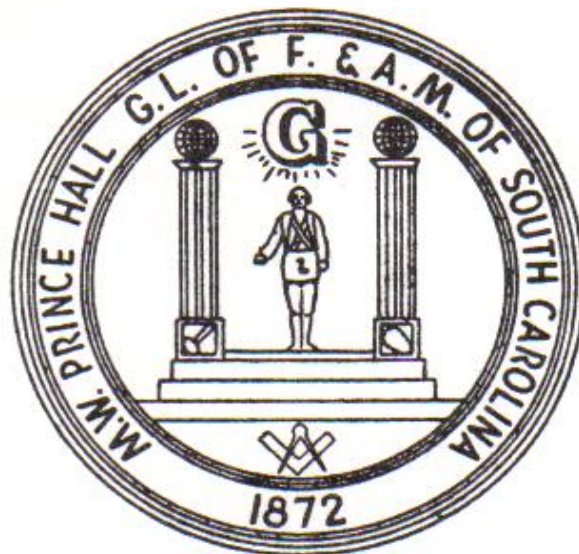


*Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Of Free and Accepted Masons
Of the State of South Carolina*

Cornerstone Training Guide

Nathaniel Durant, Jr. 33^o

Most Worshipful Grand Master



Theme: *"Our God, Our Children, and Our Heritage*

***"The purpose of life is to matter, to count, to stand for something,
to have it make some difference that we lived at all."***

Leo Rosten

Cornerstone Training Guide

This **Cornerstone Training Guide** document is not intended to imply nor infer that the information contained within is all that a Worshipful Master should know in order to lay a Cornerstone. It is only to be used as a **Training Tool** to encourage a Master Mason to prepare himself to become good at his craft and encourage him to seek more light in his Masonic development.

Nathaniel Durant, Jr. 33⁰ MWGM

Sources

Wikipedia

Mackey's Jurisprudence of Free Masonry = JP

Worshipful Master Assistant = WMA

Holy Bible = Bible

General Knowledge = GK

History & Origin

Cornerstone. Symbol of beginning; Cornerstones are laid in the North-Northeast corner – Entered Apprentices stand in the Northeast Corner of the Lodge.

The **cornerstone** (or **foundation stone**) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry [foundation](#), important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire [structure](#).

The point mid-way between the darkness of the North and the brilliance of the East was chosen by ancient builders as the point of the beginning, a spot to mark a birth, a commencement of a new structure.

Over time a cornerstone became a [ceremonial masonry](#) stone, or [replica](#), set in a prominent location on the outside of a building, with an inscription on the stone indicating the construction dates of the building and the names of [architect](#), [builder](#) and other significant individuals. The rite of laying a cornerstone is an important cultural component of western [architecture](#) and metaphorically in [sacred architecture](#) generally.

Some cornerstones include [time capsules](#) from the time a particular building was built. The origins of this tradition are vague but its presence in [Judeo-Christian](#) countries can be associated with one quotation from the Old Testament ([Psalm 118:22](#)) cited six times in the New Testament ([Matthew 21:42](#), [Mark 12:10](#), [Luke 20:17](#), [Acts 4:11](#), [Ephesians 2:20](#) and [1 Peter 2:7](#)).^[1]

Prayer after Laying Cornerstone: 'May the Great Architect of the universe enable us as successfully to carry out and finish this work. May He protect the workmen from danger and accident, and long preserve the structure from decay; and may He grant us all our needed supply; the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy, Amen. So mote it be.'

