

## GRAND LODGE MUSEUM

The Grand Lodge Museum was begun in 1988. Many Masonic items and pictures are located in this room. Items of interest are regularly added to this room. To request permission from the Grand Secretary's office.



## KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM

Downstairs in the basement is the Grand Lodge dining room which seats about 500 people. The dining room is 85 x 108 feet with a 14 foot ceiling. There is also a small dining area outside the main dining room. The kitchen is very spacious and well furnished. The back kitchen door of the leads to the parking lot of the Grand Lodge.



## SUMMARY

The architecture of the Grand Lodge building is Greek design throughout. The average annual cost to maintain the Grand Lodge building is \$125,000. Masons are proud of this historical Grand Lodge building and it is well maintained. Maybe you would like to help us in this endeavor. Donations can be made to our Grand Lodge Building Enhancement Fund in person or by check to the Grand Lodge Building Enhancement Fund, 100 Seventh Avenue North, Suite 4, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. The money from the Grand Lodge Building Enhancement Fund is invested and only the interest can be spent, so your donation will work forever to maintain this beautiful Grand Lodge Building. With each donation of \$30.00 or more, the donor will receive a Grand Lodge Building Enhancement Fund lapel pin. For a donation of \$500.00 or more, your name will be engraved on the columns in the front foyer as a major contributor. Pamphlets on how to become a Mason and other Masonic material is available in the Grand Lodge Office. Thank you for your interest in Masonry and our Grand Lodge Building.



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# GRAND LODGE OF TENNESSEE



# VISITOR'S GUIDE

**Date of Visit** \_\_\_\_\_

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Tennessee. This is a very historical building in the very heart of downtown Nashville, Tennessee, among many modern hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions and State Capitol.

It was built for the very purpose for which it now serves, a meeting place for all Masonic Bodies. The building was originally built by the Scottish Rite and the First Stated Meeting was held on March 8, 1925.



The cornerstone for the Temple was laid by Grand Master Walter M. Taylor on January 31, 1923. This cornerstone laying was well attended with all the Grand Lodge Officers present. Attendance was estimated at 3,000, with Officers and members of all Masonic Bodies present. The cost of the building in 1925 was \$736,000.

The name of the building when completed in 1925 was "Scottish Rite Temple". The Temple was officially dedicated by the Scottish Rite at a ceremony held on April 13, 1925. Due to financial strain and low membership, the Scottish Rite Temple was sold to the Grand Lodge of Masons on May 20, 1937 at a closed auction for a price of \$150,000. The name was changed from Scottish Rite Temple to the Grand Lodge Building. It now serves as the home of Masonry in Tennessee.

In addition to the Grand Lodge offices, offices are maintained by the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Fund, Grand York Rite Bodies and the Scottish Rite, Valley of Nashville.

## TOUR OF THE BUILDING

We begin our tour of the Grand Lodge Building at the office of the Grand Secretary. This is where the records of the Grand Lodge are kept. The offices of the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and the conference rooms are located in this section. The address of the building and offices is 100 Seventh Avenue North, Suite 4, Nashville, TN 37203.

## FIRST FLOOR OR LOBBY

Just outside the Grand Secretary's office is the main lobby. This is where the brethren assemble for the Grand Lodge annual Communication as they register with the credentials committee each March. Pictures of all the living Past Grand Masters are placed around the wall beginning with the present Grand Master in the center of the east wall counter clockwise from the youngest living Past Master to the oldest living Past Master in seniority. Down the two hallways are the pictures of deceased Past Grand Masters.

## LIBRARY AND STUDY ROOM

The library has books maintained by the Scottish Rite and is used for study group meetings conducted around two large conference tables. The door to the Grand Master's office is located in this room.



Along the wall are pictures of early Past Grand Masters beginning with the very first Past Grand Master of Tennessee, Thomas Claiborne, who died in 1856 and is buried in the Old City Cemetery in Nashville, TN. The first Grand Lodge meeting was held in Knoxville in 1813. There have been three presidents of the United States who were Masons in Tennessee: Andrew Jackson (who served as Grand Master in 1822 & 1823), James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson.

## SECOND OR AUDITORIUM FLOOR

The first room is called the Class Room. This is where the Scottish Rite Lodge of Perfection meets. Also, the class reunite before Observance. The room is 41-1/2 feet wide and 72 feet long with an 18 foot curved ceiling.



## AUDITORIUM

The auditorium seats 1,206 people and has 12 exits. This is where the Grand Lodge meets every March. Also, the Scottish Rite Reunions and some York Rite Festivals are held in this auditorium.



The auditorium is wide and long. The ceiling is 46 feet high. Working space on the floor is 36 x 45 feet. The large chandelier in the auditorium is 12 feet in diameter. It used to take about two hours to lower and four hours to raise by hand crank but is now electric. The stage is 39 feet deep, 92 feet wide and 68 feet from the floor to the roof. There are several curtain backdrops for the various degrees in the Scottish and York Rite. The acoustics in the auditorium are great. The auditorium has been used by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

## HALL AROUND THE AUDITORIUM

In the well lighted hall in front of the auditorium are pictures of all the Masonic Lodges in Tennessee with their name and number. From the hall on the north side is a wardrobe and dressing room for the York Rite. From the hall on the south side is a storage room for Observance Lodge and a stage crew room. Just before going down the stairs on the left is the green room for all Masonic bodies.

## FIRST FLOOR

On the first floor north side, we enter the Scottish Rite wardrobe and dressing room with a large display on the wall. Going down the north hall with pictures of deceased Past Grand Masters, we find the office of the Grand York Rite Bodies: Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery where the records of the Grand York Rite Bodies are kept. Also, down this hall is the Grand Lodge conference room and Scottish Rite office where visitors are welcome and Masonic jewelry is on display and for sale. The Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Fund office is located here as well.

