

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 Masonic Lodge No. 238
other names/site number Masonic Hall

2. Location

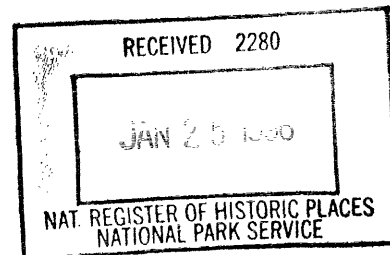
street & number 600 South Hamilton Street (formerly 600 South McCamy Street)
city, town Dalton (n/a) vicinity of
county Whitfield code GA 313
state Georgia code GA zip code 30720

(n/a) not for publication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:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

Mark R. Edwards

Signature of certifying official

January 2, 1996

Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Edson A. Beall
Entered in the
National Register *2/22/96*

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

SOCIAL/meeting hall
COMMERCE/retail

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Commercial Vernacular Victorian

Materials:

foundation	CONCRETE
walls	BRICK
roof	GRAVEL
other	STONE

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

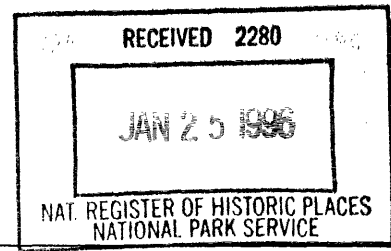
Masonic Lodge No. 238, also known as Masonic Hall, is located at the corner of South Hamilton and Emory Streets in downtown Dalton, Whitfield County in North Georgia (photo #1). It is a multiple-use commercial building with the first floor or street level being retail space and the second floor the meeting room for the African-American Masonic lodge. The lodge was built in c.1915 by Dutch Hanson, Thomas Cunningham, Jim Richards, Dan Smith, and Harrison Jackson, local men from the community and probably members of the lodge.

The lodge is a masonry, two-story building with a flat roof and Commercial Vernacular Victorian details (photo #2). There is ornamental brick corbeling above the second-floor windows and at the cornice (photo #3). There are four brick pilasters on the front facade. The parapet is stepped along the sides of the roof. There is a central double-door entrance on the front facade with large display windows with stone sills and wood surrounds on either side of the doors. The double doors are wood paneled doors with a single-light pane. The second-story windows with stone sills have been covered up on the front and side facades (although the windows are intact); however, the rear facade windows remain unblocked and are 2/2, double hung (photo #4). There are two single-door entrances on the north facade toward the rear of the building (photo #5). The original windows and doors remain. The foundation is some type of concrete aggregate.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7



There is a cornerstone on the north side of the front facade (photo #6). It is a granite block which reads:

MASONIC HALL
A.D. 1915 A.L. 5915
C.D. GREENE W.M.
C.W. JACKSON SEC.

The interior arrangement remains intact with the first floor as retail space and the second floor as a large meeting room with a bathroom. The front portion of the first floor was for the walk-in customers (photo #7). The rear portion was used as storage and office space for the business (photo #8). The second floor is accessed up a staircase which is entered on the north exterior of the building through one of the single-door entrances. Original interior details on the first floor include some wood ceilings, concrete flooring, and exposed masonry walls (photo #9). The second floor details include the wood floors, two raised platforms at the east and west sides of the meeting room for ceremonial purposes, and two raised platforms for seating running the length of the room (photo #10). Original interior doors with hardware remain (photo #11). The ceilings were dropped and paneling added in 1987; however, the original materials remain underneath.

The boundary of the property is 50' X 80' and includes the building and the land on which it sits.

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: African American
SOCIAL HISTORY
COMMERCE

Period of Significance:

c.1915

Significant Dates:

c.1915 - The lodge was constructed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Dutch Hanson, Thomas Cunningham, Jim Richards, Dan Smith, and Harrison Jackson built the building.

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Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Masonic Lodge No. 238 is significant in the areas of architecture, African-American history, social history, and commerce.

The Masonic Lodge on the southwest corner of Emery and McCamy (now South Hamilton) is a remnant of a once thriving commercial district. Between 1900 and 1950, the area surrounding this intersection was the heart of Dalton's black community. The area was comprised of detached single-family residences, small apartment houses, a fraternal lodge, a school, numerous churches, and many small businesses. Today, only the masonic lodge, two churches, and a handful of houses remain of the once flourishing community. The area has become increasingly industrial.

The lodge was constructed with a Masonic Hall on the second floor and a commercial facility on the first at street level in c.1915. The commercial space housed such businesses as a barber shop, grocery, and plumbing supply house. The building continues to serve its original function and continues to be a center of black community life which has become more dispersed since 1950. As an example of its function as a community focal point the name "Hall Corner" was used as the name of a black community newsletter in the late 1980s.

The commercial space has been the home of Gaston and Smith plumbing supply since the mid-twentieth century. The business no longer operates, although much of the inventory remains in the building. The upper floor continues to function as a masonic hall.

Masonic Lodge No. 238 is significant in architecture as a good, intact example of a multiple-use commercial building with retail space on the street level and a large meeting space on the second level. During the late 19th and early 20th century, it was common for fraternal organizations to occupy the top floor of a commercial building. This building retains these spatial arrangements.

The building is also significant in architecture as a good example of an early 20th century commercial building with Commercial Vernacular Victorian detailing, such as its brick pilasters on the front facade, brick ornamentation above the second floor windows, and its stepped parapet. Other intact features include the original windows and doors, wood floors, raised platforms on the second floor, and wood ceilings on first floor.

