

The George Washington



Masonic National Memorial

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

*Open to the General Public
Daily From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Except New Year's, Thanksgiving, and
Christmas Day*

Scheduled Tower Tours -- 9:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.

WELCOME TO THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL. This Memorial, originally conceived as a tribute to the memory of George Washington, has become a showcase of the best that Freemasonry represents. In our museum, library, and exhibit rooms, the casual tourist, the historical researcher, and the serious student of masonry will find a wealth of information.

This pamphlet is intended to provide a brief overview of our exhibits and a short history of the Memorial. If you have any questions, our curators and tour guides will be pleased to provide you with in-depth answers. Should you require any assistance during your visit, please notify any uniformed member of our staff.

SITE

Overlooking the Potomac River, at Alexandria, Virginia, the Memorial stands on a thirty-six acre tract atop Shooter's Hill, 108 feet above sea level. The site has a colorful history of its own, having been deeded to the Shuter family at the founding of Alexandria in exchange for a portion of the riverfront. The hill was selected by Jefferson and Hamilton as the site of our national Capitol; that selection was vetoed by Washington in favor of the Capitol's current location across the Potomac. During the War Between the States, while Federal troops occupied the city, Shooter's Hill was the location of Fort Ellsworth. It is likely that the frequent artillery practice at Fort Ellsworth resulted in the change of name from Shuter's Hill to Shooter's Hill.

HISTORY

In 1788, the masons of Alexandria, meeting until then as Alexandria Lodge No. 39 under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, received a Charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia as Alexandria Lodge No. 22. That Virginia Charter, still in the possession of the lodge, designated George Washington as the first Worshipful Master of the lodge. Washington retained that office until December, 1789; the latter part of his term coincided with the first eight months of his Presidency.

Owing to Washington's close relationship with his lodge, the lodge came into possession of a number of valuable personal relics of their beloved brother. Over the years, these treasured mementoes were displayed to the public in the lodge's quarters on Cameron Street. In 1871, a fire destroyed many of the lodge's possessions; out of the ashes of that fire arose the dream of a permanent, fireproof repository for the Washington relics.

The city of Alexandria has always cherished its intimate connection with George Washington; he helped survey its streets, served on the Touro Parish vestry, supported the city's first free school, and represented the area in the House of Burgesses. Yet, Alexandrians have long known that the greatness of Washington could not be contained by parochial sentiments; he belongs to all men, in all ages. Accordingly, when the members of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 (the name was amended in 1805) developed their plan, they decided to invite all of the masons in the United States to share in their dream. On February 22, 1910, at the invitation of the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a national association which would erect a Masonic Temple as a memorial to George Washington, the mason.

Ground was broken on June 5, 1922, after enough funds had been raised through voluntary contributions from masons and masonic bodies to begin construction. The cornerstone was laid with masonic ceremony on November 1, 1923. Charles H. Callahan, as Acting Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, used the same silver trowel which had been used by George

Washington in laying the cornerstone of the United States Capitol. Callahan was assisted by President Calvin Coolidge, Chief Justice and Brother William H. Taft, and the Grand Masters of all Grand Lodges in the United States. Work proceeded only as funds became available. The building was dedicated on May 12, 1932, with President Herbert Hoover assisting.

THE MEMORIAL TEMPLE

The exterior of the Memorial is based on the design of the lighthouse at Alexandria, Egypt, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. The Memorial is constructed of Conway Pink Granite from New Hampshire. The nine story building stands 333 feet high and measures 168 feet wide by 248 feet long at ground level. The building contains many symbolic elements of great importance to masons. An example of this is the careful blending of all five orders of architecture: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian, respectively, on the three exterior levels of the tower; Composite in Memorial Hall; Tuscan in Assembly Hall; and Doric again in the Auditorium and on the portico.

