

730

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 Chickamauga Lodge No. 221, Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliate
other names/site number Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221

2. Location

street & number 1378 Highway 341 South
city, town Chickamauga (X) **vicinity of**
county Walker **code** GA 295
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30707

(N/A) not for publication

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

Noncontributing

buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Richard Coates 7-6-06
Signature of certifying official Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Elson H. Beal 8.30.06

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Jan
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions:

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

Materials:

foundation	BRICK CONCRETE
walls	WOOD: weatherboard OTHER: tarpaper
roof	METAL: tin
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Summary Description:

The Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221 is located three miles south of historic Chickamauga. It is a two-story, rectangular, wood-frame structure, built by lodge members. The foundation is cement blocks, rock and brick. The exterior is covered with red rolled asphalt siding from 1952. There is a tin, gabled-end roof. There is a central entrance door for the first floor on the east façade, as well as a north side entrance door and a small porch. On the first floor, there is one large room with columns and wood paneling, dropped acoustical tile ceiling, linoleum-covered floor, a kitchen area, and two bathrooms. At the far west end of the north façade is a second door leading to a stair that is the only entrance to the second-floor lodge meeting room. The second floor contains a small stair hall, a holding room, and the large meeting room. The meeting room contains three raised platforms, each on one wall, for the three top officers. There are other original 1920s Masonic furnishings in this room, including benches for members. The walls are wood paneling and the floor is the original 1924 floorboards. There is a dropped acoustical tile ceiling. The changes made in 1952 included the rolled asphalt siding, plumbing and heating, and dropped ceilings; these are commemorated by a cornerstone on the exterior. The grounds contain a non-historic shed, a parking lot, and a grassed lawn area. The lodge is located in a rural/residential setting with historic dairy farm buildings as well as a modern house nearby, among other buildings.

Full Description (provided by the applicant):

Construction of the lodge hall began in 1921 and was completed in 1924. Located inside the lodge

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance:

1924-1956

Significant Dates:

1924—construction of the building completed

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

9. Major Bibliographic References

Addison, Stephen O. *Seen The Glory: The Story of the Oldest Person of our Country, 1820-1943: Mark Thrash Buried Dead at Chickamauga*. Cleveland: Stephen O. Addison, 1991.

Foster, Beverly C. M. *Appalachian African Americans, Northwest Georgia, Walker County*. Chickamauga: B. F. Publications, 2003, pp. 36, 69, 80, 96-98, 115, 119.

Foster, Beverly C. M. *Education of Walker County's African Americans, 1916-1938*. Chickamauga: unpublished, 2000.

Foster, Beverly C.M. *Education of Walker County's African Americans, Pre-Civil War to 1900*. Chickamauga: unpublished, 2000.

Foster, Eddie W.: Construction Interior Foreman. *Sample Floor Plans and Sketch Map*.

Foster, Eddie W.: 2004 Worshipful Master, Chickamauga Mason Lodge #221. Progressive interviews by Beverly Foster, January 2004 to present. Chickamauga, Georgia.

Walker County Historical Society. *Walker County Georgia Heritage, 1833-1983*. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co. 1984, 1992, pp. 10-11, 205.

Haslerig, Charolette: Past Worthy Matron, Ester Chapter #476, Eastern Stars. Progressive interviews by Beverly Foster, 2001 to present. Chickamauga, Georgia.

Haslerig, Dorothy: Past Worthy Matron, Ester Chapter #476, Eastern Stars. Progressive interviews by Beverly Foster, 2001-present. Chickamauga, Georgia.

Haslerig, Willie: Dalton District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus, Gold Member. Progressive interviews by Beverly Foster, 2000 to present. Chickamauga, Georgia.

Haslerig, Willie. *History of Chickamauga Mason Lodge #221*. Chickamauga: unpublished.

Mitchell, Cathene: wife of Theodore Roosevelt Mitchell, deceased, middle 20th century Masonic Lodge #221 member. Progressive interviews by Beverly Foster, 2001 to present, Chickamauga, Georgia.

Mitchell, Sam: Past Worshipful Master, Mason Lodge #221. Progressive interviews 2001 to present. Chickamauga, Georgia.

"New Rosenwald School Dedicated At Chickamauga." *Walker County Messenger*, 4 March, 1932.

Quit Claim Deed: C. D. Haslerig and the Bank of Chickamauga. 14 December 1943.

Rooks, Eunice, 2000: native of Noble, Walker County, Georgia; daughter of 1930s teacher/principal of Walker County. Interview by Beverly Foster, 2 February 2000. Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"Rosenwald Fund State And Public Aid To Be Used." *Walker County Messenger*, 21 August 1931, p.1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 654931 Northing 3858272

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that land owned by the lodge at this location.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** April 25, 2006
e-mail ken_thomas@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Beverly Foster/President
organization Walker County African-American Historical and Alumni Association, Inc.
mailing address 3357 Charlemagne Drive
city or town Decatur **state** Georgia **zip code** 30034
telephone (770) 593-1262
e-mail N/A

- () property owner
- (X) consultant
- () regional development center preservation planner
- () other:

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Eddie W. Foster, Worshipful Master
organization (if applicable) Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221
mailing address 3357 Charlemagne Drive
city or town Decatur **state** Georgia **zip code** 30034
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

hall are the original handcrafted wood stations used for ceremonial Masonic meetings and the original 1940s pedestal used for the VFW Camp meetings.

Exterior:

The Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221 is a two story, rectangular, structure approximately 20 feet high, 24 feet wide and 36 feet long. The foundation is a combination of cement blocks, rocks and brick. The lodge is a wood frame structure crafted by the lodge members from 1921 to 1924. It is covered with red rolled asphalt siding placed by the Masons for preservation in 1952. (Photographs 1-4.)

