

Bremerton Temple History

Architect George Willis Lawton (1864-1928) was born in Wisconsin on December 29, 1864. He moved to Seattle around 1886 and initially worked as a draftsman for the architectural firm of Saunders & Houghton. By 1889, he emerged as a partner with Charles Saunders. Together Saunders & Lawton designed a wide range of Hotels. They also designed some of the first structures at the Veterans Home in Retsil (1908) and the public Library (1914) in Sedro Woolley. Also contributed to the development of the Pioneer Square area including the Norton Building (1904); the Mottman Building (1906); the Goldsmith Building (1907); and the Provident Building (1910) building. They adeptly used a wide range of revival styles, including Romanesque, Classical, Tudor and Colonial modes.

For unknown reasons, the partnership was dissolved in 1914 and Lawton worked independently for another eight years. Projects included the Veteran's Home Hospital in Retsil (1919); **Victory Memorial Masonic Temple in Bremerton (1919)**, Women's Dorm at WA State Veterans Home (1917) in Port Orchard; and the King County Juvenile Home (1915) in Seattle. In 1922 he formed a new partnership with the younger Herman A. Moldenhour (1880-1976). Moldenhour, also from the midwest, had been an office boy for the Saunders & Lawton firm.

Mr. Lawton was a member of the Arctic Club and was prominent in Masonic circles. (Arcane Lodge #87)

VICTORY MEMORIAL STRUCTURE
 SPLENDIDLY FINISHED AND
 EQUIPPED WITH PROVISIONS
 FOR ALL BUSINESS AND SOCIAL
 PURPOSES AND ACCOMMODA-
 TIONS OF VISITING MASONS.

The Victory Memorial Temple, new home of Bremerton Masons, will open March 1, according to R. S. Hayward, secretary of the Masonic Temple Association.

The building of red brick enhanced by white stone, located on the corner of Fifth and Warren, has cost approximately \$90,000, and the furnishings will amount to \$25,000.

In designing the temple the architect has especially borne in mind the entertainment of visiting Masons. In a town such as Bremerton, where hundreds of Masons among the officers and men of the Pacific fleet make their temporary quarters, a provision of this sort is deemed necessary.

The large lodge room, measuring 60 by 74 feet, is finished in mahogany, and contains furniture of mahogany upholstered in leather.

All lighting is hidden, and is arranged with an adjustment for dimming, and colored lights. The organ is located on the balcony, which has been arranged for seating an overflow. Bronze knockers on all the doors will save the knuckles of the initiated when

(Continued on page eight.)

MASONIC TEMPLE WILL OPEN ON MARCH 1

(Continued from page one.)

they seek admittance by the mystic rap.

The walls of the lodge room will eventually be decorated with designs and picturizations which will be selected later.

The small lodge room is 25 by 45 feet, and will be used for minor meetings.

A banquet and dancing hall with a floor of hardwood maple, 4,500 feet square in the basement, presages success for the Eastern Star ball which will occur March 21.

A kitchen equipped with electric ranges and the most modern of cupboards, displays in its completeness the designing care which the architects bestowed upon the preparation of nourishing food for his brother Masons.

A large recreation room on the second floor, containing books, writing materials and billiard tables, will take care of members seeking diversion.

Coats and Officers' Rain Coats, Best Quality
 Prices.

Excellent Suit Cases and Hand Bag
 Unquestionable.

Cotton Night Shirts, Summer Weight; I
 Can Afford Them.

J. A. KNAB
 218 FRONT ST.

A lady's parlor, a trustee's room, and caretaker's suite, are also on the second floor.

In addition to the main apartments, numerous consultation chambers, locker rooms, and mysterious crannies of which none but the initiated know the purpose fill the three stories of

the new temple.

A distinctive feature are the bronze knobs and plates, decorated with Masonic insignia, which adorn all the doors.

The building of the temple has been accomplished by an association composed entirely of Masons. The officers

Building Which Will Have Cost \$100,000 When Ready for Occupancy Provides for Every Comfort and Convenience—Will Be Dedicated Sometime in April.

BREMERTON, Saturday, Feb. 7.—The magnificent new Masonic Temple, to be known as the Victory Memorial Temple is now nearing complete for its kind in the United Warren Streets and plans are under way to begin lodge sessions in it about the first of March.

The building is one of the most complete, for its kind in the United States, and will cost, when fully equipped, approximately \$100,000. Its construction was expected to begin about the time the World War involved the United States and the building was therefore postponed until after the signing of the armistice. The cornerstone was laid with due ceremony, on July 4, 1919 and it was therefore natural that the building should be known as the Victory Memorial Temple.

