

In November 1837, Bro. Anson Jones, a member of the Legislature from Brazoria, called together the Masons in Houston, among them members who had met at Brazoria in 1835-36, and by virtue of a Charter, issued on January 29th, 1836 by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, and which had been in his possession since March 1836, met in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol at Houston, now 518-526 Main St., the site of the Rice Hotel, and the lodge was reopened, in its third meeting place. (Fig. 3) The lodge continued meeting in the capitol until October 27th 1838.

On November 13, 1837, a committee was appointed to invite "our Brethren of the Lodges at Nacogdoches and San Augustine to meet with Holland Lodge at Houston, on December 27th 1837 for the purpose of organizing the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas.

The invitation to meet and form a Grand Lodge was accepted by the two lodges named, but the date was changed, and the convention assembled on December 20th 1837, in the Senate Chamber of the Republic of Texas, with Bro. Sam Houston presiding and Bro. Anson Jones acting as Secretary.

Holland Lodge No. 36, LA, Milam Lodge No. 40, LA, were represented by Delegates sent to Houston.

In response to a request from McFarland Lodge No. 41, LA, the Convention named a delegate from it.

The first session of the Grand Lodge was held according to resolution of the Convention, on April 24, 1838. The matter of numbering the original lodges seems to have been overlooked, and in July 1838, Holland Lodge made application to the Grand Master, to have such action had as might be needed to enable them to work until the next annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. This was done and as Number 1, the Lodge received the authority. On November 18th 1838 (Sunday), the Grand Lodge adopted a Resolution granting Charters to "Holland Lodge No. 1, at the City of Houston; Milam Lodge No. 2, at the town of Nacogdoches; McFarland Lodge No. 3, at the town of San Augustine; St.

John's Lodge No. 5, at the town of Brazoria or Columbia;
Matagorda Lodge No. 7, at the City of Matagorda; Phoenix
Lodge No. 8, at the town of Washington.

This permanently fixed the "Number" and was granted
because the Dispensation to Holland No. 36, antedated those
to Nos. 40 and 41 by more than two years, and it had worked
under same in 1835 and 1836.

On May 9, 1838, Holland Lodge recommended the pe-
tition for a new lodge, to be known as Temple Lodge No. 4,
and the same was granted by the Grand Lodge.