

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall

Other names/site number: GRW6

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 113 N. Main Street

City or town: Williamstown State: KY County: Grant

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 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

<hr/> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title: Craig Potts/SHPO Date _____</p> <p><u>___</u> Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office <u>___</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<hr/> <p>Signature of commenting official: _____ Date _____</p>	
<hr/> <p>Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	
<u>1</u>	_____	

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Communications

Commerce

Social Meeting Hall

Current Functions

Vacant not in use

7. Architectural Classification

Classical Revival

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick and Limestone trim

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The former IOOF Hall (Independent Order of Odd Fellows building (GRW 6) is a three-story brick and sandstone building, standing at 113 N. Main Street in Williamstown, seat of Grant County, Kentucky. It was built in 1910 in the town's business district. The IOOF building's façade still displays the Sullivaneque architecture that characterized many American downtown buildings shortly before and after the year 1900. The Odd Fellows occupied the building for only a short time, and it has been known by its tenants: the Grant County Newspaper, the Post Office, and several offices. The building's exterior and interior still retain most of its original architecture, except where repair was done to prevent the building from collapsing. The area proposed for the National Register listing is .15 acre and includes one contributing building.



Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall, Latitude 38.637340° Longitude -84.560827°

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Ownership Timeline

The ownership of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building is recorded in the deed books in the Grant County Clerk's office:

- P.T. Zinn and J.W. Zinn sold the lot to the Odd Fellows Company on August 31, 1870 for \$60
- IOOF built a three story building, with basement, in 1910. Its construction cost \$15,000. The building opened in 1911.
- The Odd Fellow board of trustees sold the building to George McAtee and Maude McAtee December 19th, 1919 for \$13,000
- George and Maude McAtee sold the building to Ernest Chipman and Margaret Chipman on July 23, 1920 for an unknown price.
- Earnest Chipman and Margaret Chipman sold the building to John Juett and Adam Juett on February 25, 1920 for \$1.
- Henry Webb Juett and Margaret Turley (Juett) Perry (co-executors of John Samuel Juett) sold the building to Colson Altman and Dorothy Altman February 20, 1946 for \$50,000.
- Colson Altman and Dorothy Altman sold the building to James Weigle and Gary B. Knight on April 22nd, 1986 for \$40,000.
- James Weigle and Gail Weigle sold the building to Gary B. Knight on January 14th, 1987 for \$20,000.
- Gary B. Knight sold the building to Edward Rawls and Alice Rawls on an unknown date and unknown amount of money.
- Edward Rawls and Alice Rawls sold the building to Dana Haynes and M. Faye Haynes on September 5th, 2007 for \$53,600.
- Dana Haynes and M Faye Haynes sold the building to William Bertrand on April 9th, 2013 for \$162,500.
- William Bertrand sold the building to PFLP, LLC on June 28th, 2016 for \$220,000.
- Current owner is still PFLP, LLC.

Geographic Setting

Grant County, encompasses an area of 260 square miles within the highly dissected Outer Bluegrass Region, established in 1820. Ridgetop elevations in excess of 900 feet are common. Local reliefs along principal drainage lines are generally in excess of 150 feet, but in places are almost 300 feet. Eagle Creek crosses the western part of the county. It is the largest stream in Grant County and has valley widths of ½ mile or more. The lowest elevation, approximately 530 feet, is the point where Eagle Creek leaves the county. The highest elevations in the county are found along KY-330, 2 miles southwest of Corinth. Here, on a drainage divide between Eagle and Three Forks Creeks, elevations of 1,000 feet have been recorded. Many elevations on the north-south divide between the Licking River and Eagle Creek drainage systems in the Dry Ridge-Williamstown area are between 950-980 feet. Farther north they decline to approximately

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920 feet at the Grant – Kenton County line. The elevation of Williamstown is 974 feet. Other elevations are Corinth, 980 feet; Crittenden, 920 feet; Dry Ridge, 958 feet; Elliston, 588 feet; Jonesville, 914 feet; and Mount Zion, 925 feet. The spillway elevation of Boltz Lake is 826 feet; the spillway at Corinth Lake is 840 feet; and the one at Williamstown Lake is 785 feet.
(Discussion from McGrain and Currens (1978)/ <https://www.uky.edu/gwatlas/Grant/Topography>)

Exterior Description

Previous to the current building, another building was built on this site. It was built of bricks that were "...dug, pressed, and fired on the spot...". The quality was poor and by 1910, that original building was falling apart. It was removed and in Spring of 1911, a new stronger three-story brick building, the current property, was erected at the cost of \$15,000.

The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall originally measured 60 feet long (north to south), 50 feet high from street level, and 50 feet depth. The building's current depth is 100 feet from an addition that was made between 1916 and 1946. The flat roof slopes 1/8" for every foot, from the front of the building to the rear. There was decorative tin on a block style Parapet that adorned the building all the way around, however, it was taken down to make repairs to the building to make it more structurally sound and to prevent pieces of adornment from becoming damaged. The foundation is composed of concrete and large aggregate. From the foundation up, it is built with compressed red brick.

Description of the Front (east) side

The building is a three-story brick commercial structure with dentiled cornice and low slope roof. The first floor is broken into 4 different storefronts, each with its own opening. The framing members of each storefront does not appear to be made of historic materials, but the historic configuration of bulkhead, plate glass, and transom, has been retained. The transom in each storefront has been covered.



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The building has one main doorway with a brick entryway. There is what appears to be one large paned window to the left of the main doorway and two large five-paned windows to the right of the main doorway. The second and third floors have thirteen windows spaced in regular intervals from left to right (3-2-3-2-3). The windows are all single hung vinyl clad replacement windows. The sections with the two windows protrude out with the brick. On the division between the first and second floor, as well as above the third floor level, are sandstone ledges that run the complete width of the building.

