

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164

**NEVADA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Nomination Form**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Amity Lodge No. 4, Free and Accepted Masons

Other names: Masonic Lodge, Masonic Hall, Workmen's Hall, John Grier Boarding House

2. LOCATION

Street Address: 175 Main Street

City or Town: Silver City **County:** Lyon **Zip:** 89428

Original Location? ☒ Yes ☐ No **If no, date moved:** _____

3. OWNERSHIP & CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Owner Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, Free and Accepted Masons (non-profit)

Owner Address: 175 Main Street, Silver City, NV 89428

Number of Resources within Property

Buildings 1

Sites _____

Structures _____

Objects _____

Total: 1

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

_____ Nomination Received Senate # _____ Assembly # _____

Listing Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E

A. BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

As the chair of the Nevada Museums and History Board, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for listing in the Nevada Register of Historic Places.

Signature of the Chair

18 June 2025

Date

B. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

As the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for listing in the Nevada Register of Historic Places.

Signature of the State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

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5. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Use/Function: DOMESTIC/hotel.

Intermediate Use/Function: SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Use/Function: The building was used by the Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) from 1888-1893, in addition to its use by Amity Lodge No. 4. since 1888. Masonic Lodge meetings, events, and community functions.

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (select one or more from instructions)

☒ **Criterion A** - Property is associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to Nevada history.

☐ **Criterion B** - Property is associated with the lives of persons significant to Nevada's past.

☐ **Criterion C** - Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction significant to Nevada, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **Criterion D** - Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to Nevada's prehistory or history.

☐ **Criterion E** - Property reflects cultural traditions important to historic or pre-historic peoples of Nevada. (Nevada State Register only).

Criteria Considerations (check only those that apply)

☐ **Criteria Consideration 1** – The property is religious in nature, but is primarily significant for its architecture, or is the only remaining or best remaining resource from an historic community.

☐ **Criteria Consideration 2** – The property has been reconstructed, but is an accurately executed reconstruction and is located in an environment that replicates its historic setting.

☐ **Criteria Consideration 3** – The property achieved significance within the past fifty years but is rare or exceptional.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Area(s) of Significance: Architecture, Social History, Fraternal Organizations, Community Development.

History of Silver City, Nevada

Silver City, Nevada, holds an essential place in the history of the American West, particularly during the Comstock Lode silver boom in the mid-19th century. Silver City was founded in 1859, following the discovery of silver in the surrounding mountains. This discovery was pivotal to the development of the town and the surrounding region, contributing directly to Nevada's place as a key player in the mining industry (De Quille & Wright, 1889). In the early years following the silver discovery, Silver City developed into a bustling service town, catering primarily to the needs of miners. Its strategic location, nestled between Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Dayton, made it a critical hub for miners, as it was the main access point to transport goods and services between these prominent mining districts (Lord, 1883).

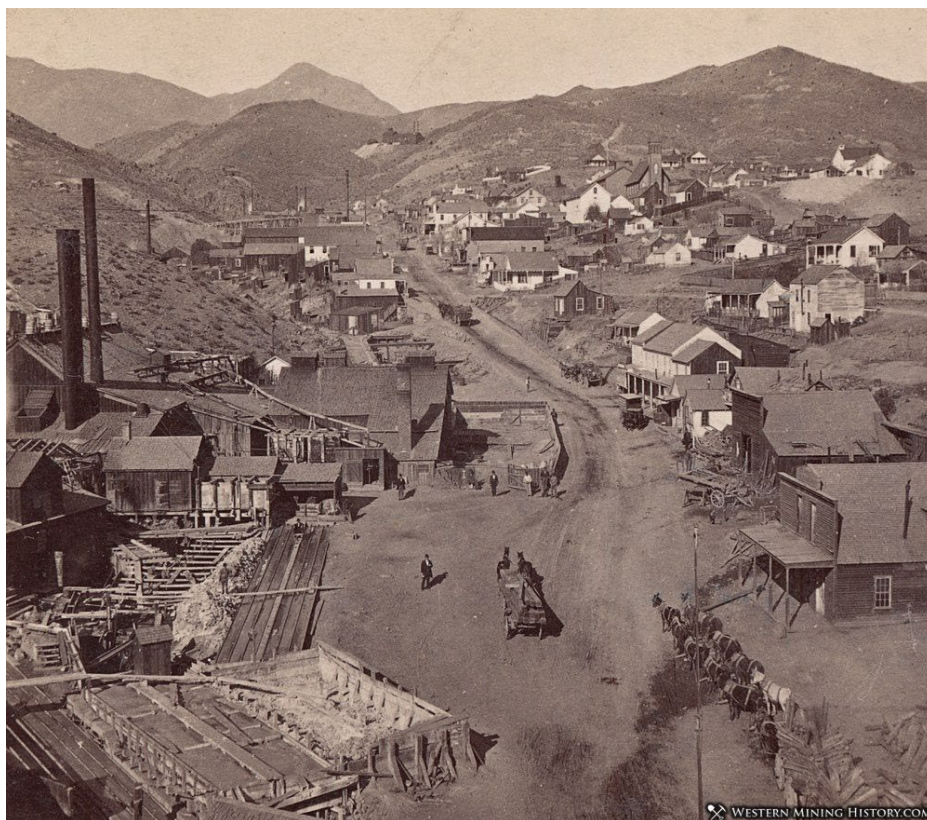


Figure 1. Silver City, Nevada circa 1880 (Courtesy of Western Mining History).

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By 1861, Silver City's population had surged to around 1,200 residents, a direct reflection of the mining boom across the Comstock Lode. Businesses catering to the miners flourished, with saloons, general stores, hotels, and essential services, making Silver City a crucial stopover point for miners and travelers headed to larger mining districts (De Quille & Wright, 1889). The growth of these businesses illustrates the town's integral role in supporting the rapid expansion of the region's mining industry. These businesses were more than just commercial entities; they represented the social fabric of the town, offering miners respite from their grueling labor in the mines.

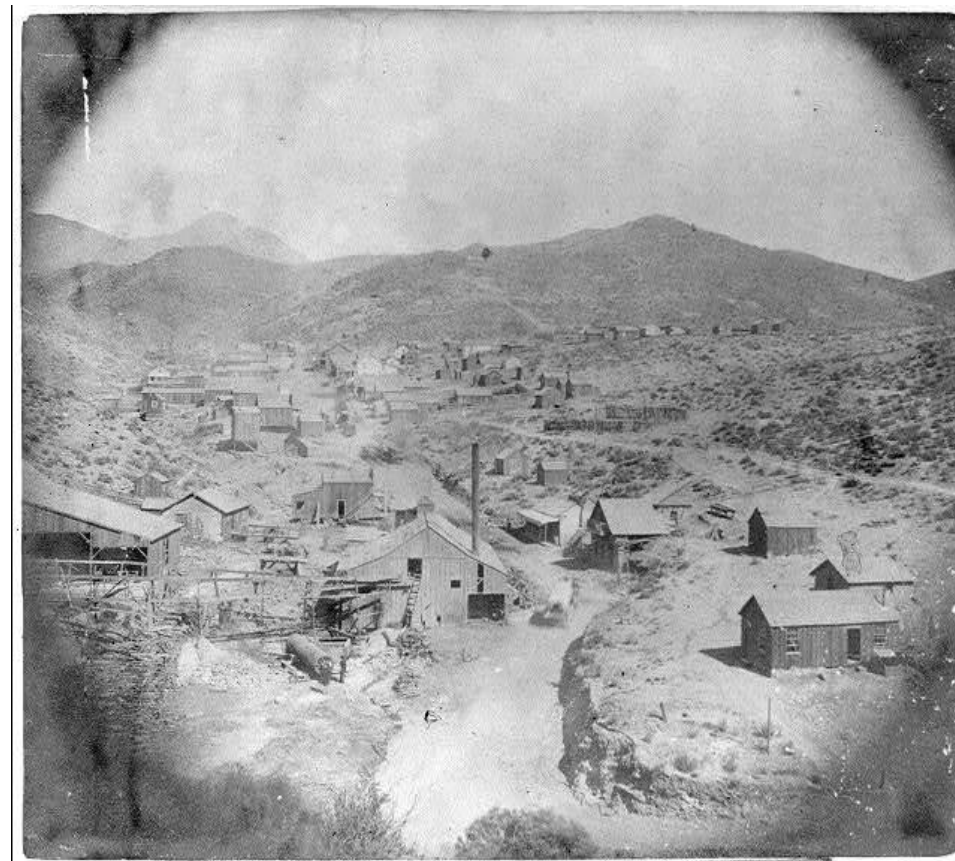


Figure 2. Silver, City Nevada, from Devil's Gate, looking north in 1866 (Courtesy of Library of Congress).

The town's role in the broader Comstock Lode region was multifaceted. Silver City did not just serve as a commercial center but as a logistical hub for miners and workers, providing the necessary support services, infrastructure, and social spaces that allowed for the rapid growth of the region. The creation of mining mills, such as the Kelsey Mill, and the

proximity to essential transportation routes, ensured Silver City's lasting impact during the early years of the silver boom (Lord, 1883).

