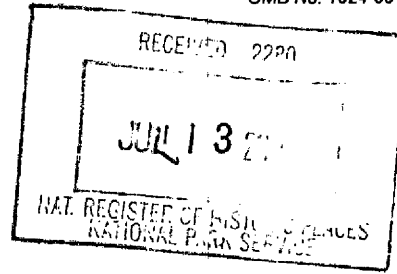


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Falls City Masonic Hall

Other names/site number Fall City Masonic Lodge Hall; King County HRI #0367

2. Location

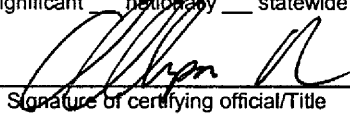
street & number 4304 337th Place SE not for publication

city or town Fall City vicinity

State Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98024

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 of certifying official/Title

7/7/04
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

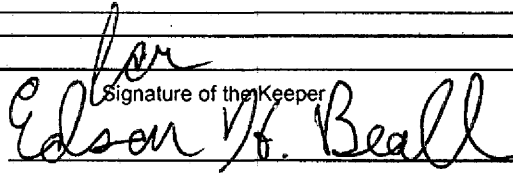
Date

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 of the Keeper

8/25/04
Date of Action

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 incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

N/A

6. Functions 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)

OTHER

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD

walls WOOD

roof METAL

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 patterns of our history.
- B** Property is 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1895

Significant Dates

1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (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 (OAHP)
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- # _____
- 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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>583 550</u> Easting	<u>526 8535</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Falls City Masonic Hall is located on lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 9, in the Fall City Addition. The parcel no. is 247590-0685.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area includes the Falls City Masonic Hall built in 1895 and the entire legal parcel on which it has been located since the time of construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Sodt/Kate Krafft

organization King County Historic Preservation Program date June 2003

street & number 516 Third Avenue, Rm E-550 telephone (206) 296-8689

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98104

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Falls City Lodge, No. 66, F. & A.M. (Dick Meredith)

street & number 4304 337th Place SE telephone (206) 849-8431

city or town Fall City state WA zip code 98024

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National Park Service

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Section number 7

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Falls City Masonic Hall, built in 1895, stands at the heart of Fall City, a small rural community in the Snoqualmie River Valley in western Washington. The prominent two-story building rises above the peaks and gables of the surrounding homes and has been a visual landmark in the area since its construction. Its simple wood-frame construction echoes a time when the timber industry prevailed, providing employment for many of the community's residents.

Setting

The building is located within the original plat of the Fall City town site, near the southeast corner of the intersection of SE 43rd and 337th Place SE, with the primary façade oriented west and immediately adjacent to 337th Place SE. An open lawn area otherwise surrounds the building. It is a short distance from two important commercial thoroughfares, Redmond-Fall City Road (SR 202) and the Preston-Fall City Road. A small, one-story wood frame house, also owned by the Lodge, is located on the parcel immediately to the south of the subject building. The surrounding residential area is comprised primarily of turn-of-the-century and early 20th century residences. The remarkably well-preserved physical context for the subject building includes large, open residential lots with carefully tended gardens, wide streets without sidewalks, the scenic meander of the Snoqualmie River that cradles the northern edge of the community, and vistas of the fir-clad lower Cascades.

Exterior

The Falls City Masonic Hall is a two-story wood-frame building. It is rectangular in plan measuring approximately 36 X 77 feet. The building has a front-gabled, moderately steep pitched roof and is clad in rustic/shiplap siding with corner boards. The foundation is primarily composed of a wooden post and pier system. The façade is distinguished by a full-width porch, with a hipped roof supported by square posts set on a concrete stoop. A full two-story addition was built in 1920, which extended the building approximately ten feet to the east/rear. A small single-story attached shed with a gable roof was added to the east elevation in 1947. The Masonic Hall has been re-painted according to the historic color scheme of light gray, with light beige window surrounds and black muntins.

The main roof and porch roof that are now covered with metal standing seam roofing, were originally clad with cedar shingles. The main roof has broad eaves with soffits and gable-end cornice returns. A brick chimney is located on the north slope of the main roof. A fire escape with piano hoist, added in 1922, is located at the east end of the north elevation. The fire escape is covered with a gabled roof also clad in metal roofing. The small addition on the east elevation is also clad with metal roofing.

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Fenestration on the primary façade consists of individual six-over-six, double-hung wooden windows with simple architrave molding. The first floor level of the façade features two wood panel doors with eight light transoms that are flanked by sets of six-over-six double-hung windows. Four windows are located above at the second story level, a central pair flanked to each side by single windows. The south elevation has ten windows, four two-over-two randomly spaced on the second floor and three two-over-two on the first floor (one is boarded over); two slightly smaller one-over-one windows located on the rear portion (1920 addition); and a single, small fixed paned window. The north elevation consists of four two-over-two and one small fixed pane window. Three windows, including the small fixed paned window are located on the second floor, and one window is located on the first floor; for a period of time all of the windows on the north elevation were boarded over. The north elevation also includes two wood panel doors, located on the 1920 addition, at the top and bottom of the old piano hoist. The rear elevation has a single two-over-two window. The two gable ends exhibit vent openings with simple architrave molding. The small 1947 rear addition includes a five-panel door on the north elevation.

