

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Lincoln National Bank
other names/site number Hamlin Masonic Lodge No. 79

2. Location

street & number 219 Main Street ☐ not for publication
city or town Hamlin ☐ vicinity
state West Virginia code WV county Lincoln code _____ zip code 25523

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national _____ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

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 _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Lincoln National Bank
Name of Property

Lincoln County, WV
County and State

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	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical

Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: sandstone

walls: STONE: sandstone

roof: TERRA COTTA

other: STONE: Sandstone, WOOD

Lincoln National Bank

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.

Lincoln National Bank

Name of Property

Lincoln County, WV

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1907

Significant Dates

c.1907

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

See continuation sheets.

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 and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheets.

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

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets.

Lincoln National Bank

Name of Property

Lincoln County, WV

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See continuation sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17 403236E 4237059N

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

See continuation sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheets.

Lincoln National Bank

Name of Property

Lincoln County, WV

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jaime Lynn Destefano (with Erin Riebe, National Register Coordinator)

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Date 3/2015

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheets.

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 18 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.

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Lincoln National Bank

Name of Property

Lincoln County, West Virginia

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Location and Setting

Lincoln National Bank sits on the west side of Main Street (also Broadway Street) in Hamlin, Lincoln County, West Virginia. The building is situated within tax parcel number 81, which occupies the southern half of land lot 21, and the northern half of land lot 23 on Main Street on the original "Map of the City of Hamlin, W.Va" (Figure 6). Fronting Main Street to the east, the building is located within a historically mixed residential and commercial area two blocks south of the public square which was the first area to develop in the historic downtown.

A cement sidewalk runs between the bank and Main Street. Two stone steps lead from the sidewalk to the principal entryway on the east elevation (façade). Located on the lot north of the building is a modern library building which sits on the site of the former Sweetland Store (Figure 8). A modern police station is located across Main Street. To the south is a grassed lot on which the Odd Fellow's No.160 Lodge (not extant) was sited – a commercial building also constructed of rusticated stone blocks and similar in design to the surviving Lincoln National Bank.

A creek runs along the western boundary of the property. Historic maps suggest that this area formerly included a narrow road traversing along the western boundary of town and was referred to as Water Street (Figure 6). Directly adjacent to the building on the north is a large cornerstone dated September 4, 1911. This stone was placed by the Hamlin Masonic Lodge No.79 in 1911 for the rebuilding of the county courthouse which was destroyed by arson in 1909. The 1911-1912 courthouse was demolished in the 1960s for the construction of the present building and the cornerstone was returned to Hamlin Lodge No. 79.

Building Description

Lincoln National Bank is a free-standing, temple-front building, constructed of rusticated, cut sandstone blocks and exhibiting Classical Revival-style influences. The building's relative narrow, tall design reflects an emphasis on the vertical. The building features a front-gabled roof with raking cornice and terra cotta roofing. The terra cotta roof is an in-kind replacement. The roof is moderately pitched with slightly overhanging eaves, and a wide band of trim/cornice below. Windows are original one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with modern metal storm windows applied on the exterior of each opening. There is an interior stone chimney located within the western roof slope. A second chimney is centrally located on the rear ridge line.

Character-defining exterior features of the Lincoln National Bank include the stone construction and rusticated stone walls; the symmetrical façade with full-height pilasters with molded capitals; and tall first floor windows featuring heavy stone jack arches with keystones. Upper story windows include a heavy stone lintel and stone sills. A deliberate, zoned separation of the two stories is evident. The lower zone (first story at street level) of the building was designed to accommodate a bank, while the upper zone was reserved for private uses such as those required for meeting halls.

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Exterior

The façade (east elevation; Photos #1 and #2) features a front-gabled roof with a raking cornice. The gable end is stone construction matching that of the exterior walls. The facade is three bays with a central entry door and a window on either side on the first floor. Two stone pilasters are located at the corners of the façade, and two additional pilasters separate each bay. Each pilaster features two molded capitals, one at the top of the lower level, and the second at the top of the upper level. A wide, stone band, or string course, separates the upper and lower levels. The smooth course contrasts with the rusticated stone blocks on the exterior, and serves not only a structural purpose but also provides space for the business name. Remnants of the former “Lincoln National Bank” name survive on the course, centered above the entry door. The entry door is a modern, double-door made of glass and metal. Above the entry door is a single-light fixed transom with metal sash. The historic configuration of the entry door survives; however, the original double-door was wood construction and featured a single light and wood paneling on each door (*see* Figures 7 and 9). The original copper gutters were replaced in kind approximately 20 years ago.¹ The aluminum downspouts are modern replacements.

Seven square stone pilasters, similar to those on the façade, separate the south elevation into six bays (Photos #2 and #3). The two pilasters located at each corner are full-height. The five interior pilasters extend to the string course separating the first and second stories. There are no window or door openings on the first floor of south elevation. The second floor features a single, off-centered door that opens to an exterior metal fire escape. Historically, an exterior stairwell was used by Lodge members to access the upper story where the Masonic Lodge meetings were held (*see* Figures 7 and 9). As the ground level slopes down in a westward direction, the basement foundation along the south elevation becomes more prominent. There is a single window opening, presently covered in plywood from the interior, located near the front (east) end of the basement on this elevation.

The rear (west) elevation features two windows with transom on the first floor, and two smaller windows on the second floor (Photo #4). The wide cornice extends around the rear. A single leaf wood door and a three-light fixed window (currently boarded up) is located at the basement level. A set of stone steps leads down from the rear yard to the basement door.

The north elevation (Photos #5 and 6) features seven pilasters, similar to the south elevation. Unlike the south elevation, the north consists of six windows and a door on the first floor, and six windows on the second. The first window bay (east end) is wider and taller than the others on the elevation and features the same jack arch with keystone as those on the façade. The remainder of the first floor windows on this elevation feature stone jack arches, but lack a keystone. The sixth window is narrower than all others. The side entry door is the westernmost bay on the façade. The door was reportedly installed in the 1960s when the Masonic Lodge acquired full ownership of the building. The door features decorative wood panels and a small, leaded stained glass window with the square and compass symbol of Freemasonry. Above the door is

¹ Masonic Lodge Members, interview by author. July 9, 2014.

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a single-pane transom. A concrete block entry stoop with metal shed roof, supporting posts, and balustrade is situated on the north elevation. A concrete sidewalk extends from the façade, along the north elevation to the entry stoop.

Interior

The interior of Lincoln National Bank retains its original floor plan, with very limited modern alterations (*see* Figures 4 and 5). Currently, the first floor is primarily occupied by the Hamlin Masonic Lodge dining hall (former public space of the bank), the original bank vault, and stair hall. The office of the former bank president is located between the first and second floors. The Mason's meeting hall occupies the majority of the upper floor, which also includes a small closet and upper stair hall.

