

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT  
PART II  
THE PHILIP COONS BUILDING  
SOMETIMES CALLED THE MASONIC HALL BUILDING (Building #44)

001234  
001238

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Administrative Data Section; HISTORY  
by

Joseph R. Prentice  
Superintendent  
October 1962

by  
C. Snell  
March 1959

# HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

## PART II

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Joseph R. Prentice  
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THE PHILIP COONS BUILDING  
SOMETIMES CALLED THE MASONIC HALL BUILDING  
(Building #44)

APPROVAL SHEET

RECOMMENDED

(Sgd) Joseph R. Prentice

Date NOV - 1 1962

Superintendent

*Henry A. Judd*  
Acting Supervising Architect, Historic Structures  
*Chas. Archibald*

Date 12-17-62

*Robert E. Smith*  
Robert G. Hall  
Chief *ACTG*

Date 12-18-62

Regional Director, Northeast Region  
*Southeast*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED

Director

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Building:

Building No. 44, The Philip Coons Building or Masonic Hall.

B. Proposed Use of Structure:

It is proposed to restore the exterior of this building to its 1859 appearance, based upon data uncovered by historical and architectural research. As already agreed upon, between the Park, the Regional Office and the Eastern Office of Design and Construction, rest room facilities for Park visitors will be provided for on the first floor. This will eliminate, or at least alleviate, what has been a dire need since this park was established, i.e., adequate rest room facilities. The second floor of this building will contain the heating and cooling system, both for Building No. 44 and adjacent Building No. 45 - the forthcoming Visitor Center. The small stone structure, appended to the rear of Building No. 44, will contain the cooling tower for the aforementioned second floor installation.

We are holding in abeyance any proposal for use of the third floor of this building, until such time as park interpretive plans are more concrete.

C. Provisions for Operating the Building:

The lower or ground floor will serve as comfort stations and will be open to the public. The second floor will be kept locked to prevent unauthorized admittance to the heating system.

D. Preliminary Estimate of Cost of Restoration, Rest Rooms and Heating and Cooling System:

BODC is currently preparing plans for the comfort stations and for the heating and air-conditioning systems serving both buildings. It is expected to accomplish this installation within the current funds appropriated for FCP # B-20-3.

In accordance with the provisions of the FCP, we will stabilize the walls and restore the exterior of this building to its appearance in 1859. The interior will be in keeping with the facility served. This will require concrete floors and proper fire retardation wall and ceiling treatment on the second floor. Sewer, water and electrical connections will be essential.