Historic Cornerstone Laying

Date	Details
August 2, 1738	New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Scotland - earliest record of a formal and official Masonic ceremony
April 15, 1791	Jones Point - first boundary stone of Washington, D.C.
October 13, 1792	White House (then called the President's House) in Washington, D.C.
September 18, 1793	United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. - George Washington presided
October 12, 1793	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
July 4, 1815	Washington Monument, Baltimore, Maryland
1823	Erie Canal, New York
June 17, 1825	Battle of Bunker Hill Monument, near Boston, Massachusetts
1825	monument to General and Brother De Kalb, in South Carolina
July 4, 1828	Baltimore & Ohio Railroad
1847	Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C.
July 4, 1848	Washington Monument, in Washington, D.C.
July 4, 1851	Extension wings (for the Senate and House) of the U.S. Capitol building - Benjamin B. French presided
October 9, 1880	Cleopatra's Needle, New York City
June 24, 1881	St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Cambridge, Maryland
August 5, 1884	Statue of Liberty, New York
September 29, 1907	Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.
October 18, 1911	House of the Temple, headquarters of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, in Washington, D.C.
September 18, 1922	Detroit Masonic Temple (largest in the world), Detroit, Michigan

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1923	George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia
1932	Reenactment of the cornerstone laying of the U.S. Capitol building, in Washington, D.C.
December 15, 1932	Department of Labor Building, Washington, D.C.
July 4, 1959	East front extension of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.
June 2, 1974	Simpson-Hemline United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia
1981	Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia
June 21, 1981	Fellowship Hall of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Cambridge, Maryland
July 31, 1982	Townshend Lodge #6, Port Townshend, Washington (State)
October 2, 1982	Tacoma Dome, Tacoma, Washington (State)
November 11, 1989	Holy Protection Gnostic Orthodox Monastery, Nebraska
April 15, 1991	Reenactment of the Masonic cornerstone laying of the Washington D.C. boundary stone at Jones Point, Alexandria, Virginia
September 13, 1992	Stewartville United Methodist Church, Stewartville, Minnesota
October 3, 1992	George Washington's Grist Mill, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania
October 13, 1992	Reenactment of the Masonic cornerstone laying ceremony of the White House, in Washington, D.C.
August 21, 1993	Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial Monument, at Gettysburg National Cemetery, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
September 18, 1993	Reenactment of the Cornerstone laying of the U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.
October 23, 1993	Bicentennial celebration of the Cornerstone laying of the U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.

Cornerstone Basic Information & Examples

The Cornerstone Traditionally is laid on outside of a building in the Northeast corner with an inscription on the stone indicating the construction date of the building and the names of **Architect**, **Builder** and **Other significant individuals**. Behind or in the cornerstone is included a **Time Capsules** from the time period a particular building was built. Examples of items that can or should be included in the **Time Capsule** are;

1. **Membership rolls** of occupants of the edifice,
2. **Coins** of the time period.
3. A copy of current **Newspaper** of the day of the stone laying,
4. A copy of the Cornerstone laying **Program**.
5. And **other** items as desired.

Position of the Cornerstone

-The Cornerstone is traditionally placed in the Northeast corner of the Building. (However if the owners of the Building choose another site the stone can be placed there)

Distance from the Corner

-The Cornerstone is traditionally placed on the corner but it can be placed four inches, eight inches or twelve inches from the corner of the Building.

Distance from the Ground

-The Cornerstone is traditionally placed three (3) feet from the ground but it can be placed another height depending upon the design of the Building.

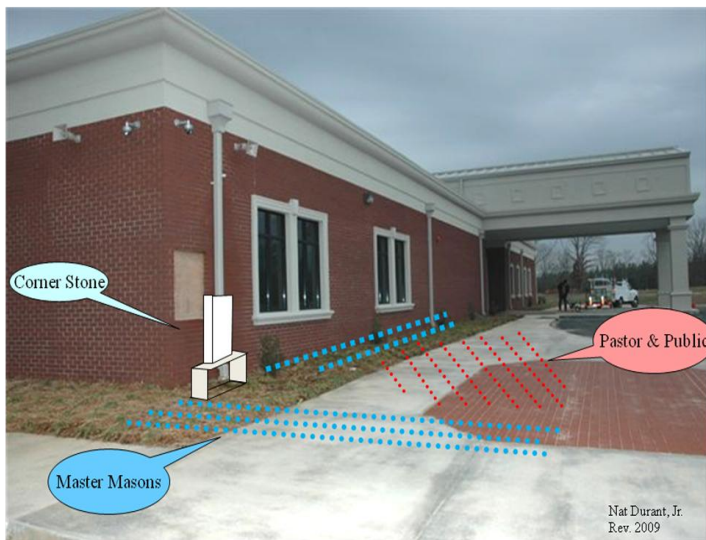
Inscription on the Cornerstone

-**Public Buildings**: Inscription on the stone indicates the Construction Date of the building, the name of **Architect**, **Builder**, and **other significant individuals** etc.

