# Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, INCORPORATED

Aaron R. Jordan (22)
R.W. Deputy Grand Master

Robert E. Wheeler (17)
R.W. Senior Grand Warden

J. Raymond Murray (25)
R.W. Junior Grand Warden

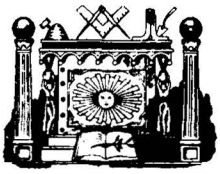
MWPGM Warren R. Whitley (5)
Worshipful Grand C.C.F.C.

David A. McWilliams (27)
R.W. Grand Treasurer

William A. Burnett (22)
R.W. Grand Secretary

Joe N. Wicks (12)
R.W. Grand Financial Secretary

Fate Kearney (26)
R.W. Grand Trustee, Chairman



John Ellington, Jr. (24)
Most Worshipful Grand Master
***Experiencing The Power of Unity***

November 21, 2002

Mr. Geoffrey H. Giffif, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4 th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Ref: BZA Application No. 16938

Dear Mr. Giffif,

This is to inform you that Mr. Jimmy A Bell Esq. Has been appointed Agent to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge in all matters regarding the above referenced Application.

Sincerely,

John Ellington, Jr.
Most Worshipful Grand Master

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BZA
Case No. 16938
Exhibit No. 30

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16938
EXHIBIT NO.30

Docket No. 16938

**AMENDED STATE OF EXISTING AND INTENDED USE IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION**

Comes now the Petitioner through their agent, Jimmy A. Bell, Esq. for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia which was founded in 1848. **We are writing to amend the application in Case # 16938 to exclude Lot # 824 and #825 from the application.** The only lot we are making an application for is defined as Lot #827 in square 333, which is located at 1906 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20001. Pursuant to District of Columbia Municipal Regulation 214.3 all the accessory parking spaces are located entirely within two hundred feet (200ft) of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia at 1000 U Street, NW. Pursuant to District of Columbia Municipal Regulation 214.4, this premises is separated from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia at 1000 U Street, NW., only by a paved public alley. Additionally the premise is accessible via a public street. The subject premises is currently in an R-4 Zone. The premises of 1902 Vermont Avenue, N.W. has been used for accessory parking to 1000 U Street, N.W. since 1974.

In 1974, we petitioned the District of Columbia for an exemption to the zoning law to permit parking on the lot we have owned and that petition was granted. This property has been used for accessory parking via an open paved public ally and a public street, 1000 U Street, N.W., since 1974. We have continuously used this property (which we own) as a parking lot since 1974. The only thing that has changed is the demographics of the neighborhood.

The Board of Zoning Adjustment last granted very exception requested in the instant case in a decision dated March 3, 1982. This decision was delivered based on evidence presented at a hearing on February 17, 1982. In most pertinent part the findings of fact where:

**FINDING OF FACTS:**

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1. The subject property is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Vermont Avenue and T Street, N.W., and is known as premises 1902 Vermont Avenue, N.W. It is located in an R-4 District.

2. By Order No. 12215, dated November 8, 1976, the Board approved the continuation of this parking lot for five years.

3. The subject lot is approximately 5,226 square feet in area and provides twenty-one parking spaces.

4. The parking lot is used by the members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and tenants of that building which is located to the north of the site at 1000 U Street, N.W. It is not available for general public parking.

5. The hours of operation of the subject parking lot are from 8:00 A.M. to 12 Midnight. There is a guard on duty during hours of operation and the lot is secured at midnight by a locked gate.

6. The applicant testified that the lot complied with al the conditions of BZA Order No. 12215. The Board so finds.

7. The subject lot is well maintained and the representative of the applicant testified that he has never received any complaints in reference to the subject lot. There is a sign on the attendant's shelter advising of the ownership of the lot.

8. The record was left open at the end of the public hearing for referral of the application to the D.C. Department of Transportation and the submission of the DOT report.

9. By memorandum dated March 2, 1982, the Department of Transportation advised the Board that it had identified no adverse traffic impact on the surrounding street system and had no objection to the continued use of this parking lot.

The Board of Zoning Adjustment last granted very exception requested in the instant case in a decision dated March 3, 1982. This decision was delivered based on evidence presented at a hearing on February 17, 1982. In most pertinent part the conclusions of law where:

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

A. Approval shall be for a period of Five years from the date of expiration of the previous certificate of occupancy which may be renewed at the discretion of the Board upon the filing of a proper application.

