

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ISLAM GROTTO

By George Kemp Clark Sr.

Past Monarch and Secretary Emeritus

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Islam Grotto was the brain child conceived by a group of Masons located on the Northside of Pittsburgh, PA. known as Allegheny. The original City of Allegheny was a Reserve Town laid out opposite of Pittsburgh and called the town of Allegheny as ordered by the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be surveyed and laid out as a manor or reserve September 11, 1787. Originally it was laid containing 144 lots each 60 by 240 feet in blocks 240 square feet. Four of the blocks located in the center of the town plan were reserved and designed for public buildings. The whole surrounded by the common ground which was 60 feet wide on the South and 250 feet on the North and East, 1400 feet on the West containing an area of 102 acres designed for cattle and pasturage. It was respectively named East, West, North and South Commons. Then in 1817 the Commonwealth granted about ten acres of this common ground for the explicit purpose of erecting a penitentiary thereon but in 1883 by an Act of the Assembly it was transferred back to the city for park purposes. Also in 1827 the state granted 18 acres of the common ground to Western Theological Seminary and in 1850 the city came into possession of the seminary grant by obtaining from the institution a lease for a yearly rental of \$2,100. March 31, 1870 by Act of the Assembly the remaining portion of the seminary grant which had been disposed of by the city on perpetual lease was appropriated for use as a public park.

An Act of Assembly in 1867 appropriated common grounds for public parks at a cost of \$300,000 assessed on real estate of the city. Then through the efforts of William M. Kennedy the mayor of the city in 1894 money was raised by popular subscription for purchase of about 200 acres of land in the 10th ward for park purposes. The new park was called River View Park in accordance with suggestions of subscribers to the fund. The town of Allegheny was created a borough by Act of the General Assembly on April 14, 1823. John Irwin was elected Burgess serving from 1829 to 1834. Hugh Davis succeeded him and served from 1835 to 1838 and John Morrison from 1839 to 1840. The first charter of the city was granted by the Commonwealth of PA. on April 13, 1840. General William Robinson Jr. was elected the first mayor of the city. Some who followed him were Thomas Sample 1847, William B. Foster (father of Stephen Foster) 1842-43, Hezekiah Nixon 1844-45, R.S. Casslet 1846 and others who served Jacob Stuckrath 1858 and Charles E. Kirschler 1906 to December 1907 when the cities of Allegheny and Pittsburgh were consolidated. He became the Deputy Mayor of the Greater City of Pittsburgh. Thus under the Act of 1906 known as the Greater Pittsburgh Act the dream of a half century became realized in the consolidation. Thus the two cities had ever become one of the common cause and divided only by unseen legal boundaries had a total population of over 500,000 at the time of the consolidation making it rank 6th in population in the United States. As a resultant the total area of the two cities amounted to 38 sq. miles, 115 ward schools, 400 miles of paved roads or streets, 1,300 acres of public parks, 108 banks and a capital of \$60,000,000 at the time.

Names are most important to understand especially such as Grotto, Islam and Fez. We constantly use these terms in our literature of the order. Islam is an Arabic word meaning submission to God. It was the religion of which Mohammed was the prophet. Its adherents are called Moslem or Muslims popularly known as Mohammedans. Being the latest of the three great monotheisms it drew upon the other two great ones known as Judaism and Christianity. You will find both Abraham and Jesus on the list preceding Mohammed. It is generally held that Jesus will return as the Mahdi (Arabic word for Divine Guide) at the termination of the world. Islam is based on the sacred book, The Koran, revealed by God (called Allah in Arabic) to Mohammed. The concepts of God and heaven and hell are akin to those of Judaism and Christianity. Five duties are prescribed for every Moslem: (1) at least once in his life the believer must say with full acceptance, "There is no God but God and Mohammed is his prophet, (2) He must pray five times daily facing toward Mecca and he must say noonday prayers on Friday in the Mosque, (3) He must give alms generously above the amount absolutely prescribed by law, (4) He must keep the feast of Ramaden which is the 9th month of the year, (5) He must if possible once in his life make the pilgrimage or (Hajj) to Mecca. The Koran forbids gambling, eating pork and lending money. No images may be made thus mosques have only geometric decorations. Each considers the other his brother. They have no priests as each is responsible for his self and his approach to Allah or God.

INTRODUCTION

The history of Islam Grotto is one of harmonious growth and development. Nowhere can the pertinence of the truism "from a little acorn grows the mighty oak" be proved with greater validity than in this case. But the history of Islam Grotto is predicated on the history of Supreme Council. It therefor becomes necessary to inquire into the history of this body; find the causes and facts which brought about its creation; show the ideas and motives on which it was founded and the various events preceding the steps which led to Islam Grotto as we know it today.

In the late eighties of the 19th century travel was slow yet with horse drawn carriages and the railroad being the faster of the two. In a small town in New York state named Hamilton which was the seat of Colgate University and very active Masonic Lodge, "Hamilton Lodge, No. 120 F.& A.M. In these days it was customary that when the craft was called from labor to refreshment, the social side of the lodge social life asserted itself. Members would remain, have little luncheons, talks, jest and be merry, but the serene ground of the lodge was not quite suitable for things in the lighter vein of life. Visitors would come to Colgate and often would have to stay in Hamilton over night, and many being Masons would visit Hamilton Lodge, No 120 F.& A.M. Thus it was for these visitors as well as for the recreation of the members of his own lodge that LeRoy Fairchild sometime prior to 1889 conceived the idea of forming a group known as the "Fairchild Deviltry Committee," the "F.D.C." in short, which became the cornerstone of the structure known as the Mystic Order Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm. How greatly impressed these Masonic visitors were with the results of the efforts of the "F.D.C.s" is best documented by the fact that the idea began to spread and "F.D.C.s" were formed in several cities of New York. Sometime later, in 1889 a Supreme Council was formed. This history of the Supreme Council was preserved, thanks to the efforts of the Thirteenth Annual Convention of the Supreme Council MOVPER.

It was in 1902 that the Grand Secretary was directed to prepare a history of the Supreme Council from its inception. Many learned investigations held that the line of descent of the Order of Veiled Prophets ran back through all the ages of human experiences to the little affair of Adam and Eve in the garden. As conclusive evidence of their claims correctness that at least one important part of the paraphenalia of the first Grotto bore in bold letters the imprint "Adam's Patent Renovator." They were compelled to discard it and adopt the true base of the history of the order. Like America and all other great things the Enchanted Realm was discovered and the Order of Veiled Prophets came into existence by reason of discovery. A study and careful examination of the records and documents in the office of the Grand Secretary, that for some few years prior to 1889 LeRoy Fairchild with a numerous following of the membership of Hamilton Lodge No. 120 A.&A.M. diligently profected for fun and mischief and at last in the summer of 1889 discovered a rich vein that led to the mother lode of pure, good fellowship and opened to them the Enchanted Real with its inexhaustible treasures to gladden the heart and bind men in closer companionship. Then on the evening of September 10th 1889 these Masons assembled in the Masonic Hall for the purpose of perfecting the organization. Their names were: LeRoy Fairchild, Wm. M. West, Adam N. Smith, George Beals, J.W. Clark, U.S. Van Vleck, B.J. Stimson, Robert Patterson, A.M. Russell, John T. Howe, G.G. Waldron, John A. Holmgreen and Edwin L. Peet. This organization was destined to evolve in the Order Of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm but at first the organizers had in view a local institution as indicated by the name which it first adopted namely, "Fairchild Deviltry Committee." Thus the letters F.D.C. have a historic significance for Prophets..

Officers elected were: Fairchild K.D., Stimson C.J., Beal c, Clark C., Beal W.D.R., and Smith . It was decided at the first meeting that membership be confined to Master Masons in good standing and because of this determinator the order now stands in relation to the Blue Lodge, that the Shrine does to Commandery. George Beal and Adam Smith wrote the first ritual and later it was perfectd and revised. Prophet Riddle was the master spirit in the committee and should receive credit of casting the word along the mythological lines and embellishing it with many bright gems. As time went on the need for modification of work and ritual became apparent and a committee was set up to revise and eliminate things thought objective and as a result left the ritual as it is today.

The word Grotto is derived from the name given an underground natural or an artificial recess made to resemble a cave. History tells us the Pagan worshipers of southern Italy appeared before the famous prophetesses or sibyl in the Grotto at Cumae to hear portents of the future. Later this place of fortune telling became a Christian tomb. The Blue Grotto at Capri is world famous and was once used by pagan worshipers in their religious rites. At the Grotto in Lourdes, France, a statue of the Virgin Mary stands where Saint Bernadette claimed to have had the vision of Our Lady. It is visited by many seeking cures and a return to health. In the 17th Century artificial grottoes rose as feature of Chinese and European gardening.

We wear a fez of black which once was colored years ago with a dye from a red berry found only in Morocco. However today colored dyes are used. A fez may have a tassel of silk or wool. Our officers' fezzes have blue tassels, Prophets red ones and Grand Line officers have silver tassels. The fez is also worn today in Egypt and North Africa where it is called a Tarboosh. Actually the name of the fez is derived from a city in French Morocco located at a central point in route to Tangiers, Rabat and Murakesh. Fez was the capital of several dynasties in the 8th to 19th centuries. The old city was founded in 808 and the new one in 1276. The city of Fez has 100 mosques where Moslems worship wearing their brimless, flat crowned caps of felt.

The following is a brief history of just how Islam Grotto saw its beginning. Due to numerous movings much of the earlier material has been lost and not in the archives. What is written here is all that remained for study and ass milation for reading. The Grotto just as what takes place in humanity had to be first conceived out of love and need as a fetus in the womb receive nurture be born and given life. So mode it be.

On June 12, 1911 a group of Master Masons namely: Jesse K. Seright, Oscar Schulze, Edmund Erk, Alexander Gray, John N. Dunn, William S. Peters and George G. Schmidt assembled at the office of Mr. Oscar Schulze located on 3rd Street N.S. at 9:00 o'clock P.M. for the explicit purpose of discussing the advisability of organizing and establishing an order, society or lodge in the City of Allegheny and territory that would maintain and promote "good fellowship" among Master Masons. The fraternity was not necessarily to be of a serious nature but rather to unfold and spread the sunny side of human nature. Discussion ensued and several of those present stated that they had heard of various orgainizations and made inquiry as to the merits of such organizations. The organizing of an order of this nature had been discussed for a number of years and the need for such and desire plus need of its fulfillment in this broad field was unanimously and enthusiastically entertained.

It was Mr. Seright who presented considerable literature pertaining to the MYSTIC ORDER VEILED PROPHETS OF THE ENCHANTED REALM, known in various jurisdictions as "Grottos" and he was in correspondence with the Grand Secretary of that order, stationed in Hamilton, N.Y. and he enlightened the meeting with considerable information he had in hand. Several others present had heard of the order and had talked to members of it. These men highly recommended it from what they had heard from others. Later this information elicited discussion and a meeting was called to order upon the motion of John Dunn, seconded by Schulze, Seright was elected temporary Chairman. Upon the motion of Gray, seconded by Schulze, Erk was elected temporary Secretary. Upon the motion of Dunn, seconded by Gray, Schulze was elected temporary Treasurer. Upon the motion of Seright, seconded by Peters, Dunn was elected temporary Vice-Chairman. It was suggested that the Chairman and Secretary write the Grand Secretary of the order of Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm for further information and in the event the organization came up to the requirements they most desired that it was the sence that they would apply for Dispensation.

Motion of Dunn, seconded by Schulze prevailed that they make the initiation fee for the first one hundred candidates fifteen dollars each, each of those present (8) remitted the amount, making the amount **only** a total of one hundred twenty dollars (\$100) which was turned over to the Treasurer and his receipt taken therefor.

According to the constitution of the above named order it was noted that a Dispensztion could only be granted to twenty-five candidates and for this reason it was the sence of the meeting, that if the order filled the requirements they would lose no time in organizing, therefore each or several of the gentlemen present choose to see the following Master Masons and solicit their petition.

Gray choose to see: Fred Bannerot, Jas. F. Hunter, Frank E. Tenctate, Clarence Ferguson and Ed. Coslett. Schulze choose to se Dr. Groth, Alsbach, John Jackson and Wm. Matz. Dunn choose to see Dr. F. Elliott, John Schoemaker, John W. Williams, Andrew G. Williams, Wm. Marquis and James M. Duncan. Peters choose to se James E. Strichler, Robt. J. Bovard, Geo. McLuchie. Erk choose to see Geo. Metzger, Chas. H. Garlick. Seright choose to see John C.L. Ward, Ed. Gwinner, Alex McClinton, Chester R. McClinton, Wm. Kennedy, Chas H. Ogden, Wm. A. Meloney, John Wheeler, Wm Nuttall, Wm E. Kimberlin, Fred East, Dr. McElroy, and Clarence Beatty.

The names given were selected and approved by all present and it was the understanding that the first twenty-five signifying their intention to become members, would be the first to receive the order. Then on the motion of Dunn, seconded by Peters that they would hold the next meeting with the twenty-five candidates at German Masonic Hall, Washington St. and Madison Ave (N.S.) at 8 o'clock Saturday evening, Jan.21st 1911.

As the constitution of the Supreme Council M.O.V.P.E.R. required a Monarch, Chief Justice, Master of Ceremonies, Treasurer and Secretary the following ensued at the meeting. Upon the motion of James M. Dunson seconded by Oscar Schulze, Jessie K. Seright was elected **Monarch of the Grotto.** Then upon the motion of Carl W. Blamer, seconded by James M. Duncan, John M. Dunn was elected Chief Justice and upon the motion of Edmund F. Erk, seconded by William E. Kimberlin, George G. Schmidt was elected as Master of Ceremonies. Then upon the motion of John M. Dunn, seconded by Oscar Schulze, Edmund Erk was elected Secretary. Upon the motion of Frederick Bannerot, seconded by James M. Duncan, Oscar Schulze was elected Treasurer.

Various names were suggested for the Grotto such as Nimrod, Lusifer, Bela, Islam and Yum Yum. A vote was taken and the tellers reported Lusifer 4 votes, Bela 7 votes, Islam 9 votes, Yum Yum 2 votes and Nimrod 1 vote. Upon the motion of Schulze and seconded by Dunn, the name Islam was choosen unanimously. The 25 Master Masons present filled out included application blanks as required by the Constitution of Suprem Council and signed their name to the Dispensation. The initiation fee decided upon of \$5.00 for the present and as a remit \$375.00 was turned over to the Treasurer. All the requirements taken care of and complied with the Grand Monarch of the M.O.V.P.E.R George Edward Hatch was escorted into the meeting. After several preliminaries each of the 25 Master Masons were obligated and became Prophets. The Disformation was presented to Prophet Monarch Jesse Seright by the Grand Monarch George Edward Hatch and by him Islam Grotto was declaired constitution under M.O.V.P.E.R. Then the motion of Prophet Chief Justice Dunn and seconded by Hunter a committee of five was appointed to to prepare By-Laws and report on them at the next meeting. Prophet Monarch announced the said committee with C.J. John Dunn to be chairman, George Metzger, John C. Ward, Frank E. Jencale, James E. Strickler as members. On the motion of C.J. Dunn, 2nd by M.C. Schmidt that the secretary be autorized to purchase fezzes, buttons, all stationary and books necessary including application blanks for the Grotto. On the motion of Prophet Treasurer Oscar Schulze, seconded by Prophet James W. Head that they adjourn to meet in the same hall on Saturday Evening Feb. 4, 1911 at 8:0'clock.

On Feb. 4, 1911 the Bi-Laws Committee headed by C.J. John A. Dunn presented their results which were read section by section and at the conclusion upon the motion of M.C. George G. Schmidt and seconded by Prophet James M. Duncan they were approved in their entirety. The price of buttons and fezzes were discussed and the secretary was authorized to purchase the 45cent buttons and \$1.25 fezzes. Then the Monarch announced the following Prophets to comprise the Ritual Committee for Islam Grotto namely John Dunn as Chairman, George G. Schmidt, Florence C.C Denhard, John C.L. Ward, James E. Strickler, Frank E. Tenctate, Alexander Gray, George Metzger, James W. Head, Ed Gwinner, Fred Alsbach, and Carl W. Blamer.

The Grotto might have been called a lodge. What is a lodge? The term has come into general use that the incongruity of calling the meeting place of a frateranl **society** a sleeping place or living quarters is accepted without question. However the additional meaning purely Masonic origin and due to the fact that the usual meeting place for operative Masons was in their common lodge or lodging close by the fabric under construstion. The word is so used from the earliest of the Gothic Constitutions and the lodge has continued for 5 or 6 centuries to be the center of Masonic activity. Some freemasons accustomed to travel to them the "loge" or "loggs" was the only home they knew. The term tiler or tyler applied to the outter guard. The custodian of the lodge was unknown and didn't originate in medieval times until it appeared in print in 1735.

