

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Adoniram Masonic Lodge
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Junction of State Road 1410 & State Road 1300 not for publication
city, town Cornwall vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27565

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Granville County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Rain, Jr. 6-14-88
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social-meeting hall

Education-school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social-meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

The basic form and materials of the Adoniram Masonic Lodge - it is two stories tall and one-room deep, built of frame and covered with weatherboards - is that of many dwellings raised in Granville County during the bright leaf era. Its exterior finish and interior plan, however, separate it from the ubiquitous, local, rural I-house. A porch with enclosed end bays, adorned with turned posts and feathery cut brackets, crosses its four-bay, facade-gabled, front elevation. While the use of turned and sawn ornament, and facade gables decorated with fish-scale shingles, is common in late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture in the county, both the use of enclosed end bays and a four rather than three bay front elevation are quite unusual. The interior organization of the building also separates it from its residential contemporaries. Its downstairs has two equal sized rooms, divided by floor to ceiling doors, and no center hallway. The two doors of the front facade's center bays - formed of six panels stacked atop each other - lead into each of these rooms. The layout reflects the downstairs' original function as a school. The plan of the upstairs also reflects its original and continuing function, that of a Masonic lodge. Reached by a stair that opens from the southeastern porch bay, it contains one large room, a side hallway and a small preparation room at the hall's rear. A similar upstairs plan was employed at the Masonic Lodge of the Mt. Energy Historic District in southern Granville County - also nominated to the National Register - which was built in the 1850s. The Mt. Energy Lodge was also home to a school at its first floor.

The Masons completely paneled over the upstairs of the lodge in the early 1970s, concealing the windows, which they then painted over or boarded up on the outside. The interior still retains many of its original surrounds, however, which are marked by incised posts and lintels and shallow bull's-eye cornerblocks.

Shifted a few hundred yards to its present site in 1948 because of changes in the roadway, the building now stands on an approximately one acre wedge of property facing the junction of the Oak Hill and Cornwall roads. To its rear, which was once extended by a one-story frame ell, is a strip of trees that separates it from an expanse of tobacco fields. A non-contributing frame storage building, probably built after the building was moved, stands to its north.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture
Education

Period of Significance

1917-1937

Significant Dates

1917

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A Masonic lodge and, for six years after its 1917 construction, a public school, Adoniram Masonic Lodge #149 is representative of both social and educational life in rural Granville County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (See Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937) Two stories tall and one-room deep, the weatherboarded frame building is quite similar in form to the many I-houses built in the county, particularly in the countryside, during the bright leaf era. North Carolina's early Masonic lodges typically have a gable front orientation. Two of Granville County's early lodges - Adoniram and the antebellum Mt. Energy Lodge - however, are I-house in form, Adoniram topped by a gable end roof and Mt. Energy by a hipped roof. If unusual for the state, Adoniram Lodge's residential form is typical for Granville County, for many stores, lodges and schools raised in the countryside late in the nineteenth and early in the twentieth centuries utilized an I-house form. (See Associated Property Type 5.B. - Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Religious Buildings in Bright Leaf Era Rural Granville County) The lodge's interior plan, unlike its basic form and orientation, reveals its original non-residential function, as does the unusual door and window placement, and enclosed porch bays, of its first floor front elevation. Although the property has continued to function as a Masonic lodge to the present, its significance is not extended past 1937 because it has not achieved exceptional importance within that period of time. See Property Type Addendum Sheet for Fraternal Lodges for evaluation of Adoniram's significance in education/social history.

Northern Granville County's Masons received a charter for the Adoniram Lodge on December 8, 1852, and raised a lodge building near the site of their present home. In the late 1800s they began to rent out the bottom section of that lodge as a schoolhouse. Lightning destroyed the structure in 1917 and a new lodge - the present building - was raised near its former site. The bottom floor of this lodge, too, was used as a schoolhouse. In 1918 George W. Hart, a member of the lodge who owned the land upon which the building stood, sold the new lodge and two acres of land to the Granville County Board of Education for \$100.00, with the proviso that the Board would sell the property back to him if it stopped using it for a school [Deed Book 72, Page 500]. The Masons continued to use the upstairs as their lodge and, with the consolidation of county schools and the construction of Oak Hill School to the west in 1924, Hart reacquired the property [Deed Book 88, Page 242, 1927]. In 1928, the Masons finally gained title to the lodge, purchasing it from Hart for \$350.00

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[Deed Book 86, Page 55].

In September, 1948, the route of the Cornwall Road was altered and the lodge building was shifted a few hundred yards to the southwest to its present site. Its upstairs is still used by the Masons, though its downstairs, which has been rented out on occasion as a dwelling since 1924, is now vacant.² A small non-contributing storage building, probably erected after the move, stands to the lodge's north.

¹The history of the lodge is taken from a 30 page printed pamphlet entitled "A History of Adoniram Lodge No. 149 A.F. & A.M., Cornwall, North Carolina, 1852-1968" written by Robert Lee Winston in 1969.

²Interview with Lawrence E. Davis, past Master of the lodge, September 17, 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with Lawrence E. Davis, past Master of Adoniram Masonic Lodge, September 17, 1987.