As one looks at the front (east side) of the structure, there is one door with three concrete steps and two windows on the first floor leading from the outside of the structure to the inside. The east side second floor has two windows. In the center of the east (front) façade is the Masonic emblem made of wood. (Photo 6.) Looking at the east side, it is clear that the lodge hall leans slightly to the right due to foundation deterioration. (Photo 2.) There is a cornerstone (Photo 5) on the left side of the front marking the 1952 additions which included the siding, plumbing and heating.

As one looks at the south side of the building, there are three windows on the first floor and three windows on the second floor. (Photo 1.)

As one looks at the west side (rear) of the structure, there is only one small window on the second floor at the upper right corner of the building. (Photo 4.)

As one looks at the north side of the structure, on the first floor there are two white wooden doors on the far right and two windows on the left. (Photo 3.) The doors are covered with tin porch-type overhang and there is a small concrete patio that leads to the doors. The door on the left leads into the first floor kitchen area of the hall. The door to the right leads to the stairs going up to the second floor.

The second floor on the south side has three windows and an external wall unit air conditioner.

All windows are white wood-framed and the windows on the first floor have screens. The roof is of tin with the 1920s original rafters.

Grounds:

There are no historical gardens on the grounds. There is a small gravel parking place in the front (east side). The remaining ground area is grass. (Photo 1.) There is a small non-historic shed on the rear grounds that was left by Habitat for Humanity during the building of the first Habitat for Humanity house in Walker County which is located immediately next door to the lodge on the south side. (Photo 4.)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Interior, first floor:

The first floor is approximately 23 feet 6 inches wide and 31 feet 4 inches long. When one enters from the front door (east side), one sees a large room divided into two large open sections by three wood paneled columns. (Photos 7 and 8.) The entire room is has been covered with wood paneling. The ceiling is a drop type acoustical style ceiling. The floor is the original wood floor covered with linoleum in the 1950s. To the right rear is located the kitchen area and a gas heater. On the left of the columns is an open area with two bathrooms in the rear area.

The furnishings on the first floor are vintage furnishings of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Also, located on the first floor is the handcrafted wooden pedestal used by the African American Veterans of Foreign Wars Camp, c. 1946. (Photo 7.)

Interior, second floor:

One can only enter the steps (photo 9) leading to the second floor from the exterior door on the northern wall. The wooden steps are painted brown and lead up to the Masonic ceremonial meeting area. There is white wooden door to the left that leads into the hall.

As one enters the hall, on the immediate left (west wall) is the raised platform position for the senior warden. (Photo 10.) Midway of the south wall is the junior warden's station. (Photo 11.) On the east wall (photos 11 and 12) is the raised platform for the worshipful master. To the left of the worshipful master is the secretary's station. The walls are of wood paneling. The floor is the original wood floor of 1924. The ceiling is a drop type, acoustical tile ceiling of the 1950s.

The second floor contains the original handcrafted wooden furnishings/items used for the Masonic meeting stations from the 1920s. (Photos 10-12.)

Utilities:

The plumbing, electrical wiring and gas heating were all placed there in the 1950s. Before that time, water was taken from a well located immediately across Highway 341 on the east side of the hall on the Haslerig Dairy property. This well has been preserved by the Haslerig family to become a part of the over all historical interpretation. It is not part of this nomination.

General appearance of the property's surroundings:

The area was part of the last lands ceded by the Cherokee Indians in the 1830s to the United States and is only a few miles from one of the Cherokee Indian centers at Chickamauga (Crawfish Springs). It is an integral part of the lands used during the Civil War for battles. Mr. Willie Haslerig (50 plus year member of the lodge) knows that there was a 1924 cornerstone and he feels that this stone is located somewhere on the property (possibly under the 1952 cornerstone).

The lodge hall is less than three miles south of historic Chickamauga and the Gordon-Lee Mansion

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

(National Register). It is approximately three miles north of historic McLemore Cove (National Register) and Fred Shaw's recreation of a 1850s plantation at Davis Cross Road on Hog Jowl Road. It is located immediately west of the Haslerig Dairy Property, Walker County's only African-American Dairy with interstate commerce history. A few hundred yards south is the historic District Hill Cemetery, the second African-American owned and organized cemetery in Walker County. Also, located immediately next door to the lodge, on the north side, is Walker County's first Habitat for Humanity house. There are numerous, modern, grand scale homes being built in the area, including one immediately across Highway 341 northwest of the lodge. None of the above mentioned properties are included within this nomination.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The lodge is significant in architecture because it is a good, intact example of a lodge built by lodge members to be a Masonic lodge in the 1920s and retains the historic meeting room with original handcrafted wooden lodge furnishings and officers's stations, used for ceremonial meetings, as per the general lodge plan. The creation of a second-floor room with a separate entrance stairway is typical of facilities devoted to Masonic lodge activities. It retains most of its original materials, including its original wood floor, walls, beams, foundation, rafters, and some windows from 1924, with some covered over by later additions by lodge members. The application of asphalt siding in 1952 represents an improvement to the lodge made by members in the historic period of the building.

The lodge is significant in Ethnic Heritage-Black and social history for being built as an African-American Masonic lodge in 1924 and continuing in that purpose to the present day. It is the only remaining African-American lodge hall in Walker County. It was thus the meeting place for the lodge members and their fraternal activities. As with such groups, the members would have had a major role in local community affairs. The lodge is a non-profit organization and was active in providing manual labor during the segregation era for local building projects, such as schools, and churches, cornerstone laying, as well as participating in funeral rites for members and helping needy children and widows. The lodge was also the location for the chartering and meeting of the Walker County African-American VFW in the 1940s. A chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, chartered in 1944, as a woman's group, also met here.

National Register Criteria

The nomination meets National Register criterion A because as an African-American Masonic Lodge, it fits into a major theme of American history, that of fraternal organizations, that were an important gathering place for African-Americans during their many years of struggle for equal rights after the Civil War well into the 1950s. This lodge served many community functions and served as a meeting place not only for the Masons, but also for the VFW and the Eastern Star.

