

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
 other names/site number OH-142

2. Location

street & number 942 Ceralvo Road

NA
X

 not for publication
 city or town Centertown vicinity
 state Kentucky code Ky county Ohio code 183 zip code 42369

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO Date _____

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
 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 _____

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
1		site
		structure
		object
2		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social/meeting hall
Education/School
Religion/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone
walls: Aluminum
roof: metal
other:

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

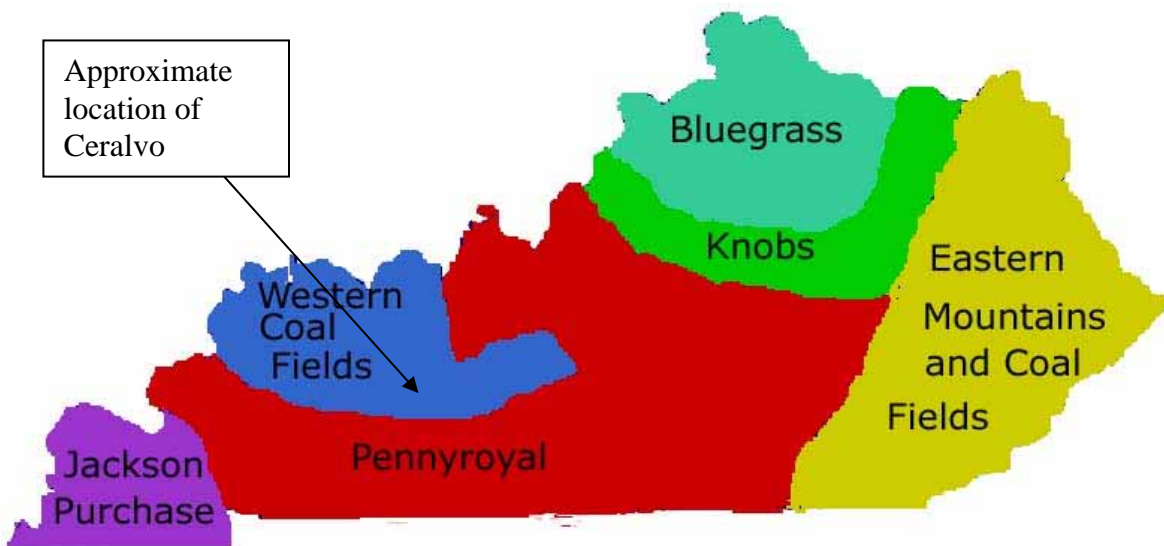
Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School (OH-142) is a building that served the needs of a small rural community by simultaneously as a school, Masonic Lodge and Methodist church. It is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Hartford, seat of Ohio County, and about four miles from Centertown, the nearest incorporated town. The building still retains most of its original features in the architecture and in the furnishings.

Character of the nominated lot

Ohio County is in the Western Coalfield, which is a part of the large Pennyrile Cultural Landscape Region of Kentucky. Ceralvo was an active community located along the Green River which formed the western boundary of the town.



The Masonic Hall and School sits on a lot that is approximately 100' x 200' with the narrow end facing what is now called Ceralvo Lane. A cemetery is located behind the building.



Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

Exterior Description

The building is on the northwest side of Ceralvo Lane and faces southeast. It was constructed after its predecessor burned on June 6th, 1897. The building is two-storied 27' x 41' with a gabled end facing the road. The entrance is centered on the front and flanked by two 4/4 double hung windows. Two similar windows are located above these windows on the second floor. A Masonic sign hangs between the two upper windows. The building has a metal roof.



Photo 1: front (southeast) façade



Photo 2: northeast facade

Concrete and stone steps lead up to the main entrance. The first floor has 4 windows on its north side and three on the south side. The fourth bay, located on the corner, has concrete steps which lead to a door that is used to gain access to the second floor. This is the only access to the second floor; there are no other stairs. There are no doors or windows on the back side.



Photo 3: back (northwest) side



Photo 4: southwest side

Interior Description

The first floor is one large room which was used as a school and church and contains the original pews, piano, and chalk board (although this has now been painted white). The walls and ceiling are covered with the original tongue and groove bead board. The floor is the original hardwood. There is a small closet under the stairs which has children's initials written in chalk on the wooden interior. A stove was once located between

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

the second and third windows on the north. A wooden pulpit stands by the third window and in front of the closet on the south.



