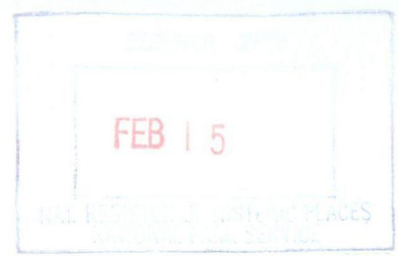


(Oct. 1990)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214, A.F. & A.M.
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 101 South Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Farmersville
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Collin CODE: 085
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 75442

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.)


Signature of certifying official

February 14, 2005
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

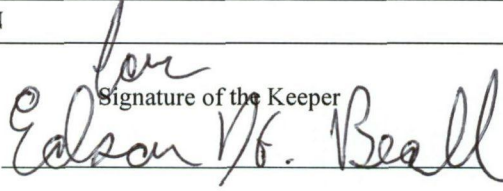
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____


Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall
Date of Action
3/30/05

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL: meeting hall (Masonic)

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE: business = office building

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

LATE VICTORIAN= Italianate

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE

WALLS STONE = Limestone

ROOF ASPHALT

OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214 A.F. & A.M. (c. 1888) in Farmersville, Texas, is the principal building on the north side of the town square, once the business hub of this small northeast Collin County community. Occupying the corner lot at the intersection of South Main Street and College Street, the Italianate Farmersville Masonic Lodge Building is a two-story, two-part commercial block with a rectangular floor plan. Approximately 4,800 square feet in area, the building is constructed of locally-quarried limestone and features double-door entries, narrow double-hung windows, a west-facing Roman-arched second story window, and a corbelled parapet. The building retains a high degree of integrity but requires immediate stabilization due to water infiltration.

Farmersville, Texas, a Main Street City since 2000, is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 380 and State Highway 78 in east Collin County. Its largely intact public square is anchored by "Freedom Plaza," a centrally located war memorial area dedicated by the community on May 28, 1973, to all American men and women who have served their nation in times of war and peace, including former resident, Audie Murphy (1924-1971). Most of the commercial buildings in the Main Street district are utilized and a number have undergone restorations. On the same block is the Aston building (NR 1983), constructed the same year as the Lodge, with similar materials and stylistic influences. These two "sister buildings" are the most elaborate examples of late 19th century commercial block architecture in Farmersville. *The Farmersville Times*, which has served the community continuously since the 1880's moved its operation to the first floor of the lodge building in 1956.

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214 is a two-part commercial block building type that was the most common composition for small (2 to 4 story) commercial buildings built in the period 1850-1950. Such buildings are divided horizontally into two zones: the ground floor typically features a storefront and other public space; the upper story is devoted to more private space. The open floor plan of such buildings allows them to be adaptable for a variety of usage, including warehouse, commercial, or office.

The commercial block is a flexible building type, taking on various types of ornament to convey a wide range of styles. Usually sharing a party wall with neighboring buildings the front elevation is dominant and usually consists of storefronts on the first floor with a more heavily ornamented second floor. The Farmersville Masonic Lodge is an example of a commercial block adapted to the Italianate style. The Italianate style was popular in the last decades of the nineteenth century for both residential and commercial buildings. Inspired by Italian villas, Italianate buildings adapted classical details and are often characterized by vertical massing, quoins, and cornices articulated by brackets. The paired brackets, the combination of arched and squared windows of the Lodge are all characteristic of the style. Although the first floor of the lodge has been modified, the upper story remains in tact.

Exterior

Facing west at the intersection of South Main Street and College Street, Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214, A.F. & A.M. (c.1888) is one of the oldest buildings on the square and is a contemporary of the similarly

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

constructed Aston Building to its south. The Masons, and later the Order of the Eastern Star (Chapter 940 chartered October 28, 1948) conducted meetings on the second floor of the building from 1889 until 1966 when a new lodge building was constructed on State Highway 78. Concrete sidewalks border the front (west) and the north façade adjacent to city streets. A paved area extends from the east side of the building, and the south side abuts a one-story commercial building that currently houses an antique shop.

The two-story, two-part commercial structure is Italianate in style and constructed of locally-quarried, rough-faced, coursed ashlar limestone of a gray and tan matrix. The upper story is intact and indicates an A, B, B rhythm. The mortar appears to have a high lime and sand content and is now quite soft and crumbly.

The primary façade features two first floor entrance doors. The door to the south leads into mercantile space and is centered between two identical display windows. A third display window is positioned to the north. A second door to the right leads to the interior staircase. Remnants of metal canopy brackets are visible although the first floor canopy was replaced in the 1970's with vertical metal siding and an awning. Two recessed, one-over-one, double-hung windows with smooth faced lintels flank a central round arch mullioned window on the second floor of the building. A bracketed pressed tin cornice, the most prominent element of the primary facade, is supported by four sets of double brackets with modillion brackets on either side of a legibly stamped Masonic emblem centered between the letters A.F. and A.M. The date 1888 appears above the Masonic emblem and between two decorative shell motifs which grace the western edge of the parapet.

The north side of the building is substantially intact and exhibits surprisingly minimal patching to the original limestone. Algal growth is easily brushed from the soft stone. Two bottom rows of stone are pockmarked by rain deflected from the concrete sidewalk beneath. At ground level, a granite cornerstone on the northeast is inscribed on its north face with the Masonic emblem, Farmersville Lodge No. 214 A.F. & A.M., and October 25, 1888. There is no first floor fenestration. An electric metal garage door has been installed to the west of the cornerstone, although the outline of the original taller, narrower door and its archway remain visible. Five double-hung windows with smooth limestone lintels are spaced along the second story and are currently boarded up.

The east and south building facades are similarly constructed of random rubble limestone. The east elevation features a centrally located door opening, transom and the windows on either side are bricked in. Three second story double-hung windows are boarded up. The south façade abuts an adjacent one-story building. Two chimney flues protrude from the roof.

Interior

First Floor Mercantile Space

The first floor mercantile space contains a front retail area and a back storage or work area separated from each other by access doors, removed in the 1970's remodel of the reception and office area. Original plaster over

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

brick walls, a painted wooden ceiling, and a concrete floor are visible in the storage area. A restroom and adjacent darkroom have been configured into the southeast corner.