The building's formal entrance is on the second bay. It projects slightly and is capped by the building name, "IOOF HALL," and the date block 1910. It is the only entrance marked by an architrave, but its grandeur is muted by the use of pilasters. The stone banding at the building's foundation level makes the pilasters appear to have stone plinths.

Description of the North side

On the second floor there appears to have been two single-hung windows towards the rear; these were closed with bricks. So, the north side of the building is now all brick. Prior to the smaller building that is there now, there was a two- to three-story building on the northside that shared the brick wall, however that building burned down.



Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall North side

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Description of the South side

The south side of the building used to be adjoined to the Hotel Donald, now there is a vacant lot, by support beams that entered through the bricks of the IOOF building. There were six single-hung windows of the south side of the building. Now two of those windows have been enclosed with brick.



Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall South side



Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall, West side

Description of the back (west) side

There are four windows of on both the second and third floors. These include one single-pane single-hung window and three single-pane single-hung windows. The back of the building is made of brick and was added sometime between 1916 and 1949. Prior to the addition, a basement made of brick extended the 100' length of the building.

Interior Description

Photographs have not been found to know what the interior of the building looked like when it was built.

Lower Level

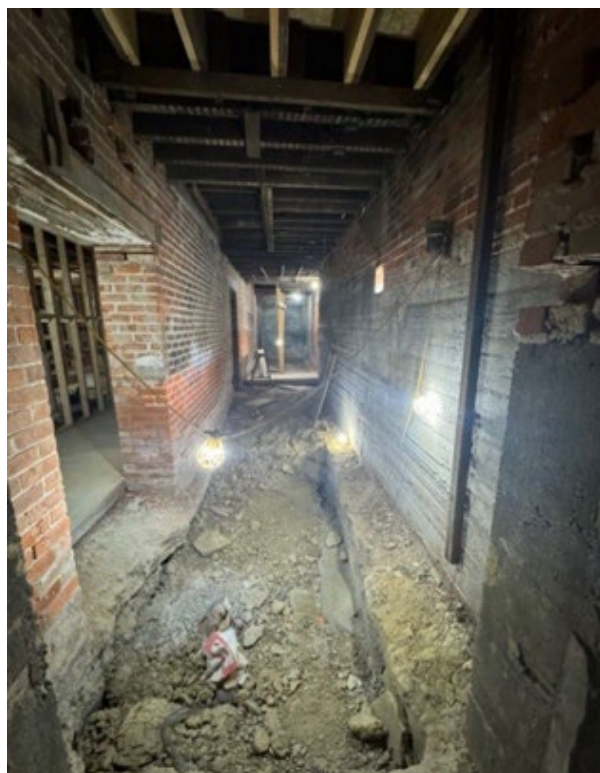
The lower level of the IOOF building has an aggregate and concrete floor. The walls are exposed brick and exposed wooden beam ceilings.

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First Floor

The main door of the building leads right into a narrow hallway. Straight ahead is the elevator for the dumbwaiter. Immediately to the right is a very long ascending staircase leading to the second floor. When you look up, you can see the connecting staircases to both the second and third floors. The original staircases on this side of the building are still intact. To the left of the staircase is an opening for an office. Past the staircase, the building opens up into large area. There is original exposed brick wall throughout the first floor.



Basement



First Floor Stairway

Second Floor

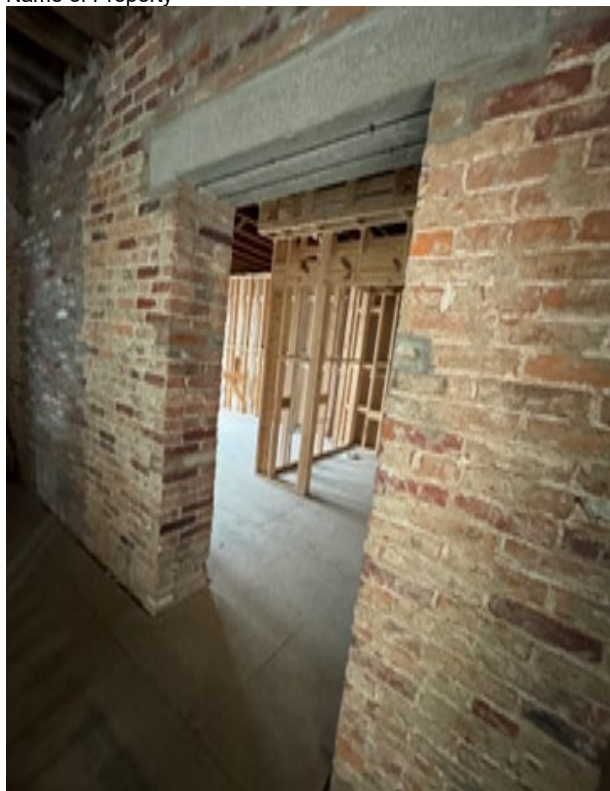
As you ascend the staircase to the second floor, it opens up to the same type of narrow hallway. The elevator for the dumbwaiter again is at the end of the entry hall. There are three large bay areas for business offices. There is also original exposed brick wall throughout this floor. The heating radiators are still on this floor.

Third Floor

The final stairwell leading to the third floor again leads to the dumbwaiter elevator. To the left of the stairs is a business office. To the right of the stairs is a large hall type area. This area has exposed brick walls and exposed wooden beam ceilings.

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Second Floor Opening



Third Floor Space

Changes to the Building since the Period of Significance

First Floor - Front of the building originally had what appears to be four doorways on the main floor along with three windows. In the building that was built in Spring of 1910, it was changed to one 1 doorway with a brick entryway. The name I.O.O.F. HALL was on the top. To the left of the door was a large 3-paned window. To the right was two large windows – both with 5 panes. Throughout the years the main entryway was still maintained, and the large windows were changed into doorways to accommodate individual business ownerships. The current owner is rehabilitating the current first floor for use as a restaurant, which includes converting the back addition into the kitchen.