Interior

The interior spatial configuration, features and finishes of the building remain highly intact and clearly reflect the original construction. The first floor contains an entry hall with a landing and stairwell leading to the second floor level. The hallway extends eastward, along which are two restrooms, and terminates in the kitchen area. The shed addition is used for storage and furnace purposes. A large meeting hall runs the length of the north side of the first floor of the building. A serving area has been cut into the wall between the meeting hall and the kitchen area. The entire ground floor level exhibits original fir floors, four-panel doors, and beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot and plaster walls. The west end of the second floor contains a vestibule, anterooms, storage areas and a small restroom; however, the majority of the second floor level serves as a large formal meeting room. The second floor level also exhibits original fir floors (portions are now covered with carpeting), four-panel doors and beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot, and miscellaneous running and standing trim. The formal meeting room exhibits a raised dais on both the east and west ends and both the north and south walls are lined with built-in benches that wrap around at the west end of the space.

Evolution/Alterations

The building has undergone some alterations since its initial construction in 1895. In 1920 the previously noted two-story addition was added to the east end of the building in order to accommodate larger groups, and a few years later a small shed was added for fuel storage. The small shed addition was replaced with the current addition in 1947. The building was wired for electricity in approximately 1918. A gas furnace was installed in 1989. Most of these alterations were made during the historic period and represent the evolution of the

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building in response to the needs of the Lodge members; these changes may be considered to have significance in their own right and are not regarded as intrusive.

The original cedar shingle roof of the Fall City Masonic Hall was replaced with a standing-seam metal roof. Additionally, the original post and beam foundation has been partially stabilized with a concrete perimeter on the south elevation. In recent years, Lodge members have undertaken efforts to restore and repair some architectural features. Projects have included the removal of boards that had been placed over most of the windows and repair of damaged interior plasterwork. Overall, alterations and changes to the building have not affected its historic character and are minimal in nature.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Falls City Masonic Hall is significant under Criterion A as a well-preserved community building that is directly associated with events that have contributed to the social history of the upper Snoqualmie River Valley. Constructed by and for the Falls City Masonic Lodge No. 66 between March and December of 1895, the building replaced an earlier meeting place that was destroyed by fire. While the Masons continue to meet there on a monthly basis, the hall currently serves as a community meeting place for a number of local groups and organizations. The Fall City Masonic Hall is also significant under Criterion C as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a social meeting hall, emblematic of the settlement of the American West. The building's visual prominence as well as the important role the Masonic Lodge has played in local history further strengthen its architectural and historic significance.

Community Historic Context

Ancestors of the Snoqualmie Tribe were the earliest known inhabitants of the Snoqualmie River Valley. Their larger territory included the wooded river valley floor, forested foothills, lakes and prairies that were abundant with wild game, fish, marine life, berries, and bulbs. Snoqualmie Falls, with its 268-foot waterfall and misty plunge pool, played an essential role in the mythological and spiritual life of these native people. The upper river band of the Snoqualmie occupied some 58 multi-family houses along the Snoqualmie River between its confluence with the Tolt River, near Carnation, and Snoqualmie Falls. The largest of these villages was Yetsk, with some 18 longhouses located along both sides of the Snoqualmie and the Raging River, at the present site of Fall City. Both ethnographic and archaeological evidence support the existence of an important village here, one that continued to be occupied well into the historic period. At the north end of Mill Street (335th Place SE) was a gathering ground on the river flat where people came from miles around for seasonal trading, feasting, gaming and dancing. Anecdotal stories continue to be told of the Indian interaction with Euro-Americans during early settlement of this area.

In 1869, three bachelors staked quarter-section donation land claims to the future town site of Fall City. Here at the juncture of the Snoqualmie and Raging rivers, brothers Ed and George Boham built a wilderness trading post on land already cleared and occupied by the Snoqualmie people. The trading post was located at a strategic place - three miles below Snoqualmie Falls at a fordable spot where canoes could easily land along the overland trail to Snoqualmie Pass, the primary route between Puget Sound and Eastern Washington. Jim Taylor, the third newcomer, settled on land just east of the present Preston-Fall City Road. Here he built a split cedar shake cabin, woodshed, and barn, and cleared land for an orchard of apple, pear, plum and peach trees.

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Through the 1870s, other rudimentary subsistence farms were established up and down the river valley. Logging activity flourished in the vicinity of the Fall City settlement. By 1873, Watson Allen built a water-powered sawmill at nearby Tokul Creek, making milled lumber readily available to Fall City settlers. In the same decade, flatbottom steamboats plied the river as far as "The Landing" at Fall City. The river served as the tiny community's lifeline to supplies and to markets on Puget Sound.

In the 1880s, subsistence farming in the region gave way to a short-lived hop-farming boom. The upper valley bustled with the production of hop poles, and the planting, harvesting, and shipment of hops. The hop industry enabled Fall City settlers to establish a more permanent community, and they constructed more substantial dwellings and outbuildings. The hop industry was subsequently destroyed by insect infestations in the late 1890s, however by then conditions were ripe for the advent of berry, chicken and dairy farming.

In 1885 the Seattle, Lake Shore, and Eastern Railroad (SLS & E Railroad) was formed to build a line east from Seattle across Snoqualmie Pass to join transcontinental lines at Spokane. News of the rail construction created great excitement among residents of the Snoqualmie Valley in the late 1880s. In hopes of attracting the rail line into Fall City, two Fall City landowners took action in the summer of 1887. Jeremiah and Kate Borst, who had purchased the Boham Brothers' property in 1875, platted the town site of Fall City on August 23rd of that year. The Borsts and their neighbors gave the streets of the new town logical names that reflected the natural setting, the people, and the business of the community.