Second Floor Landing and Vestibule

The interior stairway leads from a separate first floor door to the second floor landing, vestibule, and fraternal hall. An original 1-1/4 inch four-panel door of mortise and tenon construction allows access to the vestibule area. Plank pine flooring is standard tongue and groove and runs east to west. Floor board trim runs the length of the west and north walls. Three horizontal rows of wooden picture rail hang on the north- and south-facing painted wall boards and terminate at the Roman-arch window opening on the west wall. Two rows of ten metal coat hooks each are positioned beneath the railing on the north wall west of the stairway opening. Six metal hooks hang on the opposing north wall. Four four-panel doors access a closet space along the north wall that extends from the hooks to the west windows. Three of the doors are at floor level, a smaller fourth door is positioned above the most east-facing of the lower doors and affords a glimpse of painted arabesque-styled stencil detail at the ceiling juncture. Two double-hung windows are positioned on either side of the arched central window on the west wall. The window to the north and a corollary arched window trim is contained within the closet. The cornice abruptly ends at the casing of the arched window. Painted plywood cabinets are installed on the south wall to the east of a former stove connection and partially obscure the sill of the single boarded-up double hung window.

A second closet space, restroom, and entry area are accessed by two doors centered on the east wall. One door is at floor level; a smaller door is centered above it and contains visible stencil detail. The restroom toilet and sink are installed on a step-up to accommodate plumbing. The east-facing door that separates an entry hall from the meeting room has been altered to contain a rectangular opening above a shelf.

Lodge Meeting Room

The rectangular-shaped meeting room to the east is accessed from the vestibule through a four panel door with intact Corbin silver-painted rim locks and hinges. Wooden plank flooring runs east-west. A stage-like platform three steps high dominates the east end of the room. Two raised platforms, one step high and three feet wide, run the length of the north and south walls. Four recessed double-hung, north-facing windows feature prominent trim boards and pulley operating mechanisms. Deterioration caused by water penetration is apparent in the northeast corner to the north of a vertical plumbing main. Painted stencil detail is visible beneath sagging cornice pieces.

The south plastered walls feature picture molding that is installed three feet lower than the ceiling height. Decorative wainscoting runs the length of the north and south walls and is roughly cut to accommodate the windows. Metal ceiling tiles embossed with a laurel wreath design are installed over a twelve-foot wooden ceiling. Wide crown molding installed at the ceiling juncture is stamped with an alternating shield and fleur-de-lis pattern. Additional rectangular molding embossed with the egg and dart motif is flush with the ceiling juncture and separates the crown molding from the ceiling tiles. A visible vertical plaster crack emanates from a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

flue opening midway along the south wall from ceiling to wainscoting. Two light sockets are centered on the ceiling; a 1950-era gas heater is mounted at the northwestern ceiling corner. A two-step high platform runs along the west wall.

Summary

Although some of its original fabric has deteriorated due to neglect, the lodge building is salvageable and certainly merits preservation. One of the earliest surviving buildings within the central business district, its prominence on the town square street corner, its unique construction from locally-quarried limestone, its Italianate design, and its long-held association as a fraternal lodge, continue to support its importance as a building worthy of rehabilitation and reuse. Today, the c.1888 lodge building stands on the site on which it was built. The first floor mercantile space continues to house the offices of *The Farmersville Times* as it has since 1956. The building, including the abandoned upstairs fraternal hall, stands ready to become a part of the renaissance of the town square, the commercial heart of Farmersville. Despite years of neglect, the building retains a majority of its character-defining features, including storefront configuration, limestone masonry, a prominent and intact cornice, and original stencil ornamentation. The Farmersville Masonic lodge retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, setting, location, feeling and association to a high degree.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Social History

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c. 1888 - 1955

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c. 1888

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-14).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-15 through 9-16).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other – Charles J. Rike Memorial Library, Farmersville, Texas

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

The Farmersville Masonic Lodge received its charter in 1858 and the Masons met in a frame building until the new masonry lodge was built in 1888. Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214, located on the north side of the town square in Farmersville, Texas, is an Italianate commercial building consisting of a second floor fraternal hall and first floor mercantile space. One of the earliest surviving buildings in Farmersville and constructed of locally quarried limestone, the lodge withstood the fires which routinely destroyed parts of the downtown commercial district. While various businesses occupied the first floor over the years, the upstairs remained the Masonic meeting hall until the order moved to a new building in 1966. Most of the prominent citizens of early Farmersville were members of the lodge, and the masons served an important social and ceremonial role in the community as well. The Farmersville Masonic Lodge is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, at the local level of significance for its associations with the early fraternal history of Farmersville.

Early Development in Farmersville

Farmersville is located in east Collin County within the Blackland Prairie region of northeastern Texas, at the present-day intersection of U.S. Highway 380 and State Highway 78. The original settlement, founded in 1845 near the Republic of Texas National Road, was first known as "Yeary's Store" and later as "Sugar Hill." Settlers later named their community Farmersville for their principal occupation.¹ Walter Yeary (b. January 2, 1820, Maury County, Tennessee), and his father-in-law, the Reverend Moses Malcolm Jones (b. October 10, 1813, Ashton, Macoupin County, Illinois) were among the founding party of seven families.²

On March 4, 1859, William Gotcher (b. August, 1806, Tennessee), deeded land two miles southwest of Sugar Hill for the public square "to the use and benefit" of the town of Farmersville. Gotcher's gifted land was part of the William W. Williams survey of 3,605 acres, the original patent dated November 16, 1845, from Dr. Anson Jones, president of the Republic of Texas.³ The deeded lot ran 307 feet west to a post, 100 feet north to a post, east 307 feet to a post, then 100 feet south to the starting point. Also deeded was 300 feet on North and South Main Streets and on North and South Washington Streets.⁴

Farmersville incorporated on June 2, 1873. John S. Rike became the first mayor. The 1880 census noted the steady growth of the city to a population of 230. Although the first railroad track was laid in Texas in 1852, it wasn't until 1876 that the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad was built from Greenville to McKinney through Farmersville. The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe followed ten years later. With the means of shipping out farm goods, the town prospered and by 1885 Farmersville supported over 100 businesses. *The Farmersville Times* printed its first issue on March 23, 1885 and is credited to be the oldest surviving newspaper in Collin County.

¹ Hall, 118-119.

² Pitts

³ Rike, 3.

