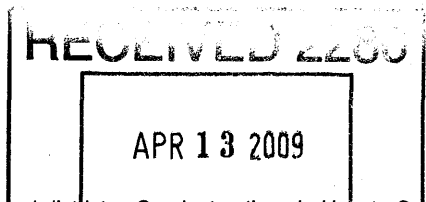


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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 this form by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A". 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 WITHERSPOON LODGE NO. 111 FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS (F&AM)

other names/site number FMSF#LA3985

2. Location

street & number 1410 North Clayton Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Mount Dora N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Lake code 69 zip code 32757

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.)

Bonbra C. Mattick / DSHPO 4/7/2009  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
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 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  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Jane Johnson

5/21/2009

**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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"Historic Architectural Resources of Mount Dora, Florida"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function 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: Frame Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls WOOD  
roof METAL  
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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Checkboxes for NPS documentation: preliminary determination, previously listed, National Historic Landmark, Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black - Social History

Period of Significance

1921 - 1959

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Witherspoon Lodge No. 111  
Name of Property

Lake Co., FL  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	3	7	7	0	0	3	1	8	6	8	2	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
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 Johnston, Sidney/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 2009

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

#### 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 Mount Dora Masonic Lodge c/o Charles J. Ellisen, Sr.

street & number 432 Jackson Street telephone 352-735-1066

city or town Mount Dora state FL zip code 32757

**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 amend 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.

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**SUMMARY**

Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 F&AM is located at 1470 North Clayton Street in Mount Dora, Florida. Constructed about 1921, the building is an example of Frame Vernacular architecture. The two-story wood frame building contains approximately 2,400 square feet of interior floor space. It has a rectangular plan, front-facing gable roof surfaced with crimped metal panels, wood drop siding finished with corner boards, one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows and replacement metal sash windows, and a foundation system of concrete block piers. A concrete block chimney pierces the north elevation of the roof. Broad overhanging eaves reveal tapered exposed rafter ends and beaded board roof decking. A pair of entrance doors provides access into the interior on the front (west) façade, and oppositional side entrances open on the north and south elevations. The interior maintains its original plan. A grant by the Florida Department of State assisted in the development and installation of a marker located in front of the lodge in 2002. The Witherspoon Lodge owns the property, and currently holds two Masonic meetings in the building each month. The historic lodge contributes to the sense of time, place, and historical development in the City of Mount Dora through its location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retaining its early twentieth century character to a high degree, the building provides important ethnic heritage and social history links to the heritage of Mount Dora. The building is nominated under the *Historic Architectural Resources of Mount Dora* Multiple Property Submission (MPS) under the *F.3 property type*.

**SETTING**

The City of Mount Dora is located in Lake County in Central Florida. Tavares, the seat of government of Lake County, lies approximately five miles to the west, and Leesburg lies another five miles west of the county seat. Numerous lakes dot the landscape of Lake County and Mount Dora. Lake Beauclair, Lake Dora, and Lake Gertrude are to the west of the city and Lake Joanna, Lake Leven, and several smaller bodies of water are to the north. Wolf Branch drains several small lakes to the east of Mount Dora, and Alexander Creek meanders through Gilbert Park, a city park on the east side of Lake Dora. Picturesque and attractive, the terrain gently rolls from east to west toward the shore of Lake Dora with mature trees providing ambiance and shade along the city's streets. Parks and green spaces, some of which were designated and landscaped during the historic period, provide

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relief from the concentration of buildings in the downtown and surrounding residential neighborhoods. Three properties in Mount Dora's downtown have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They are the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Depot (NR 1992), Donnelly House (NR 1975), and Lakeside Inn (NR 1987). The population of the city is 11,564 (2006).