At the meeting October 5, 1914 on the motion of Prophet R.M.H. Jantzen and 2nd by Prophet George B. Confer, the Monarch was requested to appoint a committee to look up a site to devise stags and meetings for the building of a home for Islam Grotto. Jessie K. Seright, George G. Schmidt and R.M.H. Jantzen were the committee. As a result at the April 5, 1915 meeting discussion took place concerning a piece of property with options to expire September 1, 1915 was voted to discuss and move upon it. The report of the read thus: The undersigned committee appointed October 5, 1914 to look up a site and to devise ways and means for the building of a home for Islam Grotto, respectfully beg leave to report that upon notice of our appointment, we undertook the duties of the same and held meetings from time to time, examined a number of sites, in all of which your committee found objections, either in price, location, convenience or surroundings, except a property, facing the park, on Montgomery Avenue, between Federal and Sandusky Streets, North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. This property your committee believe to be suitably located for the purposes of the Grotto, and that the same can be purchased at a fair and a reasonable price. On Motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was offered: Resolved-"That the report of the Building Committee be adopted. That the Grotto take over the options and agree to purchase the land described therein. That title to the same be taken temporarily in the name of the Trustees of the Grotto and the Trustees be authorized to pay out of the funds in their hands the purchase price." The question was discussed at length and the motion being put was practically unanimously adopted, there not being one dissenting vote. A Motion was made that the Monarch appoint a committee to arrange and secure the necessary papers and a charter for a holding company to take care of the real estate. The Motion was unanimously adopted. The statements having been made that the Islam Grotto could not take title to real estate, inasmuch as it was not legally a chartered organization.

The meeting of November 4, 1916 went thus: We would recommend the incorporation, under the laws of the State of Penna., of a land or building company to be known as the ISLAM GROTTTO BUILDING ASSOCIATION, with a capital stock of \$50,000.00, divided into shares of the par value of \$50.00 each; with the provisions in the By-Laws that the shares could be sold in fractional amounts, and with the further provision that there should be seven directors chosen annually, and that Islam Grotto subscribe for those shares to the extent of the available money above mentioned, to-wit, \$10,700.00, forthwith, and place in the hands of the Treasurer of the company, to be decided upon at the next meeting, the sum of \$ 5,000.00, the amount required by the state to be paid in cash into the treasury before a charter is issued.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted: That the stock held by Islam Grotto in the Islam Grotto Building Association shall be voted each year by the four highest officers of the Grotto, viz., the Monarch, Chief Justice, Master of Ceremonies and Venerable Prophet and that the said officer shall as soon as possible name the seven directors of the Islam Grotto Building Association who shall serve for the ensuing year and whose first duty shall be immediately make application for a charter for said Association. That Islam Grotto subscribe for stock in the Islam Grotto Building Association in the amount of \$10,700.00 and that the Trustees be hereby directed to pay at once to the said Association out of the monies in their hands, on account of the same, the sum of \$5,000.00 and that they also pay to the said Association, upon its incorporation \$5,700.00, the balance of the subscription; the sum of \$5,000.00 being required by the State Department at Harrisburg to be raised in cash before granting a charter.

At a meeting on October 18, 1919 it was voted to increase the number of Board of Directors from seven to nine. The following resolution was read by the Monarch: Resolved: That the officers of the Islam Grotto Building Association Inc. be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to take the proper and necessary action to procure the assent of the stockholders of the association to an increase of its indebtedness to an amount not exceeding Three hundred (\$300,000.00) Dollars for the purpose of the erection of a suitable building on Montgomery Avenue, North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. for the use of Islam Grotto and its members, or any said part of such sum as may be necessary for that purpose, and upon obtaining such assent that the Board of Directors of this Association thereupon authorize such increase: procure the surrender of such bonds outstanding upon such terms as may be agreed upon, this Board authorize such increase of indebtedness, provide for the securing of the same, reserving the right to incur a further indebtedness, with the assent of the stockholders, to be known as the first mortgage erected; fix the rate of interest to be paid; time or times of payment and do all things required to the end that the new building be erected and completed.

Some of the early Monarchs of Islam Grotto were: J.K. Seright 1911-12, J.N. Dunn 1912-13, G.G. Schmidt 1913-14, W.A. Aeberli 1914-15, W.J. Black 1915-16, H.H. Seiferth 1916-17, Geo. McLuckie 1917-18 and R.M. Jantzen 1918-19. More will follow when the final list to date is added at the end of this brief history. Each Monarch did his thing and held many affairs for the Prophets over the years. It was the German Masonic Hall at Madison Avenue and Pressley St. where many Grotto affairs were held. It has been torn down to make way for the Crosstown Boulevard and state highway to the north. Also a modern convention center named David L. Lawrence has been constructed on the downtown site of the old Fort Pitt Hotel at 10th Street and Penn Avenue where quite a few Grotto affairs were held over the years. The Allegheny Carnegie Library Music Hall that housed a famous organ was where Islam Grotto held its Ceremonials. It too has been torn apart and now houses a modern Little Theater. While one faded program dated February 11, 1914 marked the third annual reception of Islam Grotto. Islam Grotto was still young at the time but a committee arranged a dance, dinner and card party having Fort Pitt Hotel set aside the English, Assembly and Dutch rooms of the hotel for Islam's Propets and their ladies. The cost was \$2.00 per person and souvenirs were provided for the ladies. Still another faded program tells of Islam's Spring Ceremonial held in the German Masonic Hall on May 20, 1912. Monarch John D. Dunn called the business meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and this was followed by the Ceremonial at 7:45 P.M. A Buffet lunch brought the affair to a close at 10:00 P.M.

In the month of April on April 28, 1914 Monarch William Aeberli held a Ceremonial at the German Masonic Hall. He had Surgeon Dr. Laird O. Millen, Asst Surgeon Dr. George Metzger and Dr. C.T. Osterloh of the Hospital Corps., Revelers, Asst. Inquisitors and Stage Director. Also present was the band and glee club plus elected and appointed officers plus the large cast. Monarch W. J. Black held his Ceremonial at the German Masonic Hall on April 5, 1915. Twenty men were taken in some of whom were famous such as Sam Cruikshank. He had an outing at Idlewild Park. At a meeting discussion ensued concerning a piece of property with options to ~~expire~~ Sept. 1, 1915. Votes were taken discuss it further. He took into membership 5 men in April 5, 1915, 16 men in April 19, 1915, 12 in July, 1915 and 20 in November 1915. Monarch Herman H. Seiferth in 1916 had his Ceremonial also at German Masonic Hall in January 28, 1916. He had afterwards a cabaret with live movies, Ginger Acts and an All Star Vaudeville Show at the Gayety Theater, on May 30th.

The last ceremonial of the year during term of Monarch R.M.H. Jantsen in 1918 at the German Masonic Hall. The Degree Team and Guards had a picnic at West View Park on July 11, 1918. The band and degree team held a Barn Dance at Mason Hall on North Ave. and Reddour St. The cost was 50 cents per person. In 1919 the 30th Annual Supreme Council Session of MOVPER was held in Pittsburgh June 17, 18 and 19th. Dr. George Metzger was the Monarch and host to Grand Monarch Archibald H. Hugton and Deputy Grand Monarch Jessie K. Seright

Monarch Dr. Charles D. Green had a daytime Ceremonial on May 26, 1920. There was a Kansas City Pilgrimage in his year on June 7, 8 and 9. In 1921 during the term of Monarch Charles W. Wieland the members left by train to attend the 32nd Annual Supreme Council Convention in Atlantic City on June 27, 28 and 29. On February 16th he held the ninth annual reception at the William Penn Hotel. On June 23rd he held the regular business meeting at the German Masonic Hall with music and surprises afterwards. Prior to all this Monarch Wieland had a Ceremonial on January 20th and Installation of officers on January 27th at the German Masonic Hall, a business meeting at same hall with movies and smokes afterwards. He had a band concert on May 18th at North Side Carnegie Music Hall. Monarch Wieland expected over 1000 individuals to attend the Atlantic City Annual Supreme Council Convention. The Degree team had a picnic at West View Park on July 6th and there was an annual picnic on July 27th to Idlewild Park. Monarch Irwin M. Stokely in 1922 had Spring Ceremonial and Novelty Dance on March 29th, a band concert on April 10th, a Serpentine Party on April 25th, Tri City Conention June 26, 27 and 28, a Grand Ceremonial May 24th at the Pitt Theater located on Penn Ave. and 7th Street. He had held a business mmeting at the Carnegie Music Hall on May 22nd with a band concert and the Islam Grotto Saxophone Quartet namely Petty, Eicher, Hawk and Caspey. He held his fall meeting Sept. 28th at the Carnegie Music Hall with movies, entertainment and a vaudeville show afterwards. In June they attended a Cleveland Concert. A Dollar Dinner Dance was held in Oct. 17th at the Fort Pitt Hotel with Past Grand Monarch Albert J. Volsjenau present. A Masquerade Party was held at the New Waldorf Parlors located on Sandusky and Park Wau in Jan. 19th. He also had a Christmas Party and entertainment at the N.S. Carnegie Music Hall Dec. 27th.

1923 saw Monarch George B. Confer having a business session on Oct. 26th at the N.S. Carnegie Music Hall with Prophets, prospective candidates in attendance. Following the meeting there was entertainment and music. He was a guest at the Midwinter Carnival or rather Ceremonial when E. Craige Pelouze was Grand Monarch and I.M.S. Stokely Monarch. On Jan. 14th he held a Swing Contest of the Grotto Band. A Band Concert was held on May 14th at Carnegie Music Hall with Joseph Tyler as director. Prior to this concert he held a Spring Dance and Card Party at the Fort Pitt Hotel on March 5th at a cost of \$1.10 per person. A Grotto Stag was held at the Moose Temple on Penn Ave. on Jan. 8th. His annual reception was held at the Fort Pitt Hotel plus a banquet on Feb. 15th. There was a Fall Meeting on Sept. 28 with entertainment, entertaining movies and vaudeville. The last information found was a Mar. 29th Business Meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium with sound movies featuring Ben Turpin and Step-in-fetchet plus Jack Holt in *When Satan Sleeps*.

Another early great Monarch was Rudolph G. Volkwein in 1924. At his Ceremonial he had as his guest Dr. Ernest L. Volgenau, Past Grand Monarch Jan. 17th. His Spring Ceremonial at the German Masonic Hall in May 19th saw the stunsters perform (Imps). On June 17th they attended the Indianapolis Ceremonial. Finally there was Open House at the Grotto Hall on October 16th. It was the grand opening of the year. A show was put on by Ivor Lowrie and Elmer Maier with Loyal B. Hinds as musical director. Only a few more will follow.

In 1931 when Walter F. Weberg was Monarch Islam Grotto was confronted with a most serious problem. It had no home and particularly no suitable place available, regardless of cost in which to hold the next ceremonial. Action was delayed in the past for a number of reasons beyond control of the Building Committee. A plan after careful study and analysis of such plans made with time and place. A Temple to be erected, financed and ready for occupancy this year 1931 without further assistance from the prophets except annual dues of \$10.00 effective Feb. 6, 1932, for duration of time necessary to amortize the debt which they assumed would not be over 10 years and might be less with a co-operating membership and reasonable management. The Building Association had these figures: Cost of bldg: \$230,000, Maintenance \$21,200, Income to be \$38,000 with approximately \$17,000 per year to pay on mortgages. The Auto Club President at the time was Carl T. Zinmeister. They held a testimonial Dinner and Card Party for the entertainment of the Vets at the U.S. Vets Hospital. Other events held in 1931 were: A Swim Party at the Natatorium in Downtown Pgh., Annual Picnic at Rose Grove in North Park, corn roasts, another swim party, Country Dance in Oct. and an Excursion to New York in November. At this time DeMolay in S. America was Logia Condor Lodge No. 9 Santiago. It was the first DeMolay Lodge instituted in S. America while Chapters were already in Canada, Mexico, Porto Rico, Panama Canal Zone, Phillipines, Hawaiian Isles, Alaska, Italy and France. A Pilgrimage to the 42nd Annual Supreme Council Session in St. Petersburg, Florida by train in June 1931. However before this trip a Special Meeting was held at 8:00 P.M. March 3rd at the German Masonic Hall to plan for a Business Meeting and Farewell Party to take place on Nov. 19, 1931. They expected 1000 candidates for the coming Dedication Ceremonial. There was public inspection of the new temple located at 107 E. Montgomery Ave on Dec. 27, 1931 a Sunday 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. They were to see it before its entire completion. The dedication was to take place Feb. 9, 1932 when the building was under roof and heated. Prophets were encouraged to bring their ladies and prospective candidates. Also in 1931 the 2nd annual two day trip all expensed paid by the Grotto to Conneaut Lake Park on Sat. & Sun. Sept. 13 and 13. A grand reunion ball was held in the hotel Chrystal Ball Room. If a member subscribed to the new temple he was invited to the 1st Annual Dinner of the Fondation Club, held at the Keystone Athletic Club on July 8, 1931.

The Monarch of 1931 was Walter F. Weberg with J. Clifford Franz Chief Justice, Ralph H. Axthelm Master of Ceremonies, Louis H. McMahan Secretary, George G. Schmidt, P.M. treasurer and Fred C. Hopton Veiled Prophet. The Cornerstone Ceremonial took place Sept. 28, 1931 with the Cornerstone Laying at 6:30 P.M. followed by a Ceremonial Session at the Moose Temple on Penn Ave. at 9:00 P.M. The chairman was Dr. D.S. Ashcom, P.M., Sealing of records Prophet Edmund F. Erk, Representative of Pa., Laying of cornerstone, Monarch Walter F. Weberg and an address by Prophet John S. Herron, President of City Council later to become Mayor of Pgh. A parade ensued from E. Montgomery Ave. to Federal St. Sixth and

(continued) (parade route)

Seventh St. to Penn Ave. and the Moose Temple. In the parade were the officers, band, Past Monarchs, Cast, Veteran Patrol and Members, candidates and Marshals. At 5:00 P.M. a vote was taken on the petitions followed by initiation of the candidates. Elmer Maier was director of the cast and given title of director general and had a short form ceremonial. It was followed by 8 bouts of Amateur Champs. The cast under Maier had Geo. Ossman as stage director or manager, Oscar Goettman was Electrical Director of electricians, others involved were: Ivor M. Lowrie, A.P. Vandergift, officers Dr. E.A. Picard President, and 22 members Ray Harris, Will Herron, Chas. Wieland, P.M. plus Revels 5 members, the Patrol Capt. Edwin Kohl, 1st and 2nd Lt., 4 Sgts, 3 corporals, senior color and jr. color guard, 29 patrolmen some of which were Ralph McLaughlin 33rd, Theodore Rohm Dr. and 9 veteran patrolmen. Director of the band was Jo Tyler Jr. with 30 members. The total taking part amounted to 78 members.

As a matter of history Monarch Metzger Dr. put on the first few ceremonials until Jim McGrath took hold of them and the constituted Degree Team later changed into the cast. Monarch Metzger was better known as the Senator from Dutchtown (Troy Hill) and was one of first to sign the charter application. On Dec. 5, 1918 Monarch Jantzen announced the band had been reorganized and Andrew Miller chosen leader with no salary. Members of the band were exempt from Dues as of Oct. 20, 1916. The Malsi Club made up of Islam Grotto members was their only owned home in Allegheny until the new temple was constructed. It probably was the first piece of real estate owned by any Grotto and devoted exclusively to uses of the Grotto. Some excellent waffle dinners and country chicken were eaten there.

Monarch Weberg had a chairman of weather namely P.M. Harry A. Little. His sports chairman was Cloke with H.M. Love, W.H. Conrad, Chas. Seapken and John M. Finnie. Chmn. Elmer G. Barton was head of the dance with Chmn. Thomas Booth and Vice Chmn. Jo Tyler of music. His Auto Club had a Halloween Dance in October. Visitors stood in awe at the new \$400,000 temple with a subtle suggestion of the laces and perfume and romance of old Cathay in the architecture and coloring of the facade of the building. The throngs who visited the new temple were awed at its interior trimmings and Persian colors, spacious auditorium, balcony and dining facilities plus the incomparable dancing floor. There was a spacious tarp of canvas that could be placed over the excellent hardwood floors to protect them from rentals. The Patrol practiced their drills under the balcony. Of interest is the first play performed by the great cast in 1933 was entitled "Tommy." Some of the theaters used were The Rialto Theater, Alvin Theater and Pitt Theater were variety shows took place such as burlesque, midnight shows, and those with girls and comedians. Many Prophets were interested in politics such as being candidates for Mayor of Pittsburgh namely John S. Herron and Joseph N. Mackrell (later Potentate of Syria Temple) and Lester Jacobson. Others seeking political offices were: Harry A. Little, George S. Oliver, Hon. Edward M. Hough, William Y. English, Edward Townsend, Edwin J. Wuerthele, George Evans and Dr. Henry Walls for Council, for the bench Ralph H. Smith, Benjamin Lencher, Charles G. Lane Jr., Clarence B. Nixon and Frank I. Gollman for Sheriff and John A. Shiader for Jury Commissionaire. Boxing matches were also held in the temple as well as bingo games and dances. Some dances held by the Scilorf Club in 1933 were using the music of the following bands: Henry Wenzel and his Masters of Melody, Midnight Dance, Chink Lynn and his orchestra, Olde Tyme Dance, Joey Shaffler and his orchestra, Benny Burton and his orchestra, Will Ryshaneck and his KDKA, NBC orchestra and Carl Ludwig and his orchestra. The cost was forty cents per person. The great band was the nucleus for Syria Temple's band as it was very large with many accomplished musicians. Also the Chorus had almost a hundred voices as well. The great cast had a waiting list for those seeking membership. To perform on the great stage was quite an honor for Prophets. Some of the units that were active were the Patrol, Band, Chorus, Cast, Security (Police and Firemen), Stewards, Medical. Many of the Prophets had served in WWI and their sons in WWII who also upon returning home became Prophets as did their fathers. Actually they carried long list of Prophets and their sons serving in the armed forces in the Islamite. Prophets too old to be called up for service contributed to the Grotto War Service Club to provide recreation to those overseas and in military camps at home. A lot of Grotto events took place after 1931 when Prophet Everett McKinley Dirksen an Illinois Congressman and later Senator and Prophet James J. Davis who was to become United States Secretary of Labor spoke at Islam's dinner honoring retiring Monarch Arthur S. Boden in 1944.

