

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Oddfellows Lodge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 111-115 N. John Street

CITY, TOWN

Goldsboro

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

37

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

191

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Fraternal Lodge

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Neuse Lodge No. 6, Independent Order of Oddfellows, c/o T. J. Tolson

STREET & NUMBER

1205 E. Pine Street

CITY, TOWN

Goldsboro

STATE

North Carolina 27530

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Goldsboro

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Oddfellows Lodge, located in Goldsboro's central business district, is a distinctive and unspoiled example of a multi-purpose, early twentieth century commercial building, stylistically a notable blend of the fashionable Neo-Classical Revival style with the by then retarditaire Romanesque. The facade of the building is a lively contrast of symmetry and irregularity, horizontally rhythmic arches and strong verticals, and red brick and white trim. The building is representative of a number of notable commercial buildings that once stood on John Street, but that have been recently demolished.

The three-story building, designed by local architect/builder E. G. Porter and faced with skillfully laid pressed brick, contains three bays on the street level. The left contains an entrance to the upper floors; the center and right bays contain shops. The treatment of the recessed storefronts, with double-leaf entrance doors and plate glass windows set in wooden frames, appears to be original. The entrance to the upper floors of the building, a major decorative and functional focal point, features a dramatic round-arched opening, with an oversized keystone and molded trim, supported by Romanesque type columns on pedestals with foliated capitals. The arched entrance, framed by a plane of pressed brick pulled forward a few inches from that of the storefronts, opens into an open "vestibule," a device which gives the design a feeling of depth and mass. The paneled, double-leaf, glazed doors leading to the stairs are set in molded frames with a round-arched fanlight above.

Over the first floor, the facade is divided into four, rather than three, bays defined by pilasters with stone bases and Romanesque inspired capitals. The pilasters rest on a beltcourse of rusticated granite. The second floor windows repeat the round arched motif of the first floor. The window arches, with ornamental trim, rest on short pilaster strips with molded finish and frame the paired, one-over-one double hung sash behind. The fenestration of the third floor, with sash as on the second, has granite lintels and sills and quoin-like treatment on the sides of the window openings.

The entablature contains an architrave with molded trim and egg-and-dart ornament, plain frieze, and a cornice with enlarged egg-and-dart and console-like modillion blocks. A simple parapet reflecting the placement of the pilasters caps the facade.

The rear and sides of the building, not meant to be seen, are laid in rough one-to-six common bond and are plainly finished. Irregularly placed window and door openings have three-course, segmental-arched lintels.

The most important interior space of the building is the third floor lodge meeting room complete with its original furniture, light fixtures, flowered carpet, and iconographic detail. The rectangular room contains a program of simple classical decoration. A pattern of coved beams running front to back and side to side and resting on paneled, Doric-type pilasters support the ceiling. The beams feature a pattern of foliated trim in relief.

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The stage, the focal point of the room, rises two and three steps above the main floor behind a screen of three diaphragm arches. The center bay arch rests on paired, vernacular, Ionic columns on paneled pedestals; a single column supports the arched screen at the extreme ends.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Fraternal organizations
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906 BUILDER/ARCHITECT E. G. Porter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oddfellows Lodge is a distinctive and relatively intact commercial building designed by local architect/builder E. G. Porter and constructed in 1906. Stylistically it is a vernacular blend of the fashionable Neo-Classical Revival with retarditaire Romanesque style elements. The building was constructed as a lodge for the Neuse Lodge No. 6 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows with provisions for rentable office space and shops. The Lodge, founded in 1846, is the second oldest active lodge in North Carolina. The building is the oldest Oddfellows Hall still in use in the state.

