

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Knights of Pythias Hall

Other names/site number: Masonic Temple Lodge No. 413 Free & Accepted Mason  
(Fort Black Lodge)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 118 E. Washington Street

City or town: New Madison State: Ohio County: Darke

Not For Publication:  NA  Vicinity:  NA

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A     B     C     D

<p><u>Barbara Power</u> DSHPO for Inventory &amp; Registration</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title: _____</p> <p><u>State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p><u>July 17, 2018</u></p> <p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater, auditorium

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Knights of Pythias (K of P) Lodge Hall, a two-story brick building with limestone door and window details, rough-faced limestone raised basement, and hip roof was built in 1904-1906. The lodge is located on the south side of Washington Street, mid-block between S. Main and Harrison streets in the center of the village of New Madison in Harrison Township, Darke County, about twelve miles southwest of Greenville, the county seat. The Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall is one of only a few historic buildings in the village's commercial center and stands out due to its overall size and its brick and limestone construction. The 1906 H. G. Bloom Block at the northeast corner of Main and Washington streets is a brick and stone commercial building and the only other historic building comparable to the K of P Lodge Hall in age, scale and materials; other older commercial buildings along Main Street are mostly 1-2 story frame buildings. The parcel on which the building is located was part of the original town plat. The building occupies most of its lot, 85 feet (frontage) by 84 feet (depth). Along the front of the building is a tree lawn, brick sidewalk and some shrubbery. The rear lot line runs roughly along the rear wall of the building. The west side of the building abuts a paved parking lot and there is gravel along the building's east side. The Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall retains historic integrity through its location, overall shape, building materials, and many original architectural features and interior spaces and details. With the exception of the bricked-in second story tripartite windows the building's exterior and interior appearance has changed very little and still conveys its significance as an early twentieth century fraternal lodge hall and entertainment venue, and later as the local Masonic Temple Lodge.

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## Narrative Description

The two-story Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall has a raised limestone foundation topped by a smooth finished limestone belt course and punctuated on all four sides with basement windows (now boarded) with limestone sills, brick load-bearing masonry with limestone details and brick corbelling and pilasters, and an asphalt shingle hip roof. Rectangular in shape the building dimensions are 42 feet wide and 80 feet long. The original wood windows are paired double hung one-over-one sash with fixed transoms. The historic windows are intact but currently covered with wood shutters.

The front of the building faces northeast and is three bays wide. (Photos 1, 5) The front portion of the building (one bay deep) projects one-half attic story above the rest of the building and is topped by a separate asphalt shingled hip roof with its ridge running perpendicular to the main roof. The first floor has a recessed central round arched entrance flanked by round arched windows all featuring smooth dressed limestone lintels and sills. The first floor windows have a single transom with spoke-like mullions. The entrance has limestone steps leading to a recessed doorway featuring a transom divided into four sections and two single doors that are later replacements. (Photo 11) The entrance vestibule has been altered with wood siding and a dropped ceiling; the original doorway opening remains and suggests that the original doors may have been a configuration of double doors with sidelights and transom. The current aluminum and glass entrance door was installed in 1980. The building's construction date "1904" is carved in the center of the stone entrance arch. (Photo 8) The second floor fenestration represents the most notable alteration to the exterior of the building. The centerpiece of the upper portion of the façade was a tripartite window configuration comprised of a center paired window and transom matching the other historic windows and flanked on each side by single double hung windows, all topped by exaggerated smooth finished limestone flat arch lintels. This window treatment has been bricked-in with the stone lintels and sills remaining, likely part of the changes made to the building when the Masons bought the lodge hall in the late 1930s. A blue and white tile tablet with tile lettering "Ft. Black Lodge No. 413 F. & A. M. 1936" is centered in the bricked in space. (Photo 6) Above the bricked-in center window is an earlier limestone plaque carved with "Fort Black Hall." The remaining second floor fenestration includes single round arched windows with limestone lintels and sills on either side of the now bricked-in center windows. The front portion has brick corbelling at the top of the wall below the eaves.

The west side of the building has five bays divided by brick pilasters, decorative corbelled brick spandrels and brick corbelling along the top of wall below the eaves. (Photo 4) The fenestration pattern is the same on both the first and second floors. The first and fifth bays feature single double-hung windows with stone sills and the second, third, and fourth bays have paired double hung windows with stone sills. The first floor windows all have flat stone lintels, except the first bay which has a brick jack arch. The second floor windows have brick segmental arches with stone transom bars. The fifth bay has a single door to the basement.

The east elevation has the same wall treatment and window pattern and detailing as the west elevation. (Photo 2) At the basement level along the front (first) bay a wood shed-roofed

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enclosure has been built with an entrance into the basement. The fourth bay has stone steps and raised entrance landing with a first floor door cut into the bottom of the window opening, this alteration dates to the 1930s when the Masons purchased the building.

The south (rear) elevation is a solid wall except for a tall first floor single double-hung window with brick arch and a smaller double hung window with segmental arch on the second floor. (Photo 3)

The interior of the building retains much of the floor plan and features associated with the building's use as a lodge hall, meeting, and entertainment space. The main first floor entrance vestibule opens into the large open space with stage at the rear, south end of building. (Photos 12-14) Behind the stage area are restrooms, several small rooms, an elevator (added in 1978) and stairs. Originally, this space was the opera house performance area and served many purposes, from stage shows, suppers, high school class plays and commencement services, and other community activities. Evidence of the various historic performances are documented by signatures dating from the early 1900s through 1920s on the back wall of the former rear stage space. (Figure 6) The original stage was 15 ft. wide and the entire depth back to the basement stairs. In 1948 the Masons altered this space by adding men and women's bathrooms, and reducing the stage to its current dimensions of 10 ft. wide by 6 ft. 6 inches deep. Six inch round steel columns are evenly spaced within the open seating area. The walls have paneling over the original 12 inch thick brick and block/plaster walls. The original ceiling height was 16 feet and later covered with dropped ceiling of lay-in acoustical tile at 10 feet. Original wood stairs to the second floor are located in the front northwest corner and behind the stage at the rear (south) end. (Photos 24, 16) A wooden catwalk extends from the front stairway into the projection room. (Photos 25, 26) During the 1948 remodeling of the building by the Masons the kitchen originally located in the basement was moved to the northeast front corner of the first floor. This space retains its 1940s painted cabinets and counters. (Photo 15)

The second floor retains its room configuration, architectural details and finishes to convey its use for lodge meetings and rituals. The stairs at the south end of the building enter on the second floor into a hallway and entrance space with wood doors featuring a bell and peephole controlling access to the lodge meeting space. (Photos 18, 19) The front almost two-thirds of the floor is the lodge meeting room. (Photo 20) A wall with an 8 ft. wide paneled wood pocket door separates the meeting space from smaller rooms (robing rooms, offices), lounge and restrooms located at the rear of the second floor and off of the entrance space described above. (Photo 23) These spaces feature historic woodwork, doors, windows, and wood strips with coat hooks. The meeting room floor has carpet over sheathing and plaster walls over masonry with wood chair rail. The ceiling height is 15 ft., with original wood beams and light fixtures. At the north end of the meeting space is an elevated platform flanked with two white columns that serve as the location for the Grand Master. (Figure 7) Along the east and west walls 6 in. elevated platforms provided space for seating. (Photo 21) The original seating was replaced in 1965 with the current seating. The original woodwork, doors and window trim are intact.