B. All areas devoted to driveways, access lanes, and parking areas shall be maintained with a paving of material forming an all-weather impervious surface.

C. Bumper stops shall be erected and maintained for the protection of all adjoining buildings.

D. No vehicle or any part thereof shall be permitted to project over any lot or building line or on or over the public space.

E. All parts of the lot shall be kept free of refuse or debris and shall be paved or landscaped. Landscaping shall be maintained in a healthy growing condition and in a neat and orderly appearance.

F. No other use shall be conducted from or upon the premises and no structure other than an attendant's shelter shall be erected or used upon the premises unless such use or

structure is otherwise permitted in the zoning district in which the parking lot is located.

G. Any lighting used to illuminate the parking lot or its accessory building shall be so arranged that all direct rays of such lighting are confined to the surface of the parking lot.

Since the time of the March 3, 1982 decision nothing has changed except the addition of improvements to the lot.

Since 1974, the parking lot has been designed and maintained so as not to be knowingly objectionable or cause any adverse effect to neighboring property. We have never received any complaints regarding undesirable activities on the lot. We have membership of more than 5000 men and women, a majority of which are over 50 years old and live in the District of Columbia. On most evenings, 1000 U Street, N.W. is visited by more than 150 of it's members, many elderly or disabled. The hours of operation are 8:00am until 12:00 midnight on weekdays and 8:00am until 2:00am on weekends. A locked gate will secure the subject site when not in use and with a guard on duty during evening hours.

Although the site is located in a demographically changing commercial area, the surrounding neighborhood is rapidly reverting to its former place of historical and cultural prominence. A literal renaissance of entertainment venues, businesses, and dining facilities is well underway. The recently dedicated Black Civil War Memorial is adjacent to 1000 U Street and the Bohemian Caverns Restaurant rests on the same block. The completion of the multi-unit housing complex at the intersection of 11$^{th}$ and U streets, along with the aforementioned sites, are just a few examples of the vast influx of business and commerce in the area. This growth has created a tremendous demand for off street parking without making provisions for such. Again the site has been designed and maintained so as not to be knowingly objectionable or cause any adverse effect to neighboring property.

As you my be aware, the origin of this Grand Lodge may rightfully be traced back more than 200 years to the organization and establishment of the first Lodge of black Masons in Boston, Massachusetts during the late 1700's. That Lodge was founded by Prince Hall who, along with fourteen other men of color, were made Master Masons in a Military Lodge. On June 6, 1848 a Master Lodge, Social Lodge No. 7 (now Social Lodge No. 1), was established in the District of Columbia and constituted the first Lodge below the Mason-Dixon Line. The origin of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia dates back more than a century and a half ago. During 1945-1946, the name of the Grand Lodge was changed and incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., Inc. of the District of Columbia.

Freemasonry is an age-old organization whose goal is "to make good men better

men." The Grand Lodge adopted a public school located near its Temple and Grand Lodge members serve as consultants, tutors, monitors, readers, guides, etc. as needed at the school. The Grand Lodge also conducts a computer-training program for young people from across the city. Many Prince Hall Subordinate Lodges in this area operate programs independently of the Grand Lodge. These programs include clothing drives, family-adoption programs, and traditional activities such as distributing baskets of food and clothing during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

The Grand Lodge makes a contribution to the National Negro College Fund (NNCF) during the annual NNCF Telethon. These contributions range between $2000-$3000 each year.
The Grand Lodge also administers its own scholarship program for students who reside in the metropolitan area. Each year 50 or more high school seniors are given scholastic aid totaling upwards of $75,000. Since 1957 we have contributed approximately $1.5 million in scholarship aid to Washington, DC students.

One of the most unique projects sponsored by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia is the Woodlawn project. Woodlawn Cemetery is steeped in black history and is the final resting place for many notables of the past. Since 1987 the Prince Hall Grand Lodge has supported the restoration of the cemetery, and much has been done to restore it to its earlier prominence.

