NPS Form 10-900 (7-81)			OMB NO.: EXP. ID / 3	
National Par Nationa Invento See instruction	tes Department of k Service A Register of ry—Nomina s in How to Complete Na complete applicable s	of Historic F tion Form ational Register Forms	For Places rec	NPS use only seived NOV 10158
1. Nam	IE			
historic	Hiram Masonic Loc	dge No. 7		
and/or common	Masonic Hall			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	South Second Ave	enue		not for publication
city, town	Franklin	vicinity of	-congressional-district	
state	Tennessee code	e 47 county	Williamson	code 187
3. Clas	sification			
Category district bullding(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name	Hiram Masonic Loc	lge No. 7		
street & number	Post Office Box 7	74		
city, town	Brentwood	vicinity of	state	Tennessee
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Will	lliamson County Cou	irthouse	
street & number				
city, town	Fra	anklin	state	Tennessee
6. Repi	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
title		has this pr	operty been determined el	igible? yes no
date			federal sta	te county local
depository for su	irvey records			
city, town			state	

7. Description

Condition		Çheck one	Çheck one
- <u>★</u> excellent - <u> </u>	<pre> deteriorated ruins unexposed</pre>	X unaltered	<u> </u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed in 1823, Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7 is the oldest public building in the town of Franklin and the oldest Masonic Hall in continuous use in Tennessee. It is an interesting gothic-revival building of 3-stories, five bays wide and five deep. Constructed of brick, the front roof line is gabled in the center, battlemented to either side of the center gable, and surmounted by five obelisk pinnacles.

The windows of the first two floors at the front are elongated gothic with 11 lights over eight set in semi-circular indented two-story brick arches. The central windows over the entrance are set in a gothic indented arch of three stories. The windows of the third floor are rectangular, 4 lights over four. Plain rectangular windows are found along the sides and rear of the building--on the first two floors, 12 lights over 16; on the third floor, 8 lights over 8.

The plan of the building is in a "T," the wings of the "T" permitting stairwells--one rising 3 stories, the other only 2. There is a large meeting hall on each of the first two floors with smaller rooms at the rear. There are offices and small meeting and storage rooms on the third floor.

There have been no alterations to the building. During ther period 1978-1981 some restoration work on the brickwork was carried out. The interior of the building shows signs of needed restoration. The building is structurally sound.

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8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	military music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
1900–	communications	Industry Invention	_X politics/government	<pre> transportation other (specify)</pre>

Specific dates 1830

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7 was the scene of the negotiation and signing of the Treaty of Franklin, Tennessee--1830, which provided for the removal of the Chickasaw Indians from their eastern homeland to a new region beyond the Mississippi. President Andrew Jackson personally opened the proceedings in Franklin, making it the only time a president of the United States would journey to an Indian Council for the purpose of making a treaty. The treaty has an impact beyond the Chickasaw nation. As the first of the southern removal treaties it became a catalyst hastening the removal of the entire five civilized Indian nations. It initiated a decade of Indian capitulation and gave pretext to white settlers to act precipitatedly in seizing Indians lands.

HISTORY

With the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, President Andrew Jackson was determined to move swiftly in redeeming his campaign pledge to remove the Indian from lands east of the Mississippi. 'Four days after passage, Jackson sent word to his confidential agent, D. W. Haley, that he and Secretary of War, John Eaton, would like to confer with delegates of the major southern Indian tribes. The first response came from the Choctaw chiefs requesting that the President meet with them at Nashville. But events among the Choctaw began to sour--the result of a growing internal feud--and it was to be the Chickasaw who first treated with President Jackson.

On July 28, Jackson conferred with Secretary Eaton in Franklin. Eaton received a welcomed letter from the Chickasaw Council House, dated August 5. It was agreed by the chiefs to meet the President on August 29, the delegates to be authorized to make a treaty and to exchange lands.

Jackson was anxious to attend personally to the slightest detail of the coming Council. On August 11, he and John Coffee were again in Franklin. The burden of arrangements fell mostly to Major Eaton. The presence of 100 Indians in Franklin would be a novel spectacle. There was a great flurry of activity to reserve room and board, and, of course, to gather the requisite gifts for the Indian Delegates.

Jackson arrived on August 20, and met with his old friends, moving freely among the Chickasaw chiefs and warriors. He recognized many who had fought with him in New Orleans. In turn, they knew him, who they called "Sharp Knife." They respected and trusted him.

At the Presbyterian Church, Jackson addressed the Chicksaw. He urged them to sign and move beyond the Mississippi. He threatened and cajoled. He stressed the inevitability of white incursions into Indian lands. After he finished, his words were interpreted to the delegation. The Indians retired to deliberate.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Foreman, Grant, Indian Removal, Norman Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1953.