The historic lodge is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Jackson Avenue and North Highland Street, approximately twelve blocks northeast of the downtown and several blocks east of Donnelly Street, the primary north-south street in the city. The lodge occupies a site near the heart of Mount Dora's African-American community. A historic school stands two blocks to the northeast and a community center one block to the east. A few other historic-period buildings are located nearby, but are insufficient in integrity and concentration for the formation of a historic district. The terrain is relatively flat. Mature oak trees shade the property.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**  
**exterior**

The symmetrical front (west) façade (photo #1) has a central entrance protected by two screen doors flanked by pairs of replacement metal awning windows. The second story has three one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows, above which a louver ventilates the attic space. A date stone in the northwest corner of the façade identifies the building as Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 F&AM Dedicated March 20, 1949 T. D. Williams W.M. Although c.1921 is the year of construction, the 1949 date relates to the completion of the mortgage.

The north elevation (photo #1) has an offset side entrance flanked by a single one-over-one-light double-hung sash window to the east and a one-over-one-light double-hung sash window and a fixed one-light window boarded over with plywood. Providing vertical symmetry with the first-story fenestration pattern, the second story displays four evenly spaced one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows. The beaded board roof decking and exposed tapered rafter ends are apparent along this elevation.

The rear (east) elevation (photo #2) displays irregular and asymmetrical fenestration with an one-over-one-light double-hung sash window and one-light fixed window on the first

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story. Three evenly spaced metal awning windows open along the second story, above which a louver protects the attic space.

The south elevation (photo #2) has the most irregular and asymmetrical fenestration pattern on the building. The first story has an offset side entrance set in opposition to the side entrance on the north elevation. Supported by brackets, a shed roof protects the door, and a large concrete step identifies the building with a Masonic symbol cast in the center of the tread and the No. 111 on the riser. Beyond the entrance, the first story of the elevation is punctuated by a one-over-one-light double-hung sash window and an one-light fixed window at the ends of the elevation. The blank wall space between the side entrance and double-hung sash window reflects the bottom of an interior staircase. The second story displays three double-hung sash windows with the blank wall space reflecting the top of the staircase.

**Interior**

Containing approximately 2,400 square feet of floor space, the interior contains a kitchen, lodge hall, meeting hall, restroom, and storage facilities. Having its original circulation pattern and wall divisions, the interior contains two primary spaces, one large hall on each floor with smaller supporting spaces. The ceiling is finished with fiberboard panels accented by fir strips. Some interior wall systems are finished with fiber boards or beaded boards while others reveal the stud, plate, and exterior drop siding systems. The kitchen and first story hall floors are finished with linoleum and carpet, while the second floor reveals its original pine flooring. The original exterior doors have been replaced to meet security requirements, but the original interior five-panel wood doors remain in place.

The front (west) entrance opens into the meeting hall (photos #3&4). Supported by chamfered posts, 2"x10" beams extend the length of the building to help support the second floor. A small dais and podium are centered along the east elevation, accounting for the irregular first-story fenestration on the east elevation. A concrete block chimney rises along the north wall, and a kitchen (photo #5) is located in the southwest corner. Finished with a beaded board wall system and supported by a vestibule inside the south entrance, a straight staircase (photos #6&7) rises along the south wall.

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The staircase reveals the wall frame and roof decking systems, and opens into an L-shape anteroom (photo #8) on the second floor, supported by a built-in wooden bench. Horizontal five-panel and vertical four-panel wood doors provide access into two adjoining storage rooms (photos #9&10) and the lodge hall (photos #11&12). A beaded board wall separates the staircase and storage rooms from the lodge hall. Built-in cabinets are incised into the west elevation of the hall.

**ALTERATIONS**

Several modest changes were made to the exterior of the building outside the historic period. About 1990, seven original one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows were replaced with metal awning windows. Four of the replacements were made on the first story the front (west) façade, and three additional window alterations on the second story of the rear (east) elevation. The four replacement windows on the front (west) façade altered the height of the original first-story fenestration, reducing the opening by approximately sixteen inches while leaving the headers and spandrels in the same original position. On the rear (east) elevation, the fenestration appears to retain its original openings with three replacement metal awning windows fit within the original spaces. In the process, the header and sill plate system were rebuilt with a slightly different depth of reveal than used for the original windows. No alterations of significance have been made to the interior.



