

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: Stone Square Lodge No. 8

Other Names/Site Number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: 1044 Michigan Ave

City or town: Port Allen

State: LA

County: West Baton Rouge

Not for Publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐**3.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 at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

**Signature of certifying official/Title:** Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer**Date****Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism****State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:**Date****Title:****State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	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

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Social: meeting hall

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: brick

roof: metal

other: N/A

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.)

Summary Paragraph

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Port Allen, LA, at 1044 Michigan Avenue. The building sits within the historic Cohn neighborhood, which is located in the northwest section of Port Allen. While the lodge organization itself dates to 1879, the two-story brick building that stands today was built between 1951 and 1952. Simply designed, the building is similar to other lodge buildings of the 20th century in that function represents the most important part of the design, particularly on the interior. The first floor houses office space, a kitchen, and a dining room, while the second floor features the lodge's large meeting room. Aluminum windows exist throughout the building and provide light into the various interior spaces. The main alteration made to the building is on the first floor interior, which was originally one large open space but was later divided into various rooms. Based on the materials used, these alterations occurred within the first 10-15 years of the building's life, meaning they were completed within the period of significance. The building retains a high degree of integrity and should remain easily recognizable to any lodge members present during the period of significance.

Narrative Description

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 occupies a large, grassy corner lot at Michigan Avenue and North 11th Street. Parking areas exist on the south and west sides of the building. The building sits on the western side of the lot, leaving a large open space between the eastern side of the building and its neighbor along Michigan Avenue. Modest residences approximately the same age as the lodge surround the property. The lodge and its neighboring buildings sit within a large swath of land once owned by the Cohn Family. The Cohns were a Jewish family who "had extensive land interests" in the area and owned a large swath of land extending from north of Interstate 10 to LA 415 on the west, Highway 190 to the north, and LA 1 to the east.¹ The Cohn Subdivision, chartered in 1925, sits within these borders; its general boundaries are Ave G to the south, LA 1 to the east, Rosedale Rd to the north, and the fields that serve as the de facto edge of Port Allen to the west.² Cohn Subdivision was an African-American neighborhood, historically. The lodge sits within the subdivision, bordered by two of the oldest communities within this area- a square section of alphabet avenues, A-G, located

¹ Mike Miller. "Cohn, Isidore; East Baton Rouge Parish; now Orleans Parish, Louisiana."

² Charter of Cohn's Subdivision, March 13, 1925.

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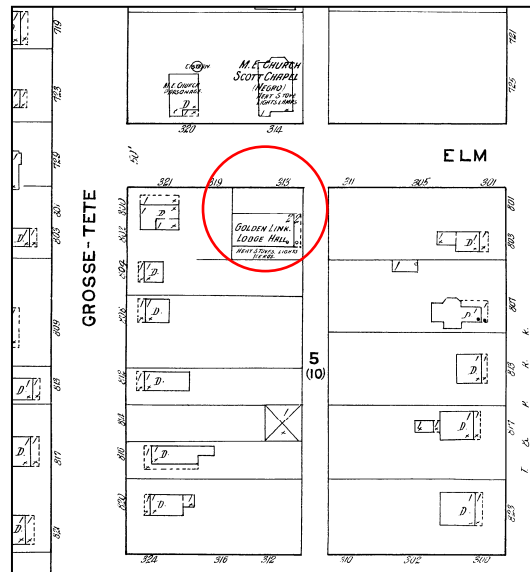
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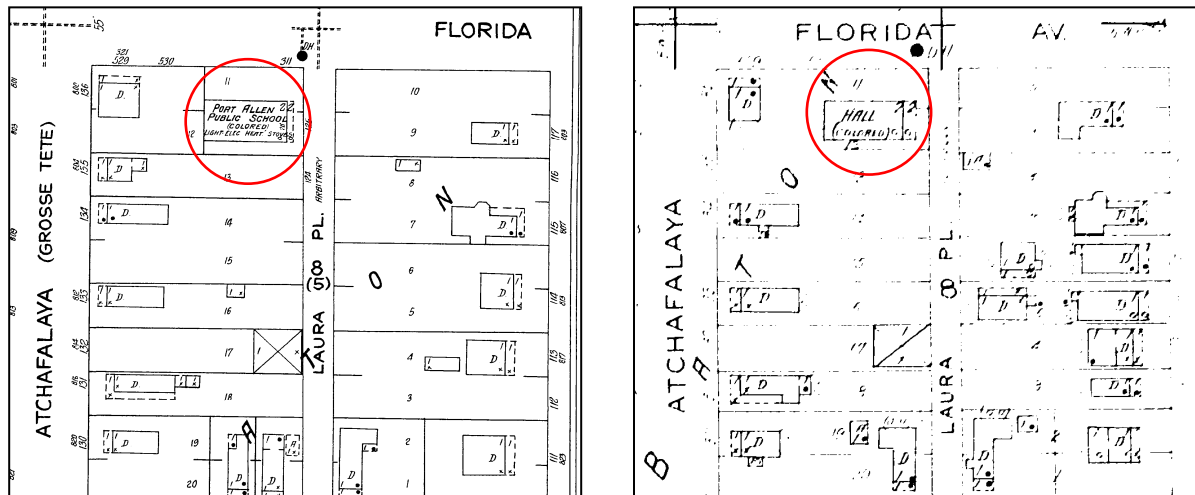
south of Court Street and "Stick Alley," an unincorporated rural community along Rosedale Road (La. Highway 986).³

One of the earliest homes for the lodge appears to have been on the southeast corner of Grosse-Tete and Elm (1st) Streets as 313 Elm Street, as seen on the 1919 Sanborn Map below. It appears that this location is today the southeast corner of N. Jefferson and Florida Avenues. It is a gravel parking lot today.



1919 Sanborn Map. Red Circle shows former lodge location.

At that time, the lodge was labeled as "Golden Link Lodge Hall." Lodge members referred to this original location as "Ferry Landing." It was two stories with heat provided by stoves and kerosene lights. Thirteen years later, on the 1932 Sanborn map, the former lodge building is labeled "Port Allen Public School (Colored)." The building's size and form had not changed, so it appears to be the same building as in 1919.



1926 (left) and 1932 (right) Sanborn Maps. Red Circles shows former lodge location.

³ WBRZ Staff. "Residents of Stick Alley against annexation to Port Allen."

