

Tour Guide - TRENTON MASONRY - HISTORIC TRENTON MASONIC TEMPLE
Joseph Francis Seliga - Dec 15, 2007 - Revised Dec. 17, 2007

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- Grand Lodge of England made Trentonian Daniel Coxe the First Provincial Grand Master of North America on June 5, 1730.

TRENTON LODGES

- Trenton Lodge No. 5 - July 4, 1787 - First Worshipful Master Aaron Dickenson Woodruff
- Mercer Lodge No. 50 - January 13, 1858 - First Worshipful Master Edward W. Scudder
- Ashlar Lodge No. 76 - January 18, 1866 - First Worshipful Master James S. Aitkin
- Column Lodge No. 120 - January 18, 1872 - First Worshipful Master James Nicklin
- Fraternal Lodge No. 139 - January 21, 1875 - First Worshipful Master John G. Box
- Loyal Lodge No. 181 - March 23, 1905 - First Worshipful Master Richard C. Chamberlain
- True Craftsman Lodge No. 202 - April 20, 1916 - First Worshipful Master Edmund J. Levy

YORK RITE MASONRY

- Three Times Three Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons - September 8, 1858 - James N. Van Antwerp - First Most Excellent High Priest
- Gebal Council No. 3, Royal and Select Masters - March 16, 1860 - Thomas J. Corson - First Thrice Illustrious Grand Master
- Palestine Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar - September 11, 1862 - Joseph H. Hough - First Eminent Commander
- New Jersey Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters
- Grand Commandery, Knights Templar

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE

- Mercer Grand Lodge of Perfection - April 21, 1863 - Joseph H. Hough - First Thrice Potent Master
- Mercer Council, Princes of Jerusalem - May 19, 1864 - William R. Clapp - First Sovereign Prince
- Trenton Chapter of Rose Croix - April 17, 1868 - Charles Bechtel - First Most Wise Master
- Trenton Consistory - September 20, 1906 - David H. Lukens - First Commander-in-Chief

ANCIENT ARABIC ORDER, NOBLES OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE

- Crescent Temple - June 23, 1905 - Dr. Edwin H. Ginnelley - First Illustrious Potentate

TALL CEDARS OF LEBANON

- Supreme Forest of Tall Cedars - March 18, 1902 - David H. Lukens - First Supreme Tall Cedar

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

- Morning Star Chapter No. 22 - July 19, 1898 - Mrs. Eva A. Wyckoff - First Worthy Matron
- Fidelity Chapter No. 22 - June 12, 1917 - Mrs. Miriam Eckstein - First Worthy Matron
- Victory Chapter No. 96 - May 31, 1918 - Mrs. Kate E. Bozarth - First Worthy Matron
- Ashlar Chapter No.
- Trenton Chapter No.

TRENTON MASONIC TEMPLES

- First - Dedicated 1793 - Front and Willow [Originally and now called Barrack] Streets
- Second - Dedicated 1885 - State and Warren Streets
- Third - Dedicated March 1, 1927 - Front and Willow Streets

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FIRST TEMPLE

- Land donated by Mark Thompson, of Harmony Lodge No. 8, Newton, Sussex County, in 1793
- Mark Thomson was the father-in-Law of First Worshipful Master Aaron Dickenson Woodruff.
- Cost estimate was £376, 15s, 10d [about \$1,900].
- Trenton Lodge No. 5 appropriated £100, Grand Lodge of N.J. gave £75 and Pledges were obtained for £385, 15s, leaving £12 10d to be collected.
- Cornerstone laid August 26, 1793 at high twelve.
- In 1842, a tract of land behind the Temple was purchased for \$207.90 for a building addition.
- In April 1860, a brick addition was built on the side of the building.
- The property was sold in 1868. - The building was made into a free school which operated for five years.
- Later had been used as a private dwelling and an Upholstery shop.
- The building was repurchased in 1915 and donated to the Grand Lodge.
- The building was restored under the direction of Adjutant General Wilbur F. Sadler and moved to the foot of Willow Street, the main entrance to Mahlon Stacy Park.
- The lodge room on the second floor is used to confer some degrees by Mercer Lodge No. 50.
- The first floor is being used for a Trenton Visitors Center.

TEMPORARY QUARTERS

- Third floor of the Taylor Opera House was leased for five years.
- Rooms were dedicated December 9, 1867 by Most Worshipful Grand Master Silas Whitehead.

SECOND TEMPLE

- Cornerstone laid July 15, 1884 - located at State and Warren Streets.
- Building was finished in 1885.
- Stock Company was organized and shares sold to members to finance construction.
- As the holders of this non-dividend paying stock died, the shares were sold, some to non-masons.
- The Trenton Banking Company quietly bought up the shares and when it had a controlling interest, it evicted the Masons and erected the new home of the banking company.

TEMPORARY QUARTERS

- Options were obtained on the property at Willow and Front Streets
- Trenton Masonic Temple Association formed.
- The Trenton Masonic Temple Association was incorporated on April 25, 1917.
- Each of the 7 Trenton Lodges obtained one share of Preferred Stock in perpetuity so that the new temple would not pass from the lodges without dissolution of the Association and without the consent of the lodges.
- Subscriptions were started to raise funds for the new building.

THIRD TEMPLE

- In June 4, 1921, the subscription program began again.
- The sum of \$800,000 was raised by subscription to meet the cost of the temple.
- Cornerstone was laid October 9, 1926.
- Building was formally opened on February 28, 1928.