The Grosh Brothers and Their Influence

The Grosh brothers, E. Allen Grosh and Hosea B. Grosh, were influential figures in the history of Silver City, as well as in the broader Comstock Lode mining region. Arriving in the area in the early 1860s, the brothers became deeply involved in both mining operations and local businesses. They are perhaps best known for their personal letters written between 1861 and 1863, which provide invaluable insights into the daily lives of miners during the early years of the silver boom. These letters have been preserved and published, offering historians a rare, firsthand glimpse into the hardships faced by miners, as well as the social dynamics of Silver City during this transformative period (James & Stewart, 2012).

The Grosh brothers' personal accounts document not only the physical challenges of mining but also the broader economic impacts of the industry on the lives of local workers. They observed the fast-paced, ever-changing nature of the mining economy and its effects on the surrounding communities. Their letters reveal the transient nature of life in the mining towns, as well as the camaraderie and social networks that developed within these close-knit communities. These letters serve as essential primary sources for understanding the lived experiences of those involved in the Comstock Lode mining boom.

Additionally, the Grosh brothers played a vital role in the early development of Silver City. Their work in mining operations and involvement in local businesses helped to bolster the town's economic growth during the height of the Comstock Lode boom. Their dual role as miners and entrepreneurs in the community underscores the interconnected nature of Silver City's development, where mining operations and local businesses supported each other (James & Stewart, 2012).



Figure 3. Brothers Hosea Ballou and Ethan Allen Grosh (Courtesy of (Donner Party Mountain Runners).

John W. Grier's Legacy in Silver City and Nevada

John W. Grier was a pivotal figure in the early development of Silver City, Nevada, and his contributions helped shape the state's political and social landscape during the 19th century. His legacy is particularly underscored by his involvement in Nevada's Constitutional Convention, where he played a key role in shaping the legal framework of the state. In addition, Grier's service as a businessman and public servant solidified his importance in Silver City and its surrounding communities.

Early Life and Arrival in Silver City

John Grier arrived in Silver City around 1861, during the height of the Comstock Lode silver boom. By 1867, he had established a boarding house across from Odd Fellows' Hall. The boarding house became an essential lodging hub for miners and travelers, serving those passing through Silver City on their way to more prominent mining districts like Virginia City and Gold Hill. It provided critical accommodations for the expanding population that was fueled by the silver discovery (Lyon County Times, October 25, 1860).

Roles as Postmaster, Justice of the Peace, and Wells Fargo Agent

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In 1861, Grier was appointed the postmaster of Silver City, a crucial role in a rapidly growing town. As postmaster, Grier ensured that mail distribution ran smoothly, connecting Silver City with the rest of Nevada and the United States. His work facilitated vital communication that supported commerce and social cohesion during a time of rapid expansion (Lyon County Times, January 7, 1861).

Grier also served as Silver City's Justice of the Peace. In this judicial role, he was responsible for resolving minor civil disputes and small claims, helping maintain law and order in the town. His position as Justice of the Peace was essential, as it contributed to the stability of a community often challenged by the lawlessness of frontier life (Lyon County Times, June 10, 1862).

As a Wells Fargo agent, Grier played a key role in facilitating financial transactions for miners and businesses, ensuring that the local economy remained robust. Wells Fargo was the principal financial institution serving the mining regions of Nevada, and Grier's work helped to support the prosperity of Silver City by providing secure banking services to its residents (Lyon County Times, June 10, 1862).

Service as Notary Public

In addition to his other roles, John Grier was also a Notary Public in Lyon County, beginning his service in 1861. As a notary, Grier was responsible for witnessing and certifying documents such as contracts, land deeds, and other legal documents. His role as a Notary Public was particularly important in a frontier community like Silver City, where formal legal structures were still developing. His service as a notary added another layer of legitimacy and stability to the community's legal and business dealings (Lyon County Times, August 15, 1885).

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WELLS, FARGO & CO'S EXPRESS.

29

OFFICES AND AGENTS.

OFFICES AND AGENTS.	FREIGHT PER 100 LBS.	OFFICES AND AGENTS.	FREIGHT PER 100 LBS.
San Anselmo, Cal... A. W. Dutton		Scio, Or..... J. S. Morris	
San Antonio, Cal..Francis Sylvester		Scranton, Kas.....C. M. Creasey	
San Antonio, N. M.... H. R. Buell		Scribner, Neb..... Geo. Foster	
San Antonio, Tex..... J. M. Nixon		Seattle, W. T..... Geo. W. Harris	
San Bern�rdino, Cal.... R. T. Blow		Sebastopol, Cal.. Wilton & Andrews	
San Buenaventura, Cal. N. T. Cody		Sedgwick, Kas..... G. M. Whitney	
San Diego, Cal.... J. W. Thompson		Seeley, Kas..... A. A. Jackson	
Sand Point, I. T.... E. L. Weeks		Seguin, Tex..... J. A. Haralson	
San Fernando, Cal.... A. B. Moffitt		Selma, Cal..... J. E. Whitson	
San Francisco, Cal.... H. W. Titus		Separ, N. M..... F. C. Nelson	
San Gabriel, Cal..... O. H. Burke		Severy, Kas..... J. M. Egan	
San Gregorio, Cal..... Levy Bros		Seward, Neb.... Simon D. Freeman	
San Jose, Cal..... Elliott Reed		Shasta, Cal... Hopping & Dobrosky	
San Juan, Cal..... C. G. Cargill		Shedds, Or..... W. B. Wright	
San Juan del Rio, Mex.. H. B. Acton		Sheep Ranch, Cal.. A. Friedberger	
San Leandro, Cal.... H. C. Powell		Sheridan, Cal..... W. J. Killip	
San Luis Obispo, Cal..... }		Sheridan, Or.... Wm. A. Gardiner	
Geo. B. Staniford }		Shingle Springs, Cal.. R. K. Berry	
San Marcial, N. M.. Thos. Jacques		Sierra City, Cal..... A. C. Busch	
San Mateo, Cal.... B. A. Peckham		Sierraville, Cal..... Geo. Wood	
San Miguel, Cal.... Goldtree & Co		Silao, Mex..... A. W. Pleace	
San Pablo, Cal.... J. H. Chichester		Silver City, I. T.... Mark Leonard	
San Pedro, Cal.. W. H. Moulthrop		Silver City, Nev..... J. W. Grier	

Figure 4. John Grier, Wells Fargo Agent, Silver City, Nevada (Courtesy of Wells Fargo & Company Archives).

Territory of Nevada
County of Lyon 255

I *John Gibson Grier*
do solemnly swear that I will
support protect and defend the
Constitution of the United States
and the Government of the United
States against all enemies whether
domestic or foreign and that
I will bear true and faithful
allegiance and loyalty to the
same any ordinance resolution or law
of any State Constitution or Legislature
to the contrary notwithstanding and
further that I do this with a free
determination of mind and purpose
without any mental reservation
or evasions whatever and further
that I will and faithfully perform
the duties which may be required
of me by law as a Notary Public
of Nevada Territory Silver City
Lyon County or help me God
Subscribed and
sworn to by *John Gibson Grier*
John Gibson Grier this
18th day of Dec. 1861 before me
Henry M. Smith
Justice of the Peace
Lyon County - N.T.

Notary Public
Nevada Territory

Figure 5. Oath of John Grier for Notary Public (Courtesy of the Nevada State Library and Archives).

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Service at the Nevada Constitutional Convention

Grier's most significant contribution to Nevada's history was his role as a delegate to the Nevada Constitutional Convention in 1863. As Nevada prepared for statehood, the convention convened to draft a new constitution. Grier, a representative from Silver City, played a key role in ensuring that the needs of Nevada's working-class citizens, particularly the miners, were addressed in the state's founding document (Nevada Constitutional Convention Records, 1863.)

Grier advocated for policies that protected the welfare of laborers and miners, who were integral to the state's economy. His work at the convention contributed to shaping a constitution that incorporated labor protections, economic safeguards for workers, and regulations for the mining industry. Grier's involvement in the convention demonstrated his commitment to ensuring that Nevada's legal framework reflected the needs of its most essential industry (Nevada Constitutional Convention Records, 1863).

Death and Legacy

John W. Grier passed away on August 15, 1885, leaving behind a significant legacy in Silver City and Nevada. His death marked the loss of one of the most influential figures in the early development of Silver City, where he had played a crucial role in its growth as a service hub for the Comstock Lode mining community. Grier was widely recognized for his contributions as a businessman, public servant, and political leader. His work in establishing essential services like the post office, his service as Justice of the Peace, and his role in facilitating the financial transactions of Wells Fargo, all contributed to the town's stability and prosperity during its formative years.

At the time of his death, Grier's reputation as a community leader was well established. His obituary in the *Lyon County Times* acknowledged his many contributions to the town and region, noting the deep respect the community had for him. Grier's legacy lived on not just in the services and institutions he helped create, but also through his role in Nevada's statehood, particularly his involvement in the Constitutional Convention of 1863. His work at the convention helped shape the legal framework of Nevada, ensuring that the voices of miners and laborers were included in the state's founding document. Grier's

impact on both Silver City and Nevada endures, remembered as a key figure who helped lay the foundation for the state's development.