The SLS & E Railroad line was completed to Fall City in 1888 and terminated at Sallal Prairie above North Bend in 1889. In order to more easily make the grade to the upper valley, the alignment was established along the hillside south of town. The railroad quickly supplanted the Snoqualmie River as the major mode of travel into the valley. Freight and passengers could easily make the trip to and from Seattle. Mail arrived daily by train.

In the last decade of the 19th century, Fall City grew from a tiny settlement to a small village with thriving businesses and social institutions. Two stores, a hotel, a livery, a restaurant, and a saloon served residents and travelers throughout the valley. Employment was available at the nearby Hop Ranch, several logging camps and lumber mills, and on bridge and rail construction projects. Travelers and salesmen arrived by train adding to the economic momentum of the late 1890s.

As Fall City grew, it developed a number of economic, social, and cultural institutions commonly associated with the establishment of small towns in the American West including the formation of the Falls City Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington.

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Other major institutional buildings that were erected within the Fall City plat during this period include a Lyceum Hall, three successive school buildings, the Odd Fellows Hall, and the Fall City Baptist Church. By 1900, Fall City was listed in the U.S. Census records with a population of 402.

Freemasonry in Fall City

Efforts to establish a Masonic Lodge at Fall City began in 1889. Among the early residents of the Valley who were active in forming the Lodge were Almus and Davis Rutherford (Almus later served as a King County Commissioner), Edwin Thompson of Fall City, Dr. William Gibson of Gilman (now Issaquah), and Fred Bagwell of Tolt (now Carnation). In his book *One Hundred Years of Masonry in Fall City*, Ed Opstad provides a detailed account of the formation of the Lodge and how its initial name came to be slightly different from that of the town. Opstad described the contents of a hand written note dated February 1, 1890, from Grand Master W.A. Fairweather to Grand Secretary Thomas M. Reed: "I will send you today by N.P. Express, petition, recommendation (sic), and fee, 100.00 for a new lodge at Falls (sic) City King Co..." (Opstad 1990:2) The name Falls City Masonic Lodge continues to be used, and the building continues to be owned by the Falls City Lodge No. 66, F. & A.M. [It should be noted that the 1889 census records listed the town as Falls City].

The first meeting of the Lodge took place on February 21, 1890 in the hall above Taylor's store on River Street, just blocks from where the subject building would later be built. As Opstad described, "Among the decisions attendant to forming the lodge was selection of the meeting night. Because of the difficulty in traveling at night, it was common practice at that time for lodges to meet on a night near the full moon. Such lodges were termed "Moon Lodges." In accordance with that practice, the organizers of the Falls City Lodge decided to meet on the Saturday on or next preceding the full moon. Falls City Lodge continued to be a "Moon Lodge" until 1920." (Opstad 1990:3)

On September 2, 1894 a fire destroyed Taylor's store and all of the property of the young Lodge including the charter, Lodge records, and regalia. Meetings were moved to the nearby Odd Fellows Hall and for a short period there was discussion of purchasing the hall. This idea was abandoned for unknown reasons and a building committee was established in January of 1895 to consider construction of a new building.

On March 9, 1895 the Lodge accepted the committee's recommendation and "voted to proceed at once to prepare for a new Lodge room." (Opstad 1990:8) Construction of the building was completed in December 1895 at a cost of \$500. All of the labor was donated. On January 25, 1896 the Lodge held its first regular meeting in its new quarters.

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The Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons is one of a number of fraternal organizations inextricably linked with the social and cultural history of the United States. Like most fraternal organizations, the Freemasons provided a means by which members could reach out and provide support to one another and to the larger community. Opstad observed, "Throughout the history of the Falls City Lodge, charity has been a concern of its members," and "most instances of charity took the form of work done for members, widows, or others needing assistance." (Opstad 1990:34)

Early in its history the Lodge responded to requests for assistance from other lodges for victims of disasters. Since then the Lodge has assisted in a wide array of local activities ranging from sponsorship of a boy scout troop in Fall City, to sponsorship of dances, proceeds of which have gone to various causes such as relief of a widow of a late master of the Lodge. Opstad described the establishment of a charity fund in 1986, "The fund is set up to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service so that donations to it are deductible on the donor's income tax return. Initial money for the fund was raised at a pancake breakfast conducted in conjunction with Fall City Days." (Opstad 1990:34) The pancake breakfast remains today a much-loved community event.

Collectively, the efforts of the Falls City Masonic Lodge over its 100-year history have been of great importance in promoting the welfare of this small community. Lodge activities have been integral to providing members and local residents alike with the sense of belonging and community that are so important to the health of communities over time; and the subject building aptly symbolizes the significance of the Lodge's contribution to Fall City's community life.

Architectural Context

The Masonic Hall contributes significantly to the visual character of Fall City. A highly intact example of vernacular architecture, the straightforward simplicity of its design is a reflection of the era, its geographic location, and the men and materials that built it. The building stands prominently within a residential neighborhood to the south of the commercial area along the Redmond-Fall City Road (SR 202). Its vertical form, size and scale make it a highly visible part of the community.

Furthermore, the building is one of a dwindling number of relatively unaltered, late 19th century, small town fraternal halls in King County. Its floor plan, building form and fenestration are clearly expressive of its function as a community and fraternal meeting place. The intact interior further reflects the traditional and symbolic uses of these spaces, from public entryway, community social hall and kitchen on the ground floor to the anterooms and "secret" meeting hall on the second floor. All of these essential spaces remain intact and continue to be regularly used for their original purposes.

