

Masons

Masonry developed out of 17th and 18th century liberalism and assumed its Grand Lodge organizational form in England in 1717, retaining many of the outward features of the old craft guild of the Operative Masons. The first Masonic lodge in the United States was constituted at Boston in 1733, and by the outbreak of the American Revolution, there were more than 100 lodges. Freemasonry espouses the philosophy of service to mankind and international peace by teaching basic moral principles of private and public conduct. The charter for the Laredo Lodge #547 was granted on December 12, 1881, and the first meetings were held at the Presbyterian church. Later in 1900 the Masonic Lodge was located at 516 Flores Avenue in the Fritz Wemer building. In addition to the American Laredo chapter, the Grand Mexican Masonic Lodge of Texas was established in Laredo. The Caballeros de Honor, No. 14, a Mexican Masonic chapter, formed in the early 20th century. In 1923, another Mexican Masonic Lodge named for Benito Juárez met at 607 Convent Avenue.