The basement has a concrete floor, stone walls 24 inches thick, and wood fixed sash windows (two panes with center vertical mullion). (Photo 28) The distance from the basement floor to the

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first floor is 10 feet. The basic structural system is evident by the 16" by 16" brick columns, supporting beams and 2" x 12" joists at 16 inches. The four columns in the former meeting area were later stuccoed with rounded corners over to provide a smooth appearance. (Photo 29) Originally, a stair on the north end went up to the first floor into what is now the kitchen. It is now sealed off. There are two means of egress: the door at the northeast corner comes directly from the outside, the south wood stairs comes from the inside. Originally, social functions, specifically suppers, were held in the basement space. Cabinets from the original kitchen are still in place. (Photo 27)

**INTEGRITY:**

The Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall has historic integrity conveying its historic significance as a lodge hall and performance space, serving the rural community of New Madison in Darke County. Located just off of the main street and intersection in New Madison, the early twentieth century brick building's original *location* and *setting* show its prominence within the village. The building's historic uses are evident through its *design, materials, feeling* and *association*. The exterior brick and stone trim, historic signage, and brick sidewalk, along with interior details including woodwork, wood doors, stairs, beamed ceilings, windows and window surrounds, and bathroom fixtures remain. The primary interior spaces remain and demonstrate their historic uses with the basement retaining former kitchen and meeting space, first floor stage and historic signatures, and the second floor lodge space and projection booth. The second floor lodge space clearly conveys its usage for meeting and rituals through the intact architectural features (podium/columns, raised side seating) in the lodge room and the ancillary spaces (entrance with doors retaining bell and peephole and additional spaces used for robing areas, etc.).

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

1904-1968

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1936

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historic association with rural fraternal organizations as an example of a fraternal lodge meeting hall. Constructed in 1904 the nominated property served as a center of social activity and entertainment for the Darke County rural village of New Madison, first as the meeting hall for the Knights of Pythias Lodge and an opera house and meeting space, and then as the Masonic Temple Lodge No. 413 Free & Accepted Mason (Fort Black Lodge). The K of P and Masons, along with the women auxiliaries, the Pythian Sisters and Fort Black Chapter No. 336, Order of the Eastern Star, reflect the role of these fraternal organizations in social and benevolent activities within the community. The late nineteenth through early twentieth centuries were considered the golden age of fraternal organizations with the formation of new organizations, expansion of services provided by the organizations, and increasing numbers of lodge memberships and participation. The Knights of Pythias Lodge provides insight into the role and activities of these fraternal organizations in early twentieth century rural life. The period of significance begins in 1904 with the construction of the building and ends in 1968 reflecting the continuing presence and activities of the Masons within the community, and by this time the only remaining local fraternal organization. The Knights of Pythias Lodge conveys its historic significance as a fraternal lodge and entertainment space through its Classical Revival architectural style and details and its interior spaces including the stage and meeting space, lodge hall, and architectural finishes and materials.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Following the end of the War of 1812 Darke County in western Ohio experienced rapid settlement. Zadock Smith laid out a town plat on the site of Fort Black in section 13 of Harrison Township as early as 1817, however, this effort was unsuccessful and Smith sold the land to Ernestus Putnam in 1819. In 1831 Putnam platted 34 lots, roughly along a three block stretch of what is now Main Street in New Madison. By 1840 New Madison had a school, several stores, a hotel, and a site for a church. By the end of the nineteenth century New Madison was an active village surrounded by farmland. One of the first organizations formed in New Madison was the County Agricultural Society in 1852. In 1910 Harrison Township's total population was 2,054 with New Madison's population at 628. The village had churches, a school, town hall, fire department, bank, 2 hotels, a newspaper, ice plant, grain elevator, tobacco warehouse, factories, and several fine residences. The History of Darke County specifically mentions that most towns the size of New Madison had "strong and active fraternal spirit." By 1914 New Madison

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illustrates this trend with fraternal organizations that included the Masons, Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters, and Improved Order of the Red Men.<sup>1</sup>

The second half of the nineteenth century through the 1920s is considered the golden age of fraternalism with the membership in fraternal organizations in the United States growing at a rapid rate. At the peak of this time period an estimated 40% of the country's adult population was a member in one or more fraternal organizations.<sup>2</sup>

During this period the fraternal organizations with the largest numbers of members were the Freemasons and Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). By the late nineteenth century these two organizations were well-established with their history and development in United States history dating to the eighteenth century for the Masons and the early nineteenth century for the Odd Fellows. After the Civil War, fraternal memberships rapidly expand with a revival of interest and membership in these older organizations and through the formation of numerous new organizations. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), formed during this period as a fraternal organization of Union Army veterans quickly became one of the largest memberships, competing with the Masons and Odd Fellows.<sup>3</sup> Darke County had eight GAR posts, mostly formed during the 1880s.

Additional fraternal organizations forming nationwide following the Civil War include the Knights of Pythias (1864), Patrons of Husbandry (the Grange) (1867), Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks (1868), Knights of Columbus (1882), Loyal Order of Moose (1888), and Woodsmen of the World (1890). Their founding histories and origins differed, but collectively these organizations similarly served to offer their members comradery and the concept of belonging to a unified organization. Organized for varying purposes and goals, most of these fraternal organizations shared overall goals of providing a social function, providing mutual aid insurance (predating such benefits offered through an employer or government), contributing to philanthropic causes, and in some, but not all, championing specific political interests. The fraternal organizations formed during this period were membership organizations with members typically reflecting similar social-economic status and ethnicities; but most were seen as less exclusive in membership than the Masons or Odd Fellows. Most were racially segregated and all were gender exclusive with separate women's auxiliaries such as the Pythian Sisters (Knights of Pythias), Order of the Eastern Star (Masons), etc. Membership included secret rituals, costumes and regalia, structure, order, entertainment, and group identity.<sup>4</sup>

The Fraternal Order of Knights of Pythias was founded in Washington, D.C. on February 19, 1864 by Justus Henry Rathbone, the first fraternal organization to receive a charter from the United States Congress. The primary object of the fraternal organization was to promote friendship among men and to provide for the general welfare of its membership. The outstanding

<sup>1</sup> Frazer E. Wilson, Milford, OH: Hobart Publishing Co., 1914, *History of Darke County, From Early Settlers to Present Time*, Vol. 1, p.p. 425, 688 and *Plat Book of Darke County, Ohio*, 1910, Des Moines, Iowa, Northwest Publishing Co., 1910.

<sup>2</sup> Harriet McBride, "The Golden Age of Fraternalism, 1870-1910," *Phoenix Masonry*, Vol. 13, 2005, 3.

<sup>3</sup> McBride, 6-7.

<sup>4</sup> McBride, 8, 21.

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principles of the Knights of Pythias are Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence as exemplified in the story of Damon and Pythias. Local lodges are governed by State Grand Lodges which, in turn, are governed by the Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias.<sup>5</sup> In Ohio the earliest formation of Knights of Pythias lodges were in 1869, with charters dating between March and May, 1869, in Steubenville, Cincinnati (the Cincinnati Lodge, Good Intent Lodge, and Damon Lodge), Columbus (Germania Lodge, Columbus Lodge, and Franklin Lodge), Cleveland, and the Grand Lodge of Ohio forming in July, 1869. In addition to the fraternal organization and social aspects, the Ohio lodges offered insurance policies to their members and provided for elderly or indigent members at the Ohio Pythian Home, established in 1915 in Springfield, Ohio.<sup>6</sup>

By 1900, the Knights of Pythias had the fourth largest number of lodges nationwide, following the GAR, IOOF, and Masons.<sup>7</sup> This national trend is reflected in the number and type of fraternal organizations that were organized and functioning in Darke County communities by 1914. There were ten IOOF Lodges, in Ansonia, Arcanum, Bradford, Gettysburg, New Castle, and three separate lodges in Greenville, the county seat. There were nine Masonic lodges, including Ansonia, Arcanum, Bradford, Gettysburg, New Madison, and three Masonic lodges in Greenville. There were eight Knights of Pythias lodges, located in Ansonia, Arcanum, Gettysburg, Greenville, Ithaca, New Madison, and Versailles. Several of these communities had additional fraternal organizations including the Improved Order of the Red Men (IOOR) in New Madison.<sup>8</sup>

The Knights of Pythias Lodge, the Fort Black Lodge No. 546, built their lodge hall in New Madison in 1904. Local histories recount area farmers providing their horse teams and wagons to haul stones for the building's foundation.<sup>9</sup> The lodge hall included a first floor opera house with stage and second floor lodge meeting room. Originally in the basement was a kitchen and space for serving meals. The members held their meetings in the second floor lodge, they called Castle Hall, every Thursday evening.