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

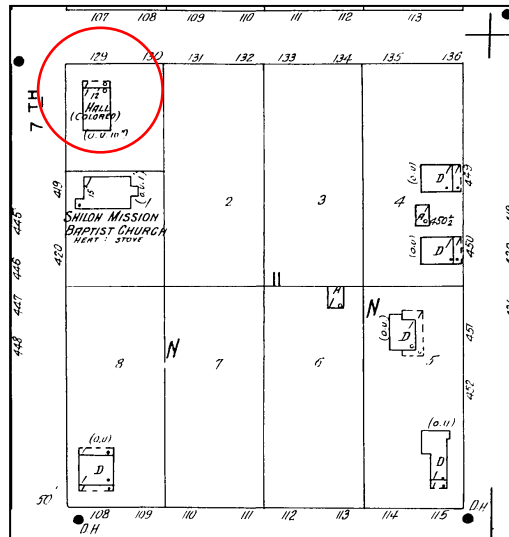
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By 1932, there were two Black halls in Port Allen. The one discussed and shown above on Florida Ave (formerly Elm) and one at 129 Burbridge Street, located just north of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. As seen below on the 1932 Sanborn map, this was a one-story building labeled "Hall (Colored)." It was not a lodge hall but rather a general use hall. Today, this location is a parking lot for the current iteration of Shiloh Baptist Church. These locations and the current location are all within this historic Cohn neighborhood.



1932 Sanborn Map. Red Circle shows former lodge location.

It is rumored that the original Ferry Landing Lodge was burned. Between 1932 and 1952, Stone Square Lodge No. 8 moved out on LA 415. This building was demolished in 2006. An aerial photograph from 1952 shows the existing Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Building in its current location.



1952 Aerial Photo. Red Circle shows current lodge location.

Exterior

The exterior of the building is clad in red brick on a concrete slab foundation and features a moderately-pitched roof with a front gable facing toward Michigan Avenue. The exterior has had few obvious alterations. The only noticeable alteration is the replacement of the original roof with a metal roof.

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Façade (southern elevation)

The façade faces Michigan Avenue and features central glazed wood double doors on the first story; the doors are replacements within the original opening. A single, double-hung aluminum window with two-over-two horizontal sashes sits on each side of the main entrance. An air conditioning unit is installed at the bottom of each window opening. The second floor features a central alcove that originally held signage for the lodge. Pairs of windows matching those below flank the alcove; next to each pair sits a single window that matches the others. A slotted gable vent exists at the peak of the roof.

The cornerstone, laid in 1971, is located at the lower left corner of the façade. It reads:

STONE SQUARE LODGE NO. 8
ORGANIZED APRIL 21, 1879

M.W. PRINCE HALL
G. L.
F. & A.M.

MASONRY SYMBOL

OF LA.
JNO. G. LEWIS, JR.
GRAND MASTER
A.D. 1971 A.L. 5971
MAY 16, 1971

Eastern Elevation

This elevation features one solid metal door in the second bay and four aluminum windows on the first story. The fenestration pattern on this story, from Michigan Avenue to the rear, is window/door/window/window/window. On the second floor, exist four window openings that feature pairs of aluminum-framed, two-over-two windows. However, the third pair of these windows has been altered on the interior to function as a fire exit. It leads to a metal fire escape.

Northern (rear) Elevation

This elevation, the least adorned of the four, features two pairs of aluminum-framed, two-over-two windows on the second floor. The gable peak has a slotted vent matching that on the façade.

Western Elevation

The fenestration pattern on the first floor of this elevation is window/door/double window/door/window. The two solid metal doors provide access into interior office spaces. The second floor features four pairs of aluminum two-over-two windows that light the large lodge meeting space above.

At the lower right of the first floor of this elevation, the other side of the cornerstone can be seen. It reads:

BUILDING COMMITTEE

GORDIE A. PATTAN, CHAIRMAN
BOOKE T. WASHINGTON, SR. CO. CHMN.
ALFRED WASHINGTON HARRY L. REDMOND
ALVIN HENRY W.M. LEWIS DOUGLAS
JOSEPH NELSON NATHAN NOFLES
JONAS PATTERSON ISADORE GUSTAV

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PAST MASTERS

JOSEPH S. CLARK	ALEXIS BAINES
J.W. PATTAN	ALFRED WASHINGTON
JOHN NELSON	NEUMA WATSON
ALVIN HENRY	GORDIE PATTAN

OFFICERS 1971

A.R. SLAUGHTER, WORSHIPFUL MASTER
AMOS WILLIAMS, SENIOR WARDEN
ALBERT STEWART, JUNIOR WARDEN
ANDERSON JOHNSON, SECTY.
ANDREW SPRUEL, TREAS.

Interior

Upon entering the lodge's main entrance, there is a short hallway. Doors are found to the north, west, and east. The door to the north provides access into a rear hallway that leads to more office space, connects to the kitchen/dining room, and provides access to the rear hallway that leads to the stairs to the second floor. To the east of the main hallway, there is a dining and kitchen space that serves as a secondary meeting space. To the west of the main hallway, there is a series of small offices – three in total – and one large space at the rear of this side of the first floor. The three smaller offices are all covered in typical 1950s paneling sheets, indicating that they were constructed sometime within the first ten years of the building's life. According to lodge members from the 1950s, the first floor was originally one large open space when the building was built in 1952. These spaces were created for office space in the mid to late 1950s.

At the rear (northeast) corner of the building, there are two bathrooms and the stairs, which lead to the second floor. At the top of the stairs, there is a reception room, off of which is a storage closet, an original kitchen, and the main lodge room. The kitchen appears to maintain all original fixtures, cabinets, Formica countertops, and even a cooler that likely saw many events during the last 70 years.

The lodge meeting space features wood floors, a stained plywood ceiling, white walls, and stained wood windowsills. A one-step platform sits at the perimeter of the room. In addition, there are three incorporated platforms for use by lodge members during meetings within this. The main platform is located along the northern wall of the lodge room.

Alterations and Assessment of Integrity

Over the last 70 years, Stone Square Lodge No. 8 has received very few alterations. As discussed above, the roof has been replaced, and the first-floor interior space was divided into smaller office and meeting spaces during the period of significance. Otherwise, the lodge building is unchanged and retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship. Therefore, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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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.)

X	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:

	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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Ethnic Heritage: Black; Social History

Period of Significance: 1951-1972

Significant Dates: 1953

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Unknown; building done by the masonic lodge members per Lodge meeting minutes

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance encompasses the years that the existing building was constructed through 1972, the 50-year guideline. The lodge has continued to be used through to the present day and has remained a significant building in the community.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

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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.)

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the areas of ethnic heritage and social history. Built for a local Masonic Lodge, the building has played a major role in the Port Allen African American community since its construction. It has served as a de facto community center for the African American community in West Baton Rouge Parish during the period of segregation and the fight for equal civil rights. The period of significance begins in 1951, when the current building was constructed, and ends in , the current 50-year cut off.

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

Brief History of Port Allen

The city known today as Port Allen started as La Ville St. Michel in 1809. However, in the 1870s, when that community disappeared within the shifting waters of the Mississippi River, a new settlement emerged nearby. In 1878, officials named this community to honor Confederate general and the 17th governor of the state, Henry Watkins Allen. The area was officially incorporated as a village in 1916 and a city in 1923. Throughout its history, Port Allen has played a significant role in transporting goods, both on the Mississippi River and via railroads, for this area of the state.⁴ Its role as a busy port city has replaced its historic role as an agricultural community.

