



© State of Queensland // Matt Palmer

Masonic Memorial Temple

Experience the grandeur of the Grand Hall and marvel at the beauty of the finishes in this magnificent interwar building.

When to go: 9 am to 4 pm

Where to go: 311 Ann Street, Brisbane

Tours: Self guided tours

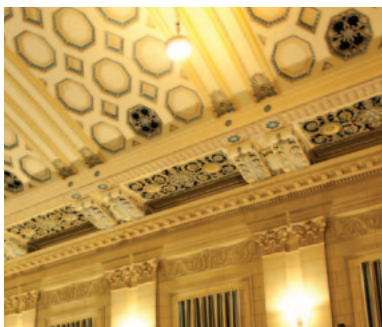
Tour tip: Smart casual dress code, limited wheelchair access

Building type: Community organisation

Built: 1928–30, refurbished in 1985

Architects: Lange Powell; Atkinson, Powell and Conrad

Web: www.queenslandfreemasons.com
www.ohta.org.au/conf/Qld/Masonic.html

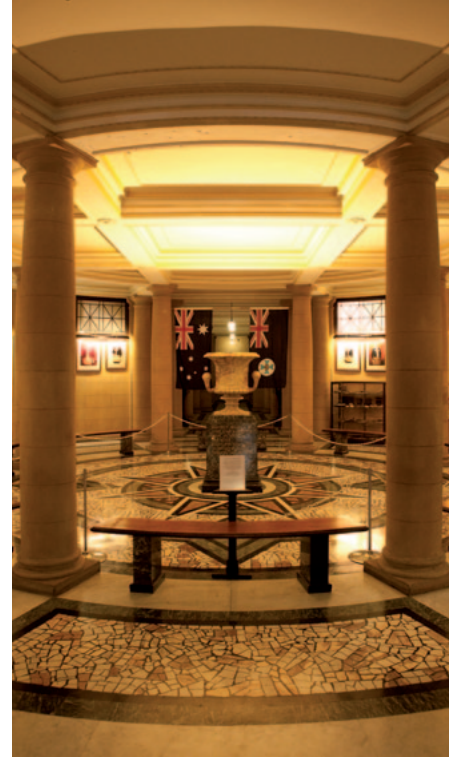


© State of Queensland // Matt Palmer

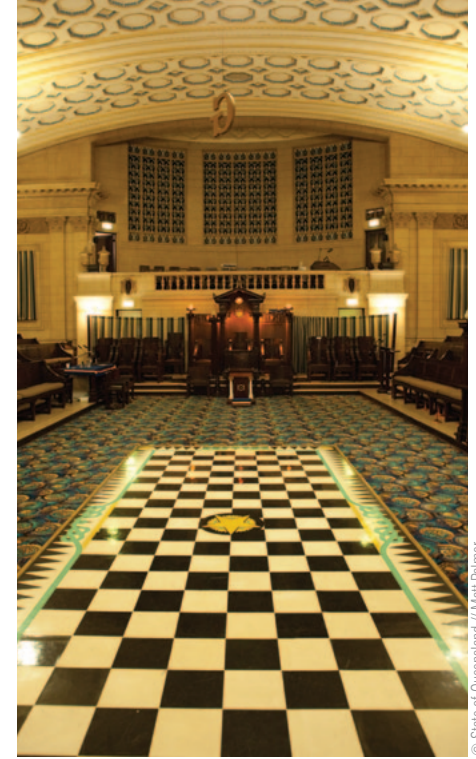
Built as a monument to Freemasonry in Queensland and as a World War I memorial, the Masonic Temple is an exceptional example of an Australian Masonic Temple. The temple makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Ann Street through the scale of its giant order Corinthian columns and its interiors, particularly the Grand Hall and the Court of Remembrance, are renowned for their grandeur. It is substantially intact both externally and internally and is held in high regard by the Masonic community.

In April 1921, the United Grand Lodge of Queensland was formed through the union of the 281 Freemasons' lodges in Queensland. To commemorate the union, the Grand Lodge staged a competition to produce a design for a centrally located temple in 1923. Lange Powell's design, himself a Freemason, was chosen from the 16 entries submitted.

The design provided a four-storey building with a basement for the caretaker and storerooms. The ground floor held the executive offices of the Grand Lodges of Queensland, a library and a museum. In the centre of the large circular vestibule was the Urn of Remembrance to Brethren who died in WWI. The first floor comprised supper rooms and the second held the lodge rooms. The Grand Lodge Room on the top



© State of Queensland // Matt Palmer



© State of Queensland // Matt Palmer

floor seated 1100 people and was described in the Architecture and Building Journal in February 1928 as the 'largest and finest of its kind in Australia'.

On 25 April 1928, Most Worshipful Brother Justice Charles Stumm laid the foundation stone. A capsule was placed under the stone which contained copies of the four metropolitan newspapers of the prior day, duplicates of cheques contributed by Lodges and Brethren, a copy of the Grand Master's speech and coins.

Built in the Classical Revival style, the façade features six fluted giant order Corinthian columns supporting a rich entablature and pediment constructed of Yangan sandstone on a grey granite base. Between the two central columns are lead-light steel-framed windows and the heavily studded bronze main entry door at the base of the building. In the bays between columns to either side of the entry are two bronze flagstaffs.

Internally on the ground floor directly behind the entry is the Hall of Remembrance with its central urn surrounded by eight freestanding Tuscan columns arranged in a circle. Above this is a floor of lodge rooms arranged around a central corridor and on the level above there are supper rooms arranged in a similar fashion. The top level is mainly taken up by the Grand Hall, a large symmetrical open space with a vaulted coffered ceiling and stepped seating facing the centre.

Ninety-three hall stone jewels were presented to the lodges that made a significant contribution to the construction of the Ann Street Temple. The jewels were made by Wallace Bishop from 22 carat gold sovereigns that had just been withdrawn from Australian Currency. These jewels are still worn at lodge meetings today.



© State of Queensland // Matt Palmer