1,000. In those days the lodge simply assessed each member \$20 to pay for the party.

After twelve years of renting various halls for holding the weekly meetings, the lodge decided to build a home of its own. The lodge had accumulated a treasury of \$8,000, which was invested in good securities by the trustees.

The Grass Valley Elks Hall Association was formed and incorporated as a stock holding company for the new building. The stock of the corporation was sold to members only, at \$100 per share with no interest. The lodge bought eighty shares for \$8,000, and another \$5,000 in stock was bought by members. The corporation also borrowed on notes and from the bank another \$20,000, for a total of \$33,000. With this sum, our present lot was purchased and the building started. Further sums were borrowed from time to time to finish the building, and to furnish it.

Our Elks Home was finished in the fall of 1912, and was duly dedicated on January 28, 1913, just 13 years after the lodge was instituted. This was also



a gala occasion and it was written in the minutes a "jolly good time was had by all." It cost the lodge over \$800 for that party, and it was paid for by contributions by the brothers.

From 1913 until 1929 the lodge had its ups and downs. During this period it paid the money borrowed on notes and a small part of the mortgage on the building, but none on the stock held by the members, and in 1929 the lodge had to borrow to pay the bank interest of \$900 on the mortgage. The cost of maintenance of the building and grounds was using all the income, which was principally from dues.

With the stock market crash of 1929, a great many of the lodges lost their homes because they could not pay off their mortgages or interest. At a meeting in January 1930, brother A. B. Snyder proposed that the lodge attempt to sell fifty life memberships at \$275 each. This, if successful, would put the lodge on its feet. He was appointed as a committee of one to try and do the impossible, but by April 1, 1930, he had signed fifty-four life members, amounting to the cash sum of \$14,850, or more than enough to pay off the mortgage. The fifty-four loyal brothers who came to the lodge's rescue are as follows in the order in which they were signed:

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A. B. Snyder (Honorary)* | 28. W. T. Garland*   |
| 2. E. C. Morgan             | 29. Don Larue        |
| 3. A. H. Mooser*            | 30. J. Harry George* |
| 4. Nels Jensen*             | 31. Frank Steel.*    |
| 5. C. R. Clinch*            | 32. C. G. Werner     |
| 6. J. C. Tyrrell*           | 33. V. Rood*         |
| 7. A. W. Madden*            | 34. Ernest George*   |
| 8. Hugh Grant*              | 35. E. W. Rowe       |
| 9. E. M. Roesner*           | 36. C. McA. Thomas*  |
| 10. C. B. Grenfell*         | 37. Rolfe Wilson.    |
| 11. T. A. Leary*            | 38. Fred Nobs*       |
| 12. Harold Eldredge*        | 39. John H. Smitham* |
| 13. G. W. Starr*            | 40. Arthur Foote*    |
| 14. A. R. Archibald*        | 41. Dr. W. C. Evans  |
| 15. H. W. Robinson*         | 42. L. V. Michell*   |
| 16. H. W. Westbrook         | 43. J. E. Taylor*    |
| 17. R. W. Parsons*          | 44. Ed Jones*        |
| 18. E. W. Madden*           | 45. George Bennetts* |
| 19. John Lopes*             | 46. M. H. Argall*    |
| 20. R. W. Towers            | 47. Russell Wilson*  |
| 21. C. H. Taylor*           | 48. J. M. Hammill*   |
| 22. Fred Salisbury*         | 49. Fred Foote*      |
| 23. C. P. Jones*            | 50. E. R. Waters*    |
| 24. A. L. Gill*             | 51. H. Hutchinson*   |
| 25. W. P. Thomas*           | 52. H. A. Nelson     |
| 26. A. L. Saladana          | 53. J. F. Madden     |
| 27. C. C. Carveth*          | 54. Cecil Williams   |



\*Deceased in 1975

After paying the mortgage, the lodge thought it would be free of all debt, but it did not foresee the great depression of the 1930's. The lodge again had to borrow money from time to time, until in 1938, it had run up a new debt of \$5,000. This debt was paid off a little at a time, and on the evening of March 2, 1946, the mortgage burning ceremony was held.