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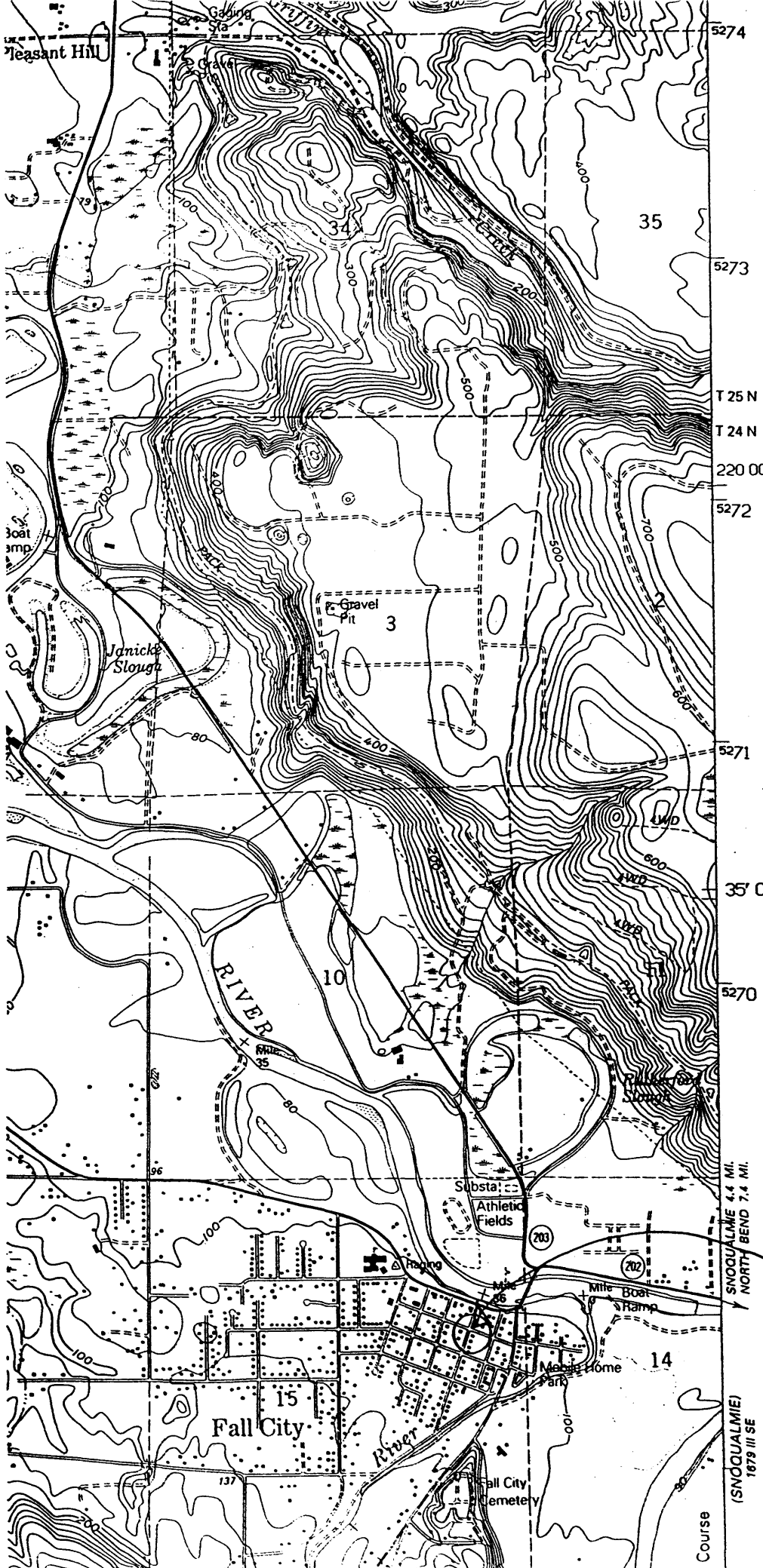
Opstad, Ed. *One Hundred Years of Masonry in Fall City.* All Night Printery, Inc. Federal Way, WA. 1990.

FALL CITY, WASH.

