

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 12 1987

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

FEB 1987

1. Name

historic Masonic Hall

and/or common Farmington Community Center

2. Location

street & number Corner of Main & Second Streets not for publication

city, town Farmington vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Whitman code 075

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Farmington

street & number P.O. Box 65

city, town Farmington vicinity of state Washington 99128

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Whitman County Courthouse

street & number 404 North Main Street

city, town Colfax state Washington 99111

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Washington State Inventory of
title Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town 111 W. 21st Ave., KL-11, Olympia state Washington 98504-5411

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Masonic Hall in Farmington, Washington, is a wood frame fraternal lodge constructed in 1906 on the main street of a small agricultural trade center in northeastern Whitman County. Located on a tree-lined double lot across from the city park, the structure is designed in a vernacular Neoclassical style and maintains excellent integrity. The building is the most prominent and best preserved historic structure in the community.

The Masonic Hall is a two story, rectangular structure with a gable roof. The building rests on a fieldstone foundation and is sheathed in drop siding. A projecting cornice, supported by carved brackets and plain frieze board, underscores the eaves. The bracketed cornice extends across the gable ends, creating temple-like pediments. The gable ends are sided in decorative wood shingles cut in diamond, scallop, and square butt patterns. The raking cornice is decorated with vergeboards and the gable peaks feature lacy wooden jigsaw ornament. The original shingle roof was replaced with metal roofing in 1975.

The classical design of the hall is reinforced by symmetrical fenestration. Tall one-over-one wood sash windows are framed in wood surrounds with projecting hood molds. The windows are regularly disposed across the building, with five window bays on the front facade, four across the rear elevation, and two window bays on the side elevations. A broad one story porch on the front facade shelters the main entry. The mansard porch roof, sided with wood shingles, has a bracketed cornice and is supported by two Tuscan pillars and two unfluted Ionic columns. Double, panelled wood doors provide access into the entry hall.

The interior of the hall retains the original floor plan. The exterior double doors lead to a large wood panelled reception lobby with stairs at either end. Interior double doors lead to the first floor auditorium, a large undivided space with plaster walls and simple baseboard moldings. The upper hall, which has a small raised platform at one end, features baseboard and chair rail moldings. Interior restrooms were added in 1946 (although the original outhouse remains at the rear of the property). Other interior remodelings include the installation of carpeting and acoustical tile ceilings in 1956. A one story frame outhouse, with gable roof and horizontal siding, is located immediately northeast of the hall and retains good integrity. It is considered a contributing element in the nomination.

Total number of primary contributing resources: 1 (hall)

Total number of ancillary contributing resources: 1 (outhouse)

Total number of noncontributing resources: 0

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1908 **Builder/Architect** Dr. John F. Grimm

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Masonic Hall in Farmington, Washington, is among the best preserved examples of a fraternal lodge in rural Whitman County. Constructed in 1908, and used as a lodge until 1985, the frame building is distinguished by a vernacular Neoclassical design attributed to a locally prominent doctor. The hall is characterized by a pedimented gable roof with bracketed cornice and broad front porch supported by pillars and columns--classical elements which introduce a monumental quality to the small town streetscape and recall an era when Farmington was an important trade center in the Palouse region.

Farmington, located in northeastern Whitman County, was first settled in the 1870s. The townsite was conveniently located to both Idaho timberlands and Washington wheat fields and by the 1880s the town was the site of lumber mills and a regional rail yard. By the 1890s, however, the railroad moved its roundhouse to Tekoa and the population and fortunes of Farmington began to decline. Fires in the 1890s and early 20th century destroyed many of the structures associated with the community's boom years. Nevertheless, a small commercial center remained and provided social opportunities and services to the surrounding wheat farmers. In 1906, for example, a Masonic lodge was organized and a meeting hall was built on the main street.

Two years later, the hall was consumed by fire and the lodge prepared to construct a new facility, financed by insurance money, donations from members, and voluntary labor. The lodge traded the two lots where the destroyed structure stood for two lots owned by the Paddock family on the north side of the street. Dr. John F. Grimm, a lodge member, was selected to design the new facility and a foreman was hired to supervise the construction. The members, however, provided most of the labor themselves.

The first meeting in the new lodge was held December 19, 1908, in a joint ceremony with the Order of the Eastern Star and guests from the surrounding area. The official dedication was held the following spring--April 3, 1909--with the District Deputy Grand Master and other Grand Officers present. The hall remained in continuous use by the lodge until 1985, but over the years many Farmington civic groups used the hall for meetings and other activities. In 1985, the structure was donated to the city, which hopes to restore the structure for use as a town hall and community center. According to a recent survey of historic buildings in Whitman County, the Masonic Hall is "perhaps the best preserved historic lodge hall in the county" and the town's most prominent reminder of an era when Farmington was a center of trade.

¹Peterson and Reed, Historic Survey of Whitman County: Final Report, OAHF, 1986.

"Historic Property Inventory Form: Masonic Lodge Hall", OAHF, 1986.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Keith Peterson and Mary Reed, Historic Survey of Whitman County: Final Report, OAHP, 1986.

Albert Leonard, "History of Farmington Masonic Hall," unpublished typescript, OAHP, 1986.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less Than one

Quadrangle name Farrmington, WA (7.5)

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	1
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 Zone

4	9	6	6	2	0
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 Easting

5	2	1	4	9	7	0
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 Northing

B

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 Zone

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 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

C

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 Zone

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 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

D

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 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

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 Northing

E

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

F

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

G

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

H

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 4, Lot 5 & 6, Town of Farmington Original Plat

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state n/a code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Royce Johnson, Mayor; Edited by Leonard Garfield, OAHP
Dick Danto, Colleen Duty, Randy Fisher, and Jack Trimble, Councilmen

organization Town of Farmington date April 14, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 65 telephone (509) 287-2221

city or town Farmington state Washington 98128

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jacob E. Shaw

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 23, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 2-12-87

for
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

TOWN OF FARRINGTON
Box 65
Farrington, Washington 99128

This is a copy of the postcards made at the completion of the Hall



Exhibit 1 - Rogers
C4 Rogers

Note the Architecture on save
areas ornate & original on Proj + porch

Masonic Hall, Farrington, Whitman County, WA. March, 23, 1909. Photographer unknown. Location of negative unknown.