⁴ Collin County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. N, p. 118, dated March 4, 1859

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

T.R. Fehrenbach notes that the culture of the white farming population at this time was centered around biblical influences which exerted strong religious and spiritual but also social pressure. Baptist and Methodist churches were the largest in the state and their brotherhoods under lay control.⁵ Farmersville's Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church was organized on August 30, 1855, and The Methodist Episcopal Church of Farmersville was organized the following year by the Rev. J. W. Chalk with eleven charter members. Shortly after the organization, possibly in 1857, a brush arbor was built southeast of the square near the intersection of the Katy and Santa Fe railroad crossing.⁶

Freemasonry in Texas

Other early organizations that fostered social exchange and civic betterment were fraternal societies. Texas historian Rupert Norval Richardson summarizes the development and significance of early Freemasonry in Texas:

Clearly associated with the churches and next to them the most influential social agencies were the lodges. Freemasonry had barely been planted before the Texan Revolution uprooted it. With typical Anglo-American resilience the Masons reestablished their order within less than a year. The order was supported by many distinguished Texans, including Anson Jones and Sam Houston.⁷

A number of Masons, including Stephen F. Austin, were among the first Americans to migrate to Texas in the 1820's. Although Austin's attempts to organize a Masonic lodge in 1828 failed, a successful attempt occurred in the spring of 1835 when Dr. Anson Jones and five others met under the Masonic Oak near Brazoria and petitioned Grand Master Henry Holland and the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a charter.⁸ Holland Lodge No. 36 held its first meeting on December 27, 1835, with Jones presiding as worshipful master. The Grand Lodge of Louisiana granted two additional charters to Texas lodges during this period: Milam No. 40 at Nacogdoches and McFarland No. 41 at San Augustine. Delegates from these three lodges convened at Houston in December of 1837 to organize the Grand Lodge of Texas. Anson Jones was elected the first grand master. Between 1838 and 1845 the Grand Lodge issued charters to an additional twenty-one lodges. Masonry continued to prosper and by 1860 Texas had 226 active lodges and 9,000 members.⁹

Farmersville's First Masonic Lodge

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214 A.F. & A.M was issued a charter from the Grand Lodge of Texas dated January 19, 1858, and signed by B.R. Houghton and L. E. Sherwood.¹⁰ Deed records dated February 28, 1859,

⁵ Fehrenbach, 323.

⁶ Mitchell, 1..

⁷ Richardson, p. 177-178.

⁸ Moore, .1.

⁹ "Freemasonry," The Handbook of Texas Online.

¹⁰ "Centennial Celebration for F'ville Masonic Lodge".

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

record the sale of a parcel of land for the sum of five dollars to the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens and their successors in office. The lot is described as beginning at the North West Corner of the Thomas E. Sherwood survey, thence South 100 feet, thence East 100 feet, Thence West 100 feet to the place of beginning. Early meetings were held in a frame building where the present-day First Baptist Church educational building stands today.

Farmersville was similar to many communities throughout the state in that its early public schools met in lodge buildings.¹¹ W.R. Bickley, later recalled attending his first school in his grandmother's log residence before attending school in Farmersville, on the lower floor of the Masonic Building on the southwest of the town square, just south of the present day Baptist Church. W.R. Wilcoxson, also known as High Heeled Billy, remembered going to school in the old Masonic Hall at Farmersville during the Civil War and being taught by a Methodist preacher.¹² Early churches also met in the lodge facility including the First Baptist Church of Farmersville.¹³

The Masons often served a ceremonial role in the community:

The Masonic Lodge of Farmersville officiated at the laying of the cornerstones of The First Baptist Church on March 17, 1900. Fourteen Blue Lodge, thirty R.A. and eight K.T. participated, in addition to the District Grand Master, Sam R. Hamilton, with appropriate, impressive Masonic rituals. Grand orator John Church delivered a splendid oration on Masonry, its progress and power.¹⁴

Additionally, when Lodge member, Andrew Jackson Honaker, contracted meningitis while studying dentistry at the University of Kentucky's Medial School, the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities met his body at the depot and marched in procession to his residence and from there to the Methodist Episcopal Church

The 1888 Lodge

Collin County deed records dated September 7, 1893, indicate payment in full of a promissory note from Farmersville Lodge No. 214 A.F. & A.M. to Anna M. Bain, owner and holder of the notes.¹⁵ Anna Melissa Hicks Bain, widow of John Alexander Bain, purchased six and three quarters acres of prime Farmersville real estate in 1865, which included the east side of the square and adjacent property on the south side of College Street for a homestead. Over the next forty years, Anna Bain sold some of the undeveloped land as lots and reserved other lots to build commercial buildings. In 1888, Anna Bain sold the lot at the corner of North Main and College Street to the Masonic Lodge. The described land was one lot 27 feet by 127 feet situated in

¹¹ "Centennial Celebration for F'ville Masonic Lodge"

¹² Collin County in Pioneer Times, Selections from the George Pearis Brown Papers.

¹³ Neathery

¹⁴ Rike

¹⁵ Records of Deeds of Collin County, Texas. June 6, 1888, vol. 37, pp. 8-9.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Farmersville N.E. of the Public Square and bounded as follows beginning 27 feet N. of the NW Corner of a lot owned by Dr. W.A. Bell.¹⁶

Lodge members voted to spend \$4375.00 to build a new two-story rock and stone temple on September 22, 1888.¹⁷ Local historian Charles J. Rike noted the source of the stone to have been the rock pit of R.A. Rike at Rock Quarry. A local banker by the name of R.A. Taylor remembered riding on a wagon with his father who was delivering the stone for the Masonic Lodge.¹⁸

The Rev. J.M. Brooks delivered the oration at the cornerstone laying ceremonies on October 25, 1888. A uniformed local brass band of twenty-five members directed by Z.A.C. Harris played in honor of the occasion. The first meeting in the new lodge building was held on January 19, 1889, although the building was not yet completed.

Proceedings of the Seventy-Fourth Annual Communication of the M.W. Grand Lodge (1909) note that a Duplicate Charter was issued to Farmersville Lodge No. 214 on December 12, 1889, the original charter having burned in the 1886 fire. *Transactions of the Sixty-Sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas* note the charter date to be December 12, 1890. In 1891, during an acute water shortage, the lodge voted to furnish its own water system and a cistern was built on the property at the cost of \$41.¹⁹

Annual convocation transactions and Grand Lodge proceedings indicate lodge membership hovered around 100 from 1895 through the 1920s.²⁰ A 1921 Auditor's Report of Grand Secretary's Office of the Grand Chapter of Texas lists income from Farmersville and twenty-nine other lodges delinquent in receipts totaling \$3,693.44, \$147.25 of which was received from Farmersville.

Prominent Masons of the Farmersville Lodge

A number of Farmersville's influential citizens were affiliated with the local lodge through the years. Among the most noteworthy is Sam R. Hamilton. On its front page on August 3, 1910, *The McKinney Daily Courier-Gazette* published word "... of the death at Farmersville of Hon. Sam R. Hamilton, one of the most prominent citizens of this part of the state, and one of the best known members of the Masonic order in Texas."²¹ A portrait of Samuel Randolph Hamilton hangs today in the c.1966 Farmersville Masonic Lodge on Highway 78. A most honored and valued member of the Masonic Order, Sam Hamilton served as Worshipful Master when the c.1888 Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214 A. F. and A.M. was built; achieved the rank of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas in December, 1898; and revised, corrected and rearranged The Taylor-Hamilton

¹⁶ Records of Deeds of Collin County, Texas. March 8, 1888, vol. 37, p. 8.

