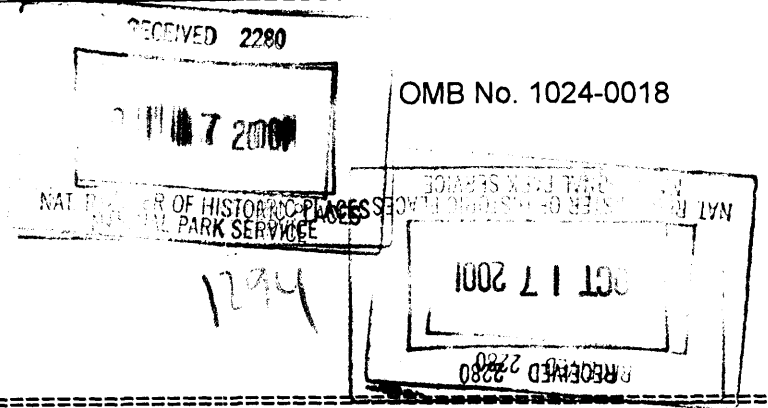


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Crane Hill Masonic Lodge

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 14538 County Road 222 not for publication N/A
city or town Crane Hill vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Cullman code 43 zip code 35053

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 8/31/01
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
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 commenting or other official 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] _____ Date of Action
Edson A. Beall 11/29/01

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Property Name Crane Hill Masonic Lodge
County and State Cullman County, Alabama

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ 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)

Cat: _____	Sub: _____
<u>Social</u>	<u>meeting hall</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>school</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>general store</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____	Sub: _____
<u>Social</u>	<u>meeting hall</u>
_____	<u>civic</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style
other: free standing gable front

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof metal
walls other: cement fiber
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Crane Hill Masonic Lodge
County and State Cullman County, Alabama

=====

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.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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)

Social History _____

Period of Significance 1904 to 1951 _____

Significant Dates 1904 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder Cooper, Philip Aquilla Boone, Robert _____

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS) 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: N/A

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

Name of repository _____

Property Name Crane Hill Masonic Lodge
County and State Cullman County, Alabama

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 1.7

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 16 495960 3772710 3
2 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 Donald H. Ledyard/Trina Binkley, AHC Reviewer

organization Crane Hill Masonic Lodge/Alabama Historical Commission date 1-24-01

street & number 8097 County Road 946/468 South Perry Street telephone 256.747.6384/334.242.3184

city or town Crane Hill/Montgomery state Alabama zip code 35053/36130-0900

=====
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 Crane Hill Masonic Lodge #554, F&AM of Alabama, c/o Donald Ledyard

street & number 8097 County Road 946 telephone 256.747.6384

city or town Crane Hill state Alabama zip code 35053

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Crane Hill Masonic Lodge

Cullman County, Alabama

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SECTION VII. DESCRIPTION

The Crane Hill Masonic Lodge is a simple two-story, frame, free standing gable-front building located in the rural community of Crane Hill in southwest Cullman County, Alabama. Crane Hill lies approximately one and one-half miles east of Crooked Creek which feeds into Lewis Smith Lake on 1.7 acres of land bordering Cullman County Road 222. This highway is the main thoroughfare of the community, which is located in the north central portion of Alabama at the foot of the Appalachian Mountain chain. Cullman County was and is primarily agriculturally based with poultry production currently being a major source of income. The building was constructed in 1904 by Philip Aquilla Cooper, better known as "P. A." in this community, and his assistant Robert Boone.

The site features a flat lot, measuring roughly 220 feet along County Road 222 by 312 feet at its deepest point. The building is situated on the easternmost side of this lot, allowing for a large graveled parking area in the front (south) and western sides. A graveled right-of-way road which was granted by the Lodge, extends from the County Road to two privately owned dwellings to the rear of the Lodge on the north side. Surrounding the building is a roughly landscaped, grass-covered lawn that is void of curb or walkway. To the east and west are wooded areas of pine and oak trees.

The Lodge features a rectangular plan 30 feet wide and 50 feet deep on a concrete block foundation with a front-facing gable roof covered with standing seam metal. The building originally had stone piers, filled in with concrete blocks in 1957 due to sagging; however the piers were removed in recent years and concrete blocks put in their place. Its frame substructure is clad with locally manufactured pine lap siding covered with cement fiber shingles in 1957. Original wood windows were double hung with 4:4 pane arrangements. These were deteriorating and replaced in 1999 with 1:1 double hung metal windows of the same size. The overall mass and form of the building, distinguishing it as a lodge, is very apparent and stands out within the community of Crane Hill.

