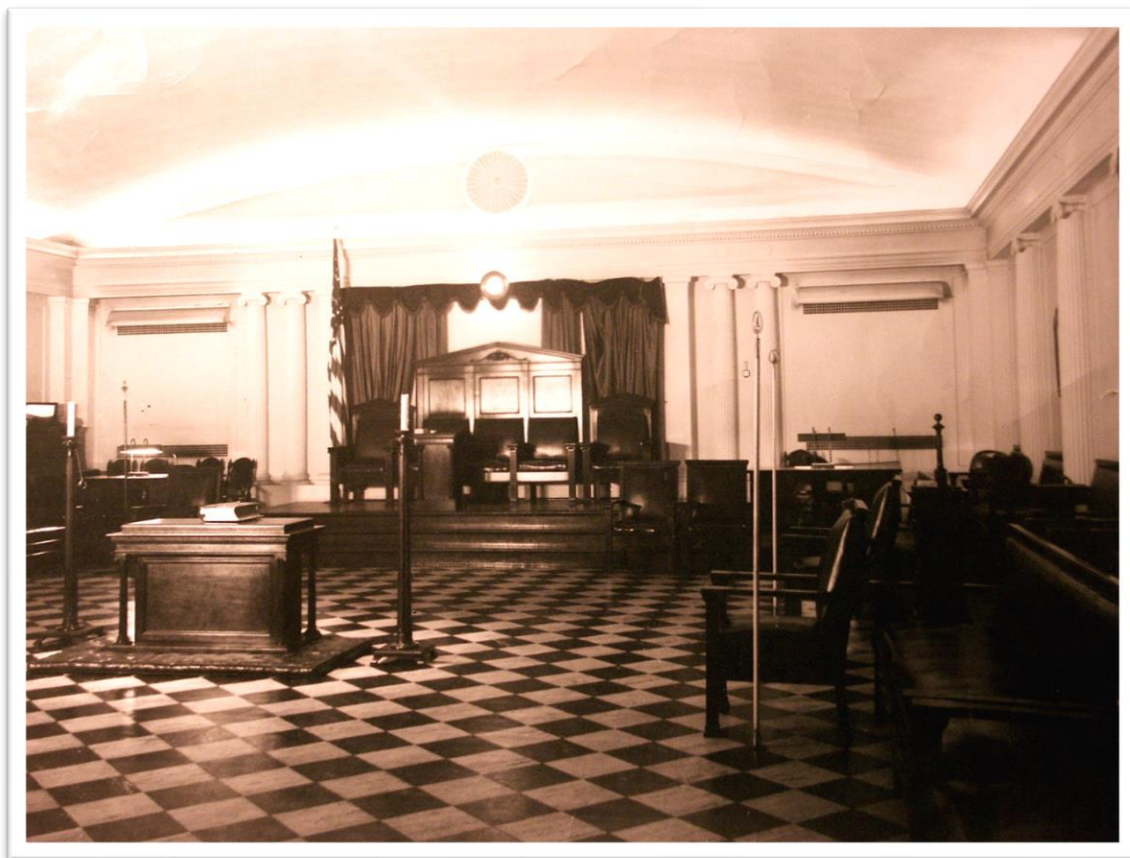


**Mt. Moriah #28**  
**History of Lodge Rooms & Building**



Colorized and edited artist rendition circa 1920 of  
Mt. Moriah #28 Lodge Building  
121 Farnsworth Ave., Bordentown, New Jersey



**Graphically filtered photo circa 1950 of the Lodge Room**

The following excerpts were taken from two former Lodge historian's written records. The first account is a narrative by former Worshipful Master and Past Grand Chaplain, Carl H. Doan (who was Lodge Historian at the time of this writing). The second account was compiled from former Worshipful Master and Most Worshipful Grand Master of New Jersey Lewis M. Parker.