Second/Third Floor - The second and third floor windows were changed to new newer windows due to the decay and age. The second floor had a total of 11 windows and the third floor had a total of thirteen windows. On the second floor, two of the spots where windows would have been are left blank and instead were enclosed with brick inserts. Inside, the current owner plans to turn both the second and third floor into hotel rooms (Hotel Williamstown). He plans to keep as much of the exposed brick and usable parts of the building.

Lower Level – The current owner has rehabilitated the building by adding wooden frames to keep the building stable. He has also added a new staircase on the north side interior from the lower level to the third floor. The lower level will now be home to the restaurant's bar area, restrooms, and storage.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic 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

Communicatons

Commerce

Social Meeting Hall

Period of Significance

1911-1945

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Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Northcutt, Homer and Northcutt, James-

Note: the Northcutts were both builders who started their own company in 1906 called Northcutt Brothers, and they also started up Modern Realty Company which bought up portions of unimproved real estate and installed modern improvements, cottages and residences.

(Johnson, E. Polk, A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians. The Lewis Publishing Company. 1912. Transcribed by Kim Mohler.)

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall (GRW 6) meets National Register Criterion A, and its significance is evaluated within the historic context “Communication in Williamstown, 1890-1975.” The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall became a mainstay of town life. It was an imposing brick structure in the community, having replaced several wooden commercial structures consumed by fire before its 1911 construction. Eventually, it came to house a number of businesses associated with communication: the Grant County Newspaper, the United States Post Office, Caldwell Radio Shop, along with small and medium sized businesses. No other Kentucky city is known to have a single property which served three important businesses, all involved with print or electronic media, that furthered the contact between people within the community, and between the community and the world at large.

Historic Context: Communication in Williamstown, 1890-1975

The Grant County Newspaper, the United States Post Office and Caldwell Radio Shop served the communication needs of the people in the community. These businesses each had a role in connecting the town with Kentucky and the larger world. The great exchange of information and news through this hall makes this building historically significant. The essence of an American town is the ability to communicate not only within the boundaries of their community but with the outside world. To have three communication functions located in one building is noteworthy. To gauge the significance of this building within these communication functions, the Odd Fellows Hall’s role in communications is compared with other places that performed communication functions throughout the county.

History of Post Offices in Grant County

There have been 33 Post Offices to operate at one time or another in Grant County. Of the 33, five are still in operation – Williamstown, Dry Ridge, Crittenden, Corinth, and Jonesville. The United States Post Office processed and delivered mail locally, countrywide, and abroad. It provided a reliable and secure way to send correspondence and facilitated communication regardless of location.

The early postmasters were storekeepers or tavern owners. Being a Postmaster was a secondary job they held while they carried out their day job. In the early 1900s, rural routes developed. Mail was delivered and picked up first by saddlebag, then by stagecoach. After 1876, train delivery was introduced. 1st Class Mail Trains did not stop at the depot. The mail was snatched by a mechanical arm as the train sped by and the bags of mail was thrown off the train in return. After 1965, mail trucks became the more normal way of moving letters and packages. (Rennick, R.M. *The Post Offices of Northern Kentucky*).

The Williamstown Post Office was first established in 1822. It was in the Odd Fellows Building from 1920s-1932. From December 1932-December 1942 it was located in the Presbyterian Church on Paris Street. On August 4, 1941, The Post Office was moved to its new home at 205 N. Main Street and is still there today.

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The Williamstown Post Office was important to the community because it tied the community to the outside world. It served as a vital point where citizen could connect with people across the nation via correspondence. The Post Office symbolized communication access to rural areas, states, and other countries during times of war.

History of the Newspaper in Grant County

The Odd Fellows Hall's roomy interior provided ample space and comfort from which the Newspaper could safely house all of its operations in one place. When the building was constructed, print media dominated the transmission of news within the town and to the town. Every Kentucky county seat, and even smaller towns within many counties, supported a newspaper prior to the era when radio became a rival medium for transmitting news.



Odd Fellow Hall (1910)



Grant County News (Moved into Odd Fellows)

The support of a local newspaper in Grant County was a challenge from the start. There were several newspaper startups that failed before one ultimately found success:

1872 – *Williamstown News* – E. S. Mose – suspended after 6 months

1873 – *Grant County Bulletin* – discontinued after 1 year

1874 – *The Williamstown Sentinel* – Charles P. Bradley – discontinued after 2 years

1878 – *The Grant County Herald* – Charles P. Bradley

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In 1879, The *Williamstown Courier*, founded by E. T. Cram, found the right formula of articles, features, and advertising to catch and hold the reader's attention while also making a profit. After 12 years. Mr. Cram sold to J. H. Westover and D. C. Points. In 1900, the *Courier* passed on to Tim Needham.

Two other publications existed in Williamstown during this time period. *Public Opinion* was a 4-page newspaper published in Williamstown sometime between December 1890 and February 1891. The *Kentucky Christian Advocate* was published and edited in Williamstown as a voice for the Methodist Church Conference. It lasted between January 1899 to November 1899.

The *Grant County News* was originally founded in Dry Ridge in 1906 by R.L. Westover. In 1909, he along with S.M. Billiter bought the *Williamstown Courier* and consolidated both newspapers, still keeping the name The *Grant County News*. Mr. Westover bought out Mr. Billiter to become the sole owner. (Conrad, John. B. *History of Grant County, Kentucky*)

The *Grant County News* contained a wide array of articles. There was coverage of topics that are considered fit for news today: politics, elections, local and international news. There were also social notices that have ceased to be considered news or are fading from our local newspapers as they are published by news conglomerates with skeletal staffs in their towns: death notifications, baby births, engagement listings, stories of trips, visits, tea gatherings, who was spending time with whom, which citizens were moving into and out of town. Those reports of trips might include the goods the traveler brought back. There were crop reports, sports, illnesses, and farm repairs. Some of these articles were one-sentence statements while others were paragraphs. The newspapers ran serialized novels, publishing a chapter per issue. The *Grant County News* held an "outstanding position among Kentucky weeklies" (Conrad, John. B. *History of Grant County, Kentucky*.)