The front facade (south) contains a centrally-located entrance with double doors, concrete block steps leading up to it, and a front-facing gable roofed stoop above; the second floor contains two windows. A rectangular attic vent is situated at the peak of the front facade. The east elevation contains a series of four windows on both floors, except for the third on the first floor which is a door with wheelchair ramp and small shed-roofed cover over the landing. The rear elevation, north, once contained two window openings on each floor; however, the first floor openings have been covered with cement fiber shingles. The west elevation contains three windows on the first floor (one has been covered by the 1957 shingles) and four on the second floor.

The interior plan and most materials are quite intact. The interior is defined by large, open spaces on both floors: multipurpose use on the first floor and masonic on the second. Floors are tongue and groove wood (partially covered in some areas with carpet and/or linoleum); walls, horizontally laid tongue and groove wood boards; and ceilings, tongue and groove wood boards. The most visible change is the addition of paneling to the walls on the first floor and to the lower third of the Masonic hall walls. Original paneled wood doors, wood surrounds, wood window surrounds and sills, and six inch high wood baseboards can be found throughout. Interestingly, the ceilings in both floors contain a flat central section with canted sections on either side tapering down toward the exterior side walls.

The first floor is distinguished by a large open space with original stairwell immediately on the right and a small closet on the left. The room is divided longitudinally by a large beam supported by three, 14 inch wide chamfered wood posts capped with stepped wood capitals. To the rear of the room, bathrooms (pressed board paneling) and a small open kitchen with counter have been added. The original flue opening is still apparent on the ceiling on the western side of the room. The second floor is accessed by an original flight of stairs that run flush against the front facade, ascending from east to west. Early on, the stairway emptied directly outside through a doorway on the eastern side of the building; however, some time ago this was altered (possibly around 1957 with other alterations were made) and the entrance to the Masonic hall accessed only from the interior by adding a doorway from the interior.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7/8 Page 2

Crane Hill Masonic Lodge

Cullman County, Alabama

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The stairs themselves are intact with original wood risers and treads, railing, acorn-shaped finials atop turned balusters, and corner newel posts at the second floor landing rail. The top of the stairs opens up into a small rectangular outer room/landing, separated from the Masonic hall by a tongue and groove wood wall with a central doorway. To the right of the entrance into the meeting hall is a small writing table bracketed to the wall to hold the membership and visitor log, which is maintained for each meeting. A small storage closet and a small anteroom on either side of the stairs can be found in this outer room/landing area.

The Masonic hall consists of a large open room with raised platform floors along around the perimeter of the room, except at the entrance door, providing stations for the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden. Other stations can be found at the cardinal points on the north, east, and west walls. Elements of the Masonic ritual dating back to the organization of this lodge in 1904 adorn this room giving it the dignity of a modest shrine. Notable furnishings include the Station of the Worshipful Master, a number of the original chairs and benches, the altar (a center ceremonial table), the "Brazen Pillars," and the stations of the Senior and Junior Wardens. The desk of the secretary is positioned to the left of the Worshipful Master's station. The Lodge charter, issued by the Grand Lodge of the State of Alabama, is appended on the wall behind the Worshipful Master. On the wall behind the Junior Warden hangs the charter of the Order of the Eastern Star, a Masonic woman's auxiliary. This group was active in the early 1900s but is presently inactive.

Archaeological Component: While no formal archaeological survey has been made of this area, the potential for subsurface remains is probably good. Buried portions may contain information that may be useful in interpreting the this building's nearly century long use by the local community.

SECTION VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crane Hill Masonic Lodge is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for social history as it was constructed and used as a multipurpose community building and local Masonic lodge since 1904 and continues to do so today. The building has served the community in the capacity of social, religious, education, and governmental roles as well as a fraternal facility, and it stands today as a structural reminder of the impact of the Masonic fraternal order on rural Alabama. The Crane Hill Masons still actively use the Lodge, celebrating their centennial on December 6, 1999. The Masonic Lodge stands as the only remaining historic community building in Crane Hill. The two-story, gable front lodge has a prominent location in the middle of what was the historic core of the community and still exerts a significant visual impact. Crane Hill is also the oldest extant Masonic Lodge in the county. Local historians believe that only the Cullman Fraternal Lodge exists in another historic building: in the second floor of a 1948 commercial building in downtown Cullman. The remaining seven lodges in the county are housed in modern concrete block buildings. While the Crane Hill Lodge has experienced some loss of material and workmanship integrity in the past thirty years, its primary importance comes from its integrity of design, location, feeling, association, and setting and these area are still strong.

