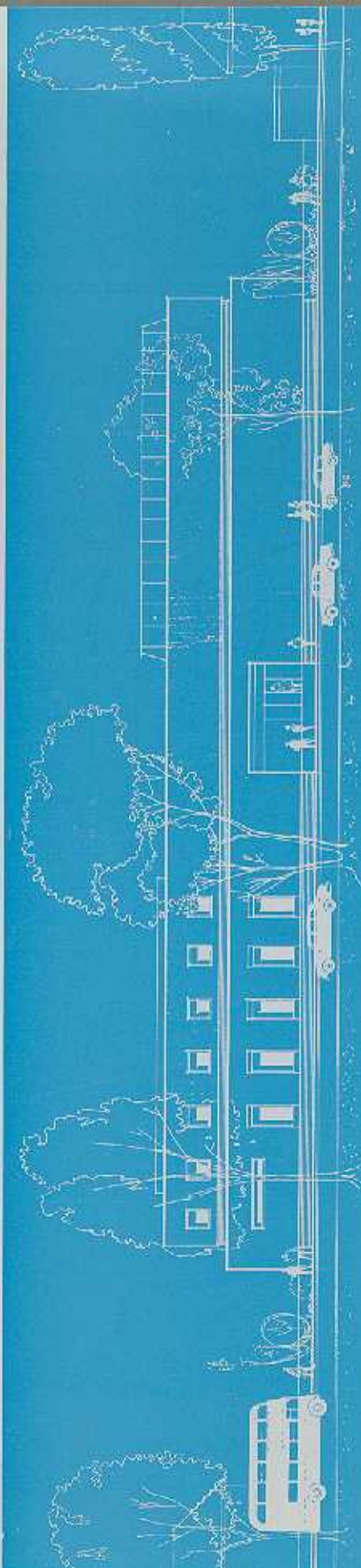


£ 200 000
appeal



NORTHAMPTON NEW MASONIC HALL

FOREWORD

by

Rt. W. Bro. BERTRAM GUILLAUME
Provincial Grand Master



It has been obvious for some time that our premises in Princess Street, Northampton, were inadequate for the needs of the Lodges, Chapters and other orders of Freemasonry meeting there and as the Provincial Headquarters. The fact that they are situated in the centre of the area scheduled for re-development in the town will necessitate removal to another site somewhat earlier than anticipated.

I commend to you and solicit your support for this appeal for funds to enable the Committee, which I was requested to form in November 1967, to implement the plans detailed in this Brochure.

I feel confident that the generosity of the Brethren will match that of our predecessors and enable us to hand on an heritage equal to the needs of to day and those of many years to come.

In considering the figures referred to in this Brochure it is well to remember that a proportion of the cost of the new site and building will be met by the foresight and generosity of those who have gone before us.

September 1969

THE PAST

by

W. Bro. H. G. LEWIS



THE first masonic lodge in Northampton met at The George Hotel. It was founded in 1730 and crased in 1755. The Lodge of Harmony at The White Hart in The Drapery, was warranted in 1789, but lasted only a year or two; its warrant was used a few years later to establish a new lodge at Boston, Lincs.

When Pomfret Lodge was warranted in 1819 its chances of survival were slight. It met first at The Fountain (later re-named The Criterion) and its eleven founders were an odd assortment of brethren drawn from three different constitutions, and with widely differing views as to correct procedure. Helped by Grand Lodge they reached a measure of agreement though they lost two founders in the process, and the lodge did not recover from this early setback for several years. Indeed, during this difficult period only the enthusiasm and constancy of a single individual prevented total collapse.

Attendances were scanty; sometimes there were insufficient members present to open the lodge. In 1836 there were only thirteen members on the register and they were not attending regularly.

Then came a sudden and remarkable change. By 1838 membership had grown to 61, and in 1840 a new lodge, the Lodge of Merit, was founded. A few years later, however, the new lodge migrated to Oundle and Pomfret was alone once more.