Ground floor interior spaces

The second floor is accessed from the side and back of the building. This entrance leads directly to the stairs. Once up the stairs, there is a vestibule where there is access to the belfry. The original bell still hangs there. There is also a small office or storage space. Entrance to the main room can be gained through either room. The main room is covered with paneling and with bead board. At one time, the second floor had windows like the first floor, but the openings have been covered with paneling on the inside and with aluminum siding on the outside. The original windows are located in the closet in the school room. The walls on the long sides are angled at the top due to the pitch of the roof, although the ceilings are not low. The original podiums, American flag, Masonic symbols and lodge records are still at this location.

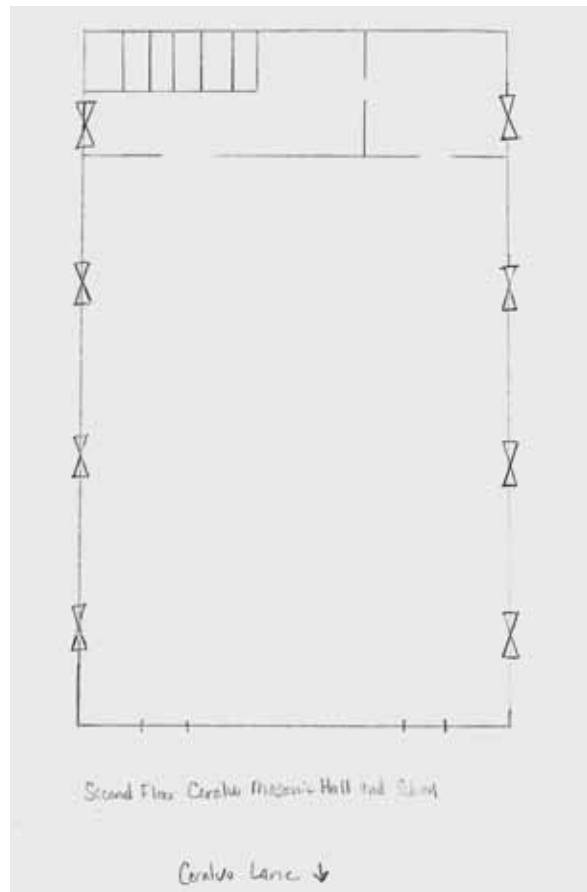
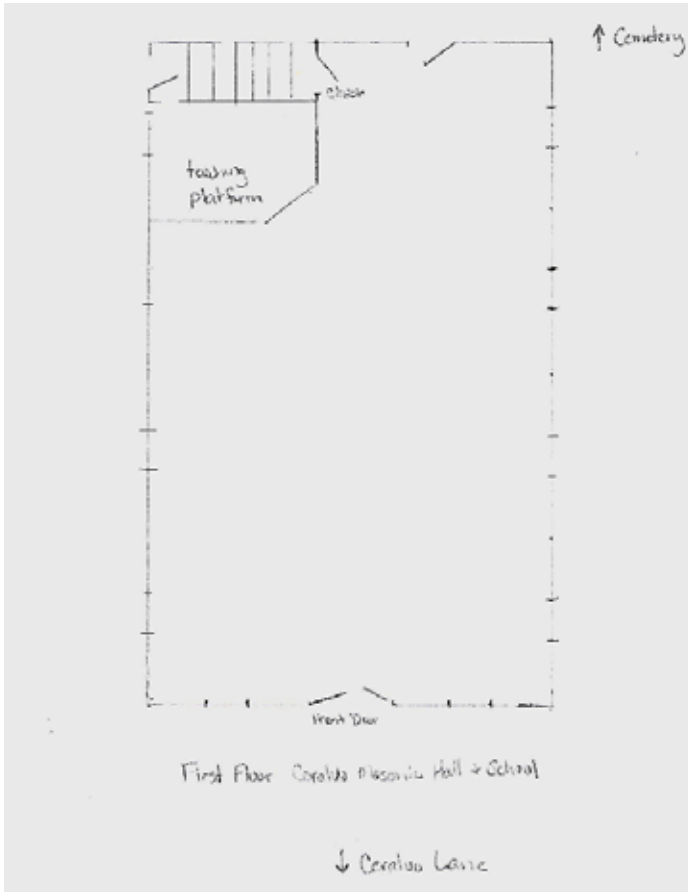


Second Floor interior spaces

Behind the building is a cemetery. The cemetery predates the structure, the earliest burials taking place in the 1850s, and has been in use to the present day. The gravestones show how important the Green River was to this community. Some stones are from local sources but many others were shipped from other locales, indicating that buying goods from distant sources was easier for the citizens of Ceralvo.

