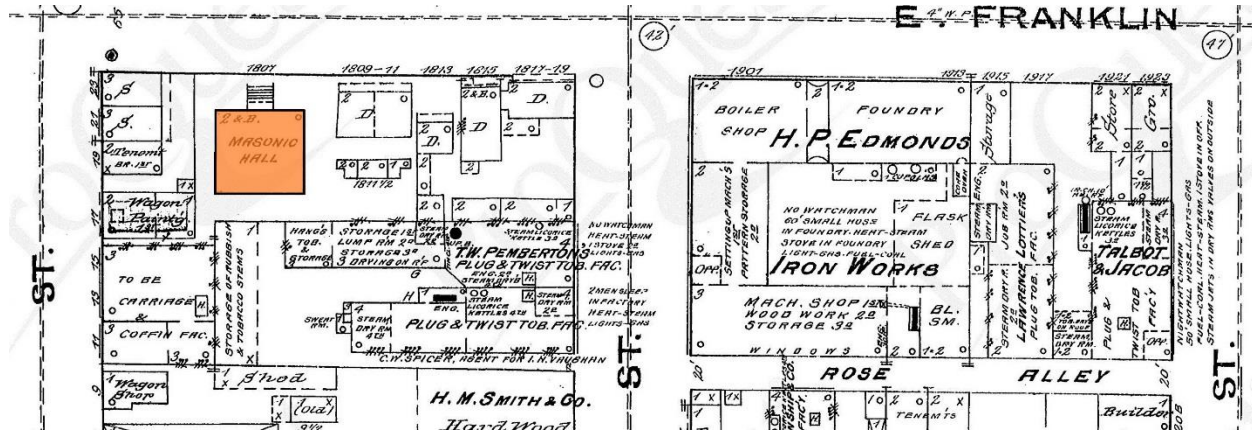


## Old and Historic District Nomination Request

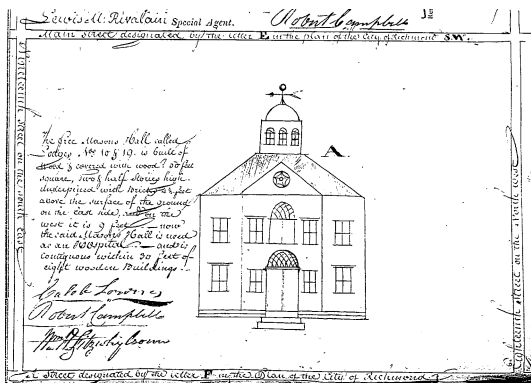
Section 30-930.4 (b) of the City Code notes that reviews of a proposed City Old and Historic District shall be at the discretion of the Commission unless a member of City Council or the Mayor introduces a paper proposing the establishment of a new old and historic district. To begin the review process of a proposed old and historic district, the Commission shall pass a resolution instructing the secretary to begin administration of the review process. The Commission has received a request to create a new district to include a single property, 1805-1807 E. Franklin Street (E0000132001), known as Mason’s Hall. Staff is requesting the Commission review the request and decided whether to introduce a resolution to proceed with the review process.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:



Richmond, Virginia 1886 Sanborn Map

The Mason’s Hall, Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19, is located in the National Register-listed Shockoe Valley and Tobacco Row Historic District and is individually listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. It is directly across Franklin Street from the southern boundary of the Shockoe Valley Old and Historic District.



Sketch from 1814 Mutual Assurance Policy

The Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19 is the first building erected in the United States for Masonic purposes and has remained in continuous use by a lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The corner stone for the lodge was laid in 1785. A lack of funds halted construction at the top of the brick basement and the upper two stories were built of frame and completed in 1787.



Photograph, ca. 1944

Carefully detailed sketches prepared by the Mutual Assurance Company for policies issued in 1802 and 1814, illustrate a two-story, five-bay frame building built on a high English basement with a low-hipped roof surmounted by an octagonal cupola. The façade was organized by a slightly projected, pedimented central pavilion. In the mid-nineteenth century, the façade was remodeled in the style of the time. The major alterations included the installation of classical pedimented portico with Tuscan piers and Doric columns, the removal of the two windows flanking the entrance, and the replacement of the arched window arrangement on the second story with a three-part window with a Greek cornice.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:**



View from the intersection of N. 18<sup>th</sup> and E. Franklin streets looking southeast



Northwest Corner looking southeast



Façade, looking south



Northeast corner looking southwest

**PROPERTY OWNERS AFFECTED:**

The applicant, Historic Richmond Foundation, on behalf of Masons Hall 1785 and Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19 has requested that a new, single property Old and Historic District be established. The Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19 is the property owner and occupant.

**CURRENT LAND USE AND ZONING:**

The property is zoned M-1 and the master plan designation is for mixed-use.

**INFORMATION FROM SPONSOR:**

The following information was provided by the sponsor, Ms. Danielle Worthing with the Historic Richmond Foundation, regarding the request:

On behalf of Historic Richmond Foundation, Masons Hall 1785, and Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19, I'm writing to request that the Commission of Architectural Review initiate the review of a potential Old and Historic District for Masons Hall located at 1807 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA.

Mason's Hall is the oldest Masonic structure in the United States to be continuously used by Masons. The building was designed and constructed under the leadership of Edmund Randolph and John Marshall in 1785. Marshall, Washington, and Lafayette were among the distinguished men who were members of this lodge. It is one of the few eighteenth century buildings to survive in Richmond, and the oldest eighteenth century frame building with large public spaces in Virginia. It has been listed on the VLR and NRHP since 1973. The building is located adjacent to the existing Shockoe Valley O&HD, however, lacks designation itself. As one of the most significant buildings in the city and nation, we request that an individual listing as an O&HD be created.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR OLD AND HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION:**

The Lodge is working with the Historic Richmond Foundation to facilitate needed repairs to insure the preservation of the building. City Old and Historic designation is an additional tool for the recognition and preservation of the building. Staff is fully in support of the designation of the Mason's Hall as one of the earliest and more significant buildings in the City of Richmond.