From its earliest years a certain number of members disapproved of meetings being held on licensed premises. In 1825 it was resolved "for the good of masonry to remove to a private room". The lodge hired a room at the Guildhall, but six months later the experiment had failed, and the lodge was back again in yet another public house. For fifty years brethren talked vaguely of having a masonic home of their own, but the lodge was not strong enough to take any practical step.

In 1875, however, decisive action was taken. In its early days most of the lodge members were artisans, but now they were business and professional men, property owners and men of substance. Early in the year suitable premises were on offer in Abington Street, and before the year end they had been bought, rebuilt and converted into a Masonic Hall for £2,000.

There was an immediate upsurge of interest. Pomfret Lodge and its R.A. Chapter grew rapidly, while in 1878 Eleanor Cross Lodge was consecrated. In 1879 Simon de St. Liz Mark Lodge was founded and in 1881 Delapre Lodge was formed. So after only six years the masonic home of which generations of brethren had dreamed was already proving too small.

There followed an even bolder act of faith. Only fifteen years after the opening of the first masonic hall, a new site had been bought in Princess Street, and spacious new premises had been built. At that point the past merges into the present, the spacious building of 1890 is overcrowded, and after 70 years of service to freemasonry it must needs be replaced. Northampton masonry once more is on the march.



Entrance to
Masonic Hall
Abington Street
Northampton
Opened 1875

THE PRESENT

by

W. Bro. A. H. BUTTOLPH



THE Foundation Stone of the present building was laid on 5th September, 1889, by R. W. Bro. The Earl of Fuston, D.L., Provincial Grand Master. At that ceremony a phial containing plans of the building and of other items were deposited in a cavity of the stone. At the subsequent banquet held at the Peacock Hotel, the Prov. Grand Master spoke on the need for masonic learning and by the gift of a personal donation for the purchase of books, may be rightly considered the founder of our present library.

The work of building proceeded apace and on 25th September, 1890, Provincial Grand Lodge met in the new premises under the Banners of the three Northampton Lodges, Pomfret 360, Eleanor Cross 1764 and De la Pre 1911, for the purposes of dedicating and consecrating them. The ceremonies were again carried out by the R. W. Provincial Grand Master in the presence of a very distinguished company.

Some two years after, on 24th October, 1892, Kingsley Lodge 2431 was consecrated.

Then followed a period of consolidation and steady progress, but it was not until 31st January, 1910, that a further new lodge was consecrated in Northampton, that being the Northants. and Hunts. Lodge of Installed Masters No. 3422.

Almost twelve months after the ending of the 1914-18 war, during which the premises amply justified their existence,



The Masonic Hall
Princess Street
Northampton
Opened 1890

St. John's Lodge No. 3972 was consecrated on 8th October, 1919, this being the sixth craft lodge to make full use of the building in the thirty years since its conception and completion.

The last half century has seen somewhat more rapid growth in the number of lodges consecrated and using the facilities afforded, whilst the England's Centre Lodge 2555, which was consecrated in 1895 and originally met at Weedon, removed to Northampton in September, 1949.

The number of craft lodges which now meet here, including those already mentioned, is thirteen. In addition, the premises afford a home for five Royal

Arch Chapters and some seven other degrees. Thus it may be seen that the hopes and wishes of our illustrious predecessors in building and completing them have been fulfilled.

With the passing of the years and our changing social structure there has necessarily followed some change in the pattern of usage as a Club where brethren may meet for social purposes, but they still fill this need in a very real way.

With our physical resources now taxed to the limit, and future expansion of our activities both masonic and social well in mind, we look forward with confidence to the years that lie ahead.