It is designed to accommodate all the York Rite bodies of Masonry, and up to and including the Lodge of Perfection of the Scottish Rite; the Order of the Eastern Star and the Order of the Amaranth, together with features for meeting social needs incident to these various bodies.

The building is constructed of red brick, with cast concrete trimmings and pilasters and presents a most attractive appearance because of its simplicity and dignity of design. Its interior construction is thoroughly fire-proof, the floors being of reinforced concrete and the partitions of solid plaster on wire lath.

Ventilation Is Feature.

Entering the building, one finds a large lobby, with stairways leading to both upper and lower floors. On the main floor, just off the lobby are the principal ante-rooms and lodge rooms.

The main feature of the entire building is the large lodge room,

which is Ionic in design, having thirty-eight of these pillars supporting a cornice, behind which the entire illumination of this room is concealed. The walls extend to the roof, which represents a massive dome, through which ventilation is secured by means of air forced into the room under pressure, and air outlets are provided under the platforms on which the seats are built. This room is 48x70 feet including a balcony where the organ is located. There are three tiers of seats on each side of the room and four tiers in the balcony, making a total seating capacity of about 500 persons. The finish in this room is mahogany and the furniture is of mahogany upholstered in Spanish leather.

The small lodge room is also on this floor; this room being 26x45 feet, and can be used simultaneously with the large room. The finish and furniture in this room are of golden oak, and it is lighted by four 200-watt drop lights. Both rooms are so constructed that the entire lighting is done by artificial means. Back of this room is the locker room for records and properties of the various Masonic bodies. A stairway between these two rooms leads to the reading room and the trustees' room above. The remainder of this floor is used for preparation and committee rooms and includes a rest room for men.

On the upper floor, over the small lodge room, is the reading and recreation room, 26x53 feet. Back of this room is the trustees' parlor, which is 16x26 feet. The finish and woodwork in these two rooms is in a pearl lavender. A ladies' parlor and rest room are also provided on this floor and is 15x27 feet. There is also a suite of rooms included on this floor for the caretaker. An armory for the

exclusive use of the Commandery is back of the caretaker's suite and is reached from a door leading into the balcony of the large lodge room.

Banquet and Ballroom.

In the basement is located a banquet and dancing room 75x60 feet, making a total of about 4,500 square feet, and this room will be used for the first time on March 21, when the annual Eastern Star ball will be given.

Adjacent to this room is a large, well appointed kitchen, equipped for the preparation and serving of banquets. Beyond the kitchen is the boiler room, containing two large sectional boilers for general heating and a small boiler for heating water used in the kitchen and various rest rooms.

The ventilation for the entire building is secured by means of a pressure fan located under the roof, forcing the air over steam coils.

The dedication of the temple will be postponed until some time in April, in view of the delay in obtaining some of the furnishings.

The building was designed by George W. Lawton, architect, of Seattle, with H. A. Moldenhour as associate, and the builder is W. A. Parker of Bremerton.

The building of the temple has been accomplished by an association composed entirely of Masons, the officers of which include as president, Capt. Luther E. Gregory, Civil Engineer Corps, U. S. N.; L. A. Bender, vice president; Bart Stephenson, treasurer, and R. S. Hayward as secretary. The trustees are Lieut. Earl C. Weaver, Civil Engineer Corps, U. S. N. R. F.; C. A. Bennet, R. H. Marriott, Martin Ek and B. J. Kean.

Special to The Post-Intelligencer.

BREMERTON, Feb. 7.—Victory Memorial temple, the new \$90,000 home of Bremerton Masons, will be opened March 1, according to R. S. Hayward, secretary of the Masonic Temple Association.

In designing the building, which is of red brick, decorated by white stone, the architect has especially borne in mind the entertainment of visiting Masons. In a town such as Bremerton, where hundreds of members are numbered among the officers and men of visiting ships, such a provision is necessary.

Elegant Lodge Rooms.

Two lodge rooms, one large and one small, occupy the principal portion of the first floor. The large room measures 60x74 feet, and is two stories high. It is finished in mahogany and contains mahogany furniture upholstered in leather. A system of lighting with adjustments for dimming and colored lights has been installed in this room. An organ is located in a balcony which is wired for moving pictures and arranged for seating a possible overflow. Later on the walls will be decorated with suitable designs and pictures, but these have not yet been accepted. Bronze knockers in the form of hammers on the doors of this room will save the knuckles of brethren desiring admittance.

Recreation Floor Elaborate.

On the second floor are a recreation hall containing books, magazines, writing materials and billiard tables, a ladies' parlor, a trustees' room and caretaker's suite.