A buffet dinner was held in the club rooms for Elks only, followed by a talk by P.E.R. A. B. Snyder on the highlights of Grass Valley Lodge. This in turn was

followed by the mortgage burning ceremony by brothers James C. Tyrrell, P.E.R., C. G. Werner, I. J. Reeves, D. J. Binkleman and C. B. Grenfell. Special guests included F. Eugene Dayton of Salinas lodge, Grand Esteemed Leading Knight;

A. N. Holmes, Nevada City lodge, D.D.G.E.R. California North; Horace R. Wisely, Salinas lodge, president California State Elks Assn.; and Fred Aisthorpe, Chico lodge, Vice President California State Elks Assn. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, all the brothers were joined by their ladies in the ballroom. The ladies had been entertained at the American Legion Building during lodge activity with a cocktail party and dinner.

The lodge continued to break even during the next few years but with a loss of membership due primarily to the ending of World War II. Many of the military personnel who had been stationed at nearby army posts had left the area and had either dimitted or had been dropped for non-payment of dues.

Fifty years from the day of institution, the lodge celebrated its anniversary with a Golden Jubilee Celebration. E.R. James E. Thompson called the lodge to order at 4:30 p.m. Friday January 27, 1950. After a short business session, lodge was recessed until 8 p.m. A class of eight candidates was initiated and three surviving charter members, James C. Tyrrell, Fred Cassidy and William F. Prisk were honored. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Fay Lewis then gave the principal address. In addition to brother Lewis, dignitaries attending were: Harry Hoffman, Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight; Eugene Dayton, Past Grand Esteemed Leading Knight; Horace Wisely, Grand Lodge Committee Member; and Robert Crane, president, California State Elks Association.

On Saturday evening, January 28, 1950, a banquet was held for Elks and their ladies. The dinner was a complete sell-out, with many brothers unable to purchase tickets. After dinner, the "Fancies of Fifty" - Golden Jubilee Floor Show was presented, followed by a Grand Ball. Each member was presented with a souvenir book listing the program, rosters, committees and a short history of the lodge.

The decade of the 1950's was a period of post-war changes. For many years the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was hesitant in making its charitable work known, but with the adoption of the major project cerebral palsy program by the state association in 1950, this thinking was changed, and the Grass Valley lodge entered into the program in setting up mobile units throughout the state.

Starting in the middle 1950's, some major improvements in lodge facilities were made. The first was the installation of the bar in the ballroom. Prior to this action, party nights were served by a portable bar



which could be wheeled into the clubroom or ballroom, as the occasion demanded. It was cumbersome and inconvenient.

With labor and most materials donated, the club rooms and bar were renovated in 1961 and 1962. Ceilings were lowered, walls were paneled, new lighting fixtures were installed, a cloak room was eliminated and the bar enlarged and modernized. All this was done by volunteer labor by a number of brothers with a minimal cost to the lodge. In 1965, paint was donated and the ballroom was repainted by a volunteer group. Later the women's powder room was enlarged and refurnished.

Another action, which was not so visible but which saved the lodge considerable repair money, was the application of a coat of plastic to the south and east walls of the building. The ancient lime mortar between the bricks was deteriorating, and each time a windy storm came from the south or southeast, the wind would blow the rain through the mortar and damage the walls of the upstairs rooms.

A major undertaking was completed in 1967 with the renovation of the kitchen and dining areas at a cost of \$25,000. This sum was obtained by donations from the members and a bank loan. With much hard work by several of the brothers, the loan was soon paid off. The last major undertaking was renovation of the custodian's quarters.

The bowling committee came up with the next improvement. Using its own funds, with some help from the lodge, the committee installed an air conditioner at the pit end and remodeled the seating arrangements at the other end.

The latest alteration, or change, was the installation of an "escape hatch" for the rooms on the second floor. Since the building was erected there was only one way out of the second floor, other than by jumping out of windows. Now there is a second staircase, passing through the cloakroom adjacent to the lodge room.

Ritualistic work has been one of the activities of the lodge's highlights during the past 15 years with eight teams winning the district competition and finishing high in the standings in the other contests. Of the eight times Grass Valley lodge has represented the North Central District at the state level, the teams have finished first in the Leonard Bush Division once and second in the overall state contest twice. Several officers have won first place all-state honors.