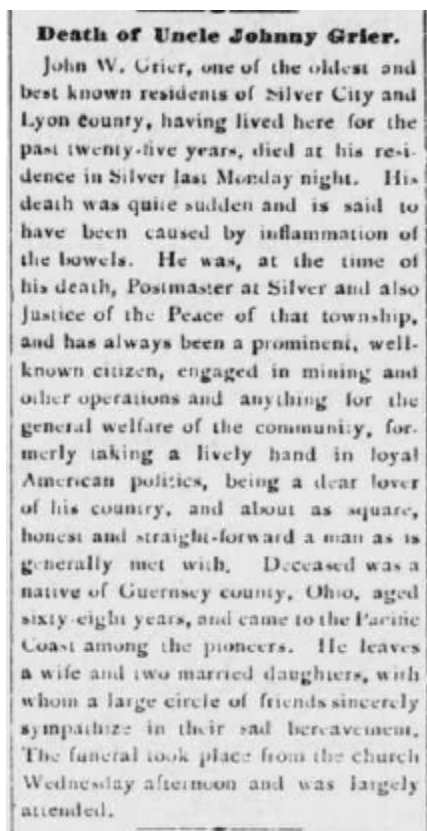


Figure 6. Death of Grier article (Lyon County Times, August 15, 1885).

Silver City's Role in the Comstock Lode Boom

Silver City's economic success was inseparable from the Comstock Lode's silver boom, which began in the mid-19th century. Located near Gold Hill and Virginia City, Silver City provided critical services to miners working in the Comstock Lode's silver veins. Its proximity to some of the richest silver deposits in the world allowed Silver City to capitalize on the economic opportunities created by the mining industry. The demand for supplies, transportation, and services grew rapidly, and Silver City's role as a commercial and logistical hub became increasingly vital to the area's economy (Lord, 1883).

During the 1860s and 1870s, the town's population and businesses grew in tandem with the region's mining activities. Silver City was home to numerous saloons, hotels, and general stores that catered to the increasing number of miners and business owners in

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the area. Additionally, important milling operations, such as the Kelsey Mill, processed ore from nearby mines, contributing significantly to the town's prosperity. The mill played a crucial role in refining silver and gold ores, making Silver City an essential part of the supply chain that fueled the Comstock Lode's success (De Quille & Wright, 1889).



Figure 7. Amity Lodge building identified, Silver City, Nevada, from the Devil's Gate, looking south, in 1881 (Courtesy Silver City Preservation Society).

Silver City's rapid growth during this period was facilitated by its location along important transportation routes, including those connected to the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. This accessibility allowed the town to maintain its importance as a service and supply center for miners traveling between Virginia City, Gold Hill, and other mining districts. As Silver City's economy expanded, it contributed to the broader growth of the Comstock Lode region, supporting a workforce of miners, entrepreneurs, and tradespeople (Lord, 1883).

Decline and Transition: Late 1870s - Early 1900s

By the late 1870s, the Comstock Lode's silver veins began to deplete, and mining activities slowed significantly. The depletion of valuable ore and the rising costs of mining operations contributed to a decline in Silver City's economic activity. The completion of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad in 1869 further accelerated the decline, as it redirected economic traffic to Virginia City, which was experiencing more accessible mining

opportunities (De Quille & Wright, 1889). As mining slowed, many miners and their families left the area in search of new opportunities, resulting in a decline in Silver City's population.

By the early 1900s, Silver City had transitioned from a bustling mining town to a quieter, more residential community. While the town no longer boasted the thriving commercial activity that characterized its early years, its historical significance as a key part of the Comstock Lode remained intact. Silver City's remaining infrastructure and buildings, many of which have been preserved, serve as reminders of the once-prosperous mining community that helped shape Nevada's development. By the mid-20th century, Silver City had become a shadow of its former self, with only a small population of residents remaining (National Parks Service, 1991).

Modern Day

Today, Silver City is a small, quiet community that continues to hold historical significance for those interested in Nevada's mining heritage. Several historic buildings remain standing, including remnants of old mills and mining infrastructure that offer visitors a glimpse into the rapid rise and eventual decline of Silver City. While the town is no longer a hub for mining activity, it remains an important historical site that highlights the impact of the Comstock Lode on Nevada and the American West.

The town's connection to the Grosh brothers, the Comstock Lode, and the broader silver mining boom contributes to Silver City's lasting relevance in the historical narrative of the American West. Silver City continues to serve as a testament to the lives of the miners, business owners, and entrepreneurs who once shaped its fortunes (James & Stewart, 2012).

Fraternal Organizations in the U.S. During the 19th Century

Fraternal organizations, which include groups such as the Freemasons, the Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.), and others, played a significant role in shaping the social, economic, and political landscape of 19th-century America. These organizations were established to offer mutual aid and social fellowship, providing essential services such as

life insurance, support for the families of deceased members, and opportunities for social interaction in rapidly growing and often unstable communities (Lord, 1883).

The rapid industrialization and westward expansion of the U.S. during this period created a need for new social institutions that could support a largely transient population. Many early settlers and laborers in frontier towns lacked traditional familial support systems, and fraternal organizations filled this gap by offering social networks and practical services. They became particularly important in mining towns, where danger was ever-present, and miners often faced uncertain futures (Torrence, 1996).

History of Fraternal Organizations in Nevada

Fraternal organizations had a significant presence in Nevada during the 19th century, aligning with the expansion of the Comstock Lode and the influx of settlers seeking wealth from silver mining. The Freemasons and A.O.U.W., in particular, played a vital role in providing support to the mining community. These organizations provided not only social networks but also practical assistance such as life insurance and support for the families of miners in case of death or injury (Bennett, 2004).

Fraternal organizations helped to stabilize mining towns and were central to the development of civic institutions. Through their social outreach, fraternal lodges in Nevada helped to build schools, hospitals, and other important infrastructure, making them integral to the growth of the region during the silver boom (Walker, 1913).

History of Freemasonry in Nevada

Freemasonry, one of the oldest and most influential fraternal organizations, has played a significant role in Nevada's social, political, and civic life. While the origins of Freemasonry in Nevada are closely tied to the arrival of settlers during the mid-1800s, the organization's influence in the state has persisted throughout the years, shaping Nevada's development and leaving a lasting legacy in its communities.



Figure 8. Nevada Freemasonry Logo.

Early Beginnings (Pre-Statehood)

Freemasonry was first introduced to the western United States in the late 18th century, and by the time Nevada became a state in 1864, the fraternity had already gained a foothold in the region. The first Masonic activity in Nevada can be traced back to the early 1860s, when Masons who arrived as part of the westward expansion and the Comstock Lode silver rush began organizing. These early Freemasons brought the traditions and rituals of the fraternity with them, which focused on ideals of brotherhood, charity, and personal development (Bennett, 2004).

The first Masonic lodge in Nevada was established in Carson City in 1860, marking the beginning of a long tradition of Masonic activity in the state. These lodges quickly became key institutions in Nevada's mining communities, providing a sense of camaraderie and mutual support in the midst of the hardships faced by settlers in a rapidly growing, often hazardous region (Torrence, 1996).

Formation of the Grand Lodge of Nevada (1865)

Freemasonry's influence in Nevada began to take shape formally in 1864 when several lodges came together to form the Grand Lodge of Nevada. As the Comstock Lode silver boom continued to flourish, the need for an organized Masonic presence became apparent. The creation of the Grand Lodge allowed for the consolidation of practices, rituals, and regulations governing the fraternity across the state (Walker, 1913).

The first meeting of the Grand Lodge of Nevada was held on January 16, 1865, in Virginia City. This milestone formalized the state's Masonic activities, uniting various local lodges

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under a single organizational structure. Founding lodges included Virginia City Lodge No. 162, Escorial Lodge No. 171, Carson Lodge No. 154, Silver City No. 163 (future Amity Lodge No.4), and others. This was a significant moment in the history of Freemasonry in Nevada, as it provided Masons in the state with a centralized governing body (Bennett, 2004).

Freemasonry During the Comstock Lode Era (1860s-1880s)

During the height of the Comstock Lode silver boom, Freemasonry flourished in Nevada, especially in towns like Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City. As mining towns exploded in size, Masonic lodges played a pivotal role in the social fabric of these communities. They offered not just fellowship, but also essential services, such as life insurance and financial aid for miners' families in the event of death or injury. These functions were critical, given the dangerous nature of mining at the time (Lord, 1883).

Freemasonry became a cornerstone of social stability in these frontier towns, providing a platform for charitable efforts and a sense of unity amidst the transient population of miners and settlers. Lodges helped build schools, hospitals, and other community infrastructure, making Masonic lodges key pillars of civic life (Bennett, 2004). The fraternal network offered both practical aid and emotional support, ensuring that members had assistance in times of need (Lord, 1883).

As many of Nevada's prominent citizens, including political leaders and business owners, were members of Masonic lodges, the fraternity also played an important role in the broader development of the state. The influence of Freemasonry extended into the political arena, and Masons were often involved in shaping policies that would support the continued growth of the state (Torrence, 1996).