Because of the loss of materials, a preliminary review for eligibility was conducted by Marilyn Harper in October 1999. Ms. Harper found that while there had been a good amount of material alteration, she still believed it could be eligible based on its social history as an important community building. Especially since it is the only extant historic community-related building in Crane Hill.

HISTORIC SUMMARY

Originally in Winston County, Crane Hill has its origins in the late-nineteenth century when the post office was established June 24, 1874, in a general merchandise store. Locals named the town Crane Hill because it was situated on the hill above Crooked Creek where migratory cranes came to roost each year. Crane Hill has always been a rural farming community with a small population, general stores and light industry, a couple of small church congregations, and a school. By the mid 1950s, Crane Hill boasted four stores, a cotton gin, a grist mill, post office, and some in-town residences with a population of about 50 families, who were mostly farmers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Crane Hill Masonic Lodge

Cullman County, Alabama

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The Crane Hill Masonic Lodge was constructed in 1904 as a Masonic lodge and to provide space for a school, as the previous one had burned several years earlier. Local masons met in the upper floor of one of the local general stores, receiving their charter in 1899 and moving into the new building in 1904. The first floor has been used for a variety of purposes over the years including a general store, school, as apartments for local head mill (producing heads for barrels) workers in the 1940s, as the local fire station and polling site in the mid 1970s, and as a senior citizens center since 1978. The first floor was used for educational purposes from 1904 until 1934 when the new consolidated H. G. Dowling School was completed and again in 1938 as an interim facility while a new school was rebuilt after a devastating fire that same year.

Crane Hill Masonic Lodge #554 was organized on June 17, 1898 by men who lived in the Crane Hill community but belonged to Bremen Lodge #496 (now defunct), which was approximately 16 miles away. Brother T. T. Dickerson, who was the Worshipful Master of Logan Lodge #500, was appointed by the Grand Lodge of the State of Alabama to organize Crane Hill Masonic Lodge #554 according to the Cross Masonic Chart. The Lodge then elected its officers for the ensuing Masonic year (June 24-June 24). Brother William N. Kilgo was the first elected Worshipful Master of this Lodge. According to the recorded minutes of this event, nine members were listed; however, these were just the officers with no other members listed. Crane Hill Masonic Lodge #554 was granted its Charter on December 6, 1899. At that time the Lodge consisted of at least 21 members. In 1904 the brothers completed a new building with their lodge on the second floor and the first floor designed to be used as a multipurpose space, a typical arrangement for rural Alabama lodges. It is believed that Philip Aquilla Cooper constructed the lodge with the help of Robert Boone.

Inasmuch as Crane Hill is a small community, the membership of this Lodge has never had large numbers, but has been and continues to be a close-knit group of men. Its largest membership appears to be in the neighborhood of 70, whereas at the present time it consists of 35 brethren. The vocations of its members range from those who have held political office to those that labor as farmers. They have had among the brethren a Cullman County Superintendent of Education, several teachers and administrators, at least two Sheriffs of Cullman County, merchants, several doctors, farmers, and laborers. However, when gathered together as a group, all are brothers, for it is the internal and not the external that bonds their group. The motto of Freemasonry is, "to make good men better." That is what they strive to do.

On December 4, 1999, Crane Hill Masonic Lodge celebrated its Centennial with an open house and a covered dish supper. Many members of the community helped with this momentous event. Masons from near and far attended this celebration. The highlight of the evening was the placement of a picture of a late Brother, William Jackson Tucker, in the gallery of Past Masters by his namesake great-grandson. Brother Jackson's son, Hobson, who is now 86 years-old and a Mason of more than 55 years, was in attendance along with his sons Gerald and Steve who are also Masons. They traveled from above Athens to attend this event.