In addition to K of P membership meetings and activities, the Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall became a center for a wide range of meetings, social events, ceremonies, and performances. The first floor opera house was the location for vaudeville shows and local performances. The *New Madison Herald* printed announcements for local plays by the New Madison High School senior classes and plays presented by the United Brethren Church and the Sunday School class of the Universalist Church, all performed at the K of P. The original wall in the first floor stage area includes signatures and dates from the local senior classes and other performers with dates ranging from 1910s to 1930s. Community dances and card parties were held at the K of P hall. During the 1910s the K of P Hall was the location for the local high school commencement ceremonies. In association with the Ohio Constitutional Convention of 1913, a notice in the August 20, 1912 *New Madison Herald*, announced that an attorney from Greenville was

<sup>5</sup> Knights of Pythias Grand Lodge of Ohio website (accessed 6/1/2018) and The Pythians, The Order of Knights of Pythias website, [www.pythias.org](http://www.pythias.org) (accessed 4/20/2017)

<sup>6</sup> Knights of Pythias Grand Lodge of Ohio website (accessed 6/1/2018)

<sup>7</sup> McBride, 5.

<sup>8</sup> Wilson, 688.

<sup>9</sup> Hindsley, n.p.

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addressing a public audience at the K of P Hall about the proposed amendments to the State of Ohio constitution.<sup>10</sup>

In addition to the Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters meetings, the lodge hall was the location for other local groups to meet and for their ceremonies. The New Madison Horse Thief Detective Association held their March, June, September, and December quarterly meetings in the K of P Hall. The May 8, 1912 issue of the *New Madison Herald* ran a front page story covering the memorial services conducted by the IOOR lodge explaining that members first met in their hall then marched with a band to the K of P Hall where an address was given by the guest speaker. The June 14, 1912 *New Madison Herald* covered the Knights of Pythias' memorial service, called their "Decoration Ceremony" that had been conducted on June 7, 1912. The ceremony which began at the K of P lodge culminated in the local cemetery where deceased members were honored. The coverage described the event as "well attended by members and visiting members from nearby towns." The article went on to mention that the K of P Fort Black Lodge was "annually increasing its membership and popularity." In the same issue under news from surrounding villages specific mention was made that citizens from Savona had attended the K of P Decoration Ceremony.<sup>11</sup>

The K of P Hall was clearly a local landmark within the early twentieth century village of New Madison. The K of P Hall is specifically called out on the 1910 Atlas map of the village, along with the Town Hall, Fire Department, Post Office, school, churches, bank, and a livery. A classified advertisement in the June 7, 1912 *New Madison Herald* provides an anecdotal example of the building's local prominence. The classified was for a Public Sale and read, "As I am leaving New Madison, I will sell at Public Sale at my residence, a short distance from the K of P Hall, on next Wednesday, all my household goods consisting of a stove, carpet, and furniture. My property is for sale. Mrs. L. Murray"<sup>12</sup> The only locational reference for the sale and real estate to be sold was its location in relationship to the K of P Hall.

The Fort Black K of P lodge disbanded in 1935 and sold the lodge hall to the Masons in 1936. The Masons made several changes to the building including relocating the kitchen to the first floor, new electric lighting fixtures, new seating in the lodge room, and reconfiguration of the second floor to include the waiting rooms and spaces associated with Masonic ritual. The building was dedicated for the Masons on June 12, 1936 with the Grand Master of Ohio Grand Lodge conducting the dedication ceremony and a dinner hosted by the Masonic women's auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star, in the dining room of the new temple. The newspaper article mentioned that the Fort Black Lodge of Masons had a "large membership with interested and active members."<sup>13</sup>

The Masons in New Madison date back to 1866 when a group of nineteen prospective members formed The Masonic Hall Joint Stock Co. of New Madison, Ohio. The group petitioned to

<sup>10</sup> *New Madison Herald*, February 1910; May 8, 10, 1912; August 20, 1912; January 21, 1932; March 31, 1932; April 14, 1932.

<sup>11</sup> *New Madison Herald*, June 7, 14, 1912

<sup>12</sup> *New Madison Herald*, June 7, 1912.

<sup>13</sup> *New Madison Herald*, June 11, 1936

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organize a Masonic Lodge, receiving dispensation from the Grand Master to begin the process. The New Madison Lodge was instituted by the Ithaca Lodge<sup>14</sup> and received its charter as The Fort Black Lodge #423, Free & Accepted Masons on October 20, 1868.<sup>15</sup> The Masons held their bi-weekly meetings in the upper floor lodge room they added in 1867 to a member's commercial building on Main Street in New Madison. This location remained the Masonic Lodge until the purchase of the K of P Hall in 1936. The Fort Black Chapter No. 336, Order of the Eastern Star was formed in 1911 and celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the new meeting space in 1936.<sup>16</sup>

Beginning in the 1920s Masonry was adapting to broader trends in fraternal organizational development, evidenced by greater emphasis upon service within the community, reflecting in part the increase in other service-based organizations and civic clubs such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions.<sup>17</sup> In 1930s the New Madison School hosted an annual "New Madison School and Community Fair," that had started in 1927. The local fraternal organizations, specifically the Masons, along with the Grange and newly established Kiwanis social and civic organization that had formed in the late 1930s in New Madison, sponsored the fair. The Masonic lodge meetings and activities as well as the public functions continued to take place in the building, including pancake breakfasts and a "Harvest Day Meal" in the fall. During the 1930s free movies were shown in the building on Saturday evenings. Local histories mention that in 1941 and again in 1948, the United Brethren Church in New Madison suffered fires and used the Masonic building for services while the fire damage was being repaired. In 1952 the Masons reached their peak membership with 234 members.<sup>18</sup> At this time the Masons are the only remaining fraternal organization in New Madison. The Masons continued to use the building until 2016 when it was purchased by the current owner, Charles Reynolds.

No other Darke County lodge halls are individually listed in the National Register. The Greenville South Broadway Commercial Historic District (NR: 84003657) includes the Fourman's Block, located at the northwest corner of S. Broadway and W. Third, where the Odd Fellows and Masons met in the upper floors from 1854 until 1908. Also in the district is the 1907 Masonic Lodge located on the east side of Broadway one block north of W. Third. Recorded in the Ohio Historic Inventory is the 1890 IOOF Hall (DAR0035609) in Versailles and the 1900 IOOF Lodge (DAR0078078) in Ithaca.

For more than sixty years, the K of P Hall was the center of fraternal comradery and fellowship, entertainment, and important public functions in the rural village of New Madison. The building remains a focal point in the center of the village and retains the character-defining features including exterior materials and architectural details, and interior spaces to convey its use as a

<sup>14</sup> In 1889 the Ithaca Masonic Lodge relocated to Arcanum. (Stephens, "History of Fort Black Lodge #413, F. & A. M. New Madison, OH, 1868-1968").

<sup>15</sup> Guy F. Stephens, "History of Fort Black Lodge 3413, F. & A. M. New Madison, Ohio, 1868-1968, n.p.

<sup>16</sup> Glen Hindsley, *Events of Yesteryears of New Madison, Ohio, 1812-1968*, n.p.

<sup>17</sup> Lynn Dumenil, *Freemasonry and American Culture, 1880-1930*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984, 149-150.

<sup>18</sup> Hindsley and "3<sup>rd</sup> Annual New Madison School and Community Fair, November 1-2, 1929." Booklet printed by New Madison Herald.

Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall  
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lodge hall and entertainment space, particularly the second floor lodge meeting spaces and distinct architectural features such as the podium with columns and the raised side seating.

Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall  
Name of Property

Darke County, Ohio  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“3<sup>rd</sup> Annual New Madison School and Community Fair, November 1-2, 1929.” Booklet printed by New Madison Herald.

Brown, Mary Ann and Mary Niekamp. “Greenville South Broadway Commercial District.” National Register of Historic Places nomination. Columbus, OH, State Historic Preservation Office, 1983.

Dumenil, Lynn. *Freemasonry and American Culture, 1880-1930*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984.

Hindsley, Glen. *Events of Yesteryears of New Madison, Ohio, 1812-1968*. New Madison Public Library, Local History Room.