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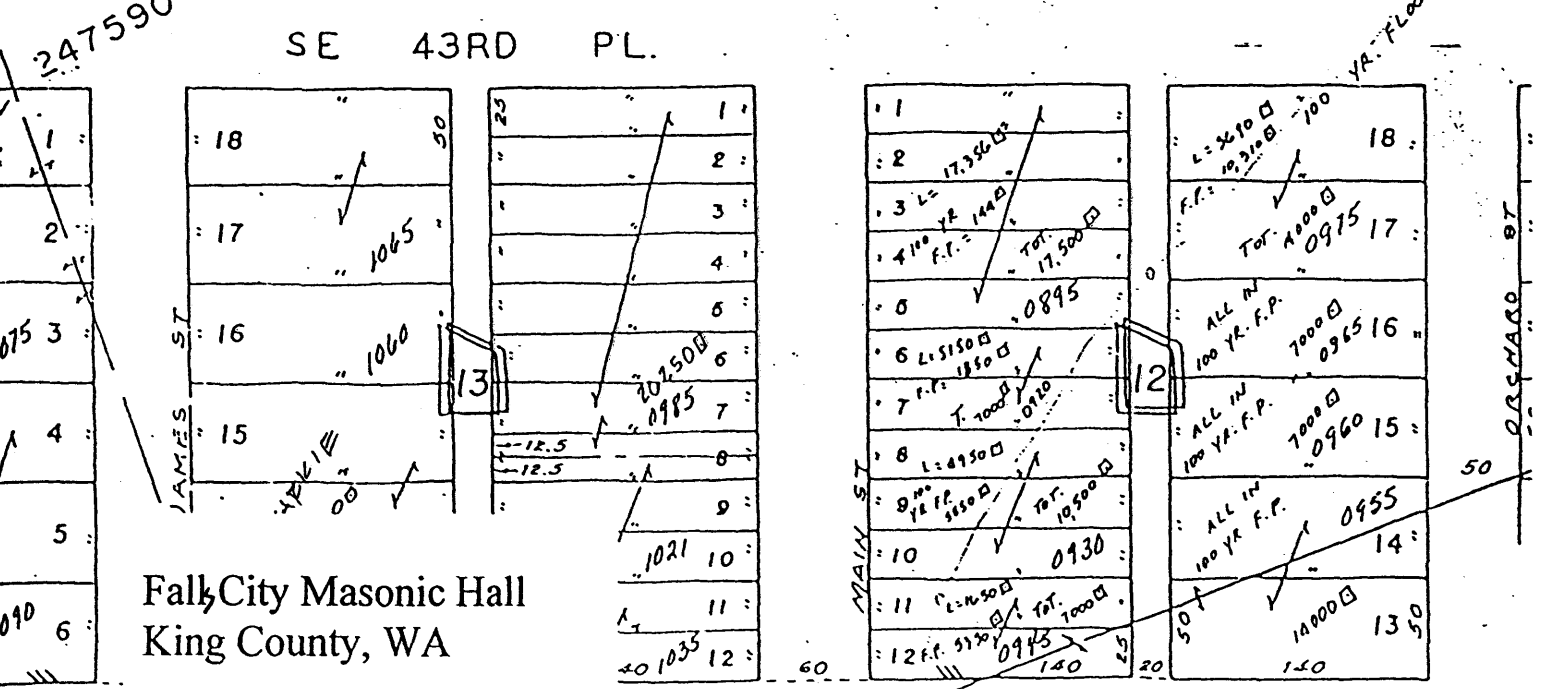
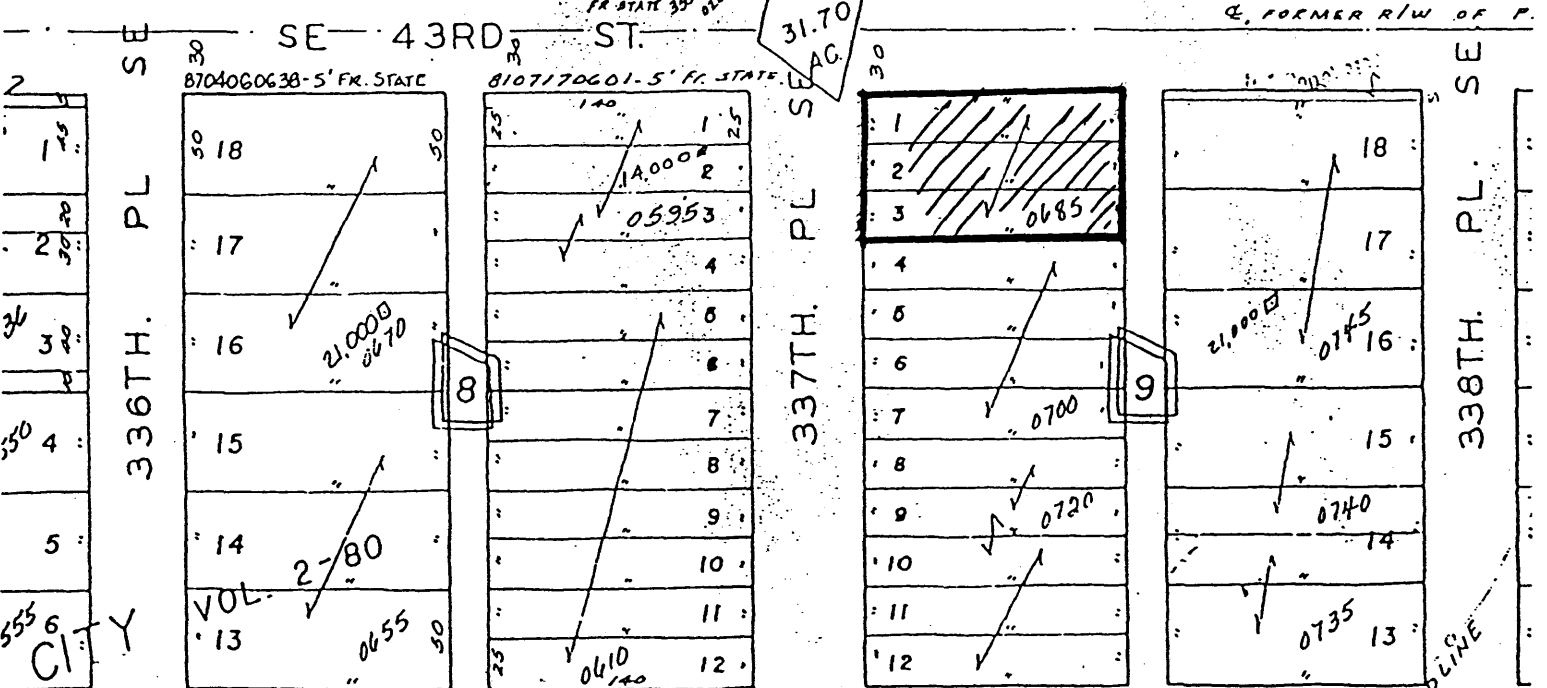
