

## 28. ELK'S LODGE

1222 I Street (1927)



39

**Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution:** March 18, 1996  
**Designated by City Council:** April 2, 1996

**Description:** This is a three-story building of brick and concrete. The I Street facade consists of three double sets of windows on the second and third floors which flank the main entrance. The entrance is recessed, lined with marble, and has two sets of double doors. A panel of cast concrete decoration topped by an Elk's head is located above the entrance. Cast concrete decoration also highlights each of the windows, and cast concrete shields rest above the windows.

**Historic Significance:** The building was completed in 1927 by Modesto Lodge No. 1282 of the Brotherhood of the Protective Order of Elks, financed by a \$100,000 bond issue and a \$50,000 loan. The Lodge couldn't make the payments on the building when the Great Depression hit and the company holding the mortgage foreclosed on their loan. The company sold the property to Jim Rice for \$92,000. Rice rented the building to the Elks from then on for \$250 a month. In 1950 the property was sold to the Cannery Workers Union, Local 748 of the International Teamsters Union.

An interesting feature of the building was a boxing ring in the basement donated and dedicated by world heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey. The basement was closed in 1975.