The nomination meets National Register criterion C because it retains most of the original details from the 1924 construction including the two-story lodge configuration with the meeting space on the second or upper floor, away from prying eyes and where the group could conduct their meetings in secret. The lodge retains its original location, foundation, wooden walls, and in the lodge room itself, much of the original furnishings made by lodge members for the officers and meeting ritual stations.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance runs from the building of this lodge building, 1924, until 1956, the end of the historic period, because it has been continuously used for lodge purposes the entire time.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

There is only one contributing building, the lodge, in this nomination. A small nonhistoric storage shed is the one noncontributing building on the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Note: This narrative history was prepared by Beverly Foster, on behalf of the property owner, and has been edited to National Register standards by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian, Historic Preservation Division.

**The Prince Hall Lodge of the Ancient Free Mason (Free Masons) Chickamauga Masonic Lodge
No. 221
Chickamauga, Georgia**

Note: In a telephone conversation with representatives at the Prince Hall Lodge, Atlanta, they stated that the official name of this lodge would best be described as:
"Chickamauga Lodge No. 221, Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliate,"
and that is the official name for this nomination.

According to Mr. Willie Haslerig, Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221 was originally organized in 1916 in the District Hill School on Cove Road, Hwy. 341, South. District Hill School was located on the Haslerig property. A short time after the lodge was formed, a lodge hall was erected at the area adjoining the school. The lodge was organized by: C. D. Haslerig, Cleveland Shellman, John Daniel, Archie Haslerig, Sam Dodson, Rev. Kendall, and others.

According to the Lodge No. 221's written history, the first charter was issued in 1915 and this charter was destroyed by fire at the home of C. D. Haslerig in 1924. A new charter was issued on June 11, 1926. The first officers of the lodge were (Charter of 1915): Rev. Kendall, Worshipful Master, Chas. D. Haslerig, Senior Warden, C. S. Shellman, Junior Warden, Archie L. Haslerig, Secretary, Sam Dodson, Treasurer, John Daniel, Tyler. A long list of local men were members and listed on the first charter.

According to the June 11, 1926 charter, officers were: C. D. Haslerig, Worshipful Master, Robert Appling, Senior Warden, and Wm. White, Junior Warden. African-American community leaders (who were usually the local church ministers) and business leaders were members of the lodge.

Some of the members were also Odd Fellows as C. D. Haslerig was also a member of the Odd Fellows. The Odd Fellows also met in the building. The Odd Fellows Chapter is now extinct.

As stated, in 1916, the lodge hall was originally located on the Haslerig Dairy property of C. D. Haslerig. This property is just across the street (Highway 341) from the present day (1924 lodge hall) location. The nominated property is the only African-American Masonic Lodge still existing in Walker

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

County. This is the first lodge in Chickamauga for African-Americans. It may not be the first African-American Masonic lodge in Walker County. Ms. Eunice Rooks (80 year old native of Naomi, Walker County) during an oral history interview taken by Beverly Foster, stated there was a two-story lodge hall located near a church in the Round Pond, Naomi area that was known as Hickory Hill Church and Lodge. Also, there was once a Empire Lodge No. 100 located in LaFayette.

In 1916, the lodge was, as most lodges are, two stories. Also, located next to the lodge was the District Hill School for African Americans. It was the first freestanding school for African-Americans in Chickamauga and one of the first freestanding schools in the greater Chickamauga Post Office area. This area includes McLemore Cove, Kensington, Wallaceville, Lytle and other townships. Freestanding, meaning all other/previous schools for African Americans in the area were held in churches. District Hill School is the predecessor school that eventually became Chickamauga's Wallaceville School for the Colored, a documented Rosenwald School (*Walker County Messenger*, 1931 during the initial fundraising efforts of the community and Fisk University, Nashville).

District Hill School housed six elementary grades, first through sixth grade, with one or two teachers. One of the teachers was a Mrs. Hawkin. The school was supported in part by the Masons. Circa 1921, both the school and the lodge were burned under mysterious conditions (believed to have been burned by white citizens who did not want African-Americans to have an education). Mr. Willie Haslerig (son of C. D. Haslerig) lives on the original property of the dairy and lodge. This property remains in the hands of Willie Haslerig's family but this property was set aside for the school and lodge by Mr. Haslerig's grandfather, a once-enslaved African American in Walker County. Mr. Haslerig states that two of his brothers and one sister, George, Charles and Mammie, attended the school before its destruction. The Haslerigs are owners of the first and possibly only African-American Dairy in Walker County. They sold and delivered milk by truck all over the area, including Chattanooga, Tennessee. The area where the lodge is located in Walker County is known as the Glades, Hwy. 341 South and Cove Road.

The structure was built to be a Masonic Hall for the African-American community and has retained that use today. The lodge hall's predecessor, District Hill School, was the first freestanding school for African Americans in the greater Chickamauga area, c. 1914. Mason Lodge No. 221 was chartered in 1915 and meet in the District Hill School until 1916. In 1916 a lodge hall was built close to the school. This was common in Walker County for African-American lodges. Walker County had two African-American lodges, one known as Hickory Hill that also housed a school on the first floor and was located near Hickory Hill Church (Oral History, Ms. Eunice Rooks, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Native of Walker County's Naomi Community, student of the Hickory Hill School and daughter of the principal/teacher of Hickory Hill School, c. 1930s); and the other African-American lodge hall was located in LaFayette near Hill High School for the Colored (Oral History and picture supplied by Mr. Johnny Suttle, LaFayette, Georgia).

