

VLR-1/16/73 NRHP-7/2/73
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Richmond (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mason's Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mason's Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1807 East Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE: 760

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Masonic Lodge

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY: C. Calvin Huffman, Lodge Secretary

OWNER'S NAME:
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19

STREET AND NUMBER:
1807 East Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Richmond City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad and Tenth Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

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D .CRPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mason's Hall at 1807 East Franklin Street is a late-eighteenth century structure built as a meeting hall of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and it has continued as the Richmond Randolph Lodge Number 19 until the present. The high English basement of brick is covered with gray stucco and it supports two frame stories and a low hipped roof with cupola. According to a small but carefully delineated sketch on a Mutual Assurance Company policy of 1802, the structure, as originally completed, was a five-bay two-story frame building about fifty feet square with a three-bay projecting central pedimented pavilion, all on a high English basement. The pavilion featured a doorway with an interlacing tracery fanlight and double doors. Windows flanked both the doorway and a large round arched window on the second. ~~C~~oming the building's low hipped roof was an octagonal cupola. The exterior assumedly underwent an extensive remodelling in the mid-nineteenth century, since the present siding, trim, portico, and window arrangement are in the style of that time. The windows which flanked the double doors of the pavilion have been removed, however, the original window openings flanking the pavilion itself remain. A three-part window, with flat arches and a Greek cornice, replaces the former arched window arrangement on the second floor of the pavilion. The remodelled entrance employs a classical pedimented portico supported by Tuscan piers and two Doric columns sheltering the main entrance that consists of a rectangular transom and double three-panelled doors. Panelled pilasters frame the doorway. The portico's dentiled cornice is similar to the main cornice and to that of the pediment of the pavilion. The moldings on the pavilion reflect the mid-nineteenth century remodelling in showing Greek-Revival profiles. The windows have plain trim; those on the first floor have a Greek cornice, those on the second have a wooden Gothic dripstone motif. Closed louvered shutters hide the sash throughout the building. The octagonal cupola retains eighteenth century details in the modillion cornice and in the louvered arched openings topped by keystones. The weathervane atop the cupola incorporates the Mason's insignia. The main and cupola roofs are of tin.

The floor plan of Mason's Hall is similar on all three floors having a long rectangular room stretching across the rear of each level. The front portion of the building is occupied by the stair and hall with one or more small rooms. Wood detailing in the large basement includes a dado composed of vertical boards and a molded cornice surrounds the ceiling. Architraves frame the double-hung windows and the doors. The fireplaces have a thick molded trim.

The large rooms on both the first and second story appear to have been elaborately redecorated in the early twentieth century. The decorative motif in the first floor incorporates a vibrant red paper decorated with thin ivory columns. The windows and six-panelled doors are surrounded by molded trim. The corner doorway differs in having an arch with a keystone and architrave trim. The narrow chair-rail features a carved leaf motif and dates from the mid-nineteenth century. The two mantels on the south wall have wide shelves, dentil work and fluted pilasters.

The most elaborate room, the large second floor chapter room, features a cream paper ornamented with blue and gold geometric motifs on the cove above gold plaster swags. Masonic insignia are featured in painted plaster on the ceiling and are carved in relief on the two mantels. Windows and doorways have molded trim, and the six-panelled doors are grained. The dominant feature is the large white serliana in the form of a Palladian arch decorated with dentils and swags and supported on Roman

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7.

Ionic columns which stands on a raised platform at the east end of the room. A similar Palladian arch set on Tuscan columns stands on the south side of the room and another without the flanking bays at the west end.

The two-run open-string stairway ascending from the basement has a round rail and rectangular balusters. The two-run open string stair ascending to the second floor has been remodelled and employs an elaborate newel (similar to one offered in the 1879 Baltimore, George O. Stevens, Builders Supplies Catalogue), a molded rail, turned balusters and ornamental brackets.

G.H.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD. (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1785-86

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mason's Hall is the oldest building in the United States erected for Masonic Purposes and continuously used for that purpose. It is also one of Richmond's few eighteenth century buildings to survive the vicissitudes of finances and war. The hall was built in 1785 by Richmond Lodge Number 13 (now Number 10) of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons on an eighty-four square lot purchased from Gabriel Galt. Title to the lot became somewhat confused as Galt died three years after the purchase without making a deed. In 1792 a Henrico County Court entered a decree directing Galt's heirs to draw up a deed to the property. No deed has been found, but the title is considered valid after so many uncontested years.

The hall was planned in August of 1785, but records show that financial difficulties ensued in trying to pay for the building. A lottery designed to raise money failed in its purpose, and the builder had to sue for payment. Construction had appropriately begun in brick, but funds ran out after the completion of the first floor. A temporary roof was added, and the building served in this condition from 1786-87. In the latter year, the cube-shaped hall was finished as a frame structure. The cornerstone was laid by James Mercer, Grand Master, assisted by Edmund Randolph, governor of Virginia and himself a Mason. Soon afterwards the building served one of its many non-Masonic uses when Richmond's citizens met in the hall to instruct their delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

1787 also marked the founding of Richmond Randolph Lodge Number 19. This lodge shared the Mason's Hall with Richmond Lodge Number 13 until 1878 when the latter group moved to another hall. Richmond Randolph Lodge which has owned the hall since that time, has had a long and interesting history closely identified with the affairs of the city. John Marshall, who received some of the earliest judicial training in Mason's Hall when it served the Hustings Court, and Edmund Randolph, for whom the lodge was named, were two of the distinguished members elected to be Grand Masters of Masonry. During the War of 1812 the structure served as a hospital. Also, the Marquis de Lafayette and his son visited the lodge in 1824 and were made honorary members. Their signatures are to be found in the lodge register. When Federal troops entered Richmond in 1865, a Northern general, also a Mason, ordered a guard for Mason's Hall to prevent its being burned.

Although the metamorphosis is not documented, Mason's Hall apparently has been changed from its original eighteenth century exterior and interior appearance. Completed in 1787 and insured in 1802 by the Mutual Assurance Company, the exterior was altered, probably in the mid-nineteenth century. Much of the interior has also been altered and the rooms redecored, probably around the turn of the twentieth century. However, the simple

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8. white frame building has an elegance unmarred by the passage of time and the changes in stylistic details.

G.H.

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6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington D.C. Code: 11

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

of the Valentine Museum, Freemasons: Richmond, Virginia.
 chmond Neighborhoods, Mary Wingfield Scott.
 of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	37°	32'	00"	77°	25'	36"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 acres

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 AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name J.R. Fishburne, Director
Virginia Historic
 Title Landmarks Commission

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
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1. NAME
COMMON: Mason's Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC: Mason's Hall

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
1807 East Franklin Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond (David E. Satterfield, III, Third District Congressman)
STATE: Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE 760

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' quadrangle Richmond, Virginia
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1964

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
1807 East Franklin Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond
STATE: Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE 760

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Mary Tennant Bryan
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972
NEGATIVE FILED AT:
211 Amphill Road; Richmond, Virginia

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from the north.



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Richmond, Va. 1964

MASON'S HALL
 latitude 37°32'00"
 longitude 77°25'36"