Lawrence, Stephen S., <u>The Franklin Treaty of 1830</u>, Nashville, Tennessee, unpublished, Tennessee <u>Historical Commission</u>

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property	1/2		
Quadrangle name Franklin			Quadrangle scale7.5
UMT References			-
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Verbal boundary description a	nd justification		
See Continuation Sheet	÷ ,		
List all states and counties for	r properties over	rlapping state or c	county boundaries
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form Prepa	ared By		\
name/title Originally prepar	<u>ed by Ben/ Le</u>	vy Altered by C	Cecil N. McKithan, NPS, Atlanta, GA
organization Historic Sites	Survey - NPS	C	date 2/26/73
street & number 1100 L Stre	et, N. W.	t	telephone
city or town Washington,	D. C.	s	state
12. State Histo	ric Pres	ervation	Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this p	property within the	state is:	
national	state	local	
As the designated State Historic Pr	eservation Officer ty for inclusion in	for the National Hist the National Register	toric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– r and certify that it has been evaluated

according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title	date
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is	a influded in the National Register date 1/3/83
Keeper of the National Register Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

Continuation sheet

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For NPS use only
received
date entered
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On August 26, Coffee and Eaton met with the delegation in full council. The Chicksaw reply was an appeal for compassion for the Indian and an understanding of his deep anxiety:

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It is acknowledged that we were the first to build fires upon the land we now occupy. Yes, our fireside has been sought for by our white brothers: they saw it. We saw them approach with timidity. We met them, took them into our wigwams, warmed them, fed them, and treated them like brothers; and now we think it extremely hard at this advanced period of our lives, to be informed that we must, from necessity, if we wish to preserve ourselves as a nation--that we must seek a new home in a unknown region of the west.

The Chickasaw secretary, J. McLish, concluded that because of his people's justifiable fear of the unknown land to which they were expected to move, their removal had to be on the condition that they be permitted to inspect and approve the new territory. Eaton and Coffee again admonished the delegation insisting that agreement was to be now or never. The Chickasaw remained firm on their one condition. Eager to secure this initial pact, the commissioners relented and accepted the stipulation.

The Indians proclaimed their confidence in President Jackson, declaring they had never known him to speak with "two tongues." That evening they sent a note to him asking to meet with him before his departure the next day. The meeting was in the Masonic Hall which was just behind John Eaton's home. The Council was brief but dramatic. Nineteen of the chiefs and delegates declared;

We have listened, and your words have sunk deep into our hearts. And as you are about to set out for Washington City before we shake our father's hand, perhaps with many of us the last time, we have requested this meeting to tell you . . . we are now ready to enter a treaty.

The President thanked them and apologized for his having to leave. Following his departure, the parties returned to the bargaining table to settle the matters of annuities and other items of monetary compensation. Four days after Jackson left, the Franklin Treaty was signed.

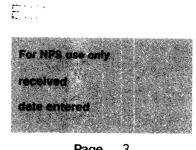
The Council remained in Franklin for a few festive days, donning new shoes and hats, decorating their horses with new bells and harness. New coats were fitted and trimmed and bolts of calico purchased. The delegation departed. Franklin returned to normal.

The treaty was never ratified. The Chickasaw were unhappy with the new land and disapproved it. But these conditions seemed only legal technicalities uninteresting to the white settlers coveting Indian lands. The pretext was established. A pretext which stimulated wholesale incursions onto Chickasaw land. Compounding the problem was the administration's unwillingness to protect Chickasaw property. The inevitable foreclosure of The Chickasaw homeland compelled Indian capitulation with the Treaty of Pontotoc. And, on July 13, 1837, seven oppressive years since the negotiations at Franklin, the first group of 300 Chickasaws began their trek to a new land where they would find little happiness or contentment. If they harbored

Continuation sheet

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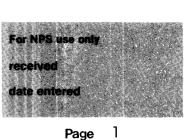
Continuation sheet	Item number	8	Page 3

any hope at all, it was in the words their chiefs uttered at Franklin:

Friends and Brothers: this subject is of the greatest importance to us, as a nation. We approach it with fear and trembling; for, on this occasion our fate will be sealed. We will be either a happy and prosperous people, or a poor, miserable race of beings. But we trust in the Great Spirit, that He will continue to bless and comfort us, as He has done from the earliest period of our existence.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7 is bounded on both sides by Catholic Church Property. Beginning at the point on the east curb of Second Avenue South where the church property line and lodge property line coincide, proceed east 120', more or less, to a point, thence south 80', more or less, to a point, thence west 120', more or less, to the east curb of Second Avenue South, thence north along curb to the point of origin.

There are no other structures on the property.