-Masonic Buildings: Inscription on the stone indicates as a minimum the Name of the Lodge, Construction Date, Name of Worshipful Master, Senior & Junior Warden, and Name of the Grand Master at the time the Building was erected and the Date the Cornerstone is Layed. In addition to the above the lodge can place other names and information depending upon size of stone and cost restraints.



Little River Multi-Culture Center



Cornerstone Laying Checklist

1. Invitation to lay Cornerstone by Official of:
 - Church
 - Public Building
 - Organization
2. Fill out Cornerstone Laying request for Dispensation.
 - A. Inform officials requesting the Cornerstone to be Layed the items they are to provide.
 - B. Inform the Lodge the items they are to provide.
3. Request Dispensation from the Grand Master via Special Deputy & District Deputy.
4. Lodge Preparations.
 - Training
 - Practice Ceremony
5. Day of the Ceremony.
 - Open the Lodge
 - Minutes recorded by the Secretary
 - Stone Position 6 ft above ground at location (Northeast Corner)
 - Marshall form the procession (led by the Tyler until inverse point – then by the Marshall)
 - Lodge march to the Cornerstone & Form into a Hollow Square.
6. Assembled at Cornerstone.
 - Marshall gives the Proclamation of the Occasion.
 - Secretary reads the Dispensation of the Occasion.
 - Laying Ceremony is performed
 - Consecration Ceremony is performed
 - Closing Address by Grand Master
 - Benediction by Clergy or Lodge Chaplin
7. March back to Lodge or appropriate place; make final remarks to Craft and Close Lodge.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of South Carolina



Dispensation Request

Host Lodge: _____

Reason for Request: # _____

Worshipful Master: _____

1. Cornerstone Laying
2. Dress/Full Regale: Church Visitation etc.

Phone Number: _____

3. OES or Concordant Body Event

Address: _____

4. Change of Meeting date

5. Raise 7 or more Masons

Place of Event: _____

6. Other: _____

Address: _____

Items needed for Cornerstone Laying:

Date of Event: _____

1. Small Casket (container)

Time of Event: _____

2. Copy of Program

Officiating Officer:

3. Newspaper of current date

Signature: _____

4. Coins

5. Membership Poll

6. Other items if desired

The following information should be stated on the program:

Most Worshipful Grand Master Nathaniel Durant, Jr. 33^o

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

of Free and Accepted Masons

of the State of South Carolina

District Deputy _____

Address: _____

Special Deputy _____

N. Durant, Jr. 22Apr08nd

Sponsor:

