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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 Masonic Hall, Old

other names/site number Community House; Chamber of Commerce

2. Location

street & number 311 West Park Street N/A not for publication

city or town Louisville N/A vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Winston code 159 zip code 39339

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul January 21, 1994  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of 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 the 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Gregory M. Rapson Entered in the National Register Date of Action 2/25/94

Masonic Hall, Old  
Name of Property

Winston County, Mississippi  
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
	1	structures
		objects
1	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. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall  
EDUCATION: school

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: organizational  
OTHER: Community Center

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls weatherboard  
roof asphalt  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1851

**Significant Dates**

1851

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Smyth, Samuel Washington

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**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 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
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Masonic Hall, Old  
Name of Property

Winston County, Mississippi  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 0.45 acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6
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3	0	8	1	6	0
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3	6	6	6	5	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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 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 Nora Gay Hendrix/Secretary (Edited by Brenda R. Crook, Architectural Historian,  
Mississippi Department of Archives & History)

organization Chamber of Commerce date August 20, 1993

street & number 311 West Park Street telephone (601) 773-3921

city or town Louisville state MS zip code 39339

#### 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 City of Louisville

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Masonic Hall, Old  
Louisville, Winston County, MS

Section number 7 Page 1

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Facing north onto Park Street in downtown Louisville, the Old Masonic Hall is a two-story, frame, side-gabled, Greek Revival building. The main facade is divided into five bays by monumental pilasters that support a full entablature. The lower level contains a central, double-leaf entrance of panelled and glazed doors topped by a seven-light transom, while the other four bays of this level and the five bays of the upper level contain nine-over-nine, double-hung windows. Added in 1965, the one-story, full-width porch features a brick deck at ground level with four brick steps leading to the entrance, Doric columns resting on brick pedestals, and a hip roof.

The east elevation is framed by monumental corner pilasters supporting a full entablature. The gable is pedimented, and the tympanum is clad in flushboard and contains a semi-circular ventilator with key-stone. The three-bay wide elevation features a central double-leaf entrance with panelled and glazed doors crowned by a seven-light transom and protected by a gable roof supported by brackets. Window openings are nine-over-nine, double-hung windows.

The west elevation is framed by monumental corner pilasters supporting a full entablature. The lower story contains only one opening--a central, single-leaf wooden door protected by a flat awning. The upper story contains three nine-over-nine, double-hung windows. The rear (south) elevation, also framed by corner pilasters, has five nine-over-nine, double-hung windows on each level.

Originally the interior consisted of one large room on each floor, but partitions have been erected on the lower level to create office space. On the second floor, a partition has been added to the western end of the space to create a kitchen area.

A gazebo was constructed behind the building in recent years.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Masonic Hall, Old  
Louisville, Winston County, MS

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Old Masonic Hall in Louisville is locally significant in the area of architecture (Criterion C), being a good example of the Greek Revival style. Although a comprehensive survey of Winston County has not yet been conducted, the Old Masonic Hall is one of the very few antebellum structures believed to be extant in the county and the only Greek Revival style building identified to date. In fact, only four antebellum buildings have been identified in the county thus far, and all four are believed to have been constructed by Samuel Washington Smyth. In addition, the Old Masonic Hall in Louisville is one of only four surviving, free-standing, antebellum Masonic Lodge Hall buildings that have been identified in Mississippi as of this date, and of these four, this building is the most architecturally elaborate. The other three are Palmer's Hall in Hesterville, Attala County (1851); Polar Star Lodge Hall in the Handsboro community, which is now part of Gulfport, Harrison County (c. 1852); and the Masonic Hall in Fayette, Jefferson County (1844).

In 1851 Louisville Lodge No. 75, F&AM, contracted with Samuel Washington Smyth to build the Masonic Hall. Smyth was born in South Carolina in 1809 and moved with his family to Winston County about 1838. The other extant buildings constructed by Smyth are all in Louisville and are discussed below:

1. The First Presbyterian Church was built in 1845 as a plain, square clapboard building with a square steeple. In 1920 the building was substantially remodelled in the Neoclassical Revival style, with alterations including the removal of the steeple, the addition of a portico, and the addition of a brick veneer. N.W. Overstreet was the architect in charge of the remodelling.
2. The Foster-Fair House is a "Carolina I-House" built between 1842 and 1852. It retains a good degree of integrity.
3. The Benjamin Franklin Smyth House, begun in 1840 as a single-pen log house with sleeping loft, was enlarged circa 1845 into a hall-and-parlor plan house, with clapboard siding and a full-length gallery added. Benjamin was Samuel Washington Smyth's brother, and it is believed that the two brothers collaborated on the original construction as well as enlargement of this house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Masonic Hall, Old  
Louisville, Winston County, MS

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For the Masonic Hall, Smyth designed an austere two-story structure with simple Greek Revival detailing. The Old Masonic Hall exhibits such Greek Revival features as monumental pilasters delineating the bays of the main facade and the corners of each side elevation, a full entablature trimming the roof, and pedimented gables. Except for the addition of a full-width porch in 1965, the building retains a good degree of architectural integrity.