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**SUMMARY**

Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 Free and Accepted Masons (F&AM) is nominated to the National Register for local significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black for its social history. The building possesses significance for its association with the statewide Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida (MWUGL), the historic African-American Masonic Prince Hall Affiliate based in Jacksonville, Florida. In addition, the building possesses significance for its contribution to the social history of Mount Dora's African Americans from its construction in 1921 until 1959. The lodge was one of the early buildings constructed by African Americans in the East Town neighborhood in response to racial oppression by whites in downtown Mount Dora. The lodge historically served as a meeting hall for monthly Masonic meetings, and between 1922 and 1926 also served as a school during the development of the nearby Milner-Rosenwald Academy. The historic building is associated with the oldest continuously operated fraternal organization in Mount Dora and is one of the oldest of the African-American Masonic lodges in Florida. The historic building contributes ambiance, character, and linkage to the African-American heritage of Mount Dora. The building contributes to the Historic Architectural Resources of Mount Dora Multiple Property Submission (MPS) under the *Florida Land Boom; Great Depression; and World War II, Late-1940s, and 1950s* historic associated contexts and the *F.3 property type*.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Organized in 1898, the Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 of Free & Accepted Masons (F&AM) of Mount Dora was named for John Witherspoon, a colonial leader in the Presbyterian Church, sixth president of Princeton University, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey. The Witherspoon Lodge is an affiliate of the Prince Hall Masonic Fraternity. A free black residing in Boston, Prince Hall organized and chartered the first African-American Masonic lodge in 1784, which marks the beginning of black Masonry in the United States. Black Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, and other social and fraternal associations were initiated after African-Americans found themselves excluded by whites from those organizations. These societies generally fell into the third rung of black culture, behind family and church. Masonry is the oldest of the African-American organized fraternal associations. The Prince Hall Masonic Fraternity has grown to 4,500 lodges worldwide with approximately 300,000 Masons. The Witherspoon Lodge is among

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the oldest continuously operating African-American Masonic organizations in Florida.  
(McCarthy 2007:119-120).

In February 1903, Mount Dora's black Masons led by John Cheatham, Andrew James, and Henry Hart acquired property in downtown Mount Dora for \$175. The property consisted of the west half of lots 1 and 2, block 9 in section 31 of the Town Plan of Mount Dora. The site corresponds with the south side of 4th Avenue between Baker Street and Donnelly Street. Sanborn Company maps prepared in 1906 and 1912 indicate a two-story building stood at the site and presumably served as a lodge and meeting hall (Deed Book 45, p. 50, Deed Book 64, p. 367, Clerk of Court Lake County Courthouse; Sanborn 1906; Sanborn 1912; Sanborn 1920; Census Bureau 1920 Population Schedules Lake County FL).

In 1914, the Witherspoon Lodge sold its property after a "...meeting of said Lodge was duly called and held, according to the by-laws and rules of said Lodge, and by legal vote, the execution of this deed was duly authorized." The lodge's trustees, John A. Cheatham, Henry Hart, and Andrew J. James, conveyed the downtown property to Mary I. Morgan in exchange for \$610. Morgan converted the first floor into a bakery; the lodge may have continued to meet on the second floor, but soon invested the proceeds of its property sale in real estate in the East Town neighborhood northeast of the downtown. (Deed Book 45, p. 50, Deed Book 64, p. 367, Clerk of Court Lake County Courthouse; Sanborn 1906; Sanborn 1912; Sanborn 1920; Census Bureau 1920 Population Schedules Lake County Florida).

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The sale of the lodge coincided with the removal of African Americans from Mount Dora's downtown. During the second and third decades of the twentieth century, Mount Dora's African-American residents and businesses experienced increased racial bigotry and oppression from many white property owners. Most sold their downtown holdings over the next decade, and the African-American community relocated northeast from the downtown to what became known as the East Town area. Between 1917 and 1923, three subdivisions--Robinson's Plat, Donnelly's, and East Town--were opened to provide residents, businesses, and social organizations with new sites. Sensitive to the discrimination and oppression subjected on the town's African-American residents, two white men--businessman Earl Gilbert and the Reverend Dr. Duncan C. Milner--negotiated a policy with the town council

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for the East Town neighborhood to be forever occupied by African-Americans. The neighborhood grew around the East Town Subdivision, which was opened in November 1923 (Plat Book 3, p. 26, Plat Book 4, p.7, 50, Clerk of Court Lake County Courthouse; Longstreet 1960:214-215; Schooldays at Milner-Rosenwald 2004).