Newspapers were significant to the people of the community because they provided access to the types of information that today are found in social media. The newspapers enabled readers to feel informed about current events, politics, local and international issues. Newspapers helped people make informed decisions and to form public opinion. Articles made complex issues more intelligible. Newspapers held people accountable by exposing fraud. Articles also served as a historical record or a snapshot of a time period or an event. There were many a scrapbook that held newspaper clipping mementos of cherished memories. (Conrad, John. B. *History of Grant County, Kentucky*.)

During the contextual period, other publications that people in Williamstown might have had exposure to would include: the *Cincinnati Enquirer* – weekly newspaper; *Toledo Weekly Blade* – weekly newspaper; *Lexington Herald* – weekly newspaper; *The Evening Post* – weekly newspaper; *The Kentucky Farmer* – weekly journal; *Forestry & Irrigation* – monthly magazine; *Leslie's Weekly* – Republican publication.

Other Forms of Communication in Grant County

The Caldwell Radio Shop in the Odd Fellows Hall expanded communication with the introduction of the radio. It began as a novelty that attracted the townspeople to the business as a

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social gathering, not unlike the function that a country store had in the days prior to the radio. The radio became a popular medium of mass communication for receiving broadcasts of entertainment and news.

American Telephone & Telegraph Company came to Grant County in 1931 and purchased land. In 1945 they built the first repeater. In 1957 a building and radio tower was built on additional purchased acres. In 1961, with another land purchase, another above-ground and an underground building was built. In 1965, more land was purchased and another underground building built with radio relay; multiplex equipment; amplifiers; regulators; large toll test boards; patching bays; and an electronic switching system. All of this was operated by the Long Lines Department of AT&T. They provided various interstate services which tie together local, Bell, and Independent Telephone Co into a nationwide unified system. The system also interconnects with systems of Canada, Mexico, and 200 countries overseas.



Citizen Telephone Company Building (1923)

Citizen Telephone Company Building 1943-45

In 1923, the Citizen's Telephone Company was given a 20 year franchise for telephone and telegraph service for the area. The company's business office was in the ice cream shop at 230 North Main Street, which still stands at the corner of North Main Street and Mill Street. The current occupant of this building is The Kentucky Y'all Icebox which sells ice cream and other Kentucky made local products.

The Telegram Office was at the Williamstown Depot which was located south of town at 321 S. Main Street across the street from the Webb house (Old Kentucky Barn). This depot is no longer standing. Most telegram offices were located in the train depot, as telegraph lines began to run

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along the railroad right of way in the 1840s. Telegrams were another form of communication that tied Williamstown to the outside world and facilitated the movement of information.

There were a few movie houses in the area during the historic context time frame. The Grant Theater was at 150 North Main Street in Williamstown, owned by the Checkres Company. In its time, the Theater showed previews, and news updates of WWII and the Korean War. The building was standing up until 2010 when it was torn down due to numerous leaks and decay. Also, Williamstown had two silent movie theaters located at 203 South Main Street, at the corner of South Main Street and Court Street, which no longer stand. The Elliston Opera House Theater was located at 112 South Main Street and the building is still standing. The Idle House and Judy Drive in Theater were on Taft Highway in Dry Ridge. Bowman's Movie House had the equipment to have talkies – synchronized projectors. (Interviewed lifelong citizens - Austin, Richard. Austin, Gina. Stanley, Michael & Jump, Louis at 503 Falmouth Street in Williamstown, KY. October 2, 2024. No recordings conducted per their requests)

Herbert Caldwell opened up the Caldwell Radio Shop in the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall in the mid 1930s. It represented communications in the form of in-home entertainment. Mr. Caldwell took correspondence courses in Cincinnati and learned how to fix and work on radios. It was his “life’s ambition” to be the best radio repair person he could be and provided radio entertainment to his patrons and others who just wanted to catch up on the news. In his radio shop, he transmitted the news and shows from radios throughout his store for those citizens/patrons who couldn’t afford to buy a radio to stay abreast of local and national happenings. His shop was the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall until around 1941. His business grew and he moved 2 properties away, to 137 North Main Street, which is still standing today. He expanded his repair knowledge to washers/dryers/stoves etc. He got a war deferment – because he could repair HVAC and refrigeration units. Mr. Caldwell became an important man in the community – a Councilmember and later the Mayor. He also has a bridge named after him. He died in 1989.

Fraternal and Sororal Associations of Williamstown

Social communication allows people in a community to interact. There were three social associations that used the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall for their meetings, events and charity work. These associations offered a means of social interaction for the townspeople. It is historically significant that their meetings and social gatherings were held in the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall.



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Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The tenet of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is to “visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan.” Specifically, the IOOF has stated the following purposes:

To improve and elevate the character of mankind by promoting the principles of friendship, love, truth, faith, hope, charity, and universal justice.

To help make the world a better place to live by aiding each other, the community, the less fortunate, the youth, the elderly, the environment and the community in every way possible.

To promote good will and harmony amongst peoples and nations through the principle of universal fraternity, holding the belief that all men and women, regardless of race, nationality, religion, social status, gender, rank and station are brothers and sisters.

Following this framework, on April 1, 1853, the Williamstown Centurion Lodge, I.O.O.F. NO. 100, was formed. Its charter members came from an IOOF lodge in nearby Crittenden, KY and they built the framework for the Williamstown Lodge to carry on the good works of the society. Meetings were held on Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m.