Knights of Pythias Grand Lodge of Ohio website (accessed 6/1/2018)

McBride, Harriet. “The Golden Age of Fraternalism, 1870-1910,” *Phoenix Masonry*, Vol. 13, 2005. 1-31.

*New Madison Herald*. Newspaper microfilm, Ohio History Connection. Roll: 25167, 1907/12/06 – 1910/02/11; Roll: 25168, 1910/02/18 – 1912/04/26; Roll: 1912/05/03 – 1914/07/31; Roll: 25174, 1925/04/16 – 1925/04/16, 1930/08/07 – 1930/11/20, 1932/01/14 – 1938/05/26; Roll: 25176, 1942/02/05 – 1942/10/01.

Plat Book of Darke County, Ohio, 1910, Des Moines, Iowa, Northwest Publishing Co., 1910.

The Pythians, The Order of Knights of Pythias website, [www.pythias.org](http://www.pythias.org) (accessed 4/20/2017)

Stephens, Guy F. “History of Fort Black Lodge 3413, F. & A. M. New Madison, Ohio, 1868-1968. Unpublished.

Wilson, Frazer E. *History of Darke County, Ohio, From its Earliest Settlement to Present Time*, Volume I. Milford, OH: The Hobart Publishing Co., 1914.



Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall  
Name of Property

Darke County, Ohio  
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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one (0.1639 acres)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall  
Name of Property

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**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 695642 | Northing: 4426446 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Nominated property is located on Parcel number: G31-4-110-13-02-02-13200, Village of New Madison, Harrison Township, Darke County, measuring 85 feet (frontage) by 84 feet (depth). PUTMANS ADDN - NW COR LOT 60 & ORIGINAL TOWN - E SD LOT 6 & NE COR LOT 7.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire property historically associated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Charles R. Reynolds, President  
organization: Whitestone Development, Inc.  
street & number: 3464 Westbury Road  
city or town: Kettering state: OH zip code: 45409  
e-mail: whitestone@roadrunner.com  
telephone: 937-293-9553  
date: April 11, 2017

Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall  
Name of Property

Darke County, Ohio  
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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Knights of Pythias Lodge

City or Vicinity: New Madison

County: Darke State: Ohio

Photographer: Barbara Powers

Date Photographed: April 30, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 30. Façade (north front) and east elevation, looking southwest
- 2 of 30. East elevation, looking northwest
- 3 of 30. Rear (south) elevation, looking north
- 4 of 30. West elevation, looking southeast
- 5 of 30. Façade (north front), looking south

Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall  
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- 6 of 30. Historic signage on front of building, looking south
- 7 of 30. Framing from historic lighting on front of building, looking southwest
- 8 of 30. Building date carved in stone entrance arch, façade, looking south
- 9 of 30. Brick detail, west elevation, looking east
- 10 of 30. Brick sidewalk along front of building, looking west
- 11 of 30. Front entrance, looking southeast
- 12 of 30. First floor meeting room, looking southeast
- 13 of 30. First floor stage, looking southeast
- 14 of 30. First floor meeting room and front entrance, looking northeast
- 15 of 30. First floor kitchen, looking southwest
- 16 of 30. Stairway to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lodge rooms, looking east
- 17 of 30. Door with bell, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lodge entrance rooms, looking south
- 18 of 30. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lodge entrance rooms, looking northwest
- 19 of 30. Door with peephole, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lodge, looking north
- 20 of 30. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lodge meeting room, looking northwest
- 21 of 30. Raised seating along west side of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lodge meeting room, looking southwest
- 22 of 30. Window detail on west elevation, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lodge meeting room, looking southwest
- 23 of 30. Pocket doors between lodge meeting room and secondary lodge meeting and robing rooms, looking south
- 24 of 30. Secondary stairway from 1<sup>st</sup> floor, looking west
- 25 of 30. Wood catwalk to projection booth, first floor, looking northwest
- 26 of 30. Projection, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, looking southeast
- 27 of 30. Basement, former kitchen area, looking southwest
- 28 of 30. Basement, stone foundation wall and window, looking northwest
- 29 of 30. Basement, former meeting space, looking northwest
- 30 of 30. Basement, wood rail with coat hooks in meeting space, looking northwest

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Knights of Pythias Hall
Name of Property
Darke County, Ohio
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 1

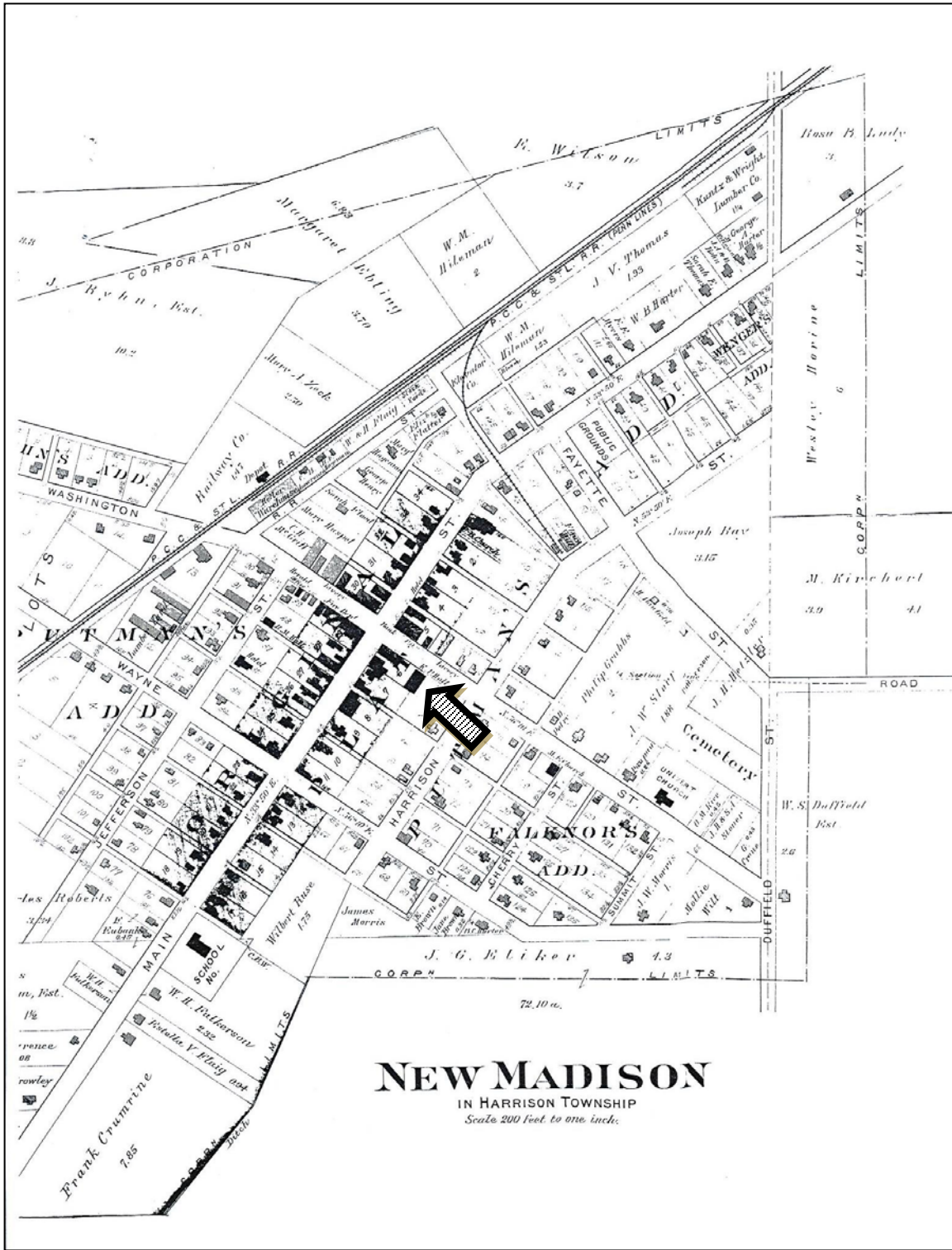


Figure 1: K of P Hall, Plat Map of Darke County, 1910. (New Madison Public Library)

