

**HISTORIC RESOURCE: MASONIC TEMPLE**

**LOCATION: 232 South Brand Boulevard**

**OWNERSHIP: Private**

**USE: Commercial**

**LAND AREA: 53,992 square feet**

**ZONE: CBD**

**DESIGNATION: Glendale Register**

**YEAR BUILT: 1928**

**STYLE: Art Deco**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The first beginnings of the Masonic Order in Glendale occurred in 1905. On March 15, 1905 Unity Lodge No. 368 was organized by residents with the name "Unity" chosen because the membership was almost evenly distributed between Glendale and Tropicco.

It was not until 1910 that the Lodge had its own permanent home at 232 S. Brand Blvd. At this location a two-story brick Masonic Temple was erected by Unity Lodge No. 368 which served as a meeting place for the Masons until 1928. Due to the increasing number of organizations using the premises such as the Order of the Eastern Star, Royal Arch Masons, Knights of Templar, White Shrine of Jerusalem, Order of de Molay, and the Shrine Club, plans were begun in the early 1920s to construct a building which would accommodate all the Masonic organizations.

The architect commissioned to design this grand new structure on S. Brand was Arthuy Lindley. It was not until 1928, however, through the combined assets of the various Masonic organizations that the structure was built. The Masonic groups remained as tenants until 1952 when the Glendale Masonic Temple Association was organized and authorized to purchase

property at the southeast corner of N. Maryland Ave and E. California.

The Temple suffered from the excessive optimism of its planners. Containing five full floors and five partial floors, the structure sat nearly vacant for almost four decades after the construction of the newer, smaller facility. Historically, however, it represents one of the most ambitious building endeavors in the City's past. In 1992 a live theater company, A Noise Within, found success there and rapidly expanded its use of several floors of the building.