Among the building's visible historic interior features are the original plaster walls, stained wood window casings and sills, an ornate stained wood doorway separating the dining hall and stair hall, a ceramic tiled mantel, stained wood base boards, and ornate metal door hardware, among others. The installation of carpeting and dropped ceilings throughout the entire building resulted in the concealment of the original flooring and ceilings. A large portion of the walls of the building are covered in modern vertical wood paneling.

The building is entered into the dining hall which occupies the front (east) two-thirds of the first floor (Photos #7 and 8). The dining hall, formerly used as the public space of the bank, features carpeting and dropped ceilings with hanging fluorescent lighting fixtures. According to an interview with present Lodge members, the room initially featured black and white checkered floor tiles, and an arched ceiling. Both features are concealed by the modern installations. The east wall of the dining hall features the two-leaf entry door and windows on either side. The interior sills of the east windows are deep, reflecting the thickness of the stone construction. The north elevation features a total of five windows. The easternmost window matches those on the east wall, while the remaining four are shorter in height. The south wall lacks any opening. A modern kitchen has been installed at the west end of the room and includes modern flooring, cabinetry and countertops. Modern vertical wood paneling has also been installed on the west wall of the dining room. A door on the west wall leads to a small closet that encloses the rear portion of the bank vault.

Located at the northwest end of the dining hall is a small hallway with plastered walls (Photos #9 and 10). The south wall of the hall features vertical wood paneling that covers the wall of the bank vault. Also on the south wall is the heavy metal door that opens into the bank vault. Painted at the top of the vault door is "Lincoln National Bank." The interior of the vault is presently used to store the minutes of the Lodge meetings, books, etc. The bank vault is carpeted. A unique feature of the vault is an original oxygen supply machine (Photograph 21), which could be turned on in the event a person was locked in the vault. The vault, lock, and oxygen supply machine are products of the Yale Lock Shop, among the oldest, and well-known names in the locking industry.² At the west end of the hall, an ornate doorway separates the dining hall and

² "Our Beginning – The History of Yale," <http://www.yalelock.com/en/yale/com/About-Yale/History-of-Yale/>, accessed August 31, 2015.

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N/A

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the stair hall. The wood door is stained and features faux graining, a square wood panel, and single pane of textured glass. The door is flanked by single-pane sidelights with textured glass and decorative molded wood panels below. Above the door and sidelights rests a flat cornice with molded wood elements including a band of egg and dart molding.

The stair hall is carpeted and features an approximate fourteen-foot ceiling – the highest in the building (Photo #11). Walls are either plastered or covered with c.1960 vertical, pine wood beaded panels. The north wall of the stair hall features a paneled, stained wood door that leads to the exterior, and one window with stained wood casing and sill. The southern half of the stair hall is occupied by multiple stairwells and landings. The west wall of the stair hall features a centered fireplace and mantel (Photo #12). The chimney is plastered. The mantel features multi-colored ceramic tiles and a decorative cast iron fireplace cover. Adjacent to the mantel on the right (north) is a window. Blue curtains cover windows in the stair hall. To the left (south) of the mantel is a flight of stairs leading to the second floor. Below the stairs is a bathroom enclosed in vertical wood panels. The bathroom was installed c.1960 and features the original baseboards and window. Both elements are painted white. The east wall of the stair hall includes the entry door and sidelights leading from the dining hall, as well as a flight of stairs leading up to the president's office situated between the first and second floors. Beneath the landing of this flight of stairs is a paneled wood door that opens to the basement stairwell.³

The staircase located within the stair hall is comprised of an original quarter-turn stair with landing at the turn, and a second landing at the top of the flight that leads to the bank president's office. A c.1960 flight of stairs extends from the original landing and travels up in a westerly direction to another landing before making a quarter turn to reach the second floor. The modern flight of stairs was designed to match the original. Beaded pine vertical board walls extending from the floor up to the carriage, and concealing all space beneath the stairs, was installed c.1960. All stairs feature a stained wood open string, square balusters, and square newel posts.

The former bank president's office is situated between the first and second floors and is accessed via the historic quarter-turn flight of stairs leading from the stair hall (Photo #19). The president's office features an original, wood ceiling, and c.1960 wood paneled walls and carpeting. A small window is situated on the west wall and overlooks the stair hall. The president's office is currently used for storage.

At the top of the modern staircase is the second floor stair hall (Photos #13 and 14). The hall features carpeting, a dropped ceiling, and modern vertical wood paneling. Along the south and west walls is beaded wainscoting matching the walls beneath the stairway carriage. A short knee wall separates the opening of the stairway from the room and is sided in the same beaded vertical board. A single, paneled wood door is located on the south wall which opens to exterior fire escape. The west wall of the second story stair hall

³ According to current Lodge members, the basement was originally only a crawl space. However, during the early history of the bank, an intoxicated burglar attempted to dig through the dirt within the crawl space in hopes to penetrate the bank vault. Although unsuccessful with his robbery, he assisted the Lodge in the opening of the basement, which was later used as the dining hall for the Masonic Lodge. The bank vault extends to the basement level and is surrounded by thick stone wall.

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N/A

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features a single window, and the concealed walls of the rear stone chimney. The chimney walls are clad in fiberboard vertical paneling matching the walls of the room. The north wall of the stair hall features an original paneled wood door with stained wood surround and decorative metal hardware. This door leads to a large closet, or storage room. A door on the east wall leads to the Hamlin Lodge meeting hall. All doors in the second floor stair hall feature stained wood panels, decorative metal hardware, and stained wood door surrounds with jambs resting on plinth blocks.

The closet, or storage room, features the same carpeting, wall siding, and dropped ceilings as the second floor stair hall (Photo #15). Modern closets are built into the rear (west) wall of the room. The larger of the two closets contains an original metal ventilating fan. The room features a window on the north wall, and a door leading to the meeting hall on the east wall.

The Lincoln National Bank Meeting Hall is a large, open space with modern carpeting, fiberboard paneled walls, and dropped ceiling with fluorescent lighting (Photos #16 -18). At both the east and west ends of the room are two, raised platforms, or alters used for the seating of high officials. The majority of the furniture within the room is original to the construction of the building. Windows, all original, feature blue curtains. The east wall contains two windows, and the north wall features five. All windows are covered by blue curtains.

Alterations

Exterior alterations are minimal and do not compromise the integrity of the building. They include the modern metal and glass entry door, the metal fire escape, and the modern side entry door. According to Lodge members, the original copper gutters were replaced in kind approximately 20 years ago.