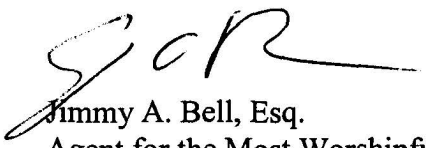
The Prince Hall Grand Lodge can boast of a rich history and numerous accomplished members dating back to the establishment of the organization. Listed below are a few notable Prince Hall Masons:

1. Benjamin Banneker – Designed the nation's capital/Inventor/Astronomer
2. W.E.B. DuBois – Educator/Author/Historian
3. Booker T. Washington – Educator/Founder of Tuskegee Institute
4. A.Phillip Randolph – Founder/President of International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
5. Nathaniel "Nat King" Cole – Singer
6. Al Green – Singer
7. Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington – Orchestra Leader/Composer
8. Lionel Hampton – Orchestra Leader/Composer
9. William "Count" Basie – Orchestra Leader/Composer
10. Louis "Louie" Armstrong – Jazz Musician
11. Ossie Daivs – Actor/Director/Playwrite
12. Alex Haley-Author
13. John H. Johnson – Publisher/EBONY and JET magazine
14. Richard Pryor – Actor/Comedian
15. Don King – Boxing Promoter
16. Jack Johnson – First Black heavyweight boxing champion in U.S.
17. Benjamin L. Hooks – Former Executive Director of the N.A.A.C.P

18. Kweisi Mfume – President and CEO of the N.A.A.C.P
19. Bishop Desmond Tutu – Former Secretary General, South Africa of Churches
20. L. Douglass Wilder – The first Black elected Governor of Virginia.
21. Andrew Young – Former Mayor of Atlanta and U.N Ambassador
22. Charles B. Rangel – U.S. Congressman, NY
23. Thurgood Marshall – Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court
24. Rev. Al Sharpton – Civil Rights Advocate
25. Medgar Wiley Evers – Civil Rights Leader
26. Rev. Jesse Jackson – Civil Rights Leader/Founder of the Rainbow Coalition and Operation Rush
27. Marion Barry – Former Mayor of Washington DC.
28. Anthony Williams – Mayor of Washington DC.
29. Jimmy A. Bell, Esquire – Filed and resolved the first Anthrax case in the history of America which involved the death of a postal worker from the Brentwood Postal facility in Washington, DC

These notable Prince Hall Masons are some of the stepping stones of this organization, from the past to the present. They have paved the way for future members and Prince Hall Masons will continue to help the community and their fellow man to excel and strive for their beliefs and rights. Please help us to continue to our goal "to make good men better men." Many organizations including the Washington DC Branch of the NAACP support our position. We also have Support from Councilman Adrian Fenty and Councilman Vincent Orange.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jimmy A. Bell, Esq.
Agent for the Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the
District of Columbia

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

November 25, 2002

Mr. Jeffery Griffins
Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Ref: BZA Case No. 16938

Dear Chairman Griffins:

As the Councilmember from Ward 5, where many of the members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge reside, I support maintaining their parking lot site Lot 827, Square 333, which is located at 1902 Vermont Avenue, Northwest. The zoning relief sought by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington, D.C. under the above captioned case number is reasonable. The proximity of the lot is crucial for the use of the membership of the lodge, many of whom are senior citizens, who are elderly or disabled and in need of easily accessible and identifiable parking.

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I understand that lodge members serve as consultants, tutors, monitors readers and guides as needed at a school near the lodge. I would not like to create a situation where our seniors must compete with club-goers and members of the me-first generation, for parking spaces when attending functions at the Lodge, or performing much-needed community services such as these.

The request for the special exception that the Grand Lodge is seeking is a common sense approach to the neighborhood's "on street" parking problem. The Shaw neighborhood is in the midst of a major and most welcomed economic and cultural reawakening. The flow of vehicular traffic into the area has made parking increasingly scarce. I support the organization's ardent belief that new business ventures such as restaurants, bars and retail stores can only help to strengthen the community. At the same time business interests should not be preferred over the interests of civic groups, especially not groups of such stature and staying power that have helped build the community from the ground up as well as sustain the Shaw community during its pre-renaissance period. It is clear that the

Grand Lodge has a genuine need for the continued use of their parking lot. I also believe that their security measures for the lot, when not in use will aid the Shaw neighborhood's need for additional surveillance personnel.

I ask the Board of Zoning Adjustment to consider all the available evidence. The "Masons" have been an integral part of the Shaw community since 1848 and have been at their current location since 1929. They have demonstrated an altruistic nature in all of their community endeavors. As a civic organization, their aspirations have consistently been in line with the best interests of, and in tune with the pulse of the communities they serve. I ask that you grant the Grand Lodge the exception it has enjoyed since 1974 so that they will be able to continue the invaluable services that they provide for the community and the city as a whole.

Thank you for considering these facts, as I have, and I hope you will use your best judgment to grant the request of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington, DC to continue their exemption from zoning regulations such that they can maintain a parking lot for their members.