Finally after a number of successful years the Islam Grotto located on 107 E. Montgomery Avenue was ordered to vacate the premises on or about May 10, 1967. Notices were sent out by Secretary Michael E. Barkasi to the membership stating that due to the construction of the New Allegheny Center Mall the Islam Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R. Islam Grotto Association and the Scilorf Club would cease operations as of April 30, 1967. They would thus vacate the property on May 10th.

Various sites were examined and a former automobile agency and display building was selected to become the new Islam Grotto. The new address was 725 Allegheny Ave. Pittsburgh, PA. 15233. It was a large structure with an L shape two stories high and a flat roof. The first floor had an elegant lobby that could be entered from the street or rear parking lot. Elegant furniture, chairs and tables were there for comfort of the members. A parking lot in the rear could be entered from the street via a rather steep inclined plane. On the right side of the lobby was the office, next the rest rooms for the men and ladies. On the left side was a large cloak room, a storage room, a room with an ice machine and addressograph machines. There was an entrance hall between the two that was quite large and gave access to a huge ballroom with marble floors and overhead lighting at the end of which was a great stage with all the equipment plus an organ and baby grand piano. At the end of the ballroom there was to the left a huge kitchen with stoves, refrigerators, serving tables, sinks and complete kitchen wear for cooking and serving. It was a huge room. The second floor over the L shaped section was reached via steps on stage right. There were dressing rooms for the cast, makeup rooms, rooms for costumes and a room for the clowns. At the terminal end there was stored an assortment of equipment. The second floor over the entrance lobby had an set of rooms for the Patrol and their equipment. Outside of these rooms was a large balcony often used by the Ladies Group when meeting and eating luncheons. A huge colored arc lighting flood light projector was also on the balcony. Matching tables and chairs were stacked on the ballroom floor. Under the stage there were risers and band equipment plus music stands and music. Also on stage were two large speakers and a complete microphone setup. Outside was a huge lighted Islam Grotto Sign.

From 1967 to 1986 many ceremonials, dances, New Years Eve parties, with the Supreme Council holding its Annual Session in Pittsburgh during the year of Monarch Richard C. Hoff with a parade etc. June 23-25th. It was the 87 Annual Supreme Council Session. Rentals took place as well to Couples Dances, Cat shows, record shows, and groups such as the Pittsburgh Police, Motorcycle units, African American Masonic groups. Even wedding parties were scheduled as well as graduation parties.

However in spite of the income the expenses were too great to continue operation so the Board of Directors voted to sell the building to Burger King in 1986 and move to a former theater and state liquor store building on Troy Hill at 1725 Ley Street. Any equipment that was saved after the sale of the old building was stored in the basement of this building. It had an office, safe, counter, some storage cabinets, addressograph machines, large tables and chairs for the members to sit at during meetings and stags. There was a stove, refrigerator and beer dispenser plus a toilet. It was too compact and so other facilities elsewhere were rented for ceremonials and meetings.

It was then in 1996 after numerous meetings the officers and Board of Directors accepted the invitation to build adjacent to the Masonic Temple on Cemetery Lane and moved there in 1996.

It is perhaps of importance to impart a few lines to what took place in the year that Ralph H. Axthelm was Monarch in 1933. A testimonial on Jan. 30th took place in the McCreary Dining Room. The invocation was given by the Rev. G.C. Swoper D.D., Introduction by Fred C. Hopton, Toastmaster was Hon. Harry A. Little a Past Monarch and addresses given by Hon. Benjamin Lencher a Judge of Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Mr. Francis A. Keating the President of Grogan Company, and Hon. Ralph H. Smith Judge of Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County. Response was by Monarch Axthelm.

During the year of Monarch Axthelm there were the following events that took place: Talking motion pictures, Thanksgiving Day Dance, Free Turkey Stag at Grotto, Grotto Booster Club had a stag smoker at the cost of 50cents per, a Broadway Show, Kiddie Christmas Party, Auto Club Dance and Card Party at the Pines, New Years Dance Frolic at the new beautiful Grotto ballroom. There also was an Olde Timer Dances scheduled through out the year as a series with George O'Neil's orchestra playing for them. The cost was 40cents per person. Ofcourse Monarch Axthelm held two successful ceremonials. His Past Grand Master Fez now resides alongside all the others in the Grotto Hall in Philadelphia. His Jewel is also there too.

Another Monarch named Fred C. Hopton in 1934 had a great year according to what could be ascertained from some secretarial notes in the files. He took the Grotto by train to Atlantic City for the 45th Annual Grotto Supreme Council Convention. During his year there were the following events: A Bazaar, Picnic at Idelwild Park with dancing, swimming and sports, dances at the Scilorf Club, an Old Time Minstrel Show by cast, Fish Fry at the Dells, Get Together, several Ceremonials of which one was a short form and another a Super Ceremonial and Grand Reunion. The band under the direction of Harry G. Wenzel took part in them too. There were the usual stunts, dinners, talking motion pictures at each ceremonial. When there was dancing at the parks, it was the music of Henry Wenzel that played for the dancers. This was the year that the great Persian Patrol practiced for the competition to take place in Atlantic City.

Monarch Walter F. Weberg held an Moonlight Excursion with dancing aboard the Streckfus Steamer at a cost of 75cents per adult and 25cent for children. He also had an Amateur Boxing Night for Fathers and Sons via the Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S. and the great Fritz Zivic a great welter weight champion present. Such great boxers of the time took part: Tony Cerene, Herky Kaminski, John Juzefsky, Nick Rigare and Danny Wilcox participated. Other boxing bouts were set up under the jurisdiction of the Allegheny Mt. Association. He also had a Sons and Daughters Dance with Barey Blues Orchestra playing.

Other Monarchs followed suit with such events as the musical extravaganza of Monarch Harry Frederick in 1952. The Big Spring Show with the music of Phil Spitalny sponsored by Monarch Alex P. Meanor in 1953. He too had a Sons and Daughters Dance with music by the Lee Kelton orchestra. Prior to this in 1950 Monarch Lastiene I. Pierson had an Islam Grotto Jr. Prom and later a Sons, Daughters, Brothers, Sisters Dance with the Jo Tyler orchestra providing the music.

Islam Grotto Monarchs enjoyed initiating trips to various cities and scenic places for the membership. Some of these trips were: A trip to New York in 1945 by Monarch Bolster, a trip to the Blue Ridge famous Shenandoah Caverns and Sky line ride in 1935 by Monarch Otto Zange and to Supreme Counsel Conventions at British Columbia in 1984 during year of Monarch Thomas J. Mulkerin, Las Vegas in 1990 when Henry Zalewski was Monarch and 1982 to New Orleans when Monarch George K. Clark was scheduling trips. Ofcourse there have been trips to various places in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia that were reached via bus, train and automobile. Such trips will continue to be planned in the future at the discretion of the Monarchs.

Individual Monarchs have also on their own planned new programs such as the now famous Prophets Night which is free to the members. It was the brain child of a dedicated Prophet named Edward Lange when he was Monarch in 1989 and continued to function since. Probably the most important item on the aggend of any Monarch is the publication of the Islamite, our news paper. Prophet William Rimmel a famous newspaper journalist and the winner of the Golden Quill award in journalism and a 33rd degree Mason was its editor for many years and later replaced by Prophet Theodore Nichols and later Frank O. Hough Jr. a Past Monarch and Past President of the Pa. Grotto Association. Only recently has it been taken over by Richard W. Roell, Chief Justice upon the death of Frank.

Syria Temple Potentates
who were or still are current Members

Past Potentates

Norman C. Arbes
James W. Allison
Hiram P. Ball (Past Grand Master of Masons In Pa.)
Werner F. Betz
Eugene F. Connelly
Theodore G. Daniels
Allen P. Fowkes
James A. Frye
Benson G. Henderson
Kenneth F. Hittle
Lloyd L. Kildoo
Jack L. Leavy
Squire T. Mair
William C. Malone
Norwood A. McDaniel
Harry M. Montgomery (Past Monarch too)
Henry J. "Bud" Mazur
Arthur Sarn
Dr. William D. Spargo
John G. Stephens Jr.
Jack L. Weaver
Frank Zoltani
William F. "Digger" Young Jr. (Potentate now)

Prophets at Sight

John S. McCans (Past Grand Master of Masons In Pa.)
Samuel Williams (Past Grand Master of Masons In Pa.)

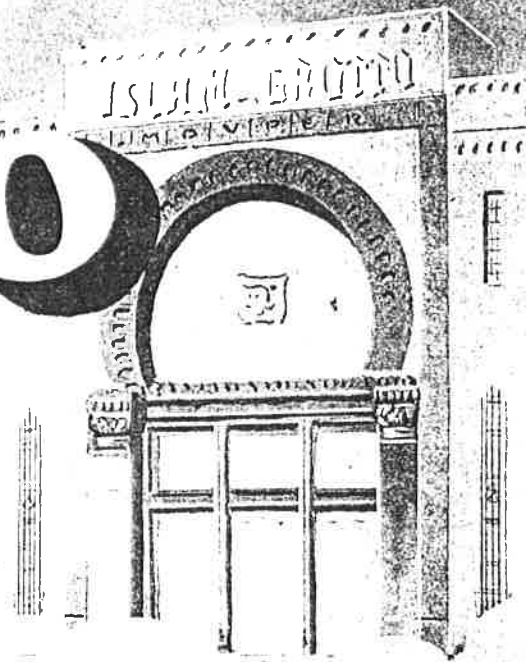
During the 90 years of its fraternal existence the following Monarchs have efficiently, courageously and faithfully served Islam Grotto to the best of their ability.

- 1911 - Jesse K. Seright
- 1912 - John N. Dunn
- 1913 - George G. Schmidt
- 1914 - William A. Aeberli
- 1915 - William J. Black
- 1916 - Herman H. Seiferth
- 1917 - George McLuckie, Jr.
- 1918 - R.M. H. Jantzen
- 1919 - Dr. George Metzger
- 1920 - Dr. Charles D. Green
- 1921 - Charles W. Wieland
- 1922 - Irwin M. Stokely
- 1923 - George B. Confer
- 1924 - Rudolph G. Volkwein
- 1925 - George A. Neubert
- 1926 - F. Sydney Youden
- 1927 - Dr. Dick S. Ashcom
- 1928 - Harry A. Little
- 1929 - George Reatchlous
- 1930 - William G. Doench
- 1931 - Walter F. Weberg
- 1932 - J. Clifford Franz
- 1933 - Ralph H. Axthelm (later Grand Monarch)
- 1934 - Fred C. Hopton
- 1935 - Otto A. Zange
- 1936 - Elmer H. Maier
- 1937 - J. C. Volkwein
- 1938 - Harry A. Yerx
- 1939 - William C. Zeigler
- 1940 - John B. Nicklas, Jr. (later Grand Monarch)
- 1941 - Dr. Lester E. Lacock
- 1942 - Edward C. Niedt
- 1943 - Arthur S. Boden
- 1944 - Ivor M. Lowrie
- 1945 - Calvin L. Bolster
- 1946 - Herbert J. Restell
- 1947 - Harry M. Montgomery (Judge later and Potentate of Syria Temple)
- 1948 - Edgar L. Knox
- 1949 - George S. Youden
- 1950 - Lastiene I. Pierson
- 1951 - Charles W. Rupp
- 1952 - Harry J. Frederick
- 1953 - Alex P. Meanor
- 1954 - Fred A. Balzer
- 1955 - William E. Morris
- 1956 - Julius J. Strba
- 1957 - Dr. Theodore L. Rohm (33rd)
- 1958 - Walter G. Kampas
- 1959 - Clarence L. Miller
- 1960 - Howard R. Blind
- 1961 - R. Rhody Brenlove
- 1962 - David W. Aitken
- 1963 - Earl D. Baumann, M.D.
- 1964 - George W. Dulin
- 1965 - Ralph J. Eckert
- 1966 - William J. Mitchell
- 1967 - Allan R. Smith
- 1968 - Dr. William John Adams
- 1968 & 1969 - Samuel J. Nikhazy (33rd)
- 1970 - George C. Zimmer
- 1971 - Robert C. Osborne
- 1972 - William H. Karr
- 1973 - Frank O. Hough, Jr. (P.P.P.G.A.)
- 1974 - Donald C. Phillips
- 1975 - William M. Acker
- 1976 - John H. Wilson
- 1977 - Richard C. Hoff
- 1978 - Donald C. Craft
- 1979 - Arthur L. Smaltz, Jr. (P.P. Erie Shrine)
- 1980 - Charles R. Stockum
- 1981 - Wallace W. McCall
- 1982 - George Kemp Clark Sr.
- 1983 - John R. Clark (youngest Monarch ever)
- 1984 - Thomas J. Mulkerin
- 1985 - Robert Belohlavek (Jan-Mar)
- 1985 - Tommy R. Lee
- 1986 - Robert J. Winter
- 1987 - David J. Rector
- 1988 - William C. Nolder (P.P.P.G.A.)
- 1989 - Edward L. Lange
- 1990 - Henry S. Zalewski
- 1991 - James N. Deller
- 1992 - William J. Smith
- 1993 - Richard R. Moran Sr.
- 1994 - Merlin R. Webb
- 1995 - Raymond J. Rietzel Jr.
- 1996 - Ted H. Colcombe
- 1997 - Larry W. Budd (P.P.G.A.)
- 1998 - Richard R. Moran Jr.
- 1999 - Eugene J. Martucci Esq.
- 2000 - Robert A. Metsger
- 2001 - James A. Metsger

THESE ARE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS OF THE FIRST THREE ISLAM GROTTA BUILDINGS

1. The building located on 107 East Montgomery Avenue, North Side, Pgh. PA.
2. The building located on 725 Allegheny Avenue, North Side, Pittsburgh, PA.
3. The building located on Troy Hill at 1725 Ley Street, North Side, Pittsburgh, PA.
4. In 1996 Islam Grotto built its own structure and joined it to the Masonic Temple located on Cemetary Lane, North Side, Pittsburgh, PA.

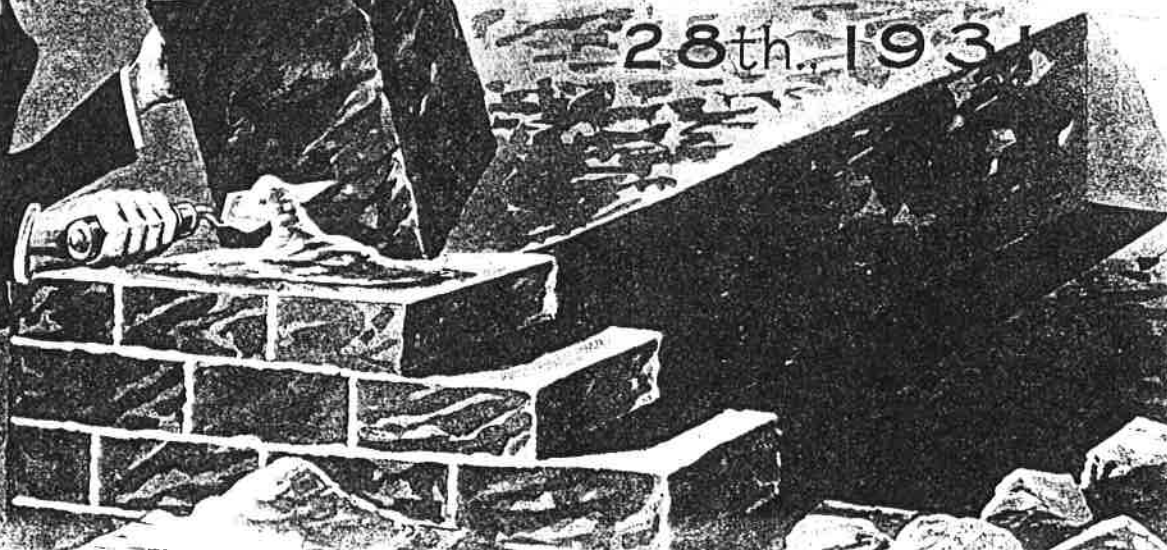
ISLAM GROTTO



CORNERSTONE CEREMONIAL

SEPTEMBER

28th, 1931





CORNERSTONE CEREMONIAL

Cornerstone Laying
 NEW GROTTTO TEMPLE
 107 E. Montgomery Avenue, North Side
 6:30 P. M.



