

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 Masonic Hall
 historic name _____
 other names/site number _____

2. Location
 street & number 114 Church Street n/a not for publication
 city, town Waynesville n/a vicinity
 state North Carolina code NC county Haywood code 037 zip code 28736

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<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	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
 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 J. Fair, Jr. 4-27-88
 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)

COMMERCE/TRADE: businessSOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURYREVIVALS: Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls brickroof asphaltother concretewood**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Masonic Hall of Waynesville, NC, constructed in 1927, is a massive brick, three-story commercial building situated in downtown Waynesville. A projection room on the third story gives the appearance of a fourth story. Its location on Church Street is on the edge of the developed commercial district and is directly behind the municipal building, built in 1916 as a United States Post Office. The building's height allows it to rise above the surrounding one-story strip development and it is easily visible from most sections of downtown Waynesville. The building has parking lots on two sides, isolating it from the commercial fabric of the street.

The front facade of the Masonic Building appears solid, solemn and stately, reflecting a national tradition in the design of Masonic and other public buildings between 1900 and 1930. Other elevations of the building show a utilitarian brick building with steel framing having regularly spaced windows along the first, second and third stories, with some irregularity in the third story. With the exception of the first story, the side elevations have original wooden sash windows. The first story windows are replacements. The first story facade presented to Church Street is Neo-Classical, of concrete simulating ashlar block and having three bays, with the entrance recessed behind fluted Doric columns supporting a classic Doric entablature. Four plain Ionic columns, each paired with a similar pilaster, support a cornice at the top of the first story, a cornice which projects forward for the depth of each capital. The bays on each side of the entrance bay contain one casement window having two large lights and two small. The present aluminum and glass double leaf front door replaces the original wooden double leaf door and is set under a semicircular fanlight set in a frame of marble.

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Above the concrete facade of the first story, four fluted pilasters of concrete with Corinthian capitals extend upward to a plain frieze and cornice. Above the Corinthian capitals is a frieze and molded cornice. A parapet rises from the cornice to a plain roof line. The entire front facade of the building, with the exception of the concrete facade of the first floor, is of brick slightly deeper in color than that used for the body of the building; the darker brick extends some ten feet on each side of the building.

Two strong horizontal bands of concrete with recessed panels divide the upper floors on the front facade. Windows are the original wooden casements.

The main entrance door opens into a broad but plain hall which originally ran the length of the building. On each side of the hall are frosted-glass-front offices. The rear of this floor has been re-partitioned into a single professional office. To the left of the main entrance to the building are the original elevator and a single flight of stairs, leading to the second floor which formerly housed offices and the Masonic banquet hall. This floor has ceilings twelve feet high and glass office fronts. The banquet hall was partitioned into offices after its use as the Haywood County courtroom in 1930.

The third floor contains a large Masonic meeting room with a stage at the west end and a dias along the side walls. The east end of the room contains three arches which lead to foyer and cloak rooms. Ornate plaster molding surrounds the stage opening and the arches, and the tray ceiling is centered with a plaster medallion. Window and door surrounds are of wood. This room is unaltered and from its windows are visible the bowl of mountains which surround the Waynesville valley.

The only alterations to the building since its construction include the replacement of windows on the sides of the first floor with insulated panes, and the replacement of the double leaf wooden front door with a glass double leaf door. These changes were made during the 1973 renovation by the present owner.

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)

- 1) COMMERCE
- 2) ARCHITECTURE
- 3) SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1927-1930

Significant Dates

1927

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Peeps, W.H., Charlotte, architect
Phillips, W.C., Waynesville, builder

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

Under Criteria A and C , the Waynesville Masonic Hall, designed by Charlotte architect W.H. Peeps and built in 1927, is eligible for the National Register. Built during the commercial boom in western North Carolina during the 1920s, it was and still is the tallest commercial building in the county seat of Waynesville. It is the most visible landmark associated with the local Masonic chapter, which has been one of the most prominent civic organizations in Haywood County since the mid-nineteenth century. This handsome three-story brick and concrete Neo-Classical Revival building has local architectural significance as the only example of the style in Waynesville, and as a symbol of the architectural pretensions of the 1920s, which have never been equaled since that era. The period of significance ends when the Masons lost the building through bankruptcy in 1930.

