



RENAISSANCE PROVIDENCE HOTEL PROVIDENCE, RI

Construction on the Masonic Temple began in 1926 to provide an office and meeting space for the Rhode Island Freemasons. The seven-story, steel frame structure totals 155,200 square feet. Limestone and brick clad, the building's monumental façade has an eastern face that features a colossal ionic colonnade. Financial constraints amplified by the 1928 stock market crash halted construction, and the building was never completed.

Since its abandonment in 1928, the Masonic Temple deteriorated at an alarming rate despite its high profile history. Both the Temple's exterior and interior spaces suffered from severe neglect since the theft of the copper roof by scavengers exposed the interior to rain and snow. However, the hefty steel and stone frame remained structurally sound and ready for adaptive use. With its proximity to the State House, Providence Place, Kennedy Plaza, the train station and major highways, it would seem almost impossible for someone not to develop the Masonic Temple, particularly considering the City's recent renaissance.

In 2003 Sage Hospitality, a Colorado-based hotel operator, came forward with plans to renovate the building as a luxury hotel. Rehabilitation plans include restoration of the exterior façade, additional windows at the penthouse level to accommodate guest rooms and rebuilding the demolished "link building" that connects the Temple to the neighboring Veterans Memorial Auditorium. The project was started in April 2004 and completed in 2007.



In order to prepare the drawings for the project architects, it was necessary to obtain key elevations and details of the existing columns, beams, windows, and railings and other unique architectural conditions. Due to its location on a busy roadway and the gutted interior, conventional surveying techniques would have been too disruptive of traffic and too expensive to implement. BCG used a combination of conventional total-station surveying and laser scanning to prepare a 3-dimensional CAD model of the building interior and exterior. BCG prepared the drawings in a fraction of the time and cost that a conventional survey would have required and allowed the architect to meet their demanding deadlines.