The Temple, Masonic Hall, Princess Street, Northampton



The Library and Reading Room, Masonic Hall, Princess Street, Northampton

THE FUTURE

by

W. Bro. R. A. PALMER

Deputy Provincial Grand Master



LOOKING into the future of freemasonry in Northampton at this particular moment of time is bound to be speculative and challenging. Because of the town's expansion programme it is inevitable that there will be a big increase in our numbers over the next fifteen years, so let us try to ensure that this growth is steady and progressive rather than rapid or uncontrolled. As soon as we have a new home in which to accommodate them, there will be a need to create new lodges, as some of our older lodges are becoming rather too large for the comfort and well being of their members. The entire philosophy of freemasonry is built around the individual—the erection of a moral edifice within the heart of a man. All its symbolism is individual symbolism; all its tradition and practice is aimed at making individuals wiser, better and therefore happier. The best results will be achieved by more and smaller lodges where more brethren can be put to work and where a warmer and more intimate fraternal spirit can develop.

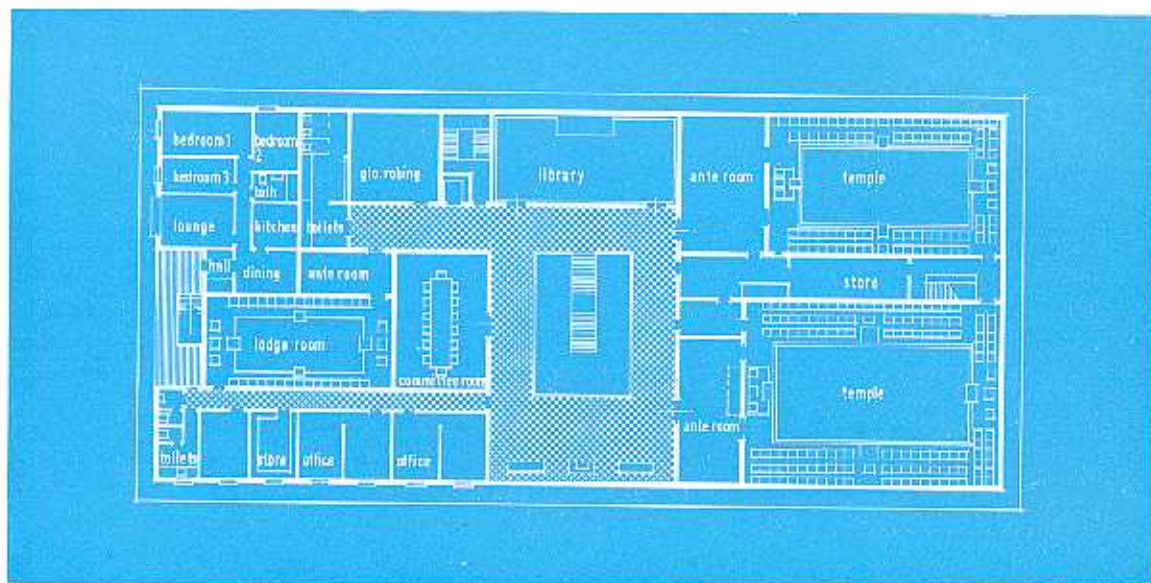
The fortunes of every lodge depend upon the character of its leaders and the demands upon leadership in the years ahead are going to be exacting. Remembering that most initiates and joining members of today are masters of tomorrow and that our paramount aim must be to preserve the traditions and high standards of our lodges as well as the loyalty of their members, there is a need to be ever more watchful over systems of selecting candidates, so that the harmony of our lodges can never be disturbed. If we are to be faithful to our heritage we must continue to be truly selective in our policy and so command the respect of the outside world, by our work and by our behaviour, that only those with the right credentials and the highest ideals may expect to gain admission to our Order.

The new building on the site in St. George's Avenue is planned by Architects Rex Bryan and Pennock to be ready sometime in 1972 at an estimated

cost of £225,000. The design will be seen to be dignified yet simple and large enough to accommodate at least two meetings on the same evening. The capital cost will be a formidable burden to bear, particularly in the early years. We must aim to collect by donation or loan at least £100,000 before building commences or the whole project could be swamped by interest charges. Having built our new home we must be prepared for a substantial increase in

annual maintenance costs. Such is the nature of our task and the challenge to each and every one of us during the next decade.