Commercial context: Waynesville in 1927 was the thriving seat of a thriving county. There were twenty-five commercial establishments in Haywood County, employing 2,006 wage earners, not including salaried employees. Businesses in the county included flour and meal mills, lumber operations, factories for wood pulp, for furniture and for electric power, a tannery and mines. Agriculture continued to be one of the leading endeavors. Air-drying of tobacco had been introduced into the area in 1925 and the Champion Fiber plant flourished in nearby Canton. The Carolina Power and Light plant on the Pigeon River provided abundant power for the region. The population of Haywood County had jumped from 225 residents in 1830 to 9,157 in 1930, and in 1930 commercial production was valued at \$3,894,333. In 1924 a new county hospital was opened

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and there was continuing demand for a new, and larger county courthouse.² The Asheville Times reported that "Real Estate is Active Now in Waynesville", and indicated that medical offices, auto service stations, business offices as well as residences and a country club were under construction in the town.³

When the cornerstone for Waynesville's Masonic Hall was laid on April 5, 1927 it marked a high point in the commercial development of Haywood County during the pre-Depression "boom" period of western North Carolina. Between 1890 and 1930 western North Carolina witnessed tremendous growth because of its natural beauty, extensive natural resources and its pleasant climate, deemed good for health and recreation. The rapid development of Asheville and Buncombe County was reflected in nearby counties and by 1927 Haywood County, adjacent to Buncombe to the west, was ready to make an architectural contribution to the burgeoning commercial development in the region.

Architectural context: The Waynesville Masonic Hall is locally significant as representative of a number of three-story, architecturally distinguished masonry Masonic temples built in North Carolina's downtowns during the early twentieth century. This group is highly endangered, and one of the finest, the Egyptian Revival style Masonic Temple in downtown Charlotte, was recently demolished. Other examples of the group are Masonic temples in Winston-Salem, Shelby and Rocky Mount.

Social history context: Waynesville's most elaborate commercial building was built by a charitable fraternity with roots to the Middle Ages.⁴ Freemasonry was introduced into North Carolina before 1735 and gradually numbered among its members the outstanding male citizens of the state.⁵ The organization was active in Haywood County before the Civil War. Waynesville Lodge No. 259 was chartered in 1866 and by 1868 had appointed a committee "to investigate the propriety of building an Academy."⁶ Waynesville Academy, the first school in Waynesville after the Civil War, was opened in 1869 by the Masons in a building constructed by them on a site between the First Methodist

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Church and the present Landmark Apartments. The building contained school rooms on the first floor and lodge rooms on the second.⁷ When the Graded Schools were organized in 1899, the first chairman of the board was John W. Boone, an active Mason. Most of the leading male citizens of the county were active in Masonic affairs between 1866 and 1930, including Judge J.C.L. Gudger, a grandson of Colonel Robert Love, founder of Waynesville, Dr. Samuel Love, Rev. Daniel Buryman Nelson, R.G.A. Love, Matthew H. Love, Dr. J.F. Abel, James Ferguson, Dr. J.H. Way and Rev. William H. Rich.⁸

Waynesville Masons continued their interest in the development of their city and county after the turn of the century, and on October 23, 1913, Waynesville Lodge # 259 purchased from C.E. and Minnie Ray of Waynesville a lot containing about one-fifth of an acre on Church Street in downtown Waynesville. The Masons paid \$2,590 for this lot, which was part of a parcel running north from Main Street along the west side of Church Street.⁹ The adjoining lot on the corner of Main and Church Streets had been sold by Ray to the United States government and in 1916 a post office building was erected on that corner. However, it was not until 1927 that the Masonic Hall, designed by W. H. Peeps of Charlotte, architect and one of North Carolina's leading Masons, was erected by the Waynesville Lodge. The Asheville Times said that the building cost \$100,000;¹⁰ minutes of the Lodge for August 29, 1927 give the final cost as \$80,156.63.¹¹ William H. Peeps (1868-1950) is best known for his design of the Latta Arcade in Charlotte and for the Myers Park Club House and the J.B. Ivey Department Store in that city.¹² He held a number of important posts for the Masons of North Carolina, ultimately becoming the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of North Carolina.¹³

The building Peeps designed for the Masons of Waynesville was, and is today, the largest commercial building in the town. The building was designed to provide much-needed office and meeting space during the "boom" period, housing offices on the first floor and Masonic meeting and social rooms on the second and third floors. An elevator was installed and the third floor was equipped with a projection booth. Interior and exterior details were appropriately

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elegant. The new building was put to immediate use by the county court system, and court was held in the banquet room on the second floor until the completion of the new Haywood County courthouse in 1932.¹⁴ The building became a "professional" building housing physicians and dentists in the 1930s.