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State



Floor plan: First floor

Floor plan: Second floor

Changes to the Property since the Period of Significance

The building was very simple to begin with, and has not been modernized since the Period of Significance in a substantial way, other than through the application of aluminum siding.

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
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.)

Social History

Period of Significance

1897-1925

Significant Dates

1897

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance consists of the years from the building's construction until it ceased to be used for education and purposes.

Criteria Considerations: the building meets Criterion Consideration A, with its importance not in terms of the area of Religion, but Social History, or a secular way of evaluating its significance.

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School (OH-142) meets National Register Criterion A, significant for its association with community history in Ohio County. The significance of the property is evaluated within the historic context “Multi-Purpose Buildings in Ohio County, Kentucky, 1798-1941.” The Masonic Hall and School was constructed as a multi-purpose building in 1897. It replaced a building on the site, built in 1873, which had burned down less than a year before. The Masonic Lodge and community entered into a formal agreement in 1873 to divide the use and care of the property. The nominated building was significant to its community from 1897-1925, when it served dual purposes, a school and a fraternal organization’s meeting hall. After construction of a new school in 1925, the building became occupied for many years by a Methodist church. The building is important to us today for showing how one building helped its rural community in Ohio County to maintain its autonomy through self-reliance and through meeting multiple needs through the sharing of an important resource: building space.

Historic Context: Multi-Purpose Buildings in Ohio County, Kentucky, 1798-1941

Sharing of space and functions within one building was a common feature of Kentucky localities when they were being settled. This practice was efficient, and sometimes necessary, as the labor needed to construct buildings was often a scarce resource. Perhaps these cooperative arrangements and sharing of resources becomes a major characteristic of the settlement period, such that a maturing county or a well-urbanized town would seek to reduce or eliminate these multi-purpose buildings as a sign of its vitality. The question explored in this nomination is the following: While acceptable during the settlement period, is the persistence of such a multi-purpose building into the 20th century an indicator that the town’s viability was tenuous? If so, such a building becomes a significant landscape feature, which might help us understand the cycle of growth among Kentucky’s villages and small communities.

Even before functional county governments were established in Kentucky, settlers with title to land—often obtained as payment for service during the American Revolutionary War, or purchased from a Revolutionary veteran—attempted to set up existence in thinly-organized areas of Kentucky. Nature and Native Americans provided hostile climates for these pioneers, whose survival often depended on the willingness of individuals to provide collective shelter in structures called “stations” or “forts.” O’Malley’s depiction of the fort and town of Boonesborough, in current-day Madison County, Kentucky, provides a view of these first habitations on the frontier, a multi-purpose structure built to ensure survival. She writes that the Fort at Boonesborough

was integral to the initial settlement attempts in Kentucky which was on the western edge of the American frontier in 1775. Throughout the Revolutionary War, Fort Boonesborough served as a strategic location to collect militia, launch punitive raids against the Indians and to shelter settlers moving into Kentucky via the Cumberland Gap. It served as a central location for people to receive mail, hear the latest news from the eastern colonies, and meet family members or friends (Section 8, p.2).

These installations dominated the settlement throughout Kentucky, and created a willingness among the earliest migrants to an area to accept collective activity and building use, at least for an era.

Ohio County, Kentucky, was formed in 1798, well within the era when Stations were necessary. The county seat, Hartford, was selected out of two advantages. It was the head of navigation of the Rough River, and

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

because Gabriel Madison donated 4 acres for the town's public square. Madison's gift to the new county was only partly civic minded; his donation conveniently situated the county seat well within his 4,000-acre land grant. He was hoping to profit from the sale of town lots once the community began to thrive. The town wasn't incorporated until 1808, and probably consisted at that time in just 30 buildings (Fogle: 18-19). Hartford has a population in 2010 well below 3000 people, and is the county's most populous town.

From its earliest days, Ohio County has been sparsely populated. In 1800, two years after its creation, the county's population was a mere 1223 people. Each decade until 1910, the county's population increased, to a high of 27,642, after which it fell every decade until 1970, when it stabilized, at around 22,000-23,000 people. While sparsely populated, Ohio County is the fifth largest county in Kentucky, with 594 square miles. Among the state's largest 10 counties, Ohio County has the second lowest 2010 population, 23,842 people, after Breckinridge County's total of 20,059 (U.S. Decennial Census). Ohio County had numerous small communities prior to WWII, providing a middle ground between farm life and what urban life the county seat afforded.