The interior of the building underwent considerable alterations during the 1960s when the Masonic Lodge became sole owner of the building and subsequently leased the first floor to the police department. The majority of the historic floors and ceilings are concealed behind modern carpeting and dropped ceilings. The majority of the interior walls of the building are clad with c.1960 vertical pine bead board siding or paneling. The dropped ceilings were reportedly installed during the 1960s as well. The carpeting and kitchen on the first floor were added approximately 25 years ago. The original bank teller windows and counters remained in the first floor through the occupation of the police department. These were subsequently removed when the kitchen was added and the room was converted into the dining hall for the Lodge in the 1980s. According to Lodge members, electricity was first introduced to the Lincoln National Bank during the 1930s, and air conditioning was installed as late as the 1980s.

The only apparent alteration to the overall floor plan of the building is the c.1960 installation of the staircase leading to the second floor. It was also during this time that the first floor bathroom was installed beneath the modern flight of stairs. Interior alterations, though apparently extensive, have not resulted in the substantial loss of the building's historic fabric. The installation of carpeting and dropped ceilings has merely concealed the original flooring and ceiling elements. With the exception of the bank teller counters, the majority of the

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historic fabric in the former bank, including the vault, survive and are concealed behind modern, reversible installations.

Not only is the Lincoln National Bank located on its original site, it continues to dominate this historic section of Main Street. At present, Lodge members hope to not only stabilize the heavy stone walls, but to restore the historic interior elements to their original appearance. The building is indicative of a temple-front design with large, public spaces on the lower level, and more confined spaces on the second. It survives today as a landmark building in the community and is reminiscent of Hamlin's most impressive period of growth and prosperity during the oil and gas boom era of the early 1900s.

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N/A
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Narrative Statement of Significance

Completed c.1907, Lincoln National Bank is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C: Architecture* for its fine interpretation of an imposing, temple-front building type constructed of stone and exhibiting Classical Revival-stylistic influences. The building exemplifies the banking industry's early 20th century attempt to express financial competence and stability through a solid-looking, distinctive building.

Lincoln National Bank is the only temple-front building constructed during the area's oil and gas boom that survives in downtown Hamlin. Stylistically, it is unique among other historic commercial buildings for its modest, Classical Revival influences and impressive presence on one of the most historic streets in town.

Developmental History

Present-day Hamlin was first settled in 1802 with natural resources such as coal, timber, and tobacco playing an important role in the development and early settlement of the area. Even though it was settled in the early 19th century, the town was not laid out (Figure 6) until formation of Lincoln County and the selection of the area as the county seat in 1867.⁴

The overall population of Lincoln County remained relatively low until the years following the Civil War when timbering became a leading business. Between 1870 and 1880, the total population increased nearly 73 percent and continued to grow throughout the last quarter of the 19th century. During the early 20th century, however, oil and gas became the leading industry in Lincoln County, contributing extensively to its growth and prosperity. In 1903, the Eureka Pipe Line Company opened one of its largest pump stations in Hamlin, contributing substantially to the town's growth. The population increased in Lincoln County from 15,434 to 20,491 between the 1900 and 1910 census years and the prosperity was unprecedented. Many new hotels, stores, and doctors' offices opened and many new company houses were constructed.⁵ It was during this period that the Lincoln National Bank building was constructed along Main Street (formerly Broadway) where the earliest development of businesses, residences, and public buildings were located. Historic aerial photographs dating to c.1910 (Figure 8) and c.1925 show considerable development east of Main Street between these years.

Lincoln National Bank was established in June 1906.⁶ Shortly thereafter, in 1907, the bank purchased the southern half of lot 21, as shown on the town's original plat (Figure 6), from Louis Sweetland, president of the bank, who had owned it since 1904. The building was likely constructed during this time period or shortly thereafter. From this time until 1961 the bank operated out of the first floor of the building while the

⁴ Jim Comstock, *Hardesty's West Virginia Counties*, Vol. 7 (Richmond, W.Va.: Jim Comstock, 1973), p.95.

⁵ Ray Kirk, "Lincoln County," *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/print/Article/1403>, accessed June 16, 2014; and, Ralph and Boone Triplett, *Images of America: Lincoln County* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2013).

⁶ "Bank One, West Virginia, Lincoln," U.S. Bank Locations, <http://www.usbanklocations.com/bank-one-west-virginia-lincoln-6765.shtml>, accessed August 31, 2015.

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local Masonic Lodge occupied the second floor which they accessed through an exterior stairwell (Figure 9).⁷

The Lodge received its dispensation in 1879, and was officially established as an Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons chapter of West Virginia in 1881. Although each Masonic community independently solved the fraternity's requirements for ritual spaces, four basic strategies were adopted: the rental of rooms within preexisting commercial buildings, the construction of a Masonic Temple that would accommodate commercial spaces, acquire preexisting domestic or institutional buildings, or erect buildings for the sole use of the Lodge.⁸ Many Masonic Lodge chapters, particularly those in small or rural communities, held meetings in rented rooms. These leased spaces were more often than not located in commercial buildings, particularly theaters and bank buildings. The Lincoln National Bank followed this tradition.

Prior to the construction of the Lincoln National Bank building, meetings were held at the Sweetland General Store, which was situated on the lot located just north of the present lodge building (see Figure 8).⁹ The store was owned by Isaac V. Sweetland who was influential in the formation and establishment of the Lincoln National Bank.¹⁰

According to the 1961 deed, Lincoln National Bank sold the building to the Lodge for \$10.00 with the agreement that the building would not be rented or leased to any financial institution.¹¹ Ghost marks of the former bank sign survive above the entry door of the building, as well as on the bank safe door.

When the Hamlin Masonic Lodge No.79 obtained ownership of the building, they leased the first floor to the police department who retained the original bank counters and teller windows. In 1966, the Lodge acquired the northern half of Lot No.23, creating the present parcel. The c.1920 aerial photograph (Figure 8) shows a small frame building situated between the Masonic and Odd Fellow's Lodge Halls. This building, no longer extant, was located on the portion of Lot No. 23 that the Masonic Lodge acquired in 1966.¹² In the 1980s, when the police moved into their own building, the Lodge began to use the entire building.¹³

⁷ Lincoln County Deed Book 52, Page 295 (1/1/1907).

⁸ William D. Moore, *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006), p. 120.

⁹ Though some sources indicate that the building was constructed c.1882 when the Lodge was officially chartered, deed and tax records, as well as the building materials and style, indicate that it was constructed in the early 20th century when the Lincoln National Bank acquired the bank. John T. Harris, *West Virginia Legislative Hand Book and Manual and Official Register* (Charleston, W.Va.: Tribune Printing Company, 1922), p. 854.