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Knights of Pythias Hall
Name of Property
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 2

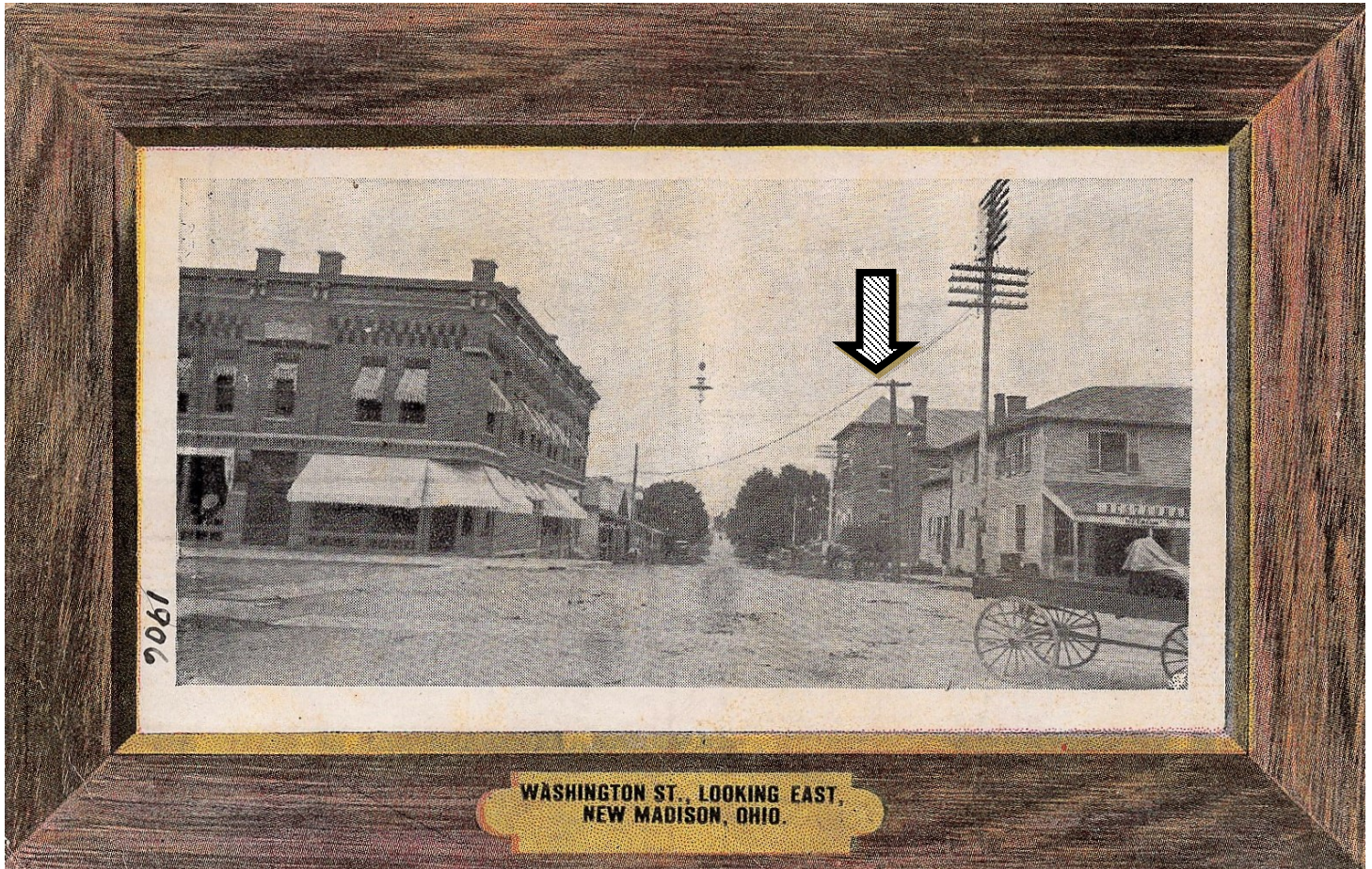


Figure 2: New Madison, 1906 (Collection of Richard Brown, Greenville, OH)

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Knights of Pythias Hall
-----
Name of Property
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County and State
-----
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Figure 3: K of P Hall, 1906 (collection of Richard Brown, Greenville, OH)

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Knights of Pythias Hall

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Figure 4: K of P Hall postcard (Collection of Richard Brown, Greenville, OH)



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Figure 5: Advertisement, *New Madison Herald*, January 10, 1907.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Knights of Pythias Hall

Name of Property  
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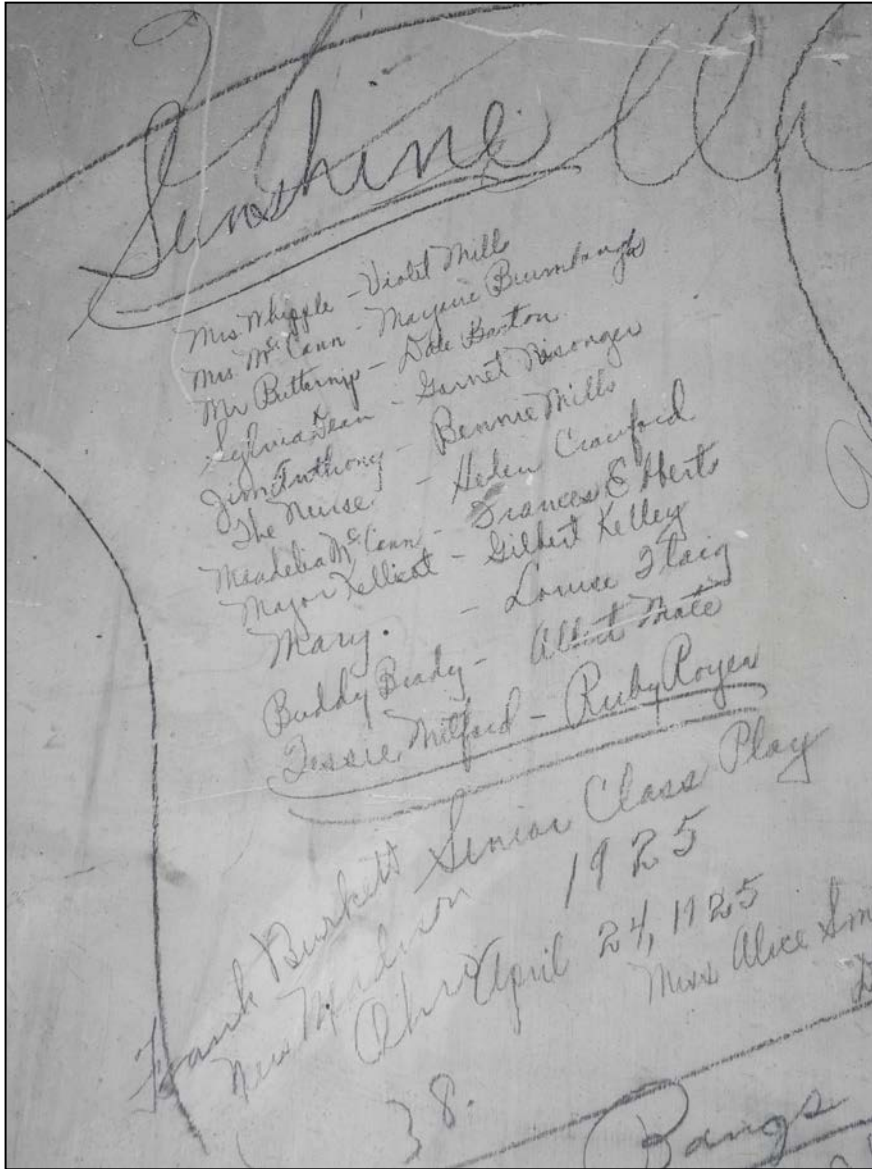


Figure 6: Historic signatures, Senior Class of 1925, K of P Hall, 2018 photo, Barbara Powers, photographer

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Knights of Pythias Hall
Name of Property
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 7



Figure 7: Second floor Lodge Hall, K of P Hall, 2016 photo, Pe Pei-Yu Shih, photographer