In 1962 the Grand Lodge instituted the "Elk Of The Year" program. Each subordinate lodge participates by choosing a brother, who in the opinion of a committee selected by the Exalted Ruler of the lodge, has contributed through word or deed the most outstanding work for the preceding lodge year. Officers of the lodge are ineligible. The following brothers and the years they were chosen follow:

1962-63	James E. Sheridan	1967-68	William F. Thomas
1963-64	William P. Martley	1969-70	Richard J. McGuire
1964-65	Carl Earl	1968-69	Crofford W. Bridges
1965-66	Ernest Hampton	1970-71	James M. Juvinall
1966-67	Fred Flury	1971-72	Peter VanderWende



1972-73 Elmo Cox

1973-74 James Allen

#### Addendum 2024

In the 1980's, Bingo was held every Friday night, drawing large crowds, raising large sums of money. Both the ballroom and dining hall were packed. A speaker system was installed to hear the callers. Mr. & Mrs. Dance club met regularly at the lodge, and many fundraising dinners were held. The monthly Family Night dinner always sold out. The lodge sponsored a local softball team, and supported a local troop of boy scouts.

In the mid 1990's membership began a slow decline. Members lived farther out of town, and were less inclined to drive at night. Then, in 2019, the COVID pandemic shut down the lodge for well over a year, and many members failed to return when it was reopened. Members could not be found to fill the officer chairs, and those who were left, were overwhelmed with trying to keep the building afloat.

In 2022, it was decided to merge with Auburn Lodge No. 1691, in an effort to save the building from being sold. We are now Auburn-Grass Valley Lodge No. 538.

Updated by Mike Kochis 2024

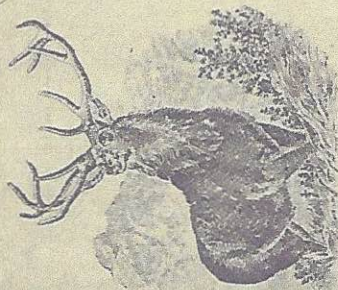


INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 4, 1908

3

Shares



# Grass Valley Elks Hall Association

CAPITAL STOCK, \$50,000.00

This Certifies that H. J. CAMPBELL is the owner of ONE Share of the Capital Stock of

Grass Valley Elks Hall Association, when fully paid-up as shown by endorsements on the back hereof but not otherwise; provided that each and every share of Capital Stock represented hereby is subject to purchase by said Corporation at any time at the option of the Board of Directors without any previous notice to the owner or holder hereof, at a price not to exceed the par value of the Capital Stock of this Corporation. The amount paid on this Certificate is \$100.00. The endorsements on the back hereof show when said sums were paid and also show the payments made hereon since the issuance thereof.



Grass Valley Elks Hall Association, hereby in person or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate properly endorsed.

In Witness Whereof, the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the Seal of the Corporation at Grass Valley, Cal., this 27th day of March A.D. 1911

*W. H. H. H.*  
President

*W. H. H. H.*  
Secretary

SEAL

\$100.00

SHARES



## **Grass Valley Elks Lodge #538**

### **How it was built . . .**

The construction of the Grass Valley Elks Lodge building took slightly more than seven months, although the contract for the job called for completion in 150 days, working days, that is. With Sundays and holidays taken into account, the time was pretty close.

Architect for the building was William Mooser and the contracting firm was Campbell and Turner from Sacramento.

The contract called for \$40,000 for the building and \$5,000 for the furnishings, but the price went a little bit higher, ending up at about \$50,000 total.

Prior to the actual construction, it was necessary to lay out the ground lines, which was done on Jan. 30, 1912. Ground was broken for the first time on Feb. 1.

During the preparation for the foundation, the workmen uncovered a quartz ledge and a gravel deposit. (Maybe something to remember if hard times hit again.)

The foundation was made of concrete reinforced by rock from the waste bins at the Empire Mine. The first concrete was poured March 2, 1912.