### **[A Brief History of Mount Moriah Lodge – 1853 to 2004](#)**

**RWB Carl Doan - Author**

**DB William Jennings Historian - Editor**

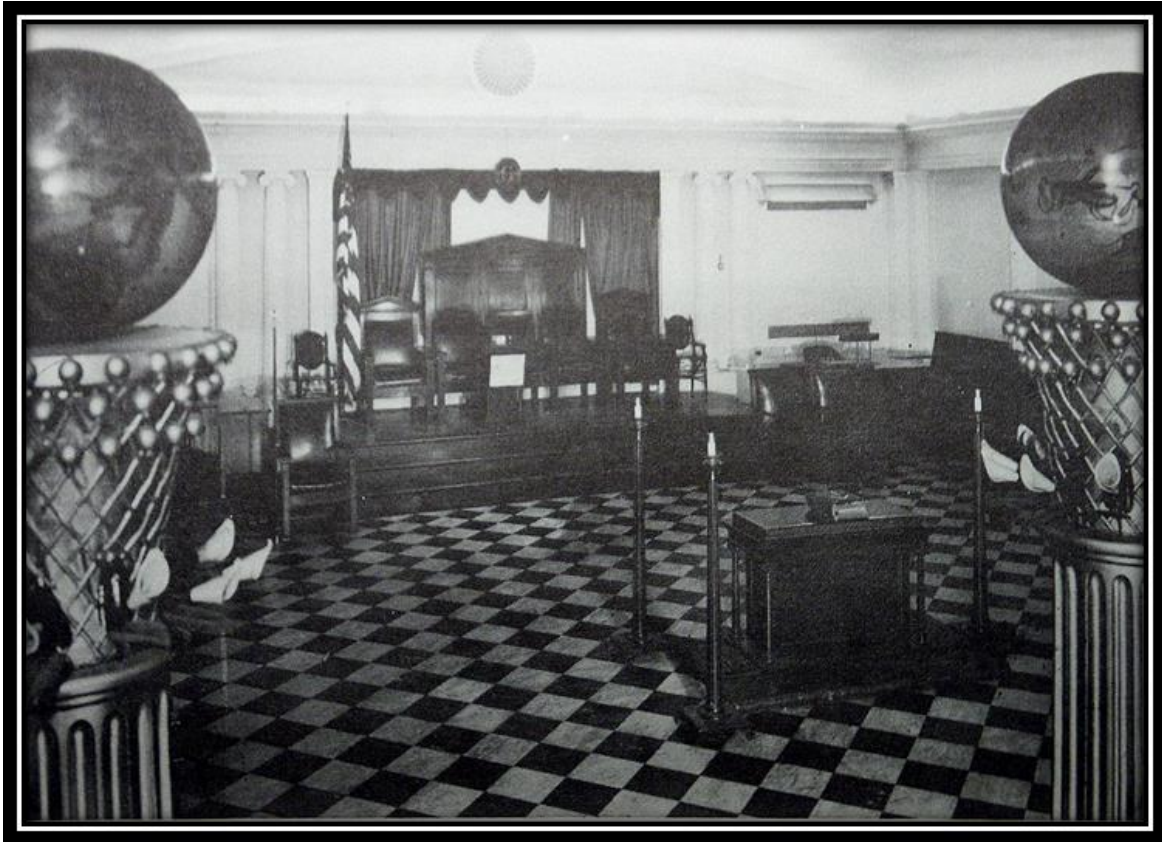
Over the years, the Lodge has met in several different buildings. The Brethren initially reached an agreement with the Directors to rent a room at Bordentown Borough Hall for \$62.50. The room was subdivided and gas piping installed. By 1859 meetings were being held in a building owned by the Sons of Temperance, located on Prince Street. (This location is no longer in existence.) The Brethren

attempted to purchase the building. The following quote was taken from a report of the result of this effort. "The Committee appointed at a special meeting to purchase the Sons of Temperance Hall reported that they bid until the price went beyond the limit allowed by the Lodge, they therefore did not purchase."

A short time later, the Lodge relocated to a new building in town, owned by the Bordentown Hall Association. Over the years the Lodge continued to purchase shares in this building as follows. In 1888, the Trustees bought 120 shares at a price of \$8.50 a share. (This was a practice which eventually gave way to term leasing.) In 1894 the Trustees were authorized to renew the lease of the Lodge room for 10 years at \$75.00 per year.