After the burning of the District Hill School and the Mason Lodge No. 221 first hall, the Masons relocated the school in Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and assisted with the building of Wallaceville Elementary School for the Colored on Wallaceville Road in Chickamauga in what is known as the "Black Folks Alley" (parallel to the Black Folks Alley ran the White Folks Alley). After the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

burning of the first Wallaceville School for the Colored, the school returned to Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and the Masons, assisted by the white community of Chickamauga and other groups, raised funds to match a Rosenwald Grant, and the Wallaceville School for the Colored was rebuilt in the Black Folks Alley as a Rosenwald supported school (*Walker County Messenger*, 1931 and the John Hope and Aurella Elizabeth Franklin Library, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1931 records for Rosenwald schools). The Masons supported the above schools by supplying money for books and school supplies, wood and coal for the stove, and a workday for repairs and upkeep of the school.

During segregation, the Masons and the Masonic Hall were the focal point for social events for African Americans of Chickamauga. They sponsored community picnics and special ceremonial days at the local churches. Today, they continue support of local charities, cornerstones for churches of Walker and Chattooga Counties, assistance to widows, funeral rites for Mason members, scholarships for local high school graduates, cleaning of abandon cemeteries and participation in social events as their Annual Super Bowl Barbecue Fundraiser and the Lions' Club Chickamauga Down Home Days Festival.

Walker County's only African-American Veteran of Foreign Wars Camp (VFW) was chartered in this building, c. 1946/1947 to 1948/1949. Mr. Willie Haslerig was instrumental in organizing this camp on his return for serving in the Marines during WWII at Pearl Harbor. The original handcrafted pedestal used for the VFW meetings remains in the building.

The formation of Chickamauga Mason Lodge No. 221, the present property for the lodge hall, District Hill School, the District Hill location of the 1916 initial lodge hall, and District Hill Cemetery were made possible by the efforts and generous donations of the Haslerig family. An enslaved African American, George S. Haslerig was taught to read and write by his enslavers. He became a preacher and farmer. One of his sons, Charles purchased land on Cove Road (Highway 341 South), circa 1905. He started a dairy and trucking farm business. His business became so successful that he began pasteurizing milk in 1949 and extended his business into Chattanooga as C.D. Haslerig & Sons Dairy. They provided jobs for many African Americans in the community as workers on the dairy farm and as milk truck drivers (Haslerig Dairy Farm History; Oral History Sam Mitchell; Chattanooga, Tennessee African-American Museum). In the 1960s, the Haslerigs sold their successful dairy business (not the property) to Happy Valley Dairy Farms. During the early 1900s to the mid 1960s only one other Walker County African-American family, the Marsh Family of Noble and Chickamauga, was as successful as the Haslerig family.

The building of the nominated lodge began in 1921 and was finished in 1924. It was built by the lodge members who provided labor, supplies, etc. The 1924 lodge hall is located on its original building site. According to warranty deeds, Masonic Lodge No. 221's property was deeded from Guy Pringle (a white man) on April 18, 1918, to Joe Shrosphire (African American) for a sum of \$200. On April 21, 1919, the property was deeded to C. D. Haslerig (African American) from Mr. Guy Pringle for \$210. According to Mr. Willie Haslerig this purchase was actually for Mr. Joe Shrosphire. On December 14, 1943, a Quit-Claim Deed was made between the Bank of Chickamauga and C.D. Haslerig for the sum of one dollar. On the 14th day of December 1943, the property was deeded to

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221 for the sum of one dollar. Therefore, the property was actually donated to the Masonic Lodge by C. D. Haslerig.

The 1924 lodge hall was originally built with two stories and remains two stories. Originally, it did not have plumbing, bathroom, gas or electricity. Water was hauled in buckets from the Haslerig well and that well presently remains on Haslerig's property (the Haslerig home and dairy property is located immediately across Highway 341, in front of the lodge hall). Lighting of the lodge hall was by oil lights and candles. Presently there is not a fireplace.

The lodge now has plumbing and gas heaters of the 1950s era. The original outer walls were white-painted-wood and this wood remains on the building under the siding that was placed in 1952. The wood is visible where the siding is ripped away from the wall. The building is on its original foundation. When the siding was placed in 1952, a new cornerstone was placed documenting the "remodeling" (addition of siding, plumbing and heat) of 1952. Mr. Haslerig believes the original cornerstone is located on the property or on the building beneath the 1952 stone. The new tin roof was placed in 2001. The original roof of 1921-1924 was also made of tin. The original flooring is covered with linoleum of the 1950s era.

In 1924, the Haslerig's family house burned and they lived in the first floor of the lodge hall until their home was rebuilt.

The Masons are a nonprofit, charitable organization. They were very active during segregation in the Walker County African-American communities in the building of schools, churches, support of needy children, widows, laying cornerstones, funeral rites and social events. Usually, they provided the manual labor and finance for construction of the above buildings. During the days of Jim Crow, 1865-1950, Walker County did not supply the buildings, books or school supplies for schools and children, especially not for African-American schools. The county only supplied a small salary for the teachers. This salary was usually lower than the salary of the white teachers. Therefore, the Masons united to fill that void. The Masons had a volunteer work day to perform repairs on the African-American Wallaceville School of the Chickamauga area and possibly the Pleasant Grove School, because the Pleasant Grove School is also in the Chickamauga greater area and some of the lodge members are from McLemore Cove/Kensington area of the Pleasant Grove School.

This lodge is known as a Blue Lodge with the highest member being a master mason at the 3rd degree. The lodge is an affiliate of the Prince Hall Lodge of Georgia, the headquarters for the African-American Masons in Georgia. Mr. Willie Haslerig is a 33rd degree and a Gold Member with more than 50 years of membership.