Winston, Robert Lee. "A History of Adoniram Lodge No. 149, A.F. & A.M., Cornwall, North Carolina, 1852-1968." 30 page printed pamphlet located at Adoniram Lodge and in Adoniram Lodge File at Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately one acre

UTM References

A 117 7109100 4039540
 Zone Easting Northing

C 117 7109030 4039450

B 117 7109150 4039430
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown/architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian
 organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 10/20/87
 street & number P.O. Box 1556 (State Historic Pres. Office) phone 919-693-1491
 city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

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Section number 10 Page 1 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

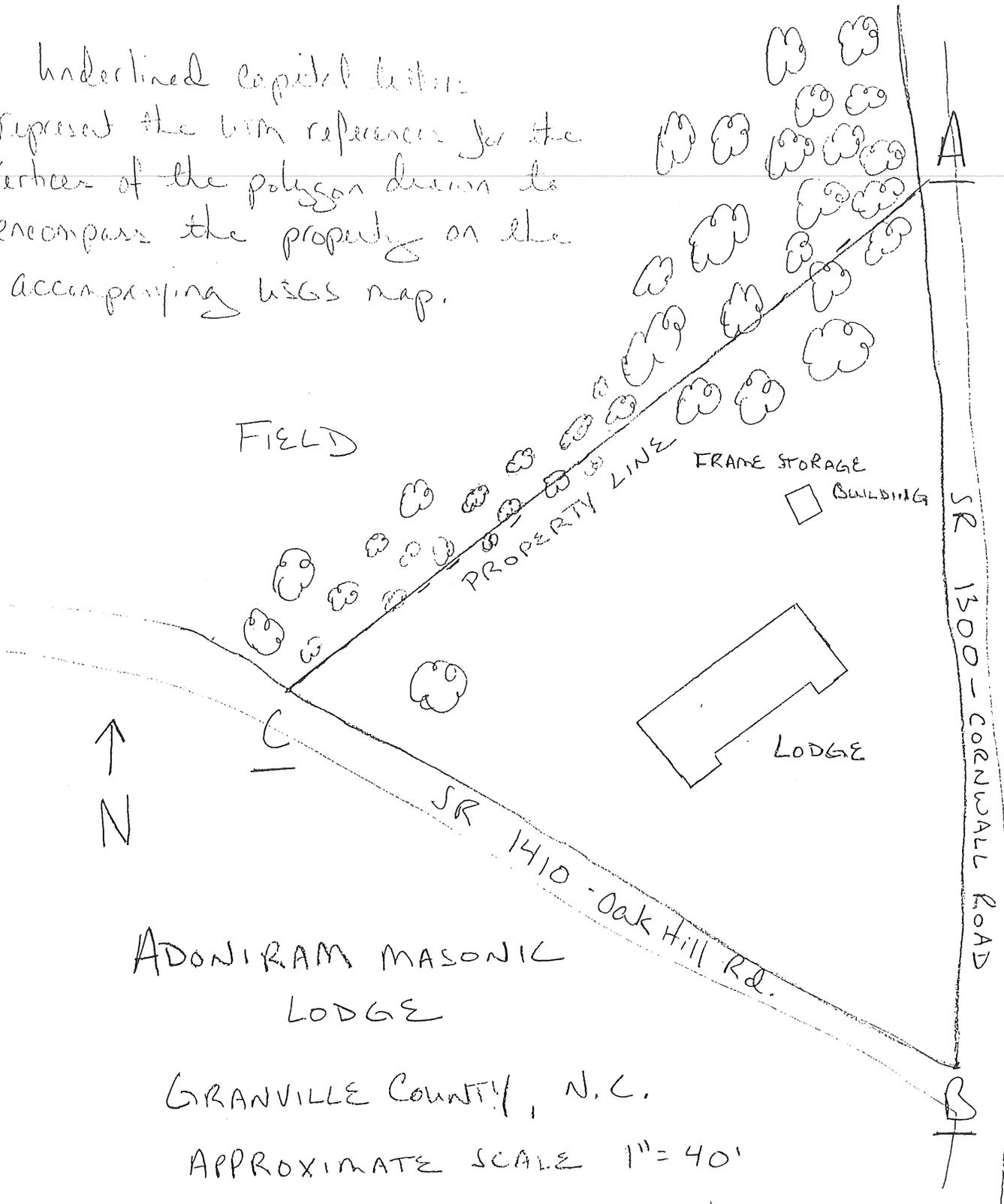
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 709100 4039540 on the USGS polygon where the west side of State Road 1300 meets the tree line, continuing south approximately 240 feet along the west side of State Road 1300 to point B: 17 709150 4039430 on the polygon, where the west side of State Road 1300 intersects with the northeast side of State Road 1410. Continuing northwest approximately 210 feet along the northeast side of State Road 1410 to point C: 17 709030 4039450 on the polygon, where the northeast side of State Road 1410 meets the field line. Continuing in a straight line northeast approximately 220 feet, along the field line, to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 1 acre that includes the Masonic lodge and the surrounding lot that has been historically associated with the lodge, maintains historic integrity, and conveys the property's historic setting is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. The boundaries follow the lodge's property lines.

Underlined capital letters
represent the UTM references for the
vertices of the polygon drawn to
encompass the property on the
accompanying USGS map.



ADONIRAM MASONIC
LODGE

GRANVILLE COUNTY, N.C.

APPROXIMATE SCALE 1" = 40'

APPROXIMATELY 1 acre