Despite the lodge's removal from the downtown, it remained an important fraternal institution in Mount Dora. In April 1921, the Witherspoon Lodge trustees acquired the west half of block A from developer Washington H. Robinson who is believed to have been a member of the Witherspoon Lodge. A mulatto born in Florida about 1862, Robinson had acquired in July 1917 blocks 131, 132, 141, and 142 in section 29 of Mount Dora's town plan. Robinson re-divided the blocks into a system of narrow lots to support houses and outbuildings. Dividing many of the lots into a measure of 35 feet by 130 feet, Robinson reserved the western half of block 132 for a public building or green space. The subdivision extended between Clayton Street, Grant Avenue, Highland Street, and Lincoln Avenue in Mount Dora's expanding African American neighborhood. Though maintaining a dwelling closer to the downtown, Robinson then resided on a farm that he had carved out of the landscape between the farms of prominent citrus growers Jefferson Franklin and David S. Simpson. In 1918, Robinson still held most of his town property, but had conveyed lots to Lula Adams, D. F. Norman, and A. G. Tanner. In April 1921, Robinson conveyed the largest lot in his subdivision for only \$1.00 to trustees Cheatham, Hart, and James of the Witherspoon Lodge No. 111. It is believed that Robinson's generosity stemmed from his Masonic affiliation, or at least his sympathies with the fraternal organization. Later that year, the Witherspoon Lodge built a two-story wood-frame meeting hall at the southeast corner of Clayton Street and Grant Avenue (Deed Book 64, p. 367, Deed Book 88, p. 391, Tax Rolls 1918; Plat Book 3, p. 26 Clerk of Court Lake County Courthouse).

The removal of African Americans from downtown Mount Dora and the development of the lodge occurred within the larger backdrop of heated statewide racial discrimination and what has been termed the bloody election of 1920. That year, African Americans in several Florida towns experienced outright disfranchisement and violence at the hands of disgruntled and racist whites. In nearby Ocoee, violence on election day in November 1920 resulted in the complete destruction of the town's African American community. The destruction included the burning of a fraternal lodge and several churches, in addition to dozens of homes. In the aftermath, Ocoee had no African American community.

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Elsewhere, white leaders crushed black voting in Jacksonville and Miami, and in Bradford, LaFayette, St. Lucie, and Taylor counties. Mount Dora's African Americans carefully watched the racial bigotry and oppression unfold around them, but apparently did not experience directly the violence and destruction (Ortiz 2005:218, 221-223).

The lodge's trustees represented a cross-section of Mount Dora's working-class African Americans. Interestingly, none of them was a native Floridian, but each represented an important part of the American South. Born a slave in Georgia, Henry Hart had migrated to Sumter County, Florida, in the late nineteenth century, where he acquired a forty-acre farm. Hart moved to Mount Dora in the 1890s, purchased property in section 29 from Anson Gilbert, and then helped organize the lodge in 1898. Hart managed his own groves, and to supplement his income worked in a local citrus grove. He and his wife, Carrie, resided on a small homestead adjacent to Thomas Lawrence, a retired porcelain manufacturer from Ohio, and William Gardner, a black real estate businessman. Andrew J. James and his wife, Rachel also resided nearby. Born in 1870 in Virginia, James worked as a farm laborer, also presumably in citrus groves. In 1914, the year the lodge sold its downtown property, James purchased land from J. P. Donnelly just to the west of where the lodge would be built. He purchased ten additional acres from Donnelly in 1915, and on those tracts James developed a home and laid out a small citrus grove. The last of the trustees, John Cheatham, was a native of South Carolina born in 1865. Cheatham arrived in Mount Dora in the 1890s, and, like James, worked on a local farm. But, Cheatham and his wife, Julia, owned a sufficiently large home to accommodate three boarders: Bessie, Ralph, and Sadie Sims. These working-class blacks--Cheatham, Hart, and James--served as early leaders in one of Mount Dora's oldest fraternal institutions, and would in 1921 guide the lodge in its purchase of new property and the development of a permanent meeting hall on North Clayton Street (Plat Book 3, p. 26, Deed Book 14, p. 227, Deed Book 49, p. 368, Deed Book 62, p. 124, Deed Book 64, p. 367, Deed Book 70, p. 91, Clerk of Court Lake County Courthouse; Census Bureau 1910 Population Schedules Lake County FL; Census Bureau 1920 Population Schedules Lake County FL; Census Bureau 1930 Population Schedules Lake County FL).

