

The Local Landmark Designation Report: 1850 Hanks Masonic Lodge No. 128, Franklinville, N.C.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The 1850 structure of the Hanks Masonic Lodge No. 128 is located at 157 W. Main Street, Franklinville, N.C., North Carolina, at Franklinville Township, Randolph County. It is historically significant in that it is the oldest and the first Masonic Lodge established and built in Randolph County. It is significant in that it is one of Franklinville's and Randolph County's antebellum structures still standing. It is significant in that the lower room or the first level meeting room was intended to be used as a school room. The 1850 construction contract states in part, "the **lower room** to be furnished with seats with backs and desks **suitable for a school room.**" This meant that the lower meeting room probably housed Franklinville's earliest community school.

The significance is further supported in that Hanks Masonic Lodge holds the original construction contract in its archives, being dated September 10, 1850. There were several stated guidelines in the contract that bear highlighting and may be historically significant.

- Said building to be forty by twenty feet, two stories high and built of wood.
- Lower story to be nine feet and an upper story to be ten feet in the clear.
- The frame of said building may be of oak, all of the balance must be of pine, and all timber that is exposed to the weather must be of good heart pine.
- To be finished upstairs with seats, stands and desks suitable for the lodge and the lower room to be furnished with seats with backs and desks suitable for a school room.

The historical significance of the Hanks Masonic Lodge No. 128 located in Franklinville, N.C. is further stated in Mac Whatley's work *Architectural History of Randolph County, North Carolina*. He states on pages 102-103.

The temple form Greek Revival building is one of the oldest public buildings in the area, and is doubly important since its construction contract has survived, preserving the names of its builders. Dorsett and Allred were obviously men of some skill, for the Hall is as sophisticated an example of the Greek Revival style as is to be found in Randolph County. The form of the building can best be seen on its rear elevation, where three monumental pilasters rise the full height of the façade, dividing it into two bays. On the front façade the entrance door interrupts the central pilaster. The pent roof above that door is probably a later addition. Further study of this building may lead to other buildings which can be attributed to Dorsett and Allred."

ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY:

The first Masonic Lodge in Randolph County was Hank's No. 128, organized March 26, 1850, at Franklinville. At the lodge's monthly meeting, dated April 12, 1850, a motion was passed that members Garrett Love, A.S.Horney, and David Reece be appointed to select a location, present plans, and get an approximate cost building a Masonic Hall. Members B.T. Coffin and S.B. Hunt were appointed to collect funds. On July 17, 1850, A.S. Horney, S.B. Hunt, and H.M. Foust were authorized to purchase a lot and contract for the building of a lodge hall. On September 10, 1850, this committee signed a contract with Spence W. Dorsett and Thomas Allred to construct the building for a sum of \$1,350.00. The amount of \$675.00 was to be paid when the building was completed and the remainder to be paid in installments. The building was to be completed within six months of the date of the contract. Among the lodge records are two receipts for payment on the building. One is dated April 25, 1851 in the amount of \$363.69 and the other is dated May 9, 1851 in the amount of \$75.00, the latter one stating "paid in full."

There were several stated guidelines in the contract that bear that give details about the construction of the 1850 lodge structure.

- Said building to be forty by twenty feet, two stories high and built of wood.
- Lower story to be nine feet and an upper story to be ten feet in the clear.
- The frame of said building may be of oak, all of the balance must be of pine, and all timber that is exposed to the weather must be of good heart pine.
- To be finished upstairs with seats, stands and desks suitable for the lodge and the lower room to be furnished with seats with backs and desks suitable for a school room.

The framing was to be of oak five inches thick and the studding set on 18-inche center. The remainder, including shingles and any exposed timber was "to be of good heart pine."

When the building was complete, its original location stood some six to eight hundred feet east of its present location, facing River Road and Deep River. Mac Whatley in his book on *Architectural History of Randolph County* states that " The Hall was built on the south side of the River Road between the two cotton mills. In 1890 the railroad was extended from Millboro to Ramseur, running across the lodge lot between the Hall and the River road. The River Road fell into disuse following the construction of "Highway 90" (the present NC 22), and in early 1924 the Hall was moved to its current location on the south side of that highway." It was moved to its present site on 157 Main Street, Franklinville, in 1924, by rolling the building on logs and pulling it by mules. The structure was moved in-tact, re-set up in-tact, and not disassembled.