¹⁷ Phone interview with Sandra Tedford

¹⁸ Phone interview with Bob Poole

¹⁹ Phone interview with Sandra Tedford

²⁰ Membership numbers were: 77 in 1895, 92 in 1907, 87 in 1908, 120 in 1909, 77 in 1915, 100 in 1921, 96 in 1922, and 94 in 1924.

²¹ *Daily Courier Gazette*, McKinney, Collin County, Texas, August 3, 1910, p.1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Monitor of Symbolic Masonry by William M. Taylor in 1907.²² Sam Hamilton served as Postmaster of Farmersville, Texas, when the post office was re-established on May 20, 1870 to July 19, 1870, and from March 28, 1881, to November 26, 1883.²³ He was cashier of The Exchange Bank located in the rear of the Aston Brothers store on South Main Street. Sam Hamilton's historical account of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Farmersville from 1856 to 1903 is the only church history remaining after church building and all its records were destroyed by fire on December 28, 1924.

Dr. David Moses Yeary, born February 3, 1855, at Old Sugar Hill to Walter and Margaret Jones Yeary, was a lifelong resident of the area and a pioneer physician who practiced medicine in Farmersville for over fifty years. Dr. Yeary attended Farmersville schools, graduated from Memphis School of Medicine, Memphis Tennessee, was a member of the First Baptist Church, and a Royal Arch Mason of the Masonic Lodge. He is remembered for his passionate interest in the development of Texas and particularly of Farmersville and for giving unselfishly for the benefit of the community.

In 1954, Jack Ball became the second Mason affiliated with Farmersville Lodge No. 214 A.F. & A.M., to achieve the high honor of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas. A graduate of Farmersville High School and the University of Texas Law School, Jack was the son of T.E. Ball, known locally as the Bois d'Arc Man. An abundance of bois d'arc growth made Farmersville a shipping point for wood used to make fence posts, paving blocks and for building purposes.

The Farmersville Masonic Lodge celebrated its 100th birthday with a formal program at the high school auditorium on January 24, 1958. John B. Honaker and Milburn D. Honaker were introduced as 50-year members of the local lodge. At that time the roster listed 155 members.²⁴

Lodge Building Tenants

A number of tenants have occupied the c.1888 lodge building through the years. The Peavey-Robinson Barber Shop opened in the lower room of the Masonic Building when the November 5, 1890, fire destroyed several buildings of wooden construction along the north side of the square. The Warner Bakery was a tenant in 1901 when an independent telephone exchange was started in the lodge building but failed to go over due to lack of subscribers. A Sanborn Map dated December 1908 records a grocery and bakery in the building. The most notable tenant continues to be *The Farmersville Times* which printed its first issue on March 23, 1885, and which began its operation in the building in 1956 when Burton and Martha Fielder moved their operation from the adjacent building which was subject to leaking during heavy rains. The Fielders sold the newspaper to Bob Poole in 1959.

²² Taylor

²³ Collin County, Texas, Postal Records, pages 162, 163, 640, 641.

²⁴ "Centennial Celebration for F'ville Masonic Lodge",

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

The 1966 Lodge

In 1965, lodge officials approached Bob Poole about purchasing the building so that they could build a new lodge home on State Highway 78 as many members were having difficulty negotiating the stairs to the second story meeting room. The sale was completed in early 1966. Bob Poole and his brother Tom Poole, Jr., formed a corporation, *The Farmersville Times*, Inc. in April 1980.²⁵

H.W. Fullingim of Waco, Grand Master of Masons in Texas, participated in cornerstone-leveling ceremonies on October 29, 1966 at the new temple on Highway 78. Worshipful Master Jerry W. Hart invited a large number of visiting Masons to join members of Farmersville Lodge No, 214 A.F. & A.M. at the ceremony to dedicate the Masons' new home built entirely by its members. As in the case of the c.1888 lodge building, although the main meeting room was completed, interior work remained to be done.²⁶

The Lodge Building Today

Chad B. Engbrock and his wife, Sonia A. Duggan, owners of C & S Media, purchased the lodge building in June, 2000, and wish to pursue its restoration. C&S Media, Inc. also purchased *The Farmersville Times* (c. 1885) and *The Princeton Herald* (c.1970) from The Farmersville Times, Inc. on April 1, 2000. Both weekly newspapers currently operate on the first floor of the Farmersville Masonic Lodge with Mr. Engbrock as editor and publisher.²⁷

Summary

The c.1888 Farmersville Masonic Lodge building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Mason's continuing role in the city of Farmersville predates construction of the building. The lodge is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, at the local level of significance for its associations with the early fraternal and commercial history of Farmersville.

²⁵ Phone interview with Bob Poole

²⁶ *The Farmersville Times*, November 3, 1966

²⁷ "Chad Engbrock Serving East Collin County"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 15

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

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Phone interviews by Elizabeth Buuck (Printed manuscripts with Elizabeth Buuck and Chad Engbrock)
Burton Fielder, 2615 Vista Del Arroyo Drive, San Angelo, TX. March 18, 2004
Charles Morrow, Box 389, Farmersville, TX 75442. March 8, 2004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 16

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Bob Poole, 13656 Rolling Hills Lane, Dallas, TX 75240. March 6, 2004
Sandra Tedford, 1415 Red Oak Circle, Farmersville, TX 75442. March, 18, 2004

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	746214	3672538

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Farmersville Original Donation Block C, Lot 1B

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historically associated with the building

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Elizabeth J. Buuck

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: 22 September 2004

STREET & NUMBER: 1708 Hampton Court

TELEPHONE: 817-354-0985

CITY OR TOWN: Bedford

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 76021

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-17)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-21)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheet Figure-18 through 20)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Sonia A. Duggan, Chad B. Engbrock