Expansion and Growth (1880s-1900s)

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Freemasonry continued to expand across Nevada. New lodges were founded in cities like Reno, Elko, and Carson City. The fraternity's commitment to charity and civic engagement helped establish it as a respected social institution throughout the state. During this period, Masonic lodges continued to

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serve as community hubs where individuals gathered for both personal development and to offer support to those in need (Walker, 1913).

During the early 20th century, Freemasonry also adapted to the evolving political and social landscape. Masons became involved in advocating for workers' rights, supporting education, and assisting with other forms of public welfare. The fraternity's continuing emphasis on moral integrity, community service, and civic duty aligned well with Nevada's political ideals, particularly as the state began to establish itself more firmly in the national political arena (Walker, 1913).

Freemasonry in the 20th Century and Beyond

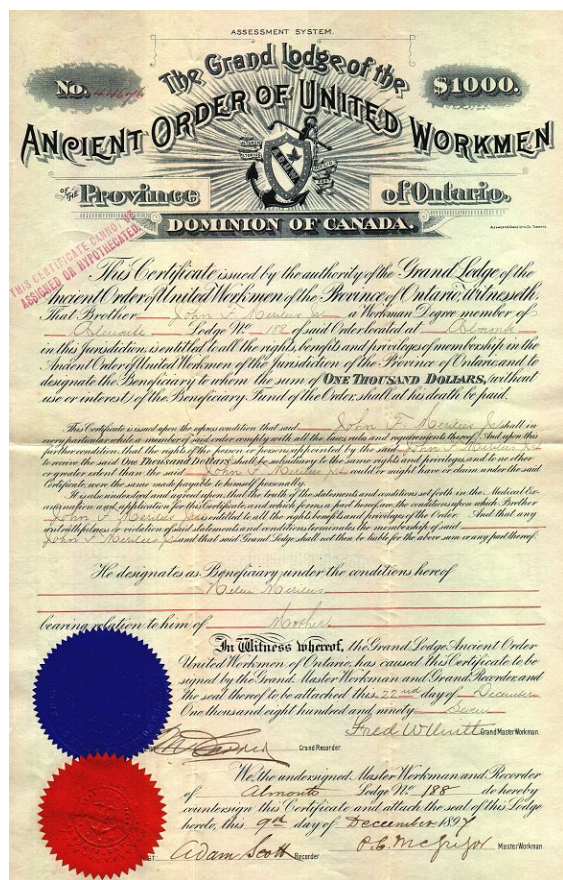
Freemasonry in Nevada, like the rest of the country, experienced a period of decline in membership after the mid-20th century. This was partly due to changes in the social structure and the rise of other organizations and government-provided social programs. However, the fraternity remained an important part of Nevada's cultural landscape, particularly in rural communities, where it continued to offer a sense of tradition, fellowship, and support (Bennett, 2004).

By the late 20th century, Freemasonry in Nevada had adapted to changes in society, maintaining its role as an institution focused on charitable works, brotherhood, and community engagement. Modern Masonic lodges continue to serve as venues for social events and community outreach, with many lodges offering scholarships, supporting local charities, and engaging in other civic initiatives. Today, Freemasonry remains a respected institution in Nevada, with active lodges throughout the state (Bennett, 2004).

History of A.O.U.W. in the U.S.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) was founded on October 27, 1868, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, by John Jordan Upchurch and 13 others. Created as a fraternal benefits society, the A.O.U.W. was designed to provide working-class individuals with financial protection, particularly for those in life-threatening occupations such as mining. The society's appeal was its promise to offer death benefits to the families of deceased

members—an essential service during an era when many workers, especially miners, faced dangerous and often fatal Working conditions (Lord, 1883).



By 1887, the A.O.U.W. had grown to over 176,000 members across 3,200 lodges nationwide. Each lodge functioned not only as a social gathering space but also as a vital support system, offering members financial aid, mutual assistance, and solidarity, especially in communities where formal social safety nets were scarce. In mining towns, where many workers lacked traditional support systems, the A.O.U.W. played a crucial role in offering relief to the families of injured or deceased workers.

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organization's growth. Further expansions followed, including the construction of a new building in 1927 at the corner of 10th Street and 2nd Avenue North, and additional additions in the 1950s (Pioneer Mutual Life historical information, 1952).

In 1948, the A.O.U.W. transitioned from being a fraternal society to a full-fledged life insurance company and was renamed Pioneer Mutual Life Insurance Company. This shift allowed the organization to continue its legacy of providing financial security to working-class families while adapting to a changing social landscape. By 1991, Pioneer Mutual Life merged with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, and the building became known as Federal Square.

Today, the legacy of the A.O.U.W. lives on through the work of Pioneer Mutual Life Insurance Company, which remains a significant part of North Dakota's business landscape. The A.O.U.W.'s impact on the development of insurance and mutual aid systems, especially in the industrial and mining sectors—continues to resonate. The society not only provided essential financial protection but also fostered community and solidarity among workers, ensuring its place as a vital social institution in U.S. history (Pioneer Mutual Life Story, 1952).

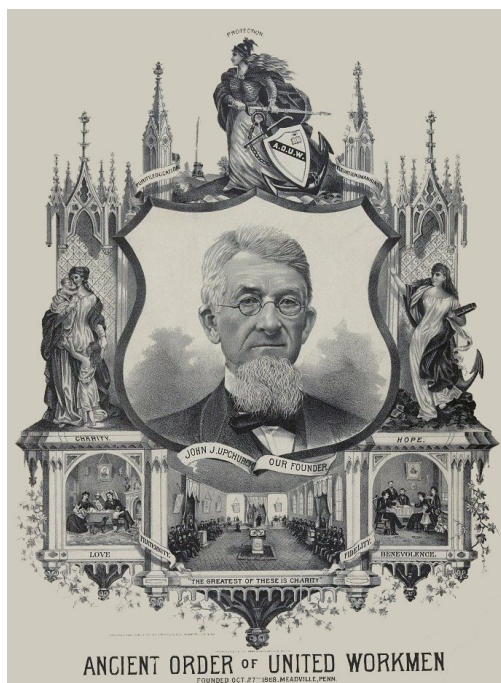


Figure 10. Ancient Order of United Workman document (Courtesy of Library of Congress).

History of A.O.U.W. in Nevada

The Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) became an influential fraternal organization in Nevada during the late 19th century, especially in mining towns like Silver City, Virginia City, and Gold Hill. Established in 1868 in Meadville, Pennsylvania, by John Jordan Upchurch and a group of twelve others, the A.O.U.W. was created to provide mutual aid and financial protection, especially for workers in hazardous industries such as mining. The organization's primary appeal lay in its provision of death benefits for the families of deceased members, which was crucial for miners who faced high risks of injury or death (Lord, 1883).

The A.O.U.W. quickly expanded throughout the United States, gaining thousands of members by the 1880s, and by 1888, the organization had firmly established itself in Nevada. In Silver City, the A.O.U.W. found a home in a building shared with the Masons at Amity Lodge No. 4, where it played a significant role in both the fraternal and social fabric of the community. As part of the collaboration, the A.O.U.W. not only provided life insurance but also facilitated charity events and social activities that strengthened community bonds. The mutual aid offered by the A.O.U.W. was particularly valuable in the context of the mining towns, where miners and their families often lacked formal social safety nets (Bennett, 2004).

The A.O.U.W.'s influence in Nevada grew as it helped to stabilize the community amidst the boom-and-bust cycles of mining. By 1898, the organization had significantly increased its membership across the state, with notable growth reported in Silver City and nearby areas. The organization continued to emphasize mutual aid and economic support for workers, while also expanding its role as a social institution in the region. Its involvement in civic affairs, alongside its fraternal counterpart, the Masons, was instrumental in fostering a sense of unity and social stability in Nevada's mining communities (Lyon County Times, 1898).

The partnership between the A.O.U.W. and Masonic organizations like Amity Lodge No. 4 exemplified the growing importance of fraternal societies in Nevada, which became

essential to community life and economic security, especially during the tumultuous years of the Comstock Lode boom and its eventual decline.

Freemasonry in Silver City

Freemasonry, one of the world's oldest and most influential fraternal organizations, was introduced to Silver City in early 1860s as part of the westward migration following the Comstock Lode's silver discovery. Masonic lodges had already been established in nearby Virginia City, where the fraternity became central to the social and civic life of the growing mining community. As Silver City developed, local Masons sought to establish their own lodge to serve the needs of the burgeoning town.

In 1863, Silver City Lodge No. 163 was granted dispensation by the Grand Lodge of California, officially founding the first Masonic lodge in Silver City. The lodge was established during a period of rapid growth, when Silver City's population had swelled to over 1,200 people due to the influx of miners and entrepreneurs. The Silver City lodge was initially formed by a group of sojourning Masons—men who had moved to the area due to the silver rush. Its founding was part of a broader trend across the West, where Masons sought to establish lodges in mining towns to provide mutual aid, a sense of community, and a structured social space for miners who were often isolated from their families and traditional support systems.

In 1865, as Nevada transitioned from territory to statehood, Silver City Lodge No. 163 became part of the newly formed Grand Lodge of Nevada under its new designation as Amity Lodge No. 4. This move aligned Silver City with the formal Masonic structures of the state, solidifying its role in the broader Masonic community in Nevada. Amity Lodge No. 4, named after the value of "amity" or friendship, became a prominent institution in the town, offering both a fraternal home for its members and a center for social and charitable activities (Walker, 1913).