"Freemasonry, a ritual-based fraternal brotherhood, reached its height in the United States in the last third of the nineteenth and first third of the twentieth centuries. In 1879 there were an estimated 550,000 members; by 1896, 750,000; but by 1925 this had grown to over three million. Halls or temples had rooms dedicated toward the performance of Masonic rituals. During the last decades of the nineteenth century, Masonic halls or temples were multiple-use buildings, with the lodge rooms being of central importance to the Masonic character of the building. The lodge room was where Masonic rituals were enacted, where the idea of a fraternity of men took concrete form, and where the lodge defined itself." (Moore 1995, 26-36)

"As a rule, the main Masonic lodge room was above street level, was longer than it was wide, had a high ceiling, symmetrically-placed doors on one end, and an altar in its center. Space within the lodge room was ordered around a pair of axes. The primary axis running down the center of the length of the room, starting at the letter G on the wall – a symbol denoting both God and geometry – the axis running through the master, who wears a top hat, through the altar, and ending up with the senior warden, sitting with his back to the viewer. The secondary axis is perpendicular to the primary one and runs from the junior warden on the right through the altar to the far wall splitting the room in the other direction.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

Crane Hill Masonic Lodge

Cullman County, Alabama

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The presence of the axes is indicated by the elevated platforms meant for the officers' chairs on three sides of the lodge room. Everything in the lodge room is organized around these two axes. A person's or an object's relative proximity to the axes was directly related to their ritual significance. The axes terminate in the chairs of the officers, of the worshipful master, the senior warden, and the junior warden. These chairs both define the ends of the axes and ennoble the men who occupy them." (Moore 1995, 26-36)

"The greater portion of the lodge members occupied seating furniture that indicated their identical organizational status, material manifestations of the Masons' ideology of equality. Significantly, the members' seats faced the center of the room. This arrangement allowed the members of a lodge to see one another, to know who their brothers were, and to be witnesses of one another's presence. As ritual hierarchy of space was determined by proximity to the central axes of the room, the most ritually significant position in the room was located where the axes intersected. This sacred space was reserved for the altar and the Bible. All seats faced this spot, which was further differentiated by being ceremonially lit. The lodge room was designed to shut out the exterior world and outsiders. Windows were either nonexistent or so far above street level that there was no risk of outside observers. A man with a sword, called the tyler, sat in an anteroom to guard the entrance to the room. A set of stairs separated the room from the pedestrian realm." (Moore 1995, 26-36) The Crane Hill Lodge exhibits many of these physical masonic lodge characteristics: upper story Masonic room and outer anteroom with stairway; symmetrically-placed entrance doors; and Masonic room with a central altar, raised members' seating located around the perimeter of the room, officers' chairs in their ritually prescribed positions, and appropriately-placed mystical symbols.

The organization of Crane Hill Lodge, #554, is characteristic of the growth of the Masons in 19th- and turn-of-the-20th-century Alabama. When the Grand Lodge of Alabama was chartered in 1821, there were nine subordinate lodges represented. In 1846, this number had grown to 73 and by 1921, it was up to 565. (Moore 1997; Section Eight, Page Six) After Reconstruction, Masonic membership declined in Alabama to an all-time low of 6,724 in 1886. However by 1887, a slow but steady increase began and by 1900 there were nearly 200 lodges with more than 12,000 members in the state. Periodic economic depressions in the late-19th century stagnated Masonic growth as many newly formed lodges quickly went defunct because they were unable to pay their dues. Alabama's greatest period of Masonic prosperity occurred at the turn-of-the-century and into the first quarter of the 20th century. It was during this time that a state temple and Home for Indigent Masons were created. (Jackson 1970, 84) At one time there were 16 lodges in Cullman County; however, seven were defunct or had been consolidated by 1940. Of these nine remaining lodges -- Hanceville, Cullman Fraternal, Baileyton, Logan, Crane Hill, Vinemont, Trimble, West Point, and Simcoe -- Crane Hill exists in the oldest extant Masonic lodge in the county. (Jackson 1970, 193)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9/10 Page 5

Crane Hill Masonic Lodge

Cullman County, Alabama

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SECTION IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Cooper, Frances. Old Pictures of Lodge Building; Personal Interview by Donald Ledyard.

Haymon, Ray. Personal Interview by Donald Ledyard.

Jackson, Joseph Abram. Masonry in Alabama: A Sesquicentennial History, 1821-1971. Montgomery, Alabama: Brown Printing Company, 1970.