EXHIBITS AND FEATURES

Visitors entering the Memorial via the east portico arrive in Memorial Hall, which is dominated by the Bryant Baker statue of Washington as Worshipful Master. This heroic bronze statue stands 17'3" tall and weighs eight tons. It was presented by the Order of DeMolay. President Harry S. Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri, participated in the unveiling, February 22, 1950. On the north and south walls of Memorial Hall are located two murals: *George Washington and Brethren in Saint John's Day Observance -- Christ Church, Philadelphia -- 28 December 1778* and *George Washington Laying the Cornerstone of the National Capitol -- 13 September 1793*. The murals were painted by Allyn Cox, whose work appears throughout the Memorial, as well as in the United States Capitol. Also on this level is the Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 Replica Lodge Room. This room contains the most precious Washington memorabilia: the chair which Washington gave to the lodge, from his library at Mount Vernon; the bedchamber clock, stopped by Doctor Dick at the moment of Washington's death; the William Williams portrait of Washington; and the working tools, including the silver trowel, used in the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol. At the rear of this floor are the lodge rooms and the Auditorium.

From Memorial Hall, visitors ascend to the tower rooms with the aid of a unique pair of elevators; these elevators, designed by the Otis Elevator Company, rise at a 7½ degree vertical incline. The third floor is the Grotto Archives Room. The fourth floor, the George Washington Museum, is a gift of the Supreme Councils, Northern and Southern Jurisdiction, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Among its ex-

hibits, dealing with the multifaceted life of Washington, is the Washington family Bible, donated to the Memorial by Anne and Patty Washington. The fifth and seventh floors contain exhibits pertaining to, and were furnished by, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the General Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, respectively. The sixth floor Library which contains many of the Washington family papers and other valuable volumes, is the gift of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and is open to researchers, only, by appointment. The eighth floor chapel was furnished by the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar. The ninth floor contains a composite reproduction of elements of King Solomon's Temple, designed and furnished by the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Also on the ninth floor is the observation deck, from which visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Descending to the first floor, visitors will find the Assembly Hall, with its three hundred year old Royal Meshed Persian rug, and the dioramas depicting significant events in the life of Washington. Also on this floor are the Shrine Rooms East and the mechanical Imperial Shrine Parade exhibit.

MEMBERSHIP

Each Grand Lodge in the United States is an active member of the Association. Any recognized masonic body or individual mason may become an honorary member by making a financial contribution to the Memorial. Every Master Mason or masonic body should cherish membership in The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. You are, therefore, invited to consider making application for membership in the Association in one of the following categories: SUSTAINING or LIFE.

A \$100.00 contribution purchases a Sustaining Membership, and the member receives an appropriate certificate. A \$200.00 contribution purchases a Life Membership, and the member receives a handsomely engrossed certificate. The above classes of members also receive a lapel pin in the form of the Memorial. Make checks payable to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association and mail, with application on the reverse side of this brochure, to: The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. All contributions to the Memorial are tax deductible.

BEQUESTS

The following language is suggested in making a bequest to the Association.

General Bequest: I give, bequeath and devise to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, a Virginia Corporation, located at Alexandria, Virginia, the sum

of . . . dollars, for the use and benefit of the Memorial, operated and maintained by said corporation.

Bequest of Residue: I give, bequeath and devise all of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, whether real or personal, and wherever situated, of which I may die possessed, to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, a Virginia Corporation, located at Alexandria, Virginia, for the use and benefit of the Memorial, operated and maintained by said corporation.

APPLICATION

- \$100.00 Sustaining Membership
- \$250.00 Life Membership

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Lodge (if applicable)

Jurisdiction

2008/41-1094

The Association has produced a 15-minute, 16mm, full color and sound movie of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It can be obtained on loan from: **Director of Audio Visual Services, Virginia State Travel Service, 202 North Ninth Street, Suite 500, Richmond, Virginia 23220 (804-786-2051)**. There is no charge for use of the film. Give your zip code with your address.

Color slides (35mm) of the Memorial are available on loan from the Secretary-Treasurer of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. There are 50 slides in each set. An explanatory script accompanies each set.

We request that the above film and slides be returned to the sender promptly after use. Mark return package: Library Material, P.L.&R. 135-215.

"THE PRIDE OF ALL FREEMASONS" is a new audio/slide show on The George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The show describes the Memorial, its history and its meaning to the masonic fraternity. It comes complete with carousel tray, cassette tape and script. It is available on loan or through purchase from the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Memorial. Purchase price is \$50.00. Direct request for loan or purchase to the Secretary-Treasurer at the Memorial.

We request that loaner copies of the show be returned by UPS to:

**The George Washington Masonic National Memorial
101 Callahan Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
Telephone: (703) 683-2007**

