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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Russell Lodge #284

other names/site number Jamestown Masonic Lodge, RU-37

2. Location

street & number Public Square NA not for publication

city or town Jamestown NA vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Russell code 207 zip code 42629

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.)

David L. Morgan, Executive
David L. Morgan Director/SHPO 12-14-93
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
 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 Entered in the Date of Action
Gregory M. Lapley National Register 12/28/93

Russell Lodge #284
Name of Property

Russell Co., KY
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	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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

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)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
American Movements

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone

roof Not visible

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)

Social History

Period of Significance

1939-1943

Significant Dates

1939-1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Architect: Gaskins, Alvin

Builder: Crouch, Grover (and Son)

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 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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Russell Lodge #284
Russell Co., KYDESCRIPTION

The **Russell Lodge #284** (RU-37) is a two-story stone building facing east on the northwest corner of the public square in Jamestown, seat of Russell County, Kentucky. The structure was constructed in 1939-1940 and serves as the home to the local chapters of Masonic and affiliated Order of the Eastern Star groups.

The building is utilitarian in its design, with the main visual impact being the cut stone work that covers the exterior. The structure is compatible with its immediate context; it appears as a typical commercial structure due to larger glassed areas on the first floor facade. While a building stands on either side of the Lodge, neither shares a wall with the Lodge: the lodge is free standing. On the main facade the stone work is dressed ashlar sandstone with a darker stone coping. The other three facades have rougher cut coursed sandstone. Windows are nine-light fixed metal sash. A date block indicating that the lodge formed in 1890 is centered above the second floor windows on the facade. The property extends from the building front to a rear alley. No other features occupy the site.

Three first floor openings reveal three interior bay divisions. At the southern portion of the front facade is a single door to a stairway; north from that are two pairs of doors, opening either into an office or a retail space. The office, the middle bay, has been subdivided by partitions and its original ceiling level reduced by a dropped ceiling. The retail bay retains an open plan, but its ceiling has also been lowered.

Upstairs is accessible via the stairway entered through the front facade or via an exterior metal stairway in the rear (west) side of the building. A chair lift has been installed on the interior stair. The upstairs consists of two main parts, a service area and the 30' x 50' open meeting hall. In the service area are storage room, anteroom, restroom, and kitchen. The main hall is where the meetings take place. Its walls have been covered with plywood. The historic floor of random length hardwood boards remains, as does the raised platform ringing the room 4' from the perimeter. That platform has been carpeted, but is articulated by a simple baseboard with cove molding and quarter round on its base--presumably historic woodwork. Eight historic light fixtures hang from the ceiling and paired lights flank the three door openings into the room from the service area.

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Russell Lodge #284
Russell Co., KY

Integrity

The building has integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. Some changes, particularly those on the interior, have affected the integrity of materials and design, but cannot be said to have eliminated the integrity of feeling or association which are critical to a sense of the building's value and eligibility.

The most extensive alterations to the building occurred in 1973-74. At that time the downstairs interior changes were made. Upstairs, wooden wall panelling was installed and the windows on the north side panelled over. Wooden trim breaks the panelling to reveal the location of those windows. Also during that renovation the service area's ceiling was lowered and the kitchen installed. It is believed that exterior door and window frames on the first floor facade were installed during this renovation.

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Russell Lodge #284
Russell Co., KY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The **Russell Lodge #284** (RU-37#) in Jamestown, seat of Russell County, meets National Register Criterion A for playing an important role in Russell County's social life. The building is associated with the Area of Significance **Social History** and significant within the historic context **History of Fraternal Organizations in Russell County**. The Masonic organization has been the leading fraternal organization county-wide and the Russell Lodge has been the County's key resource associated with this context from its construction in 1939 through the close of the historic period in 1943, and continues in this identity through the present. Martin writes that social organizations are important to reinforce the individual's sense of personal identity and to validate his or her status in the community. These organizations do effect a certain social control over the individual, however, individual are afforded a certain amount of self expression by choosing to join one group over another. In Kentucky, a rural state with limited ethnic diversity, fraternal organizations were the primary secular social group available to men (Martin: 216). The building is significant to us today insofar as it helps us to understand the vital role that such civic groups played in the cultural life of localities.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: HISTORY OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IN RUSSELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Previous Investigations and Research Design

Russell and Clinton Counties, at this writing, are the remaining two Kentucky counties without a National Register listing. A lack of preservation attention accounts for this better than a lack of historic resources.