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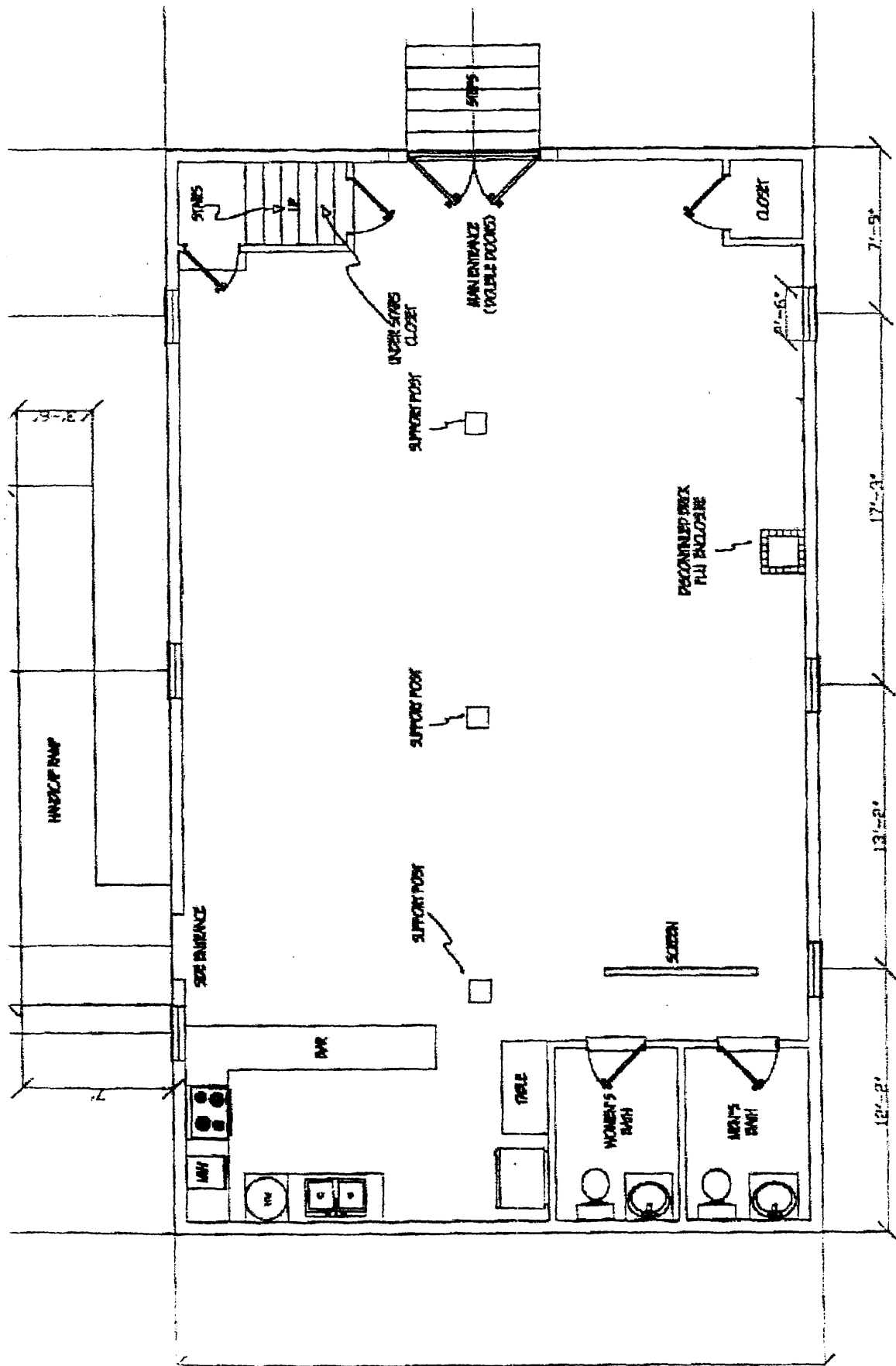
SECTION X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

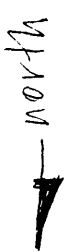
A part of the South half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 11, Range 5 West, more particularly described as follows: commencing at the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said section; thence running due West eight rods; thence due South to Houston and Blountsville public road; thence in a Northeasterly direction along said road about 104 yards to a certain stone; thence due North to a line between the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said section; thence due West the starting point, situated in the County of Cullman, State of Alabama. Recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama: Volume 36, Page 356, September 19, 1904.