But Waynesville was not immune from the ravages of the Depression in western North Carolina, nor were the Masons. They were forced to default and the property was sold at the courthouse door to the Imperial Life Insurance Company on August 8, 1930, for \$52,000.¹⁵ The building subsequently passed through the hands of the Roseline Corporation, W.H.F. Millar, C.H. Leatherwood, J.W. Ray and Robert C. Lechner. It is at present owned by Dr. and Mrs. John W. Bottoms of Waynesville.¹⁶

After default by Waynesville Lodge # 259, the Masonic Hall became a community center of sorts, acting as dance hall, movie theater, radio station, wrestling arena, concert hall and government office building. It was the site of the first county community theater which opened in 1972.¹⁷ Today it is the tallest structure in downtown Waynesville, majestically looking over the commercial district toward the surrounding mountains.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Reeves, W. Thomas, A History of Haywood County, unpublished thesis for the M.A., Dept. of History, Duke University, 1937, unpagged.
2. Medford, W. Clark, The Middle History of Haywood County, Miller Printing Company, Asheville, 1966, page 82.
3. Asheville Times, Asheville, NC, January 23, 1927.
4. Encyclopedia Britannica, "Freemasonry", Micropaedia, Volume IV, 15th edition, page 302.
5. Haywood, Marshall DeLancey, The Beginnings of Freemasonry in North Carolina and Tennessee, page 2.
6. Martin, Edwin Paul, History of Waynesville Lodge No. 259, A.F. & A.M., unpublished manuscript, Waynesville, page 5.
7. Ibid.
8. Allen, W.C. Centennial of Haywood County and Its County Seat, Waynesville, North Carolina, pp. 123-157.
9. Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, Book 40, page 122.
10. Asheville Citizen, Asheville, NC, Tuesday, April 5, 1927.
11. Waynesville Lodge # 259, minutes of August 29, 1927
12. Sumner, Jim, NC Department of Cultural Resources, correspondence, October 29, 1987.
13. Waynesville Lodge # 259, correspondence, October 28, 1987.
14. Medford, op. cit., page 83.
15. Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, Book 83, page 179.
16. Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, Book 187, page 204; Book 125, page 392.
17. Bottoms, Dr. John, Waynesville, interview, September 15, 1987.

See attached.

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

Acreage of property Two-tenth acre.

UTM References

A

1	7	3	1	9	5	8	0	3	9	2	8	9	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is outlined in red on the enclosed Haywood County Tax Map, lot # 9915, and constitutes the entire parcel formerly belonging to Waynesville Lodge # 259. It is approximately 60 ' by 117' in size.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property constitutes the entire lot historically associated with the Masonic Hall.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn A. Humphries
 organization NC Division of Archives & History date December 1, 1987
 street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone _____
 city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, W.C., Centennial of Haywood County and Its County Seat, Waynesville, North Carolina, Courier Printing Company, Waynesville, 1909.
- Asheville Citizen, Asheville, NC, April 5, 1927.
- Asheville Times, Asheville, NC, January 23, 1927.
- Bottoms, Dr. John, Waynesville, NC, interview, September 15, 1987.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica, Micropaedia, Volumn IV, 15th edition, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., Chicago, 1974.
- Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC.
- Haywood, Marshall DeLancey, The Beginnings of Freemasonry in North Carolina and Tennessee, Weaver and Lynch, Printers, Raleigh, 1906.
- Martin, Edwin Paul, History of Waynesville Lodge No. 259, A.F. & A.M., unpublished manuscript, Waynesville, 1986.
- Medford, W. Clark, The Middle History of Haywood County, Miller Printing Company, Asheville, 1968.
- Reeves, W. Thomas, A History of Haywood County, unpublished thesis for M.A., Dept. of History, Duke University, 1937.
- Sumner, Jim, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, correspondence, October 29, 1987.
- Waynesville Lodge # 259, minutes, August 29, 1927.



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