During its early years, Amity Lodge No. 4 was not only a space for Masonic ceremonies and meetings but also a hub for community events, such as public gatherings and charitable fundraisers. The Masons played an essential role in providing financial aid for miners who were injured or killed in the dangerous mines. Lodges like Amity No. 4 often

acted as a form of social insurance, offering protection for widows, orphans, and those who suffered from mining accidents (Bennett, 2004). The Masons also helped build essential infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, further strengthening their social importance in Silver City.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) in Silver City

In 1888, the A.O.U.W. made Silver City its home, setting up operations in a hall that would serve as the organization's primary gathering space. During this period, the A.O.U.W. in Silver City was dedicated to providing death benefits to the families of miners who faced perilous working conditions. The organization was essential in a town where mining accidents were frequent, and the risks of injury or death were ever-present. The A.O.U.W.'s financial support system offered miners and their families some measure of security in an otherwise uncertain and dangerous industry (Lyon County Times, 1888).

The A.O.U.W.'s hall became an important center for social and charitable activities. Members gathered regularly, not only to engage in fraternal meetings but also to participate in community events and charitable initiatives. The organization's role extended beyond financial aid; it also helped foster a sense of community and solidarity among Silver City's residents. The A.O.U.W. organized various charitable events, including fundraisers for families in need, further cementing its position as a key social institution in the town (Lyon County Times, 1888).

In the *Lyon County Times*, the hall was described as "one of the nicest and tidiest halls in the state," underscoring the pride the A.O.U.W. took in maintaining its building. The hall, located in a central part of Silver City, served as both a space for the A.O.U.W.'s activities and a hub for broader civic life, contributing to the town's social fabric (Lyon County Times, 1888).

However, by 1893, the A.O.U.W. ceased its activities in Silver City, holding its final meeting that year before the organization disbanded locally. Despite its relatively short existence in Silver City, the A.O.U.W.'s impact was significant. The organization provided crucial support during the volatile years of the silver boom, offering financial assistance to workers' families, organizing charitable works, and enhancing the social cohesion of

the mining community. The legacy of the A.O.U.W. in Silver City is a testament to the importance of fraternal organizations in supporting the welfare of workers during the Comstock Lode era (Amity Lodge No. 4 Archives, 1893).

Fraternal Organizations in Silver City's Social Fabric

The Masons and the A.O.U.W. were not the only fraternal organizations in Silver City, but they were among the most prominent. Fraternal organizations were deeply embedded in the social and cultural life of the town. They offered a sense of stability in a rapidly changing and often volatile environment. The transient nature of the population, driven by the boom-and-bust cycles of mining, meant that many residents lacked strong family ties or long-term community connections. Fraternal organizations provided a critical support system that helped establish social cohesion and unity, even as many of Silver City's inhabitants moved in and out of the area in search of work (Torrence, 1996).

These organizations also served as forums for social interaction, political discourse, and even charitable work. Through their regular meetings and public events, Masonic lodges and the A.O.U.W. helped to build a sense of community and solidarity among people from different walks of life, including miners, business owners, and prominent citizens. Many of the town's most influential individuals were members of these organizations, which gave them a platform to discuss local issues, plan for civic improvements, and offer support to one another (Bennett, 2004; Walker, 1913).

Legacy of Fraternal Organizations in Silver City

The legacy of fraternal organizations in Silver City, particularly the A.O.U.W. and Freemasons, is deeply intertwined with the town's history, especially during the peak of the Comstock Lode silver boom. These organizations played a crucial role in providing essential services like mutual aid, life insurance, and financial support for miners and their families, who often faced perilous working conditions in the mines. Beyond their practical contributions, fraternal organizations acted as vital social spaces that fostered community cohesion, fellowship, and charitable activities, helping to stabilize the transient population of miners, business owners, and families during a period of economic volatility (Lord, 1883).

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The A.O.U.W., which operated in Silver City from 1888 to 1893, and the Freemasons, particularly through Amity Lodge No. 4, provided critical support services. The A.O.U.W.'s presence in Silver City marked a significant chapter in the town's fraternal life, as the organization offered financial assistance to miners' families in case of injury or death, a critical need in the dangerous mining industry (Lyon County Times, 1888). The partnership between the A.O.U.W. and the Freemasons, with both groups sharing a hall, symbolizes the collaborative spirit that shaped the town's fraternal landscape. Through charitable events, civic involvement, and providing social support, these organizations helped the community weather the boom-and-bust cycles of silver mining (Bennett, 2004).

Today, the legacy of fraternal organizations in Silver City continues to be felt. Their role in offering financial protection, community support, and contributing to the town's social fabric underscores their lasting importance in Silver City's development. The continued presence of Amity Lodge No. 4 serves as a physical reminder of the significant contributions these organizations made to the town's cultural and social heritage (Torrence, 1996).

History of the Amity Lodge No. 4 Building

The Amity Lodge No. 4 building in Silver City, Nevada, is one of the remaining historical landmarks from the early days of the Comstock Lode era. Its history is deeply intertwined with the growth of Silver City, a town founded in 1859 after the discovery of silver in the Comstock Lode. As a service town for miners and businesses in the region, Silver City experienced rapid growth, which necessitated the establishment of institutions that could support the community's social and civic needs. Among the most important of these institutions was the Masonic lodge, which played a central role in the town's social fabric. The building that would house Amity Lodge No. 4 became an integral part of this process, serving not just as a place for fraternal meetings, but also as a venue for public gatherings, town meetings, and charitable activities that were essential to the town's development (Lyon County Times, 1888).

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Construction and Early Years

The Amity Lodge No. 4 building was constructed in 1867 by John Grier as a boarding house, reflecting the town's rapid expansion during the silver boom. At the time, Silver City was growing quickly, with the population reaching approximately 1,200 people by 1861. The influx of miners, entrepreneurs, and business owners necessitated the construction of new commercial and civic buildings to serve the needs of the community. Grier's boarding house was one of these early buildings, designed to provide accommodation for miners and travelers passing through the area. Advertised as a prime location opposite Odd Fellows' Hall, it catered to those traveling to and from more prominent mining districts like Virginia City and Gold Hill.



Figure 11. Amity Lodge No. 4 building identified, Silver City Nevada, looking south from Devil's Gate, 1866 (Courtesy of Library of Congress).

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The boarding house was constructed with the materials available in the region at the time, which were characteristic of many buildings constructed during the Comstock Lode boom. It was a functional building, designed to provide both shelter and a sense of stability to the transient population of miners, business owners, and travelers. The building's central location in Silver City, near the town's key businesses and other important institutions, made it an ideal choice for such a structure. J. Lawson managed the building for John Grier briefly from January through March of 1875, after which Lawson left Silver City.



Figure 12. J. Lawson ad (Courtesy Lyon County Times, January 7, 1875).

Transition to Masonic Use

Following John Grier's death in 1885, his wife, Susan Grier, transferred the property to the Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) in 1888. The A.O.U.W., a prominent fraternal organization, focused on mutual aid and workers' rights. Upon taking over the building, the A.O.U.W., in partnership with Amity Lodge No. 4, adapted it for use as a hall for the organization, providing space for both social and charitable functions.

Deed.

Mrs Susan Grier

—TO—

Trustees of

Silver City Lodge No. 16

A. O. U. W.

DATED Aug-17 1888

Filed for Record at the Request of

Silver City Lodge No. 16 A. O. U. W.

July 27th A. D. 188*8*,

at *31* min. past *3* o'clock,

P. M., and recorded in Vol. *14*,

of *Deeds* page *650*

Lynn

County Records.

Thos P Meach

County Recorder.

By _____

Deputy Recorder.

Figure 13. A.O.U.W. Deed for Silver City Lodge, 1888 (Courtesy of Amity Lodge No. 4 Archives).

