

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Fayetteville

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 8

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

221 Mason Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

7th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Cumberland

CODE

051

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- N/A

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Phoenix Mason Lodge No. 8

STREET & NUMBER

221 Mason Street

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2039

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

North Carolina 28302

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

March 31, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street

TELEPHONE

1-919-733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Phoenix Masonic Lodge #8 c. 1855 is a two-story Greek Revival building which is situated upon historic St. John's Square. One of three public squares appearing in late eighteenth century Fayetteville, St. John's was the site of the original Phoenix Lodge built between 1793 and 1794. The present structure is its 1850s replacement, and the handsome building now with flanking wings continues to serve as the meeting hall for one of North Carolina's oldest surviving lodges.

The original two-story five-bay frame meeting hall has a hip roof in the Greek Revival tradition. The shape is echoed in the one-story less-than-full facade front porch. Flanking two-bay wings added between 1948 and 1950 increase the facade length to an imposing nine bays. The entire weatherboarded structure is now sheathed with modern siding materials.

Evidence of the vernacular Greek Revival is apparent in door, window, and porch treatment. Supported by rare octagonal columns with corresponding capitals and slender side balustrades, the hip-roof porch shields the central front entrance. Double doors, each with two recessed vertical panels, are flanked by pilasters and framed by three light sidelights and a multi-paned transom. Windows, most flanked by louvered shutters, have 6/6 lights. Once covered with standing seam tin, the hip roof is now asphalt-shingled.

The remaining three elevations have features consistent with the front with just a few exceptions. There are only two lower story windows on the south end, while the north end displays a full three bays. A small hip roof dormer rests above the three-bay side. The original main block is five bays across the back just as in the front; however, rear fenestration in the wings does not correspond with that in the front. The left wing has a single door covered by a tiny hood. Other exterior features include a modern fire escape and a complete absence of chimneys.

The first floor interior of the lodge is one large, open, warmly wood-paneled room with smaller reception and/or food preparation rooms in the wings. A staircase running along the front wall leads from the front entrance to the upstairs meeting room, the area of main activity and interest. Although modern appointments have been used to decorate the room, traditional placement and symbolism has been maintained. According to Masonic legend, the meeting room is set up to resemble Solomon's temple where many master masons were employed for construction work. The five orders of architecture--Ionic, Doric, Corinthian, Tuscan, and Composite--are represented in the room and used as dictated by the Masonic Catechism. For example, a Corinthian-columned dais with full entablature is situated at the head of the room which contains a throne for the highest ranking Mason, the Grand Master. Chairs for other ranking Masons a step or two lower than that for the Grand Mason are placed in specific locations around the room. Even the black and white tile flooring--a recent replacement which probably just covers the original wide pine boards--is symbolic of the conflict of good and evil. The purpose of the Masonic Way today, as in the past, is to promote loyalty to the fraternal organization and to mold upstanding citizens who make worthwhile contributions to their homes, churches, and communities. It is founded upon Biblical principles which are given concrete expression in the accoutrements of the Masonic Lodge which stands today.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ **X** STATE____ **X** LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Fraternal Order
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 8 is Fayetteville's oldest and most important fraternal organization and among North Carolina's oldest surviving lodges. Originating as the Union Lodge which was established by special dispensation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland during the mid-eighteenth century settlement of the Upper Cape Fear River Valley, Phoenix Lodge was in 1793 the eighth in the state to be chartered by the then-new Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Its first meeting hall was erected 1793-4 at what became known as St. John's Square, one of the three town squares in early Fayetteville. The organization attracted prominent local citizens and operated in a spirit of community activity and service which included advancement of quality education by leasing a floor to the Fayetteville Academy, welcoming the Marquis de Lafayette during his historic 1825 visit, and providing performance space to a local theater group. Its original meeting hall was replaced on the same site in the 1850s by a frame building which, with its two-story construction, attached front porch supported by octagonal columns, fenestration consisting of 6/6 sash windows and a front entrance framed by sidelights and transom, and hip roof, follows the Greek Revival architectural traditions prevalent in antebellum North Carolina. This building, along with flanking wings added 1948-50, continues to house what is one of Fayetteville's and North Carolina's earliest and most longstanding social and fraternal organizations.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