**BOUNDARY RETRACEMENT SURVEY**

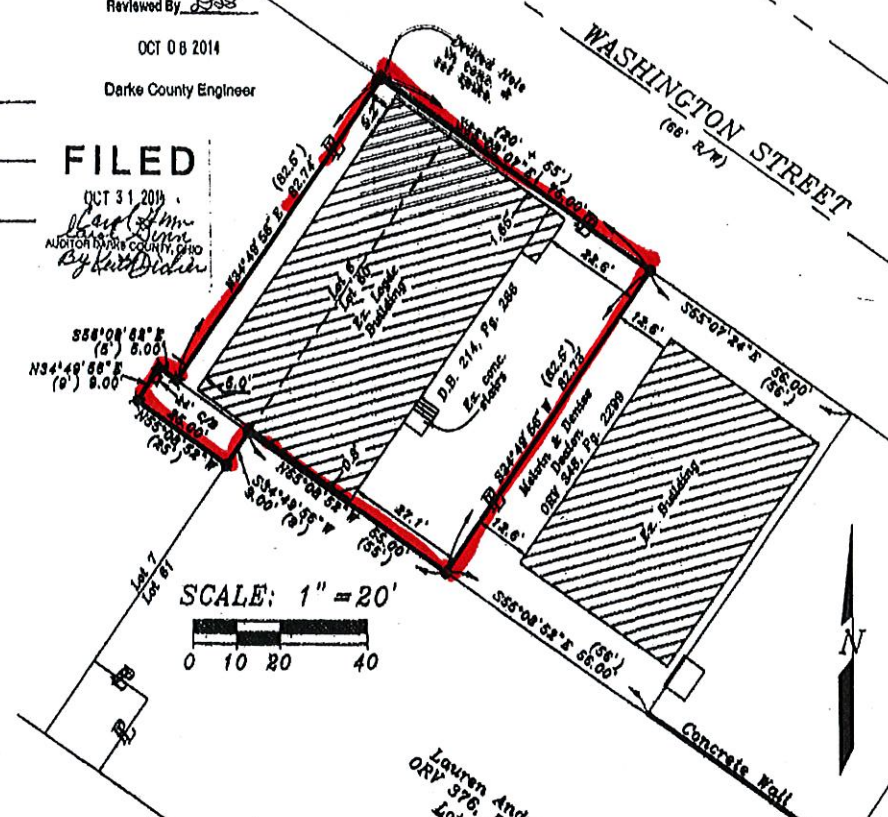
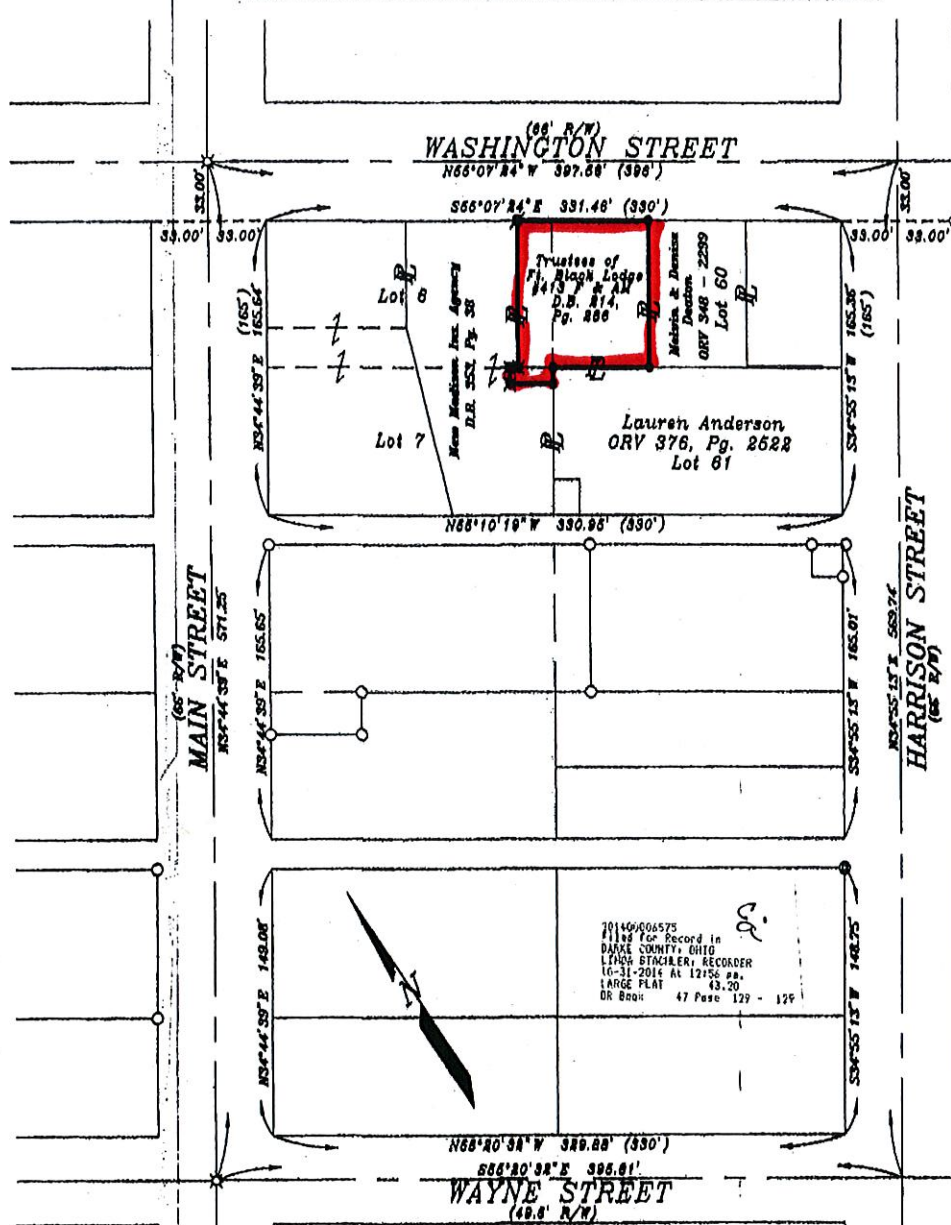
Reviewed By *JFS*

OCT 08 2014

Darke County Engineer

**FILED**

OCT 31 2014  
*Lauren Anderson*  
 Auditor  
 DARKE COUNTY, OHIO  
*By K. D. Dicker*



- LEGEND**
- Stone Found
  - Corner Post Found
  - Iron Spike Found
  - Iron Pipe Found
  - Iron Pin Found
  - Nail Found
  - Concrete Monument Found
  - Iron Pin Set
  - Spike Set
  - Nail Set

Note: Called distances are enclosed by parentheses.

*Lauren Anderson*  
 11/21/2014  
 Village Zoning Inspector

SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 0 25 50 100



Surveyed by: *James F. Stayton* Date: *2-12-14*  
 James F. Stayton  
 Reg. Surveyor #8799

<b>PLAT OF SURVEY</b>		Date: 9-18-14
FT. BLACK MASONIC LODGE #413 F&AM		Checked: JFS
J.F. STAYTON & ASSOCIATES		Drawn By: BRO
ELDORADO, OHIO PH. 873-4341		Dwg. No. 3478

Reviewed By [Signature]