Sincerely,

Vincent B. Orange, Sr.
Ward 5 Councilmember

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT
# OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR

Washington, D.C., July 3, 2002

Plat for Building Permit of SQUARE 333 LOTS 824, 825 & 827

Scale: 1 inch = 30 feet  Recorded in A & T Book Page 3745-S and Microfilm

Receipt No. 009480

Furnished to: FATE KEARNEY

Surveyor, D.C.

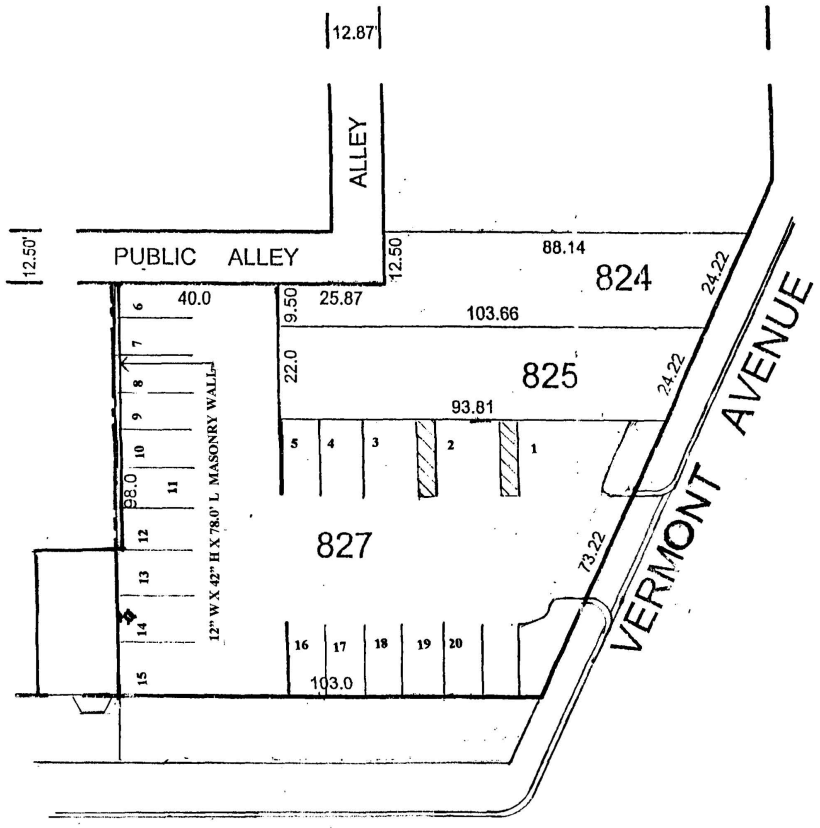
By: L.E.S.

I hereby certify that all existing improvements shown hereon, are completely dimensioned, and are correctly platted; that all proposed buildings or construction, or parts thereof, including covered porches, are correctly dimensioned and platted and agree with plans accompanying the application; that the foundation plans as shown hereon is drawn, and dimensioned accurately to the same scale as the property lines shown on this plat;and that by reason of the proposed improvements to be erected as shown hereon the size of any adjoining lot or premises is not decreased to an area less than is required by the Zoning Regulations for light and ventilation; and it is further certified and agreed that accessible parking area where required by the Zoning Regulations will be reserved in accordance with the Zoning Regulations, and that this area has been correctly drawn and dimensioned hereon. It is further agreed that the elevation of the accessible parking area with respect to the Highway Department approved curb and alley grade will not result in a rate of grade along centerline of driveway at any point of private property in excess of 20% for single-family dwellings or flats, or in excess of 12% at any point for other buildings. (The policy of the Highway Department permits a maximum driveway grade of 12% across the public parking and the private restricted property.)

Date: NOVEMBER 25, 2002

(Signature of owner or his authorized agent)

NOTE: Data shown for Assessment and Taxation Lots or Parcels are in accordance with the records of the Department of Finance and Revenue, Assessment Administration, and do not necessarily agree with deed description.




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SO-9480(2002)

# DISTRICT OF COLUMB.. GOVERNMENT
# OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR

Washington, D.C., July 3, 2002

Plat for Building Permit of SQUARE 333 LOTS 824, 825 & 827

Scale: 1 inch = 30 feet  Recorded in A & T Book Page 3745-S and Microfilm

Receipt No. 009480

Furnished to: FATE KEARNEY

Surveyor, D.C.