As many who have been tenants experience, our members had issues with other building residents. A "Special Communication" was sent to the Bordentown Hall Association concerning the cause of "noise below." This emanated from a dancing school that apparently interrupted some of the Lodge regular communications. Over time, the Lodge members also made improvements to their home; renovating the entranceway, constructing a fire escape and building an anteroom closet. Anecdotally, the Tyler was instructed to purchase twenty spittoons for the Lodge Room as a convenience for the brethren. (No doubt to help keep the floor clean and sanitary.)

In the early 1920's, members of the Lodge decided to purchase the building. By 1923 the Lodge had purchased all of the stock in the Bordentown Hall Association. Now they were the proud owners of the building that we call our Lodge in historic Bordentown. At one time, meetings were being held in rooms that occupy the third floor. For a time, the ground floor was the site of the United States Post Office. This space was later altered with a vaulted ceiling and became a movie theater. A dry goods store also occupied the basement of the building for some time. Renovations placed the present Lodge room on the second floor after the movie theater closed. It's also interesting to note that during the late 1800's and early 1900's, the Royal Arch Chapter and Commandery used the Bordentown Hall building as a meeting place by renting the adjacent room on the third floor.



Lodge Room circa 1930

**Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Lewis M. Parker – Author**  
**Edited and Transcribed by Distinguished Brother William Jennings – Historian**

The following are selections taken from "[Mount Moriah History 1853 to 1978](#)"



**1855 W.M. - Robert C. Buzby S.W. - Samuel B. Dougherty J.W. - Charles C. Buzby**

The Lodge felt the need for more adequate quarters, and a committee was appointed to consider the matter. The minutes of the Annual Communication of December 12th read as follows,

"The committee appointed to confer with the Directors of the Bordentown Hall reports that they had done so and rented a room for \$62.50 per year, and the same would be subdivided and walls deafened as directed, and pipes put in so as to bring the gas to the branches. The report was perfectly satisfactory and the committee was continued with further instructions to see that the walls, etc. were done to their wish."

The Bordentown Hall referred to is our present building. It was erected by the Bordentown Hall Association, a joint stock venture of a number of citizens for the purpose of providing rental space for businesses, groups and special activities. The minutes of the Lodge for many years gives its' meeting place as the City Hall Building (giving the erroneous impression of a municipal building).

**1856 W.M. - Robert C. Buzby S.W. - William Porter J.W. - Charles C. Buzby**

Early in the year, a committee was appointed with full power to have the room to which the Lodge intended moving, "Furnished and fitted up as they deem necessary and to see what could be done concerning the financing thereof."

On June 11th, the first communication of the Lodge was held in its new room on the third floor of Bordentown Hall. This meeting was largely attended by members and visitors - included in the latter were ten members from the newly formed Hightstown Lodge No. 41.

The cost of the Lodge furnishings is listed as \$228.14 and this was probably met largely by subscriptions.

**1859 W.M. - James W. Allen S.W. - John Shaw J.W. - Henry Brown**

The young Lodge was desirous of obtaining a home of its own, as is shown by the minutes of June 22nd, "The Committee appointed at the Special Meeting to purchase the Sons of Temperance Hall, reported that they bid until the price went beyond the limit allowed by the Lodge, they therefore did not purchase."

**1876 W.M. - William C. Wilson S.W. - John O. Hudson J.W. - Lewis Jemison**

The Lodge Room was completely renovated at total cost of \$1,268.85.

**1877 W.M. - William C. Wilson S.W. - John O. Hudson J.W. - William H. Wilson**

The Lodge minutes have this to say about the renovated Lodge room, "Having one of the handsomest furnished rooms in the jurisdiction, procured at the lowest possible price, and insured for \$1,000, everything being receipted and paid. Our present accommodations are sufficiently ample to answer all demands of this generation of members."

**1883 W.M. - Edwin S. Buzby S.W. - William K. Roberson J.W. - William B. Bunting, Jr.**

Trustees instructed to confer with City Hall Association to see if our entrance at the lower front door could be improved.

**1888 W.M. - Henry Wetteroth S.W. - William A. Worrell J.W. - Aaron Robbins**

The Trustees bought 35 shares City Hall stock at \$8.50 per share and later bought 85 more shares at the same price.

An estimate of \$60.00 was received to build a fire escape, half to be borne by the Chapter and the Commandery. Later the price was reduced to \$50.00 and the job was done.