OCT 08 2014

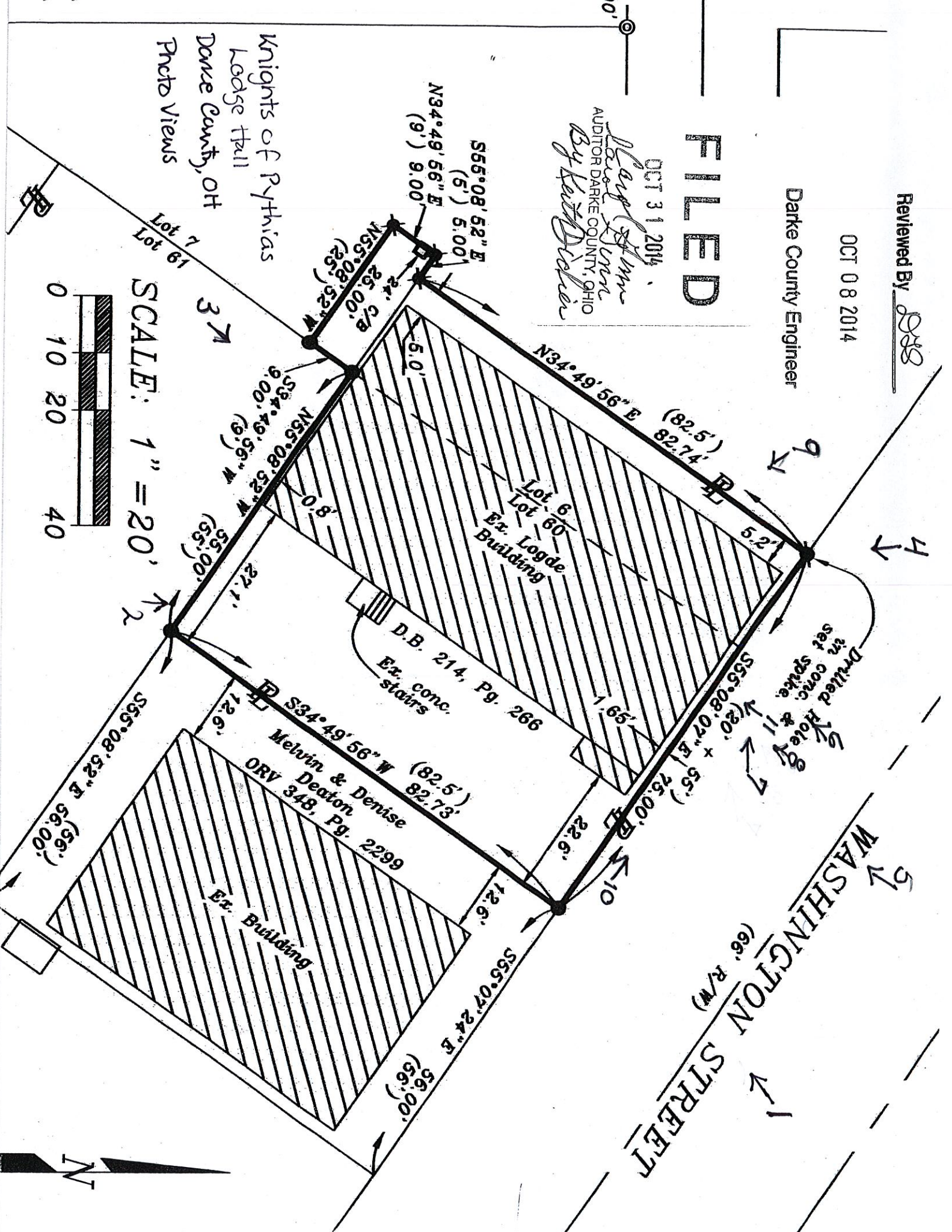
Darke County Engineer

FILED

OCT 31 2014

*Laurel [Signature]*  
AUDITOR DARKE COUNTY, OHIO  
*By Keith [Signature]*

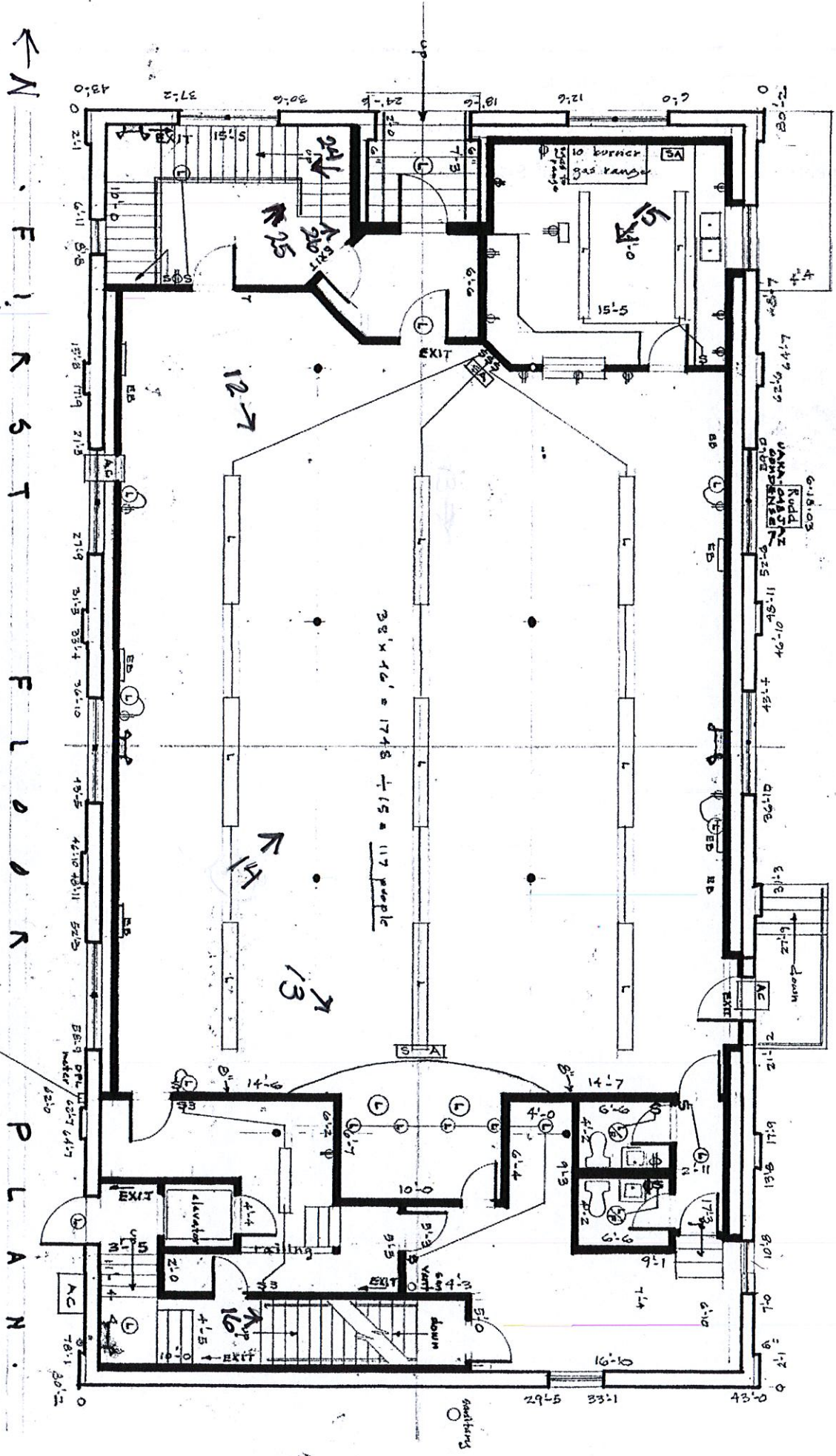
Knights of Pythias  
Lodge Hall  
Dance Cawty, OH  
Photo Views



SCALE: 1" = 20'



Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall, Darke County, OH  
 Photo Views