Ceremonial Session
 MOOSE TEMPLE
 634 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh
 9:00 P. M.

Monday, September 28th, 1931

Programme

- CHAIRMAN - - - - - DR. D. S. ASHCOM, P. M.,
President Islam Grotto Building Association
- SEALING OF RECORDS - - - - - PROPHET EDMUND F. ERK,
Representative of Pennsylvania
- LAYING OF CORNERSTONE - - - - - MONARCH WALTER F. WEBERG
- ADDRESS - - - - - PROPHET JOHN S. HERRON,
President, City Council

ISLAM GROTTTO BUILDING ASSOCIATION, Inc.

DR. D. S. ASHCOM, President

WILLIAM A. AEBERLI, 1st Vice President

WILLIAM J. BLACK, 2nd Vice President

R. M. H. JANTZEN, 3rd Vice President

R. G. VOLKWEIN, Treasurer

L. H. McMAHAN, Secretary

GEORGE A. NEUBERT

E. SYDNEY YOUTEN

GEORGE B. CONFER



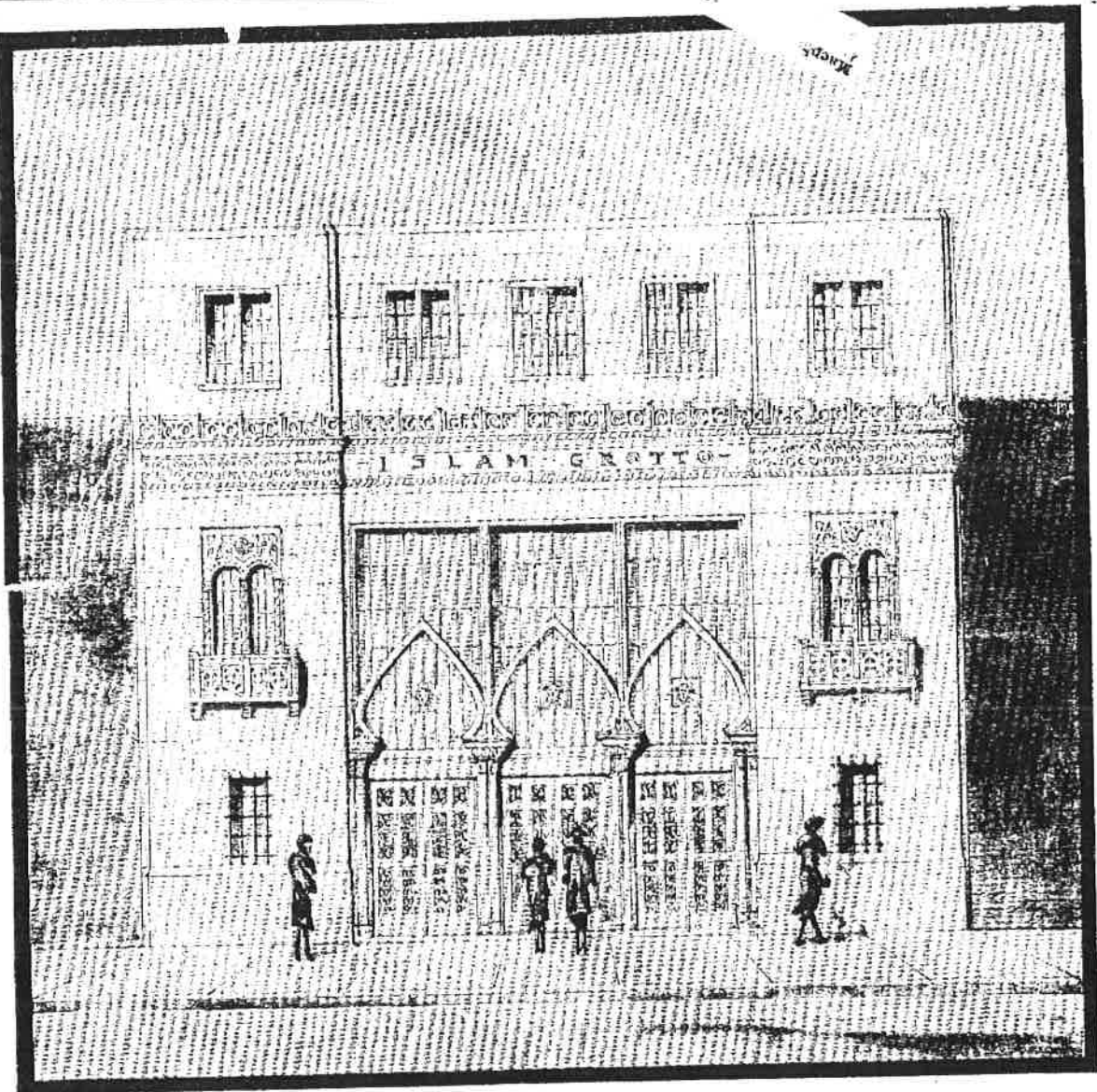
THE ISLAMITE

*For the Profit
of the Prophets*

VOL. XII

FEBRUARY 1931

No. 2

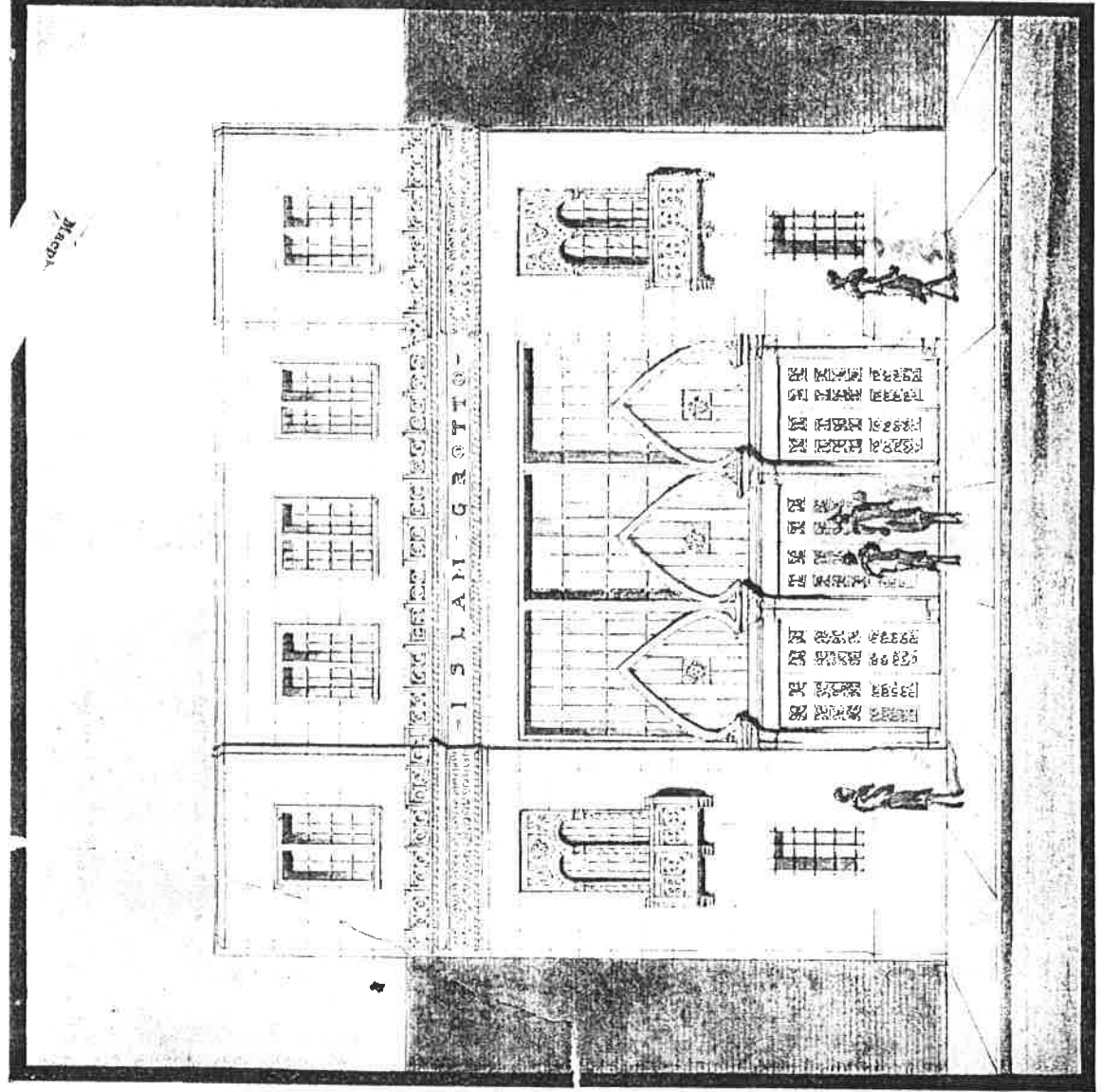


OUR NEW HOME

The front of building to be of Syrian architecture having colored terra cotta front. The main entrances to be of bronze, and glass with bronze mouldings, extending to ceiling of vestibule. Small balconies are provided at office level which add to the appearance. Necessary grills, etc. will be placed over windows to give rich effect.

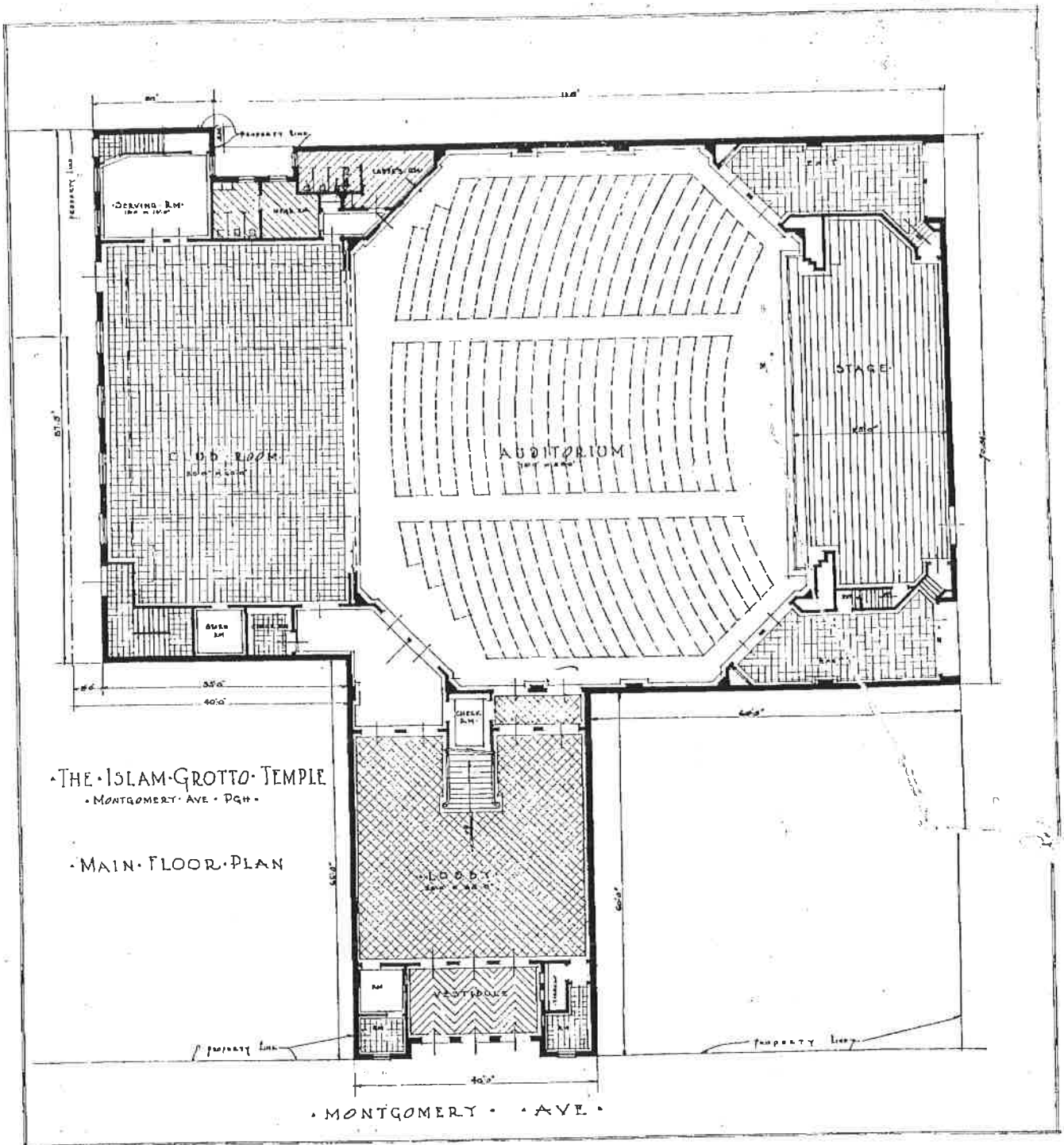
262

of the Prophets



OUR NEW HOME

The front of building to be of Syrian architecture having colored terra cotta front. The main entrances to be of bronze, and glass with bronze mouldings, extending to ceiling of vestibule. Small balconies are provided at office level which add to the appearance. Necessary



FIRST FLOOR:

At front are three main entrances the doors of which open into a vestibule. This vestibule is 22 ft. wide and 12 ft. in depth and towers 22 ft. in height, with modernistic decorations. The sides of same are features with ticket offices and consultation rooms.

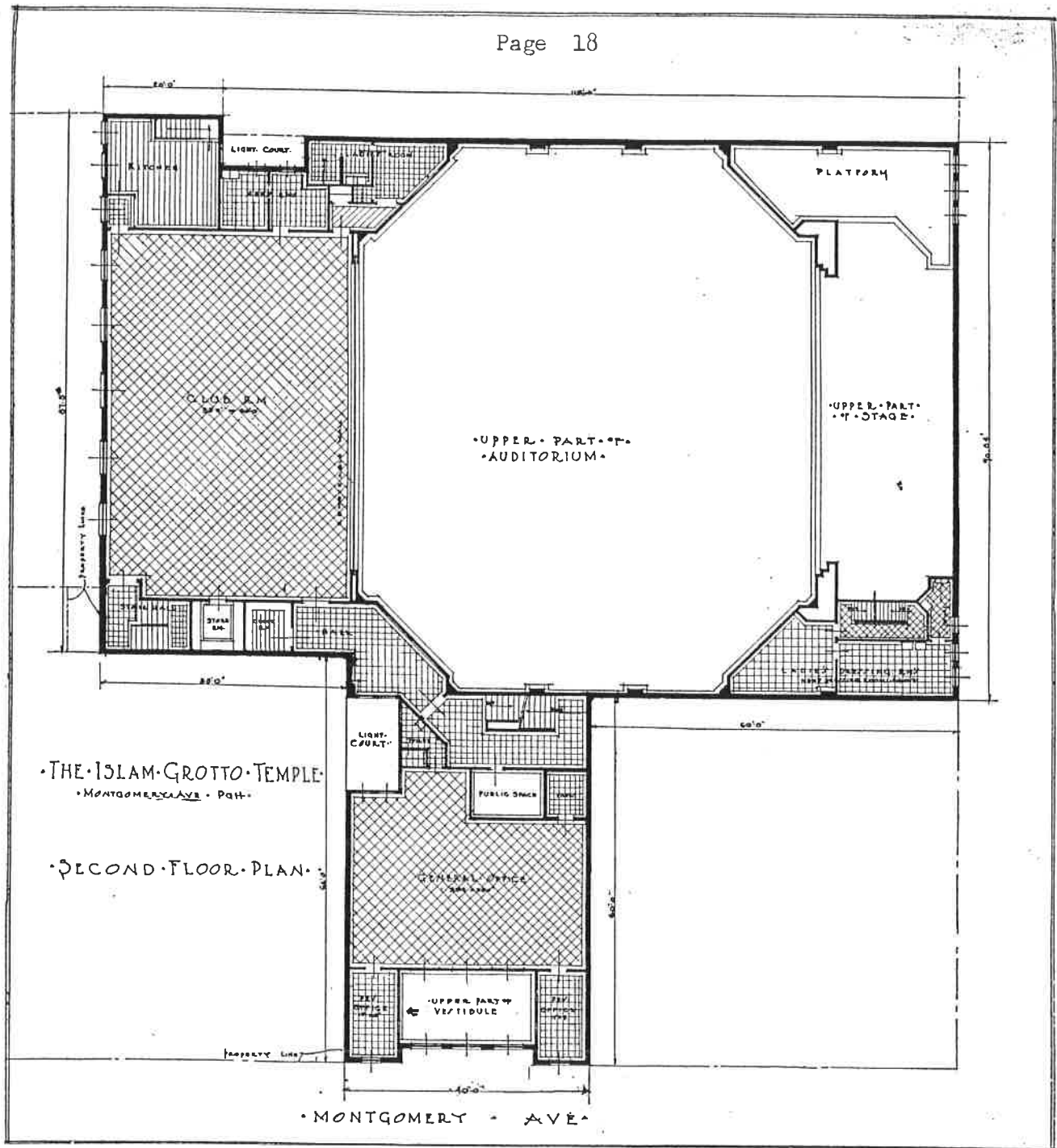
The lobby which measures 38 ft. x 38 ft. is used for meeting and lobby space, from which rises an 8 ft. wide marble stair case to upper floors. Beside the stairs are entrances to rear room and auditorium with cloak room to serve either.