1. Phoenix Lodge No. 8, originating in the mid-eighteenth century as the Union Lodge and officially chartered in 1793, was the eighth in the state to be chartered by the then-new Grand Lodge of North Carolina, making it one of Fayetteville's and the state's oldest longstanding social and fraternal organizations.
2. Phoenix Lodge attracted prominent citizens as members/officers throughout its history, including John Louis Taylor, an early trustee, who went on to become the first Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court in 1818, Robert Strange, a prominent local lawyer, author, judge, and statesman of the nineteenth century, and local merchants, businessmen, and craftsmen such as Thomas Waddill, Henry McLean, George Lauder, and Edwin Glover.
3. The 1850s Masonic Hall, now flanked by wings added 1948-1950, follows the Greek Revival architectural traditions so prevalent in antebellum North Carolina with its two-story frame construction, attached front porch supported by octagonal columns, fenestration consisting of 6/6 sash windows and a front entrance framed by sidelights and a transom, and hip roof.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the Phoenix Lodge originated in the mid-eighteenth century with the Scots who settled the Upper Cape Fear River Valley. The Union Lodge was established by special dispensation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in the town later known as Fayetteville, even before the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was formed.¹ In 1787, during a post-Revolutionary War cultural revival which affected the state, the statewide Masonic Order was reorganized at Tarboro.² In the following year, the then-formed Grand Lodge met in Fayetteville, at which time the "Union Lodge" was renamed "Phoenix Lodge". Phoenix Lodge was officially chartered in 1793 with a total of sixty members.³

Freemasonry, originating in the medieval guilds of practicing masons and organized in England, made headway in North Carolina during the eighteenth century.⁴ Fayetteville's Phoenix Lodge was the eighth in the state to be chartered. Its original meeting hall was erected on land deeded on 23 July 1793 for that purpose to John Winslow, James Porterfield, John Louis Taylor, John Sibley, and William Barry Grove, trustees of the Phenix [sic] Lodge, by James Hogg.⁵ An adjoining parcel was conveyed to the organization by Patrick MacArthur in 1801, by which time the frame, gable-roof meeting hall had been completed.⁶ The collection of parcels became known as St. John's Square, one of three town squares in early Fayetteville.

Membership in the Phoenix Lodge, considered a matter of pride, prestige, invitation, and responsibility, consisted of key local figures. One of the early trustees, John Louis Taylor, became the first chief justice of the State Supreme Court in 1818.⁷ In 1825, members specially welcomed General Lafayette during his visit to Fayetteville. He was entertained at their meeting hall where member Robert Strange, then Captain of the Fayetteville Light Infantry, delivered a welcome address.⁸ Also, many esteemed residents such as Colin McIver, teacher and ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, as well as the aforementioned Robert Strange--known during his lifetime as a prominent area lawyer, judge, author and statesman--were on the membership rolls in 1831. In the 1850s, prosperous local businessmen, merchants, and craftsmen like Thomas Waddill, Henry McLean, George Lauder, and Edwin Glover, also joined the ranks.⁹ Records reveal that members valued the association with "good and great men" and were "animated by love and veneration for her [the Lodge's] antiquity."¹⁰

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please see continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ~~Less than one acre~~

UTM REFERENCES

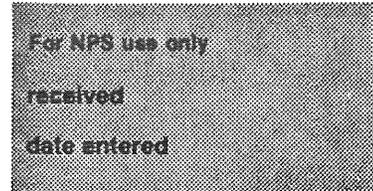
A	117	693350	38811000	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 6, Block I map 78-2-3-2, Cross Creek Township, as outlined in red on map. See map section.

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National Park Service

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Masons were traditionally involved in efforts to encourage and promote good local education and the Phoenix Lodge was no exception. The structural use of Masonic halls for schools was common in early North Carolina, and records reveal the upper part of the local hall was used as a schoolroom by the Fayetteville Academy as early as 1798.¹¹ In 1854, the fraternity was invited to join in the ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone for the new Female High School.¹² In addition, the Phoenix Lodge building housed a theater in the early nineteenth century and the Thalian Association, a local group, performed there. Proceeds from the performances went toward the construction of the Green Street Fayetteville Academy.¹³ Phoenix Lodge No. 8 operated with a spirit of community and public service.

The meeting hall was replaced by a new one erected on the original foundations in the 1850s. This Greek Revival building, along with flanking two-story wings added 1948-1950, stands today.¹⁴ The original site was left intact and preserved, according to James Hogg's stipulations:

. . . that the remainder of the Ground [except that where lodge buildings were situated] shall be forever left open free of all encumbrances for the benefit of the Neighboring Inhabitants, and the public in general--as well as the beauty and convenience [sic] of said Lodge. . . .¹⁵

Consolidation and division marked Phoenix Lodge's history, as is the case with almost any other fraternal, religious, or social organization. Returns show records for several nearby lodges--Durbin Lodge, chartered in 1867 in Blockersville, for example--merging with Fayetteville's main fraternal organization.¹⁶ Phoenix Lodge has, in turn, been instrumental in forming other local lodges, such as Fayetteville's Lodge #329 in the mid-nineteenth century and the Creasy Proctor Lodge No. 679 in 1946.¹⁷ In addition, the building has been utilized by other local orders and chapters, such as the Phoenix Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons, in the early part of the previous century, the aforementioned Creasy Proctor Lodge, and currently, the Eastern Star which is the women's counterpart of the Masonic Order.¹⁸

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For NPS use only

received

date entered

REFERENCE NOTES

¹Petition to Grand Lodge of North Carolina from Officers and Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 8, copy of speech dated 1 December 1854 (5?). File: Fayetteville Returns, Records of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, P. O. Box 6505, Raleigh, North Carolina 27628, 1. Hereinafter referred to as "Petition" with appropriate page references.

²Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: History of a Southern State (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, Third Edition, 1973), 261, hereinafter cited as Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina.

³Petition, 1-2.

⁴William J. Whalen, Handbook of Secret Organizations (Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company: 1966), 46 - 7.

⁵Cumberland County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Book 13, Page 6, hereinafter cited as Cumberland County Deeds.

⁶Cumberland County Deeds, Book 21, Page 395.

⁷Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 309.

⁸John A. Oates, The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear (Charlotte, NC: The Dowd Press, Inc., 1950; reprinted ed., Raleigh, NC: Litho Industries Incorporated, 1972), 121, 207, hereinafter cited as Oates, Story of Fayetteville.

⁹Records of Returns, 27 December 1829 to 27 December 1830, Fayetteville Returns, Records of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Accepted Masons of North Carolina, P. O. Box 6506, Raleigh, North Carolina 27628. Hereinafter referred to as "Records of Returns".

¹⁰Petition, 2 - 3.

¹¹Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Fayetteville Academy and Phoenix Lodge, for Upper Part of Mason's Hall, June 24, 1798, Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 8 Papers, 1793 - 1854, Section A, Manuscripts Department, William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Phoenix Lodge No. 8 Papers.

¹²Lutterloh, Haigh, and others to Wardens and Members of the Phoenix Lodge No. 8, 1 June 1854, Phoenix Lodge No. 8 Papers, Duke Manuscript Department.

¹³Oates, Story of Fayetteville, 777.

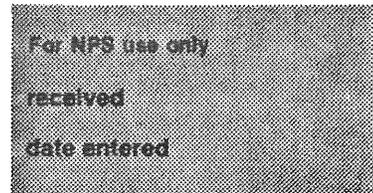
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¹⁴There seems to be some difference of opinion of the building date of the second meeting hall. A plaque affixed to the building states that the original Masonic Lodge was "removed" to make way for a new building in 1858; local historian Jack Crane, in his booklet "Historical Sites Map Upper Fayetteville and Old Cross Creek" (Fayetteville: Cumberland County Historical Society, n.d.; housed in the Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, NC) that the original Masonic Lodge was destroyed in the fire of 1831 and the present one built in 1952. Architectural details do suggest an 1850s construction date, with the early date more likely.

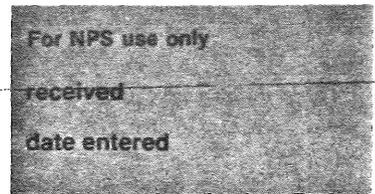
¹⁵Cumberland County Deeds, Book 13, Page 6.

¹⁶Information gleaned from Record of Returns.

¹⁷Information gleaned from Record of Returns; C. Wallace Jackson, "Phoenix Lodge No. 8, A.F. & A.M., Fayetteville, N.C." as quoted in Oates, Story of Fayetteville, 531.

¹⁸C. Wallace Jackson in Oates, Story of Fayetteville, 531; Information on Plaque affixed to building, 221 Mason Street, Fayetteville; Interview with Louis Dean, Jr., by Linda Jasperse, Masonic Temple, 221 Mason Street, Fayetteville, 23 June 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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Phoenix Mason Lodge Bibliographical
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Cumberland County Records: Deeds

Crane, Jack. "Historical Sites Map Upper Fayetteville and Old Cross Creek." Fayetteville, NC: Cumberland County Historical Society. (Housed in Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, N.C.),

Dean, Louis Jr. Fayetteville, North Carolina. Interview by Linda Jasperse, 23 June 1981.

Durham, N.C. Duke University. William R. Perkins Library. Manuscript Department. (Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 8 Papers). "Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Fayetteville Academy and Phoenix Lodge for Upper Part of Mason's Hall." June 24, 1798.

Jackson, C. Wallace. Phoenix Lodge No. 8, A.F. & A.M., Fayetteville, N.C. Quoted in Oates, John A. The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear. Charlotte, N.C.: The Dowd Press, 1950; reprint ed. Raleigh: Litho Industries, Inc., 1972.

Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Newsome, Albert Ray. The History of a Southern State: North Carolina. 3rd ed. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1973.

Oates, John A. The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear. Charlotte, N.C.: The Dowd Press, Inc., 1950; reprint ed. Raleigh: Litho Industries, Inc., 1972.

Plaque affixed to Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 8. 221 Mason Street, Fayetteville, N.C.

Raleigh, N.C. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. Fayetteville Returns. "Petition to Grand Lodge of North Carolina from Officers and Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 8." Copy of speech dated 1 December 1854 (5?).

Whalen, William J. Handbook of Secret Organizations. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1966.