STREET & NUMBER: 242 E. Estelle Lane

TELEPHONE: 214.495.1066

CITY OR TOWN: Lucas

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 75002

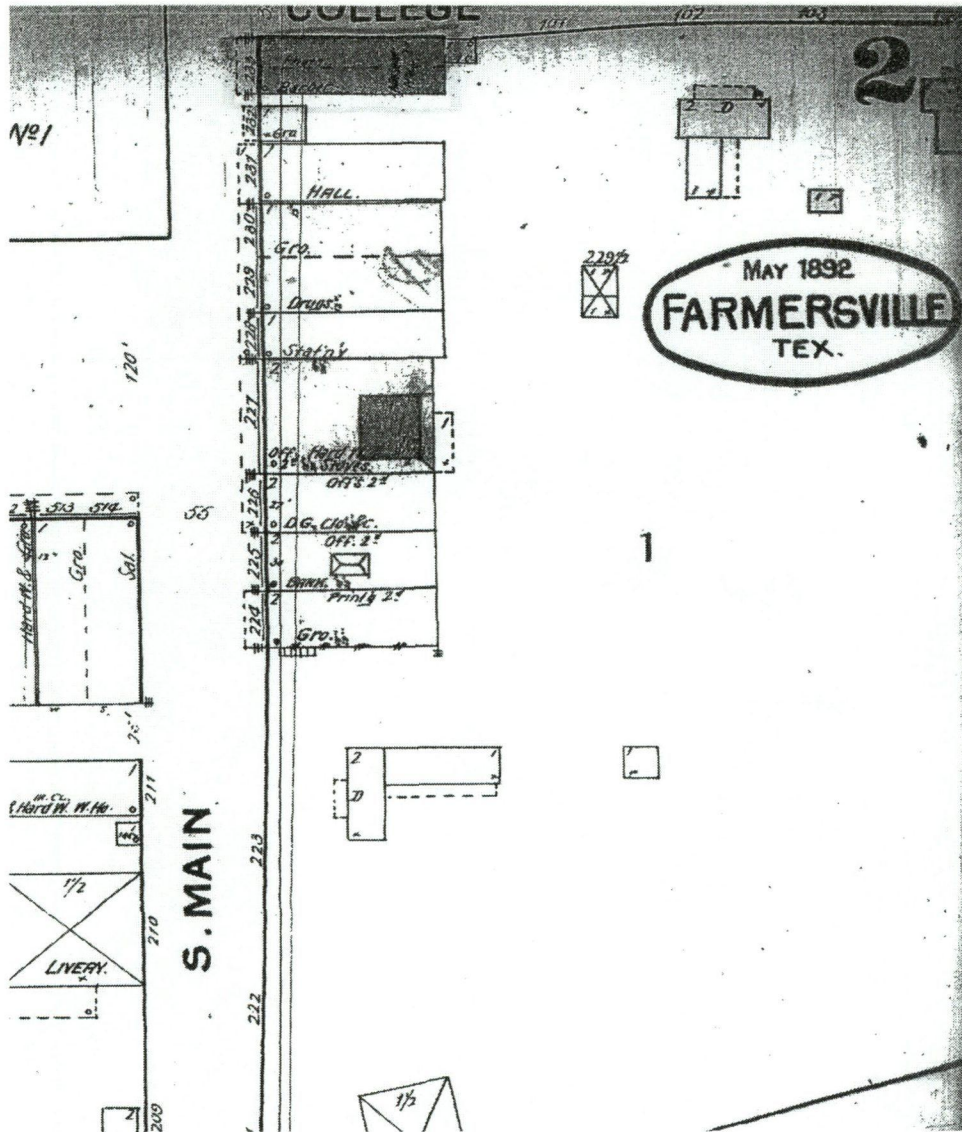
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Maps Page 17

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Map 1 1892 Sanborn



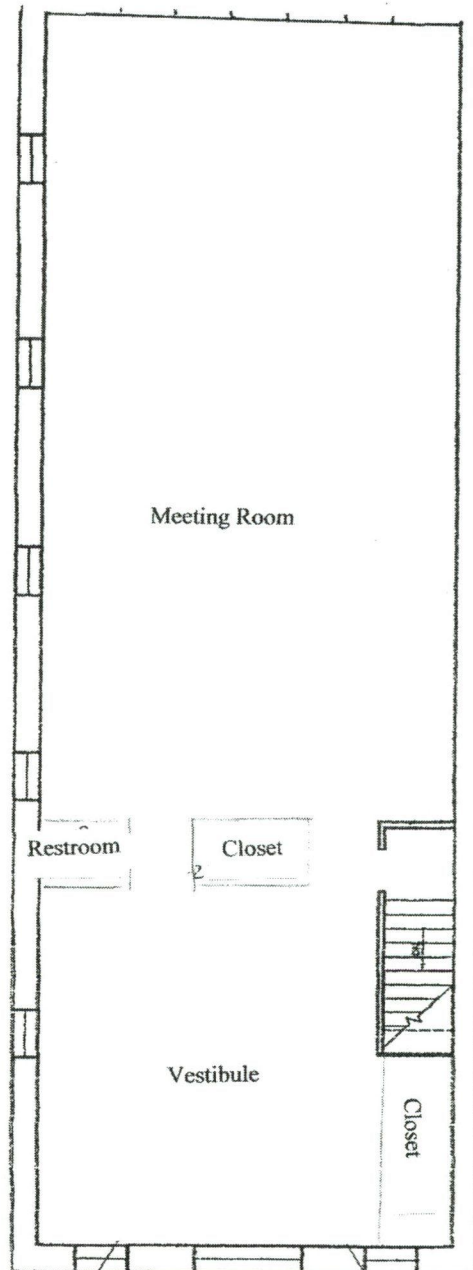
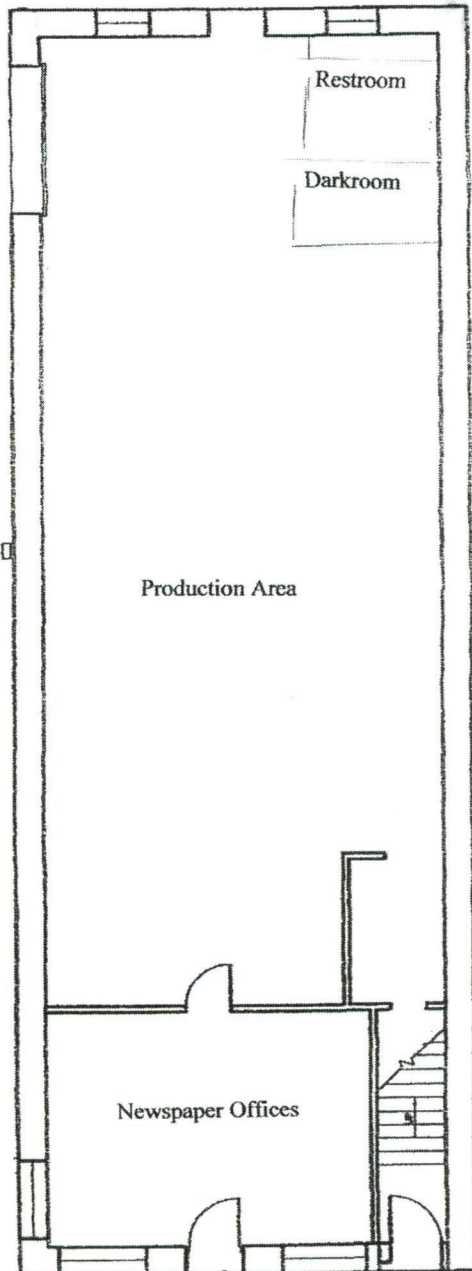
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 18