The history of Russell County's fraternal organizations does not appear in conventional sources, such as county or local histories, and so has been compiled for this nomination. An effort has been made to be comprehensive in investigating sources to learn about this pattern of events. The historic context focuses on the social dimension of these organization. Other county institutions, such as politics and churches, are discussed. While they normally are not thought of a fraternal organizations, these institutions serve a vital social function in rural places and in small towns. Thus, information about churches and politics in the county will be presented as it is relevant to understanding the subject property.

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The Kentucky Heritage Council files for the county were consulted. These include geographical research files, database, theme files, survey data, and The Pennyrite Cultural Landscape report. Information on 35 County sites is found in the files of the Kentucky Heritage Council, the State Preservation Office. Most of those forms document above-ground resources in and around Creelsboro, a town in southwest Russell County on the Cumberland River. The only sites previously surveyed in Jamestown are the courthouse and the Church of Christ. The Heritage Council's geographical research files, theme files and bibliographic database were searched, without yielding usable results.

Martin's cultural landscape report (1988), on the other hand, was very useful. It provides raw census data and an analysis of those data from which to understand the historic impact of fraternal and other social organizations region-wide. Within an understanding of the historical cultural system provided by that study, building forms associated with the theme become more meaningful.

Available county and local histories were consulted for information on the local historic context. Those found in the library of the State Historical Society and Library and Archives did not address the topic. The Writers' Project, a Works Projects Administration effort during the Great Depression, yielded some information on the topic. A Guide to Civilian Organizations is another WPA project completed for each county which would speak to this theme; sadly, that Guide for Russell County was not among the others.

The Grand Masonic Lodge in Louisville, the state's Masonic administrative headquarters, was queried for information about the Jamestown Lodge. That inquiry did find a compiled history of Kentucky's lodges from 1917, each entry composed by the subject lodge. The entry for Russell Lodge #284 is short, but the work provides some background information. The other Masonic Lodges in the county also had entries in the compendium. Other sources of information on freemasonry consulted include works by Guthrie and Morris.

Local informants were contacted, starting with the reference librarian at the Jamestown Public Library and members of the County Historical Society. Neither had much information on the topic but did suggest some others who might be contacted locally. Daris Foley, retired Jamestown postmaster and Masonic Lodge member for over 50 years, pulled relevant entries from the Lodge's minutes dating to the years when the structure was built. Katherine Hamm holds a large number of historical photographs of Jamestown, in which the former Masonic Building and Odd Fellows Hall were depicted. Danny Coffey, a long-time Mason and renter of office space below the Hall, also was helpful in gaining access to the building and helped secure local support for the nomination.

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Russell Lodge #284
Russell Co., KY

While no definitive studies of local history or the theme of local fraternal organizations have been written for Russell County, the investigations detailed above are believed to have afforded sufficient perspective to evaluate the Russell Lodge's place in the historic context.

Findings from Research

When Russell County was created in 1825 by the partitioning of adjacent Cumberland, Adair, and Wayne Counties, a rudimentary social system was already in place. The people of Creelsboro, a Cumberland River town in the southwest corner of the County, had been trading at its ports, worshiping in its churches, and drinking liquor in its taverns from the first decade of the nineteenth century (Carver et. al.: 5-6). Elsewhere in the county, people did the same: when they gathered to transact business, they also engaged in some less structured forms of social exchange. By the 1820s, organized networks of communication and politics had arisen throughout the area which would become Russell County. Fraternal organizations are not known to have existed in the County quite that early, but the importance of social exchange which they facilitated was clearly established.