On the brickwork, the contract called for the bricklayers, all from Sacramento, to lay 14,000 bricks per day, or 2,000 per man per day. They started the job on March 12, 1912, finished the basement walls on March 20 and completed all the brick walls by April 17, 1912.

The construction continued with the raising of the roof trusses on April 24 and then work started on the roof and the interior of the building.

On May 29 the furniture was purchased from Sloan and Company in San Francisco. Dishes and glassware were also ordered from Sloan at a cost of \$1,000. The dishes, which bore the Elks' Emblem, were to be made in England and would take four months for delivery.

The inside rough paneling having been installed, the work of finishing the inside of the building was started July 8 and on July 25, the windows were installed.

In late August the delicate job of installing the spring-hung, hard-rock maple dance floor was under way.

On Sept. 20 the building was completed and turned over to the Elks Hall Association.



The first meeting was held in the new building on Sept. 24, 1912. The meeting was held in the dance hall as the furniture for the lodge hall had not arrived.

On Oct. 1 the first initiation in the new building was held, also in the dance hall. Member No. 251 was initiated.

For a number of years, the Elks building was opened to the activities of other organizations. The Native Daughters of the Golden West contracted to meet in the dance hall each Monday, with the Order of Moose meeting on Thursdays.

The first ladies night in the new building was held on Oct. 15, 1912, with lodge and initiation at 6:30 and program and dancing following at 9 p.m. Art Hooper's dad sang a solo. A no-sit refreshment table was in the banquet room.

Also, the Elks' dance committee held weekly Saturday night dances for the public throughout the winter months. Gentlemen paid 50 cents, ladies were admitted free, and spectators paid 10 cents each.

There have been many changes made in the original building, but in its 62 years, the building has stood up under pressures and still is "ready and willing" to continue.

**Written in 1975**  
**Author Unkown**



# SANBORN 1912 MAP

# GRASS VALLEY





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## BIG CLUBHOUSE TO BE BUILT BY ELKS

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### Purchase Land and Will Start Work on Home

*[Special Dispatch to The Call]*

GRASS VALLEY, Oct. 20.—The local lodge of Elks last night authorized the trustees to purchase the Dibble block at Main and School streets. The old buildings now on the lot will be removed and a handsome clubhouse will be erected. The building will be in the center of the tract and will be surrounded by trees and flowers. There will be no business rooms of any sort and it will be used exclusively by Elks.

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# Grass Valley Elks Take Possession of New Home



*New home of Grass Valley Elks, erected at a cost of \$45,000.*

## Building to Be Made Center of Activities of Benevolent Organization

*[Special Dispatch to The Call]*

GRASS VALLEY, Sept. 27.—The Elks' lodge of this city took possession of its new home today, the structure having been completed and turned over by the contractors. The building, which stands at the corner of Main and School streets, is of pressed brick and reinforced cement and cost \$45,000, while \$2,000 additional has been spent for interior decorations and furnishings.

