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
   city, town: Cornwall
   state: North Carolina code: NC county: Granville code: 077 zip code: 27565

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property
   ☑️ private
   ☐ public-local
   ☐ public-State
   ☐ public-Federal

   Category of Property
   ☑️ building(s)
   ☐ district
   ☐ site
   ☐ structure
   ☐ object

   Number of Resources within Property
   Contributing
   ☑️ 1 buildings
   ☐ 1 sites
   ☐ 1 structures
   ☐ 1 objects
   Noncontributing
   ☐ 1 buildings
   ☐ 1 sites
   ☐ 1 structures
   ☐ 1 objects
   Total
   ☑️ 1 buildings
   ☐ 1 sites
   ☐ 1 structures
   ☐ 1 objects

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

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.

   Signature of certifying official
   State Historic Preservation Officer
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   Date: 6/14/85

   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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social-meeting hall</td>
<td>Social-meeting hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Materials (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other: I-house</td>
<td>brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls weatherboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.
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 upstairs 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>nationally</th>
<th>statewide</th>
<th>locally</th>
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Applicable National Register Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
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Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
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</table>

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Social History</th>
<th>Architecture</th>
<th>Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant Person</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td></td>
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Period of Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1917-1937</th>
<th>1917</th>
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Significant Dates

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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Cultural Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</table>

Architect/Builder

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>unknown</th>
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</thead>
</table>

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

See continuation sheet
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 S.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
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. A small non-contributing storage building, probably erected after the move, stands to the lodge's north.


2 Interview with Lawrence E. Davis, past Master of the lodge, September 17, 1987.
Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

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


9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Approximately one acre

UTM References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification

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.

Oxford

Phone

919-693-1491

state

N.C.

zip code

27565

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:
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 true references for the vertices of the polygon drawn to encompass the property on the accompanying use map.

**ADONIRAM MASONIC LODGE**

**GRANVILLE COUNTY, N.C.**

**APPROXIMATE SCALE 1" = 40**

**APPROXIMATELY 1 ACRE**