

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 10 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7

and/or common Masonic Hall

2. Location

street & number South Second Avenue not for publication

city, town Franklin vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Tennessee code 47 county Williamson code 187

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social Hall

4. Owner of Property

name Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7

street & number Post Office Box 74

city, town Brentwood vicinity of state Tennessee

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williamson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Franklin state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**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 the 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.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**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., The Franklin Treaty of 1830, Nashville, Tennessee, unpublished, Tennessee Historical Commission

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Franklin

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	6	5	1	1	6	9	0	3	9	7	5	5	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Originally prepared by Ben Levy Altered by Cecil N. McKithan, NPS, Atlanta, GA

organization Historic Sites Survey - NPS date 2/26/73

street & number 1100 L Street, N. W. telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Washington, D. C. state \_\_\_\_\_

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register 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 included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 11/3/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date \_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

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:

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

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

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.