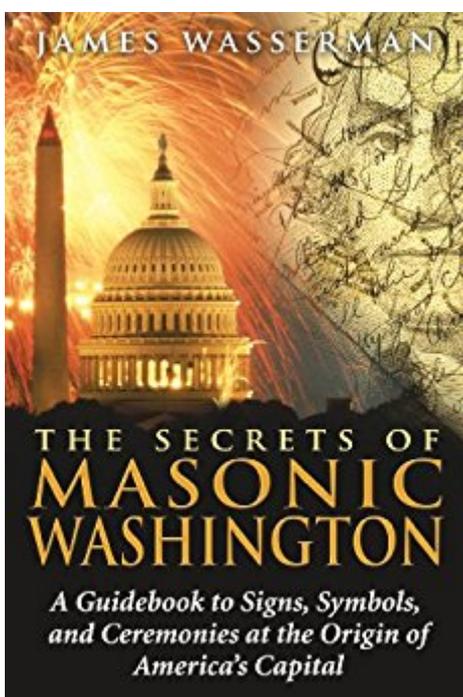


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# The Secrets Of Masonic Washington: A Guidebook To Signs, Symbols, And Ceremonies At The Origin Of America's Capital



## Synopsis

A fully illustrated guide to the Masonic origins and present-day Masonic sites of Washington, D.C. • Provides a walking tour of the Masonic sites and symbols of the city • Explores the critical role of Freemasonry in the founding of the United States • By the author of *The Templars and Assassins*

In this guide to the Masonic underpinnings of America's capital, James Wasserman reveals the esoteric symbols and the spiritual and visionary ideas that lie hidden in the buildings, monuments, and physical layout of Washington, D.C. His walking tour of these Masonic sites includes both the expected and unexpected--from the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol Building to the Federal Reserve complex, National Academy of Sciences, and the Library of Congress. Each location includes descriptions, interpretations, and explanations of the Masonic symbols and ritualistic meanings hidden within its structure, all illustrated with contemporary color and historic black-and-white photographs. Wasserman explains the purpose behind putting these symbols and Masonic designs into the capital and how all these monuments fit into the spiritual vision held by the founding fathers. He reveals the prominent role that Freemasonry played in the 18th-century Enlightenment movement and shows how in the New World of America, free of monarchy and aristocracy, the ideas of the Enlightenment were able to flourish. This illustrated guidebook to the Masonic secrets of Washington, D.C., provides valuable insights on the founding of America. It will be welcomed by students of esoteric art and symbolism, admirers of American history, and devotees of Dan Brown novels and *National Treasure* movies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Peter and Susan Seals say, "If you're planning a trip to Washington, D.C., before you head out the door, make sure you have everything. In addition to the hotel and car reservations, be certain you have a copy of *The Secrets of Masonic Washington: A Guidebook to Signs, Symbols, and Ceremonies at the Origin of America's Capital*." Before I even began reading this profusely illustrated volume, I was overwhelmed by the high quality photographs which make up the largest portion of this book. If the book consisted only of these photographs and captions, it would have been worth the cost. An absolute treasure, it reproduces a selection of color photos capturing the full breadth of notable edifices. It is truly comprehensive. The collection runs through the expected, and the unexpected with many dynamic images to illustrate just how "hidden in plain sight", much of the Masonic Symbolism is. I adored the descriptions which accompanied the book, and longed to see even more of the images with a more detailed expert commentary, and this book more than fulfilled that expectation, offering a simply massive selection of images accompanied by an explanation of when, where, who and what the heck historically occurred. Through stunning photographs and in depth analysis, James Wasserman does more than simply give us a guided tour of the esoteric and occult symbolism hidden in plain site of our Nation's Capital; all lovers of Freedom can't help but be inspired to exemplify and preserve the Liberty this Nation was founded upon, and to be worthy of the Ideals represented by these Monuments. Ironically, in many ways, Washington, D.C., is a lost city, hidden in plain site. This book serves as an archaeological excavation of D.C.

James Wasserman's 'The Secrets of Masonic Washington' appears at first to be an exciting premise--a full-color walking tour of Masonic symbolism in the city of Washington D.C. If you are looking for a specifically Masonic guidebook to the city, its title is slightly misleading. Nevertheless, its subtitle is perhaps a better description of what this book really is about: "A guidebook to signs, symbols and ceremonies at the origin of America's capital." The result is a beautifully photographed volume that examines dozens of federal buildings and explains the symbolism of the colossal statuary and other decoration found on them. Like so many other authors who have ventured into

the Federal Triangle with their eyes peeled for Masonic influences, convinced the Freemasons put their stamp all over the stone houses of power or the street map of the nation's capitol, Wasserman's book has a slight sense of schizophrenia. There is specific Masonic architecture in Washington and the surrounding neighborhoods like Alexandria. The buildings in the area Wasserman explores are indeed loaded with symbolism, much of it from the period of the Enlightenment, as interpreted by sculptors and painters over the last two hundred years. The Library of Congress alone could provide you with squinty eyes and a severe neck ache from searching its ceiling, columns and niches for imagery illustrative of the arts and sciences. But is any of it specifically Masonic? The philosophies of the Enlightenment are tied inextricably with the birth of Freemasonry, but Classical and Enlightenment art wasn't just conceived by Freemasons, and if you know Washington, you'll be a little frustrated at what Wasserman included and what he omitted.

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