

Washington D.C. Temple Renovation Fact Sheet



Address: 9900 Stoneybrook Dr.
Kensington, Maryland 20895-3199

Original Temple Announced:

November 15, 1968

Original Groundbreaking:

December 7, 1968

Original Dedication: November 19–22, 1974

Renovation Construction Start:

March 5, 2018

Public Open House Begins:

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Rededication: Sunday, August 14, 2022

Property Size: 52 acres

Building Size: 156,558 square feet

Building Height: 288 feet, including the statue of the Book of Mormon prophet Moroni

Renovation Architect: John McConkie (Church architect) and CRSA Architects

Interior Design: Kathleen Bluth (Church designer) and CRSA Architects

Contractor: Okland Construction

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Washington D.C. Temple was the first temple built east of the Mississippi River since the Nauvoo Temple more than a century earlier. Most of the major Church history sites—including Palmyra, Kirtland and Nauvoo—are within the original boundaries of the Washington D.C. Temple district.

The groundbreaking for the original Washington D.C. Temple was held in 1968 and construction began in 1971. It was dedicated in 1974 by President Spencer W. Kimball and became the 16th operating temple of the Church.

At the time of the temple's dedication, the Washington D.C. Temple district included about 300,000 people living in the eastern United States, eastern Canada and the Caribbean. Church members in South America were also assigned to the Washington D.C. Temple. About 20,000 church members lived in the Washington, D.C., area. Many of these members were converts, which reflected the growth of the Church in the twentieth century. More than 750,000 people toured the temple during the open house in 1974, including many national government leaders.

EXTERIOR FEATURES

BUILDING AND SPIRES: The temple's clean, vertical lines extend skyward, creating a sense of simplicity and design that honors and enhances its original architecture. The existing concrete structure features an exterior clad of Alabama white marble quarried in Sylacauga, Alabama. The six gold spires atop the structure make this temple the tallest in the Church.

EXTERIOR ART GLASS: A solid blaze of color lights the exterior art glass from the ground to the top of the temple. The colors begin with rich, vibrant shades of red and orange and ascend into clear tones of blue, violet and finally white. The glass was designed by Willet Hauser Architectural Glass of Winona, Minnesota.

LANDSCAPING: Ruppert Landscape of Laytonsville, Maryland, was responsible for the landscaping at the temple. The manicured grounds feature 260 trees, 5,073 shrubs and 3,911 perennials, each chosen to complement

native plants in the surrounding area. Annuals and green lawns cover 64,822 square feet of the site, enhancing the beauty of the naturally wooded site.

FOUNTAINS: There are two fountains on the temple grounds, both designed by Loci, CRSA and Water Design, all located in the Salt Lake City area in Utah. The main water feature, which is surrounded by a seat wall for guests, is complete with a light aggregate cap, based on the fountain's original design. The Visitors' Center water feature, made of a dark granite, creates a clear reflective surface that captures different angles of the temple in photographs.

FENCE AND WALKWAYS: The changes to the perimeter fence are limited to the vehicular entrance where the existing guard house was removed. New fence panels match the existing fence. The new site design encourages more use of the sidewalks surrounding the temple.

INTERIOR FEATURES

FLOORING: White marble, quarried in Sylacauga, Alabama, and fabricated in Xaimen, China, is used for flooring and base throughout the temple. An arched motif adorns the celestial and sealing rooms' carpet carvings and was carved by Halfmoon Studio in Midvale, Utah. A custom cherry blossom motif decorates the carpet in the bride's room and was designed by Rugs International of Cartersville, Georgia, who also fabricated the blue and brown geometric-patterned wool area rugs found throughout the temple. Neutral colors are used in the main and stair tower areas of the temple. The carpet in the main areas of the temple was fabricated by Mannington, headquartered in Salem, New Jersey. The carpet in the celestial and sealing rooms was fabricated by Bentley Mills of Los Angeles, California.

DECORATIVE PAINTING: Gold leaf adorns the decorative line work on the walls of the sealing and celestial rooms, designed and installed by Finessed Finishes of Springville, Utah. Light blue and green decorative lines are found on the walls of the lobbies of each floor and in the bride's room. Characteristic pointed arches are seen throughout the temple and have been added to the ceilings in gold leaf in the sealing rooms as well as the oval opening in the celestial room.

INTERIOR ART GLASS: Improved lighting illuminates the original art glass representation of the Tree of Life just behind the reception desk. The art glass was designed and fabricated by Willett Hauser Architectural Glass of Winona, Minnesota. The new LED lighting makes the brilliant colors of the art glass visible to all who enter the temple.

LIGHTING: The main lighting fixtures are made of beveled cut glass with a frosted base, creating beautiful designs on the ceilings where they are hung. Swarovski crystal chandeliers made in Austria, patterned after the angular geometry of the temple itself, hang in the celestial and sealing rooms. All lighting was designed in partnership with CRSA and Ciana Decorative Lighting, located in Heber City, Utah, and was installed by Altmate Electric Inc. of Mt. Airy, Maryland.

MILLWORK: Quarter sawn Anegre wood creates an understated linear pattern similar to the temple's exterior architecture. It was fabricated in Tijuana, Mexico, and installed by Masterpiece Millwork and Door of Lindon, Utah.

STAIR AND FONT RAILINGS: Decorative metal railings have been replaced throughout the temple, honoring the original design. White painted overlapping arch balusters and satin brass rails found in the baptistry were fabricated and installed by Hercules Custom Iron, headquartered in Walkersville, Maryland.

DOORS AND HARDWARE: The original exterior decorative bronze doors are unique to this temple and have been restored. Eight bronze medallions by Latter-day Saint sculptor Franz Johansen portray the Big Dipper and North Star, the earth, the planets, the moon, the stars, the concentric circles representing eternity, the traditional temple sun face and seven concentric pentagons representing the seven dispensations. These medallions are also found on the sliding gates at the main entry. Escutcheons featuring a stylized three-dimensional casting of the temple towers are found on the interior doors. The interior doors and hardware are made of wood and brass.

WALLS: Most wall coverings in the temple are made of vinyl, except for the sealing room, which is made from silk fabric that is attached to a paper backing. This specialty wall covering in the sealing room is fabricated by

Weitzner and installed by Sparkle Painting of Franconia, Virginia. The design is a type of stylized arch that references the original arch motif that exists throughout the temple. C.J. Coakley Co., Inc. of Fairfax, Virginia, completed all the framing, drywall and plaster work in the building.

ORIGINAL ARTWORK: "Great Falls, Potomac River" by Brad Aldridge; "Historic River in Waterford Virginia" by Frank Magleby; "Silent Reflections" by Frank Magleby; "He Healed Them All" by Michael Malm; "Reverie at Daybreak" by Adair Payne; "Supreme Teacher" by Julie Rogers; "An Answer is Given" by Julie Rogers; "Washington D.C. Temple" by Keith W. Wilcox; "His Return" by Dan Wilson.