The lodge holds generations of legacies in the area with sons, fathers, and grandfathers as members and past members. For example: Mr. Willie Haslerig is the son of C. D. Haslerig, one of the original founding members and philanthropist provider of the lodge hall property; Mr. Sam Mitchell, past worshipful master, is the son of Mr. Theodore Roosevelt Mitchell, member, circa 1930s to 1984; and Mr. Eddie Foster, present worshipful master, is the grandson of Joe Foster, past member circa 1930s.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

After the burning of the District Hill School and the Masonic Lodge Hall there, the school met in Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Chickamauga until a new school was built on a hill in what is called "The Black Folks Alley." Friendship Baptist Church is the original Scuffle Nuffle Church founded by once-enslaved African American, Rev. George Washington Wheeler, and others. The property for the church in Chickamauga was donated by Congressman Gordon Lee of the Gordon-Lee Home Place. After relocation of the District Hill School, it became the first Wallaceville School for the Colored, a Rosenwald School.

The Masons had a St. John's Day. This was a sacred day when all the Masons attended the same church, usually on the fourth Sunday of June. This was the Masons main public day. They had public installation of new officers in December, before December 27th. This was a big public event in the area. Also, they held an annual family picnic day during the summer. Presently, they hold an annual Super Bowl Barbecue Sale that is supported by a diverse community base. Bakery products are made by members of the Eastern Star. The above events support the lodge charity obligations. Also, each year, they provide a college scholarship for a local African-American student. They continue to help the needy and widows, provide funeral rites, clean abandon cemeteries, assist local churches and charities, lay cornerstones, and are members of local civic organizations..

African American VFW

The only Walker County African-American VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) was chartered and met in this building. It was chartered in the 1940s (1946 or 1947), the dates that Mr. Willie Haslerig returned from the Marines. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor, just after the bombing in 1941, and received an honorable discharge in 1946. Other VFW members were Ray Marsh (first African-American owner of a crematorium, the Tri-State crematorium), James Shropshire (possible descendent of Colonel Wesley Shropshire enslaved African Americans of Chattooga County), and Johnny Allgood (possible descendent of the A. P. Allgood enslaved African Americans of the Spencer Marsh House [Marsh-Warthen House] of LaFayette), and others. Many of the African Americans of Walker County and connecting counties kept the surnames of their enslavers, using those surnames, oral histories, and slave census records of 1850 and 1860 makes it potentially easy to verify slave owner connections.

However, even after WWII and the integration of the military service, the VFW camps forced segregation at regional meetings, banquets, etc. This was especially enforced by "Sloppy Floyd," the State Commander of the VFW's and a Georgia State Representative at the time from Chattooga County. This made the Chickamauga African-American VFW members very upset, especially after serving for their country in wars for freedom. Therefore, after two years, they returned their charter and discontinued their membership.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

The Ester Chapter 476, Order of Eastern Star, Chickamauga

The charter for this group was granted on June 28, 1944. Their first officers were: Mrs. Odessa Haslerig, Worthy Matron, Mr. Raymond Smith, Worth Patron, Ms. Rugh Jones, Associate Matron, and Ms. Sally Shropshire, Secretary. This is the only African-American order of the Eastern Star in Walker County.

Haslerig Family Legacy: Summary

As taken from the book, *Appalachian African Americans, Northwest Georgia, Walker County* by Beverly Cathene (Mitchell) Foster with introduction by E. Raymond Evans, B.F. Publications, Chickamauga, Georgia, 2003:

Lenora (Daudy) and George S. Haslerig were once enslaved African Americans of Walker County Georgia. They are believed to have been manumitted before the Civil War. Before manumission, George was owned, sold and bought by three white families that lived south of LaFayette, the Caldwells, Haslerigs and McCurdys. He possibly had a fourth owner since his name was George Westfield as a child in the 1850s during his ownership by the Caldwells. Facing possible monetary fines, imprisonment and removal of their enslaved property, the McCurdy taught George how to read and write. As with most enslaved African Americans that learn to read, the teachings came from the Bible thus George became a preacher and a farmer. One of George's 14 children, Charles (Deddie) purchased land on Cove Road (Hwy. 341, South), c. 1905. Charles, his eight children and wife, Odessa (White) Haslerig began a dairy and trucking farm. In 1949, Charles began pasteurizing milk and extended his business to Chattanooga, Tennessee as C. D. Haslerig & Sons Dairy. In the 1960s, George Singleton, Willie, Charles W. and Johnnie sold the dairy to Happy Valley Farms. The original property, including the District Cemetery (land donated by once enslaved George for the burial of African Americans) remain in the ownership and care of the Haslerigs. The District Cemetery is considered the property of the Chickamauga Community. Several once enslaved African Americans are buried in the cemetery including Mark Thrash.

The District Hill Cemetery is the second African-American owned cemetery in the Chickamauga area and Walker County. African Americans wished to bury their dead without the restrictions that relegated them to the back of white cemeteries; therefore, Mr. C. D. Haslerig donated the land to Chickamauga's African-American community for use as a cemetery. The cemetery is located on Hwy. #341 South, only a few hundred yards south of the lodge.

The members of the Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221 comprise a very close knit and integral part of the history and legacy of African Americans of Chickamauga, Georgia.

The lodge received a Georgia Heritage Grant in 2005 from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to do a preservation plan for the building.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

“Rosenwald Schools, Georgia, Chickamauga.” John Hope and Aurella Elizabeth Franklin Library, Special Collections, Nashville, Tennessee.

Rowland, J. L. Mrs. “Chickamauga: Religious Social And Personal News,” *Walker County Messenger*, 28 August 1931.

Suttle, Johnny, 2004. Interview by Alma J. Benton, 24 June 2004, LaFayette, Georgia.

Walker County Superior Court. Clerk’s Office. Survey of C. S. Shelmon Estate showing survey of Masonic Hall property by H. L. Campbell, Walker County Surveyor, 25, September, 1958.