Let us never doubt that this project is capable of attainment, because those who accept that freemasonry is worth a great deal of effort and a great deal of sacrifice will recognise our duty to posterity and see our new headquarters built, established and paid for.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - New Masonic Hall, St. George's Avenue, Northampton

FIRST FLOOR

Entrance to the first floor is by the main staircase or lift or via the secondary staircase which gives direct access from car park level.

A spacious landing or gallery is provided around the central stair well from which are entered the two temples via the ante rooms and Tyler rooms, the Library, Committee Room, G.L.O. Robing Room and Lodge Room. Also on this floor are Administrative Offices, Stores, Toilets and the stewards quarters.

It is proposed that certain antiques from the museum should be displayed on the landing/gallery at the South East end opposite the Library.

TEMPLES

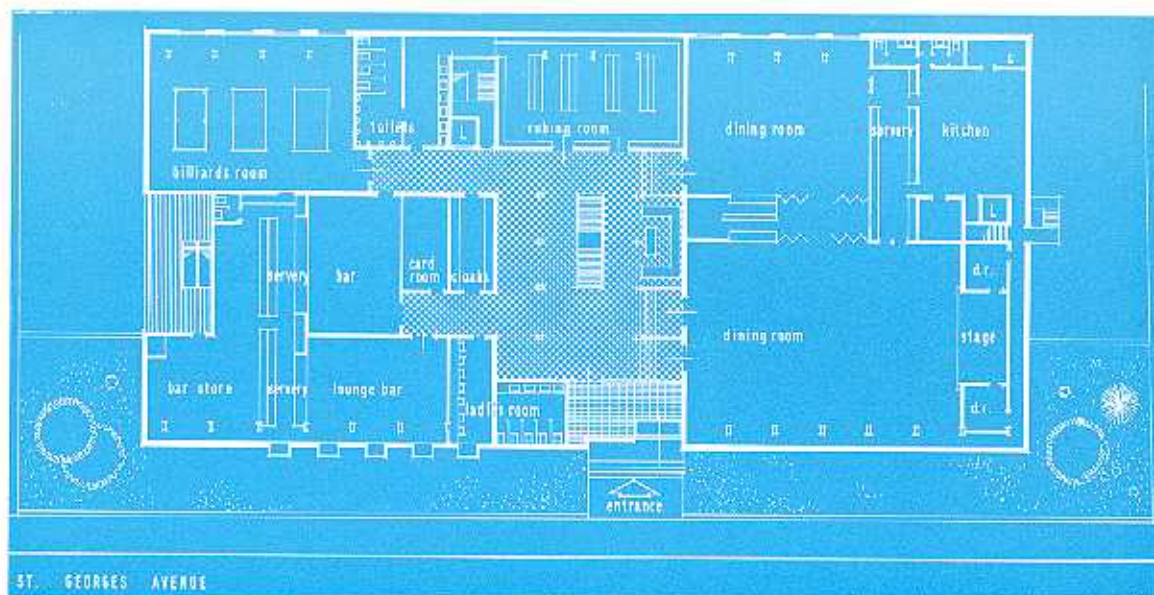
The large temple will provide seating for 150 brethren and the small temple for 75 to 80 brethren.

REHEARSAL ROOM

A lodge room is provided for rehearsals and this has a small ante room adjoining.

STEWARDS FLAT

A three bedroom flat with kitchen, bathroom, dining room and lounge is provided for the steward.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN - New Masonic Hall, St. George's Avenue, Northampton

GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor has been divided into Club Rooms, Dining Rooms, Cloakroom, Toilets and Service areas.

The main entrance from St. George's Avenue enters into a vestibule and then into the main entrance hall from which all rooms on the ground floor have access. The hall passes through two storeys and will be lighted by natural lighting from the roof.