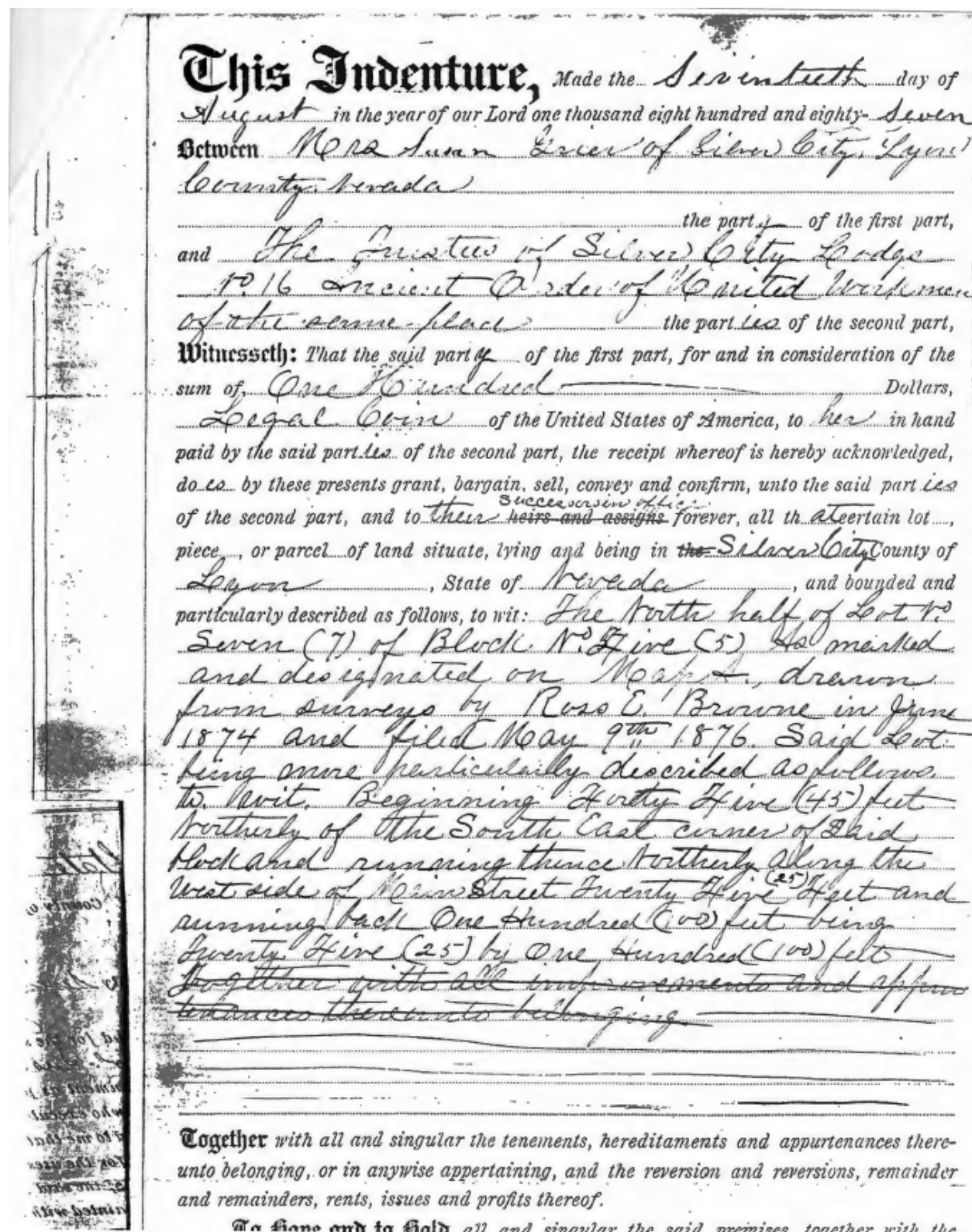


Figure 14. A.O.U.W. Deed, 1888 (Courtesy of Amity Lodge No. 4 Archives).

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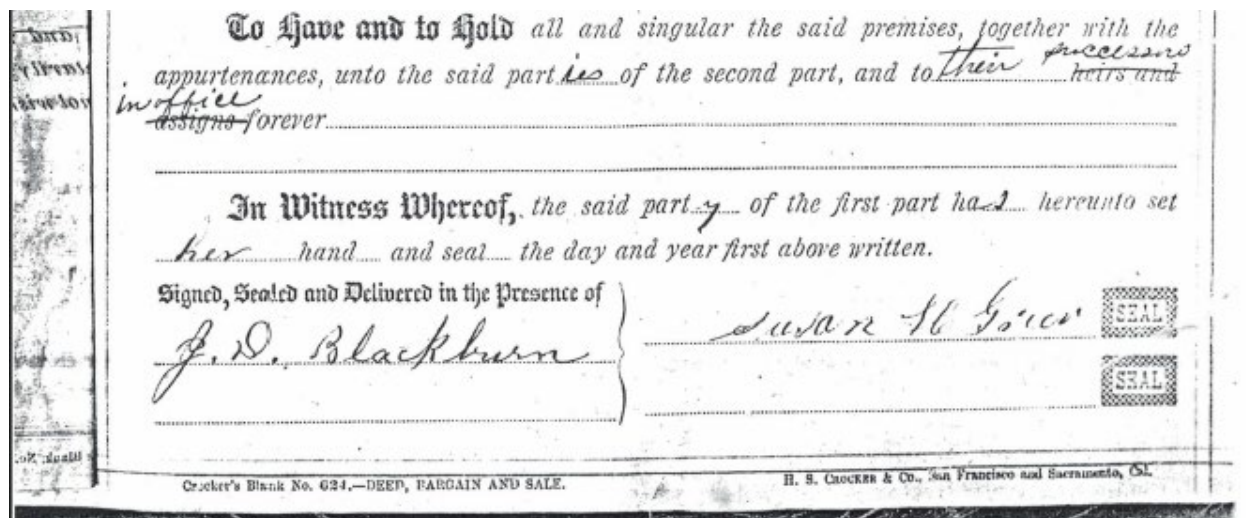


Figure 14 (continued). A.O.U.W. Deed, 1888 (Courtesy of Amity Lodge No. 4 Archives).

In 1888, members of the A.O.U.W. and the Masonic Lodge in Silver City collaborated on renovations to the building, reinforcing its role as a hub for the community. According to the Lyon County Times (September 1, 1888), the two groups worked together on the improvements: "The A.O.U.W. people and the Masons of Silver City are jointly fitting up their hall, and when the work is finished, will have as nice and tidy a little hall as there is in the State." This partnership was a reflection of the growing significance of fraternal organizations in the region, filling the gap left by the absence of formal social safety nets for workers

—The A. O. U. W. people and the Masons of Silver City are jointly fitting up their hall, and when the work is finished will have as nice and tidy a little hall as there is in the State.

Figure 15. A.O.U.W. news article (Courtesy of Lyon County Times, September 1, 1888).

Architectural Modifications and Preservation

The building underwent several modifications over the years. In 1959, its original wooden post foundation was replaced with concrete masonry units (CMUs) to enhance its structural integrity. From photographic evidence, the building did not have a porch until one was added in 1974 with wooden columns, enhancing the building's functionality while

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maintaining its historical aesthetic (James & Stewart, 2012). Also in the 1950s, following a break in, the windows on the front were sealed up, replaced with plywood windows with muntins. At the rear, one window was covered up, and the other converted into an emergency exit with a wooden staircase leading down to grade behind the building. Despite these updates, the building retains much of its original character, with its timber-frame construction, false front with cornice, weatherboard siding, gable roof, and metal standing seam roof reflecting the utilitarian design typical of 19th-century mining towns in the west (Paher, 1970).

Cultural and Community Impact

Amity Lodge No. 4 was more than just a venue for Masonic meetings; it was a cornerstone of Silver City's cultural life. As a center for fellowship, charitable works, and civic engagement, it provided an essential space for the town's miners, business owners, and residents to come together. The Masons' role in supporting widows and orphans, and their involvement in building critical infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, solidified the lodge's importance in fostering community spirit and mutual aid. The building served as a tangible symbol of Silver City's commitment to cooperation and support in a time when such assistance was vital for survival (Lord, 1883).

Legacy and Preservation

Today, the Amity Lodge No. 4 building remains one of the oldest surviving structures in Silver City, serving as a lasting symbol of the town's rich history and the critical role played by fraternal organizations in its development. The building is a contributing resource of the Virginia City Historic District, a National Historic Landmark District (NRIS 66000458) listed July 4, 1961, and is thereby listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It contributes to the preservation of Silver City's architectural and cultural heritage. Its continued use as a fraternal lodge underscores the enduring legacy of the Masons, the A.O.U.W., and other organizations that helped shape the community during the Comstock Lode era. The building's preservation ensures that future generations will continue to recognize the importance of these institutions in creating the social and civic foundations of Silver City.



Figure 16. Amity Lodge No. 4 building, white building, 1959 (Courtesy of Amity Lodge No. 4 Archives)

Cultural Significance

The cultural significance of Amity Lodge No. 4 extends beyond its architectural form; it is a reflection of the social and cultural dynamics of Silver City during a transformative period. Fraternal organizations were deeply embedded in the cultural life of mining towns like Silver City, where these groups provided more than just financial assistance; they helped create a sense of belonging and community. The Masonic lodge, in particular, provided a structured space for individuals from various backgrounds—miners, business owners, and prominent citizens—to gather, connect, and support each other (Torrence, 1996).

The lodge was not only a center for fellowship but also a space for charitable work, including the provision of financial relief for the widows and orphans of deceased miners, a practice that was particularly significant given the dangerous nature of mining (Lord, 1883). The charitable works undertaken by the Masons were an essential part of the community's social fabric, providing a safety net in a time before the establishment of formal social welfare systems. The role of Amity Lodge No. 4 in these efforts reinforces

its cultural importance, as it served both the needs of its members and the wider community.

Moreover, the building stands as a symbol of the collective efforts to build a cohesive community in a region marked by its economic volatility. Silver City, like other mining towns, was subject to boom and bust cycles, and the Masonic lodge's role in offering stability and mutual support was a cornerstone of the town's social and cultural life. Today, the lodge's continued function as a fraternal organization highlights the enduring legacy of these early efforts to create a supportive, organized community in the face of uncertainty.