Such social systems were sufficiently developed so that Creelsboro could not claim the governmental seat when Russell County was established (Carver et. al.: 29). Jamestown was named the county seat even though the town was not yet established. This scenario for determining the location of a county seat is typical. A central location is selected which leads to the prosperity of the small community at the site or the emergence of a town where one had not stood previously. That Russell County had competing political factions in the mid-1820s indicates that county pioneers could come together for a common purpose. This gregariousness conflicts with the image of Kentucky's pioneers described by Boone myth--people settling an area with a desire to avoid human and social contact.

Not only did people on the Kentucky frontier satisfy their longing for interaction through commerce, religion, politics, and distilled spirits, but also through fraternal organizations. Martin identifies these and other civic organizations as attempts to bring a sense of the urban into the frontier. The groups' hierarchical structure, which included paramilitary ranking, secrecy, rituals, and rules for inclusion and exclusion from the group, served as a metaphor of the organized society until more conventional forms of social institutions flourished. "In the Pennyrile, the degree of social organization was in direct proportion to the degree of urbanization" (p. 217).

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Russell Lodge #284
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Masonic groups were instrumental in helping to settle the new American west between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi. Eighteen masonic lodges in territorial lands that eventually became nine states were chartered by Kentucky's Grand Lodge. Those include the first Masonic lodges in Alabama (seven years prior to statehood), Arkansas (sixteen years), Mississippi (sixteen years), and in Indiana (Guthrie:54).

Within the Pennyrile, fraternal organizations were among the first type of civic groups to organize, being popular from 1800-1850 (Martin: 217). During that time phenomenal growth of Masonic groups occurred throughout all of Kentucky. Each decade, except for the 1830s, the number of lodges and masons increased both absolutely and in relation to population (Morris: 428):

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u># Lodges</u>	<u># Masons</u>	<u>Lodge/population</u>	<u>Mason/population</u>
1800	179,000	5	150	1 per 35,800	1 per 1,193
1810	234,000	10	300	1 per 32,400	1 per 1,080
1820	434,000	45	1,450	1 per 9,600	1 per 300
1830	517,000	66	2,600	1 per 7,835	1 per 323
1840	590,000	37	1,300	1 per 16,000	1 per 461
1850	761,000	139	4,876	1 per 5,474	1 per 177
1858	1,000,000	302	11,236	1 per 3,311	1 per 88

It is not surprising, then that the first Masonic Lodge in Kentucky was formed in Lexington in 1788, while Kentucky was still part of Virginia and just a few years after that town was established. The Lexington lodge formed only ten years after the first Virginia lodge was established. By 1800, lodges had been chartered in Frankfort, Shelbyville, Paris, and Georgetown, and the Grand Lodge was established in Louisville (Masonic Lodge Histories: 7, 67).

Masonic Lodges and to a lesser degree, International Order of Odd Fellows Halls, appear to have been the most popular options for men of Russell County to satisfy their need for social exchange. The County's first Masonic Lodge, Russell Lodge #284 in Jamestown, was chartered in August, 1854. The group purchased land for a lodge in 1858, when membership stood at fifty-seven. Its members met until 1886, when the group became defunct. A short time later, in October, 1890, the lodge reactivated, continuing as Russell Lodge #284, as it serves today (Morris: 503; Masonic Lodge History: 407). Other Masonic Lodges established in Russell County include (from Masonic Lodge History, volumes 1 & 2):

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Russell Lodge #284
Russell Co., KY

<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date Chartered</u>	<u>Defunct</u>	<u>Rechartered</u>
Russell	#284	Jamestown	August, 1854	1886	October, 1890
Friendship	#474	Irvine's Store	October, 1868	1888	NA
Lairsville	#533	Lairsville	October, 1872	1940s	NA
Font Hill	#752	Font Hill	October, 1903	after 1917	NA
Russell Springs	#840	Russell Springs	October, 1911	after 1917	1945 as #941
Eli	#894	Eli	October, 1919	1937 (merged with #284)	

The Odd Fellows also maintained several halls in the county. The Odd Fellows Grand Lodge does not contain records for each group which would tell when one was chartered. Odd Fellows halls active in the 1930s included (from WPA Writers' Projects):