By: L.E.S.

I hereby certify that all existing improvements shown hereon, are completely dimensioned, and are correctly platted; that all proposed buildings or construction, or parts thereof, including covered porches, are correctly dimensioned and platted and agree with plans accompanying the application; that the foundation plans as shown hereon is drawn, and dimensioned accurately to the same scale as the property lines shown on this plat;and that by reason of the proposed improvements to be erected as shown hereon the size of any adjoining lot or premises is not decreased to an area less than required by the Zoning Regulations for light and ventilation; and it is further certified and agreed that accessible parking area where required by the Zoning Regulations will be observed in accordance with the Zoning Regulations, and that this area has been correctly drawn and dimensioned hereon. It is further agreed that the elevation of the accessible parking area with respect to the Highway Department approved curb and alley grade will not result in a rate of grade along centerline of driveway at any point of private property in excess of 20% for single-family dwellings or flats, or in excess of 12% at any point for other buildings. (The policy of the Highway Department permits a maximum driveway grade of 12% across the public parking and the private restricted property.)

Date: NOVEMBER 25, 2007

(Signature of owner or his authorized agent)

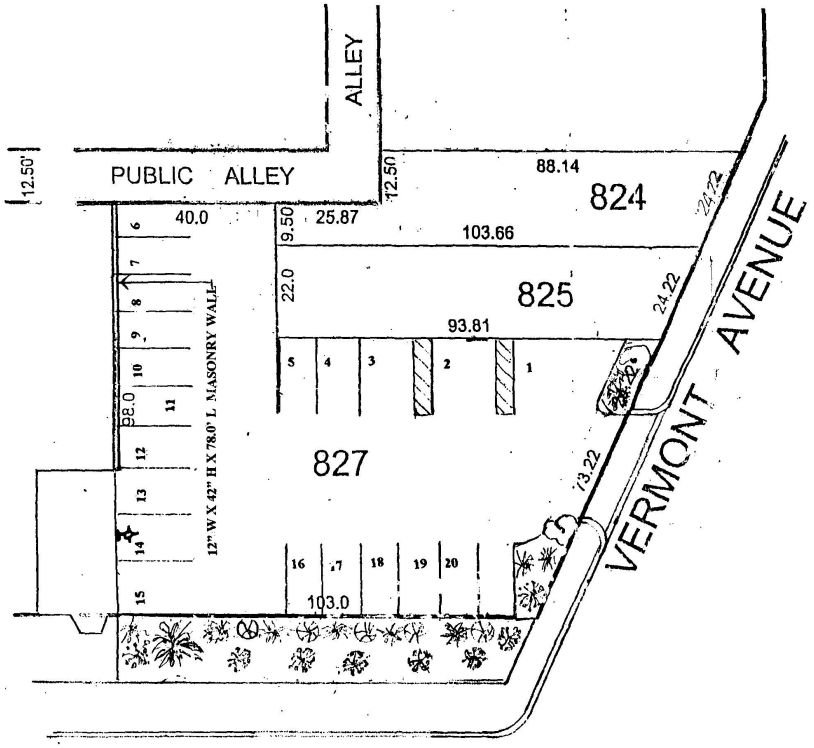
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**TWENTY ONE CAR PARKING LOT**

**PARKING SPACES 1, 2, & 3 ARE H/C - TYPICAL PARKING SPACE 8' X 10'**

**PLANTING SCHEDULE**

| QUANTITY | CONTNR. SIZE | MAX HGT. | PLANT SIZE | COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 2-GAL | 3'-4" | 2-1/2' | SEA GREEN JUNIPER | JUNIPER CHIN... SEA GREEN |
| 5 | 7-GAL. | 5'-6" | 3' | DEGROOTS SPIRA ARBORVITAE | THUJA OCC. (DE...OOTS SIPRA) |
| 2 | 1-GAL. | 4'-5' | 2-1/2' | EUONYMUS JAPONICUS SILVER KING | SILVER KING EUONYMUS |
| 3 | 1-GAL | 5'-7' | 4' | CRYPT MYRILE-WHITE ACOMA | LAGRSTROMIA-WHITE |
| 4 | 1-GAL | 5'-7' | 4' | CRYPT MYRILE-PURPLE SENTINEAL | LAGSTROMIA-SENTINEAL |
| 4 | 1-GAL | 5'-7' | 4' | CRYPT MYRILE-PINK TONTO | LAGSTROMIA-PINK |




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