In 1922, Mount Dora's African American school burned. For the next four years, classes were held in the recently-completed Masonic Lodge on Clayton Street. Professor Johnson Worth, the principal of Mount Dora's African American school, directed classes in the building until the new school was completed in 1926. Born a slave in Florida, Johnson

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Worth received his education in north Florida and migrated to Lake County about 1890. Census enumerators recorded him as a teacher in a public school in Eustis in 1900 and 1910. His long tenure, classroom demeanor, and skills brought him a promotion as principal of what then was known as the Mount Dora Colored School. In the lodge, Worth divided approximately eighty students into two classes to which he and teacher Virginia Smith provided instruction on the first floor meeting hall. Worth combined the first, second, and third graders into one class, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders into another class. Students who attended classes in the lodge included Lillie Mae (Sweetie) Fitch, Leola Thomas Grimes, and Marietta Williams Harvey. Organized in Witherspoon Lodge, Worth's management system endured for several years after moving into the newly-completed school on Highland Street in 1926. It appears that Worth also met in the lodge with school benefactor, the Reverend Dr. Duncan C. Milner, to make plans for funding and developing the new school (Census Bureau 1910 Population Census Lake County FL; Census Bureau 1930 Population Census Lake County FL; Longstreet 1960:215; Schooldays at Milner-Rosenwald 2004:5).

Mount Dora's African American Masons conducted monthly meetings in Witherspoon Lodge over the subsequent decades. They convened monthly meetings, inducted new members, held classes on Masonic rituals, and discussed pressing issues facing their neighborhood, town, and African American culture. They were committed to community service, mutual aid, and free thought.

During the late 1940s and 1950s, the Witherspoon Masons were led by T. D. Williams, who served as the lodge's worshipful master. The Masons dedicated Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 F&AM, now free of debt, on March 20, 1949. This was commemorated in the lodge's cornerstone. Later, in April 1953, Witherspoon Masons joined members of the community in celebrating the installation of the cornerstone of the East Town Community Center in April 1953. Witherspoon Masons were also present at various dedications and celebrations at churches, and presided at funerals of its members (East Town Community Center cornerstone; Witherspoon cornerstone; Schooldays at Milner-Rosenwald 2004:5).

Throughout its history, Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 F&AM of Mount Dora has operated within the framework of the Prince Hall Affiliation, and is currently a member of District 21 of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida (MWUGL), headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. Florida's African American grand lodge currently has 158 chartered

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lodges and has a membership over 3000. On 16 February 2002, the Witherspoon Lodge was the scene of the installation of a Florida State Historical Marker. Organized in 1999, the Northeast Black History Committee of Mount Dora, Inc. was responsible for the research and grant application resulting in the marker (McCarthy 2007:50-51, 119-120; Stafford 2007; Northeast Black History Committee of Mount Dora, Inc.).

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See attached scaled site plan. The boundary encloses lot 9 less south 130 feet of east 1/2 of block A Robinson's Plat, otherwise known as 1470 North Clayton Street. Containing less than one acre, the property is also identified as parcel 29-19-27-240000A00901 by the Lake County Property Appraiser.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encloses the legal description of the property historically associated with the Witherspoon Lodge.