¹⁰ F.B. Lambert, "Sketches of Lincoln County History," *The Lincoln Journal*, Wednesday, February 26, 2003; and, "Hamlin Lodge No.79, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons: 1881-1981 Our First 100 Years," a Pamphlet, 1981.

¹¹ Lincoln County Deed Book 159, Page 371 (12/30/1961).

¹² Deed Book 168, Page 87.

¹³ Interview, Masonic Lodge Members, July 9, 2014. Interview conducted by author.

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Criterion C: Architecture

Following the financial panics and subsequent depression in the late nineteenth century, bankers agreed that the failure of hundreds of banks during this time period was due to the lack of confidence and cooperation between banker and customer. They turned to the physical appearance of the bank building itself as one way to instill confidence. A solid-looking building could portray solidity, strength, and trust. A depositor may perceive a bank to be a sound institution based on its appearance.¹⁴ Architects began designing banks to meet this theory.

In 1911, Alfred C. Bossom, an early 20th-century architect specializing in bank architecture, wrote an article published in *The Bankers Magazine* titled, "The Requirements of a Modern Bank Building." In it he outlined, from experience, what he believed were the requirements of a modern bank building. Regarding the potential location, Bossom suggested the following:

Primarily a bank...should occupy a prominent site, located on a main business thoroughfare, preferably on a corner, immediately adjacent to its patrons and readily accessible by a cheap, quick means of transportation to outlying districts. Near the post office if possible is invariably very desirable for this purpose, as it becomes the center of the town sooner or later.¹⁵

With regard to the building's exterior, Bossom stated:

The building externally should be distinctive, should look like a BANK and should call attention to itself by its substantial and conservative appearance... The most important external requirement is that the building shall be devoid of anything appearing tawdry, vulgar or cheap... Only first-class material should be employed and if money is not plentiful, some other cheaper material should be adopted instead of an inferior quality of a more expensive substance, as such construction gives the impression of security...Solidity cannot be too strongly impressed upon the outside of the building.¹⁶

Bossom continued by providing examples of potential materials to use including granite, marble, and stone. He cautioned against anything of a more perishable nature, such as tin, as it could quickly appear dilapidated. Such a state of perceived disrepair, he suggested, would indicate poor taste which would "not tend to inspire confidence in the bank's judgment in other matters that concern its customers."¹⁷ Bossom repeated this theory and his recommendations in a 1920 article of similar title for the *Journal of the America Bankers Association*. In this article he added that there is no need for small town banks to construct tall buildings; though it should be tall enough to make the building appear dignified. He continued, "Individuality and

¹⁴ Charles Belfoure, *Monuments to Money: The Architecture of American Banks* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2005), p. 127.

¹⁵ Alfred C. Bossom, "The Requirements of a Modern Bank Building," *The Bankers Magazine*, Vol. 83, No. 11, (New York: The Bankers Publishing Co., 1911), p. 658.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 658-659.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 659.

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distinctiveness...have great advertising value. At the same time, local materials should be employed...as it creates a friendly spirit.”¹⁸

The Classical architecture showcased at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago provided the perfect style to meet the building needs of the banking industry. From the late nineteenth century through the 1920s many banks, both in small towns and large cities, displayed at least some elements of the style which assisted in achieving the substantial and distinctive appearance bankers believed would attract depositors. One characteristic of the style utilized particularly for banks in the early 20th century is the temple-front plan.

Temple-front buildings, nearly exclusively designed for banks during the early 20th century, draw their inspiration from ancient Greek and Roman architecture. By incorporating Classical-stylistic embellishments, the allusion of an ancient temple is achieved. As such, it is no surprise that the temple-front building is most commonly associated with Classical Revival architectural design. Unlike the temples of the ancient world, the design of the temple-front buildings during the early 20th century was for aesthetics rather than structural purposes. Character-defining elements of a temple-front building include a closed portico, oftentimes attached to the wall surface, and the use of columns, pilasters or piers to evoke its temple-like appearance.¹⁹

The Lincoln National Bank was constructed c.1907 and fits these trends. Displaying elements of Classical architecture, it is an imposing, temple-front building constructed of rusticated cut stone. It is an exemplary representation of a small town, early 20th century bank building found throughout the United States and the only interpretation in Hamlin. Its incorporation of temple-front design with Classical Revival elements faithfully follows the early century trends in bank design that was not only aesthetically pleasing, but provided a sense of security for customers. Further, its imposing presence on Main Street speaks toward the prosperous period in which the bank began operations during the early years of the area’s oil and gas boom.

Black’s General Merchandising Store, which was constructed on the lot to the south around the same time period, was similar in construction to Lincoln National Bank. Further, both buildings contained a commercial space on the lower level, with a more confined space on the second floor suitable for fraternal meetings. The International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 160 met on the second floor of Black’s Store as the Hamlin Masonic Lodge met on the second floor of the Lincoln National Bank building. Both were constructed of the same rusticated stone; however, Black’s Store was a two-part commercial block, rather than a temple-front building like the bank. Unfortunately, the Black’s Store was demolished c.2010. Lincoln National Bank is the only surviving known commercial building of similar construction in Hamlin.

¹⁸ Alfred C. Bossom, “Requirements of a Modern Bank Building,” *Journal of the American Bankers Association*, Vol. 12, (New York: G.E. Bowerman, 1920), p. 705-706.

¹⁹ Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*, updated edition (New York: Alta Mira Press, 2000), p. 100.

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Summary

Lincoln National Bank's imposing exterior and modest Classical Revival features demonstrate the exceptional craftsmanship and design of its builders. The design and style of the building are reminiscent of Hamlin's most impressive period of growth during the early years of the area's oil and gas boom as well as early-20th century American trends in bank design, which attempted to provide a sense of security and strength.

The building's stone construction, design, and high-style elements are reminiscent of a period of substantial growth and prosperity in Hamlin. The building retains its historic architectural integrity including its original design, location, setting, association, workmanship, materials, and feeling. Although a large degree of its interior materials are concealed beneath c.1960 installations, the removal of these elements would reveal the original features. The building continues to be recognized as an important community landmark in Hamlin.

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Hamlin Masonic Lodge No. 79

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Photographs:

Name of Property: Lincoln National Bank
City: Hamlin
County: Lincoln County
State: WV
Name of Photographer: Jaime L. Destefano
Date of Photographs: July 9, 2014
Location of Digital Files: West Virginia Division of Culture and History

- Photo 001 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_001)
East façade (right), camera facing northwest.
- Photo 002 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_002)
Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 003 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_003)
South elevation, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 004 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_004)
Rear (west) elevation, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 005 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_005)
Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 006 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_006)
North elevation, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 007 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_007)
Interior, dining hall, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 008 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_008)
Interior, dining hall, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 009 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_009)
Interior, hallway between dining hall and stair hall, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 010 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_010)
Interior, bank vault, camera facing southeast.

