



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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Universal Lodge No. 14
other names AA-2391

2. Location

street & number 64 Clay Street not for publication
city or town Annapolis vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21401

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

[Signature] 10-8-08
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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] 11-26-08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

Universal Lodge No. 14 (AA-2391)

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD; BRICK; STUCCO

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14
Name of Property

Section 7 Page 1

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

Description Summary:

Located at 64 Clay Street in the historically African American Fourth Ward of Annapolis, Maryland, Universal Lodge No. 14 is a two-story gable roofed frame and concrete block building with a brick veneer façade, constructed ca. 1880 and substantially expanded in the mid-1950s.

General Description:

The original portion of the building is a two-story frame structure measuring approximately 28' wide by 50' deep, constructed ca. 1880; in 1956, a two-story masonry addition 30' deep was constructed across the rear.

The principal façade faces south on Clay Street, fronting directly on the sidewalk. It is three bays wide, with a central entrance of double doors flanked by glass-block sidelights. The façade brick is neatly laid in common bond, with rowlock courses marking the level of the window sills and lintels, and a slightly projecting rowlock course marking the top of the wall. A gabled portico shelters the entrance, which is accessed by a small porch with steps on either side. A single sash window with two-over-two horizontal lights is located in each of the flanking bays. On the upper story, a recessed central panel holds a masonic symbol executed in glazed brick; this is flanked on either side by paired two-over-two windows. A small, paired one-over-one window appears in the gable peak. The gable is finished in stucco. The cornice projects slightly, and there are short returns at the ends.

The east elevation of the frame portion is covered with stucco. The rear addition is constructed of concrete blocks.

The interior comprises a multipurpose "day room," kitchen, and rest rooms on the first floor, and a large open lodge room, anteroom and storage area on the second floor. Interior finishes are relatively plain, and predominantly reflect the mid-1950s renovation of the building. The entry vestibule and second-floor anteroom are paneled in knotty pine. The lodge room has plaster walls, vinyl tile flooring in a "checkerboard" pattern, and a dropped ceiling with acoustical panels and fluorescent lighting.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1940-1956

Significant Dates

1865

1956

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14
Name of Property

Section 8 Page 1

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

Summary Statement of Significance:

Universal Lodge No. 14 is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the African American community in the city of Annapolis, capital of the state of Maryland. Founded in 1865 by a group of black civilian employees of the U. S. Naval Academy, the Lodge has played a significant role in the social life of the community. The membership of the Universal Lodge No. 14 has included many of the most prominent citizens of Annapolis. The Lodge has supported a wide range of activities and initiatives to benefit the community, from financial assistance for families in need to sports and mentoring programs for local youth.

Although the founding of the Universal Lodge No. 14, Free and Accepted (F & A) Masons as a fraternal organization dates to 1865, the period of significance for the present building begins with the Lodge's acquisition of the property in 1940 and extends through 1956, when it substantially achieved its present form and appearance through a major campaign of addition and renovation.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The history of the African Masonic Lodge in the city of Annapolis, Maryland is inextricably intertwined with that of the U. S. Naval Academy. Although the expansion of the Naval Academy over the century following its establishment in 1845 resulted in the displacement of several African American neighborhoods in Annapolis, the community benefited from the employment opportunities that the Academy offered. The Navy was the first of our armed forces to allow free black men to serve before the emancipation of slaves. The majority of them, called "Mess Men," provided kitchen, laundry, cleaning, and other services to the white enlisted men.

When the Civil War began, the students at the Naval Academy moved to Newport, Rhode Island, where they stayed until the war was over. The Academy and St. John's College were used as Army hospitals. In Newport, workers, students and the black men in the Navy lived in the community together. After the U. S. Colored Troops were established in 1863 to fight for the Army, many of these black Army men were transferred to the Navy, where their help was needed.

It was in Newport that the black Navy men began to carve out and organize what would become the first Masonic Lodge for men of color in Annapolis in 1864. After the war was over, these men returned to their homes in Annapolis. On November 15, 1865, after organizing and recruiting, the first black Masonic Lodge in Annapolis, Universal Lodge No. 14, Free and Accepted (F & A) Masons was established. Today, the organization operates at 64 Clay Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

Section 8 Page 2

The Officers of this historic organization in 1865 were Thomas Young, Worshipful Master; William H. Dorsey, Senior Warden; and George Thornley, Junior Warden, all of whom were Navy men and well respected in the black community of Annapolis.

After the Civil War the Annapolitan Navy men returned home from Newport and continued to expand their Lodge. Other Navy men mustering out of service in Annapolis decided to remain in the city, and most joined the ranks of Masons.

A distinction of the Universal Lodge No. 14, Free and Accepted (F & A) Masons is that it was the only black Masonic lodge in Annapolis during the period to include a white member. He was Alexander Hart, who ment the black men of Annapolis in Newport. Hart, from New York, completed his tour of duty at the Naval Academy and opened a tobacco shop at 75 Maryland Avenue in Annapolis. He remained an active member of Universal Lodge No. 14 from its founding until his death.