History of African American Masonic Lodges in Louisiana

Benevolent societies, established in Louisiana well before the Civil War, increased in importance following Emancipation in 1865 when newly freed African-Americans found themselves with little financial means. These organizations helped both blacks and whites by providing medical care and burial services for those who could not access these services independently. In a way, benevolent societies also functioned as insurance companies for their members by charging membership fees in exchange for medical and burial benefits. Although these organizations primarily provided financial support to their members, they also served as social organizations.⁵

Masonic organizations such as Stone Square Lodge No. 8 functioned similarly to benevolent societies. In her 2012 historic context on the African American experience in Louisiana, Laura Blokker writes:

*"(Masonic organizations) were not formed specifically to provide the same medical and death benefits as the former (benevolent societies), but they provided the advantages of social fraternity and networking and too promoted moral behavior and mutual support. Two prominent African American Masonic groups were the Colored Knights of Pythias and Prince Hall. In the twentieth century, the temples of these groups provided elegant venues for entertainment when segregation restricted African Americans from other ballrooms and auditoriums. Some multi-storied temple buildings in the bigger cities were designed with roof top gardens that hosted legendary jazz musicians and other entertainers. Less grand, but equally important were many small-town Masonic lodges. **These buildings sheltered many community activities, from schools to civil rights work like voter registration training.**"⁶*

History of Prince Hall Masonic Lodges in the US and Louisiana

As mentioned above, Prince Hall was one of the two prominent African American Masonic groups in the country and Louisiana. Prince Hall was purportedly born in the British West Indies, the son of an Englishman

⁴ "History of Port Allen." www.portallen.org/history. Accessed September 9, 2021.

⁵ Laura E. Blokker. "The African American Experience in Louisiana." Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, 2012; pg. 40.

⁶ Ibid.

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and a free Black woman, who immigrated to Boston in 1765 and worked there as a leather worker. On March 6, 1775, Prince Hall and 14 other free Black men were initiated into Lodge No. 441, Irish Constitution, at Castle William Boston Harbor. The next year, when the British army left Boston, Lodge No. 441 granted to Prince Hall and his fellow lodge members the authority to meet as African Lodge #1. For the next 9 years, the members had limited masonic privileges until 1784, when they petitioned the Grand Lodge of England for a charter. On September 29, 1784, the charter was delivered to Boston on April 29, 1787, and one week later, on May 6, 1787, the African Lodge No. 459 was organized. Prince Hall became a Provincial Grand Master in 1791 via the power of the Prince of Wales. Early lodges to form after this were in Philadelphia and Providence Rhode Island with the lodge in Boston being the "Mother Lodge." Prince Hall Lodges now exist throughout the country, numbering over 4,500 with a total membership of over 300,000 masons.⁷

Within Louisiana, the first official Prince Hall lodge formed in 1849 in New Orleans. Charles Doughty, James B. Berry, James Hunter, John Parsons, and Jacob Norager were already Prince Hall freemasons and members of the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church, organized within the St. James A.M.E. Church in New Orleans. They petitioned to organize a lodge and were able to do so, naming the lodge the Richmond Lodge No. 4, under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania (later Ohio). Fifteen years later, in 1863, two more lodges were established in New Orleans and thus, the three lodges were able to form a Grand Lodge. Eighty years later, there were 178 lodges in the State of Louisiana organized under the title of "Eureka." A formal name change began in 1944 and by the end of the year, the preferred title for all lodges was "Prince Hall."⁸

In 1917, the grand lodge was moved from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, where it remains today. At that time, the Grand Master for the lodges was John G. Lewis, Sr. The Lewis family is seminal to the history of Prince Hall Lodges in Louisiana with three grand masters leading from 1903-1979.⁹

The Prince Hall Lodges in the state have supported many social justice organizations throughout their history including the Louisiana Education Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the National Urban League. Lodges organized voter registration drives and also provided places for Civil Rights workers to meet and stay.¹⁰ They also established Camp Chicota in Evangeline Parish to sponsor 1,500 underprivileged boys and girls for a week of summer camp each year. The camp was founded in 1966 as a joint venture of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and the Esther Grand Chapter of the Order of the Easter Stars. Mason Ben D. Johnson remembers that while at Camp Chicota, kids would learn to "want to emphasize self-reliance, develop a sense of responsibility, and an acceptance of discipline."¹¹

History of Stone Square Lodge No. 8

As mentioned above, early lodges in Louisiana were chartered under the Most Worshipful Eureka Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana. Stone Square Lodge No. 8 was one of these. On August 21, 1879, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge issued a charter to Worshipful Master Sterling Barrow, Senior Warden Alexander Gilbert and Junior Warden Alex Banes. For over 120 years, the lodge has played a significant role in the West Baton Rouge Parish Community promoting civil rights and supporting the community at large.¹² Stone Square is the oldest lodge in the state that has never lost its original charter and was the first one established outside of New Orleans.

⁷ "History of Prince Hall." <https://mwphglmd.org/prince-hall-history/>. Accessed September 20, 2021.

⁸ "M. W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. for the State of Louisiana." <http://amistadresearchcenter.tulane.edu/archon/?p=creators/creator&id=604>. Accessed September 29, 2021.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "50 years/50 Collections Defenders of Social Justice: The Prince Hall Masons of Louisiana." <https://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/single-post/2016/10/31/defenders-of-social-justice-the-prince-hall-masons-of-louisiana>. Accessed September 20, 2021.

¹¹ "M. W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. for the State of Louisiana." <http://amistadresearchcenter.tulane.edu/archon/?p=creators/creator&id=604>. Accessed September 29, 2021.

¹² Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Historic Marker.

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As mentioned in Section 7, the lodge's various buildings have always been within the historic Cohn neighborhood. This building has served as a meeting location for Stone Square Lodge #8, Free and Accepted Masons, Minerva G. Minor #34, Order of Eastern Stars, A. R. Slaughter #93, Holy Royal Arch Masonry, and a Youth Fraternity.

Correspondence from Grand Master John G. Lewis, Sr, and lodge meeting records help to shine light on the impact and influence that the lodge had on the surrounding community as well as to elucidate exactly when the existing building was constructed. When perusing the meeting minutes from the 1940s through the 1960s, there are many references to the first floor of the lodge being rented out to community members. The going rates at the time ranged from \$5-\$10.¹³ The various minutes also include references to donations made in many months to Grambling State University. Charles P. Adams, Sr., born and raised in nearby Brusly, served as the founder and president at Grambling State University, all while still remaining a member of the Stone Square Lodge. One would assume that this is why donations were sent regularly back to Grambling. An interesting note is that another very famous member of the lodge, Joseph S. Clark, served as president of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Grambling's historical and current in-state rival. Today, Grambling and Southern's acronyms are painted in the dining area of the lodge.