The upper story of the building was originally used for lodge meetings and the lower story housed the Masonic Female Institute, but was later rented to a teacher to conduct a regular school. The lower floor remained a school until about 1910, when a new school was built. The first story was then used as a community center, housing such events as concerts and plays. In 1922 the building was sold to the City of Louisville and since 1958 has housed the Louisville-Winston County Chamber of Commerce offices and serves as a meeting place for some clubs and organizations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Masonic Hall, Old  
Louisville, Winston County, MS

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hoffman, Jennie. "History of Winston County," 1930s Federal  
Writer's Project, WPA.

Kelleghan, B.J. "I Built This House". 1976.

"Masonic Building Dedication Saturday." Winston County Journal  
(Louisville), June 2, 1978.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.  
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites files. Winston  
County.

## 10. Geographical Data

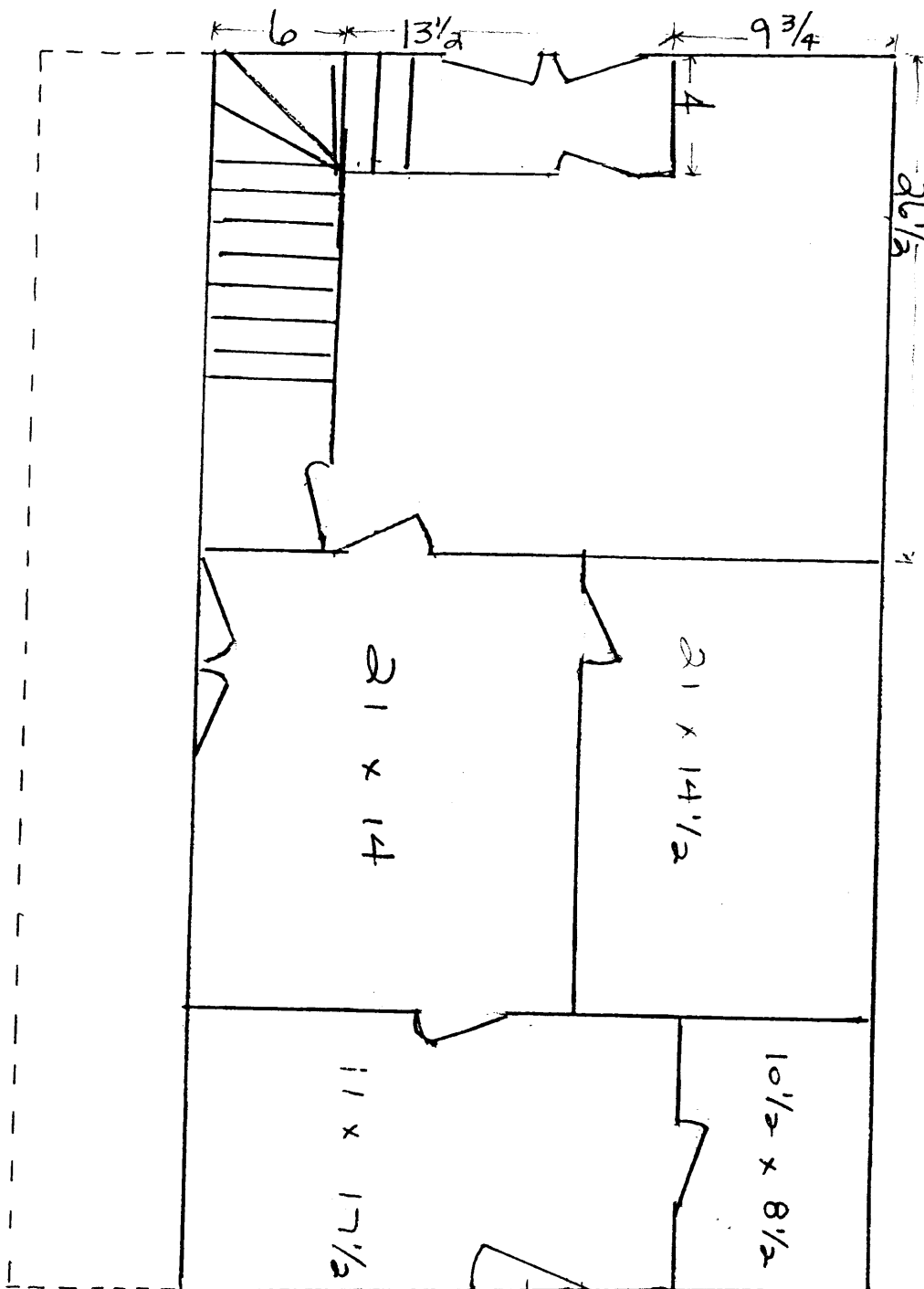
### Verbal Boundary Description:

Commence at the Northeast corner of Block 6 of the Southwest Square according to the official plat of the Town of Louisville; thence run Westerly along the South line of Park Street for a distance of 160.0 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel herein described; thence run South for a distance of 140.0 feet; thence run West for a distance of 140.0 feet; thence run North for a distance of 140.0 feet to the South line of Park Street; thence run East along the South line of Park Street for a distance of 140.0 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 0.45 acre, more or less, situated in the NW 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section 34, Township 15 North, Range 12 East, and being a part of Lot 2 of Block 6 of the Southwest Square according to the official plat of the Town of Louisville, Winston County, Mississippi.

### Boundary Justification:

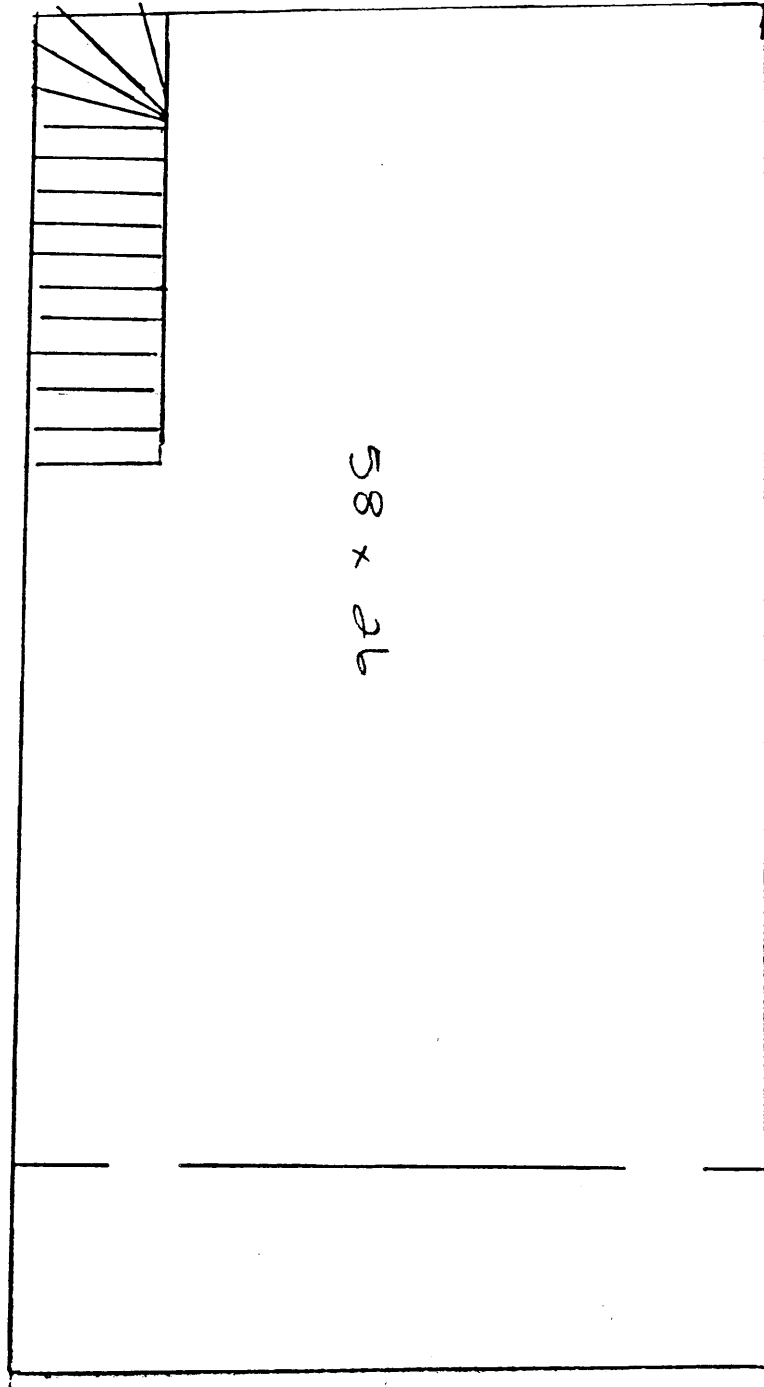
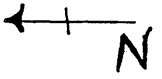
The acreage being nominated is the parcel presently owned by the City of Louisville and which contains only the Old Masonic Hall and gazebo.





1st Floor

Old Masonic Hall, Louisville  
 Winston County, Mississippi



2nd Floor  
Old Masonic Hall, Louisville  
Winston County, Mississippi