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Figure 1 Floor Plans



SECOND FLR. PLAN
SC. 1/8"=1'-0"

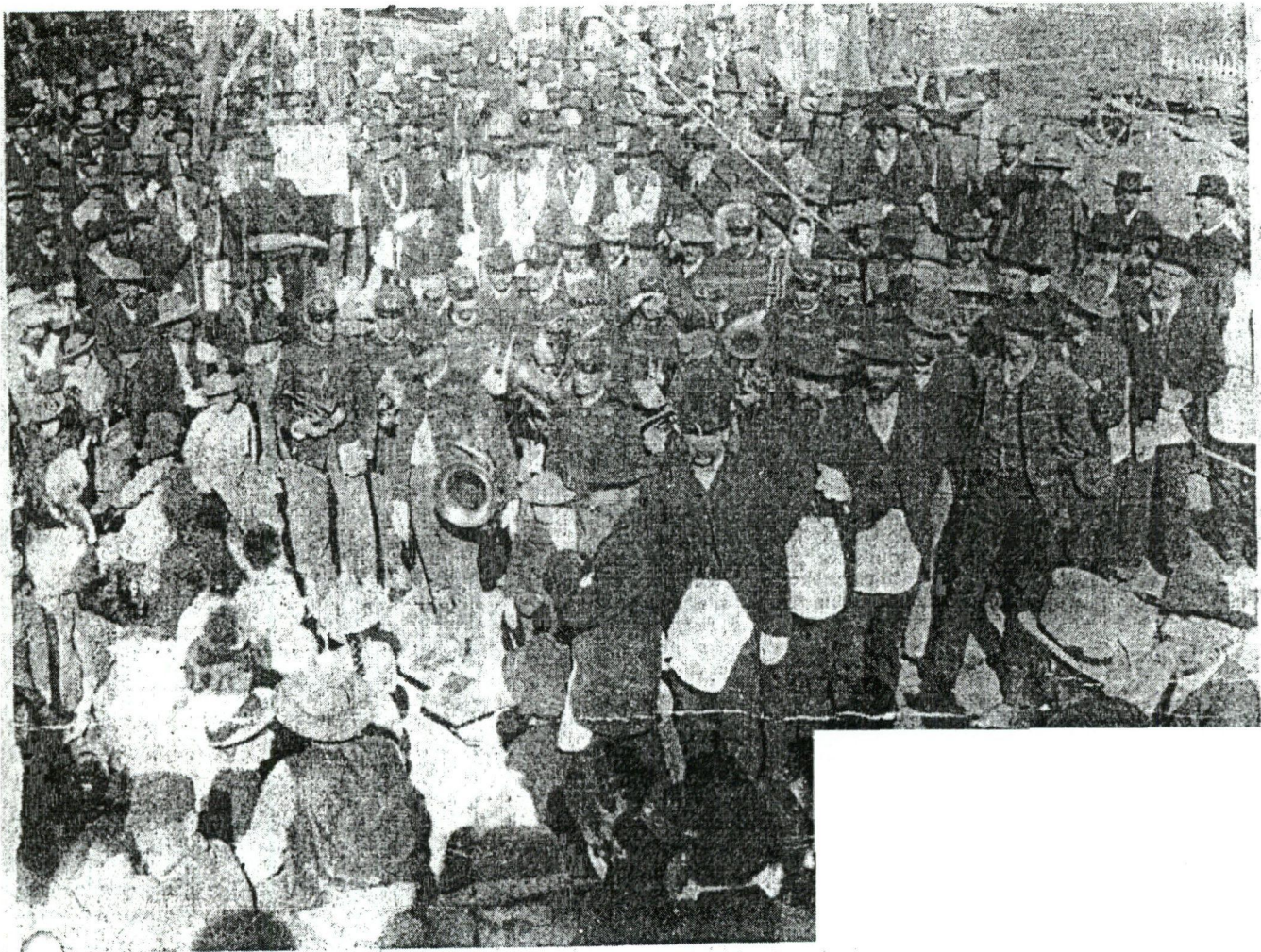
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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 19

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Figure 2 1888 photo of cornerstone laying ceremony for the Farmersville Masonic Lodge



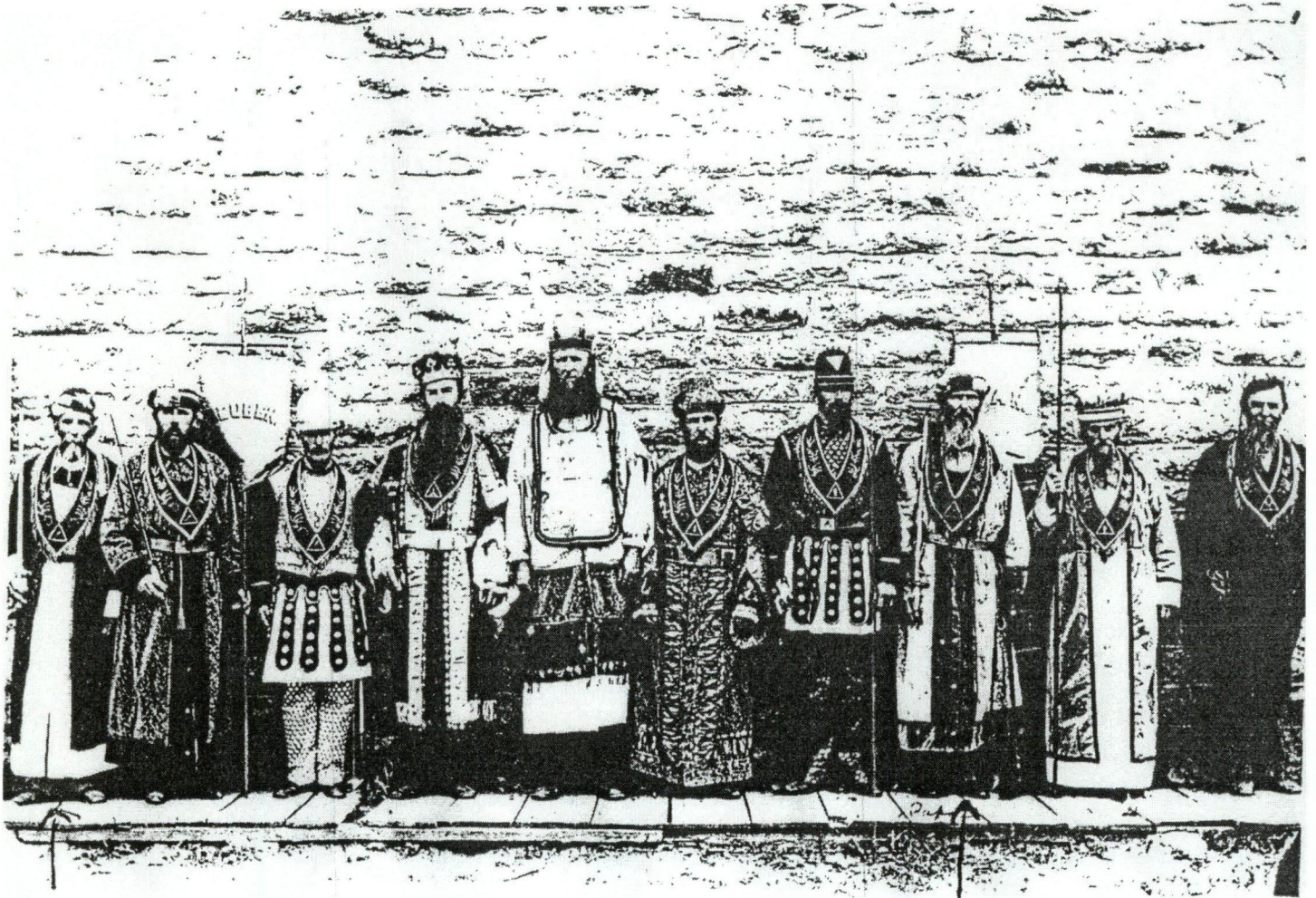
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 20