The rear room is 35 ft. x 60 ft. deep x 12 ft. in height. This room is equipped with storage rooms, etc. for the storage of tables, etc., and is so located as to have easy access to serving rooms, lavatories, etc. This room can be used as Club room, Banquet room, Band practice, Etc. The auditorium side of this room has removable sound proof partition which makes it an annex to main auditorium and gives an additional 350 seat capacity.

The main auditorium is 72 ft. x 88 ft. x 35 ft. high. This auditorium will have a level floor which can be used for banquets, dancing, drills and ceremonials, having a seating capacity of approximately 1,000. These seats can quickly be rolled into storage space under stage. The rear has exits to Diamond Street.

The auditorium has a stage 25 ft. deep x 60 ft. wide with an arched opening of 46 ft. x 26 ft. high. This stage being equipped with necessary equipment for a first class stage.

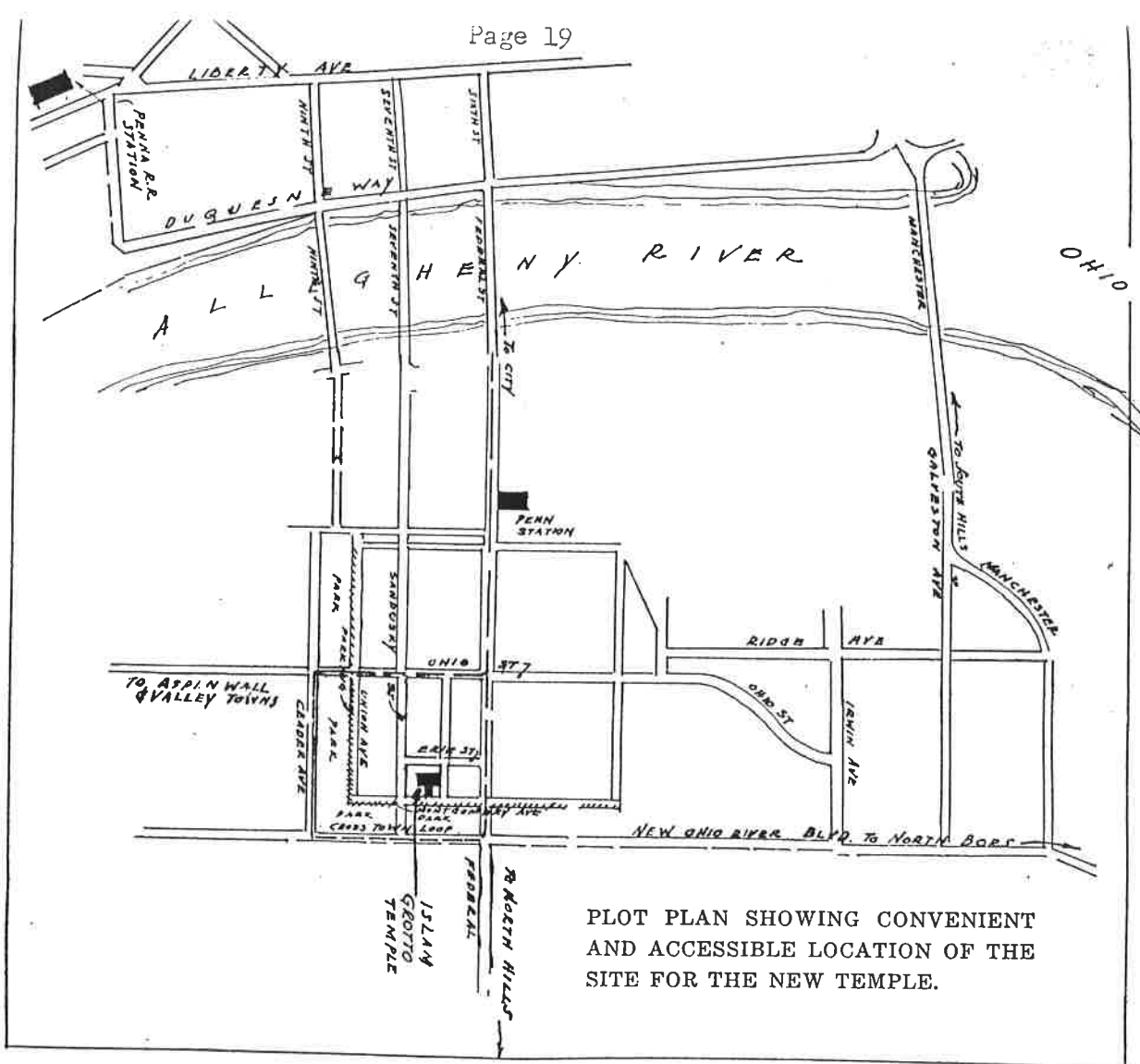
From stage, stairs lead to dressing rooms above and to boiler room below. The lavatories are so located so as auditorium and rear rooms may be used by two separate users and each be accessible to either.



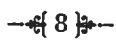
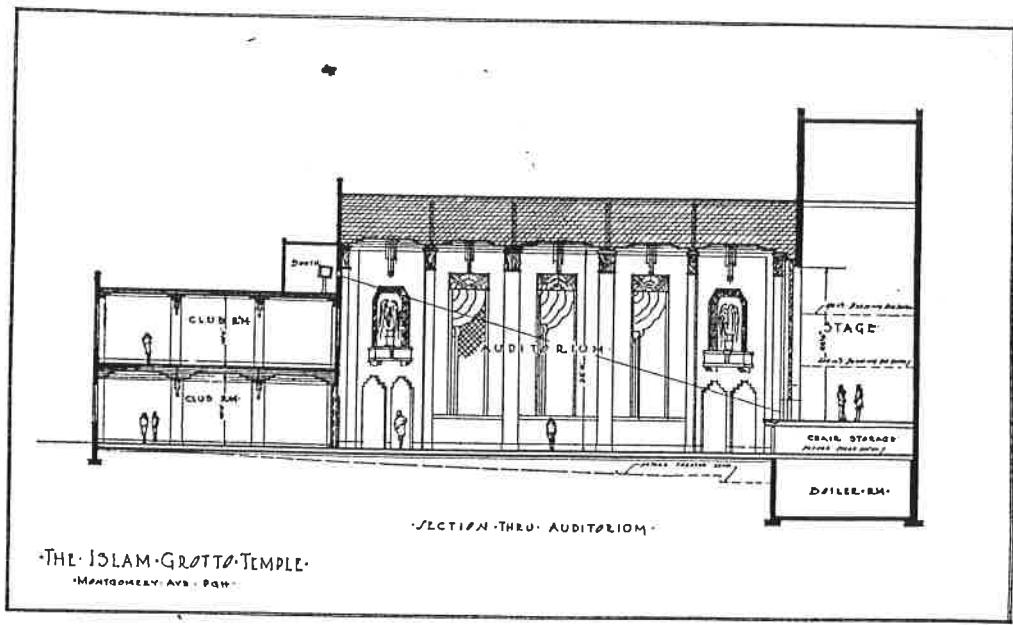
SECOND FLOOR:

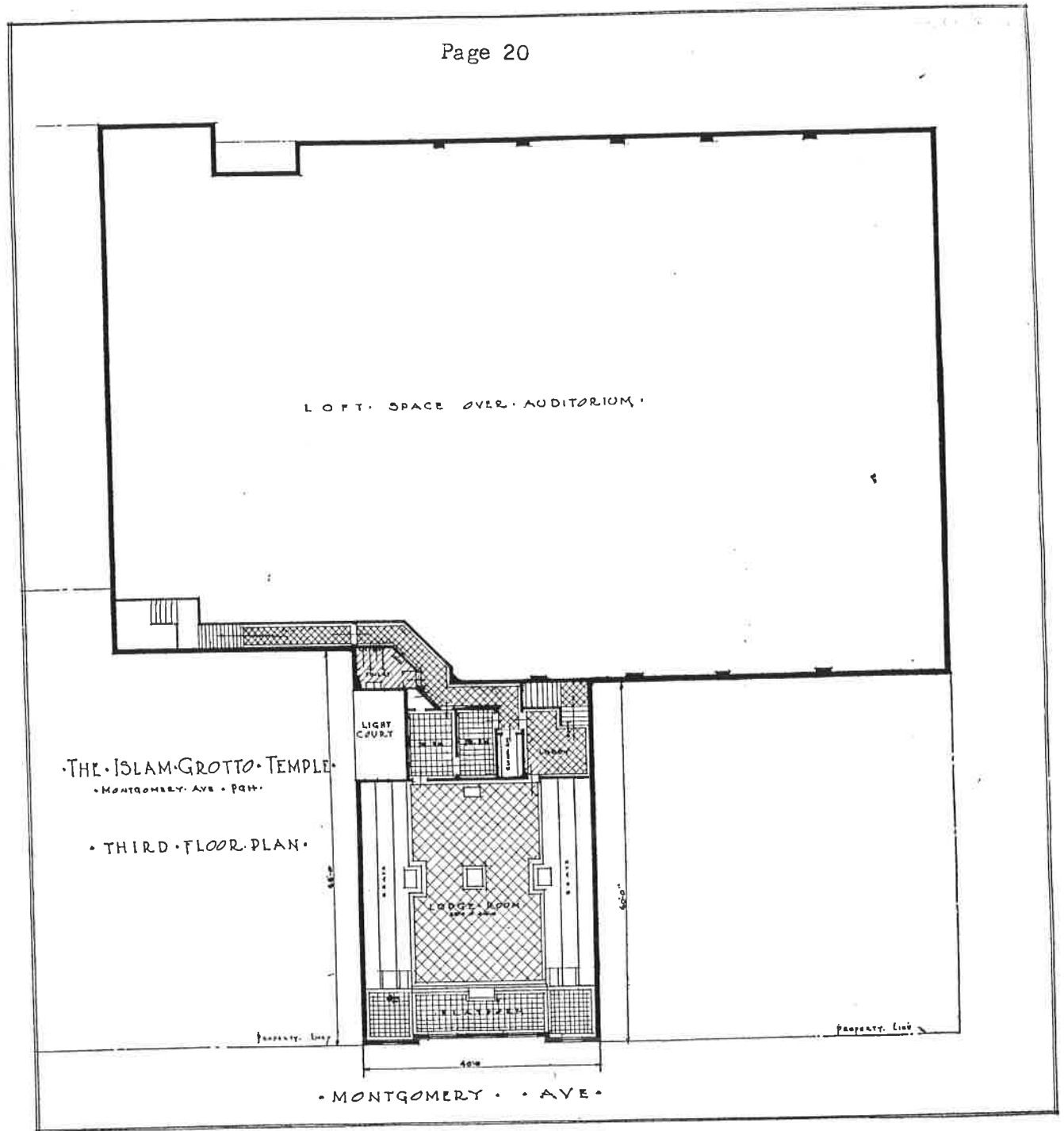
The front is to be used as the Secretary's Office, having public space, private offices and general offices with vault and lavatory facilities. From stairs a hall leads to rear room with necessary check room facilities. The rear room is 35 ft. x 60 ft. x 12 ft. and has removable sound proof wall which when open adds an additional 350 seating capacity to auditorium.

At the end of rear room a kitchen is so located to serve both first and second floor. Necessary lavatory facilities are located directly over lavatories under. At rear beside stage are located dressing rooms at first and second floor levels. Ample space will be provided for all locker rooms for all working bodies.



PLOT PLAN SHOWING CONVENIENT AND ACCESSIBLE LOCATION OF THE SITE FOR THE NEW TEMPLE.





THIRD FLOOR:

The front facing Montgomery Avenue extends to third floor. This space will be equipped for lodges, and will have dressing rooms, cloak rooms and lavatory facilities. The lodge room is 38 ft. x 44 ft. x 14 ft. high, which will provide additional income.

Foundation Club

JEY YODEN, President
 BOYD FLUWER, Vice President
 GEORGE G. SCHMIDT, Treasurer
 LOUIS H. McMAHAN, Secretary

Grotto Cast

ELMER H. MAIER, Director General
 ROBERT MULLEN, Custodian

TECHNICAL STAFF

STAGE

GEO. A. OSSMAN, Stage Manager
 I. MIRIZ, HARRY WALLACE
 M. C. DICKEL, E. K. HASSLER

ELECTRICIANS

OSCAR J. GOETTMANN, Electrical Director
 F. ECK, A. P. VANDERGRIFT

GENERAL

R. M. LOWRIE, FRANK FURLONG

OFFICERS

A. PICARD, President
 HARRIS, Vice President
 ELLSWORTH, Treasurer
 VEI EYETTE, Secretary

HOFFMAN, WILFRED KUIHL
 MARX, DR. L. O. MILLER
 SHER, WALTER J. HINKEL
 D HARRIS, WILLARD T. HARRIS
 V. ENGLISH, JR., DAVID N. NUNGE
 L. GIBBS, GEO. A. EDGIN
 EISEMAN, W. VICTOR LIST
 LEN, DWIGHT C. BURNETTE
 R. MUDDIMAN, CHAS. H. WIELAND, P.M.
 HOPTON, WILLIAM MEYER
 OURDON, CHAS. A. STEWART

Revels

FENNERDELL, ELTON B. MCGOWN
 HARRY H. ATWOOD, Wm. E. SMITH
 ELMER G. BARTON

Bowling Leagues

HAUS ALLEYS

TER NOLTE, President
 M. BURFORD, Vice President
 D. PENWELL, Secretary
 RICKLEY, Treasurer

CENTER AVE. ALLEYS

F. DAY, President
 MARSON, Vice President
 CASTER, Treasurer
 L. ZOLLER, Secretary

Auto Club

ZINSMEISTER, President
 F. ECK, Vice President
 SCHMIDT, Treasurer
 L. McMAHAN, Secretary

ippa, RAYMOND G. ALLEN
 sheny Market, CHARLES H. WIELAND
 on Park, JOHN A. SCHRADER
 ridge, CHAS. W. McNAMEE
 nal, WILLIAM D. S. FADZEN
 lo, W. G. GUTHRIE
 Club, MARCUS MARX
 on, CHAS. REMENSNYDER
 n, FRANK G. MILLER
 J., THOS. F. BOOTH
 rstown, CARL W. HECKERT
 er, R. RALPH CALER
 er Falls, DR. IRA C. DUNCAN
 leyville, J. V. MITCHELL
 ue, JOHN G. HARRIS
 Avon, WILLIAM L. WYATT
 hviev, C. C. ROHRKASTE
 sville, R. C. SEIGREID
 mfield, FRANK GREEN
 nox, GUY R. MOON
 hton Road 1, CARL A. KARTHOUSER
 hton Road 2, BEN F. METZ
 doock, WILLIAM L. DOWLER
 kline, JESSE A. CRYDER
 geville, GILFORD M. GALLAGHER
 er, EMIL SCHIAFFINI
 ctstown, JAMES R. LEE
 nsville, HOWARD J. ROSS
 kenridge, FRED WELLINGER
 ornia Ave., ALBERT L. BRAHM, JR.
 n, W. VICTOR LIST
 egie, JOHN H. WINTERS
 le Shannon, GEORGE F. HACKIUS
 s Creek, PETER L. WEINZEL
 County Building, WALTER G. McNELLY
 ton-Wilson, HARRY A. LITTLE
 nsburg, NORMAN W. CHEEKS
 t House, N. J. GREENBURG
 OSCAR D. KOREFF



Officers for 1931

WALTER F. WEIBERG, Monarch
 J. CLIFFORD FRANZ, Chief Justice
 RALPH H. AXTHELM, Master of Ceremonies
 FRED C. HOPTON, Veiled Prophet
 GEORGE G. SCHMIDT, P.M., Treasurer
 LOUIS H. McMAHAN, Secretary
 WILLIAM J. BLACK, P.M., Marshal
 ANDREW FRAZIER, Captain of the Guards
 JAMES GARSON, Sentinel
 ROBERT MULLEN, Custodian

Trustees

JOHN C. L. WARD
 CHARLES H. WIELAND, P.M.
 GEORGE B. CONFER, P.M.
 R. M. H. JANTZEN, P.M.
 RUDOLPH G. VOLKWEIN, P.M.