In a letter to Grand Master John G. Lewis, Sr, in April of 1951, Eddie Collins (the lodge's secretary) writes "our lot is paid for and we are now working on our home."¹⁴ This leads us to believe that construction for the lodge began in 1951 and likely finished in 1953, though per the 1952 aerial, the building did have a roof by then.

Meeting minutes from April 1952 through March 1953 discuss in detail the construction of the current lodge building. On April 12, 1952, the members moved "to borrow enough money to complete the building." Further notes show that the building was funded partially by requiring members to pay a \$1.50 towards a building fund to help cover concrete materials that were being bought from Harding Field (the modern day airport).¹⁵ By July 26, 1952, "the building is beginning to progress again rapidly."¹⁶ In October of 1952, members had agreed to meet at the building site to help put up scaffolding in order to put in the gable ends of the building.¹⁷ By November, the lodge had "asked all brothers to come out Saturday and help put the roof on."¹⁸ Because the 1952 aerial in Section 7 shows a roof in place, we can assume it was taken between November and December of 1952. In the ensuing months, the members worked on the interior of the building as on March 18, 1953, the minutes state that the members had "drafted plans for the quickest way to prepare the new building for our use," and that they "needed \$500 for windows and roofing materials."¹⁹ Receipts were found in the lodge that show receipts from West Side supplies all the way through 1956 for items such as drywall and doors. Based on this, it is assumed that the interior was finished piecemeal by the members and work was still being done through 1956. This correlates to the interior walls of paneling and such that are found in the building today.

During the 1950s through the 1970s, the lodge played a significant role in the Civil Rights movement in West Baton Rouge Parish. Correspondence dated October 17, 1951, to Grand Master Lewis states, "We are sending you a check for \$67.87 as our Prince Hall Day donation to the NAACP research fund."²⁰ This is just one of many donations that the lodge made to the NAACP research fund during this significant time in history.

There were three main places for African-Americans to gather during this time in Port Allen – Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Cohn Elementary School (demolished in 2018), and Stone Square Lodge No. 8. As mentioned in Section 7, Shiloh had a hall building as well that is no longer extant. NAACP meetings were held at the lodge

¹³ Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, 1945-1963.

¹⁴ Correspondence from Eddie Collins to John G. Lewis, Sr. April 1951. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM for the State of Louisiana, Box 42, Folder 17. Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

¹⁵ Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, April 12, 1952.

¹⁶ Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, July 26, 1952.

¹⁷ Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, October 25, 1952.

¹⁸ Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, November 22, 1952.

¹⁹ Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, March 18, 1953.

²⁰ Correspondence from Eddie Collins to John G. Lewis, Sr. October 17, 1951. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM for the State of Louisiana, Box 42, Folder 17. Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

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during this time as well. On May 2, 1967, a citizen's workshop was held at the lodge. The workshop focused on citizenship education for political activities and community leaders and included "such topics as voter registration, education drives, setting up political organizations on a parish level, and learning how to maintain a year round political organization. It was conducted by the Scholarship, Education, and Defense Fund for Racial Equality, Inc."²¹ Events like this continued into the 1970s as on August 8, 1971, "The Political Action Committee, West Baton Rouge Education Association held a parish wide voter registration workshop for 18-20 year old youth at Stone Square Lodge Number 8 Masonic Temple."²²

In addition to these important meetings, the lodge has also hosted garden club meetings²³, dances, repasts, wedding and baby showers, and use as children's nurseries (per lodge meeting minutes). Minutes and receipts at the lodge also note how the lodge has served Thanksgiving meals to the community every year for decades, a tradition that continues to this day.

Lastly, correspondence from John G. Lewis, Sr., housed at the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University, has information about how the lodge, both locally in Port Allen and at the Grand Lodge in Baton Rouge, supported its members. From 1950 through 1954, one of the lodge members, Fred Lawrence, was going through a tough financial time and corresponded with Grand Master Lewis for help. He was in danger of losing the mortgage on his home, had a large family (including a new set of twins), and had lost his job. The letters from the next few years chronicle the support, both financially and emotionally, that was provided to Mr. Lawrence. He was able to obtain employment, save up money and pay back loans to secure his house's mortgage, and per modern tax assessor records, the house remains in his family's name.²⁴

Within the community, Stone Square Lodge No. 8 has always been more than just a building. The history of the lodge and its members has played a major role in the African American history, locally and statewide. The members of this lodge have strived not only continued to make good men (and women within the Eastern Star Organization) better, but also strived to make the community better. Not only has the building been a pillar in the community but the members have carried on the legacy. These walls have developed great men and women who have not only contributed greatly to the town of Port Allen but also throughout the surrounding parishes, state and world.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The lodge has had many prominent leaders and members, including Joseph S. Clark, a founding member and first president of Southern University A&M, Baton Rouge. He also served as the Worshipful Master of this lodge. Another leader in the education field who has served as the president of Southern University is Dr. A. Ralph Slaughter, who is an active member and Past Master of Stone Square Lodge #8. Dr. Slaughter is living history as he has continued to serve as the 13th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana, since 1996. He is a native of West Baton Rouge Parish, and followed his father's footsteps, A. Ralph Slaughter Sr., who also served as a Worshipful Master of this lodge. Illustrious Dr. Slaughter, SGIG 33° has had many achievements throughout his career including serving as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for the 33° of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated, the highest rank in all of Masonry. He also served as the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation. Other notable historical members include J.W. Pattan, the 1st African American Sheriff of West Baton Rouge Parish, Hall Davis III, who established the well-known Hall's Port Allen Mortuary as well as an ambulance-hearse business. Other historical members of this lodge include Harry Brown, the 1st African American Police Chief of Port Allen, Louisiana, Hall Davis IV, who has achieved many accolades in the Funeral Service Industry and has continually expanded Hall Davis and Son Funeral

²¹ "Citizens' Workshop Slated in Port Allen." *Morning Advocate*, May 2, 1967, pg. 21.

²² "WBR Voter Registration Workshop Held for Youth." *Baton Rouge News Leader*, August 8, 1971, pg. 34.

²³ *Morning Advocate*, December 6, 1962, pg. 40.

²⁴ Correspondence between Fred Lawrence and John G. Lewis, Sr. between August 1950 and February 1954. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM for the State of Louisiana, Box 19, Folder 7. Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge

Parish, LA

Name of Property

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Services throughout the surrounding parishes, and Dr. Atley Walker, who has served on the West Baton Rouge School Board for many years and served as a noteworthy professor at Southern University. There are numerous members and associates of Stone Square Lodge that have passed on but played a major part in building up the African American community throughout history. This includes, first and foremost education, political science, and armed forces, to name a few.