From Ohio County's and Hartford's earliest days, accommodations were made to permit important governmental and social functions to exist on multi-use sites. This differed from the situation that the pioneers left behind: those activities were conducted in single-use purpose-built buildings. These functions included education, religious activities, public meetings, and the postal service. Throughout Ohio County, we find provisions being made to enable these social and government functions to begin, though in ways that probably were not regarded as permanent.

Until Hartford incorporated as a city in 1808, decisions about the use of the town's Public Square were made by the County Court. For several years, the only structure occupying that 4 acres was the jail, erected in 1799, and the courthouse, built on top of the jail, in 1800. James Shanks had begun a school in Hartford as early as 1790, but these early private schools had a very precarious existence. Fogle recounts that in 1805 the County Court granted an upstart operation, the Hartford Academy, use of one-half acre on the Public Square. His note does not mention whether this order came with an expiration date, after which the Academy would be required to purchase another site for their operation, or whether the Court intended that the site was available for the Academy's building indefinitely. Either way, the Academy did not construct a building on that site (p. 19).

Fogle tells us that the courthouse building itself had a communal use, not exclusively the domain of government. He writes, "In county seat towns, like Hartford, it has been a custom from pioneer times to the present, for the courthouse to be granted as a place for all kinds of public gatherings, especially the services of 'churchless' congregations" (p. 53).

This strong desire among the frontiersmen to establish churches during the settlement period may be as much to relieve the stress of isolation as it was a sign of religious fervor. The nature of religious worship and doctrine was undergoing its own redefinition during Kentucky's settlement period, as well, in events associated with the Second Great Awakening. In the late-18th and early-19th century, the idea of constructing a permanent building to be used only on a Sunday must have seemed a distant possibility. This meant that these early residents had to adapt church serviced to available places, in buildings that already had another primary function. Without a permanent pastor in residence, members' homes served as the first churches, to which circuit riding ministers would visit monthly. If services were not held in homes, revival meetings would be held in outdoor settings—in fields, in woods, under tents, and in "rudely constructed booths, sometimes called 'brush arbors' in the woods (Fogle, 49, 53). Fogle cites several church congregations beginning throughout the county by 1810, but

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

marks 1820 as the first recorded structure, a Methodist church in a community called No Creek. A church group had organized in Hartford by 1811, but with the courthouse available for services, there was less impetus for them to construct a house of worship as quickly (Fogle, 300).

Several decades later, a Union Church emerged in Hartford, fulfilling the purpose that the courthouse had served a generation earlier. This group had erected a structure by 1847 purposely to make space available for church groups whose congregations still had not yet been able to finance their own worship house. At times, three different church groups found times that allowed each to worship. Fogle tells that it also served multiple secular functions, as well: “It was the main auditorium for all purposes in the town, being used for its religious services by ‘churchless congregations’ and for school and general civic and community gatherings” (p. 59-60). If there were a defined denomination, or perhaps just a movement, named “Union Church,” its history is hard to find. The many applications of the term Union prior to the 1860s frustrates the effort to find a single group. One wonders whether the term might express a desire to avoid further fractioning of Protestant denominations, or perhaps to heal sectional rifts emerging in the United States. At any rate, Kentucky has several Union Churches in its survey database, as well as one National Register listing, the Wurtland Union Church (2008, NRIS 08001119), suggesting that the Union Church in Hartford might not have been unique. As in Hartford, the Wurtland church opened its doors to multiple church groups as well as to non-religious community meetings.

Another place which blended functions that today are kept segregated is the local representative of the federal government—i.e., the Post Office. Most post offices in Ohio County were located in business places during the 19th century, as businesses were open to the public, making the postal service generally available to the public on normal hours. However, the closing of a business would not necessarily close the local post office. One Postmaster, Parmenas Hocker, operated a country store in Beaver Dam, just off of the Morgantown Road. Hocker had to close the business in 1862 due to overextending credit to customers. While Hocker closed his business, he kept the Post Office open—relocating it to his home, across the street (Fogle, 385, 430). If the United States Postal Service extended such flexibility, enabling Post Offices to operate out of private residences, it demonstrates a policy that written communication must be maintained as a vital component of citizenship, even if compromises between public functions and private spaces were necessary to maintain the service.