Past Monarchs

JESSE K. SERICHI, Past Grand Monarch
 *JOHN N. DORN, CHARLES H. WIELAND
 GEORGE G. SCHMIDT, IRWIN M. STOKELY
 WILLIAM A. AEBERLI, GEORGE B. CONFER
 WILLIAM J. BLACK, RUDOLPH G. VOLKWEIN
 HERMAN H. SEIFERTH, GEORGE A. NEUBERT
 GEORGE McLUCKIE, JR., E. SYDNEY YODEN
 R. M. H. JANTZEN, DR. DICK S. ASHCOM
 DR. GEORGE METZGER, HARRY A. LITTLE
 DR. CHARLES D. GREEN, GEORGE REATCHILOUS
 WILLIAM G. DENCII

*Deceased

Ceremonial Committee

RALPH H. AXTHELM, Master of Ceremonies
 LAWRENCE V. RHEA, GEORGE A. OSSMAN
 OSCAR J. GOETTMANN, COLEMAN EVANS
 DR. LAIRD O. MILLER, F. C. CHURCH STOCKDALE
 LEE L. SNYDER, EDWIN KOHL
 ELMER H. MAIER, THOMAS BOOTH
 GEORGE B. CONFER

The Monarch's Representatives

Coraopolis, SAMUEL J. RIDDLE
 Corliss, WILLIAM E. ELLIOTT
 Crafton, ALBERT C. TEAFF
 Crafton Heights, SAM. F. CURRIE
 Connellsville, J. C. COOK
 Davage Lodge, GEORGE REATCHILOUS
 Dormont, HARRY T. MILLER
 Dravosburg, FLOYD H. PACKARD
 Duquesne, R. F. HULL
 East Pittsburgh, ALEXANDER KLEIN
 East North Side, HARRY J. SCHELLHAAS
 East McKeesport, S. J. TOPLEY
 East Liberty, J. B. SCHAMBERG
 Emsworth, GEORGE A. PRESSLER
 Etna, VICTOR KINGSBOROUGH
 Evans City, HENRY L. BLIND
 Finleyville, HENRY L. MESTA
 Fair Oaks, GEORGE DICKSON
 Freedom, JOHN E. JACKSON
 Fourth Ward, F. HOWARD NOEL
 Ford City, HARRY E. SAVILLE
 Gibsonia, HARVEY E. SIECKLER
 Glenwillard, F. H. TOMBAUGH
 Glenshaw, ELMER J. NICKLAS
 Glenfield, RALPH E. FEIFER
 Glassport, JOHN P. SMITH
 Greentree, DONALD J. CLINE
 Hazelwood, JOHN GARDNER
 Homestead, KENNETH W. HUDNER
 Homewood, HENRY L. DEWITT
 Ingram, AUGUST J. LAMB
 Ingram, NATHANIEL NESBITT
 Ionic Lodge, THOS. W. STEWART
 Jefferson Lodge, ADOLPH STEFFEN
 Lincoln Place, WILLIAM FAULKNER
 Library, M. F. ENNSLIN
 Leechburg, BEN GLENN
 Leetsdale, ERVIN J. BLUME
 Manchester, JOHN B. OUR

Patrol

EDWIN KOHL, Captain
 W. CHESTER HUGHES, First Lieutenant
 HARRY R. JACKSON, Second Lieutenant
 EDGAR L. KNOX, First Sergeant
 GARNET E. COOPER, Supply Sergeant
 C. BURTON SHREY, Sergeant
 ARTHUR R. KENNEDY, Sergeant
 GEORGE M. WATERS, JR., Sergeant
 WALLACE WARDEN, Corporal
 F. CHURCH STOCKDALE, Corporal
 EDWARD SEDLOCK, Corporal
 ALFRED D. SCHORR, Senior Color Sergeant
 WILBER P. RIESECK, Junior Color Sergeant

PATROLMEN

HOWARD C. ATKIN, EARL W. KREIMEIER
 HARRY H. ATWOOD, DELMAR J. LEWIS
 CLARENCE H. AXTHELM, SAMUEL J. LITTLE
 J. E. BARDELANG, J. J. MACCALLUM
 ELMER G. BARTON, ELTON B. MCGOWN
 WM. G. BENDER, JR., ROBERT A. McLAUGHLIN
 COLEMAN D. EVANS, EDWARD A. MERTZ, JR.
 R. M. GLICK, JOHN H. PERRY
 ARTHUR GLOVER, THEODORE G. ROHM
 EARL H. HAMILTON, CLARENCE R. STICKELER
 ALBERT F. HERMANSDORFER, WILLIAM E. SMITH
 JEAN A. HOPPER, ROBERT J. SPENCE
 WALTER B. JONES, JAMES A. THOMPSON
 EDGAR A. KAMPAS, ARTHUR J. HALLEWELL
 VICTOR S. KINGSBOROUGH

Veteran Patrol

GEORGE B. CONFER, P.M., President (Pro-tem)
 WM. W. WINKLER, Secretary (Pro-tem)
 A. P. G. SCHWEICKARDT, RALPH H. AXTHELM
 JOS. P. CLEMENS, R. M. GLICK
 CHAS. J. VOIGT, WALTER R. HEERLEIN
 GEORGE REATCHILOUS, P.M.

Band and Orchestra

JO TYLER, JR., Director
 THOMAS F. BOOTH, President
 ROBERT LAPP, Secretary-Treasurer
 CHESTER L. BOGGS, CHARLES H. MARSHALL
 ARTHUR L. GOLDSMITH, P. O. SHALLENBERGER
 W. F. HAMMOND, ADOLPH J. M. DEMME
 JAMES M. SHADES, EDWIN B. HAWK
 JAMES E. WEETMAN, JONATHAN S. TAYLOR
 ANDREW BELL, CHARLES I. WESTERFIELD
 DR. WM. A. GREGORY, CHARLES DANNER
 MARSHALL C. JACKSON, WILLIAM E. PETTEY
 HOWARD W. MAURER, GEORGE H. SCHMITT
 DR. WM. H. STROUP, HARRY L. WALKER
 ROBERT T. WYSE, WILLIAM E. EICHER
 ARNOLD SCHIAUMANN, BERT W. LEWIS
 HERMAN A. BECKER, EARL E. SUMMERS
 MALCOLM M. GERLACI, JOHN PAUL WILSON
 ADOLPH G. KALBERER, FRED SAUNDERS

Mayview, HERMAN TRAUTMAN
 McKees Rocks, OTTO A. ZANGE
 McKinley Lodge, HOWARD P. AEBERLI
 McDonald, RALPH B. MCKEE
 McKeesport, FRED P. HARTMAN
 Millvale, L. C. KNIRNSCHILD
 Mt. Lebanon, CHAS. R. GEISLER
 Mt. Oliver, H. H. W. SCHUCHMAN
 Mt. Washington, WILLIAM LAUGHLIN, JR.
 Munhall, ALFRED BROWN
 New Kensington, HARRY K. CALDWELL
 New Sheffield, EMERSON B. HAAS
 Oakmont, JOHN L. HASTINGS
 Oakland, WALTER E. HOPKINS
 Observatory, RALPH H. SMITH
 Patrol, A. R. KENNERDELL
 Park Lodge, THEO. H. DOEHLA
 Past Monarchs, DR. DICK S. ASHCOM
 Perrysville, CLIFFORD H. KUMMER
 Post 81, ANDREW FRAZIER
 Piercy, DANIEL M. PIERCY
 Route 7, FRANK FURLONG
 Sewickley, FRANK A. DRYAN
 Solomon Lodge, H. B. JACKY
 Sharpsburg, E. J. DOERNER
 Spring Garden, IRWIN J. FALCK
 Swissvale, JOHNSTON WYLIE
 Stuckrath Lodge, JOHN C. ANDERSON
 Squirrel Hill, S. M. ROSENTHAL
 Twenty-third Ward, MAJ. HARRY D. FOWLER
 Troy Hill, JOHN FORDOF
 Turtle Creek, WM. M. IRVINE
 Tarentum, FRED W. DANNER, JR.
 Uptown, RALPH SCHUGAR
 Washington, ANDREW J. STEWART
 Wabash, FRED LEINENWEBER
 West View, JOHN A. SCHMIDT
 Wilkinsburg, PAUL J. MARKS
 Wexford, JOHN H. YINGLING

Estimated Cost and Maintenance

Maximum cost of Proposed Building	\$160,000
Valuation of Property owned by Islam Grotto Building Association	70,000
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$230,000

MAINTENANCE:

Interest—\$160,000 at 6%	\$ 9,600
Taxes—City, County, Water, Etc.	4,100
Repairs, Etc.	1,000
Caretakers	3,500
Light and Heat	2,500
Insurance	500
TOTAL MAINTENANCE	\$ 21,200

INCOME:

Increase dues to \$10.00 per year, \$5.00 to Grotto and \$5.00 to Building Association. Figuring on 5,000 members.....	\$ 25,000
Increase Initiation Fee to \$50.00; \$25.00 to Grotto and \$25.00 to Building Association. Figuring 200 new members per year	5,000
Rent from Islam Grotto	5,000
Rent from other sources	3,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 38,000

Approximately \$17,000 per year can be paid on mortgage.



Resolution

The following RESOLUTION will be presented at a business meeting of Islam Grotto at *GERMAN MASONIC HALL, Madison Avenue and Pressley Street*, Tuesday evening, March 3rd, 1931, and will be acted on at a later meeting of which you will receive notice.

Resolved, That the Building Association proceed with the erection of a Temple with the understanding that the dues of the Grotto be increased to \$10.00 per year, for and during the term of the mortgage. Five dollars of which shall be paid over to the Building Association to assist in reducing the mortgage, and that the fee for initiation be increased at the dedication of the Temple to \$50.00, twenty-five dollars of which shall go to the Building Association for the above purpose.

ISLAM GROTTO NEW ABODES

In 1968 the Dedication of Islam Grotto located on 725 Allegheny Avenue when Dr. William John Adams was Monarch. Samuel Nikhazy was Chief Justice, George Zimmer was Master of Ceremonies, Robert Osborn Venerable Prophet, M.C. Knox Treasurer, W. E. Morris P.M. Secretary, W. Karr Orator. John B. Nicklas Jr. was Grand Master. Ribbon cutting was at 2:00 P.M. Present were Masonic dignitaries as well as dignitaries from the city, county and state. Music was by the Grotto Band. Past Masters sung. Present also were the Legion, Funsters, Patrol, Auto Club, Stewards and Cast. Chairman of the event was Robert Schellhas, and Co-Chairman Grafton Duvall Jr. The Monarch failed to complete his year and Samuel J. Nikhazy assumed the office and continued on into his own year of 1969. Ralph H. Axthelm a Past Monarch became the Grand Monarch in 1969.

In 1970 George C. Zimmer became Monarch.

In 1977 Richard C. Hoff became Monarch and hosted the 87 Annual Supreme Council Session in Pittsburgh January 23-27th.

Some of the Monarch who served in this building were: Robert C. Osborne 1971, William H. Karr 1972, Frank O. Hough Jr. 1973, Donald C. Phillips 1974, William M. Acker 1975, John H. Wilson 1976, Richard C. Hoff 1977, Donald C. Craft 1978, Arthur L. Smaltz Jr. 1979, Charles R. Stockum 1980, Wallace W. McCall 1981, George Kemp Clark Sr. 1982, John R. Clark 1983, Thomas J. Mulkerin 1984, Robert Belohlavek 1985, Tommy R. Lee 1985, Robert J. Winter 1986 when the building was sold to Burger King.

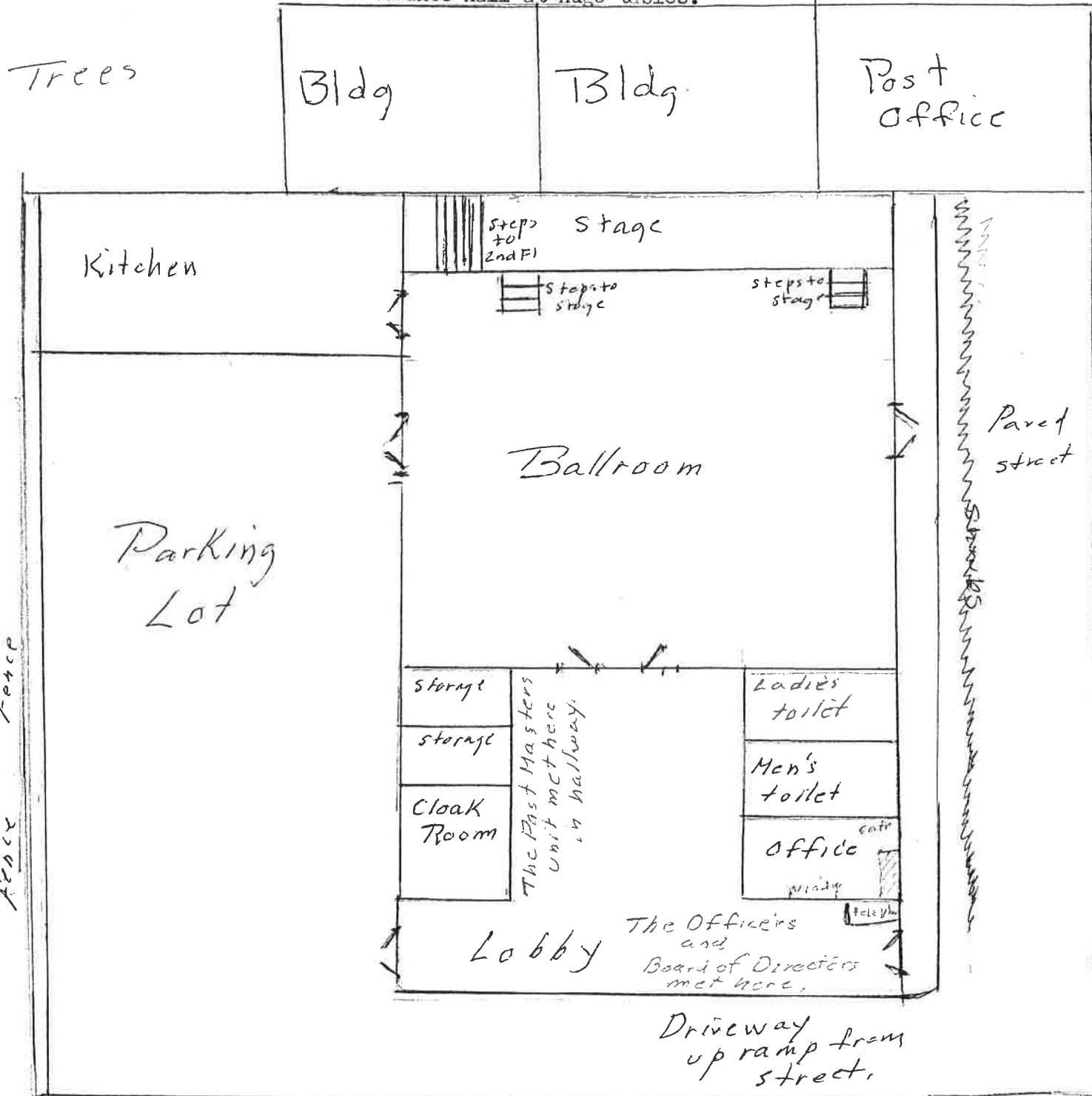
These Monarchs served in the Ley Street building on Troy Hill : David J. Rector 1987, William C. Nolder 1988, Edward L. Lange 1989, Henry S. Zalewski 1990, James N. Deller 1991, William J. Smith 1992, Richard R. Moran Sr. 1993, Merlin R. Webb 1994, Raymond J. Rietzel Jr 1995.

These Monarch have thus far served in the new Islam Grotto Building located adjacent to the Greater Masonic Center: Ted H. Colcombe 1996, Larry W. Budd 1997, Richard R. Moran Jr 1998, Eugene J. Martucci Esq. 1999, Robert A. Metsger 2000, James A. Metsger 2001.

It is also important to note that three Past Monarchs who were Attorneys at Law served in the capacity to give legal advice free namely: John B. Nicklas Jr. William C. Acke and Eugene J. Martucci Esq.

This was the former automobile agency building purchased after it was necessary to vacate the former building on 107 E. Montgomery Avenue due to construction of Allegheny Center. This building had two stories but no basement. It had a small parking lot but use of a lot owned by Community College for some affairs.

This building was located on 725 Allegheny Avenue. It later was sold on bids to Burger King in 1986 and contents moved to 1725 Ley Street on Troy Hill. There was a complete kitchen of aluminum with sinks, stoves and ovens plus refrigerators and cutting tables plus serving tables for stewards to serve from to Prophets. In the ballroom there were many tables and chairs for dining plus a huge mirrored ball hanging from the ceiling and illuminated to produce a ceiling of elegant lighting. Officers and Board members met in area of entrance hall at huge tables.