Original founding member, Alexander (Alex) Banes lived a long and industrious life, including his integral role in founding Stone Square Lodge No. 8. Banes was a native of St. Francisville, LA, and was the son of Magnus Banes, a Scotch-Irish farmer, and Maria, an enslaved woman. According to his granddaughter, Alex Banes ran away from Bayou Sara, where he grew up, and "sold" himself into enslavement "for a dime" to a local planter John Hill. He worked on the Hill's property as a blacksmith, wheelwright, and a foreman. He later purchased the Alexander Barrow Plantation just north of Port Allen in 1866. He would go on to purchase other area properties as well through 1905. In addition to his real estate holdings in Port Allen and Baton Rouge, Banes was a speaker for a Reconstruction era event in 1874, a school director in West Baton Rouge Parish, a planter, a philanthropist, and a share holder in the Progressive Negroes' Bank and Trust Company in Baton Rouge.²⁵

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

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

Blokker, Laura E. "The African American Experience in Louisiana." Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, 2012; pg. 40.

Charter of Cohn's Subdivision, State of Louisiana, Parish of East Baton Rouge. March 13, 1925. Emailed to SHPO staff January 14, 2021 by Donald Thomas, Jr. of Stone Square Lodge, Port Allen.

"Citizens' Workshop Slated in Port Allen." *Morning Advocate*, May 2, 1967, pg. 21.

Correspondence from Eddie Collins to John G. Lewis, Sr. April 1951. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM for the State of Louisiana, Box 42, Folder 17. Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Correspondence from Eddie Collins to John G. Lewis, Sr. October 17, 1951. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM for the State of Louisiana, Box 42, Folder 17. Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Correspondence between Fred Lawrence and John G. Lewis, Sr. between August 1950 and February 1954. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM for the State of Louisiana, Box 19, Folder 7. Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Costello, Brian J. Unpublished biography writeup of Alexander Banes.

"History of Port Allen." www.portallen.org/history. Accessed September 9, 2021.

"History of Prince Hall." <https://mwphglmd.org/prince-hall-history/>. Accessed September 20, 2021.

Miller, Mike. "Cohn, Isidore; East Baton Rouge Parish; now Orleans Parish, Louisiana." <http://files.usgwarchives.net/la/eastbatonrouge/bios/cohni.txt>. www.usgwarchives.net. Accessed January 11, 2022.

²⁵ Brian J. Costello. Unpublished biography writeup of Alexander Banes.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge

Name of Property

Parish, LA
County and State

Morning Advocate, December 6, 1962, pg. 40.

"M. W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. for the State of Louisiana."
<http://amistadresearchcenter.tulane.edu/archon/?p=creators/creator&id=604>. Accessed September 29, 2021.

"50 years/50 Collections Defenders of Social Justice: The Prince Hall Masons of Louisiana."
<https://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/single-post/2016/10/31/defenders-of-social-justice-the-prince-hall-masons-of-louisiana>. Accessed September 20, 2021.

"M. W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. for the State of Louisiana."
<http://amistadresearchcenter.tulane.edu/archon/?p=creators/creator&id=604>. Accessed September 29, 2021.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Historic Marker.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, 1945-1963.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, April 12, 1952.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, July 26, 1952.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, October 25, 1952.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, November 22, 1952.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Meeting Minutes, March 18, 1953.

"WBR Voter Registration Workshop Held for Youth." *Baton Rouge News Leader*, August 8, 1971, pg. 34.

WBRZ Staff. "Residents of Stick alley annexation to Port Allen," April 7, 2017.
<https://www.wbrz.com/news/residents-of-stick-alley-against-annexation-to-port-allen/>. www.wbrz.com.
Accessed January 11, 2022.

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

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge

Name of Property

Parish, LA
County and State

☒ Other

Name of repository: Stone Square Lodge No. 8 Archives, Amistad Research Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 30.459023 | Longitude: -91.213606 |
| 2. Latitude: 30.459334 | Longitude: -91.213630 |
| 3. Latitude: 30.459359 | Longitude: -91.213241 |
| 4. Latitude: 30.459038 | Longitude: -91.213219 |

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

Lots 20 and 21 Square 59, Cohn Subdivision PA1-142, CB 36 and CB 74 E134. The property is bounded by Michigan Avenue to the south, N. 11th Street to the west, and neighboring properties to the north and east.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected encompass the historic boundaries of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica Richardson

organization: N/A

street & number: 251 Linda Ave

city or town: Baton Rouge

state: LA

zip code: 70806

e-mail: jgrichardson28@gmail.com

telephone: 225-937-6022

date: August 2021

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

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge

Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 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: Stone Square Lodge No. 9

City or Vicinity: Port Allen

County: West Baton Rouge Parish

State: Louisiana

Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson

Date of Photographs: August and September 2021

1 of 39: Façade of Stone Square Lodge No. 8; camera facing north.

2 of 39: Façade and western elevation of Stone Square Lodge No. 8; camera facing northeast.

3 of 39: View of historic marker at Stone Square Lodge No. 8; camera facing west.

4 of 39: View of 1971 cornerstone on façade; camera facing north.

5 of 39: View of 1971 cornerstone on western elevation; camera facing east.

6 of 39: View of western elevation; camera facing east.

7 of 39: View of rear (north) and eastern elevation; camera facing southwest.

8 of 39: View of façade and eastern elevation; camera facing northwest.

9 of 39: View of main hallway; camera facing north.

10 of 39: View of main hallway; camera facing south.

11 of 39: View from main hallway into dining area/hall; camera facing northeast.

12 of 39: View of dining area/hall; camera facing north.

13 of 39: View of dining area/hall; camera facing southeast.

14 of 39: View of dining area/hall looking towards rear hallway; camera facing northwest.

15 of 39: View of storage room on first floor; camera facing north.

16 of 39: View of storage room on first floor; camera facing southwest.

17 of 39: View of storage room on first floor; camera facing southeast.

18 of 39: View of exit door in storage room; camera facing west.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge

Parish, LA

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- 19 of 39: View of rear hallway; camera facing south.
- 20 of 39: View of rear hallway looking towards rear elevation; camera facing north.
- 21 of 39: View of rear hallway near bathrooms; camera facing south.
- 22 of 39: View of rear vestibule area; camera facing west.
- 23 of 39: View of stairs to the second floor lodge room; camera facing west.
- 24 of 39: View of storage room from rear hallway; camera facing west.
- 25 of 39: View of interior office spaces; camera facing northwest.
- 26 of 39: View of interior office spaces; camera facing northwest.
- 27 of 39: View of interior office spaces; camera facing southeast.
- 28 of 39: View of interior office spaces; camera facing north.
- 29 of 39: View of interior office space, currently used as gym; camera facing west.
- 30 of 39: View from the top of the stairs; camera facing east.
- 31 of 39: View of vestibule at the top of the stairs; camera facing southwest.
- 32 of 39: View of second floor kitchen area; camera facing east.
- 33 of 39: View of second floor kitchen area; camera facing northeast.
- 34 of 39: View of second floor kitchen area; camera facing west.
- 35 of 39: View of lodge hall entrance door to lodge hall; camera facing north.
- 36 of 39: View of lodge hall; camera facing north.
- 37 of 39: View of lodge hall; camera facing south.
- 38 of 39: View of lodge hall; camera facing northeast.
- 39 of 39: View of modified window to serve as exit onto fire escape; camera facing east.