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- Photo 011 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_011)
Interior, stair hall, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 012 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_012)
Interior, stair hall, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 013 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_013)
Interior, second floor hall, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 014 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_014)
Interior, second floor hall, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 015 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_015)
Interior, second floor closet, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 016 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_016)
Interior, meeting hall, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 017 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_017)
Interior, meeting hall, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 018 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_018)
Interior, meeting hall, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 019 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_019)
Interior, president's office, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 020 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_020)
Exterior plaque, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 021 (WV_LincolnCounty_LincolnNationalBankNo.79_021)
Interior, bank vault oxygen supply machine, camera facing northwest.

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Figure 1. Lincoln County Tax Map
Lincoln County GIS Mapping

Parcel 03 2008100000000 ("81")



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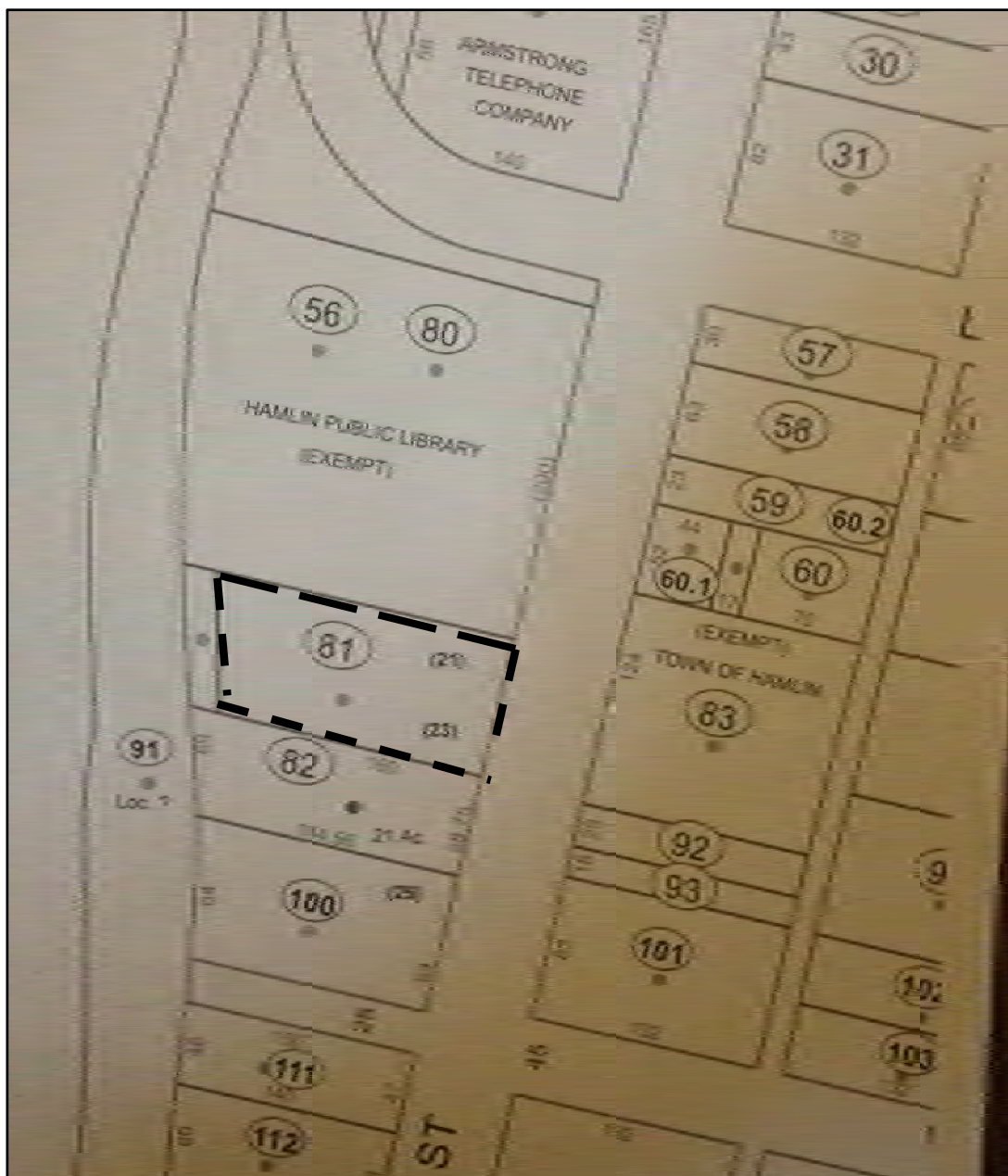
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**Figure 2. Lincoln County Tax Map Showing Portions of
Lots 21 and 23 within Parcel 81**