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MT. DORA, LAKE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. 1470 North Clayton Street
2. Mount Dora (Lake County), Florida
3. Sidney Johnston
4. 2008
5. historian, Bland & Associates, Inc. Jacksonville, FL
6. Front (west) façade and north elevation, facing southeast
7. Photograph number 1 of 12

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Rear (east) and south elevations, facing northwest
7. Photograph #2 of 12

6. First floor meeting hall, facing southwest
7. Photograph #3 of 12

6. First floor meeting hall, facing east
7. Photograph #4 of 12

6. Kitchen, facing east
7. Photograph #5 of 12

6. Staircase, facing west
7. Photograph #6 of 12

6. Staircase, facing east
7. Photograph #7 of 12

6. Second floor storage room, facing southwest
7. Photograph #8 of 12

6. Second floor storage room, facing west
7. Photograph #9 of 12

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

**WITHERSPOON LODGE  
MT. DORA, LAKE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

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6. Second floor storage room, facing southwest

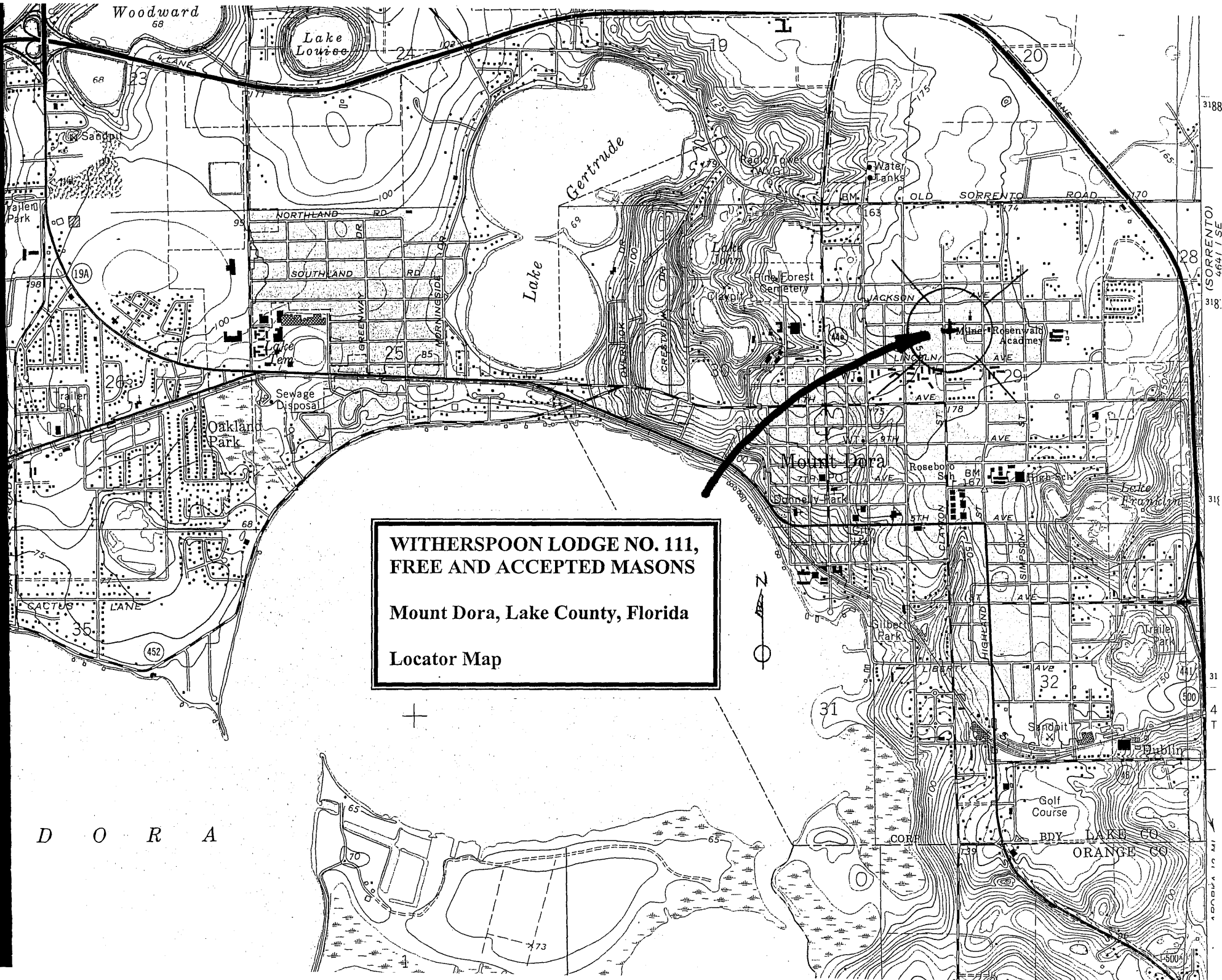
7. Photograph #10 of 12

6. Lodge hall, facing southwest

7. Photograph #11 of 12

6. Lodge hall, facing east

7. Photograph #12 of 12



Woodward  
58

Lake  
Louise

Lake  
Gertrude

**WITHERSPOON LODGE NO. 111,  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

**Mount Dora, Lake County, Florida**

**Locator Map**

D O R A

ORANGE CO  
LAKE CO