Not only the federal government, but social groups and even private businesses, exhibited a willingness to share space to further important social activities. Freemasons, or the Masonic Order, which built hundreds of buildings throughout Kentucky, were quite active in courting co-users of their buildings. Generally, the Masonic lodge was at least 2 stories high, with the fraternal organization holding meetings in the upper room, leaving the lower portion available to a variety of functions. This arrangement worked well for the building owners, as having someone in the building regularly would help guard against fire, theft, and vandalism. Some year between the founding of the Hartford Seminary in 1835 and the Hartford College in 1880, the Masonic Lodge allowed the Hartford Academy operated out of their building’s first floor space (Fogle, 114). Fogle also lists other functions that occurred in the building, which blurred the lines between the private group and official government activities: “This structure’s lower floor was at various times used as a voting place, a town hall, for church services and school purposes. The new Hall, the present one, has also been used for somewhat similar community purposes and the lodge and its hall still have a leading part in the worthwhile projects of the city (p. 34). The Masonic group has lodges in Ohio County outside of Hartford. One, the Dundee Masonic Lodge No. 733, housed the Masonic group and a Methodist congregation, and is listed on the National Register (2008, NRIS 08000213). The other is the Ceralvo Masonic Lodge and School, the subject of this application, was used

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

by the Masonic group and the local school from the 1890s until 1925, and after the school relocated, welcomed a Methodist congregation.

Finally, business owners in Ohio County found it in their interest to open space in their building to shared users. The Beaver Dam Deposit Bank remodeled its upper story for the purpose of making it available “as a meeting hall for the free use of worthwhile organization of the city and county.” Fogle also mentions that the Bank’s upper story housed a radio transmitter broadcasting a signal originating in an Owensboro station, WOMI, (p. 372), though probably that was a rental arrangement. Fogle’s compendium mentions two other interesting and non-traditional blends of commercial and community functions. In 1911, Dr. Ford purchased Hartford’s 2-story brick jail building, and converted it into an infirmary. His plan called for equipping the building with modern technology of the day, and making it available for all of the county’s doctors and patients (p. 40). In 1914, the Beaver Dam Milling Company installed an electric generating plant to drive the motor on its mill, and in the process, also became the town’s electric generating plant until Kentucky Utilities took over that function in the 1930s (p. 339). Both accounts, the infirmary and the mill-turned-electric company, Fogle characterizes less as established by profit motives and more as efforts to provide for community needs through a sharing of resources.

Many of these combined efforts between public-private entities characterized small communities throughout Ohio County and all of Kentucky in the years prior to World War II. After that war, these communities began to disappear. Certainly, improved rural roads and increased ownership of automobiles provided greater mobility for people in rural communities, and thus, greater choice in how communities would attend to social needs. For instance, the local school board’s choice to build a new school in Ceralvo in 1925 severed one of these connections, that between the local school board and the Masonic group, which had worked for Ceralvo for 3 decades. We might ask whether the severing of these relationships, done in the name of making things more modern or cleaner in a legalistic view, might also have paved the way for the town’s demise. Cases such as the Ceralvo Masonic Lodge and School give us one such lesson, which becomes important in attempting to evaluate how many small communities in Kentucky thrived and which decisions might have accelerated their passing out of existence.

Ceralvo Community History

Ceralvo was a small community located on the Green River. Originally a ferry crossing, it was owned by Richard Morton in the early 1800s. By the 1850s, the community had grown enough in size to merit dividing up the town in lots. In 1870, the town was incorporated.

Due to its location on the Green River, it was ideally located for commerce. Steamboats from Evansville routinely made trips to Bowling Green via the Green River, bringing and taking supplies and goods to various destinations. Ceralvo was also located close to several coal mines. The main road from Hartford, the county seat, ran through Ceralvo as it crossed the river at the ferry and went on to Greeneville in Muhlenburg County. This trip normally took two days. The community itself consisted mainly of farmers and small business men.

At the height of its prosperity in 1870, Ceralvo had two general stores, a dry goods store, blacksmith shop, shoemaker, three tobacco factories, two doctors, a boarding house with a bar room, and a post office. By the end of the 19th century, the railroad had become the main form of long distance transportation for people and goods. Unfortunately for Ceralvo, the railroad bridge crossed the river at nearby Rockport, raising that town’s fortunes, and Ceralvo began to decline. Many people moved away in the 1930s, and the Great Flood in 1937

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

destroyed much of the small town. In 1944, the post office closed. While there are a few houses remaining, nothing is left of the town proper.