Courtesy of Lincoln County Tax Assessor's Office



Not to Scale

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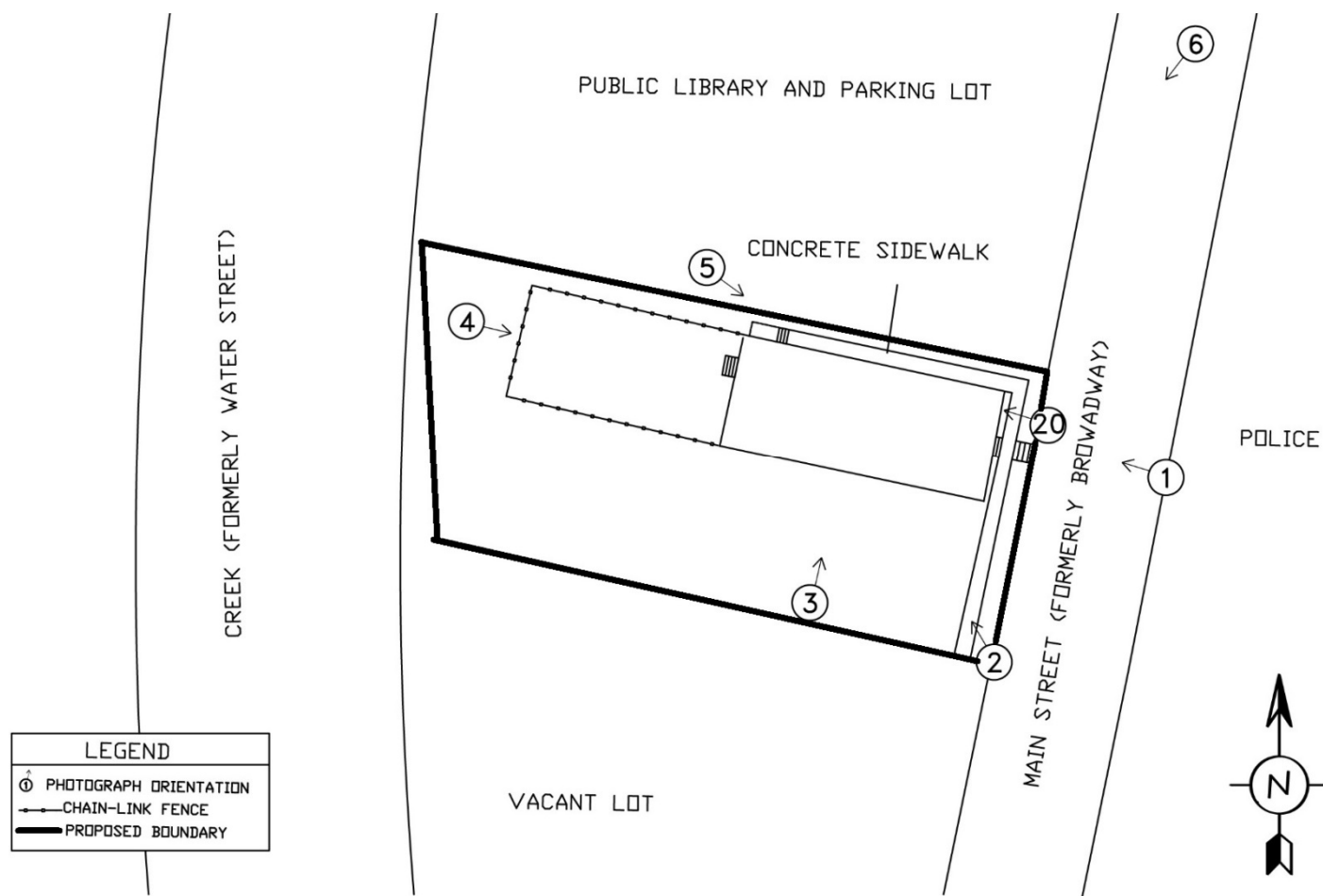
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Figure 3. Site Plan and Photograph Locations

Drawn by Jaime Destefano of History, Incorporated

Not to Scale



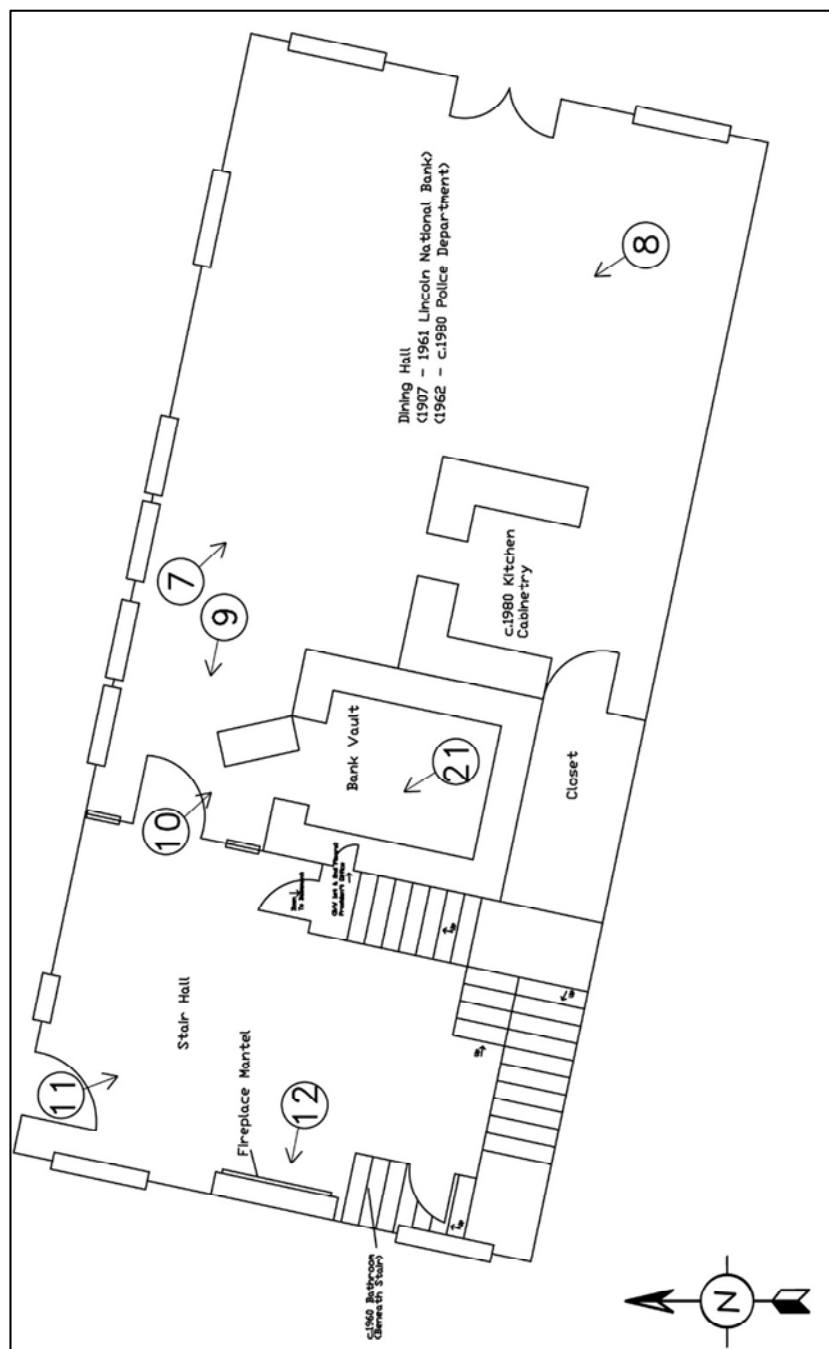
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Figure 4. Floor Plan (First Floor) and Photograph Locations
Drawn by Jaime L. Destefano of History, Incorporated