DINING ROOMS

Two dining rooms are provided, the large one will accommodate 250 persons and comprises stage and dressing rooms. The small dining room will accommodate 120 persons. Both dining rooms are divided by folding partitions which can be opened up to allow the rooms to be used together for large functions. A small service bar which can be used for wines and cocktails is situated between the two rooms.

KITCHEN, SERVERY, ETC.

The kitchen is placed to provide easy service to both dining rooms.

LADIES TOILET & POWDER ROOM

Toilet accommodation is provided with a powder room adjoining for lady guests.

ROBING AND TOILETS

A large robing room is provided off the main entrance hall and this will be adequately furnished with hanging rails, lockers, etc. Toilets are suitably situated adjoining the robing room and adjacent to the club rooms. Cloakroom facilities for use of persons attending the club are provided separately.

Bars

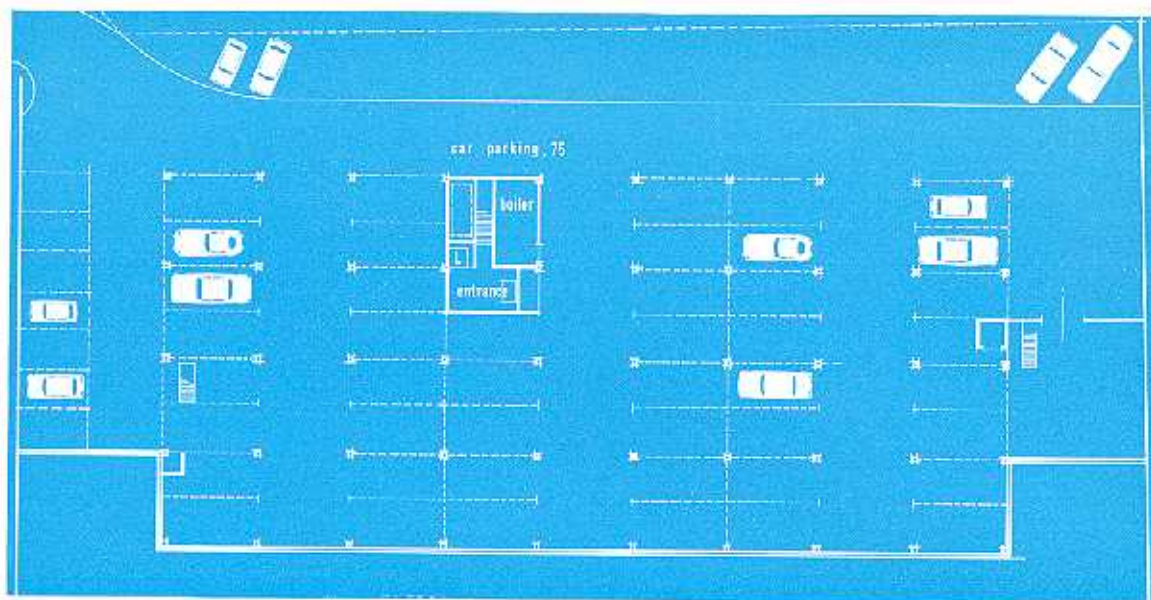
Two large bars are provided, one a men only bar and the other a lounge bar which could, if desired, be used for the entertaining of lady guests.

Billiards Room

A large billiards room is provided, adequate in size, to accommodate three full size tables with seating for spectators.

Bar Service

A common bar servery is provided, serving both bars and billiards room direct. Adequate beer and wine storage is provided at the rear of the bar and servery.



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN - New Masonic Hall, St. George's Avenue, Northampton

THE STRUCTURE

It is intended to construct the building with a reinforced concrete frame, suspended concrete floors and roof. The ground floor will be faced with hand made bricks and the first floor, which is set in from the face of the ground floor, with precast hammered and moulded exposed aggregate panels.