The Lodge, as an organization important in Goldsboro's social history and as a building representative of many lost commercial buildings in the city, is a significant contribution to understanding the broad patterns of Goldsboro's history and therefore meets criteria A and C. This building has been declared eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows opened their first lodge in North Carolina in Weldon on April 26, 1841.¹ A year later Cape Fear Lodge No. 2 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of the United States and shortly thereafter Washington² Lodge No. 3 in Murfreesborough received its charter from the parent organization.² The Grand Lodge of North Carolina was organized in 1843 and within a year had issued³ charters to Cross Creek Lodge No. 4 (Fayetteville) and Thaddeus Lodge No. 5 (Clinton).³ A new lodge opened in Waynesborough on August 16, 1845, called itself Neuse Lodge, and petitioned the Grand Lodge for a charter. Neuse Lodge No. 6 was formally chartered on May 13, 1846.⁴

Goldsboro, a town spawned by the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, was incorporated in 1847 and was located virtually within walking distance of the county seat at Waynesborough. The promising new town attracted residents from the older community and within a few years, Goldsboro became the county seat (1850) and Waynesborough ceased to exist.⁵ In October, 1847, two-thirds of the Neuse Lodge membership voted to remove the lodge to Goldsboro. A petition requesting permission to do so was sent to the Grand Master of the North Carolina Lodge and presented at the annual meeting. ⁶ On May 10, 1848, Neuse Lodge No. 6 received a new charter for its lodge in Goldsboro. A charter of incorporation was granted by the General Assembly on January 16, 1849, the same day that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, received its incorporation rights.

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By the time it moved to Goldsboro, Neuse Lodge counted thirty-five members.⁸ Exactly when the first lodge hall was built is uncertain, but as early as 1848 a petition was issued to the Grand Lodge requesting \$400 to help build a new hall.⁹ At the Grand Lodge annual session in May, 1851, Neuse Lodge representative John Winslow requested an additional loan of \$300;¹⁰ therefore, it appears that no building had been completed by that date. A frame structure was being used as a lodge hall by 1881 which stood on the southeast corner of Walnut and East Center streets next to the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.¹¹ Lodge records indicate that this structure was the immediate predecessor to the current building, but for some reason it was unavailable when the Grand Lodge held its annual session in Goldsboro in 1906.

B. H. Woodall, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, received the following letter dated May 8, 1906.

Dear Sir:--The Goldsboro Lodge, No. 139 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, hereby extends the privileges of their Club Room to all resident and visiting Odd Fellows during the session of the Grand Lodge.

W. J. Gibson
Exalted Ruler

The Odd Fellows accepted the invitation and extended grateful appreciation.¹² Since it was customary for session of the Grand Lodge to meet whenever possible in the halls of member organizations, it seems apparent that Goldsboro's facilities were either inadequate or nonexistent in early 1906.¹³

The cornerstone of the present Odd Fellows Hall in Goldsboro was laid in 1906, and it may have been under construction when the Grand Lodge met.¹⁴ Unless Neuse Lodge No. 6 had misgauged the completion date of its new hall, it seems illogical that the Grand Lodge would have agreed to meet there, especially since other lodges had vied for the honor.¹⁵ The new building at 111-115 N. John Street was designed by E. G. Porter, a local architect, and the construction was done by the contracting firm of Porter and Godwin.¹⁶

The three-story structure was designed to house the lodge hall on the second and third floors while the first floor apparently was set apart as rental property.¹⁷ Commercial firms occupied the first floor at least as early as 1924, and until the urban development program of the mid-1970s forced businesses to vacate the premises, the Odd Fellows received rent which added to the treasury of the Neuse Lodge.

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The hall is still used by the Odd Fellows as it has¹⁸ been since 1906, making it the oldest Odd Fellows Hall still in use in North Carolina. Among the active member lodges of the state Grand Lodge, only Cape Fear Lodge No. 2 is older, but its meeting hall appears to be of more recent vintage.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Journal of Preceedings of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the State of North Carolina, From Its Organization, 1843, to 1851 (Raleigh: P. G. H. P. William D. Cooke, 1851), I, 78, hereinafter cited as Grand Lodge Proceedings with appropriate volume and page.