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge

Name of Property

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County and State

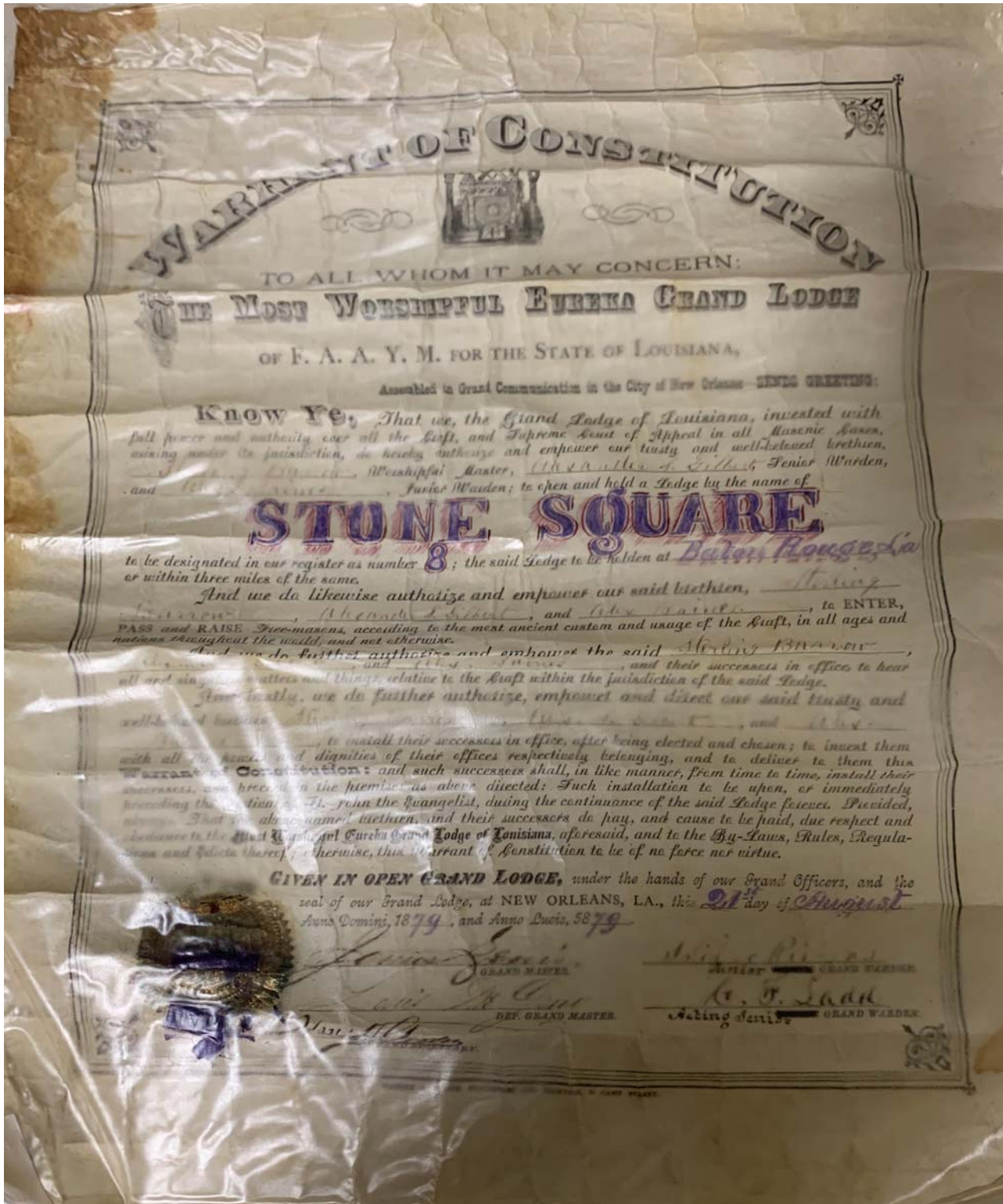


Figure 1. Photo of Stone Square Lodge No. 8's original charter. Image courtesy of Stone Square Lodge No. 8