A banquet and dancing hall with a maple floor containing 45,000 square feet, provides the finest ball room in Bremerton. The initial dance will be given March 21 by the members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

A kitchen equipped with electric ranges and the most modern of cupboards and culinary paraphernalia displays the architect's care in providing for the nourishment of brother Masons.

In addition to the principal apartments, a maze of consulting chambers, locker rooms and crannies whose purpose is known only to the initiated, fill every niche of the generous three stories.

Every door knob in the building is adorned with the square and compass. Bronze plates decorated with Masonic emblems and chapter insignia ornament the outer doors.

The building was constructed by the Masonic Temple Association, aa

Laying of the Corner Stone

of the

Victory Memorial Masonic Temple Bremerton, Washington



by the

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of
Free and Accepted Masons
of Washington

M. W. THOMAS E. SKAGGS,
Grand Master

JULY FOURTH, 1919, A. L. 5919
at High Twelve

Masonic Temple Association of Bremerton Wash.

Wor. Luther E. Gregory, P. M. President
Wor. Lewis A. Bender, P. M. Vice-President
Bro. Bart Stephenson Treasurer
Wor. Roy S. Hayward, P. M. Secretary
Wor. Harry R. Mason, P. M. Trustee
Wor. Ben J. Kean Trustee
Bro. Chas. A. Bennett Trustee
Bro. R. H. Marriott Trustee
Bro. E. C. Weaver Trustee

Masonic Bodies of Bremerton

Bremerton Lodge No. 117, F. & A. M.—Wor. Ben J. Kean, W. M.
Wm. H. Upton Naval & Military Lodge No 206, F. & A. M.—Wor. Geo. A. Hastings, W. M.
Olympus Chapter No. 27, R. A. M.—E. G. Johnson, High Priest
Naval Council No. 11, R. & S. M.—M. D. Hill, III. M.
Malta Commandery No. 18, K. T.—C. M. Perkins, Commander.
Reliance Chapter No. 70, O. E. S.—Mrs. Georgia Knapp, W. M.

BREMERTON SEARCHLIGHT





Program



Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Washington

M. W. Thomas E. Skaggs.....Grand Master
 R. W. James H. Begg.....Deputy Grand Master
 R. W. John Gifford.....Senior Grand Warden
 R. W. James McCormack.....Junior Grand Warden
 M. W. Nathan S. Porter.....Grand Treasurer
 R. W. Horace W. Tyler.....Grand Secretary
 Wor. Rev. H. M. Painter.....Grand Chaplain
 Wor. M. W. Anthony.....Grand Lecturer
 Wor. W. H. Gorham.....Grand Historian
 Wor. Tom W. Holman.....Grand Orator
 Wor. D. Lew Paramore.....Grand Marshal
 Wor. W. W. Gaylord.....Senior Grand Deacon
 Wor. S. H. Dickinson.....Junior Grand Deacon
 Wor. R. V. Greene.....Grand Standard Bearer
 Wor. E. W. Cade.....Grand Sword Bearer
 Wor. John W. Blackwell.....Grand Bible Bearer
 Wor. Fred L. Wolf.....Senior Grand Steward
 Wor. C. E. Torpey.....Junior Grand Steward
 Wor. Charles D. Knight.....Grand Tyler

Chief Architect of the Building—Bro. Geo. W. Lawton,
 of Arcana Lodge No. 87

Grand Lodge will convene at the old Masonic Temple
 at 12:00 o'clock noon.

Procession to site of Victory Memorial Masonic
 Temple, at northeast corner of Fifth and Warren
 streets, escorted by Malta Commandery No. 18,
 Knights Templar.

1 O'clock p. m. (Actual High Twelve)

Opening Remarks—M. W. Grand Master, Thomas E.
 Skaggs.

Song: National Anthem—Quartette and Brethren

Reading: Declaration of Independence—M. W. John
 Arthur, Past Grand Master.

Formal Request to the M. W. Grand Master that the
 corner stone be laid by the M. W. Grand Lodge,
 F. & A. M. of Washington—Wor. Luther E. Greg-
 ory, President of the Masonic Temple Association
 of Bremerton.

Response—M. W. Grand Master Thomas E. Skaggs
 Laying of the corner stone: Doxology.

Application of Working Tools.

Consecration with Corn, Wine and Oil.

Invocation—M. W. Grand Master.

Proclamation—R. W. Grand Marshal.

Oration—M. W. Stephen J. Chadwick, Past Grand
 Master.

Song—"AMERICA."

Benediction.

Procession to Old Temple and close the Grand Lodge.