Boundary Justification

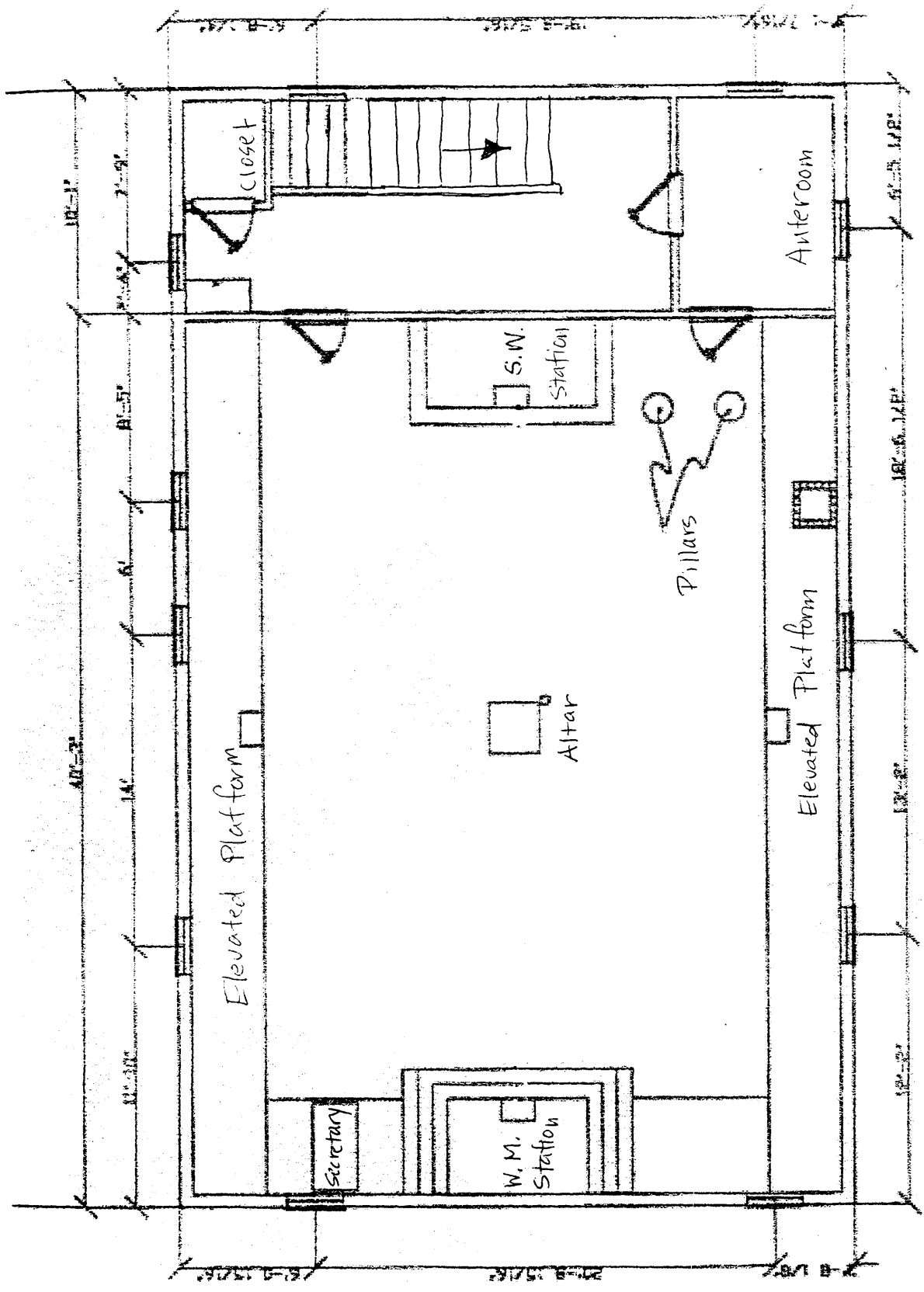
The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historic property associated with the Crane Hill Masonic Lodge.