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Figure 3 Farmersville Masons in their ceremonial robes



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 21

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Photographs

Farmersville Masonic Lodge
101 South Main Street
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas
Photographed by Guy R. Giersch
Summer 2004

Photo 1 of 3

Northwest oblique
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 3

Northwest oblique
Camera facing southeast

Photo 3 of 3

Fraternal hall interior facing west
Camera facing east

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Farnersville Masonic Lodge No. 214, A.F. and A.M.
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Collin

DATE RECEIVED: 2/15/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/10/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/25/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/31/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000245

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/30/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



A. N. Hall

The FARMERS' TIMES

The FARMERS' TIMES

111 101024

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214

101 South Main Street

Farmersville Collin County Texas

Guy R. Giersch, photographer

Summer 2004

Negative of Chas. Enabrock/Farmersville Times

Northwest Oblique

Photo no. 1

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214 AF&AM

Farmersville, Collin Co., TX

1 of 3



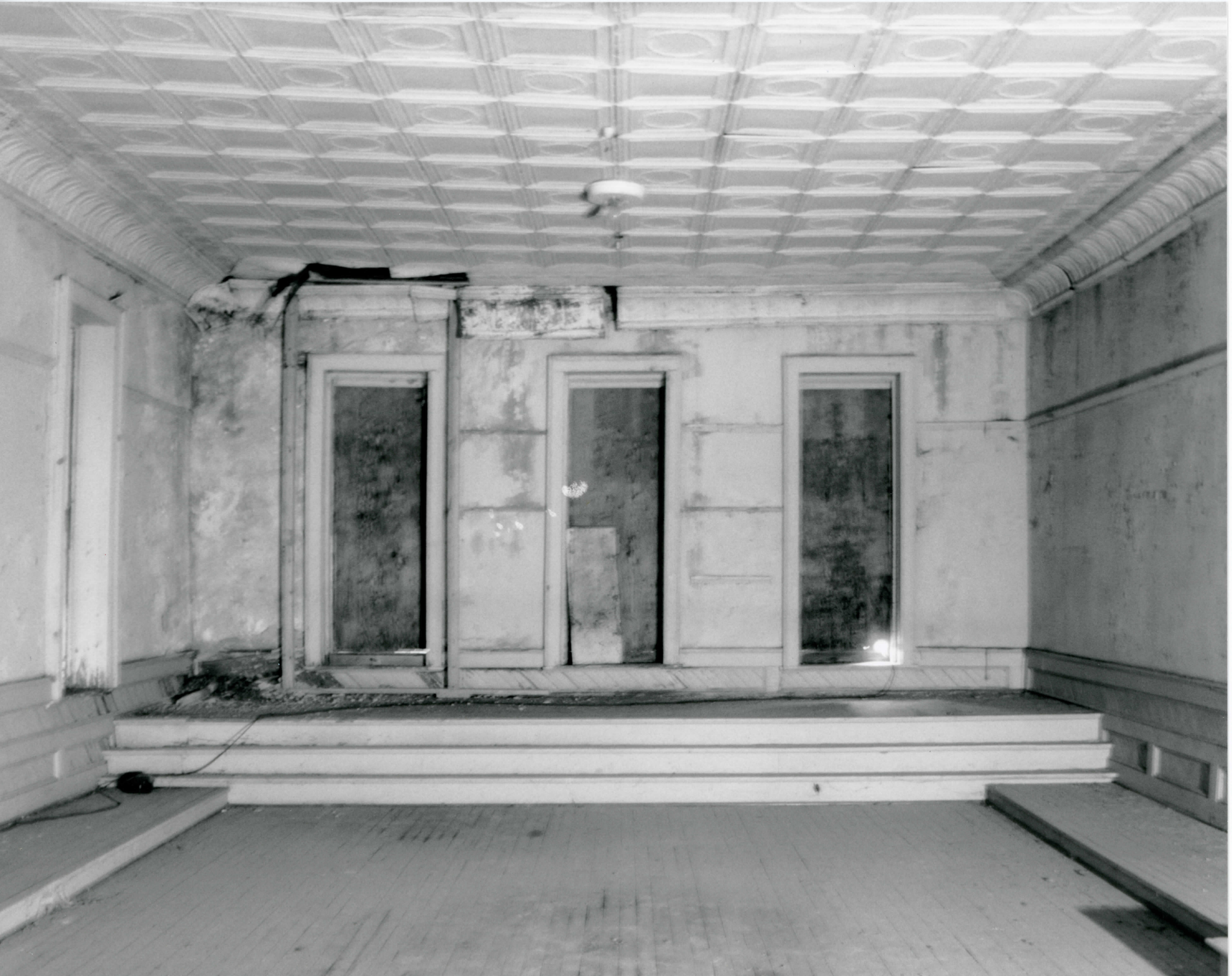
ANTIQUES MORE
MAIN ST. NOW OPEN

8JN-357

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214
101 South Main Street
Farmersville, Collin County Texas
Guy R. Giersch photographer
Summer 2004
Negative / Chad Engbrock / Farmersville Times
Northwest oblique
Photo no. 2