The 1850 original structure has remained at its current location, in-tact, since it was moved from the 1850 location and set up in-tact in 1924. In the recent past, the 1850 structure was covered with white vinyl for less maintenance up-keep, better protection, and better preservation. The original exterior siding is in-tact beneath the vinyl covering.

LOCAL LANDMARK ORDINANCE CRITERIA:

The proposed designation of the 1850 Hanks Masonic Lodge No. 128, meets the following specific criteria outlined in the adopting Ordinance establishing the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission: (1) Critical part of the Town of Franklinville's heritage by having value as an example of the cultural, historic, and social heritage of the city and county; (2) Exemplification of an architectural type distinguished by overall quality of design; and (3) the location of the 1850 Hanks Masonic Lodge No. 128 provides a unique and distinctive structure representing an established and familiar visual presence in the Town of Franklinville and Randolph County, N.C.

BASIC DATA:

Name and Street Address: 157 Main Street, Franklinville, N.C. 27248

Name and Address of Property Owner: Hanks Masonic Temple
157 Main Street, Franklinville, N.C. 27248

Date of Original Construction: 1850

Moved to Its Current Site: 1924

PIN #: 7792369399

Description and Justification of Boundaries of Structure Proposed for Designation:

The 1850 Hanks Masonic Lodge structure that is being proposed as a designated Randolph County Historical Landmark, located at 157 Main Street, Franklinville, N.C. 27248, sits on a piece of property, identified as Parcel Identification Number 7792369399. It sits on the south side of Main Street. The structure measures 20 feet in width, fronting on Main Street, and measures 40 feet in depth. The structure consists of two levels or two floors. The upper level, being one large room and measuring ten feet in height, is the meeting room for official meetings of Hanks Masonic Lodge. The lower level is one large room and nine feet in height. The structure sits on a parcel that is one tenth of one acre.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE OF ALL RESOURCES ON THE SITE:

The 1850 Hanks Masonic Lodge structure that is being proposed as a designated Randolph County Historical Landmark, located at 157 Main Street, Franklinville, N.C. 27248, sits on a piece of property, identified as Parcel Identification Number 7792369399. It sits on the south side of Main Street. The structure measures 20 feet in width, fronting on Main Street, and measures 40 feet in depth. The structure consists of two levels or two floors. The upper level, being one large room, is the meeting room for official meetings of Hanks Masonic Lodge. The lower level, being one large room, is a dining room for the lodge members. The lower level also serves a temporary location for local civic events. Water and sewer services are provided through the Town of Franklinville. A small bathroom is located at the rear of the lower level, beneath the steps that lead to the upper level. There are no contributing or secondary structures on the site.

MAP AND PLANS

A Geographic Information System (GIS) air photograph map, (produced by the Randolph County Planning Department) of this property reflecting the structure and its relation to nearby streets and other buildings is included as part of this report. Detailed floor plans are maintained by the Town of Franklinville and the Randolph County Tax Department, records of which are available to the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission.

PHOTOS

Submitted as part of this report are digital photographs, (including a compact disk) prepared and collected by the Randolph County Planning Department. The Randolph Room of the Randolph County Public Library and Hanks Masonic Lodge also contributed to the photograph collection.. The photographs include images of the building's exterior and interior, both past and present.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH CERTIFICATION

Historical data used in this report has been reviewed in regular scheduled public meetings and unanimously approved by the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission for public presentation and use in this report. A final record of Certification, after a local landmark public hearing, will be reflected in the official minutes of the Commission. Historical information included is as indicated or collected, and documented by staff person, Randle E. Brim, October 1, 2010. A "History of Hanks Masonic Lodge No, 128, summarized by Randle E. Brim, is attached.

**NORTH CAROLINA
RANDOLPH COUNTY**

Date

Hal Johnson, Chairman
Randolph County, HLPC