The Charter members were Amos Green, Moses McClure, Theodore K. Kizer, Thomas R. M. Jeffers, and W. T. Simmons. Other prominent members, O.P. Billiter and George W. Tucker, joined soon after its organization. Upon its institution, the Lodge’s membership was small. It had no home of its own and very little funds. After the Civil War, membership increased. It had 117 members in good standing in 1890 made up of prominent citizens of mostly Williamstown and the rest from surrounding Grant County. They followed the motto, “Friendship, Love, and Truth.”

With its membership growth, the organization used the money it had been saving, bought the land and in 1910 erected the Centurion Lodge. This initial lodge was poorly constructed and was soon falling apart. In spring of 1911, the initial building was torn down, and a new 3 story brick (Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall) building was built in its place, which was much stronger. The organization received approximately \$565.00 in income from rents and along with their membership dues and were able to support the organizations goal’s. In 1913, the building was sold. By the 1920s, the IOOF Lodge organization filed bankruptcy and was disbanded. The order had been in existence in Williamstown for almost 58 years. The building continued to be known as the Williamstown Odd Fellows Building (I.O.O.F. Building) and housed new businesses coming into the city.

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Rose Rebekah Lodge #26 (Daughters of Rebekah)



From this lodge the Rose Rebekah Lodge No. 26 was formed. They originally organized in 1887. Their meetings were held in the Odd Fellows Hall. The Rose Rebekah's, originally, Daughters of Rebekah, is a branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. This organization had no lodge system of their own but mirrored the I.O.O.F instead. They held their own elections, charged fees, collected dues, and undertook their own charitable activities in the community. Their charter members were made up of sisters, wives, and daughters of Odd Fellows. They included Susan Burch, Sue B. Stephens, Pauline L Price, F. Burch, D. L. Cunningham, W. L. Stephens, Rebecca Charbonneau, and James T. Willis. Their members were loyal, patriotic, civic minded and religious.

The four symbols of the Daughters of Rebekah are the beehive, moon and seven stars, dove, and lily. The beehive represents unity. The moon and seven stars represent order. The dove represents peace. The lily represent purity. Unity, order, peace, and purity were the tenets that the Williamstown Rebekah's followed as they carried out their charitable works throughout Grant County. This Lodge closed its doors in the 1920s.

Williamstown Encampment #73 I.O.O.F.

The Williamstown Encampment #73, I.O.O.F. organized on November 22, 1889. Their charter members were C.C. Nesbitt, Clay Conrad, George Harrison, Leonard McGlasson, A.G. DeJarnette, James T. Willis, and G. W. Tucker. This military branch of the Independent Odd Fellows appealed to the young men of Grant County and upon its inception, approximately 75 men were initiated, and the membership grew steadily. This young boisterous lot would meet on Thursday nights so to not interfere with the Rebekahs who met on Wednesdays and the Odd Fellows who met on Saturdays.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has a 3-link chain symbol representing friendship, love and truth. Two other independent groups grew out of the Odd Fellows and met at the Centurion Hall – The Rose Rebekah Lodge I.O.O.F. No. 26. and the Williamstown Encampment #73 I.O.O.F. The Rebekah sisters enhanced the Odd Fellows with their charitable works and were prosperous while in existence. The Williamstown Encampment allowed for a place for the young men of Grant County to be a part of something bigger than themselves. The military

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Other Users of the Hall

Court Days



Williamstown Court Days

Court Day was a special social event of the City of Williamstown. It was the day that official court business was being transacted. It would begin early in the day with official court business and be an all-day affair. It also brought citizens into town for other business as well. The County's livestock of all types would be traded, bought, and sold right in front of the Odd Fellows Building. Citizens would buy, sell, and trade goods and services at the various stores and business in the Odd Fellows Building. They would also eat at the restaurants located in the hall. The Odd Fellows large inviting Hall areas and spacious accommodations were a prime spot to hold craft fairs and indoor athletic or social events. Its prime location on Main Street made it a great gathering spot. Court Days gatherings were very important in facilitating local communications. Grant County people from outside of Williamstown converged on the town, and could learn from their neighbors the local news. There is no official record as to when Court Days started or ended in the City of Williamstown, but in talking with residents that lived during that time they remember Court Days happening during the 1930s -1950, and it enhanced the usage of the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall both when it was in use as a fraternal hall and after.

Research has been undertaken at the Grant County Clerk's Office and the City of Williamstown City Clerk's Office to trace business ownership and licenses of tenants that would have been in

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the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall between 1910-2024. The City Clerk's Office did not and still does not keep records of businesses operating in the City of Williamstown.

Evaluation of the Significance of the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall within the Historic Context "Communications within Williamstown, Kentucky, 1890-1975"

The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall played a key role in hosting communications that held the community together during a pivotal period: from 1911-WWII. Prior to this period, Williamstown and Grant County's citizens might be considered to have been more focused on their internal communications, which were necessary to setting up a functional and stable society. Prior to 1900 and the construction of the Odd Fellows Hall, the county's people were localized—in schooling, in work, in trade, and in setting up governance. Having achieved that goal by the opening of the 20th century, the community could expand its vision outside of itself, to consider the ways it was connected to places beyond the county's borders. The businesses within the Odd Fellows Hall certainly facilitated this expansion of vision beyond the limits of the county. Yet those same businesses also maintained the internal connections that had been vital in forging the sense of a county self.

The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall housed the Post Office for at least ten years linking families, businesses, and communities together. The Post Office was the nineteenth-century conduit between the individual and the world, wherever that individual stood. The Post Office provided a connection between the individual and any place in the nation, and gave a confidence that the federal government standard would protect the communication from being lost. In organizing Grant County, the Post office would also be the connection point between the town and the outlying areas of the county with Rural Free Delivery routes. The housing of Williamstown's Post Office in the building connected the Odd Fellows Hall to very early communication routes that persisted into the 20th century.