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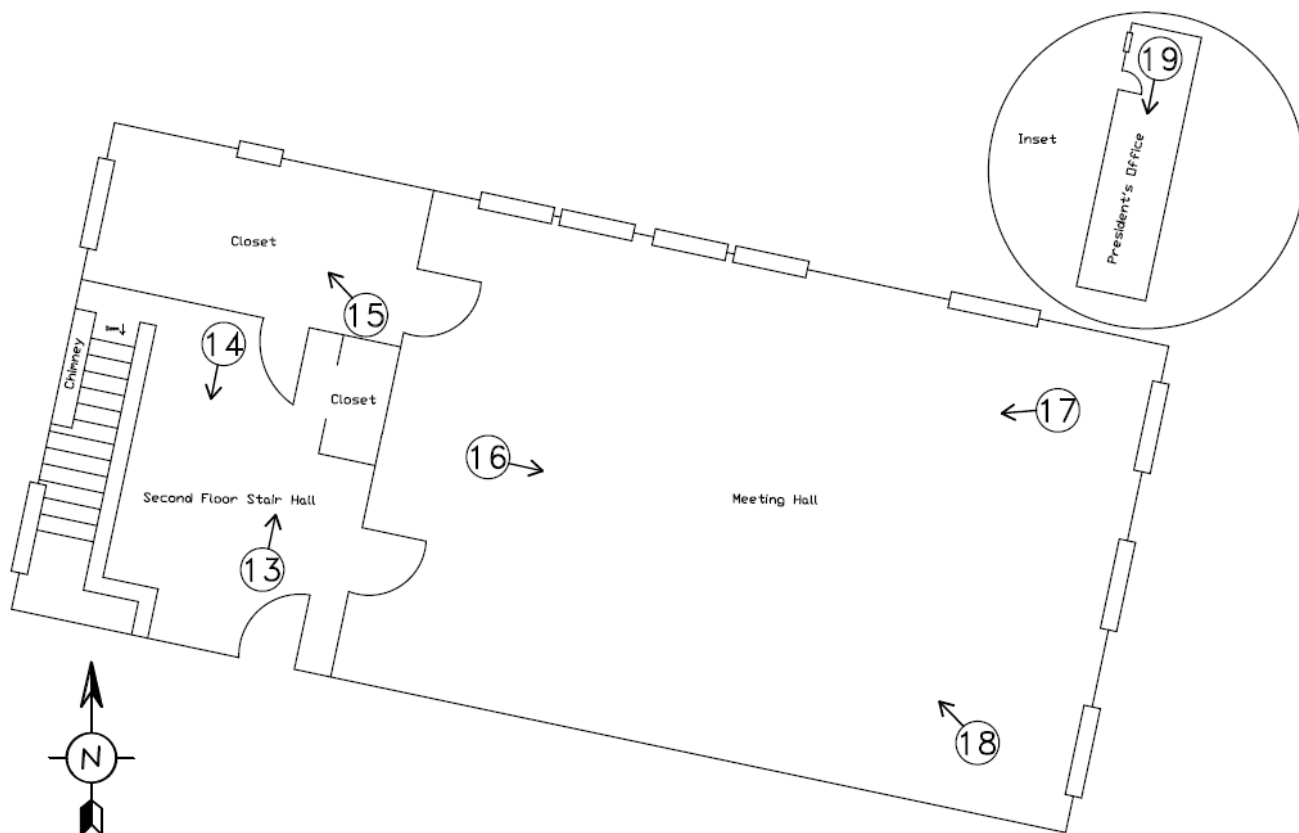
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**Figure 5. Floor Plan (Second Floor and President's Office) and
Photograph Locations**

Drawn by Jaime L. Destefano of History, Incorporated



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Figure 6. Photocopy of the 1876 "Map of the City of Hamlin" Showing Lots 21 and 23

By: Dana J. Hilbert, Engineer

Photocopied by: Casto & Harris, Inc.

Courtesy of the Lincoln County, WV Tax Assessor Office



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**Figure 7. 1994 Sketch of the Hamlin Masonic Lodge No.79
as it Appeared in 1907**

Drawn by: William Goebel

Courtesy of the Hamlin Masonic Lodge No.79



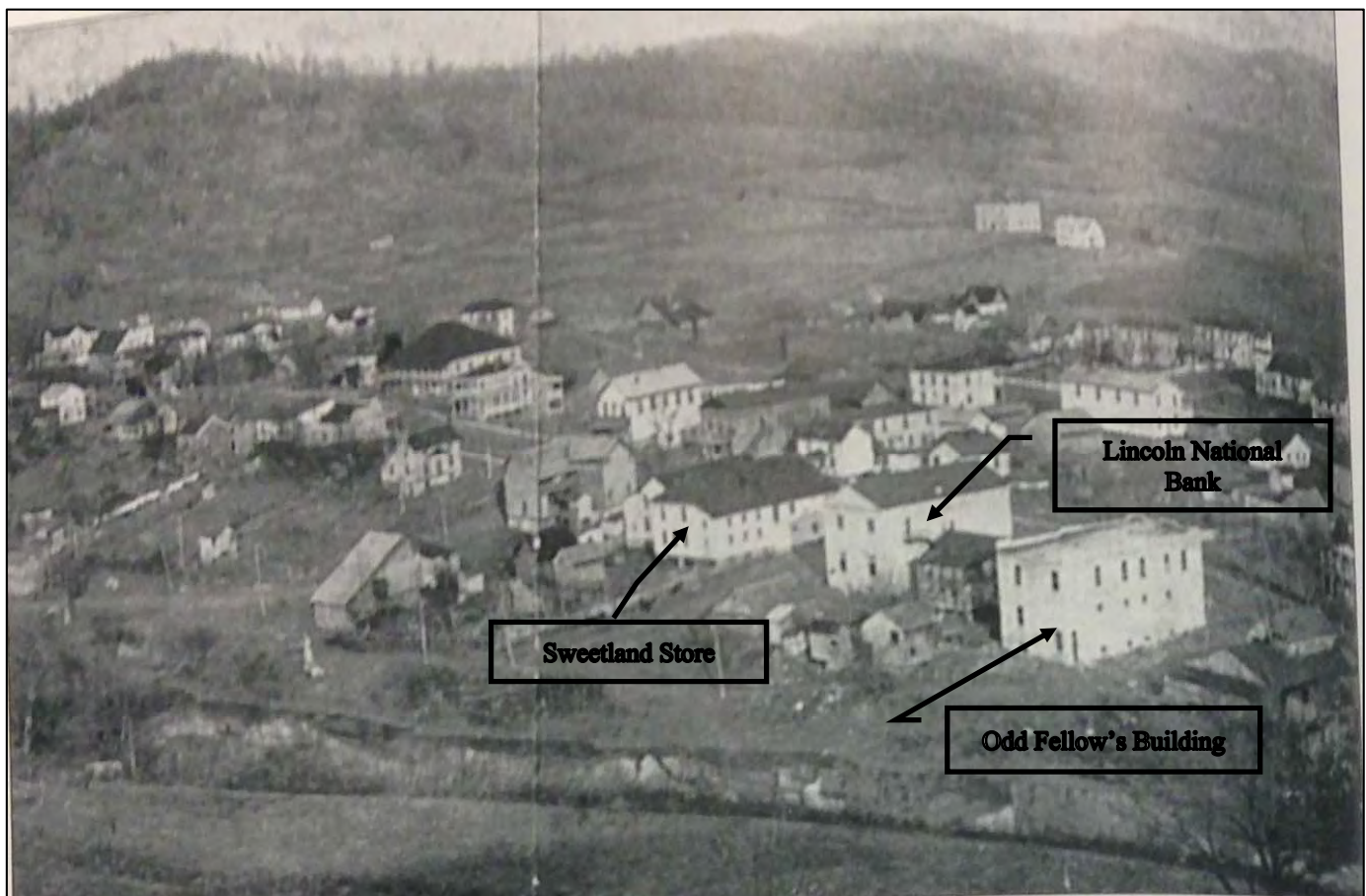
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Figure 8. c.1910 Bird's Eye View of Hamlin
Taken from "Images of America: Lincoln County"