_____ Warranty Deed: 24 April 1919, book 35, folio 326.

_____ Warranty Deed: 24 April 1919, book 36, folio 327.

_____ Warranty Deed: 14 December 1943.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Chickamauga Masonic Lodge No. 221
City or Vicinity: Chickamauga vicinity
County: Walker
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 2004

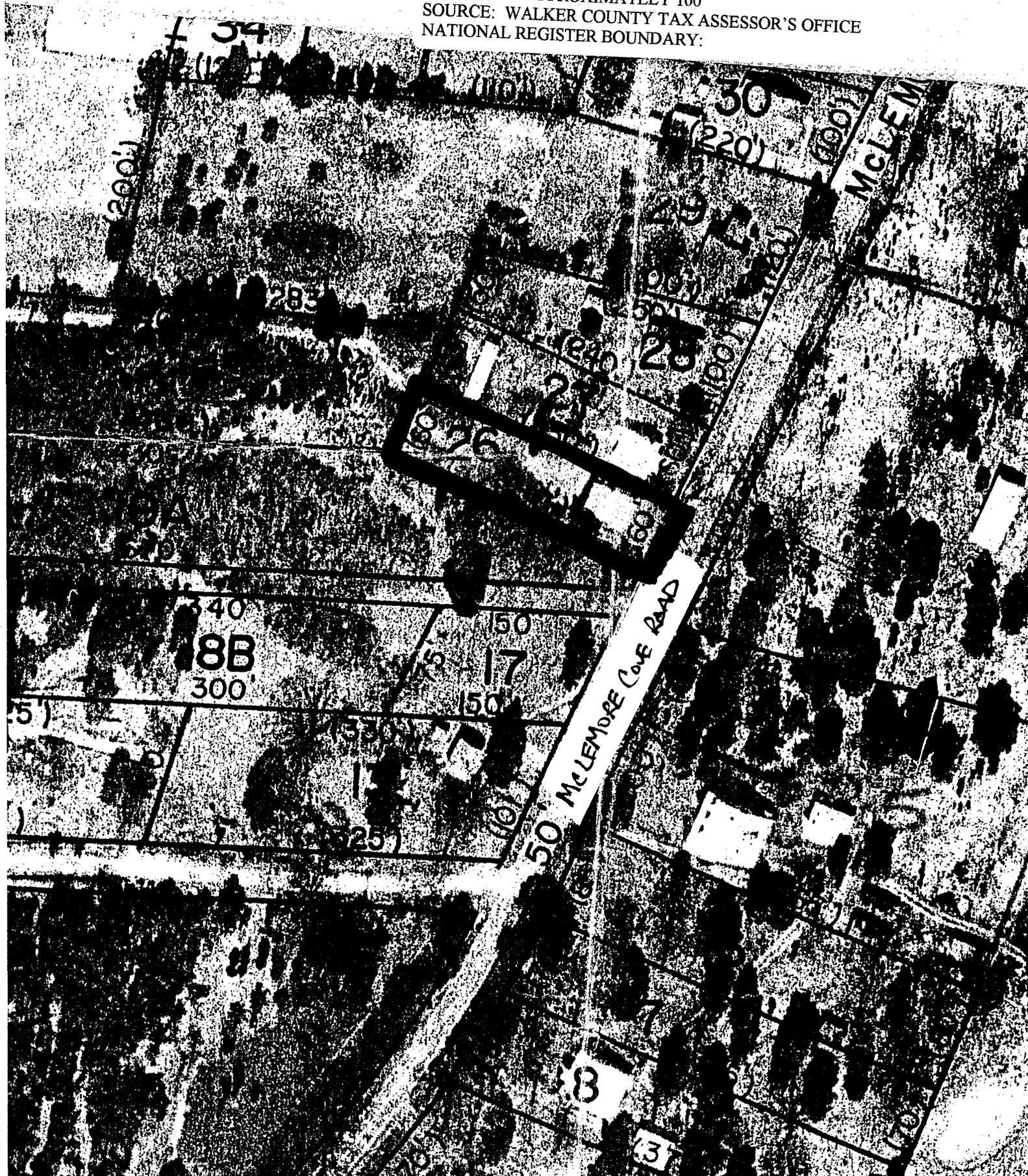
Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 12

1. Southeast corner of the lodge and front façade; photographer facing northwest.
2. Front (east) façade; photographer facing west.
3. Front (east) façade and north façade showing doors at rear for first floor entrance and for second floor entrance; photographer facing southwest.
4. Rear façade, with modern storage building at left; photographer facing northeast.
5. Southeast corner of front façade showing 1952 cornerstone; photographer facing northwest.
6. Masonic emblem at top of front (east) façade; photographer facing west.
7. First floor, interior, with front (east) door at rear; photographer facing southeast.
8. First floor, interior, taken from inside front door; photographer facing southwest.
9. Stairs leading to Masonic meeting floor (second floor); photographer facing south.
10. Second floor, interior, looking from northeast corner toward entry door; photographer facing southwest.
11. Second floor, interior, looking from the holding room door in the northwest corner; photographer facing southeast.
12. Second floor, interior, looking from the stair hall entry door; photographer facing northeast.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

CHICKAMAUGA LODGE NO. 221, FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATE
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA
TAX MAP/NATIONAL REGISTER MAP
NORTH: ↑
SCALE: 1" = APPROXIMATELY 100'
SOURCE: WALKER COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:



SKETCH MAP

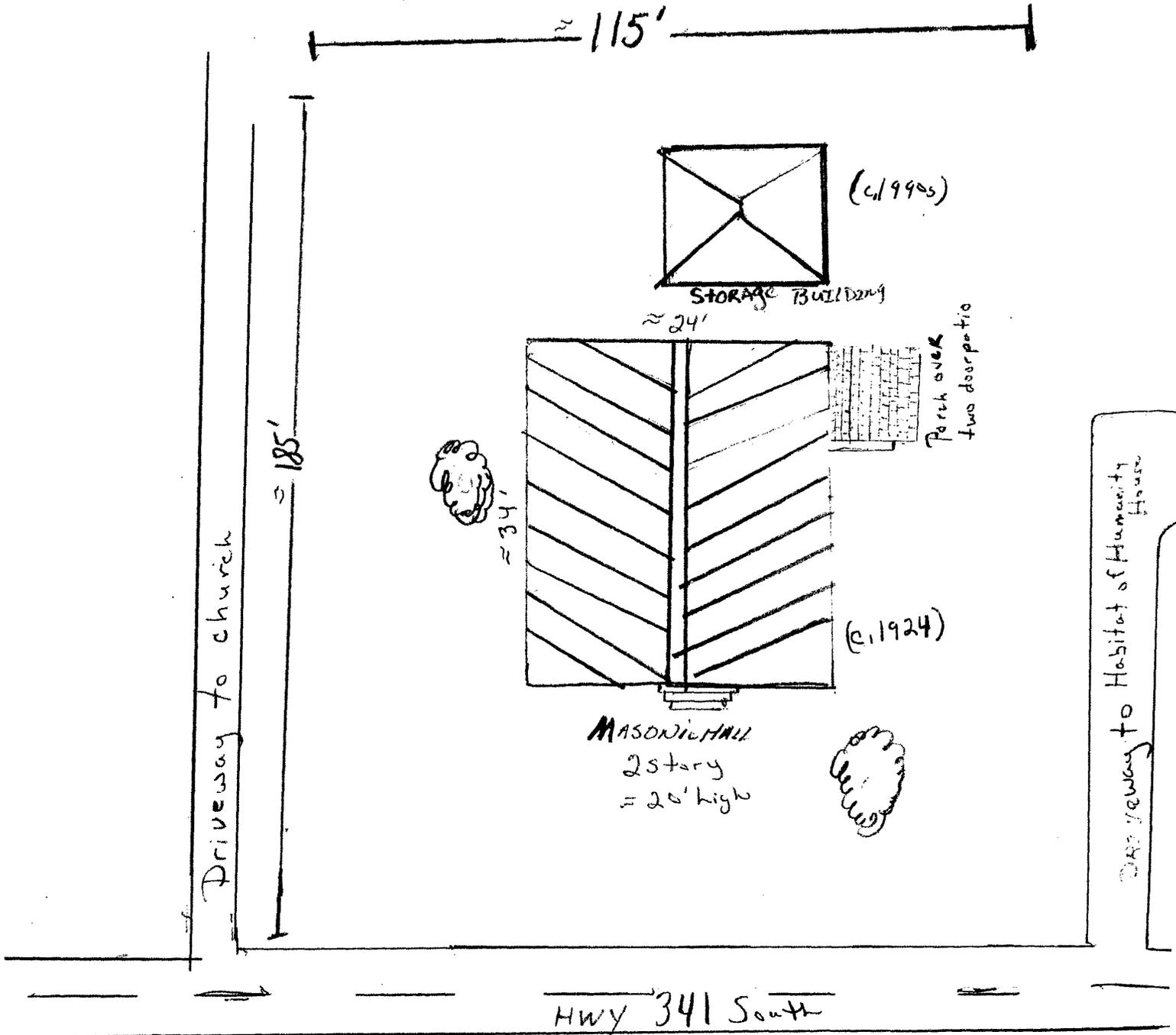
CHICKAMAUGA LODGE NO. 221, FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATE
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

SITE MAP

NORTH: 

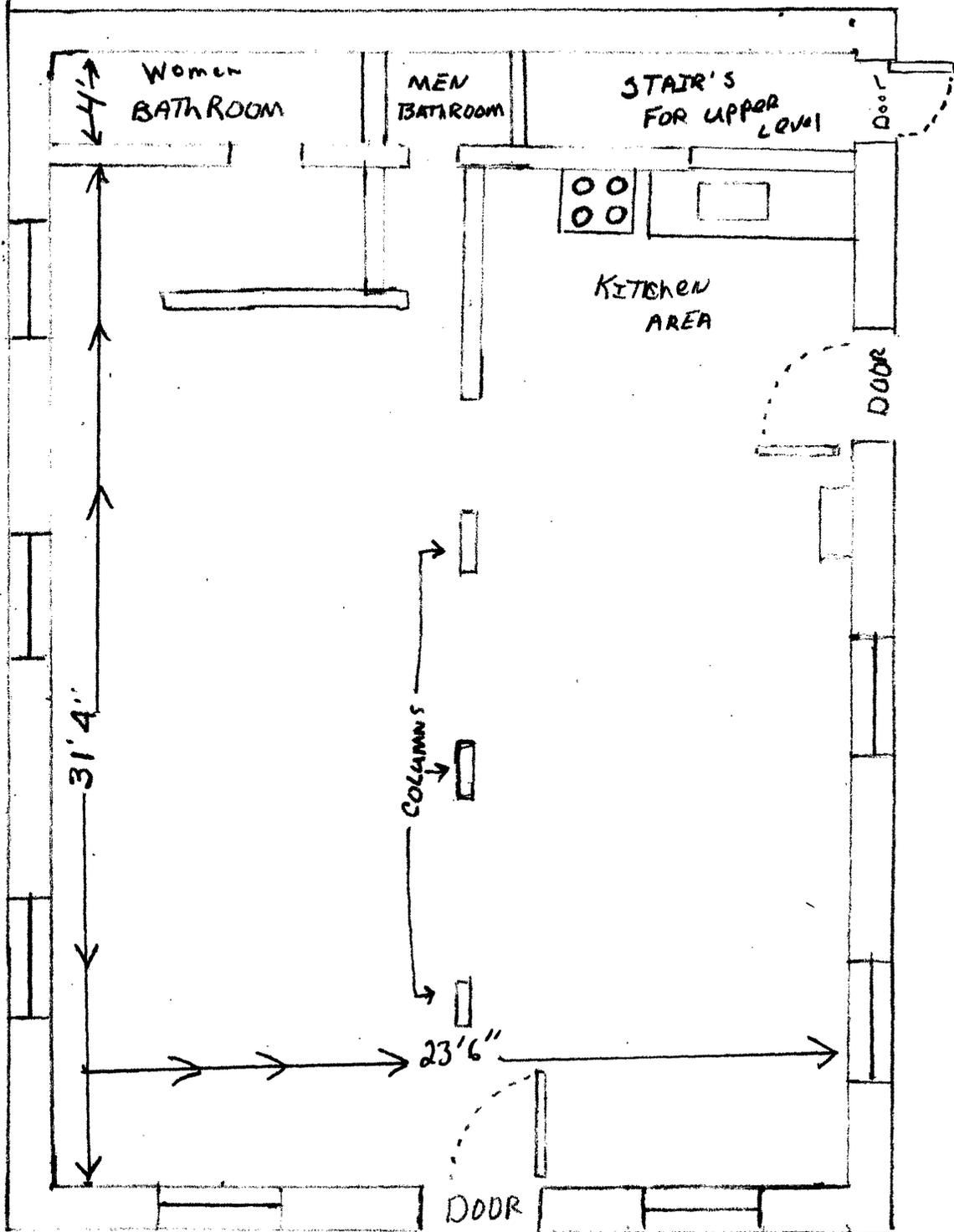
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE: DRAWN BY EDDIE FOSTER, 2004