History of the Masonic Hall and School Building

In 1873, local townspeople decided there needed to be a school in Ceralvo. School was held in a church, but the citizens wanted something better. On October 21, 1873, the town and Masonic Lodge entered a contract together. The Masons would use the upstairs of the new building for their Lodge and the first floor would be used for the school. Both groups would have equal access to the grounds.

On June 6, 1897, this building burned. The community quickly erected another building very similar to the one that was destroyed, judging by the description in the original contract. They constructed the new building on the corner of what was Third and Walnut Streets and the Masons again had access to the second floor, while the ground floor was for the school. Twenty-nine students were enrolled at the one-room school in the 1898. The grades ranged from first to high school. However, there were some graduates who wanted higher education, so college classes were held during that year at the school. Seventeen students took college courses at the school, taught by Professor John H. Wood. One student went on to be a dentist and one a Commonwealth Attorney. By 1925, the community desired a new building for the school and received an acre from a local farm on which to build. They moved to this new school, which itself was closed when the local school board consolidated this and other local schools in 1942.

The Masonic Lodge #253 received its first charter in 1853 and in 1873 joined with the school in sharing their first building. Records left at the Lodge indicate that enrollment was fairly consistent, averaging about 50 members during the early 20th century. Being a member of social organizations was very important not only to its members, but the community as a whole. Records left at the site indicate that the Masons kept close tabs on members and made sure their behavior reflected well on their Lodge. One record indicated that an individual was called out for drunkenness and was made to pay a penalty and risked expulsion from the group.

The Methodist Church also used the building on Sundays for their services. The membership rolls show 25-35 persons as formal members of the church. A picture reprinted in the November 23, 1967 issue of the Hartford Times News show at least 60 people lined up beside the building participating in a Sunday school picnic in 1935. The cemetery records show that many families chose to inter their loved ones here during this time period. Obviously, this multi use building was an important and integral part of the community during the turn of the century.

The church and Masonic Hall continued to function together until the 1950s, when the church decided to close. The Masonic Hall closed in 2005; the few remaining members going to other near-by Lodges. The Building is now only used as an annual Homecoming venue for the Methodist Church and others who wish to revisit the community.

Although there are not many multi use buildings still standing in the county and other close communities (which is what makes the Ceralvo Masonic Lodge and School so interesting), there were other two other Masonic Halls that exemplify how small communities endeavored to use the same space in many ways. The Dundee Masonic Hall in Dundee, KY is one such building. While its main purpose was to house the Masonic Lodge, it was also used as a church.

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

Another community on the Green River, Paradise in Muhlenberg County also had a multi-purpose building that contained a meeting place for the Masonic Hall. The difference is that the bottom floor was a general store, and the second floor housed Masonic Lodge 312. The second floor was accessed by a flight of outside steps. When the store changed ownership 1878, the new owner, Jared Brown, had to buy the second floor in a separate transaction. Unfortunately, the TVA has torn down this building, but it shows that the many small communities that dotted the landscape of rural Kentucky often worked with what time, money, and space they had, making use of their buildings in way that served many purposes.

Evaluation of the Significance of the Ceralvo Masonic Lodge and School within the historic context, Multi-Purpose Buildings in Ohio County, Kentucky, 1798-1941

The Ceralvo Masonic Lodge and School is an important signpost of the way that communities used to function. Different from the modern tendency, where buildings are generally constructed for a single purpose, in the years between the Civil War and World War II, Kentucky's villages thrived by creating spaces that could meet the needs of multiple groups. The Ceralvo Masonic Lodge and School demonstrates well how one community in Ohio County worked this out.

Hundreds of communities such as Ceralvo comprised the Kentucky's late-19th- and early-20th-century landscape. They endured for as long as each community provided its residents with what they wanted from community life. The vista of these residents' lives was not confined to their town alone. They took the county's weekly newspaper, sent and received letters, could step onto a steamboat or train. They awaited horse-drawn wagons bringing goods from city factories, and journeyed to court days in the county seat. These communities survived, though, for as long as they provided for their residents' main concerns. Buildings such as the Masonic Hall and School enabled multiple needs to be met—education, social interaction, religion. Many of the lives of Ceralvo's people might intersect there on a daily basis. When the world outside the community became more accessible—through electricity, through instant communications, through the car and the truck—the community lost some of its former necessity. Indeed, not long after the school function was severed from the nominated building, the community also began to disappear. The Ohio County school system could point to the new school in Ceralvo as a sign of progress, but Ceralvo did not continue as a community for many years after the new school arrived. Was the elimination of the multiple purpose from the Masonic Lodge and School a cause or effect of the disintegration of the village? At the least, the building becomes a significant indicator of social cohesion for the years when it performed multiple daily functions, and also became a significant indicator of social disintegration when it ceased to serve in that way, after 1925. It becomes one strong datum in our efforts to recognize the evolution of myriad small places that defined the boundary between rural and urban experience in Kentucky.