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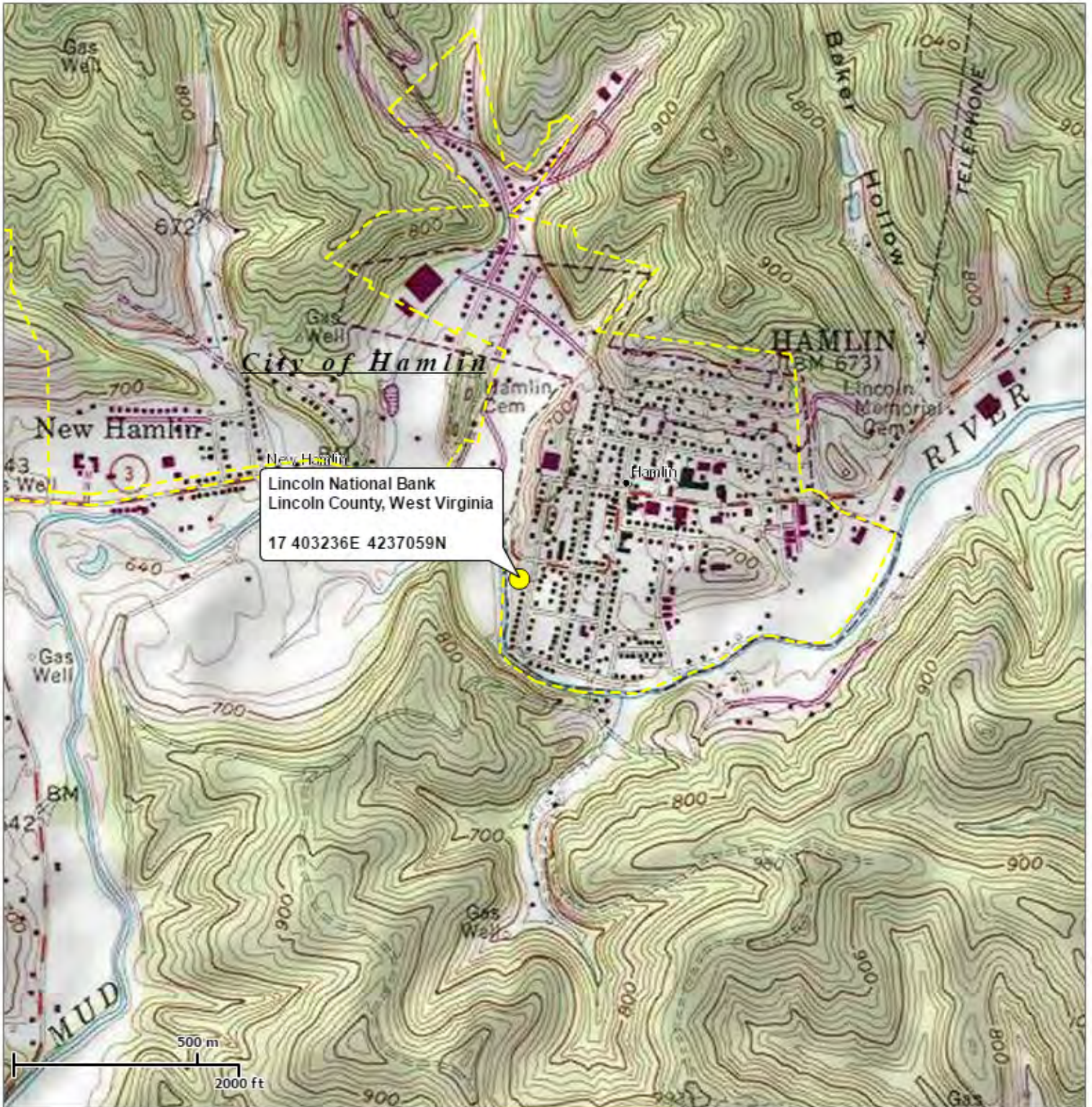
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Figure 9. c.1940 Photograph of Hamlin Lodge No.79
Taken from "Images of America: Lincoln County"



Lincoln National Bank, Lincoln County, WV



This map is created by West Virginia GIS Technical Center for West Virginia SHPO GIS Map Viewer.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator (Auxiliary Sphere)

Map Created on 8/28/2015

Architectural

- Point
- Area

National Register

- Point
- Area

User Notes:

No USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangles for West Virginia at this map extent.

Disclaimer:

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Interactive Map is designed to provide professional consultants, state/federal agency employees and the public with a means to make informed decisions with regards to the cultural resource location.



Photo 1: East façade (right),
camera facing northwest.



Photo 2: Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.



Photo 3: South elevation, camera facing northeast.



Photo 4: Rear (west) elevation, camera facing southeast.



Photo 5: Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.



Photo 6: North elevation, camera facing southwest.



Photo 7: Interior, dining hall, camera facing southeast.



Photo 8: Interior, dining hall, camera facing northwest.



Photo 9: Interior, hallway between dining hall and stair hall, camera facing northwest.



Photo 10: Interior, bank vault, camera facing southeast.



Photo 11: Interior, stair hall, camera facing southeast.



Photo 12: Interior, stair hall mantle, camera facing northwest.



Photo 13: Interior, second floor hall, camera facing northeast.



Photo 14: Interior, second floor hall, camera facing southwest.



Photo 15: Interior, second floor closet, camera facing northwest.



Photo 16: Interior, meeting hall, camera facing southeast.



Photo 17: Interior, meeting hall, camera facing southwest.



Photo 18: Interior, meeting hall, camera facing northwest.



Photo 19: Interior, president's office, camera facing southwest.



Photo 20: Exterior plaque, camera facing northwest.



Photo 21: Interior, bank vault oxygen supply machine, camera facing northwest.