**1890 W. M. - Henry Wetteroth S.W. - Joseph L. Wickes J.W. - Robert C. Hutchinson**

There was a Committee appointed, "To ascertain the cost of a sign with Masonic Hall painted upon it, in black and gold, and to be placed across the front of the Lodge building." The cost was ascertained to be \$17.50 for the sign, with 11-inch letters. Lodge members voted its approval, with Chapter, and Commandery each to pay one third. And the sign was obtained.

**1893 W.M. - Harry B. Goodwin S.W. - Frank G. Dibert J.W. - Isaac E. Antrim**

The Lodge bought 5 more shares of Hall Association stock at \$8.50 per share.



**1898 - The Masonic Home Opens W.M. - Ira C. Leedom S.W. - Harry W. Kunz J.W. - Harry Coundit**

A Committee was appointed with power to purchase City Hall stock, advertised to be sold at Public Sale. The price to be paid was at the discretion of Committee. Subsequently, nine shares were purchased at \$6.00 (per share).

**1919 - World War I Ends June 28<sup>th</sup> W.M. - Elmore F. Furth S.W. - Clarence D. Crobaugh J.W. - Joseph I. Burroughs**

It was reported that shares in Burlington Building and Loan would soon expire. Consequently, the Trustees were authorized to buy 15 new shares.

**1920 W.M. - Clarence D. Crobaugh S.W. - Joseph J. Burroughs J.W. - J. Harold Lucas**

Trustees were asked to look into the matter of our purchasing this building, and were authorized to offer \$6 per share, for stock of the Hall Association.



**1920's postcard of Farnsworth Ave., Bordentown, NJ**

**1923 W.M. - John A. Campbell S.W. - Harry Reeves J.W. - William T. Strang**

Brother Anderson reported that all stock of the Bordentown Hall Association had been purchased by the Lodge, and the Directors of the Association were now the Trustees, Treasurer and Secretary of the Lodge. The United States Post Office had been secured as a tenant for the lower floor, and necessary alterations were made to accommodate it.

**1924 W.M. - Harry Reeves S.W. - William T. Strang J.W. - Elwood S. Peiffer, Jr.**

Worshipful Brother George W. Swift gave \$5,000.00 to the Lodge. This was used to redeem bonds outstanding against the Hall Association, to the sum of \$4,075.

Proposed plans and specifications were presented for the renovation of the building, and bids for the work amounted to \$12,965.48. These plans provided for the use of the second floor as our Lodge Room.

### **1925 - Purchase of the Lodge Building**

**W.M. - William T. Strang S.W. - Elwood S. Peiffer, Jr. J.W. - Harold B. Dubell**

The Directors of the Hall Association reported that all stock was now owned by the Lodge. The building mortgage bonds of \$4,000 were paid. Insurance of \$30,000.00 was held on the building, with \$4,000.00 on furniture and fixtures. All taxes and bills were paid, and there was cash on hand of \$1,370.00.



Colorized and graphically edited postcard of Mt. Moriah #28 Lodge circa 1920

**1926 W. M. - Elwood S. Peiffer, Jr. S.W. - Harold B. Dubell J.W. - Earl W. Harris**

The Lodge effort for funds, to renovate our building, resulted in total subscriptions of \$23,350.00.



**1941 America Attacked and Declares War on Japan December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**W.M. Carlton W. Haines S.W. - Daniel W. Yochum J.W. - Henry W. W. Carey**

The Order of the Eastern Star donated \$25.00 toward the cost of renovating first floor.

**1942 - World War II W.M. - Daniel W. Yochum S.W. - Henry W. W. Carey J.W. - Harvey H. Wyckoff**

Following the fire at the High School, the Board of Education requested the temporary use of the first-floor room for teaching purposes. Approval was immediately given and the first floor was used by the High School for the greater part of the year.

Permission was given to the American Red Cross to use the first floor for a blood bank.

**1948 W.M. - Robert D. Morgan S.W. - John R. Dougherty J.W. - Howard M. Rogers**

There was discussion as to the use of our first floor as a recreation area for members.

**1956 W.M. - Elmer Dwier, Jr. S.W. - Lester E. Gennett J.W. - Edward Bockle**

Renovation Committee reported that suggested improvements would cost \$38,000.00. They were authorized to proceed on this basis. Trustees and officers were authorized to incur indebtedness not in excess of \$30,000.00.