Evaluation of the Integrity of the Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School's significance and its current physical character

This nomination views the Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School's significance through the lens of Criterion A, emphasizing the historic significance of the way that the building supported the sense of community. The following material aspects of the property will be most important in conveying the building's identity and significance: *location, design, materials, and association.*

The property maintains its integrity of *location* as it has not been moved from its original location. This location denotes the building's importance to Ceralvo. It was near the Green River bank, but on higher ground than the

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

rest of the town, and not far from the end of the road—a prominent location within the community. It was also constructed closer to the cemetery than its predecessor, signifying that this structure would be used for religious activities as well as civic and educational ones. And now, that the community of Ceralvo has largely disappeared, the building's location becomes the singular signpost of the town that once occupied this location.

Its integrity of *materials* is difficult to see, due to the overlay of aluminum siding. While obscured, buildings in Kentucky often retain intact wooden lap siding underneath the overlaid aluminum or vinyl. The decision to cover wood siding typically was done to avoid the expense and/or labor of painting, not to cover up serious problems with the materials. The materials on the interior of the building are quite intact; that intactness also gives reason to expect that the exterior wood siding might also be intact. The materials used are common, durable, and practical, which is consistent with the values which brought the building into being.

There is an integrity between the current *design* of the Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School, and its historic significance. Its fenestration patterns, roof form and appearance are all as they were at the time of the building's use. Very few modifications have been made to the building, leaving it to look much as it did when erected. Its overall plan and simple detailing are readily evident. The original interior remains as one large room on each floor, the way it was originally finished. The simplicity of these design elements testify to the building's use by multiple users—no single tenant's presence was emphasized through overt design elements. The plainness of design allowed the building to give shelter to numerous users adequately—even to additional users, the Methodist Church, after one of the primary original users—the school—had vacated the building.

The Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School's physical intactness supports an integrity with the important *associations* that its users think about it. It possesses much of the physical information that relates to its historic function and identity. Its retention of integrity of location, materials, and design help reinforce the integrity of the associations people have with it.

While not critical for eligibility under Criterion A, the building's integrity of *feeling* is also present. This building gives a tangible sense of its historic identity and use. The interior also conveys this feeling, with its unaltered floor plan with respect to the original building, original floor, wall and ceiling treatments.

With the integrity of location, material, design, feeling and association, the property is eligible for National Register listing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Duncan, Anna Laura. 2007. *Early Schools in Ohio County, Kentucky*. Utica: McDowell Publications.

Fogle, McDowell A.

1977 *Fogle's Papers: A History of Ohio County, Kentucky*. McDowell Publications (reprint for the Ohio County Historical Society)

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Methodist Episcopal Church, South - Ohio and McLean Counties, Kentucky (SC 1409)" (2005). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 139.

O'Malley, Nancy

Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School
Name of Property

Ohio County, Kentucky
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Celeste Happeny
organization Western Kentucky University date February 2015
street & number 1906 College Heights Blvd. telephone 270-535-8223
city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42101
e-mail _____

Photographs:

Name of Property: **Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School**
City or Vicinity: **Centertown**
County: **Ohio**
State: **Kentucky**
Photographer: **Celeste Happeny**
Date Photographed: **2-26-15**

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 4.