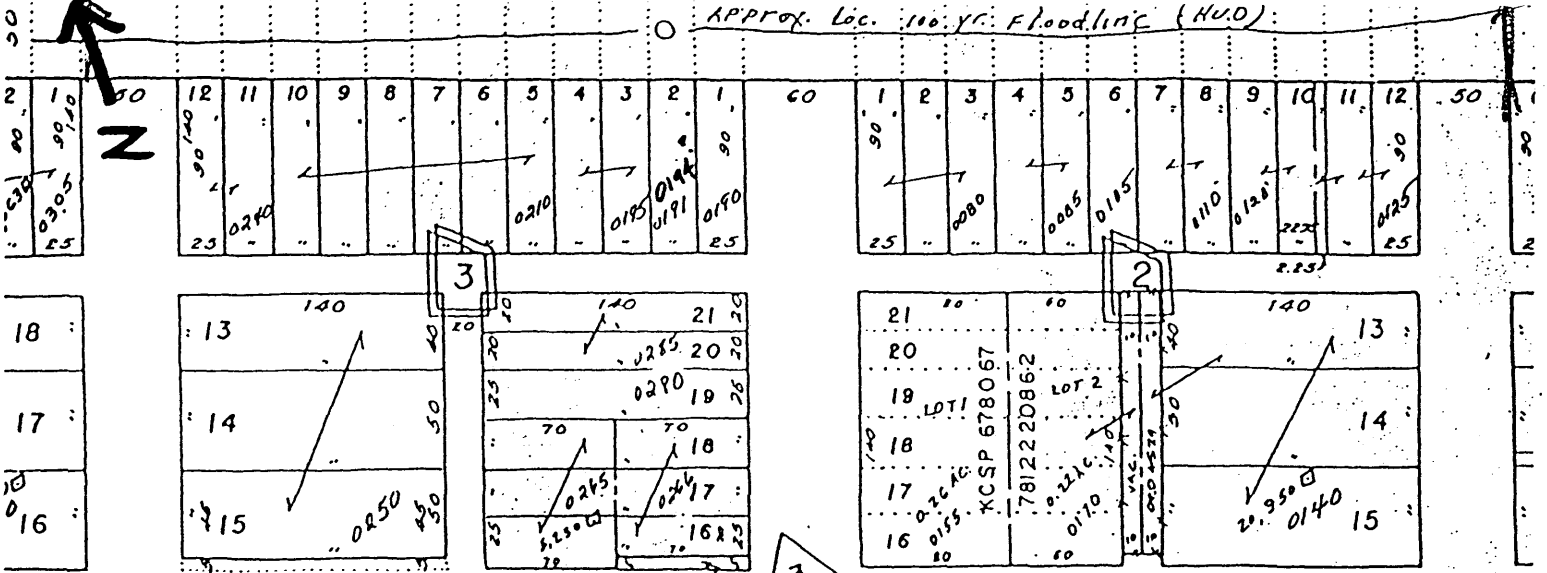
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FALL CITY
 MASONIC HALL
 33700 SE 43RD ST.
 FALL CITY, WA 98024