**1957 W.M. - Lester E. Gennett S.W. - Edward Bockle J.W. - Morris F. Herbert**

When bids were received for building improvements, the total cost amounted to \$50,194.00, instead of the anticipated \$38,000.00. The Lodge voted to incur the additional indebtedness and authorized borrowing up to \$40,000.00.

**1958 W.M. - Edward Bockle S.W. - Morris F. Herbert J.W. - A. Robert Brick**

Use of the first floor granted to Burlington County Shrine Club for March and September meetings.

**1959 W.M. - Morris F. Herbert S.W. - A. Robert Brick J.W. - Thomas R. Dougherty**

The Charity Fund invested \$7000.00 in notes of the Bordentown Masonic Hall Association.

**1961 - Craftsman Club Initiated W.M. - Thomas R. Dougherty S.W. - John W. Baxter J.W. - James E. McCay**

The inscription "Masonic Temple" was placed on front of our Lodge building.

There was the formation of a Craftsman Club within the lodge.

**1962 W.M. - John W. Baxter S.W. - James E. McCay J.W. - Charles A. Parker**

An apartment house type lock, with suitable controls was installed on the outside front door with an inter-com system was installed on door of ante-room.

There was a set of rules adopted for use of first floor lounge.

**1967- Vietnam War Years W.M. - Frank Katona S.W. - William A. Carter J.W. - Charles E. Gamel**

The Knights Templar swords of Brothers Leedom, Burr, and Atkinson were presented to the Lodge and placed in a case in first floor lounge.

**1971- Vietnam War Years W.M. - Robert C. Guest S.W. - Richard H. Trout J.W. - Vincent G. Bruno**

During the summer, many members worked on the outside front of the Temple, burning off old paint and repainting it. Inside was completely repainted on second floor and new stair treads installed. Also, the Fire escape was rebuilt and roof repaired.

**1975 - First Public Installation of Officers W.M. - Harry W. Fauver S.W. - Laurence E. Plummer J.W. - John K. McCoy**

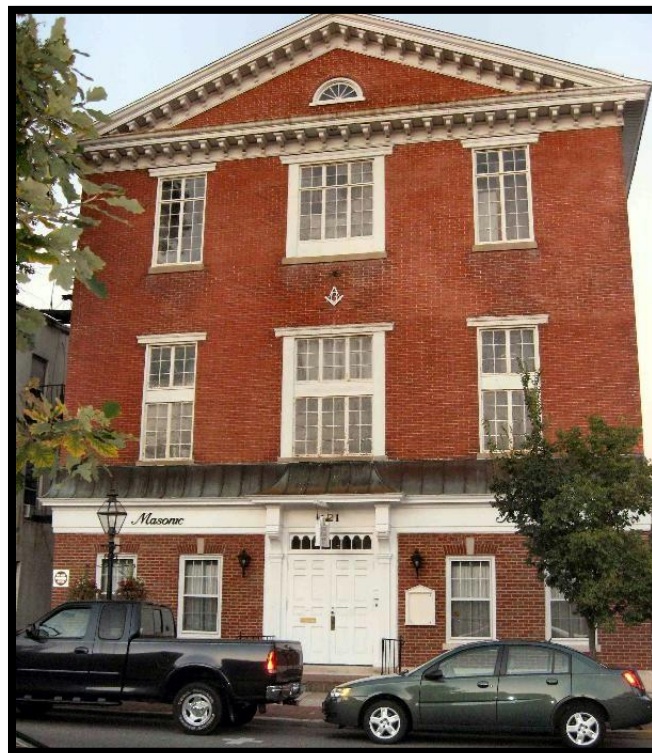
Repairs were found necessary for the roof, cornice and exterior of the building. Costs were estimated to be \$25,000.00. The Trustees were authorized to use \$15,000.00 of Debt Reduction Funds, and to borrow \$10,000.00.

**1979 W.M. - Charles A. Tantum S.W. - Ronald R. Meadows J.W. - Herbert W. Borgstrom**

A portrait of Most Worshipful Brothers Parker, Carl, Dougherty, and Pepler was presented.



**Lodge Room 2004**



**Mt. Moriah Lodge #28**