

THE FREEMASONS' HALL.

The original Freemasons' Hall stood at the rear of the Freemasons' Tavern in Great Queen Street, W.C. The foundation stone of this historic building was laid on 1st May, 1775, and the structure which cost upwards of £20,000 was opened by Lord Petre on 23rd May, 1776.

In 1664 the Earl of Netland laid the foundation stone of the new frontage to Great Queen Street on the site of the old tavern.

A disastrous fire occurred on 3rd May, 1888, which destroyed a large part of the building, including the Temple.

Reconstruction work was immediately put in hand, and a new Grand Temple was opened on 28th April, 1889, by the Earl of Lathom.

The last meeting held in the Hall was the Grand Festival of 28th April, 1927, and the demolition was begun on 2nd March, 1927, preparatory to the erection of the Masonic Peace Memorial.

The foundation stone of this magnificent edifice, which cost over £1,000,000 was laid on 14th July, 1927, and the Grand Temple was dedicated on 19th July, 1928.

Both ceremonies were performed by the Grand Master, H.B.L. the Duke of Connaught.



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