Architectural Significance

Architecturally, Amity Lodge No. 4 is a prime example of 19th-century vernacular architecture, representative of the period's utilitarian design and construction methods. The building's load-bearing timber frame construction and weatherboard siding are typical of the materials used during the era (Paher, 1970). These simple yet durable construction methods were suited to the harsh conditions of frontier towns and made use of readily available resources.

The building's false front with simple cornice is one of the character defining features of early commercial buildings, especially in western towns. Its gable roof and metal standing seam roof covering are practical design choices that also reflect the building's time period and regional climate (Paher, 1970). In 1959, the original wooden post foundation was replaced with concrete masonry units (CMUs), a modification that enhanced the building's structural integrity and ensured its continued use (James & Stewart, 2012). Also in the 1950s, its windows were covered over. The addition of a covered porch with wooden columns in 1974 further improved the building's functionality while maintaining its historical aesthetic.

Despite these later modifications, Amity Lodge No. 4 retains much of its original architectural integrity, and its construction methods provide valuable insight into the building practices of the time. As one of the oldest surviving buildings in Silver City, it offers an authentic representation of 19th-century construction and remains an important

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example of the type of public buildings that served mining communities across Nevada during the Comstock Lode era.

Contribution to the Virginia City National Historic Landmark District

Amity Lodge No. 4 is located within the Virginia City Historic District, a National Historic Landmark District, which is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, identified as Historic Building SC-31. The district, which includes Silver City, Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Dayton, covers 14,750 acres and contains numerous buildings that reflect the architectural and industrial history of the Comstock Lode mining region (National Park Service, 1991). The inclusion of Amity Lodge No. 4 on Nevada's Historical Register would enhance the recognition of Silver City as an important component of this historic district and contribute to the preservation of the cultural and architectural heritage of the region.

As one of the few surviving buildings in Silver City from the Comstock Lode era, Amity Lodge No. 4 serves as a key piece of this historical narrative. It represents the fraternal and social functions that helped shape the community and provides a tangible link to the past. Its inclusion on the register would ensure that this important piece of Silver City's history is preserved for future generations.

Conclusion

The Amity Lodge No. 4 building serves as a lasting symbol of Silver City's rich history and the vital role that fraternal organizations played in its development. Originally constructed as a boarding house, the building evolved into a cornerstone of the community as a Masonic lodge. Its continued use and preservation provide a direct connection to the past, ensuring that the contributions of the Masons, the A.O.U.W., and other fraternal groups are preserved for future generations.

As an important historical, cultural, and architectural landmark, Amity Lodge No. 4 warrants inclusion on Nevada's Historical Register of Places. The building's significance extends beyond its role as a space for Masonic activities and community service; it also reflects the broader development of Silver City, the Comstock Lode, and the key fraternal organizations that helped shape the region during a transformative period in Nevada's

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history. The building's architectural integrity and cultural relevance make it a vital part of the state's heritage. Including Amity Lodge No. 4 on the Nevada Historical Register would not only celebrate the legacy of Silver City's fraternal organizations but also ensure the ongoing preservation of this critical historical structure.



Figure 17. Front elevation of Amity Lodge No. 4 F. A. & M. building, 2024. Audie Robinson, photographer.

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Period of Significance: 1867-1975

Cultural Affiliation(s):

Significant Person(s) John Grier

Architect/Builder(s): John Grier

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Explain clearly in a well-developed but concise narrative what makes the property historically or culturally significant.

Amity Lodge No. 4 in Silver City, Nevada, is historically and culturally significant, primarily due to its architectural integrity and its crucial role in the development of the town during the height of the Comstock Lode silver boom. While not a religious institution, the building serves as a prime example of 19th-century vernacular architecture, reflecting the social and economic conditions of the period. The lodge, constructed in 1867, stands as one of the best remaining resources that encapsulate the historical community life in Silver City (Walker, 1913). The building's continued existence offers an authentic representation of Silver City's past, especially when considering the role fraternal organizations played in providing social stability, mutual aid, and fellowship during a time of economic uncertainty and rapid growth.

Amity Lodge No. 4 was not just a site for Masonic activities but also a center for community gatherings, town meetings, and charitable activities, making it a focal point of Silver City's social life. During the Comstock Lode era, the town saw an influx of miners, entrepreneurs, and families who needed social networks and practical assistance. The lodge became a space for these individuals to support one another through fellowship and mutual aid, and the Masons' presence in the community helped provide financial protection for miners' families in the event of death or injury, which was especially significant given the perilous nature of the work in the mines (Lord, 1883). The building's continued use for Masonic and community activities reinforces its architectural and social significance as a central institution in Silver City's history.

While Amity Lodge No. 4 has undergone some modifications—such as the replacement of its original wooden post foundation with concrete masonry units in 1959 and the

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addition of a covered porch in 1974—these changes have been made to preserve its original structure and aesthetic integrity, ensuring that it continues to reflect the historical setting of Silver City (James & Stewart, 2012). These modifications, which have not altered the building's overall character, allow the lodge to retain its historical value as an example of architectural resilience in a region marked by economic volatility.

The historical importance of Amity Lodge No. 4 has long been established, and its significance is rooted in the critical role it played in Silver City's development during the 19th century. As a cornerstone of the town's fraternal life, it provided essential social services and fostered a sense of community during the height of the Comstock Lode boom. The building's enduring legacy, including its role in promoting social cohesion and supporting miners and their families, solidifies its place in Nevada's historical and cultural fabric.

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Figure 18. Amity Lodge No. 4 Building Location identified (Courtesy of Google Maps).

8. DESCRIPTION (select information that best describes exterior fabric, structural system, and roofing material)

Architectural Style or Type: Commercial or Western Vernacular

Materials Foundation: Concrete masonry units (CMU)
Walls: Load bearing timber frame construction
Roof: Gable roof with metal standing seam roof covering
Windows: two (2) false windows of 12 panes with wooden frames (the original windows were covered over in the 1950s). The plywood is painted black with false wood muntins painted white).
Other: covered porch with wooden posts

Narrative Description:

The Amity Lodge No. 4 building in Silver City, Nevada, is a prime example of 19th-century vernacular architecture, combining utilitarian design with functional details characteristic of the period. It reflects the needs of the mining community during the height of the Comstock Lode boom, serving as a hub for fraternal gatherings and civic activities.

Constructed with a load-bearing timber frame, the exterior of the building is clad in horizontal weatherboard siding on three sides, and metal shingles in the rear, painted white with contrasting blue trim around the false windows, doors, and covered porch. This simple yet durable cladding reflects the functional needs of the era while adding an element of visual elegance. The wooden frame supports both the upper floors and the roof, contributing to the building's overall durability and stability.

The building's front or east elevation is false front with a simple cornice, a significant element of nineteenth century commercial buildings found in the west. At the street level, there is a single wood four panel entry door. It is flanked by two false windows made of plywood painted black with false white muntins, symmetrically arranged and framed in wooden frames with blue-painted trim. The windows have been infilled and boarded over since the 1950s both on the inside and outside following a break in. Along the street is a covered porch, added in 1974. With its wooden posts and simple design, the porch enhances the building's functionality by providing an inviting entryway and a space for

community interactions, reflecting its role as a central gathering place. Centered above porch roof are a rectangular wood attic vent and herald symbol of the Masons.

The street level area of the building's rear west elevation is covered in metal shingles. It originally had two windows mirroring the front elevation. One was infilled and covered over in the 1950s, evidenced by metal shingles. The other window became a fire escape door with a wooden stair leading down to grade at the lower level of the building. There is also a rectangular attic vent similar to that of the front. The lower level's construction of concrete blocks is readily apparent and painted white.

The north and south side elevations of the building is clad in horizontal weatherboard siding, with concrete masonry units painted white. The grades at each side slope from the street level down to the back lower level of the building. There is a single blank entry door with concrete landing on the north elevation towards the northwest corner of the building where the grade is lowest.

The roof follows a traditional gable design, which efficiently sheds rain and snow, typical of the Western Vernacular style. It is covered with metal standing seam roofing, chosen for its resilience and ability to withstand the harsh weather conditions of the region. This roofing material complements the building's historical character and ensures long-term durability.

The building's foundation is composed of concrete masonry units, installed in 1959 to replace the original wooden post foundation. This modification significantly strengthened the building's structural integrity, ensuring its continued use as a fraternal lodge and community space. The new CMU foundation provides a stable base while preserving the original design's aesthetic. In 2002, the covered porch and false front with cornice and façade was renovated and repaired due to damage caused by the extreme climate conditions in Nevada.

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Figure 19. Building Front Façade Renovation and Repairs plans (Courtesy of Amity Lodge No. 4 Archives).

Inside, the building retains much of its original character, with plastered walls in some areas and drywall in others. The central pillar, located on the lower level, provides additional support to the upper floor, ensuring the building's structural stability.

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Overall, Amity Lodge No. 4 remains a well-preserved example of 19th-century vernacular architecture. Its thoughtful construction, combined with the strategic modifications over the years, ensures the building continues to serve as a significant piece of Silver City's cultural and architectural heritage. The building stands as a testament to the lasting legacy of fraternal organizations in the community, providing a tangible link to the past while maintaining its role as an active social space.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (include all sources of information)

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: .0690 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: The north half of Lot No. Seven (7) of Block No. Five (5), as marked on Map A, filed May 9, 1876.