Eli	105	Eli
Russell Sp.	180	Russell Springs
Jamestown	359	Jamestown

By comparison, fraternal organizations stood second only to churches as bodies which afforded the means for people to gather. The Russell County churches active during the 1930s (from WPA Writers' Projects) include:

- 9 Methodist Churches (three established by the 1850s)
- 6 Disciples of Christ (earliest in 1865)
- 1 Seventh Day Adventist (1912)
- 1 Nazarene (1886)
- 16 Baptist (earliest in 1876)

This counts the active churches in the late 1930s more so than offers a comprehensive list of churches that ever operated in the county. Much earlier churches are known to have existed but were not included presumably because their congregations became defunct or merged with others. For instance, Creelsboro maintained the Union Church, a building that opened doors to all denominations during the 1820s (Carver et. al.: 31).

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Russell Lodge #284
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We can conclude from this comparison that fraternal organizations, especially the order of Masons, were an important group to Russell County's early residents. The Masonic group, and other fraternal organizations, provided men of the county an opportunity to express their social identity beyond their work, their worship, and their recreational activities. With more Masonic lodges established than other fraternal organizations, freemasonry may have held higher value to county residents than other groups that they could have joined.

Masonic Lodge as Property Type

Physical inspection of lodges and investigation of the literature shows some characteristics which historic Masonic lodges share. Perhaps more so than with other groups, the Masonic lodge **building** itself is an important feature of the group's identity. Ancient freemasonry is associated with construction, going back to the building of the pyramids and to medieval stonemason guilds. Eventually, non-builders became attracted to freemasonry symbolism, philosophies, and fellowship. Freemasonry ceased to be a union or occupationally-limited group, but retained the image of solid construction--as much spiritual as physical--in conduct, ritual, and lodge (Conversation with Coffey; Guthrie: 53).

Martin found that the structure associated with Masons and other fraternal organizations to have a consistent form. "For all large organizations in the nineteenth century, like the Masons or Odd Fellows,...the pattern was to construct a building of about two or three stories, with the (group) meeting on an upper floor, with the first floor rented out to an area merchant, and the remaining story...rented out to smaller organizations...so as to defray operational costs of the structure" (p. 220).

Because a town's Masonic lodge is often a well designed and substantial structure on the local architectural landscape, it is a building that was and is seen as architecturally significant. Such a building called for a substantial financial commitment, even though the particular lodge met rather infrequently. During the 1930s the Russell, Lairsville, and Eli lodges met only once a month, each on a different Saturday night. By contrast, the Odd Fellows met two times monthly, also on a Saturday night (WPA Writers' Projects).

Most local chapters sought to purchase land and build a lodge on that site quickly. Several lodge histories reported with great pride the date that their building was finally erected (Masonic Lodge Histories). Those without buildings reported two common alternatives for obtaining meeting space. Either the County Courthouse or a meeting room above a church provided space for assembly.

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No field survey of Masonic lodges was undertaken for this project. Casual observation, however, suggests Masonic lodges can be classified into two kinds of buildings, an urban or a rural lodge. Both are similar in having two stories of height and in being visually impressive within their respective settings. The urban lodge often rented out the space on the ground level, a practice that generated rental income for the group. The rural building, on the other hand, does not seem to have a daily use.

Typically these are rectangular structures, with the short side facing the main road. Architecturally, they are slightly more decorative, with more high style features, than a typical meeting building locally. In rural areas they tend to resemble churches in their simple but stalwart facades.

Findings From Field Examination: Jamestown's Russell Lodge #284

The land on which the subject building sits was purchased by the *Masonic trustees* in 1858, four years after the group formed (Deed Book G, p. 184). The site sits at the northwest corner of Jamestown's central square. For many years the structure erected there rented commercial space on the first floor and housed lodge headquarters above. That building is known through interview (Foley and Coffey) more than through documentary sources. Perhaps feeling the need for more room and a newer structure, Russell Lodge members embarked on a campaign to rebuild their hall. In early 1938 they requested permission from the Grand Lodge in Louisville to pursue construction of a new lodge on the site of the old (Minutes: February 5, 1938). That permit was granted in spring of the same year (Minutes: April 2, 1938).

