

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Scotland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: (Eighth Congressional District, The Hon. Earl B. Ruth)
North side of S.R. 1405 at junction with S.R. 1410 (west of Wagram)

CITY OR TOWN:
Spring Hill Township

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Scotland CODE: 165

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Commission, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Laurinburg STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Scotland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Laurinburg STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall is a small hexagonal one-story brick building situated on a grassy knoll in a pine forest at Spring Hill, a Highland Scots settlement near Wagram. The building recently has been restored and furnished.

Below the water table the brick is stuccoed, and two pairs of thin vertical ventilation openings perforate each face of the structure at this level. The brick is laid in random common bond. In the north face and the southwest face are single doors with four flat panels, set within ovolo-molded architraves and surmounted by brick flat arches. Centered in each remaining face of the meeting hall is a window with six-over-nine sash, framed by a narrow plain architrave with a plain wooden sill and a brick flat arch. Louvered shutters hung on iron L hinges, reproductions of the originals, protect the windows. An eight-sided hip roof covered with wood shingles caps the structure. There is a simple molded cornice. At the roof apex is a ventilating cap, slightly elevated above the roof. A restored finial, consisting of a wooden wine glass placed upside down on top of a wooden closed Bible, surmounts the ventilator cap and announces the building's function.

The building contains a single undivided room, finished with plastered walls and ceiling. The trim consists of a high plain baseboard and the simple molded architraves which surround the openings. Flanking the windows of the northeast and south walls are pairs of recessed bookshelves containing books once owned by society members. The lectern is located on a reconstructed two-tier wooden platform placed against the northwest wall. A cast-iron stove similar to that which originally heated the meeting hall is located in front of the southeast wall and connected to a flue which exits through this wall. The ceiling, painted blue to symbolize heaven, is now plain. During active use of the building by the society, a red star was painted on the ceiling for each member. The star was painted black if the member broke his temperance vow and white when he died.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall, built in 1860, is a historical and architectural landmark in a rural Scottish pocket of North Carolina. The Richmond Temperance and Literary Society was a significant moral force in northern Scotland County for more than forty years, and the meeting hall remains a striking monument to this small, earnest congregation, part of an important national movement. The origin of the design is unknown, but Fowler's 1848 work, A Home for All or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building, was known in the state. (The octagonal house at Cedar Point, Swansboro, the best known of the few remaining examples of structures built under Fowler's influence in North Carolina, was constructed about 1855.) The meeting hall is architecturally important as a diminutive vernacular version of the octagonal mode. The uniqueness of the Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall is epitomized by the charmingly literal wine glass and Bible finial which crowns the structure.

By 1826, when the American Temperance Society was founded in Boston, the temperance movement was a strong force in American life. In 1832 thirty-one temperance societies in North Carolina, most of these located around Fayetteville (settled predominantly by Scots immigrants), had been formed as auxiliaries of the national organization. Churches, notably the Presbyterian and Baptist denominations, were originally the moving forces behind the crusade in North Carolina. By 1855, when the Richmond County society was founded, there was a general feeling of a need for prohibition associations. In present northern Scotland County the activists were the young men of Spring Hill, led by Neil D. Johnson, who became concerned over the intemperance of the elder Scotsmen in the community. Mrs. Catherine Johnson succeeded in interesting the women of the area in cooperating with the men to form a society which emphasized both moral temperance and literary education. On September 25, 1855, the Richmond Temperance and Literary Society was organized and the constitution formulated. The charter members of the society agreed to ". . . neither make, sell, buy nor use as a beverage any intoxicating drink whatever. . . ." One bi-monthly meeting was devoted to debate of the issues proposed by the "query committee", while the other meeting was occupied with the reading of compositions written by the members.

During the first years of the society's activity, meetings were held in the Richmond Academy at Spring Hill, but by 1860 plans were made for a building. The minutes of February 4, 1860, recorded that ". . . a special committee to correspond with workmen reported having written to those

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8.

named to them and received answers from two of them. A motion to close the bids on the next meeting carried." The minutes of the next meeting on February 18 related that "the bids for the building of the hall were then read and Plumer's was the lowest and he gets the job." At the June 9 meeting, according to the minute book, the society voted to paint the hall red; thus the building must have been essentially completed by this time. It was dedicated on September 26, 1860, on the fifth anniversary of the founding of the society. According to local tradition, the bricks for the building were fired in a homemade kiln near the site, and the society members themselves erected the building. The clumsy handling of the brick arches above the openings in the structure reinforces the latter tradition.

The rhetorical powers gained through participation in the society were severely tried after the building was damaged by the troops of General William T. Sherman in early 1865. J. M. Johnson, the secretary-elect who penned the minutes of April 22, 1865, described the attack on his temple of morality:

We find the ornaments of our fair little Hall shattered and ruined: our book shelves empty . . . the grove strewn with fragments of valuable, precious volumes: the speeches and productions of members who are sleeping in the silent grave, torn and trampled in the mire "as pearls before Swine"--ye illiterate beasts! Ye children of vice! Ye have not yet demoralized us--Today we marshall our little band again; and, with three cheers for Temperance and Literature, unfurl our yet triumphant banner to the breeze.

The society did not stop with this lamentation, however, but directed the secretary to ". . . record the names, inscribed by the Yankees on the walls of our hall, with their state, reg., and army corps, and c." Furthermore a committee was appointed to ". . . draw up resolutions condemnatory of the course of the Yankees in destroying our library and damaging our hall."

The society continued its meetings until the 1890s but was finally disbanded, after which the hall was used as a school until the 1920s. During much of the twentieth century the structure was used for farm storage. In 1959 the Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Commission, Incorporated, acquired the building and has since restored it as a museum.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Ruth Little, survey specialist. Minute Book of the Richmond Temperance and Literary Society, September 25, 1855, to December, 1872. In possession of Scotland County Historical Society.

Scotland County Records, Scotland County Courthouse, Laurinburg, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Scotland County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Whitener, Daniel Jay. "Prohibition in North Carolina, 1715-1945," The James Sprunt Studies in History and Political Science, Vol. 27. Chapel Hill, 1946.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	34°	53'	13"	79°	23'	36"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 1/2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

10 October 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name

H. G. Jones

Title Administrator, Office of Archives and History

Date 10 October 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

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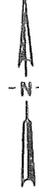
9.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, Massachusetts:
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1969.

Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall
 S.R. 1405
 Spring Hill Township, North Carolina

SILVER HILL QUAD

USGS Map, Laurinburg Quadrangle, 15' series
 Scale: 1:24,000
 Date: 1949



Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
34	53	13	79	23	36



55'

WAGRAM 1.4 MI.

WAGRAM 0.8 MI.
 RAEFORD 11 MI.

34°52'30"

4.8 MI. TO U.S. 18 AND 501

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1953

7.7 MI. TO U.S. 18 AND 501

79°22'30"

25'