Photo#1: (KY_Ohio County_Ceralvo Masonic Hall_0001) Southeast Façade, camera facing northwest
Photo#2: (KY_Ohio County_Ceralvo Masonic Hall_0002) Northeast Façade, camera facing southwest
Photo#3: (KY_Ohio County_Ceralvo Masonic Hall_0003) Northwest Façade, camera facing southeast
Photo#4: (KY_Ohio County_Ceralvo Masonic Hall_0004) Southwest Façade, camera facing northeast

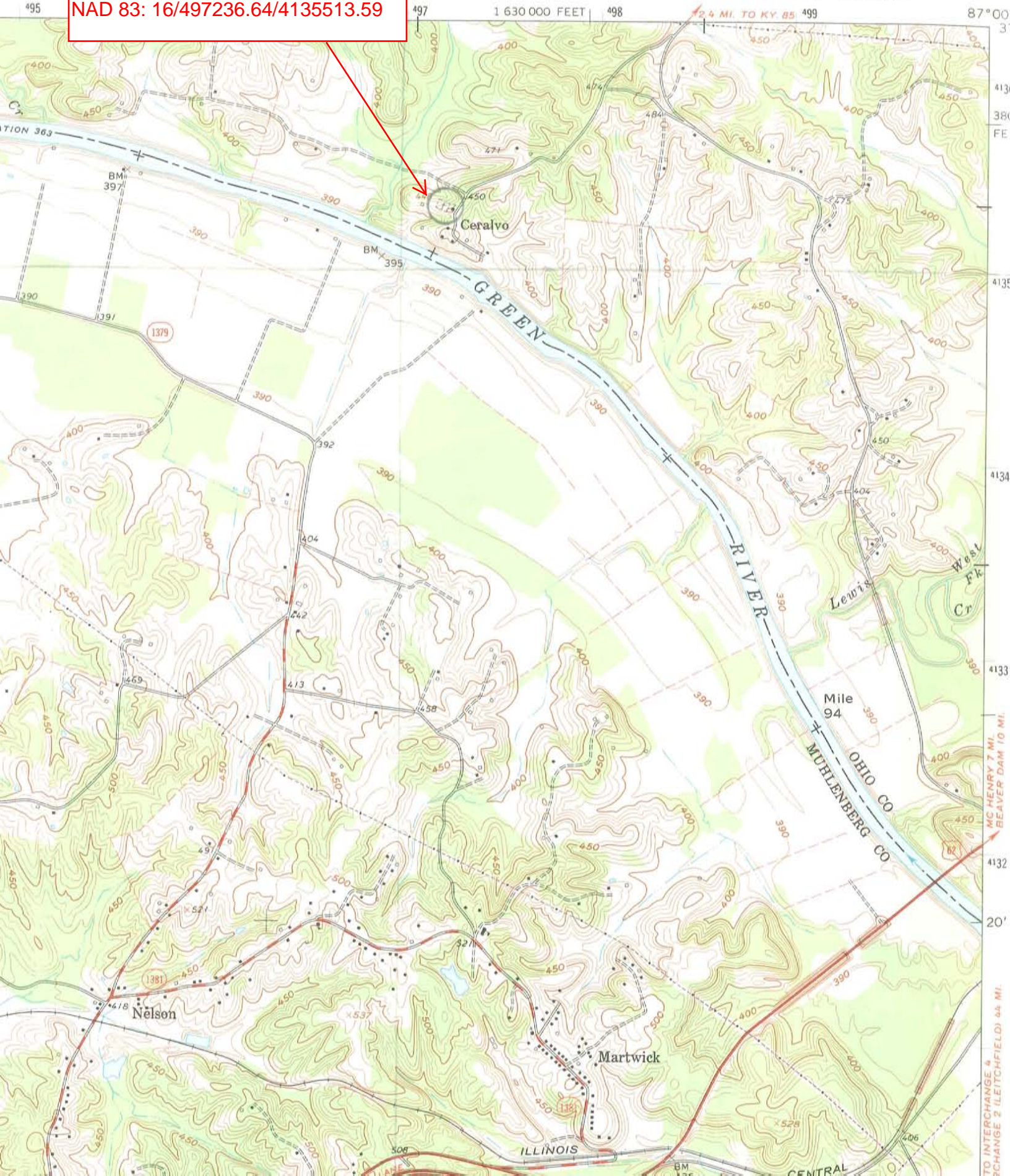
Property Owner:

name Ceralvo Church and Cemetery, Inc
street & number 323 Allen Lane telephone 270-232-0086
city or town Centertown state KY zip code 42328

KY
SURVEY
CKY

CENTRAL CITY EAST QUADRANGLE
KENTUCKY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 CENTRAL CITY 15' QUADRANGLE

Ceralvo Masonic Lodge and School
Ohio County, KY USGS quad map
NAD 27: 16/497236.57/4135309.47
NAD 83: 16/497236.64/4135513.59



TO INTERCHANGE 4
EXCHANGE 2 (LEITCHFIELD) 44 MI.
MC HENRY 7 MI.
BEAVER DAM 10 MI.