A building committee was formed to carry out plans. By May of 1939 they recommended the purchase of a 3' slice of land from the adjacent lot and called for a structure whose construction would cost \$4,000 (Minutes: 5/6/39; Deed Book 17, p. 629). The local media covered the process, which took more than a year to complete (Russell County News: 6/15/39, 9/14/39, 9/28/39, 2/29/40, 3/7/40, and 7/4/40).

Once the original frame hall was demolished, members met in the Braxton Building in Jamestown. Meanwhile, sandstone for construction was hauled from Tennessee. Daris Foley, a member during these events, recalls an Alvin Gaskins, a Russell Springs builder, as the lodge's designer (Interview, 7/13/93). The newspaper named Grover Crouch and Son as the builder (Russell County News: 9/28/39). Construction went forward without mishap. In an article covering the dedication ceremonies, the newspaper cited the project as "one of the outstanding events of Jamestown and in the history of Russell County" (Russell County News: 7/4/40).

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Russell Lodge #284
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Membership grew during the 1940s until the lodge was forced to hold two meetings monthly, with roughly half the membership attending one or the other. This swelling of the ranks resulted in members from the Russell Springs area splitting off in 1945 to reactivate the lodge that had been chartered in 1911 but had become defunct. In 1960 that group constructed a one-story brick hall across the street from a historic Odd Fellows Hall.

Masonic activities became available to Jamestown women in 1936 with the establishment of the Order of Eastern Star, chapter 432. Both groups continue to share the building today. Its high degree of integrity on the exterior and on the interior's main meeting space allows us to consider the important role the Masonic activities have played in local history.

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Russell Lodge #284
Clinton Co., KY

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Daris Foley, Jamestown, 6/25/93
Morris Gaskin, Russell Springs, 7/25/93
Katherine Hamm, Jamestown, 7/26/93
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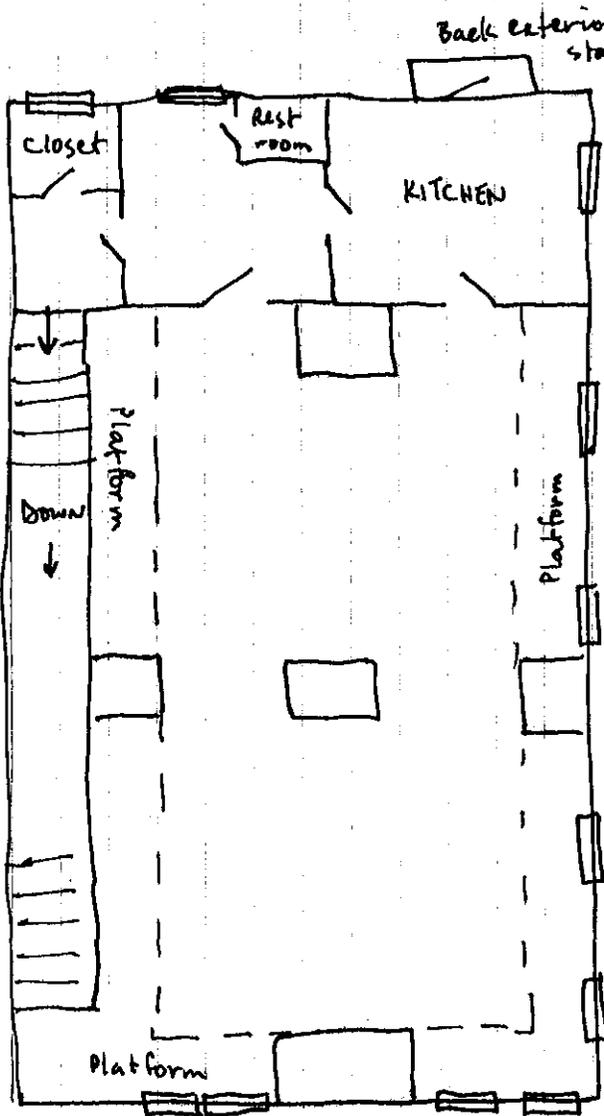
Russell Lodge #284
Russell Co., KY

