Form 10-300

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

ADDRESS:
(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

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE:
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Other (Specify)
- Transportation
- Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

CITY OR TOWN:
Laurinburg

STATE:
North Carolina

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Scotland County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Laurinburg

STATE:
North Carolina

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:
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.
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 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
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).


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>34° 53' 13&quot;</td>
<td>79° 23' 36&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.5 acres

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

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION
State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 [x] Local [ ]

Name
H. G. Jones

Title
Administrator, Office of Archives and History

Date
10 October 1972

1. 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number all entries</th>
<th>9.</th>
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Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall
S.R. 1705
Spring Hill Township, North Carolina

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

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