In 1865, John Reams, a black man, began publishing a monthly paper called the *Masonic Gavel*, which was devoted to the cause of Freemasonry. Some of his papers were sent to the *Christian Recorder* for preservation. The *Recorder* of January 1867 reported the events that took place during the annual Masonic conference, held at the Staunton School in Annapolis. At the conference, after his opening remarks, John Reams introduced George Thornley, who provided pivotal information on the subject of Masonry in the State of Maryland. Later during the conference, Miss Maria E. Prout made her way to the center of the platform, made a few remarks, and presented to the Universal Lodge No. 14, Free and Accepted (F & AM) Masons a set of Masonic jewels. Worshipful Master Thomas Young received the jewels on behalf of the Lodge. Mason Moses Lake, Esq., presented the Rev. S. L. Hammond an exquisite silver sacrament set for the use of his church (Union Bethel, later Mount Moriah). Mason Samuel Lloyd followed next and presented the Rev. Tilghman Jackson of Asbury M. E. Church a gilt-edged bible for his church. Receiving the bible on behalf of his congregation, Rev. Jackson said that since Masonry is a charitable organization founded upon morality, he hoped that masonry and religion would become co-workers in the struggle to benefit humanity.

During the years since their entry into Annapolis, members of the Universal Lodge No. 14 have assisted the city's poor and needy. The Annapolis Masons have provided annual Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families. They have had Christmas parties for underprivileged children, provided school supplies, purchased textbooks, mentored fatherless boys, sponsored baseball and football games, including providing uniforms and gear. The Masons were businessmen, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and military men and employees at the Naval Academy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14
Name of Property

Section 8 Page 3

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

Members have included some of the most prominent African Americans in the City of Annapolis and surrounding jurisdictions, such as John T. Chambers, Jr., former Mayor of Annapolis and his father, Rev. John T. Chambers Sr., one of the founders of the Anne Arundel County branch of the NAACP. Dr. William Bowen and Dr. William Bishop (the first African American physician at Anne Arundel General Hospital) were among other prominent citizens who became members of the Lodge. A score or more of the members went to Chicago to render assistance during the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Life during the Jim Crow era and days of segregation would have been dismal indeed had it not been for those prominent men full of honor, dignity and morality who ensured the survival of every member of the community.

Since integration in the mid-1960s prosperous community members have migrated from the tiny enclave called the Fourth Ward. Still, the building housing the Universal Lodge No. 14, Free and Accepted (F & A) Masons still stands as a reminder of the dignity, morality, and honor of the past residents.

However, the membership has diminished, and the Lodge building has fallen into disrepair, as the gallant and idealistic founding members have all passed away, and present-day men eligible to become Masons choose to join other organizations such as college fraternities, the Rotary, and Chamber of Commerce. Only one current member of the Lodge resides in the community as a property owner, having returned to the Fourth Ward in an effort to preserve its history.

On November 6, 1940, lodge records document a motion to authorize the Trustees to acquire the property, formerly known as Isaac and Rebecca Hall. Additions and renovations were completed in 1956, when the present cornerstone was laid.

As of 2001, the Lodge had 24 active members. In addition to Universal Lodge No. 14, four other Masonic groups used the building: the Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Chapter No. 15 (membership 25); Royal Arch Masonry, Hope Chapter No. 25, (membership 45); A.E.A.O.N.M. Shrine, Tuwa Temple No. 228 (membership 102); and the Knights Templar, Palestine Commandery No. 5 (membership 60).

In addition to housing Masonic functions, the building has served the African American community of Annapolis in a variety of ways. It provides meeting space for residents to discuss issues affecting the community, and to hold dinners which contribute to fellowship and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

strengthen neighborhood relationships. It has supported the youth of the community by providing space for them to meet, do homework, and receive tutoring.

The membership is committed to the maintenance and rehabilitation of the Lodge building. Electrical service was upgraded in 2006.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

Souvenir Journal, Honorary Banquet Honoring 50 Year Brothers – Life-Time Members,
Sponsored by Universal Lodge No. 14 F. & A. Masons P.H.A, 10th Masonic District, at Masonic
Temple, 64 Clay Street, Annapolis, Maryland, Sat. March 29, 1975.

Warrant, By-Laws, and Minutes of Universal Lodge No 14, F. & A. Masons

Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Universal Lodge No. 14 (AA-2391)
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre Annapolis, MD quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1	8	3	7	0	3	7	5	4	3	1	5	3	6	4
	Zone		Easting			Northing									
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting			Northing									
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Anna DeJesus and Jeffrey Henderson
Organization Greater Clay Street Community Development Corporation date December 1, 2005
street & number 92 Washington Street telephone 410-963-0933
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

Section 10 Page 1

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the nominated property are described in Liber 230, folio 181, among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the single urban lot historically associated with the resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2391
Universal Lodge No. 14
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, MD
County and State

Section PHOTO Page 1

Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Name of Property: Folck's Mill
Location: Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Photographer: Peter E. Kurtze
Date: April 10, 2008

Photo captions:

MD_AnneArundelCounty_UniversalLodgeNo14_0019.tif
View from Southeast

MD_AnneArundelCounty_UniversalLodgeNo14_0015.tif
Vestibule, first floor, camera facing northwest

MD_AnneArundelCounty_UniversalLodgeNo14_0017.tif
Day room, first floor, camera facing southeast

MD_AnneArundelCounty_UniversalLodgeNo14_0011.tif
Anteroom, second floor, camera facing northwest

MD_AnneArundelCounty_UniversalLodgeNo14_0001.tif
Lodge room, second floor, camera facing north