The *Grant County News*' entire operation was run from the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall. The Hall allowed for a larger newspaper to be published with the melding of *The Grant County News* and the *Williamstown Courier*. The news that came out of that building was also vital into building the community and all its functions. Farmers connected with other farms in the county to sell their animals and produce. Information about politics and government helped Williamstown officials make decisions vital to the growth of the town. The paper was also very socially connected in terms of keeping citizens abreast of engagements, marriages, gatherings, meetings, and clubs.

The Caldwell Radio Shop kept all who could afford a radio in tune to weekly programs and war updates. Those who could not afford a radio were permitted to visit at the shop and listen for free on any days, so that all could receive big announcements at the same time. The nature of radio, giving audiences news and entertainments simultaneously, began to introduce the Citizens of Grant County to a mass culture that is one character of American life in the twentieth century.

The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall was a very significant place within this context during the years slightly before the first World War and at least until the Second World War. Two of its primary tenants, the US Post Office and *The Grant County News*, are both still in operation

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today. The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall helped these two businesses to thrive during a period of rapid social change in the community.

Evaluation of the Integrity between the Significance of the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall and Physical Conditions Today

In order to establish eligibility for the National Register under Criterion A, a building must be physically intact, sufficiently enough for it to be recognizable for its significance in the past. In other words, in its current state someone should be able to look at it and identify the building's historic identity. In the previous section, Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall has been evaluated to be significant within local communications history. In this section, the parts of the building that help us understand that significance will be noted.

The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall has integrity of **location** and **setting**. The building had been in its current location since 1911 when it was built. Its stature made it a prominent fixture in the downtown area in the City of Williamstown. Many other commercial buildings were built around it and the city's main commerce and business dealings often were done inside and out front of the Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall. The location made it ideal to carry out communication throughout the town. Housing the *Grant County News*, the United States Post Office, and the Caldwell Radio Shop funneled communication both in and out of the community through various mediums. The setting of the downtown buildings in which the Odd Fellows Hall is located, gave a sense of business professionalism to the key businesses that occupied the building.

The Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall retains integrity of **materials** and **design**. Many of the building features such as primary entry way with the original I.O.O.F Hall sign, windows, front façade, top adornment and general building form all remain as constructed. The dumbwaiter elevator, exposed wood beams, radiator heaters, and original wooden staircases are also present in the building. The brick construction is still the structural material for the building. Primary changes to the design are openings to the front part of the building to allow more entryways, wood frames in certain parts of the building to strengthen the brick walls, and replacement of windows. The current owner is rehabilitating this building for use as a restaurant on the first floor with an accompanying bar on the lower level; and Hotel Williamstown on the second and third floors. The brick construction, and the Classical Revival styling, conveyed messages of durability and dependability during a time when the community's final wooden commercial buildings were still standing and threatened to engulf the downtown in fire. The building's stylish design and safety in the brick construction gave its three significant businesses confidence to run their companies within the building. The building's materials and design provided a support to businesses, which in turn supported continued growth in the city of Williamstown.

With this building retaining integrity of location, setting, materials and design, it can be said to have integrity of **associations** which makes it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Smith, Robert. **Shedding Light on Secret Societies.** Grant County News, March 31, 2021

Northern Kentucky View. Street Scenes - Williamstown Kentucky. nkyviews.com

LeMay, Warren. Williamstown, KY. Flickr.com

Souvenir Edition of the Williamstown Courier. Williamstown, KY. May 30, 1901.
Reprinted by Grant County Historical Society September 19, 1981. Transcribed by Bonnie Snow.

Interviewed lifelong citizens - Austin, Richard. Austin, Gina. Stanley, Michael & Jump, Louis at 503 Falmouth Street in Williamstown, KY. October 2, 2024. (No recordings conducted per their requests)

Conrad, John. B. **HISTORY of GRANT COUNTY, KENTUCKY.** The Grant County Historical Society, Inc Williamstown, KY 41097. Published 1992.

Rennick, R.M. **The Post Offices of Northern Kentucky.** The Depot P.O. Box 209 Lake Grove OR 97035. (2024).

Johnson, E. Polk, **A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians.** The Lewis Publishing Company, 1912. Transcribed by Kim Mohler

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: _____

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GRW 6

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0,15 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.637340° | Longitude: 84.560827° |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description

The property proposed for listing corresponds to the map parcel 058-04-00-155.00, account 162-316 in the Grant County Property Valuation Administrator. A general description of the parcel is as follows:

This property proposed for listing is rectangularly shaped, with the eastside (front) of the building facing Main Street (US-25). It borders the property of Tony Poole's Barbershop on the northside, a parking lot on the southside where the Hotel Donald used to be located, and on the westside (rear)of the building is a parking lot. The depth of this building is 100' and the width is 61' at the front, and steps down after the first 28' to 48'.

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Boundary Justification

The area proposed for the National Register listing is appropriate because it is the historic lot the building occupied, and it has integrity of setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt Saalfeld
organization: Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall
street & number: 113 N. Main Street
city or town: Williamstown state: KY zip code: 41097
e-mail: kurt.saalfeld@hollandgroup.us.com
telephone: 859-345-8339 or 859-818-5351
date: December 2, 2024

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Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Williamstown Odd Fellows Hall
City or Vicinity: Williamstown
County: Grant
State: Kentucky
Photographer: Kurt Saalfeld
Date Photographed: August 9, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 7 – Photograph taken in a westerly direction, of the original staircase just inside the main entrance of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall Building.

2 of 7 – Photograph taken in a southern direction of the northside exterior of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall Building.

3 of 7 – Photograph taken in a northern direction of the southside exterior of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall Building.

4 of 7 - Photograph taken in a eastern direction of the westside exterior of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall Building.

5 of 7 - Photograph taken in a western direction of the second floor interior entrance of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall Building.