Boundary Justification: The boundary included the entirety of the lodge building's footprint, consisting of the entire parcel on which the lodge building rests.

Geo-Referenced Location (Use NAD 83 UTM's): **add more points if necessary**
11 S 272,089.34 m E 4349387.81 m N

Source and method of UTM's: Google Earth Pro, accessed Feb. 18, 2025

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Audie Robinson, Historian

Organization: Amity Lodge No. 4, Free and Accepted Masons

Address: 922 Nicole Street

City or Town: Dayton **State:** NV. **Zip:** 89403

Telephone Number: (559) 904-7011 **E-mail:** audierobinson@gmail.com

Date: March 6, 2025

12. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Include the following items with your submission:

X **Photographs** (Provide one or more photographs of the building. At minimum, include one photograph of the front (façade) of the building. Please see guidance for this form for photograph specifications.)

X **Floor Plan and/or Site Map** (For individual buildings, provide a line drawing of the floor plan of the building. If there is more than one building, structure, or for sites, provide a scaled site map to show the relationship between nominated resources. See guidance for clarification).

X **USGS Quadrangle Map** (provide a scale section of a USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle or current city street map with the property marked).

Photo Log (complete for all photos taken)

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

Photographer:

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F.& A. M.
State Register Number: 250164

Date photographed:
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating
direction of camera:
1 of ____.

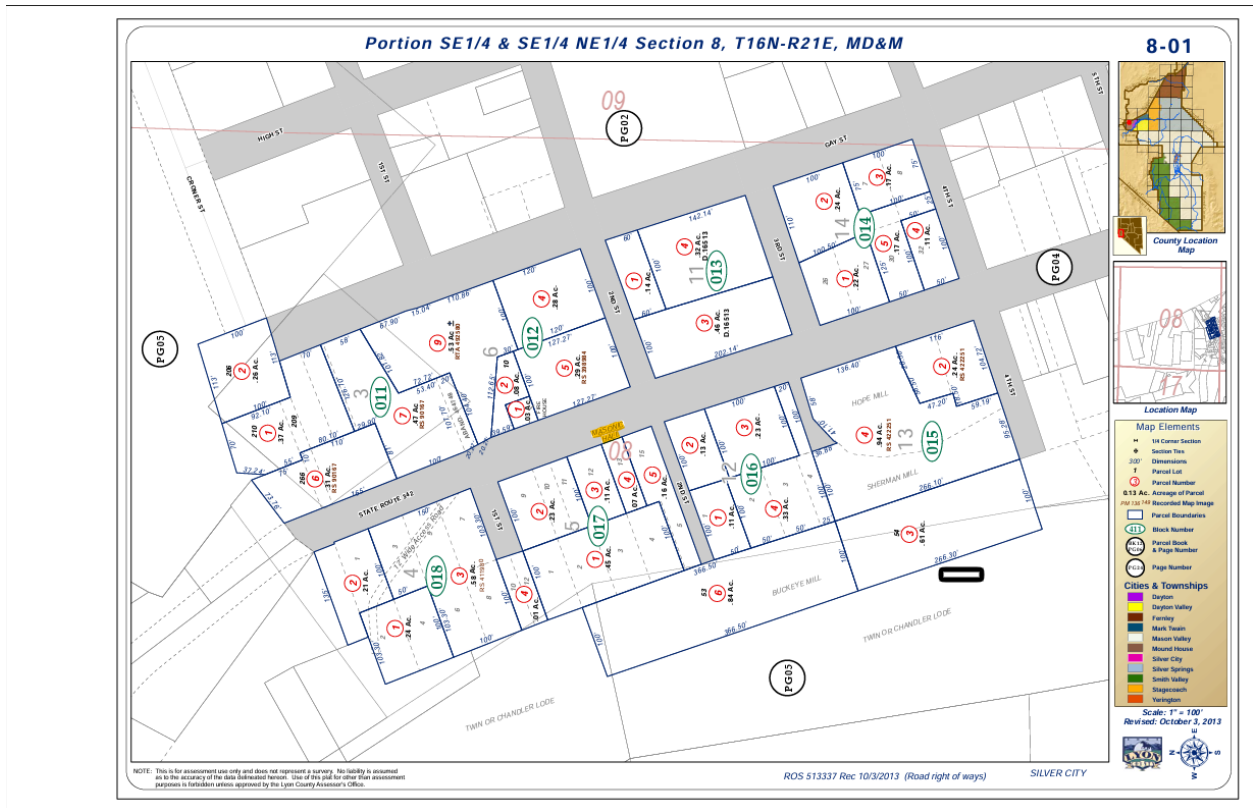


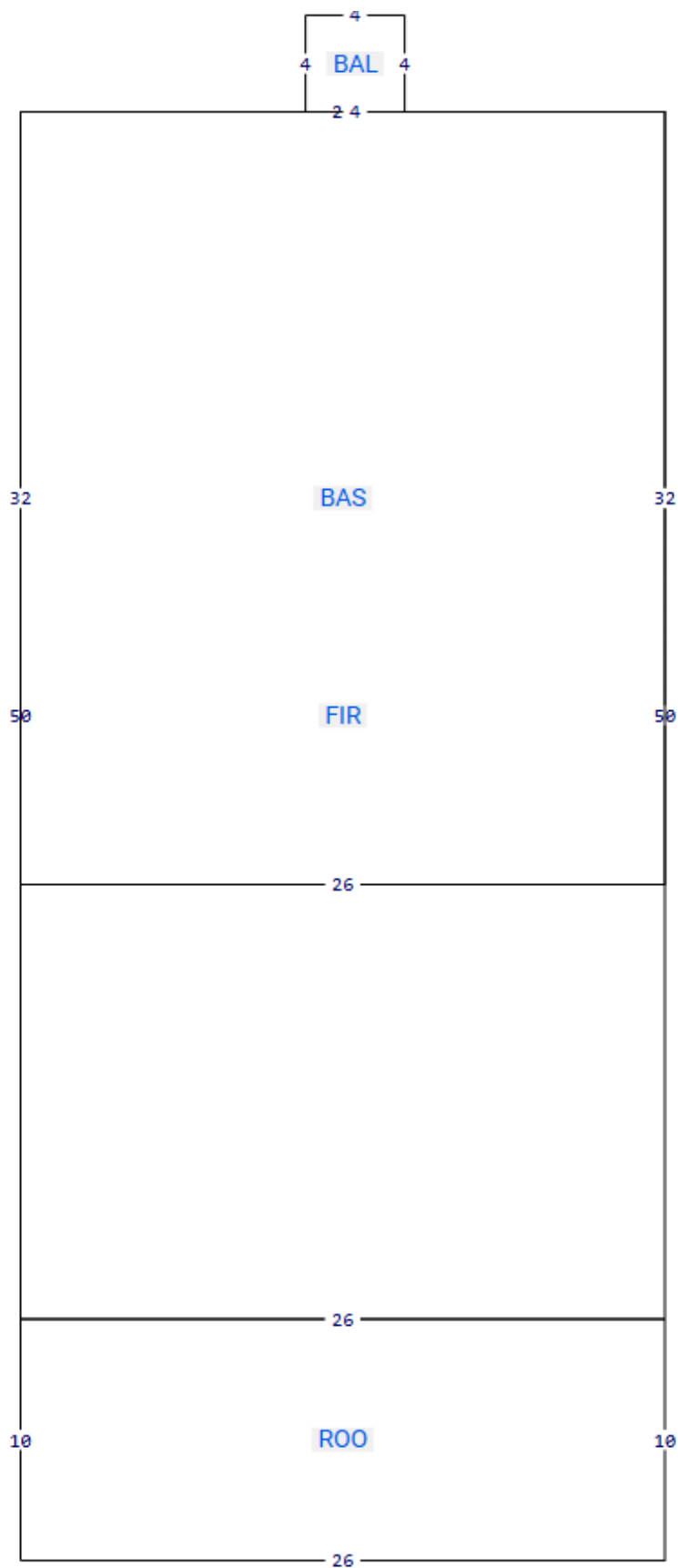
Figure 20. Plot map location of Masonic Lodge building. (Lyon County Assessor's Website)

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Figure 21. Location of building within Silver City, Nevada.

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Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164

Figure 22. Masonic Hall, Clubhouse plan, Lyon Co. Parcel 008-017-04.



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: August 12, 2024.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. front of building, facing west.
1 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: February 22, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. rear of building, facing east.
2 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: March 1, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. north facing side, facing southwest.
3 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: March 1, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. south facing side, facing northwest.
4 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: March 1, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. Interior entry way/stairway to access lower level, facing north.
5 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: March 1, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. Interior upper level facing west.
6 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: March 1, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. Interior upper level facing east
7 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: March 1, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. Interior lower level facing east.
8 of 9.

Property Name: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.
State Register Number: 250164



Name of Property: Amity Lodge No. 4 Building
City or Vicinity: Silver City
County: Lyon
Photographer: Audie Robinson
Date photographed: March 1, 2025.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Amity Lodge No. 4, F. A. & M. Interior lower level facing southwest.
9 of 9.