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214 AF&AM
Farmersville, Collin Co., TX

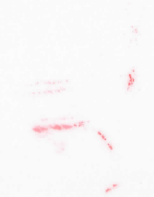
2 of 3

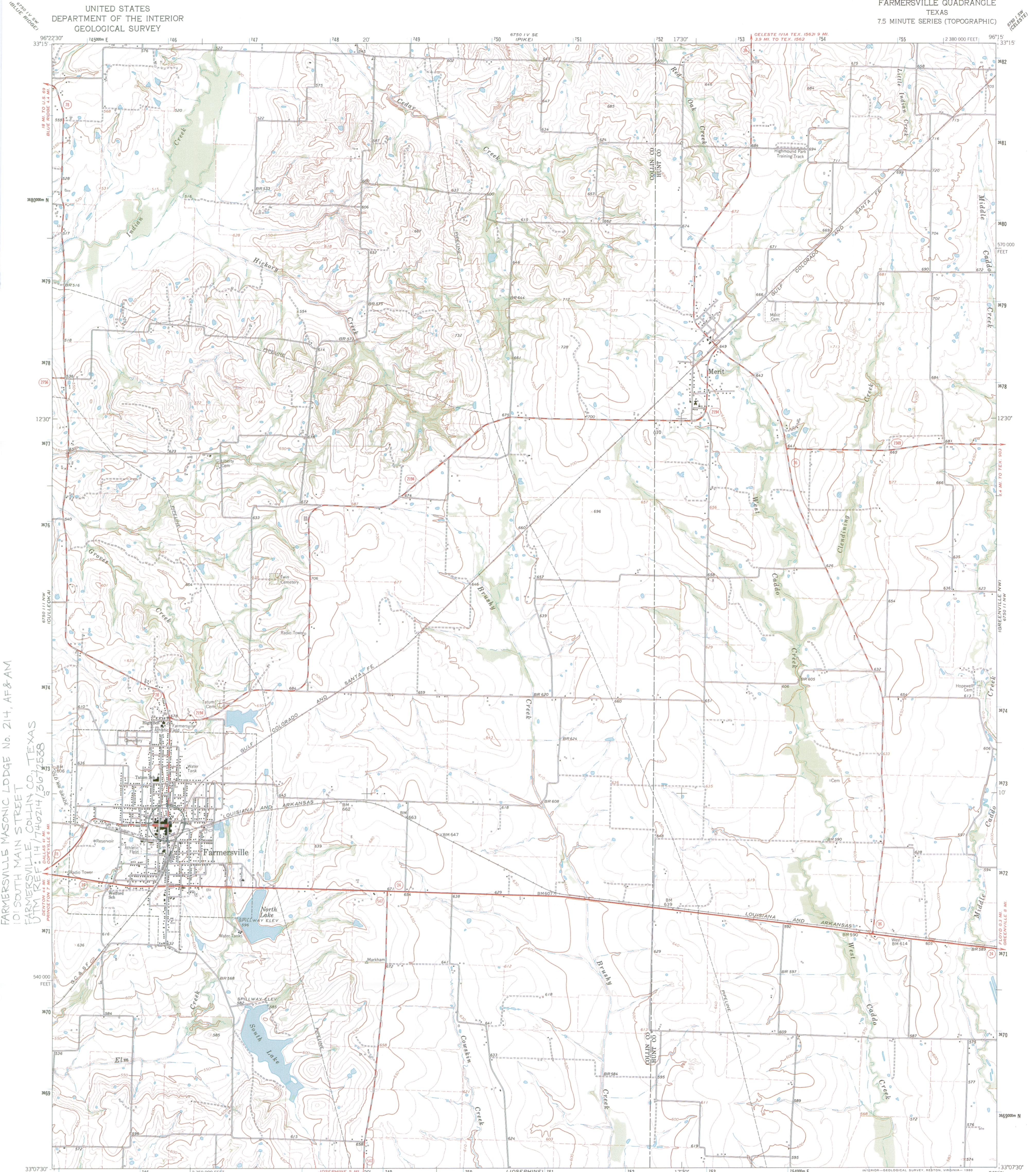


Farmersville Masonic Lodge No 214
101 South Main Street
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas
Guy R. Giersch, photographer

Summer 2004
Negative / Child Endorocket / Farmersville Times
Fraternal Hall Interior facing east
Photo no. 3

Farmersville Masonic Lodge No. 214, AF.&AM
Farmersville, Collin Co., TX
3 of 3





FARMERSVILLE MASONIC LODGE No. 214, AF&AM
101 SOUTH MAIN STREET
FARMERSVILLE, COLLIN CO., TEXAS
UTM REF. 14TUGZ14 (36) 5888
DALLAS 4.4 MI.
DOPPEL 7.4 MI.
PRINCETON 7.4 MI.

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

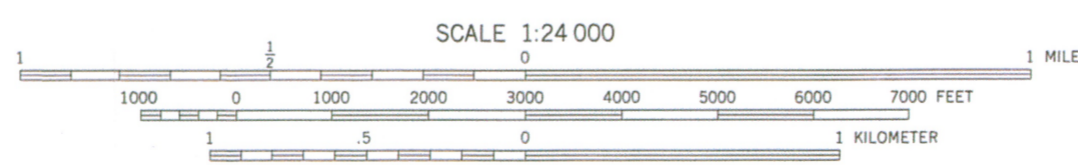
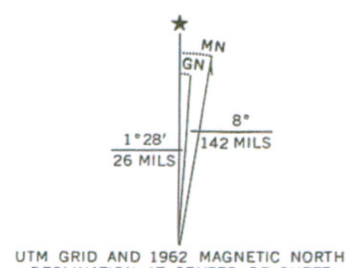
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1962

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 9 meters south and
25 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
○ State Route	

FARMERSVILLE, TEX.

N3307 5-W9615/7.5

1962

DMA 6750 III NE-SERIES V882

3396-124

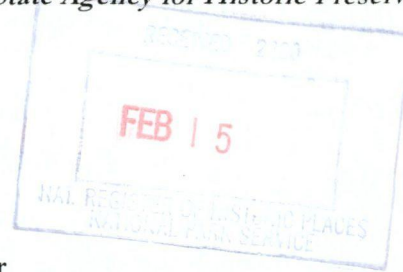




**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

Rick Perry • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



TO: Linda McClelland
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Farmersville Masonic Lodge, Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

DATE: February 10, 2005

The following materials are submitted regarding: Farmersville Masonic Lodge

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
	Correspondence
	Other:

COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

The enclosed owner objections (do) (do not) constitute a majority of property owners

Other: _____