6 of 7 - Photograph taken in a western direction of the third floor interior of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall Building.

7 of 7 - Photograph taken in a eastern direction of the basement of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall Building.

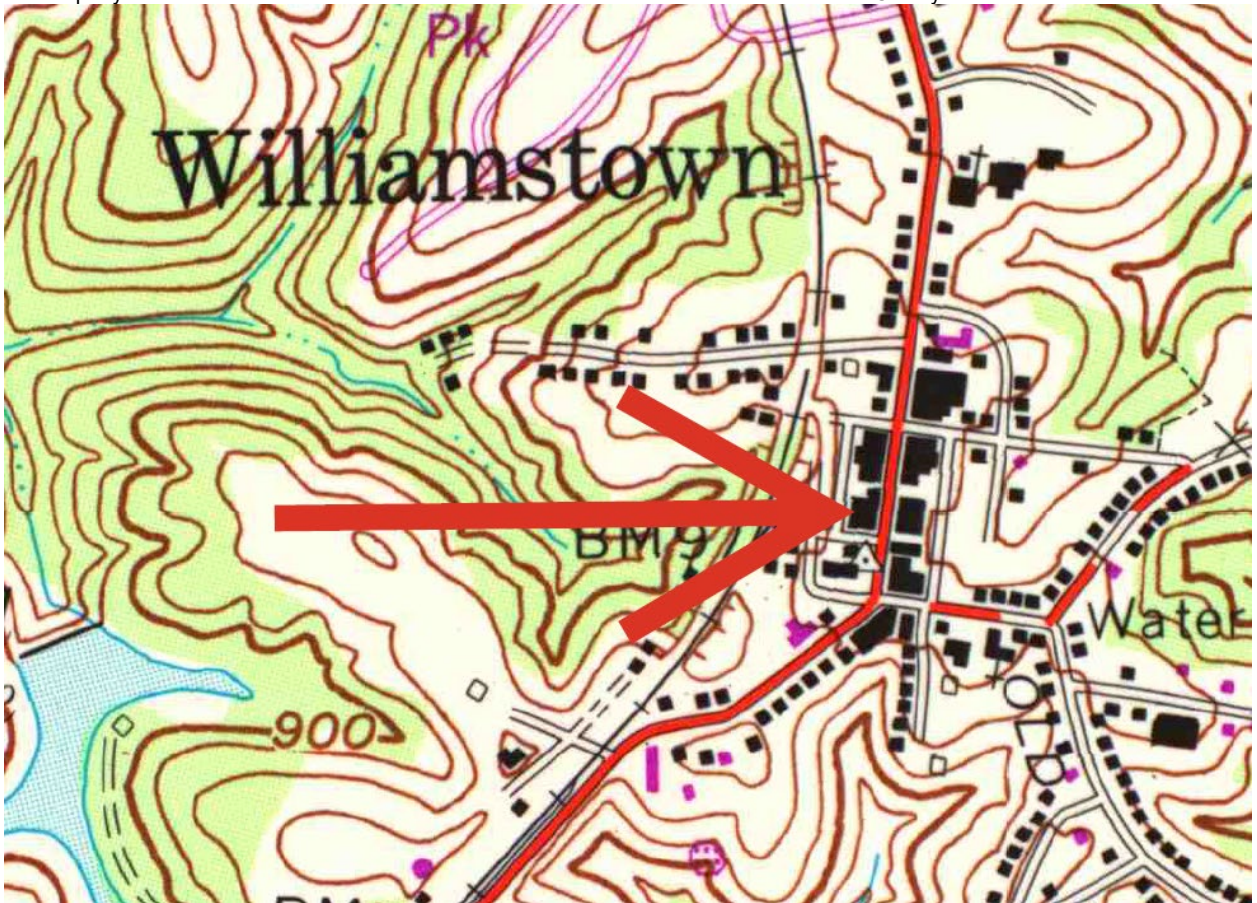
Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name PFLP, LLC – Hans Philippo
street & number 7450 Industrial Rd telephone 859-250-2515
city or town Florence state KY zip code 41042