² Cape Fear Lodge was instituted on May 13, 1842. Col. John F. Bruton, An Address Delivered in the Opera House, Wilmington, N.C., May 11, 1892, on the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of Cape Fear Lodge (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1892), 5; and Grand Lodge Proceedings, I, 413.

³ Grand Lodge Proceedings, I, 413.

⁴ The Grand Master recommended acceptance of the petition and granting of the charter on May 12. The favorable report of the committee was returned on May 13. Grand Lodge Proceedings, I, 94, 99, 413.

⁵ William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 194, 521-522.

⁶ Grand Lodge Proceedings, I, 158.

⁷ Public and Private Laws of North Carolina 1848-1849, c. 154, pp. 300-301; c. 158, p. 304.

⁸ Members were: S. Singleton, Daniel Cogdell, F. N. Hooks, John Taylor, Benj. T. Houze, W. S. G. Andrews, L. Peacock, Thomas G. Garrison, John Pike, F. L. Coster, S. D. Phillips, C. J. Nelson, Wm. Hollowell, T. T. Hollowell, J. H. Everitt, Mat Everitt, John E. Becton, C. M. Beard, J. W. Lancaster, B. Pennington, John Wright, Wm. Puryear, B. W. Vick, Wm. Musgrave, J. W. Doyal, R. J. Gregory, R. W. Best, J. E. Jakeway, J. W. Handly, B. B. Bunting, Silas Webb, Jackson Vincent, Aaron Jones, J. J. Baker, J. R. Hatch. Grand Lodge Proceedings, I, 147.

⁹ Grand Lodge Proceedings, I, 164, 166, 171.

¹⁰ Grand Lodge Proceedings, I, 366, 371, 373.

¹¹ See Map of Goldsboro, 1881. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

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¹²Researcher's interview with T. J. Tolson, recording secretary of Neuse Lodge No. 6, November 21, 1977, hereinafter cited as Tolson interview; and Grand Lodge Proceedings, XIII, 447.

¹³See Grand Master Reports for each session of the Grand Lodge in Grand Lodge Proceedings, 1841-1905.

¹⁴Cornerstone date from Tolson interview.

¹⁵Grand Lodge Proceedings, XIII, 101-102.

¹⁶Tolson interview; and T. T. Powell to W. Harrell Everett, Jr., July 7, 1977. Mr. Powell is an official in the Neuse Lodge and Mr. Everett is city attorney for Goldsboro who filled out the form for determination of eligibility for nomination to the National Register. Letter hereinafter cited as Powell to Everett.

¹⁷Sanborn Map of Goldsboro, 1924, Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

¹⁸Tolson interview; and Powell to Everett. An effort was made without success to contact the Cape Fear Lodge to determine the actual construction date.

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Community Appearance Study: Goldsboro, North Carolina. Goldsboro, 1974.

Interview: T. J. Tolson, Recording Secretary, Neuse Lodge No. 6, November 21, 1977.

Journal of Proceedings of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge, of the Independent Order of
Odd Fellows, of the State of North Carolina, From its Organization, 1843 to 1921.
21 vols. Raleigh: P. G. H. P. William D. Cooke and others, 1851-1921.

Maps: Goldsboro, 1881. Sanborn Map of Goldsboro, 1924.