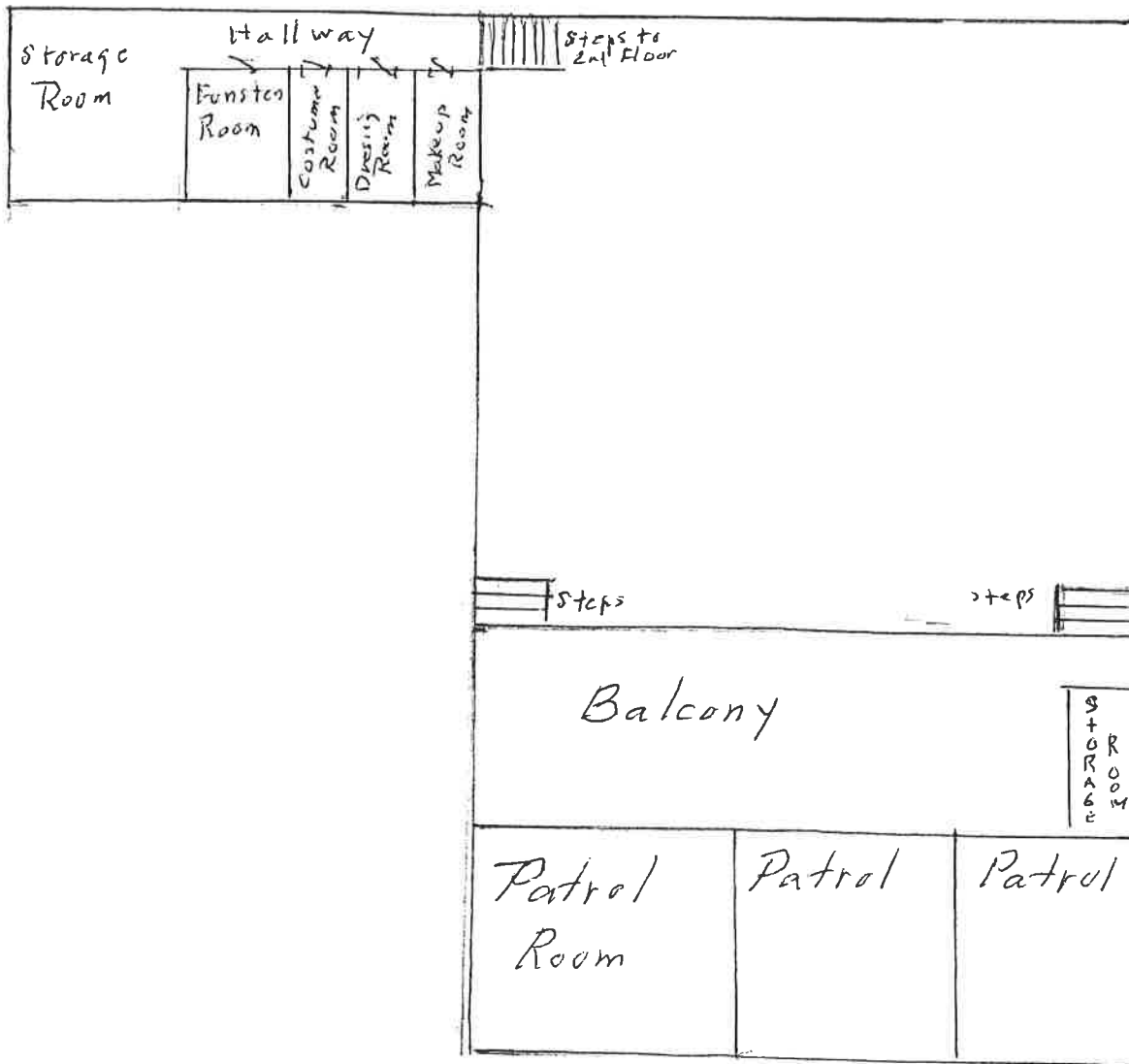


1st Floor Plan

Note: Elegant leather chairs and couches were in lobby plus large wood tables

This is the plan of the second floor of the building located on 725 Allegheny Ave. The Patrol had all of its military equipment stored in lockers in rooms off the balcony. They had many rifles used in drills and parades. Each member had his own locker. This area was used by them for meetings and social gatherings.

On the balcony was a huge projector lighted by an arc light with a multitude of colors. A Prophet operated it during ceremonials to light participants on the huge stage. There also was a small storage room for colored slides etc. On the balcony there was room for the Ladies Organization to sit at tables and dine during their meetings. Under the stage was stored risers to use during the ceremonials plus music equipment for the famous band. Also on stage there was an electric organ and baby grand piano plus a sound system complete with mics and speakers operated from a huge switch board. Some ceremonial sets etc were stored on stage left. In the upstairs rooms there were sinks, toilets, lighted mirrors for making up and rooms to store costumes and dressing up. The funsters had their own rooms up there as well. At the end of the hall was a large storage room for items of all types even for inflating balloons. Also on stage were two flags for the USA and Canada.

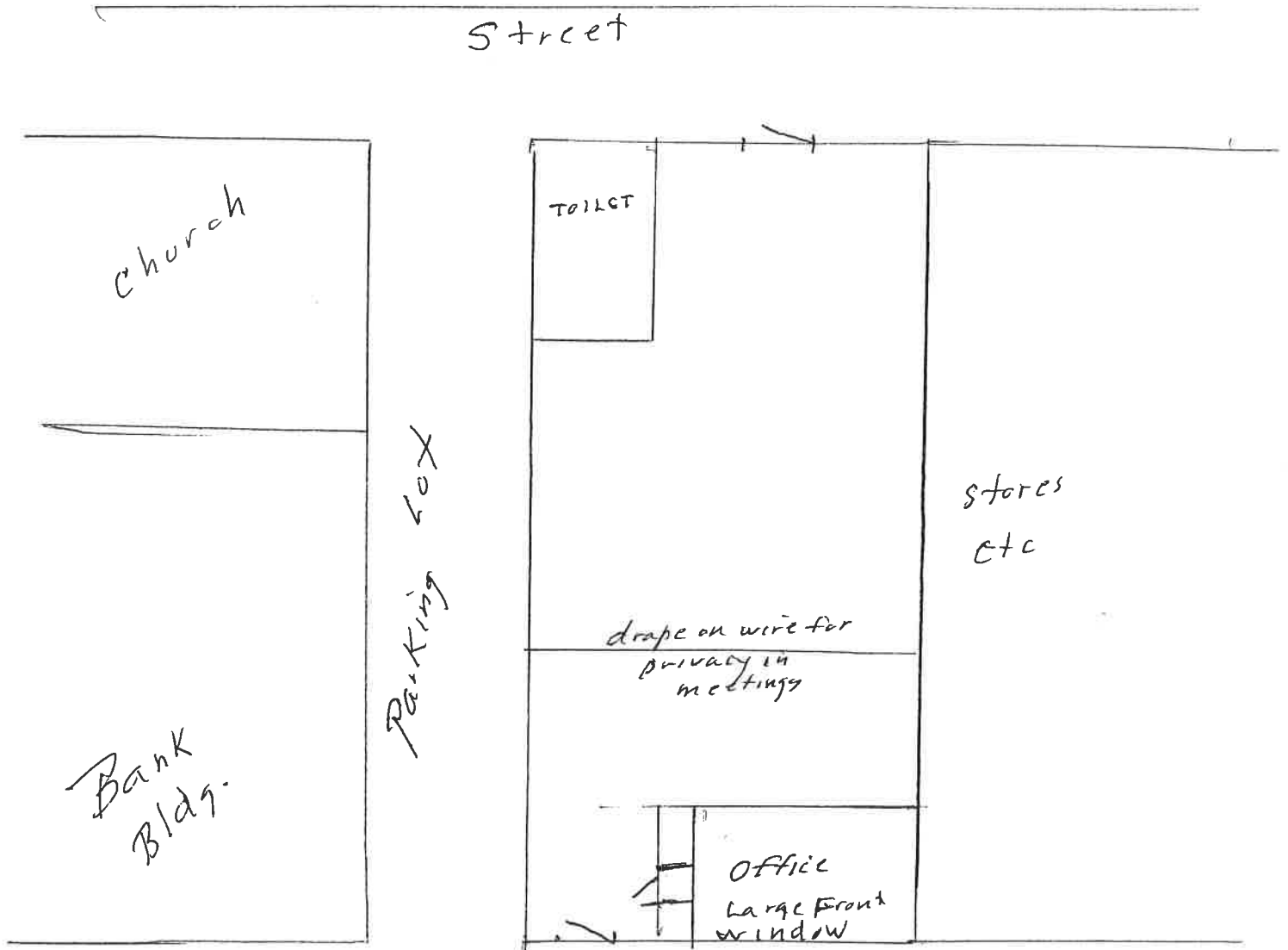


2nd Floor

Location of Islam Grotto after the sale of the building to Burger King in 1986.

The use of the first floor and basement of this building at 1725 Ley Street on Troy Hill was rented. It once was a theater and later a Liquor Sales Store. It had a front and rear entrance plus rear door to the basement where much was stored.

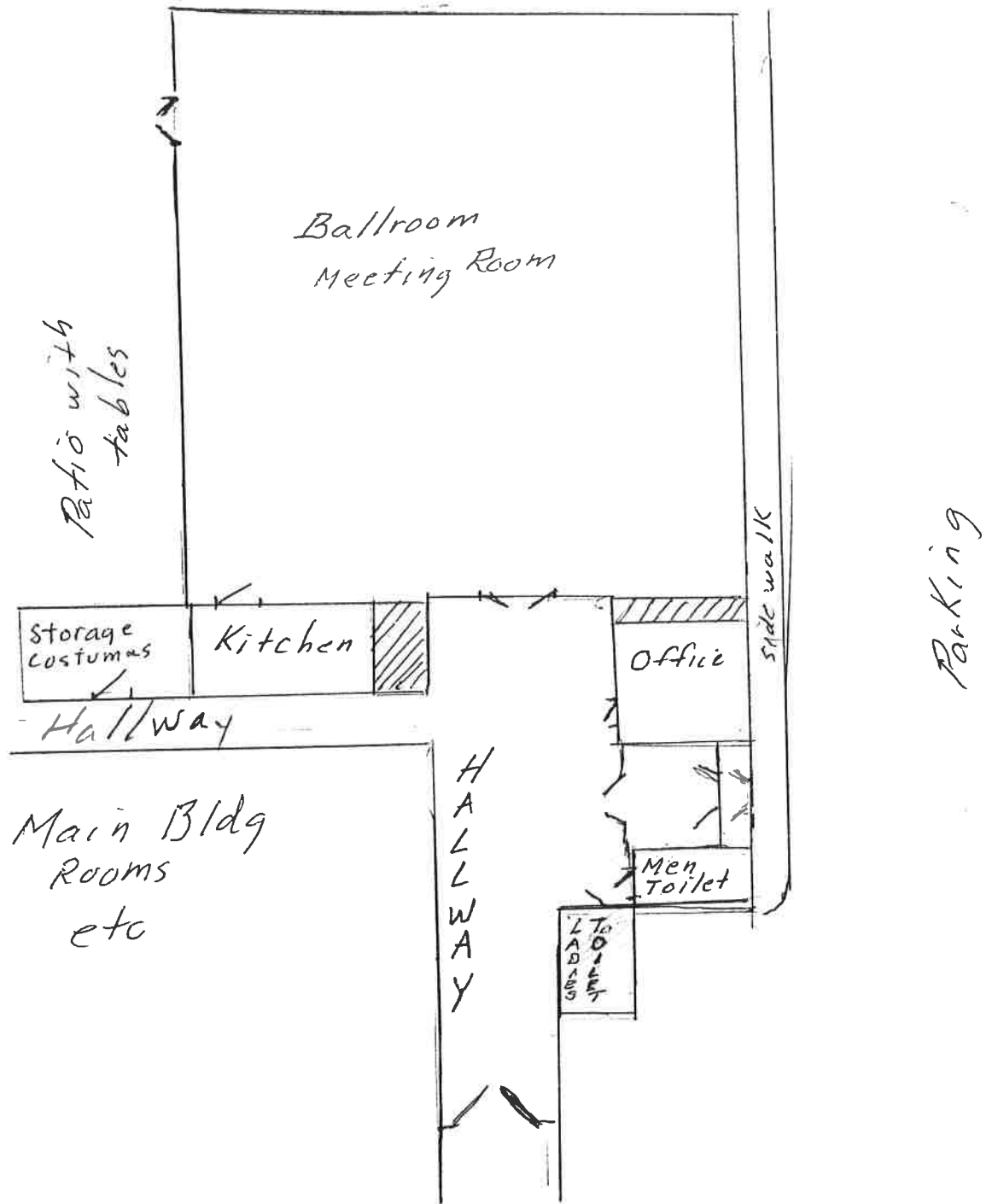
The Islam Grotto remained here from 1986 to 1996 when they moved to their new building attached to the Masonic Temple on Semetary Lane.



Note: Entrance to basement was via rear door and down steps. All Grotto materials stored down in basement.

Ley Street

Floor Plan Of New Islam Grotto Bldg. at Masonic Center



Masonic Center

Some Important Individuals

... or still are active members of Islam Grotto

John Honus Wagner -Pgh Pirates, Greatest shortstop in history.
 Bill Brubaker-Pittsburgh Pirates
 Lloyd Waner-Pittsburgh Pirates
 Paul Waner- Pittsburgh Pirates
 Pie Traynor-Pittsburgh Pirates, great 3rd baseman, later Coach of Pirates
 Red Lucas-Pitcher
 Samuel Watters-Secretary of Pittsburgh Pirates
 Robert Friend- Pittsburgh Pirates (33rd)
 Dr. John B. Sutherland-Great Univ. Of Pgh. Football team, coach.
 Leslie Watters- Pirates
 Norwood A. McDaniel-World Champion of Hard Ball, also Pro football player (hand ball)
 General Dr. John F. Hunter Speer, WWI & WWII member of staff of Gen. George Patton
 Cornelius D. Scully- Mayor of Pittsburgh
 John S. Herron- Mayor of Pittsburgh
 Dr. William D. McClelland- Chmn. County Commissioners, former great U.Of Pgh. Basketball coach
 Larry Dunn- Chmn. County Commissioners (33rd)
 Edmund F. Erk-Representative of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania
 Walter Rosenbaum- A downtown great department store owner but bldg. now gone.
 Volkwein Bros.-A great musical store in downtown Pgh. and later N.S.
 Hiram P. Ball- Ball chemical company also Past Grand Master of Masons in Pa. & P.Potentate
 Billy Soose- A great boxer
 Harry Montgomery-Famous judge, Past Monarch of Islam Grotto, Past Potentate Syria Temple
 Ralph H. Axthelm- Banker, Past Monarch Islam Grotto, Grand Monarch
 John B. Nicklas Jr.-Lawyer supreme, Past Monarch Islam Grotto, Grand Monarch
 John A. McCain Sr.-Prophet at Sight, Grand Master of Pa. Masons
 Samuel Williamson- Prophet at Sight, Grand Master of Pa. Masons
 Arthur L. Smaltz, Jr.-Past Monarch Islam Grotto, Architect, Business man, P.P. Zem Zem temple
 John R. Clark-Youngest Monarch in history of Grotto, Past Pres. Pgh. Republican party
 Committee, candidate as youth for Pgh.City Council, and U.S.Congress 3 times.
 Aneuryn Bodycombe-KDKA
 Glenn Riggs-KDKA
 Benson G. Henderson-Vice Pres. U.S. Steel, Past Potentate Syria Temple
 Harry A. Little-Past Monarch, member of Pgh. City Council
 Joseph G. Armstrong-County Commissioner, (Armstrong Tunnels)
 Edmund F. Erk-Sect. Foreign Affairs Committee in U.S. Congress
 George Reatchlous-Mgr. Natl. Casket Company
 James J. Davis- Secretary of Labor
 Ralph H. Smith-Asst. U.S. District Attorney, Later a judge of prominence.
 Samuel J. McKum-Judge
 S.J. Shank-General Passenger Agent of Pa. Railroad
 H.M. McComb Addison-Manager of Lowes Penn Theater
 W. H. McNaughan- Judge, son of Rev. Dr. John McNaughin Pres. of Pgh. Theological Seminary
 John M. Huston-Register of Wills
 George Kemp Clark Sr.-Past Monarch, Past Pres. Pgh. Tch. Credit Union, Principal of
 of seven Pgh. Schools, Candidate for Mayor Of Pgh., Candidate for
 City Council, former Gov. Millvale Moose, Past Pres. Arab Patrol
 Syria Temple, former Dramatic Director Syria Temple, Past Pres.
 Syria Temple OIverein, Cast Syria Temple, Dramatic Dir. Islam Grotto
 Joseph N. Mackrell-Register of Wills of Allegheny County.
 Alvin F. Dillman-Clerk of Courts
 Frank Kepriver-Representative Council, Buquesne
 Other famous personalities: Robert Garland, Samuel Foster, Dr. James P. Keer, Samuel
 J. Mckown, George Evans, Andrew T. Park, Dr. Warren H. Alditsch, Dr. Leslie Lacock,
 Walter E. Goodman, William C. Zeigler, Edgard J. Know, Walter Campas, Dr. Theodore Rohm,
 Elmer H. Mayer, Walter A. Davis, Clair MacLaughlin, John G. Harris.
 James J. Davis-Secretary of Labor
 Joseph A. Richardson-Judge
 Leonard J. Bodack Sr.-Pa.State Senator

In conclusion it becomes necessary to list the names once again of personnel who served in various capacities. Perhaps this may be a repetition but still quite important.