It contains a large auditorium for public use, a beautifully decorated lodge

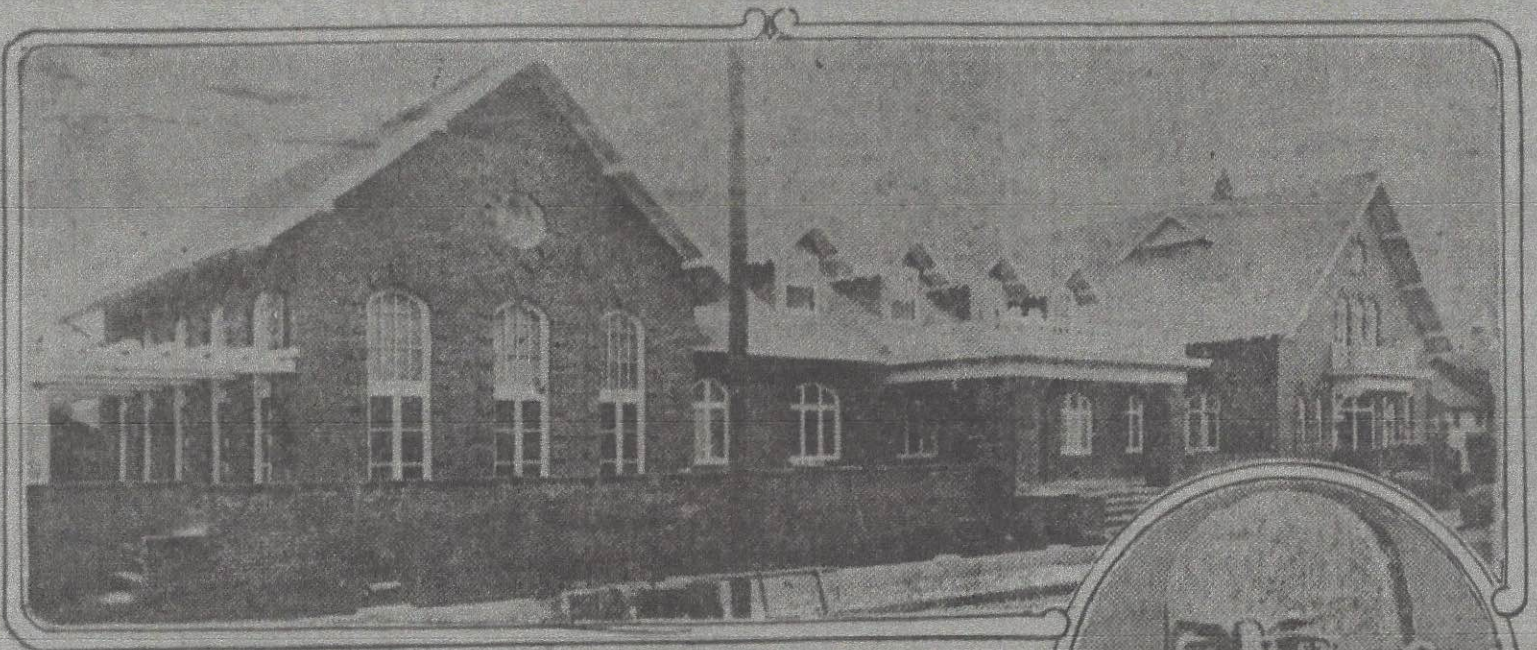
room, reading room, banquet room, billiard and bowling rooms, kitchen and several bachelor apartments. A negro steward has arrived from Boston and is in charge of the home.

Business and professional men of Auburn, Placerville, Colfax and other towns joined with the Grass Valley Elks in constructing the home, and it is expected that it will become the center of the order's activities covering a large section.



# Grass Valley Elks in New Palatial Home Many Will Travel From Afar to Dedicate

NEW \$60,000 LODGE OF GRASS VALLEY ELKS



## Big "Stag" Party Will Be in Nature of Housewarming; Ladies' Night Will Be Event,

GRASS VALLEY, October 19. — Grass Valley lodge No. 538, B. P. O. Elks, is now occupying its pretentious \$60,000 home, which was recently completed and accepted by the Elks' Hall Association, of which A. H. Mooser, cashier of the Nevada county bank, is president.

The new home will be formally dedicated on January 27, that date carrying a double significance in the fact that it is the anniversary of the local lodge. The formal dedication will be

a "stag" affair and delegations are expected from the lodges around the bay and throughout Northern California.

During October month, however, the local Elks will give ladies' night, when the home will be thrown open to the wives and lady friends of the local "Billa."

The new home is equipped with bedrooms for local and transient Elks, pool and billiard tables, bowling alleys and every means for diversion.