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Section 8

The building is significant in social history and ethnic heritage: African American because it was built to be a Masonic Hall for the black community and has retained this use today. It was the focal point for the black community that surrounded it and is one of the last remaining commercial building from that community. The members of the lodge were the leaders of the black community and thus the lodge served as a unifying feature for the small community, and still does today.

The building significant in terms of commerce as it is one of the last commercial building in what was once a thriving commercial area for the surrounding black community. Although no longer in use, the first floor once housed a barber shop, grocery store, and plumbing supply store.

National Register Criteria

Masonic Lodge No. 238 meets Criteria A and C as a good example of an early-20th century multiple-use commercial building with Commercial Vernacular Victorian detailing and for its significance in the African-American, social, and commercial history of Dalton and Whitfield County.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

Masonic Lodge No. 238 was constructed in c.1915.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Masonic Lodge No. 238 is the only contributing resource.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Easley, C.M. "Masonic Lodge #238," Historic Property Information Form, March 1993. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

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

- () 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:

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

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 685960 Northing 3848760

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries include the Masonic Lodge No. 238 building and the land on which it sits which is a 50' X 80' city lot, indicated on the enclosed tax map with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary represents the historic and current legal boundaries of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth St., NW
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** December 28, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

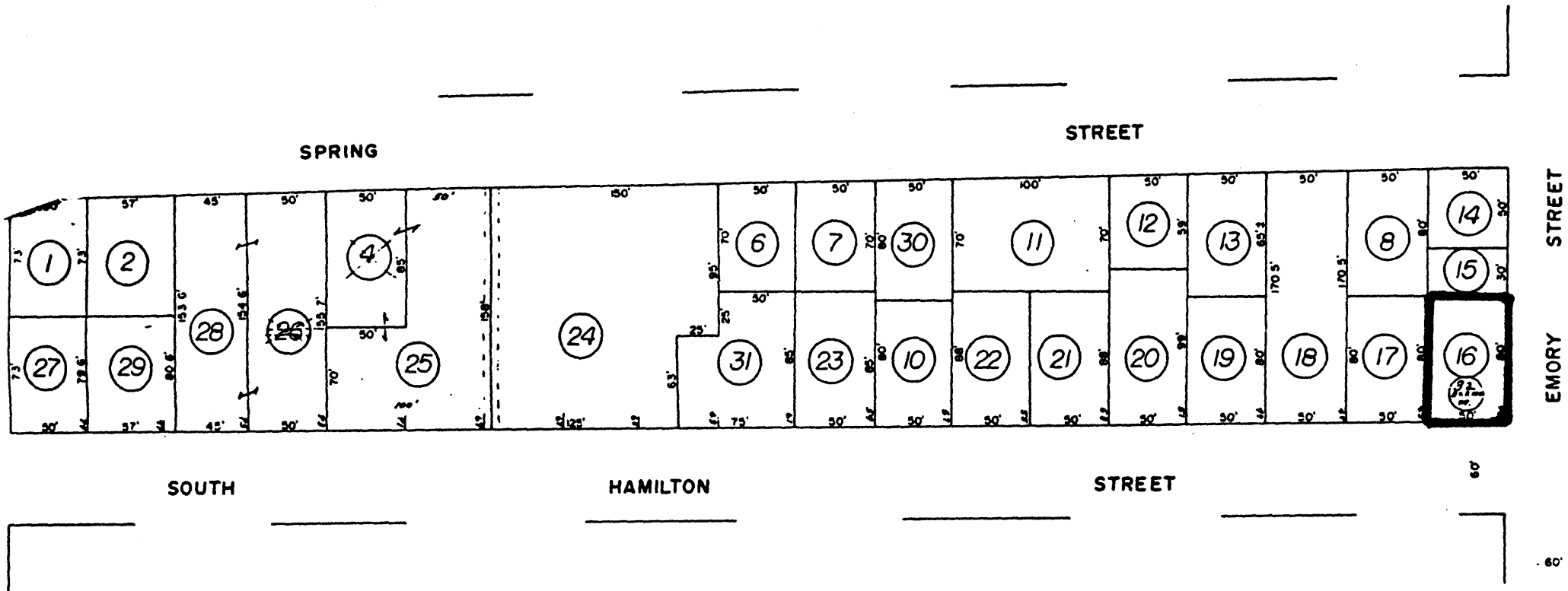
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet


Photographs

Name of Property: Masonic Lodge No. 238
City or Vicinity: Dalton
County: Whitfield
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1994

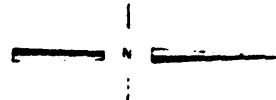
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 11: Front and north facades of Masonic Lodge No. 238; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 11: Front and south facades; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 11: Detail of front facade; photographer facing west and up.
- 4 of 11: Rear and north facades; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 11: Detail of north facade showing single-door entrances; photographer facing south.
- 6 of 11: Detail of northeast corner of building showing corner stone; photographer facing southwest.
- 7 of 11: Front portion of first floor; photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 11: Rear portion of first floor, looking toward front of building; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 11: Rear portion of first floor; photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 11: Second floor meeting room showing raised platforms; photographer facing east-northeast.
- 11 of 11: Second floor meeting rooms showing raised platforms and doors; photographer facing west.



Masonic Lodge No. 238
 Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia
 Tax Map
 National Register Boundary: 
 Scale: 1" = 100'

North: 



BLOCK MAP NO. 81
 LAND LOT NO. 238-12TH

PHOTO: 266-48 8 PARCEL 2