Doctor of Smiles

1. William Acker, Past Monarch
2. Dr. Theodore L. Rohm, Past Monarch-33rd.
3. William C. Nolder, Past Monarch and Past President of the PA. Grotto Association

Editor of Islamite

1. William Rimmel, 33rd Winner of the great Golden Quill Award for newspaper writing.
2. Jack Webber, office manager and degree in layout work
3. Theodor Nichols
4. Phillip T. Bassford, office manager
5. Frank O. Hough Jr., Past Monarch and Past President of PA. Grotto Association
6. Richard W. Roell, Chief Justice in 2001 and newest editor upon death of Frank Hough.

Note: It is only fitting that acknowledgement be given to Raymond Weber who was the Chairman of the Committee that moved all materials from the Allegheny Ave. to the Grotto on Troy Hill and later from there to our new locale next to the Masonic Temple. He also takes care of all costumes and props for each ceremonial plus being a member of the cast.

Directors

Over the years Islam Grotto has had a number of elected Directors and from their ranks one has been made Chairman which is a most important position on the Board of Directors. This is only a partial listing of some of those Prophets who have served in this capacity. They are not in the order of their service as only a few were located.

1. Robert E. Skultety
2. John B. Nicklas (later Monarch, Grand Monarch)
3. Harry A. Little P.M. (Chairman of the House Committee)
4. Irwin M. Stokely (Chairman of the House Committee)
5. Walter F. Weberg (Chairman of the House Committee) He also was a Past Monarch
6. William Acker P.M.
7. Frank O. Hough Jr. P.M.
8. Wallace W. McCall P.M.

Chairman of the Board of Directors continued:

9. Arthur L. Smaltz Jr., P.M.

10 John R. Clark, P.M.

11. William Sipes

12. Richard R. Moran Sr., P.M.

13. Ted H. Colcombe, P.M.

Note: This is a copy of the format used for the 87th Annual Supreme Council Session M.O.V.P.E.R. held in Pittsburgh PA. during Monarch Richard C. Hoff's year. It might be used as an example for any future Annual Supreme Council Sessions that might take place here in future years.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

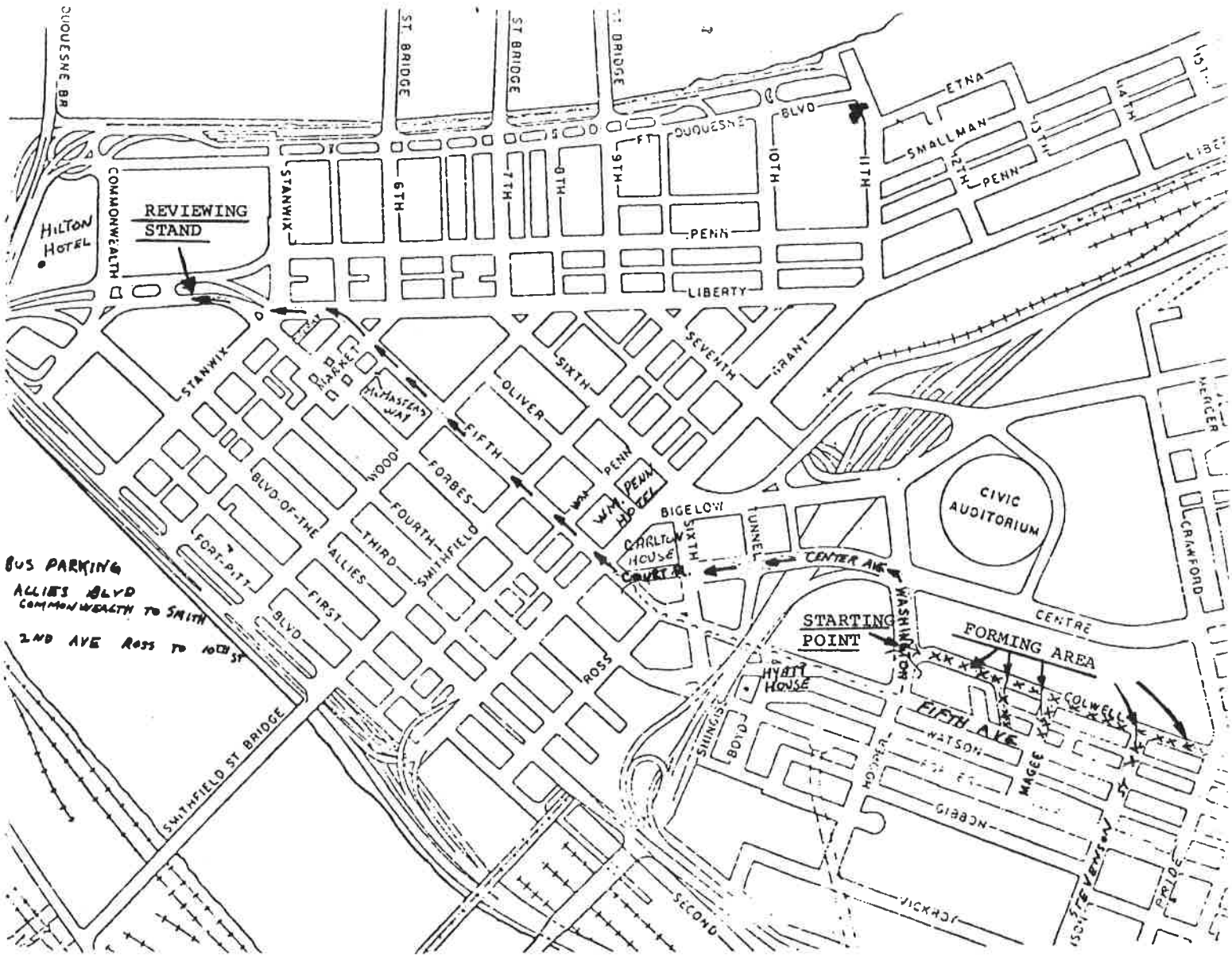
Monarch Islam Grotto, Richard C. Hoff;
Host Grotto, William M. Acker, P.M., *Chairman*;
Director General, Squire T. Mair;
Assistant Director General, John H. Wilson, P.M., Dr. Theodore L. Rohm, P.M.;
Deputy Director General, Arthur L. Smaltz, Donald C. Craft, Charles R. Stockum, Frank O. Hough, P.M.;
Housing, William E. Morris, P.M., *Chairman*, Dale Wedlake, Robert C. Osborn;
Publicity, William M. Rimmel;
Contests and Parade, Wallace W. McCall, *Chairman*;
Entertainment, Wallace W. Weber, *Chairman*, Theodore Nichols, Russ Bahr;
Transportation, Frank O. Hough, P.M., *Chairman*, Mark Davis, Theodore Nichols;
Souvenirs and Program, Donald C. Craft, *Chairman*;
Parade Communications, Stanley McCullough, John Mitchell;
Medical, Dr. Harry Loikrec, *Chairman*, Dr. Blair, Dr. Horne, Ken Faub, Dr. Huber, Robert Schroeder, Dr. Schmidt;
Treasurer, Edgar L. Knox, P.M.;
Grand Sentinel, Percy (Pat) Graham, John Prosba, Ralph Freund, Lawrence Hay, Glen Grayburn, Millard Bauer, Alex Bailey, Ralph A. Maser, Jules Wunderly, Andrew McRae, Russ Bahr, Kerry Holzworth;
Mobile Homes, Richard C. Hoff, Marlyn K. Rehberg;
First Night Party, Paul Sandok, Paul W. Kriner, James F. Hastings, William F. Young, Jr., Henry Ellsler, Arthur D. Dupont, Howard G. Rode, Dallas L. Machlin, Harry L. Hasting, Robert E. Schroeder, Donald Gould, Harry D. Wissinger, Kenneth J. Pollock, Norman Clair, James J. Schwirin, John H. Miller, William P. Danchik, James R. Irwin;

Color Guard American Flag, James J. Berkeybile;
Registration, Warren O. Yeckel, *Chairman*, Tom Joll, Charles Bacchus, Edward E. Beatty, Ralph Eckert, Robert J. McMillan;
Band Entertainment, Edgar R. Sims, *Chairman*;
Business Sessions, Ray Weber, *Chairman*;
Public Address, Jackson T. McGuire, Ralph Bossart;
Reviewing Stand, Carl Dillon, Charles A. Neat.
AIDES - George K. Clark, John C. Corbit, John Fabina, Theo Gerlach, John Schrenker, Dan Gardone, John Thomson, Charles Burkharth, John Simpson, James Bertges, Fred M. McMurtrey
City Bus Tours, Tom Joll, *Chairman*;
Ambulances, Orion C. Pinkerton.

Ladies Auxiliary

Helen Hoff	Mae Nickhazy
Helen Minton	Gladys Freund
Ruth Osborn	Liz Rehburg
Dorothy Nichols	Harriet Smaltz
Edith Weir	Vi Acker
Dottie Stockum	Geri Wilson
Ruthann McCall	Mary McGuire
Edie Graham	Mildred Rupp
Mildred Rohm	Evelyn Loichinger
Doris Weir	Ruth Robinson
Dorothy Gardone	Rose Briskey
Ruth Bahr	Freda Troutman
Leta Hastings	Myrtle Morris
Ann Pfalzgraf	Dolores Craft

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS ARE AN APPENDIX
FOR FURTHER STUDY
FOUND IN SOME OF THE ARCHIVES



Convention Parade Route
 in Monarch Hotel's year

BUILDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTE BOOK PAGES 279 to 285 inclusive

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OF
ISLAM GROTTO BUILDING ASSN. INC.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Islam Grotto Building Assn, Inc., a Pennsylvania Corporation, was held at the office of the company at 107 E. Montgomery Ave., North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa, on Thursday evening, June 27, 1935 at 8:30 o'clock P.M.

There were present: Otto A Zange, William J. Black, J. Clifford Franz, E. Sydney Youden, Walter F. Weberg, Fred C. Hopton, Sol Black, William C. Arther, John B. Nicklas, Jr., William A. Aeberli, George Reachlous, Edward C. Nled, Henry J. Schellhaas, Rudolph G. Volkwein and Samuel H. Gass, constituting the entire Board.

FIRST A waiver of notice of this meeting was presented and read; and, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was ordered copied in these minutes. It is accordingly entered here:

WAIVER OF NOTICE OF MEETING OF DIRECTORS
OF ISLAM GROTTO BUILDING ASSN, INC.

We, the undersigned, constituting all of the Directors of Islam Grotto Building Association, Inc., a Pennsylvania Corporation, do hereby waive notice of meeting to be held June 27, 1935 and the business to be transacted thereat, and we hereby designate Thursday, the 27th day of June 1935, at 8:30 o'clock P.M., and the office of the Corporation, 107 E. Montgomery Ave., North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa, as the time and place for holding said meeting.

Zange		Arther
WJ Black	Signed	Nicklas
Franz	Signed	Aeberli
Youden		Reachlous
Weberg		Nled
Hopton		Schellhaas
Sol Black		RG Volkwein

Gass

SECOND The minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held _____, 1935, were separately read and approved.

THIRD On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution offered by John B. Nicklas, Jr., was adopted and unanimously carried:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF ENTIRE
ASSETS AND DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION

Whereas, the charter of Islam Grotto Building Association, Inc. a Pennsylvania Corporation, expresses its purpose as being: "Purchase and sale of real

estate and for holding and selling real estate", and

Whereas, said Islam Grotto Building Association, Inc. a Penna. Corporation, has not since its incorporation on December 12, 1916, up to the present time, and does not in the future contemplate engaging in the purchase, sale, leasing, or dealing in real estate for profit, with the end in view of declaring dividends to stockholders, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of Islam Grotto Building Assn. Inc., a Pennsylvania Corporation, therefore deem it advisable and to the best interests of stockholders to discontinue said corporation and dissolve the same, and

Whereas, the members of the present Board of Directors have made application to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, for a charter under the provisions of the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as approved May 5, 1933, P.L. 289, at No. 2249 July Term, 1935, in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, for a charter for Islam Grotto Association, which charter was granted by said Court by decree dated June 20, 1935, as recorded in the Recorder's Office of Allegheny County on June 20, 1935 in Charter Book Vol. 68, page 214, whose purpose as stated in said charter, is as follows:

"The maintenance of an organization of Master Masons to foster and promote programs, meetings and activities; to further and perpetuate the principles, teachings and ideals of the Masonic Fraternity; to develop good fellowship and understanding among its members; to further the individual welfare and social enjoyment of the membership, and in general to carry on and perform all lawful and customary functions of a fraternal and social organization incident thereto.", and

Whereas, said Islam Grotto Association, A Nonprofit Corporation, by appropriate resolutions of its Board of Directors and membership, has agreed to take over the entire assets, liabilities, and debts of Islam Grotto Building Assn. Inc. a Pennsylvania Corporation, as a going concern,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors of Islam Grotto Building Association Inc. be hereafter fully authorized, directed and empowered to transfer all of the assets, including all real estate, personal property, and good will, of every nature and description, of said Islam Grotto Building Association Inc. to said Islam Grotto Association, a Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation, and the ~~same~~ proper officers of the Islam Grotto Building Association Inc. are hereby empowered and directed to execute all proper deeds, bills of sale, instruments, papers and writings, and to take all necessary steps to effect the same, and

Be it further resolved, that the stockholders of the said Islam Grotto Building Association, Inc., a Pennsylvania Corporation, agree to surrender for cancellation, all stock held by them in the said Islam Grotto Building Assn. Inc. and

Be it further resolved, that it is the opinion of the Board of Directors of Islam Grotto Building Association Inc, a Pennsylvania Corporation, to dissolve the corporation forthwith, and that the officers be instructed to take all the necessary steps to carry into effect the dissolution of said corporation, and

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be submitted for approval or rejection at the special stockholders meeting called for that purpose to be ~~held~~ held Thursday, June 27, 1935

FOURTH On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

L. L. McMAHAN

Secretary

ISLAM GROTTO

THIRD MINUTE BOOK MEETING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 1931

At the business session the following amendment to the By-Laws was read and laid over for action at the next business session:

THE PRINTED FORM CREATING THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

THIRD MINUTE BOOK MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 1931

Upon motion the resolution as offered at the last meeting and spread upon the minutes changing our By-Laws in order to elect a Board of Governors was adopted.

THIRD MINUTE BOOK MEETING JANUARY 28, 1932

The By-Law amendment presented and passed at the meeting held on September 28, 1931 was approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence and Laws.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES

MEETING THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 1933

Upon motion it was decided that the Board of Governors decide who they desired as members of the Building Association and that nominations be made, and a closed ballot be had. Those elected were - Axthelm, Little, Black, Aeberli, Franz, Hopton, Reatchlous, Glick, Nied, Bannerot, Weberg, GR Volkwein, Cass, Atther and Youden.

MEETING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1933

Monarch Axthelm called a special meeting to nominate 2 members for whom the officers of the Grotto shall cast their vote at the coming election of members to the Building Association due to Glick and Bannerot refusing to serve. The 2 nominations were Judge Benj. Lenoher and Harry Schellhaas.

BUILDING ASSOCIATION

PAGE 257 MEETING THURSDAY DECEMBER 13, 1934

Upon motion it was decided that the Legal Committee take the necessary steps to change our Charter to be a Charter of the First Class. This motion was made by Zange and seconded by Nied.

PAGE 275 MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 14, 1935

Chairman Nicklas reported that the old Charter be dissolved, and that a new Charter for a First Class Corporation be issued. Upon motion of Arther-Cass, the purpose of the organization as read was approved.

Upon motion of Nicklas duly seconded by Zange, and carried the following resolutions was adopted:

Whereas, by previous action of this corporation it was agreed that this corporation should be dissolved and reorganized by securing a nonprofit sharing corporation charter under the

provisions of the Nonprofit Sharing Corporation Law of Pennsylvania approved May 5, 1933 (Act. No.105) under the name, style and designation of Islam Grotto Assn.

It is hereby resolved, that Islam Grotto Building Assn. Inc. a Pennsylvania Corp, consents to the use of the name, "Islam Grotto Association" in the Articles of Incorporation to be filed by the incorporates of the proposed corporation and has no objection to the registration of the name by them with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as Islam Grotto Assn.

Upon motion of Arther ~~Yonker~~ Reatchlous it was decided that we hold no stock.

Upon motion of Gass-Youden, the Legal Committee were authorized with full power to act to proceed with the change of Charter from that of Second Class to one of the First Class.

PAGE 278 MEETING THURSDAY JUNE 13, 1935

Chairman Nicklas was present and stated that a new charter has been granted and that a hearing had taken place before Judge Moore at which Monarch Zange and Secretary McMahan had testified. Also he had purchased a minute book and seal for the new Corporation and at the regular meeting in July that everything would be in readiness to close the old Corporation as of June 30, 1935.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES

MEETING JUNE 14, 1935

Upon the motion of Maier and Hopkins the Monarch (Zange) was authorized to vote the stock of the Grotto in the Building Association.