

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky	
COUNTY: Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Liberty Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC: Liberty Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 218 Wilkinson Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort			
STATE: Kentucky	CODE	COUNTY: Franklin	CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Liberty Hall Association			
STREET AND NUMBER: 218 Wilkinson Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort	STATE: Kentucky	CODE	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Franklin County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort	STATE: Kentucky	CODE	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Liberty Hall is a two-story rectangular Flemish bond brick house, 60' wide and 46' deep. It has a two-story brick rear ell 24' 2-1/2" wide and 43' 8" long. The east or front elevation facing Wilkinson Street is five bays wide. The central three bays are advanced 3-5/4 inches from the main plane of the elevation. The house has a gable roof with a pediment cross gable the width of the advanced central section. There are two symmetrically placed interior brick chimneys with pronounced chimney caps. These two chimneys are not at the roof ridge but rise out of the rear roof slope near the ridge. The east front has an excellently scaled and executed modillion cornice with a dentil band below the modillions. A simpler cornice continues across the gable ends of the house and the west elevation. The house has a molded brick water table and a belt course four brick courses in depth.

The entrance door has double doors and a semicircular glazed transom. It is surrounded by a restrained wooden frontispiece with flanking Tuscan engaged colonettes carrying an entablature with an undercorated frieze. The central window bay in the second floor is the most outstanding feature of the house. It is a fully developed palladian window that extends down to the floor level. Above, in the pediment of the cross gable, is a semicircular lunette with Gothic sash and a keystone. Other windows have six over six pane double hung sash, molded wooden sills, widely splayed brick jack arches and shutters.

The house has a central hall plan with two principal rooms on either side. The entrance hall is separated from the stair hall by a carefully designed elliptical arch with keystone. The door and window trim in the principal rooms has a dog ear motif and fluted keystones. There is also a molded chair rail and restrained wooden mantel pieces in the Federal style.

S E R I E S T R U C T I O N S

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1796-1800

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☒ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Liberty Hall was built in Frankfort, Kentucky, by the Hon. John Brown between 1796 and 1800. Brown was a leading lawyer and politician of the area and was instrumental in gaining statehood for Kentucky in 1792.

The house that he built for himself in the new capital of the state was patterned on the finest Federal architecture that John Brown had seen in the East, especially Philadelphia. When the house was finished, Brown had created one of the most outstanding examples of the style anywhere in the country. Liberty Hall is a two story gable roof brick house laid in Flemish bond. The five bay east front has a pediment cross gable the width of the three central bays. These three bays are slightly advanced forward of the principal plane of this elevation. The central bay of the ground floor is the entrance doorway with a semicircular transom and wooden frontispiece. Above it on the second floor is a finely scaled palladian window. Across the entire east front is a well executed modillion cornice with dentil band. The interior has a central hall plan and subdued Federal trim. The great achievement of Liberty Hall is not so much that it was built on the frontier, but that, in spite of its extremely remote location, it is one of the most perfect examples of Federal domestic architecture ever realized in the country.

History

Liberty Hall, Frankfort, Kentucky, was built from ca. 1796 to ca. 1800 by Hon. John Brown (1757-1837), a leading lawyer and politician of early Kentucky. From 1784 to 1792 he was actively involved in the movement to separate Kentucky from Virginia and to bring it into the Union as a separate state. He also served as one of the two first Senators from Kentucky to the United States Senate. The house remained in the Brown family until 1955.

Over the years certain minor changes were made to the building by the Brown family. Very soon after the house was finished the main reception room on the second floor appears to have been subdivided into bedroom space. The attic stairs were altered in 1833; a bathroom was constructed on the ground floor by enclosing one end of the back porch in 1837. A cornice was added to the present dining room in 1884 and the space under the windows in the two front parlors were decorated with simple panels in 1908 and 1918.

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Liberty Hall

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8. Significance

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Since 1955 the house has been the property of the Liberty Hall Association who maintain the house as an historic house museum open to the public. There was a minor fire in the central hall on October 25, 1965, the damage from which has been repaired. The original hickory shingle roof has been replaced by slate.

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Liberty Hall: Floor Plans

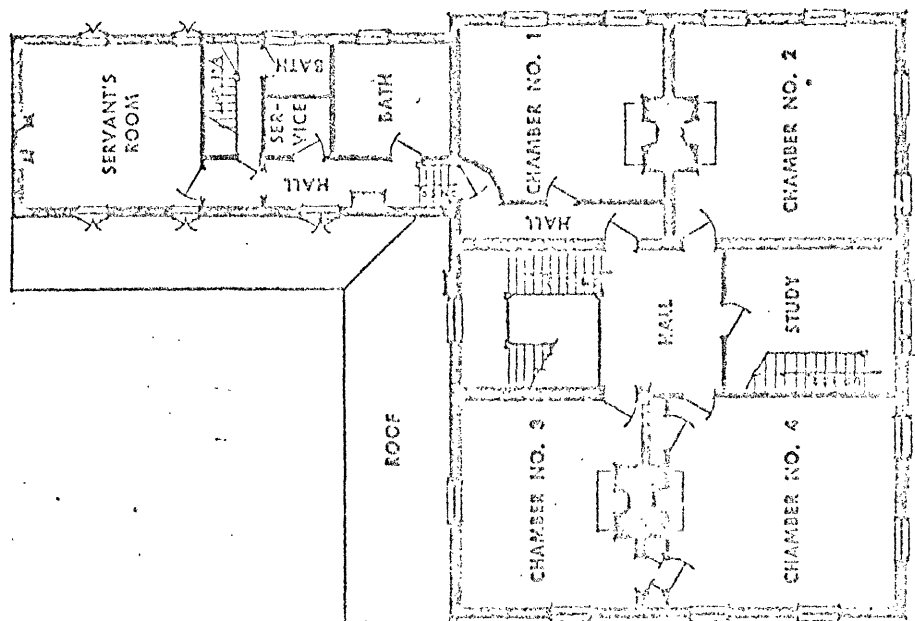


FIG. 6. First- and second-floor plans, "Liberty Hall,"
Frankfort.