UTM E: 503550
 N: 920855



Falk City Masonic Hall
King County, WA

DRS.M.A.C. BT

100 YR. FLOODLINE

N

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336TH PL
CITY

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31.70
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SE 43RD ST
337TH PL

SE 43RD ST
338TH PL

247590

SE 43RD PL

JAMES ST

MAIN ST

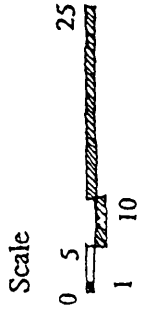
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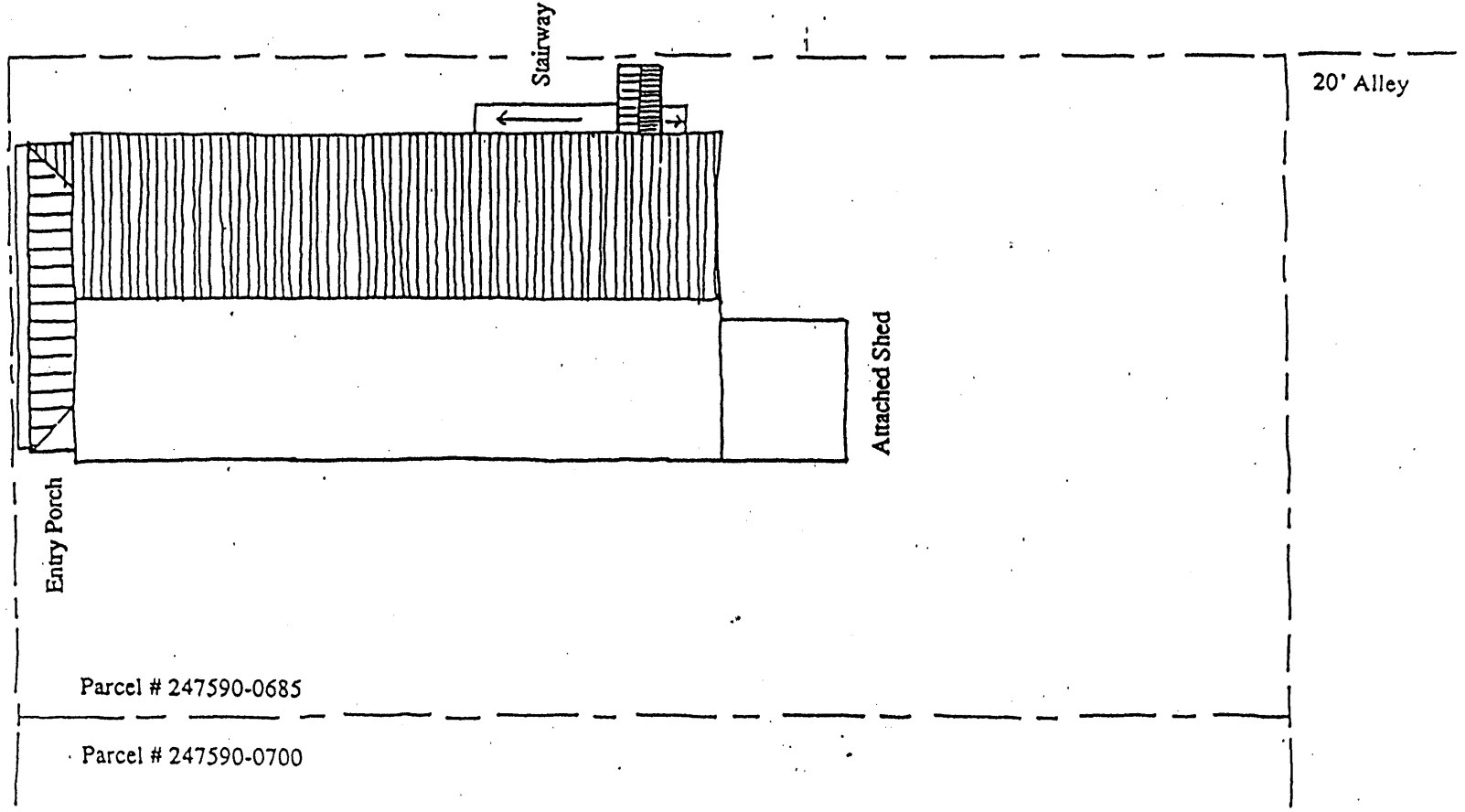
Fall City Masonic Hall