North 

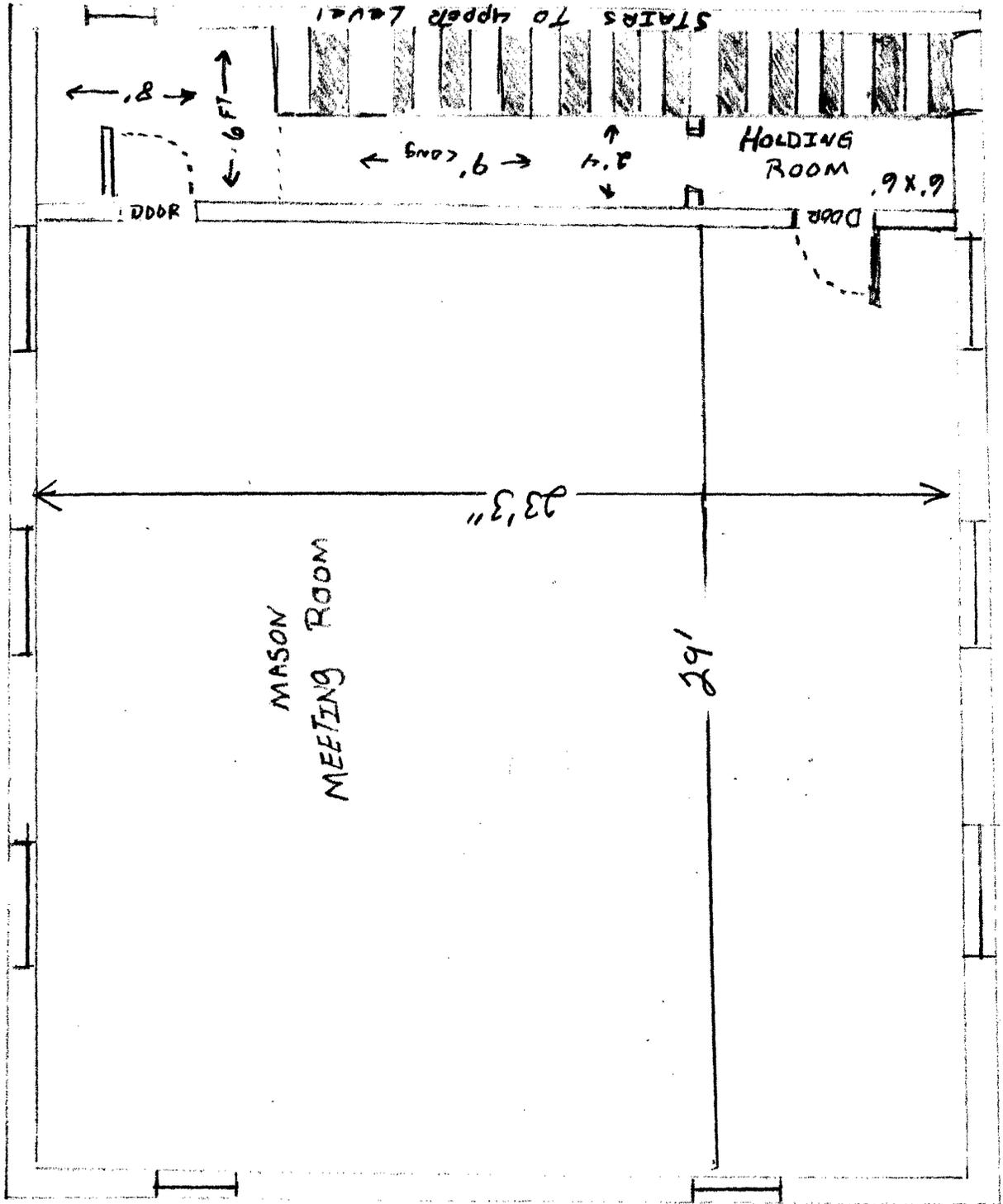
FLOOR PLAN FIRST FLOOR-LOWER LEVEL



CHICKAMAUGA LODGE NO. 221, FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATE
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NORTH: →
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
SOURCE: DRAWN BY EDDIE FOSTER, 2004



**FLOOR PLAN
SECOND FLOOR-UPPER LEVEL**



CHICKAMAUGA LODGE NO. 221, FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATE
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
NORTH: 
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
SOURCE: DRAWN BY EDDIE FOSTER, 2004