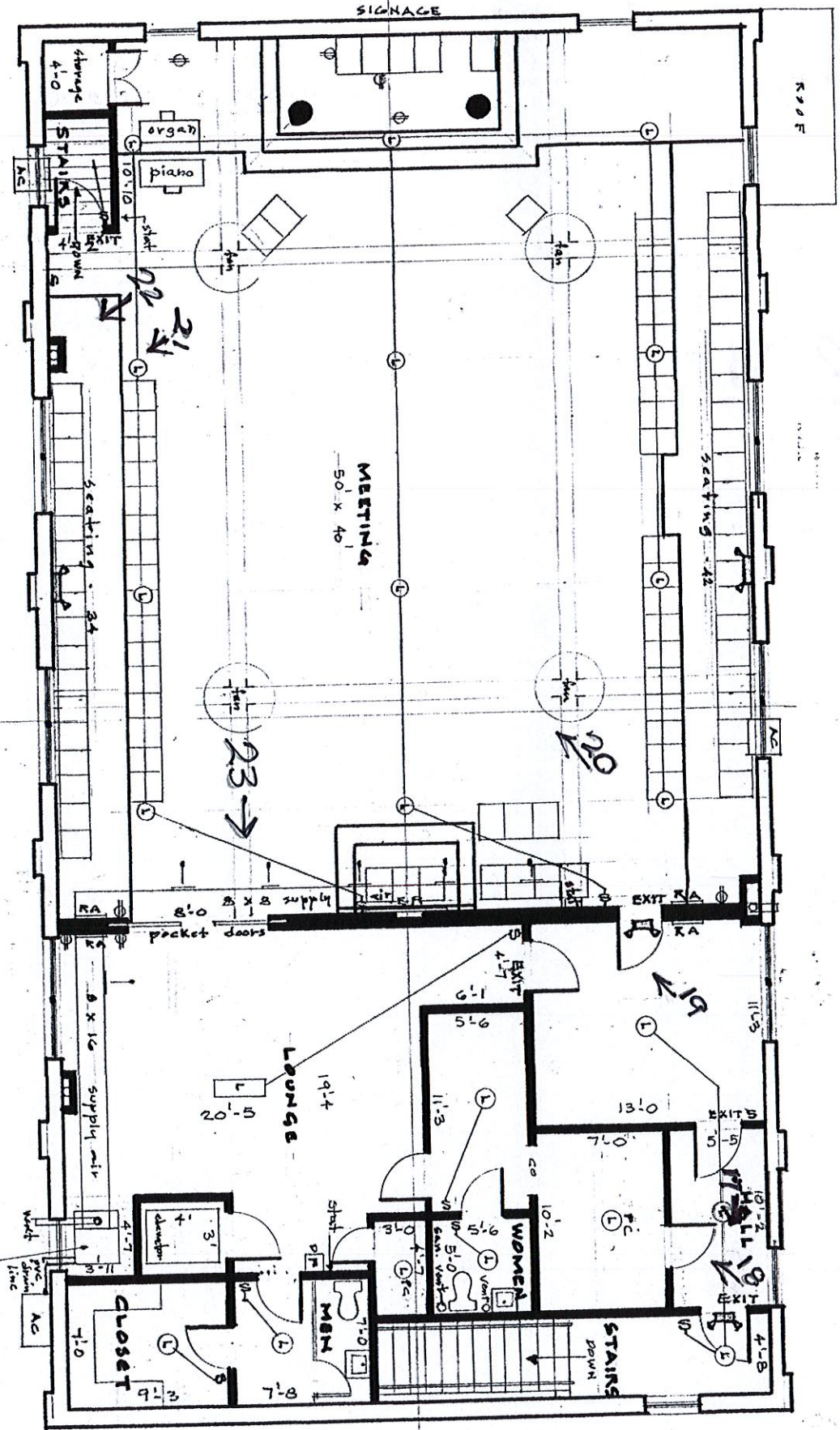
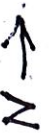
MICHAEL THIPLE  
 118 E. Washington Street  
 New Madison, Ohio 45346  
 AS. built. drawings

Whitson Development Inc.  
 344 Westbury Road  
 Kelleysburg, Ohio 45008  
 937.293.9553

3

Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall, Darke County, OH  
 Photo Views

SECTION FLOOR PLAN



MASONIC TEMPLE  
 118 E. Washington Street  
 New Madison, Ohio 45376  
 A.S. SAUER drawings

Whitcomb Development Inc.  
 3464 Vandyke Road  
 Kettering, Ohio 45429  
 937-299-9553

Rudd Silhouette II  
 gas furnace

4

# Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall, Darke County, OH

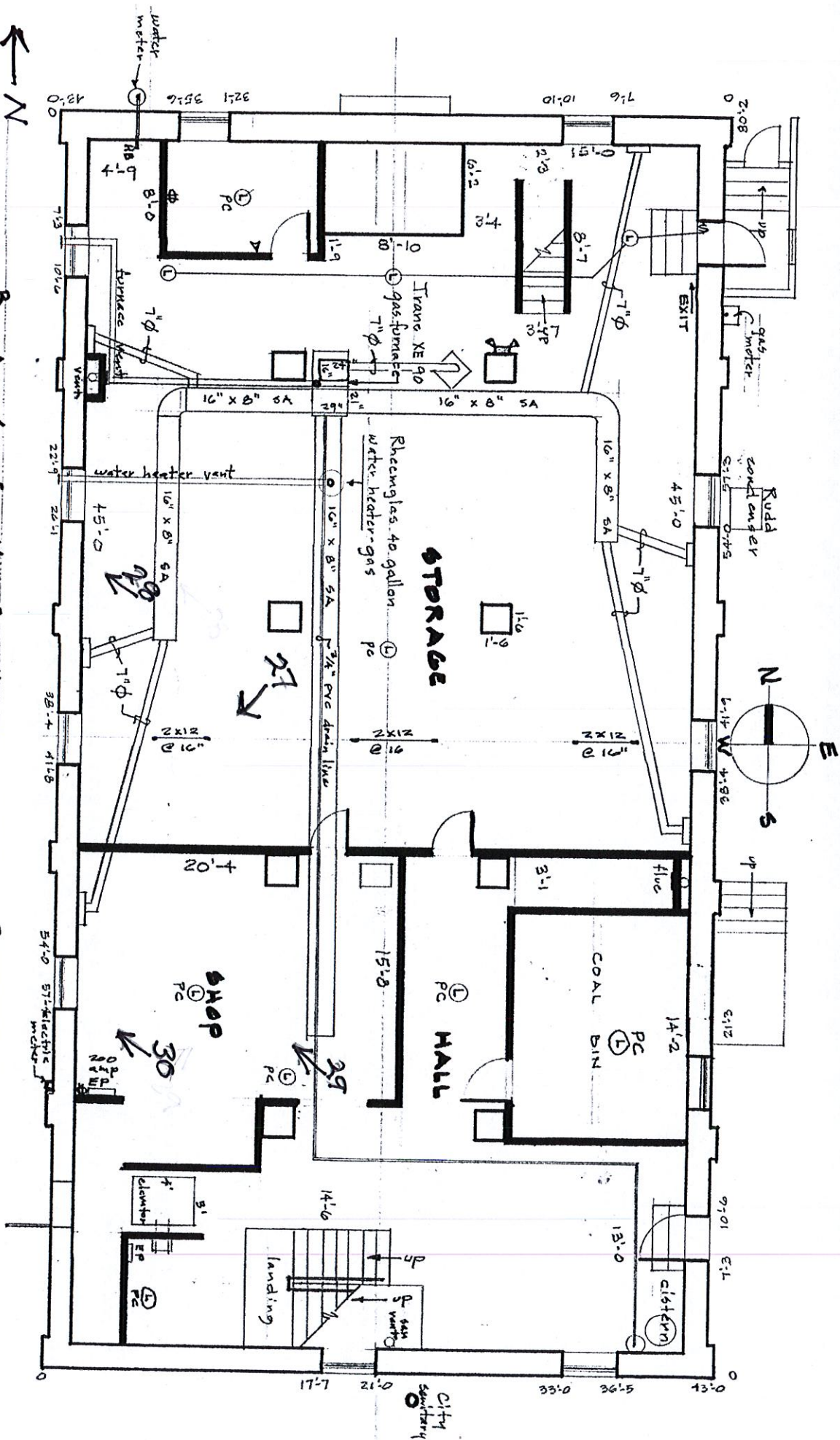
## Photo Views

Range  
12 x 11 miles

- model # =
- BTU/hour = 60,000?
- filter = 16 x 20 x 1

self-diagnosis capability system  
problems will reset automatically

- SEER =
- date installed =
- Energy Star =



B A S E M E N T P L A N

MASONIC TEMPLE  
118 E. Washington Street  
New Madison, Ohio 45345  
AS BUILT drawings

Whitaker Development Inc.  
3064 Stearns Road  
Kettering, Ohio 45429  
937.293.9553