NORTH ▼

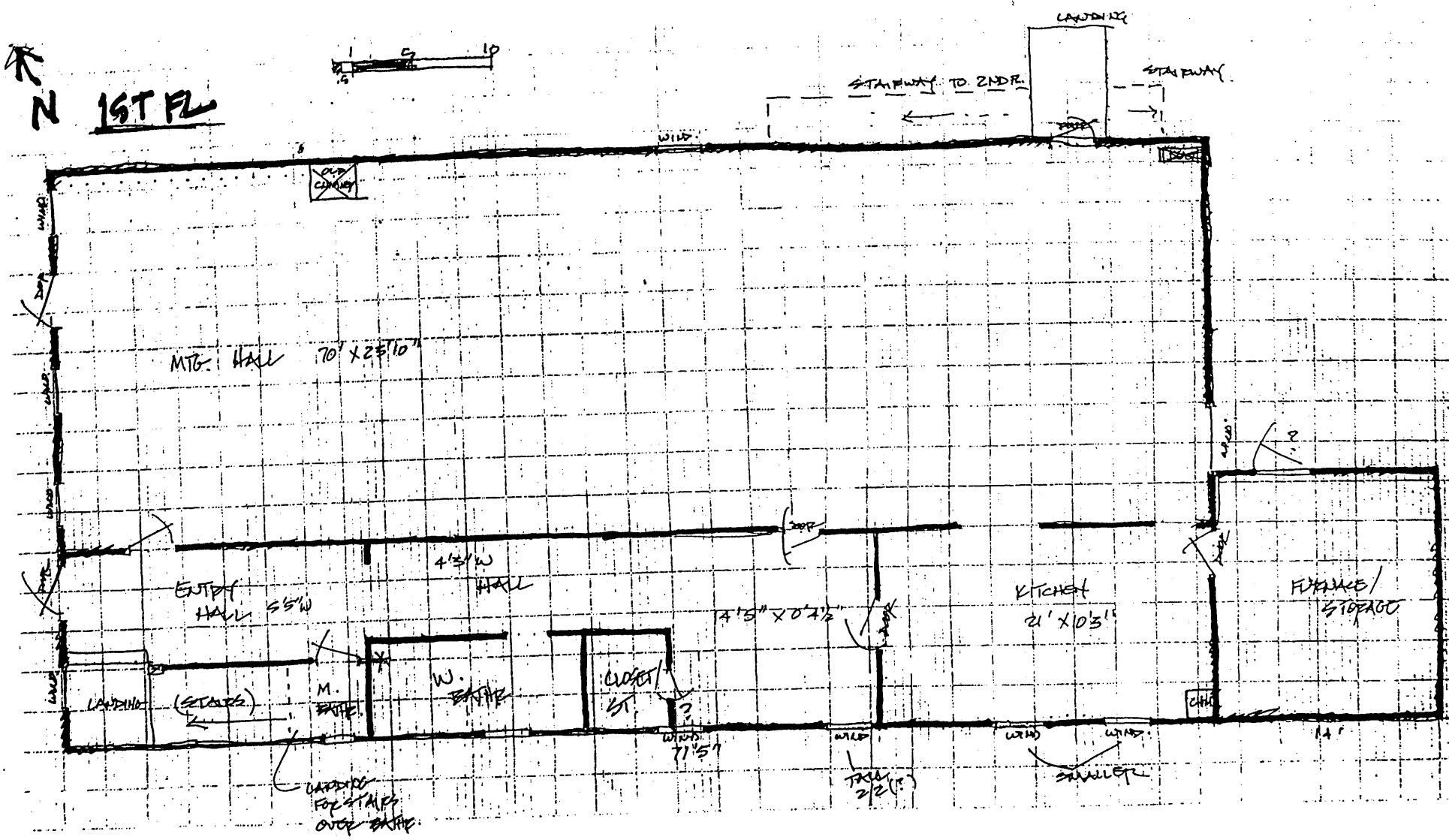
Site Plan



337th Place SE (Main Street)



N ↑
1ST FL



Fall City Masonic Hall
King County, WA

DATE: 10/17/04
BY: [illegible]
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"
DRAWN BY: [illegible]

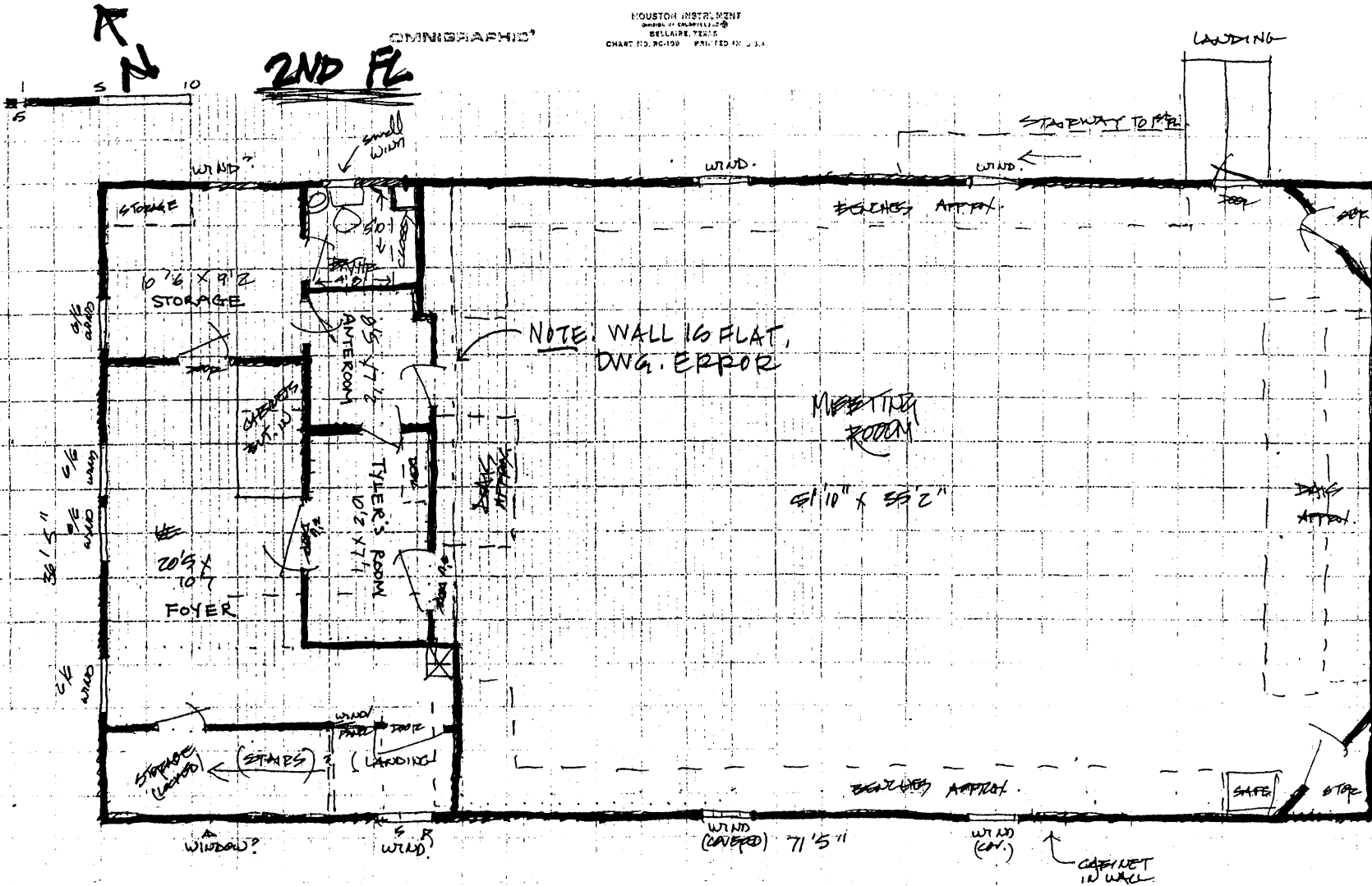
OMNIGRAPHIC

HOUSTON INSTRUMENT
DIVISION OF EMERYVILLE
BELLAMY, YEARS
CHART NO. RC-100 PRINTED IN U.S.A.

LANDING

CLANNES

2ND FL



Fall City Masonic Hall
King County, WA