

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

HA-238

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Harford
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Odd Fellows Lodge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
First Presbyterian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
21 Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: Maryland COCF: 24 COUNTY: Harford CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>fraternal</u> <u>lodge</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Land: First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air
Building: Odd Fellows Lodge

STREET AND NUMBER:
(church) Main & Broadway (lodge) 21 Penna. Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Bel Air

STATE: Maryland COCF: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Clerk of the Court of Harford County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harford County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Bel Air

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air, now the Odd Fellows Lodge, is a Greek temple of the Doric order, with a four column portico rendered in wood on its principal facade, facing north on Pennsylvania Avenue. Four bays, of brick laid in common bond, form the hall or former sanctuary behind the portico, reminiscent of the single space or naos of a Greek temple. The whole temple form here is above a high basement or ground storey. The portico is slightly narrower than the brick structure, the resulting offset terminating the entablature of the portico. Conspicuously absent from the frieze are the triglyphs of the Greek Doric order; they may have been omitted on this structure as an economy measure, or they may have been removed in a simplifying repair. The cornice above the brick walls consists of several courses of corbeled brick.

Of the four windows on either side, only those in the northerly bay (closest to the street) remain their original length, and retain, in all probability, their original twelve over twelve sash. Examination of the brickwork reveals that all other windows have had their sills raised about three feet, necessitating the installation of shorter sash, the upper ones divided into diamond-shaped panes.

Another detail of later remodeling is the generous roof overhang along the east and west sides, with exposed rafter ends. A joint may be seen in the crown moulding of the portico, further suggesting that this overhang is a later addition.

The principal entrance is within the portico, and is enframed in a simplified Greek motif of pilasters supporting an entablature. The double, paneled doors are probably the originals. An entrance to the ground storey is beyond an arch in the portico foundation, directly under the principal entrance.

A single, tall spacious room occupies three of the four bays of this temple, once the church sanctuary. Its floor is about three feet above the portico floor. The fourth or northerly bay contains an entrance vestibule, its floor on the portico level; flanking the vestibule are staircases, down to the ground floor, up to a balcony above, and up to the former sanctuary floor.

The balcony has been enclosed with a modern partition, but its paneled rail and stepped rises remain in place, as does ancient ingrain carpeting with folded paper under-padding. Likewise, the vestibule and staircases have been partitioned from the former sanctuary, with wainscoting of ca. 1880-1900, matching the wainscot with surrounds the hall or former sanctuary.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Harford NA-238
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(Number all entries)

Odd Fellows Lodge

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

The raised sills of the side windows were previously noted. Comparing them to the windows of original length, it is apparent that the original windows would have extended to the floor of the sanctuary, not a typical condition for the church. An initial conjecture, to suggest further research, is that the floor of the sanctuary was raised to create a more spacious ground storey, and that originally the present vestibule was merely space under an open gallery, with a taller sanctuary beyond. To further substantiate this initial conjecture, a motif on the south wall, which once enframed the pulpit, consisting of pilasters supporting an entablature and recalling the similar motif enframing the front entrance, is entirely too short for a proper Greek order, but an additional three feet in length at the bottom would create proper proportions.

Centered in the sanctuary ceiling is a large ornamental plaster medallion, probably a surround intended for a large chandelier.

The entire ground storey is refinished with modern materials, which prevent an investigation of an original lower ceiling height.

The structure measures, approximately, 32 by 45 feet, exclusive of the front portico which is approximately 6 feet wide.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

NA-232

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1852

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Harford County has only one structure which positively can be placed in the mainstream of the Greek Revival style: the original First Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, now the Odd Fellows Lodge. The inevitable and unquestionable detail which places a structure in the "mainstream" of the Greek revival is a Greek temple form of portico exhibiting a carefully rendered Greek order; the portico may be a small porch sheltering a single door, or it may be the entire facade and form of a structure. The structure discussed here is wholly of a temple form. Built in 1852, it undoubtedly had an architect, probably from Baltimore, but his name has not been preserved or discovered to date.

Harford County was experiencing a rapid growth and development in the Greek revival period of 1820-1860. Many of the first houses erected in the area were replaced by wealthier second and third generation owners with larger, more substantial houses, but surprisingly, the newer houses were, as a group, unusually traditional, albeit larger and more substantial than most of the earlier dwellings. Perhaps this traditionalism was typical of established regions, whereas the structures erected in the more recently settled areas such as western New York, Ohio and in the deep south states of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, exhibited the more dynamic and progressive new forms.

This structure has had but two tenants in its life. The First Presbyterian Church built a Gothic revival structure a few blocks north in 1881, and it subsequently leased the original property to the Odd Fellows Lodge.

Today, this structure is in the heart of the central business district, nearly surrounded by public parking serving stores which face streets perpendicular to its own.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of the First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air
Our Harford Heritage by C. Milton Wright, 1966. NA-238

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39	32	13
NE	° ' "	° ' "	76	20	55
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1/4 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA, Architect

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: Nov. 25, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 600 Craigs' Corner Road

CITY OR TOWN: Hayre de Grace STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Arthur C. Townsend

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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BEL AIR QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1956