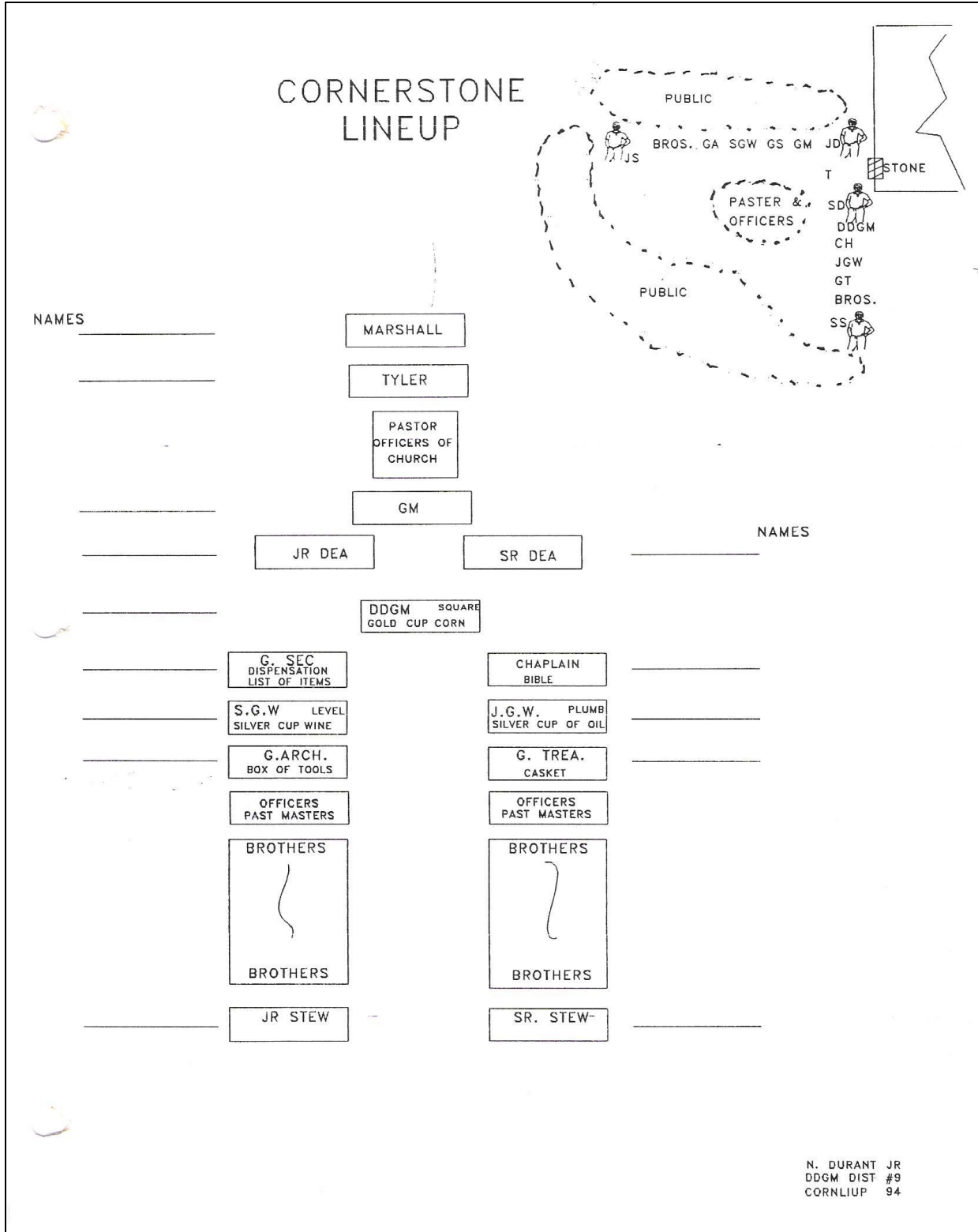
Nathaniel Durant, Jr. MWGM of PHGL of SC

Rev. 2-11-2010

Compiler:

Nathaniel Durant, Jr.

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Line-up to march into Mt. Moriah AME
Zion Church, Lancaster, SC



Cornerstone Laid in the Northeast
Corner of Church & Brothers
forming a square.



GA, DGM, GSec, GM, GSD



GJD, GSW, GC, GJW, GT



Congregation in middle of Square
To better observe the ceremony



Grand Master address Pastor &/or
Ministers of Church as to intended use
of the edifice.

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Grand Master commends the Officers & Members of the Church for their Commitment and Dedication.



Grand Master Charge the youth to maintain the edifice.



Grand Master explains to the children the significance of the Precious Stone and the Time Capsule.



Pastor gives final remarks & benediction.



PH GD Lodge of SC & Athenian Lodge #197
Group picture for History
Cornerstone Mt. Zion AME Zion Church