

HISTORY AND FACTS ABOUT THE TEMPLE

Before the present Temple was built, the Masonic Bodies were located in two different places. The Masonic Lodge was located at 528 Maine and Quincy Consistory was in what was then called the Newcomb Building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Maine. In 1879, there was a destructive fire which destroyed the Newcomb Building and with it Quincy Consistory. After the fire, repeated efforts to combine all bodies and funds and build a new home for all Masonic Bodies in Quincy were tried. It was not until 1906 when The Quincy Masonic Temple Association was chartered by the State of Illinois that this came about. In May of 1908 a site was selected at 5th. and Jersey and the land purchased at a cost of \$7,000.00.

John Batschy was directed to design the building and after the approval of all Bodies, the Corner Stone was laid on July 20, 1910 by the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. It was later dedicated on October 27, 1911.

The total cost of the Temple, including land was \$84,000.00.

The basement contains two dining rooms and a large kitchen. We are able to serve 300 people at one seating.

On the first floor are the main lobby, parlor, small meeting room, and the Symbolic or Blue Lodge Room. The columns in the lobby are hand carved mahogany, the oak parquet floor is hand cut and fitted being installed with no nails. The original furniture found in the parlor is hand carved olive wood imported from Italy.

In the Symbolic Lodge Room you will notice that the gas jets still remain along with the electric fixtures. When electricity was installed, they used the gas pipes to run the wire in. Most of the furniture in the room was placed there when the building was opened in 1911. A lecture chart in the room is irreplaceable and was hand painted by an unknown artist who was a transient.

The room also contains a pipe organ and is still used today at installations and meetings.

Upon entering or leaving the Lodge Room you will notice the large mirror. It was a gift of the Knights Templar and was placed there in 1911.

The stairway between floors including doorways and balustrades are hand carved butternut.

On the second floor is the pool room and card room. The pool tables are from the the early 20's and are still used almost daily. We also use this area for our Masonic Library and some storage.

The third floor contains two lodge rooms, storage closets, several offices and the York Rite equipment room. All of the wood in this area is butternut. The large Lodge Room is used by the York Rite, the two Eastern Star Chapters, White Shrine and Jobs Daughters. Once again most all of the furniture is from 1911.

The small Lodge Room on this floor contains the furniture from the old Lodge building at 6th. and Maine. It was moved here when the Temple was opened. Grotto now meets in this room.

Of interest, in the hallway of this floor can be found a picture of Steven