CRANE HILL
 MASONIC LODGE
 Cullman Co., Alabama
 1st FLOOR PLAN

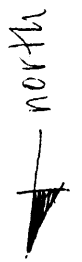


not to scale



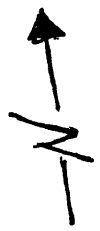
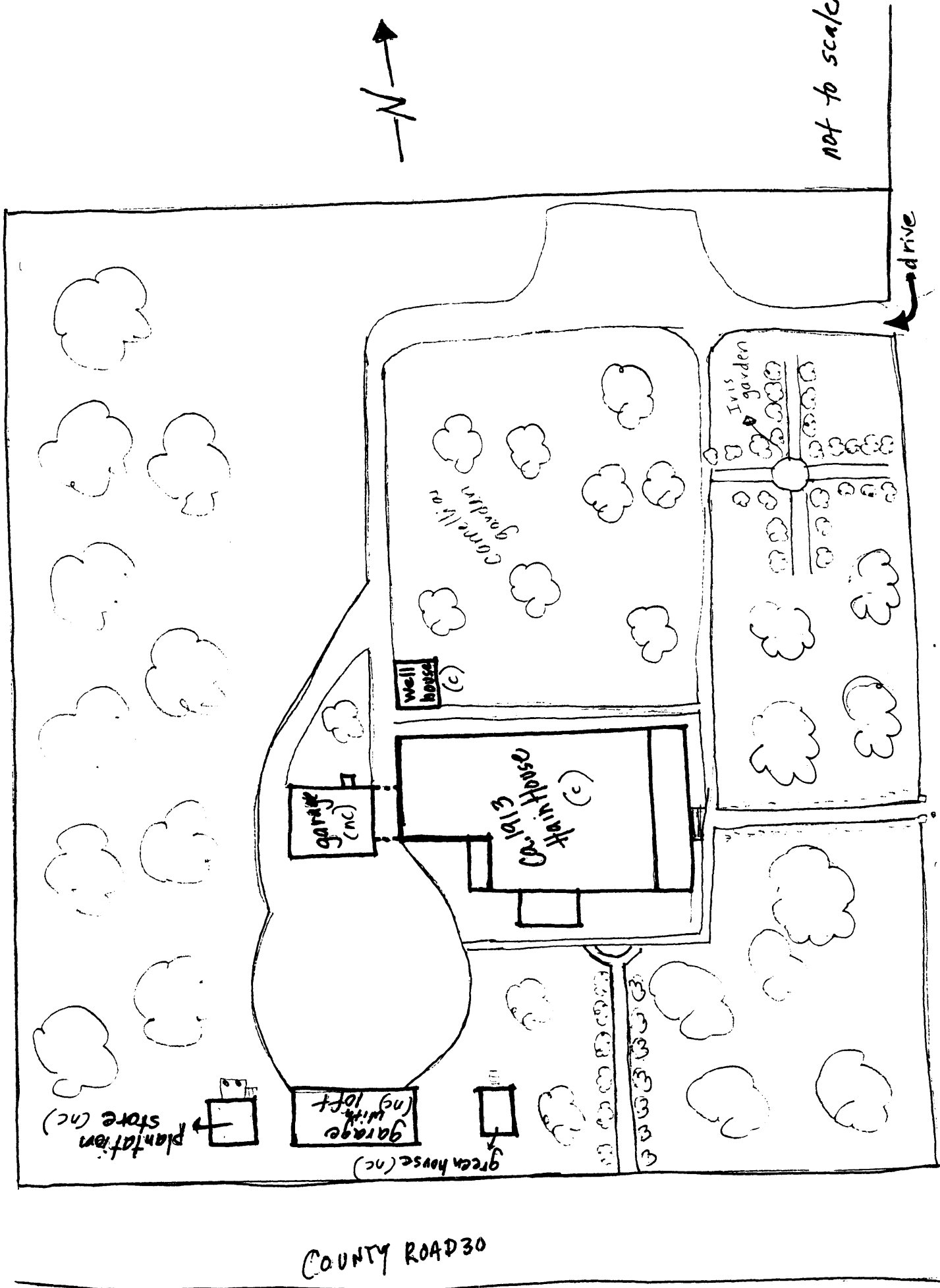
CRANE HILL
 MASONIC LODGE
 SECOND FLOOR
 PLAN

Cullman Co., Alabama



not to scale

Sketch Map, J. Bruce Hain House, Sardis, Dallas County, Alabama



not to scale

drive

COUNTY ROAD 30

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hain, H. Bruce, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA, Dallas

DATE RECEIVED: 2/14/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/31/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001295

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 3/29/02

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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.
[X] 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.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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 1913 _____

Significant Dates 1913 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder Rutledge, W.D. _____ Pearson, Thomas Franklin _____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 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**

Section 7,8 Page 3 Hain, J. Bruce, House
Dallas County, Alabama

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According to Mr. Cecil Gayle (1999), the subject house was vacant for a number of years before he purchased it a few years ago. Though the house sat vacant for over 20 years, a number of original elements were somehow preserved. Due to Mr. Gayle's hard work, the J. Bruce Hain House has been restored to its original beauty. Through the restoration, the house retains the highest degree of integrity.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey had been conducted in association with the J. Bruce Hain House, there exists the potential for subsurface remains on the property.