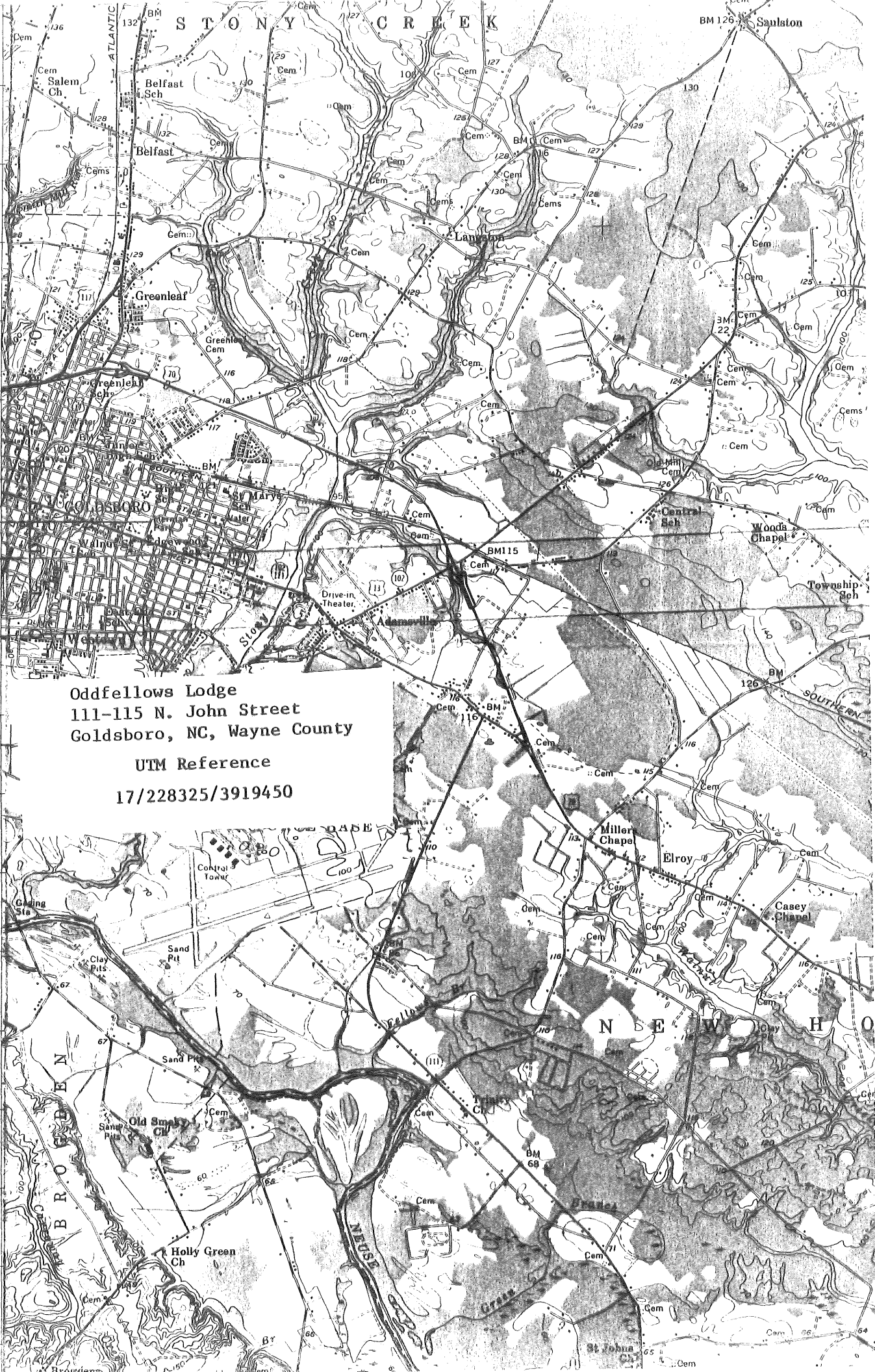
North Carolina Public and Private Laws, 1848-1849.

Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of North
Carolina Press, 1968.

Survey and Planning Branch. Files on Odd Fellows Building, Goldsboro, Wayne County.
Raleigh: Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and
History.

Wayne County Records. Wayne County Courthouse. Goldsboro, North Carolina. Subgroups:
Deed Books, Grantee Index, Miscellaneous Records.

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Oddfellows Lodge
111-115 N. John Street
Goldsboro, NC, Wayne County

UTM Reference
17/228325/3919450

P.O.D. P I S O N
Street No. 3912
113-115 N. John

13919
102
3918
P.O.D. P I S O N
Street No. 3912
113-115 N. John

