



MASONIC HALL
Friday Harbor, San Juan Island

As originally built in 1914, the Masonic Hall at 15 Second Street, Friday Harbor, was a two-story frame structure measuring approximately 40 by 77 feet. Ca. 1928, the building was enlarged on the southeast elevation to its present dimensions of 60 by 77 feet. Surmounted by a parapet above a pent roof, the hall has clapboard siding and a recessed main entry defined by pilaster strips and a hipped roof with double boxed cornices. Two side entrances are on the northwest elevation and an exterior stair gives access to the second floor of the southwest (rear) elevation. Fenestration on the facade is chiefly single-glaze square casements; secondary elevations feature one-over-one, double-hung sash. The first-floor interior, rented for the past four years by Napa Automotive Parts and Accessories, retains its wainscoting and chamfered support posts. Built as a dance hall and so used for many years, the space with its hardwood floor was converted to a roller-skating rink around the time of World War II. The decor of the lodge room upstairs, which occupies the 1914 side of the building, appears largely unchanged: rows of wooden theatre seats, lodge standards and insignia flanking a tiered platform, oil paintings suspended from picture moldings, and door and window surrounds trimmed with cornice heads. The 1928 addition provides a dining room which is shared on lease with the Order of the Eastern Star and also rented as a studio by a dance school.

Before the hall was built, San Juan Lodge 175 (the only Masonic organization in the county) met for an undetermined time in the second floor of the drugstore building erected in 1900 at 200 Spring Street West (p. 8). There is no known record of plans and specifications or costs for the new building, but members evidently supplied labor, materials, teams, and wagons, as evidenced by the grand master's expression of thanks contained in the lodge minutes at the conclusion of the project.

Source: Eric L. Erickson, historian of San Juan Lodge 175, June 24, 1980 (Friday Harbor, 378-4494).