Russell County News, various issues

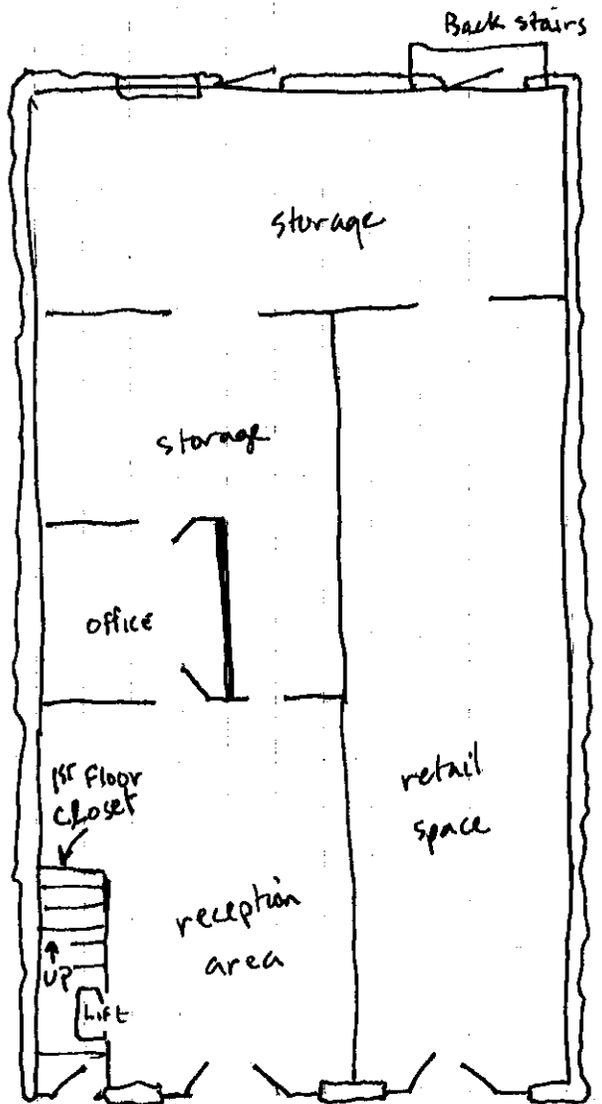
6/15/39	"New Masonic Bldg. for Jamestown"
9/14/39	"Work on New Masonic Bldg Resumed"
9/28/39	"Work on Masonic Bldg Rushed"
2/29/40	"Masons Moved to Their New Hall Tuesday"
3/7/40	"Russell Lodge No. 284 Meets for First Time in New Hall"
7/4/40	"Russell Lodge No. 284 F. & A.M. Dedicate New Bldg."

Work Projects Administration

1935-41	Project files of the Writers' Projects. Kentucky Department for Library and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky.
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Second Floor Plan



1st Floor Plan

Approximate Scale


RUSSELL LODGE #284
 PUBLIC SQUARE
 JAMESTOWN, KY



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Russell Lodge #284
Russell County, KY

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes all of lot 10, block 17, designated 34SE-17-10 on Russell County Property Valuation Map. The nominated area includes the primary feature, the Masonic Lodge, and the entire lot on which it is situated.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The area proposed for listing includes the entire urban lot, which has been associated with the Masonic group and its significant building since that building was constructed in 1939-1940. The lot contains no landscaped features contributing to the significance. Adjacent to the nominated building are other urban structures that line Jamestown's Public Square.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

Same for all photographs:

Name of Resource: Russell Lodge #284

Location: Public Square, Jamestown, Russell County, KY

Photographer: L. Martin Perry

Date of Photographs: June, 1993

Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Direction Camera Faces</u>
1	Front facade of Lodge	West
2	Back side of Lodge	East
3	Second floor, main hall	Northeast
4	First floor, office	Southwest
5	Second floor, kitchen	Northwest