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge

Name of Property

Parish, LA
County and State

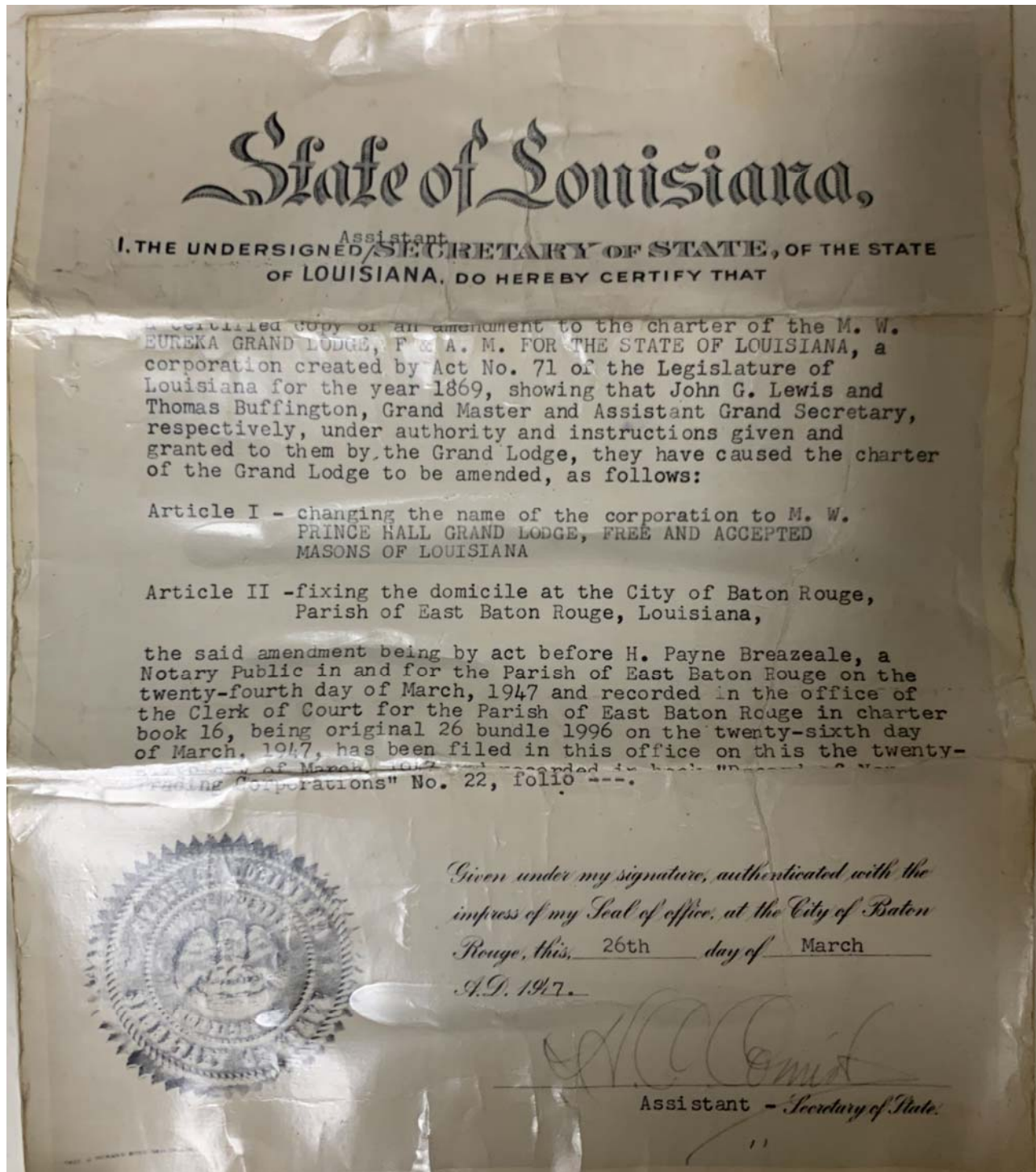
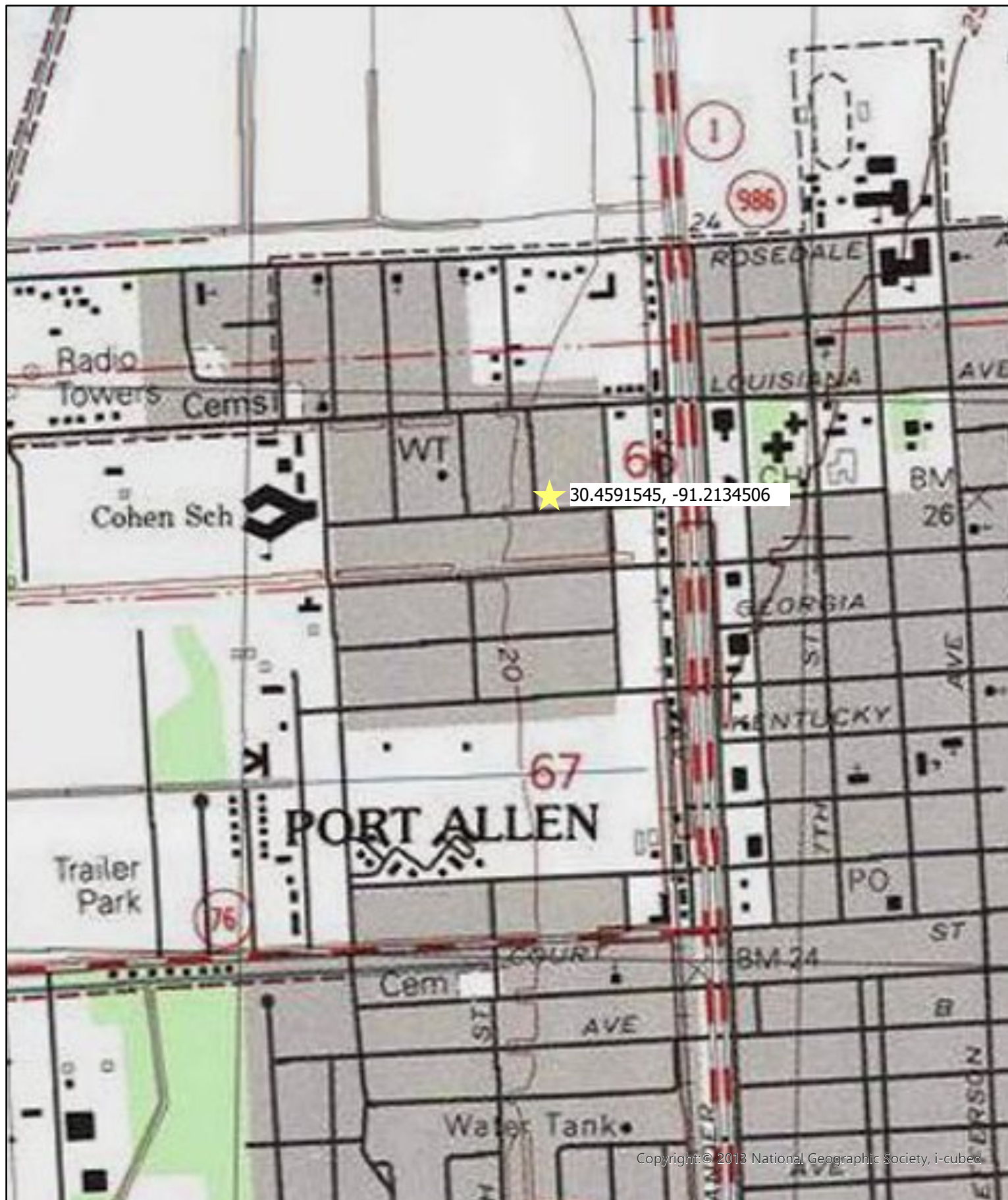


Figure 2. Photo of Stone Square Lodge No. 8's name change in 1944. Image courtesy of Stone Square Lodge No. 8

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.



Stone Square Lodge No. 8
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Topographic Map

0 0.05 0.1 0.19 0.29 0.38
Miles





Plat and Location Map - Stone Square Lodge No. 8, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA



Scalebar accurate at map center

Stone Square Lodge No. 8

West Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Latitude/Longitude Map



N 11th St

N 11th St

Michigan Ave

Michigan Ave

Michigan Ave

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Latitude: 30.459023 | Longitude: -91.213606 |
| 2. | Latitude: 30.459334 | Longitude: -91.213630 |
| 3. | Latitude: 30.459359 | Longitude: -91.213241 |
| 4. | Latitude: 30.459038 | Longitude: -91.213219 |