VIII. Statement of Significance

Criterion C: Architecture

Built in 1913, the J. Bruce Hain House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a Neo-Classical Revival residence in rural Alabama. Neo-Classical was a dominant style for domestic building throughout the country during the first half of the twentieth century. Neo-Classical had two principal waves of popularity; the first, from about 1900-1920, emphasized hipped roofs and elaborate, correct columns. The residence is also an exceptional example of the craftsmanship of two regionally prominent master builders, W.D. Rutledge and Thomas Franklin Pearson. The exterior elevations, interior spaces, original details and ornamentation retain a remarkably high degree of integrity. The J. Bruce Hain House constitutes the only example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture in Sardis and is one of the best residential examples of the Neo-Classical style in Alabama.

Historical Summary

J. Bruce Hain was the son of Valentine Hain, a German immigrant whose family had emigrated from Bavaria when he was just 14 years old. The Hain family settled in Pike County, Alabama. A member of the next generation, J. Bruce Hain was born in 1873 in Forest Home, Butler County, Alabama. Five years later, Valentine Hain moved his family to the Sardis community in Dallas County. There, in 1882, Valentine Hain purchased 160 acres of land and built a home. Following graduation from Marion Military Institute, Bruce Hain purchased his first land—600 acres in Sardis in 1899. Over the next four decades, he added 15,000 acres to his holdings (*Alabama Cattleman* 1998).

J. Bruce Hain was a well-known and respected planter and cattleman. He had the house built for his second wife, Ellen Mae Moore. The residence was the center of his large and successful cotton plantation. From the outset, cattle were part of the Hain enterprise; and the railroad met important transportation needs. Hain could load cattle on the L&N Railroad at Sardis and ship them to the New Orleans Stockyard. Growing cotton was a major segment of the Hain operation. In 1903, Bruce and his brother John built a cotton gin and plantation store, which expanded their holdings in the cotton business (the original gin later burned; the store and rebuilt cotton gin are located to the south of the residence). In addition, they owned a mercantile business. Eventually, Bruce Hain bought out his brother's interest in the company that was known as the J.B. Hain Company (*Alabama Cattleman* 1998).

Bruce Hain was instrumental in organizing the Selma Compress, a move intended to bring more cotton buyers to the local cotton market and obtain better prices than were possible as long as one larger buyer forced out the competition. Bruce became president of the organization soon after its founding, and he served in that capacity until his death in 1942.

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Selma builders, W.D. Rutledge and Thomas Franklin Pearson, constructed the Hain House in 1913 for Mr. and Mrs. J. Bruce Hain. Agnes Chance, granddaughter of Thomas Franklin Pearson, states that the house was "built on a handshake" and that her grandfather rode his bicycle daily from Selma to Sardis (a distance of 10 miles) to work on the house. She also related that the oversized Corinthian columns were brought on the river and then by wagons to the construction site (Gayle 1999). No personal or work related history was found documenting the lives of the master builders, W.D. Rutledge and Thomas Franklin Pearson. One city directory from Selma referenced a Thomas Pearson and noted his occupation as "builder" (Polk City Directory 1920).

Edward Moore Hain and Bruce Valentine Hain (later a prominent attorney and state legislator) were born in the house and lived there along with Mr. Hain's older children by his first marriage to Sally Hardy Hain, Jesse Hardy Hain and Ethel Hain. After his second wife died, Bruce Hain married his third wife, Mary Bennett of Selma in 1929. After his death in 1942, she lived in the house until her death in 1963. After a vacancy of over 20 years, family again lives in the Hain House. Cecil McMath Gayle, Mary Hain's nephew, along with Kenneth Parker purchased the home from the Hain heirs and have restored the Hain House and make it their home.

IX. Bibliography

Gayle, Cecil M. Personal Interview. November 11, 1999.

Polk City Directory, Birmingham, Alabama, 1920.

"Who's Who In the Booths." *Alabama Cattleman*. Alabama Cattleman's Foundation, February 1988, page 76.

X. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The J. Bruce Hain House is bounded on the east by Alabama Highway 41 and County Road 30 to the south and includes 13 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Hain House, outbuildings, and ornamental yard that have historically been part of the Hain property and that maintain historic integrity. Those parcels of the cotton gin have been excluded because the property is no longer associated with the J. Bruce Hain House.