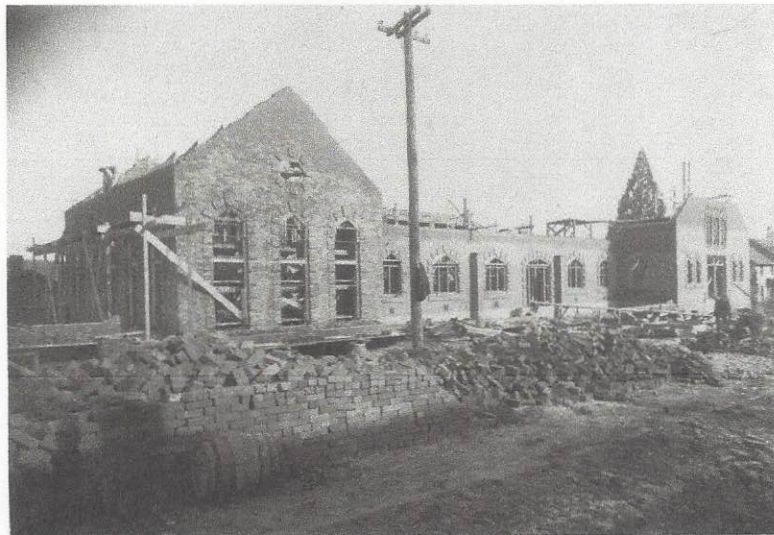
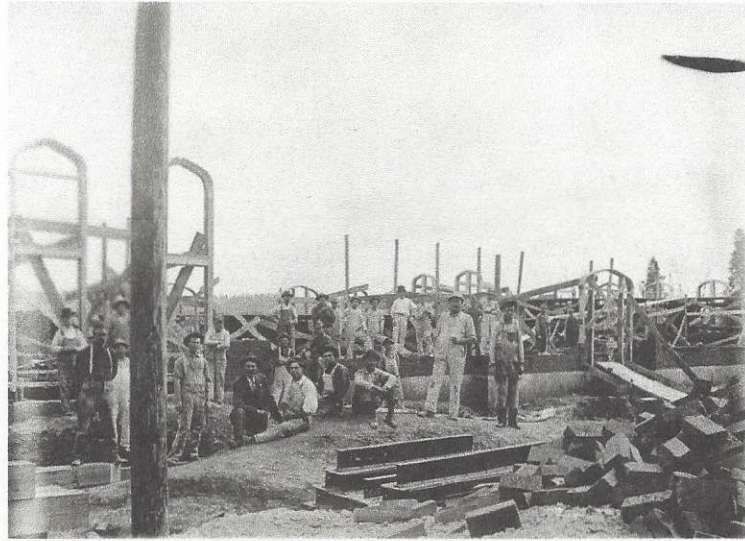
The interior is finished throughout in old mission style and the furnish-



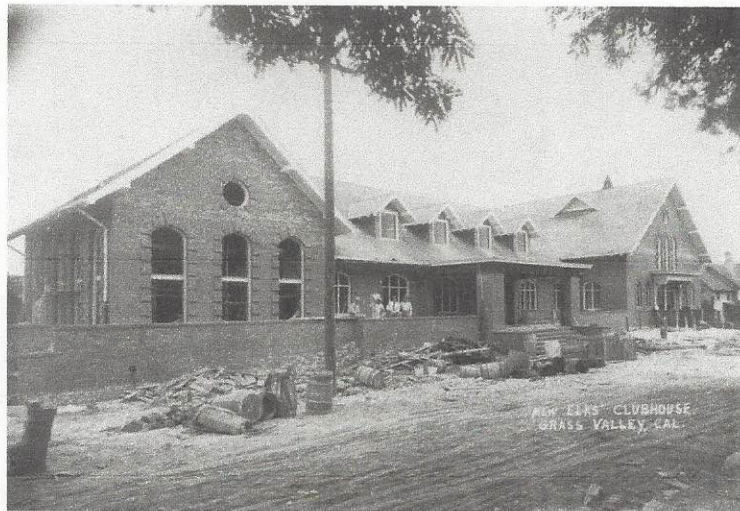
Thomas Ingram.

ings are in keeping with this style. The lodge room is richly finished and is styled as one of the handsomest in Northern California. Thomas Ingram is exalted ruler of Grass Valley lodge.

