

# Laying the Cornerstone



(<https://scottishrite.org/wp-content>

/uploads/2011/08/cornerstone\_laying3.jpg)

## Jeri E. Walker, Scottish Rite Journal Office

We are approaching the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone that began the massive undertaking to build the House of the Temple. From its foundation to the thirty-three massive columns that support its pyramidal roof, the House of the Temple symbolizes the ideals of Scottish Rite Freemasonry around the world. In October of 1911 the cornerstone of the House of the Temple was laid to grand fanfare. The Supreme Council and the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia are looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of this historic Masonic event in October of this year.

In August of 1911, plans were made to hold a very special and Masonically symbolic ceremony to lay the cornerstone of the House of the Temple. At the invitation of Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Richardson, Grand Master J. Claude Keiper of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia presided over the laying of the cornerstone on October 18, 1911, two days after the opening of the biennial session. The cornerstone was laid in the northeast corner of the property at Sixteenth and S Streets in a well-attended ceremony with "approximately six thousand in number" (Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, 1911, p. 104). Attendees included Commanderies of the Knights Templar, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 of Virginia, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia along with twenty-nine other lodges, the Camp Guard of Albert Pike Consistory No. 1 of the District of Columbia, the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and the Supreme Council.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20453  
EXHIBIT NO.29E