

## **CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA HISTORIC LANDMARKS, DISTRICTS, and POINTS OF INTEREST**

Landmark Number: **102**

Historic Name: **Old Town Main Street Investments, LLC**

Address: **315-321 E. Main Street**

Designated: **September 21, 2009** (CC Reso 2009.057)

### Description:

The “McGuire Building/Pythian Castle” was built in 1906-1907 during the “City Expansion and Civic Improvement (1906-1920)” period of significance. This era incorporates the “City Beautiful Movement,” that embodied the 1890s through the early 1900s. This movement emphasized urban beautification and monumental architecture as a means to promote moral and civic virtues. As commercial development expanded east of the Mission during the early 1900s, Main Street became a primary commercial corridor laced with monumental buildings with ornamental architectural detail. The McGuire Building reflects this era, with an intact decorative brick face with a recessed X and O pattern and friezes below the roofline and extending above the parapet. The structure maintains much of its historic integrity and is considered to be one of the few remaining intact examples of early decorative brick along Main Street’s commercial corridor during the “City Expansion and Civic Improvement Period of 1906-1920.”

William McGuire, the initial owner of the “McGuire Building/Pythian Castle,” is an example of an individual who made a meaningful contribution to the development of the local community. Beginning in 1900, William McGuire was the Vice President of the People’s Lumber Company. In 1903 he co-founded the Ventura Manufacturing & Implement Company, which supplied farm equipment to local communities. In 1906 he was the City Trustee during the construction of his building, and he later became head of the County Highway Commission. The second floor of the McGuire Building/Pythian Castle also served as a lodge hall for local fraternal organizations. William McGuire’s active involvement in the community, local, government, business, and fraternal organization are significant contributions to Ventura’s local history.