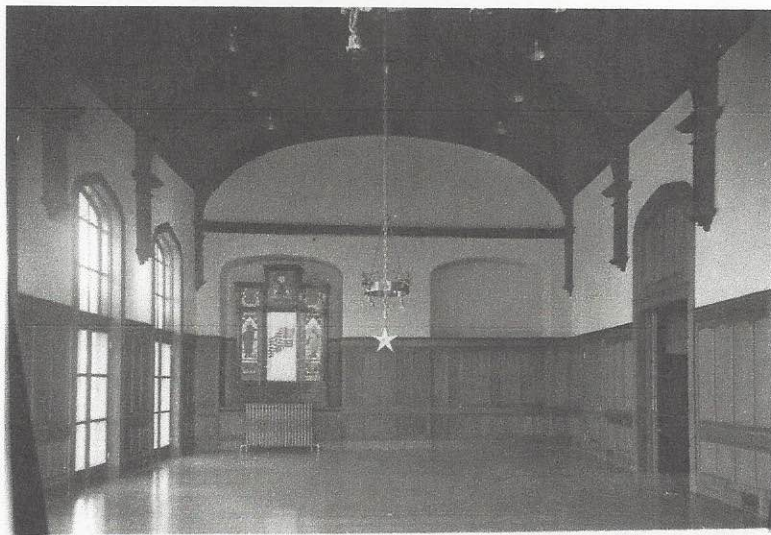




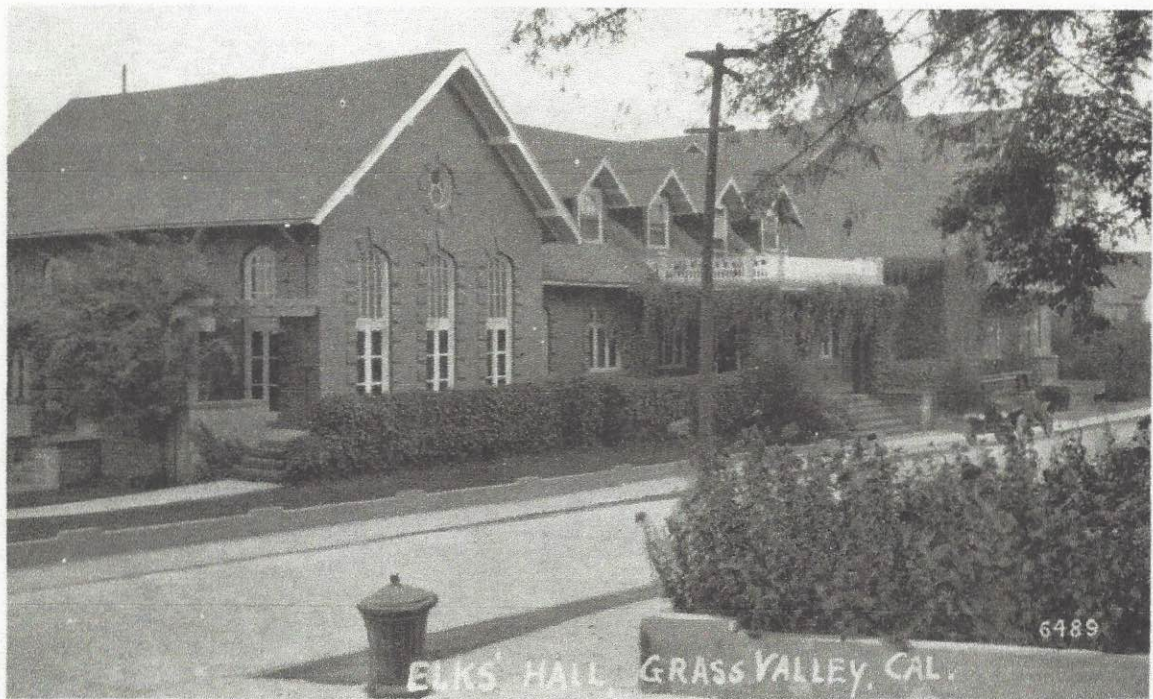












Dedication 1913



## **John Flint Kidder**

(1830 - 1901)



John Kidder was a politician, civil engineer and railroad executive who built and later owned Northern California's Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad (NCNGRR).

In 1874, he became chief engineer to construct the NCNGRR from Nevada City, California, through Grass Valley, to Colfax, California where it connected with the Central Pacific Railway. Construction was completed in 1876 and Kidder became the railroad's General Superintendent by 1877. He went on to become the railroad's President in 1884. He owned four mines, and was a multi-millionaire.

Kidder became the first Exalted Ruler of the Grass Valley Elks Club in 1900