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus

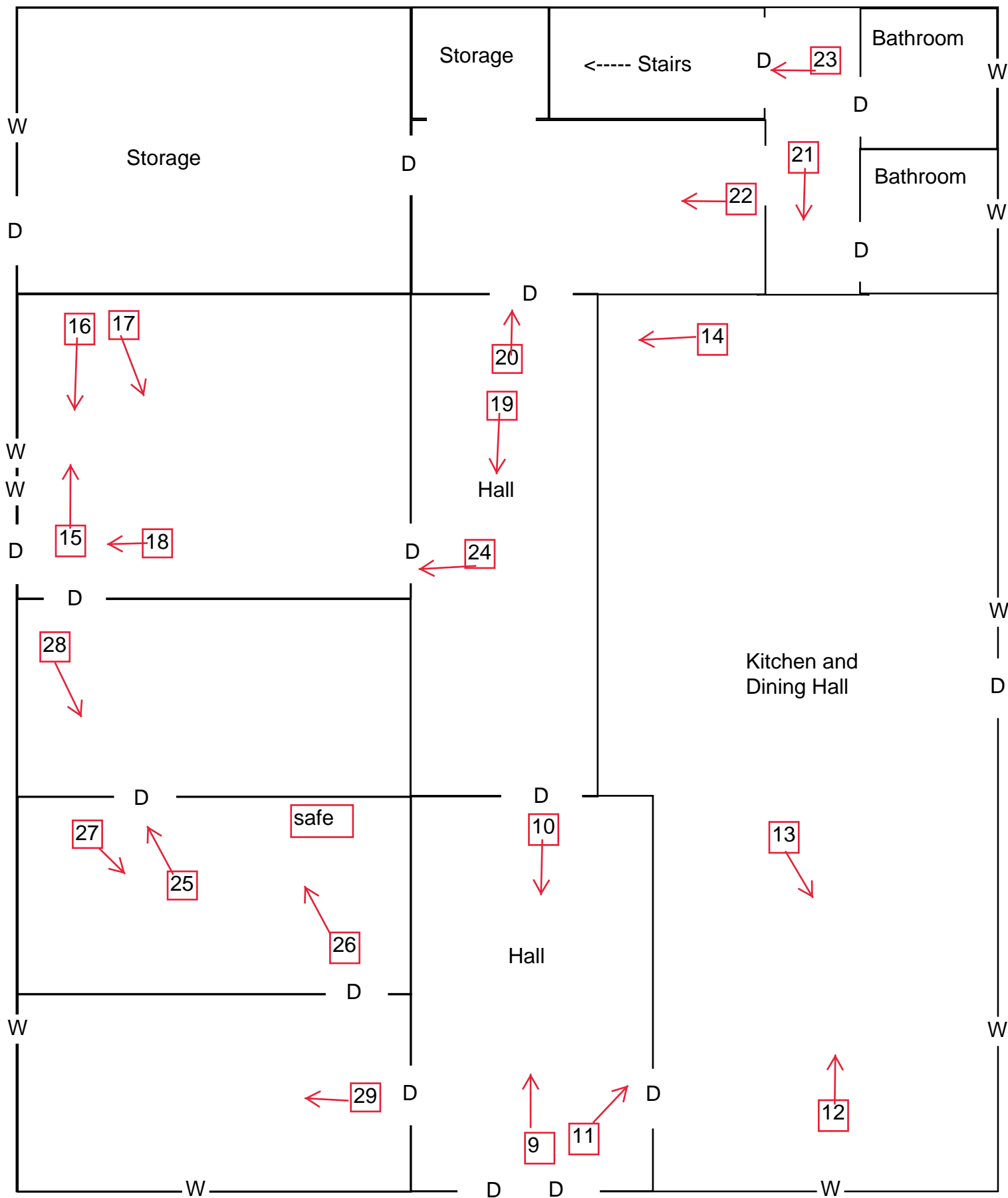
100 ft



Stone Square Lodge No. 8

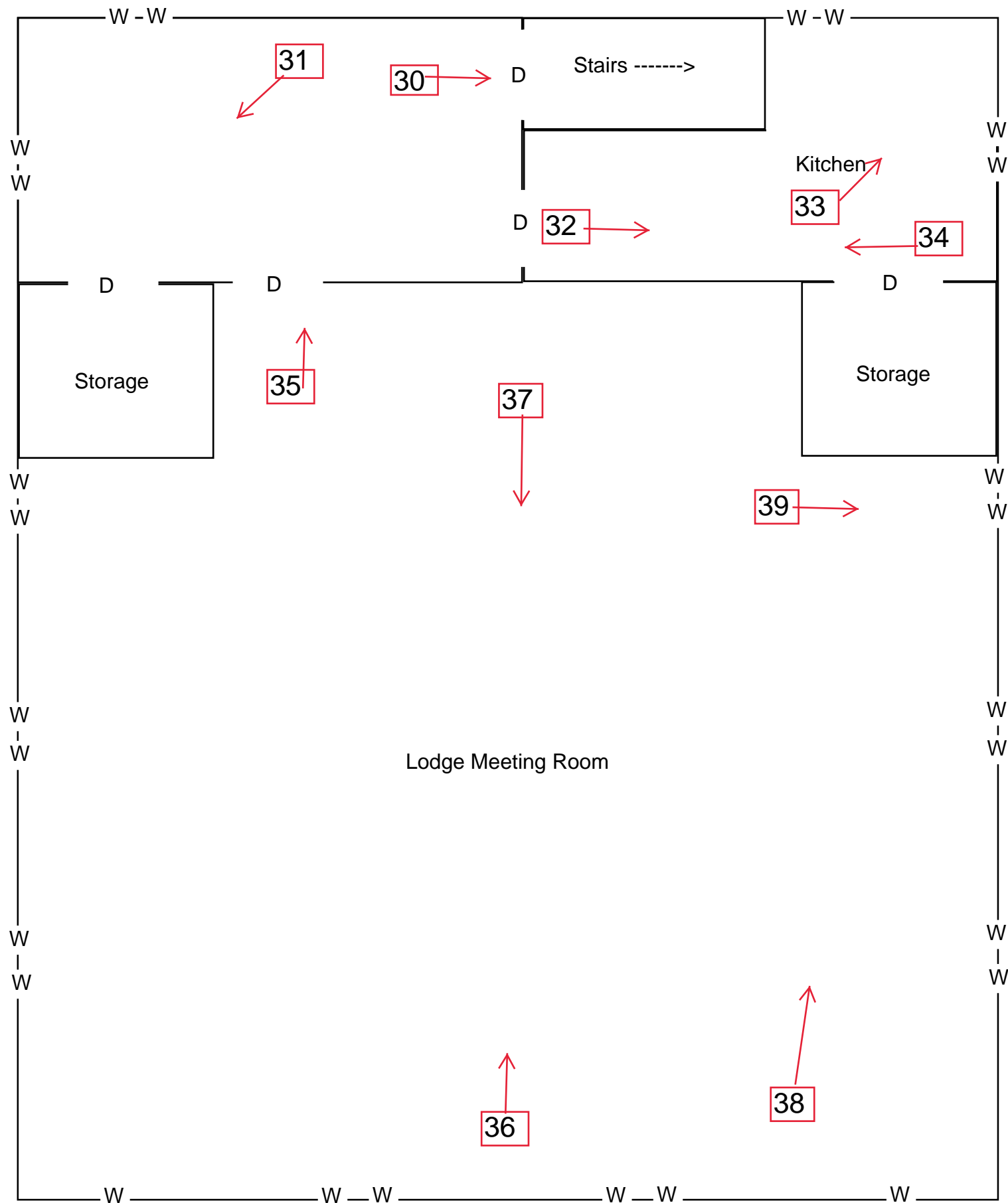
Port Allen
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Exterior Photo Key





N
↑
not to scale

Stone Square Lodge No. 8
West Baton Rouge Parish
Interior Photo Key - First Floor



Stone Square Lodge No. 8
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Interior Floor Plan - Second Floor

N
↑
not to scale