It is intended that the internal finishings should be of good quality and finished in a manner to which all members may be justly proud.

SITE

Access to the site for vehicular traffic is obtained from Brick Kiln Lane which is to the West of the site. As a certain amount of filling has already been carried

out, it is recommended that the new building should have pile foundations which will be supported by the clay strata some 12' 0" to 15' 0" below existing ground level.

CAR PARK

In view of the difference in levels between the road and the existing ground level, it is proposed to make use of this by providing car parking underneath the building which will be supported on columns. Access to the ground floor will be provided by lift and staircase from a central entrance hall.

Arrangements have been made to buy an adjoining plot of land for additional open air parking.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

by

W. Bro. R. C. T. DYER
Secretary of the Appeal

THE foregoing pages will have indicated to you what Freemasonry has meant to many Brethren of the past, what it means to us to-day and what we hope it holds for us and many more of to-morrow. The question "What of to-morrow?" is where your responsibility lies to-day.

Since 1890 Princess Street has been the Masonic Home of several thousand Northampton Freemasons—circumstances now dictate another Home. What then do we as Brethren of the Craft set out to achieve? What will it cost us? How can we help?

At this time of our history it does us good to reflect and consider our Masonic obligations and responsibilities. We *must* accept our responsibility if for no other reason than to acknowledge our debt to our predecessors. We know that many will give generously, and some "only according to their means", but we are certain that each Brother will play his part.

Those of us concerned with the financing of this ambitious project are aware of the many calls being made upon every individual to-day, but our hope of success is based on our confidence that as Brethren in the Craft, our concern will be your concern. Let every Brother be glad to be associated with our new project, so that in time to come he will be proud to remember that he assisted in providing a home for the generations yet to be of Northampton Freemasons and headquarters for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

WAYS OF GIVING

TO collect so large a sum of money as £200,000 is a formidable task, and it can only be achieved by an organised system of giving. It would be unwise to leave the success of the Appeal to haphazard donations.

Accordingly it is recommended that a *per capita* basis should apply which means that each Brother is asked to accept responsibility for approximately £200.

In proceeding with the new building, it will be necessary to fund the project over a period of years, which will involve the Appeal Committee in substantial interest charges. The urgency, therefore, in collecting a considerable sum in the first two or three years of the life of the Appeal will be apparent to all.

The members of the Appeal Committee have given much thought to the ways and means of giving, and commend the following suggestions for your consideration:

1. Outright donations by brethren and lodges.
2. Annual, half-yearly or quarterly donations by brethren and lodges over a period of years.
3. Adopt an annual unit under the "token unit scheme" of £5, £10, £25 or £50. A greater unit can be adopted by arrangement. These may be taken out by brethren and lodges.
4. Interest free loans by brethren and lodges. Loans should preferably be of not less than £100, and the term of the loan for a minimum expected period of 5 years. Repayable at three months' notice.
5. Interest bearing loans by brethren and lodges. Loans should preferably be of not less than £500, and the term of the loan for a minimum expected period of 5 years. Repayable at six months' notice.
6. Gifts in kind will be accepted by arrangement with the Appeal Committee.
7. Legacies. The Appeal Fund might be considered by some brethren to be a suitable object for a Legacy.
8. Anonymous donations will be welcome and the wishes of donors respected.

The members of the Appeal Committee will be pleased to give personal advice to any brother.

APPEAL COMMITTEE

Patron

Rt. W. Bro. Bertram Guillaume,
Provincial Grand Master

Chairman

W. Bro. R. A. Palmer,
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Treasurer

W. Bro. J. E. Dolby,
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Secretary

W. Bro. R. C. T. Dyer

Members of Committee

W. Bro. D. R. Baker
W. Bro. A. H. Buttolph
W. Bro. G. J. Garrard
W. Bro. C. E. Jones
W. Bro. N. H. Rolfe
W. Bro. G. J. W. Wareing