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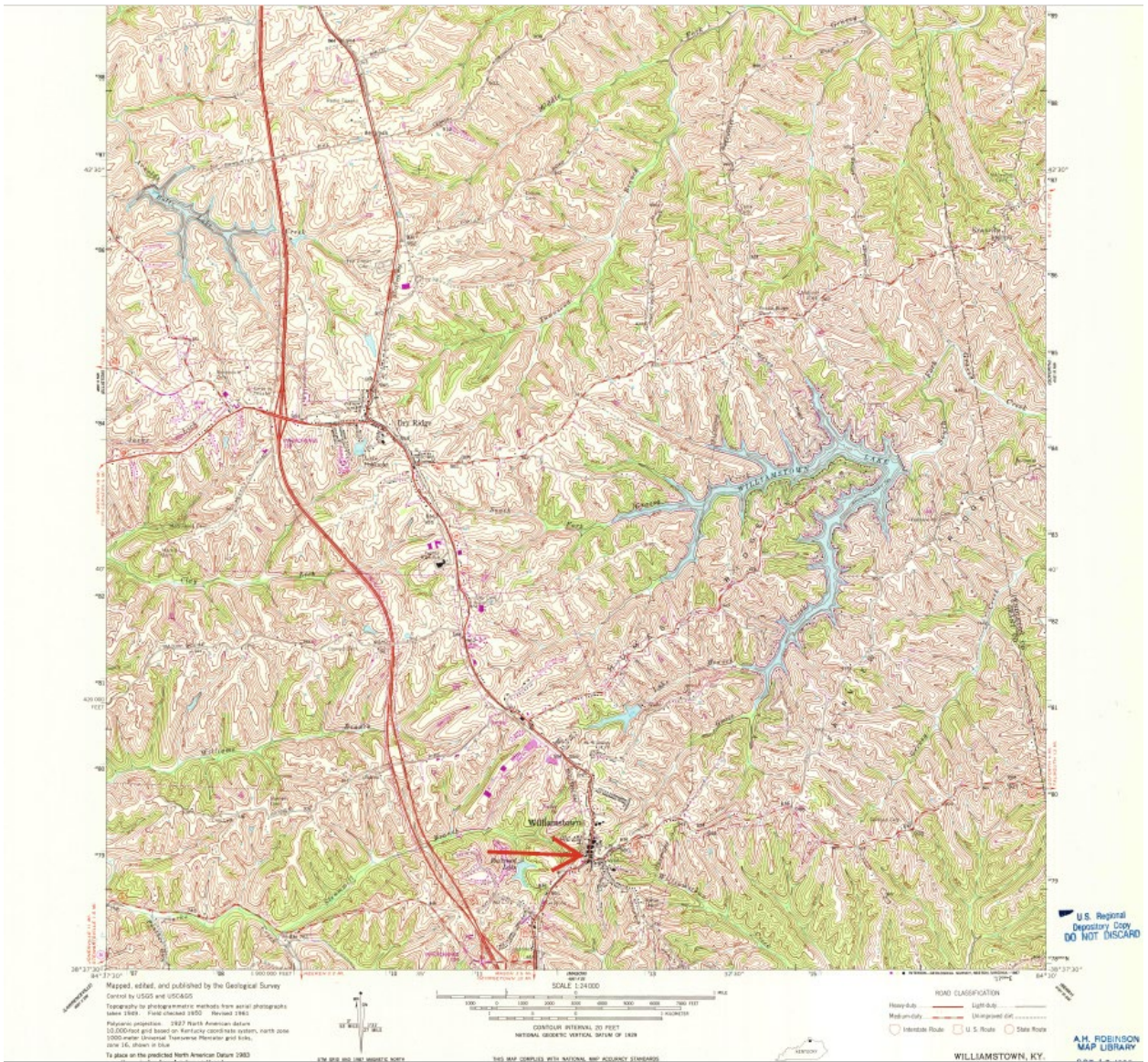
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Enlarged area of Williamstown KY 1961 USGS Quad map with arrow pointing to nominated property.

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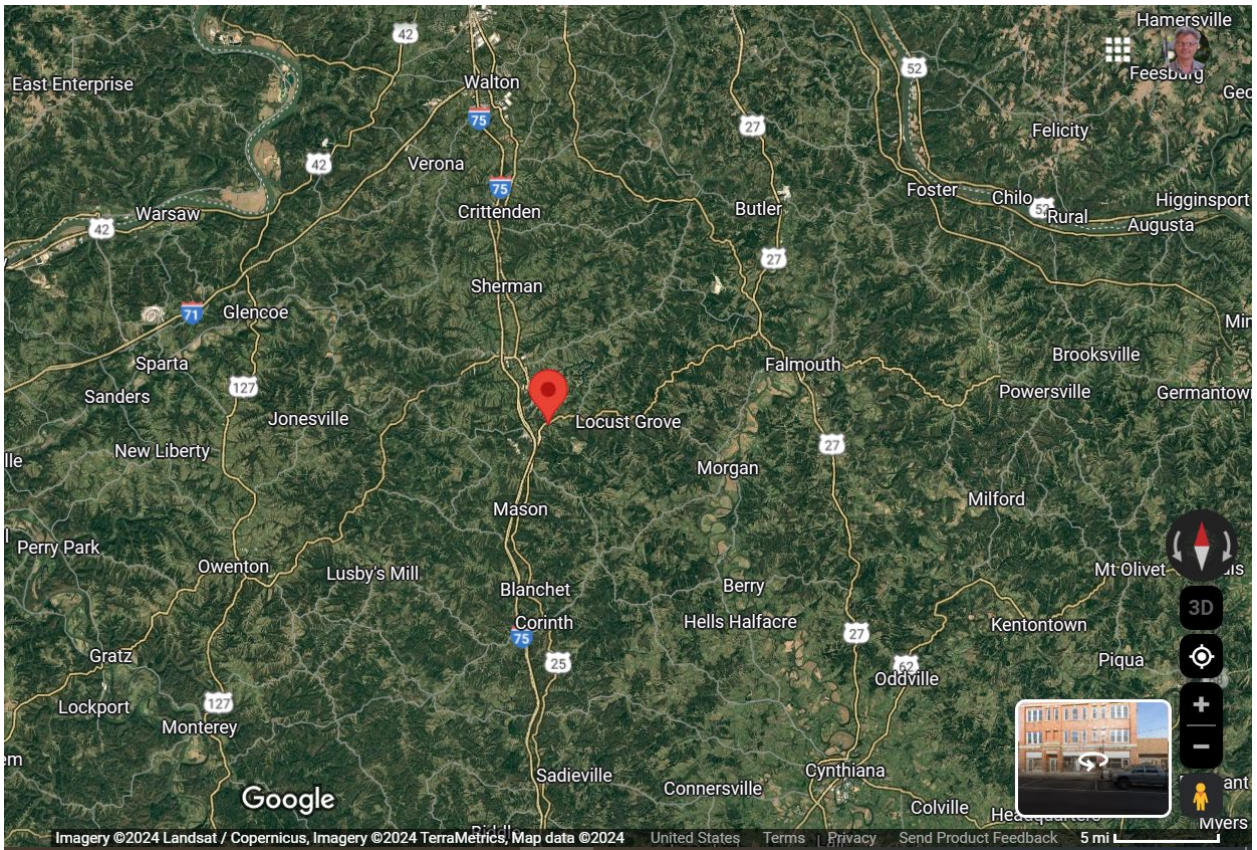
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Williamstown 1961 quad map showing location of site with red arrow

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Wide Area map showing location of site at red teardrop shape