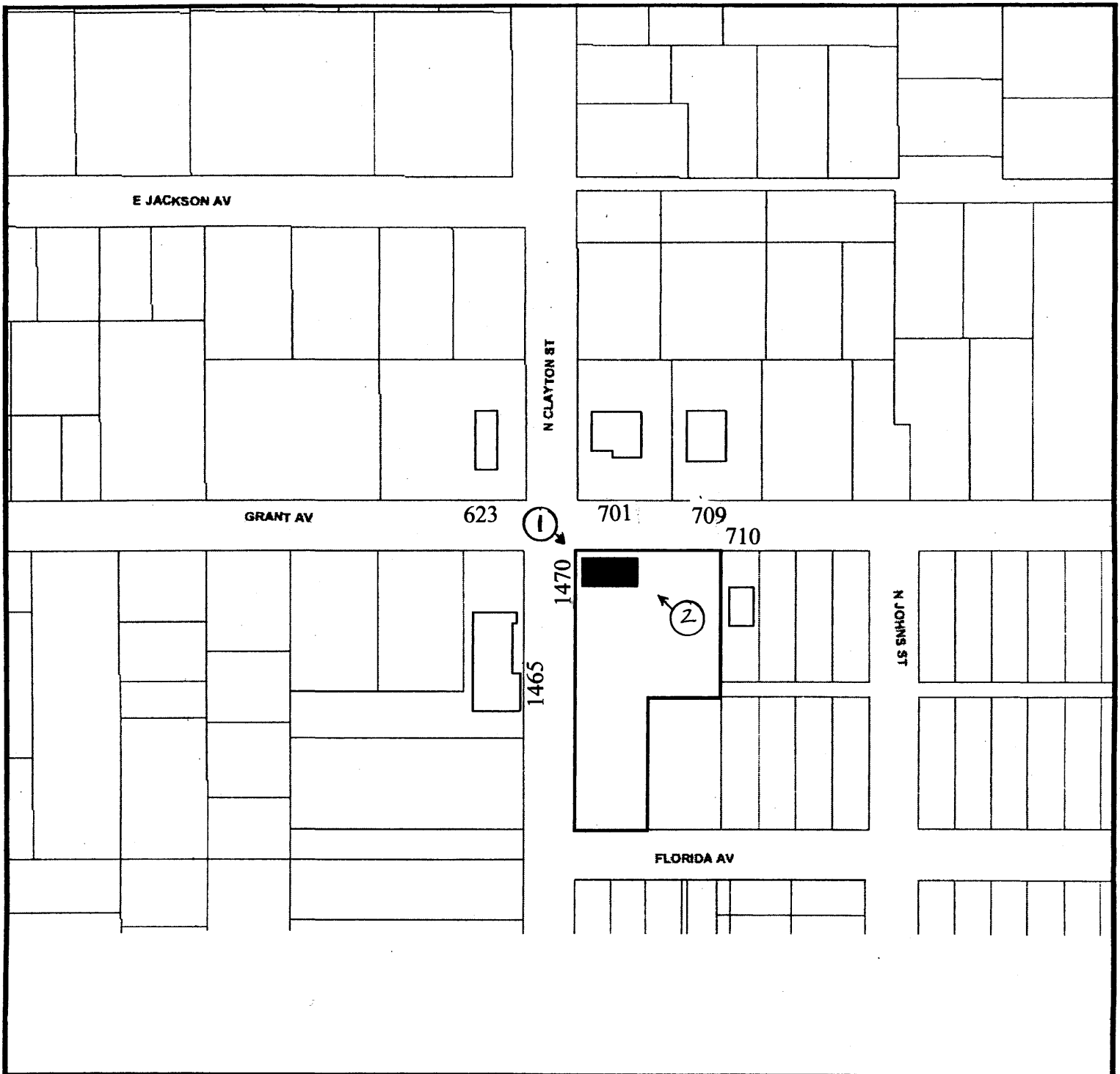
3188

(SORRENTO)  
4641 7 SE  
318

317

31  
4  
T

10000 10 MI



**LEGEND**

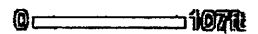
**Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 F&AM**

**1470 North Clayton Street**

**Mount Dora, Lake Co., FL**

**Property Boundary**

**Contributing Resource**

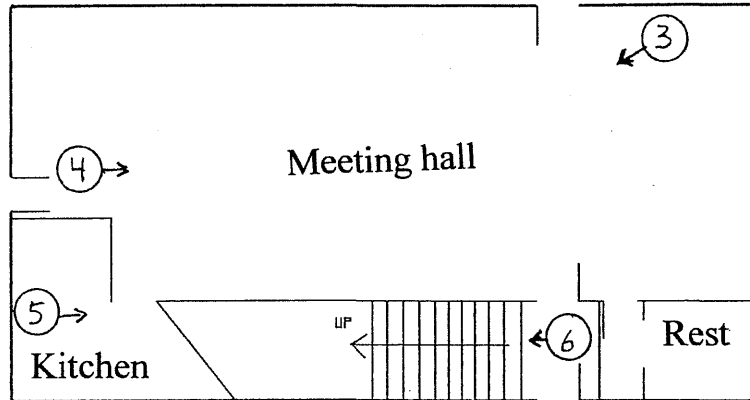


**Site Plan Prepared by Sidney Johnston**

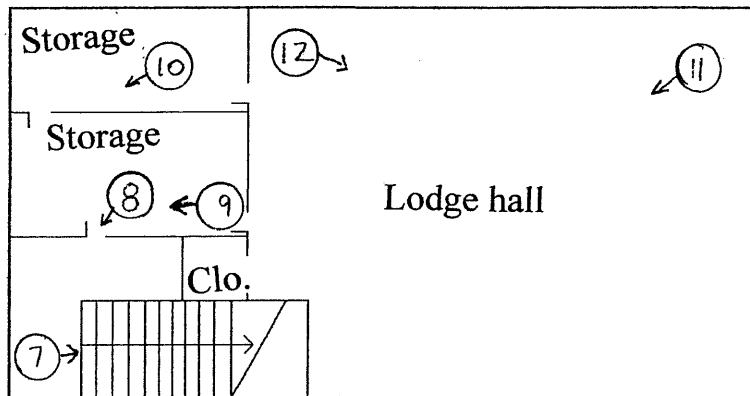
**Bland & Associates, Inc.**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**First Floor**



**Second Floor**



**LEGEND**



0 ————— 10'

**Witherspoon Lodge No. 111 F&AM**  
**1470 North Clayton Street**  
**Mount Dora, Lake Co., FL**

**Floor Plan Prepared by Sidney Johnston**  
**Bland & Associates, Inc. Jacksonville, FL**