

Prince Hall Masonry Recognition details

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The information in this chart was prepared by Paul M. Bessel, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Leadership Center at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Please contact me with any additional information, or any comments or suggestions. My email address is bessel@erols.com (Special thanks to Tony Pope for information about which Grand Lodges have recognized which Prince Hall Grand Lodges.)

As of September 16, 2000, the following 32 (out of a total of 51) U.S. Grand Lodges have adopted resolutions that say Prince Hall Masonry is "regular." Some have adopted "full recognition," in the same sense they recognize any other Grand Lodge, some have granted "recognition" to the extent of permitting intervisitation but not dual memberships, and some have adopted resolutions supporting Prince Hall Masonry but making recognition subject to something such as adoption of similar action by Prince Hall Masonry.

When no date or citation to the Proceedings is shown, I am not aware of that information and would appreciate any assistance to find out.

Please note that there is a map at the bottom of the chart, graphically showing which of "our" Grand Lodges have now recognized Prince Hall Masonry in some form.

Updated November 16, 2000

#	Grand Lodge	Date of Recognition Action & Proceedings Citation	Type of Recognition or Action Leading to Recognition & U.S. PHA Grand Lodges Recognized
1	Connecticut	Oct. 14, 1989 - 1990 Connecticut Proceedings, pages 27-31 and 128-129	reliably reported to be full recognition for all purposes Connecticut, Arizona, California & Hawaii, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin
2	Nebraska	Feb. 2, 1990 - 1990 Nebraska Proceedings, pages 94, 55, 83-84	reliably reported to be full recognition for all purposes Nebraska, Alaska, Arizona, California & Hawaii, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin
3	Washington	June 1990 - 1990 Washington Proceedings, pages 163-167; also 1995/1996 Washington Proceedings, pages 247-249	reported to be full recognition for all purposes, but 1995/1996 Proceedings indicate recognition may be only for visitation Washington, Oregon, Connecticut
4	Wisconsin	June 10, 1990 -	visitation

		1990 Wisconsin Proceedings, pages 86-87, 88-91	Wisconsin, Connecticut, Oregon
5	Colorado	Jan. 28, 1991 - 1990 Colorado Proceedings, pages 127-135	visitation Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas
6	Minnesota	April 13, 1991 & April 8, 1995 - 1991 Minnesota Proceedings, pages 140, 141, 86-87, 75 and 1995 Minnesota Proceedings, pages 210, 111-112, 52	" full recognition...all the rights and privileges that accompany recognition between Regular Grand Lodges" Minnesota, Connecticut, Oregon, Wisconsin
7	North Dakota	June 14, 1991 - 1991 North Dakota Proceedings, pages 88, 51 to be checked: full recognition is said to have been adopted in June 1998	full recognition Minnesota (PH lodges in ND are chartered by the PH GL of Minnesota), Oregon, Wisconsin
8	Idaho	Sept. 16, 1993 - 1993 Idaho Proceedings, pages 17-19 (also see 1991 Idaho Proceedings, pages 50-52)	"grant full Masonic Recognition" Oregon, Washington, Connecticut (PH lodges in Idaho chartered by PH GL's of Oregon and Nevada)
9	Massachusetts	March 8, 1995 - 1995 Massachusetts Proceedings, pages 31-32	reliably reported to be full recognition for all purposes Massachusetts, Connecticut, Wisconsin
10	Vermont	June 14, 1995 - 1995 Vermont Proceedings, pages 89, 60-61	" full fraternal relations" Connecticut, Oregon
11	Wyoming	Aug. 10, 1995 - 1995 Wyoming Proceedings, pages 121-123	" full and complete fraternal recognition" Colorado (PH lodges in Wyoming are chartered by the PH GL of Colorado)
12	California	Oct. 9, 1995 - 1995 California Proceedings, pages 28, and 8-10, 27, 268-271, 426-428. Also see California Proceedings for 1992 at pages 382-6, for 1993 at pages 559-62, for 1994 at pages 388-92, and for 1996 at pages 369-370.	full recognition California & Hawaii, Oregon
13	Ohio	Oct. 20, 1995 - 1995 Ohio Proceedings, page 91, 92, 36-38, 114-115	visitation Ohio
14	Kansas	1994 Kansas Proceedings, page 108; 1995 Kansas Proceedings, pages 76-77; 1996 Kansas Proceedings, page 83	Reliably reported to be full recognition Kansas
15	New Mexico	Mar. 15, 1996 - 1996 New Mexico Proceedings, pages	" full Masonic recognition...including privileges of visitation and affiliation, and all

		43-44	other rights and privileges customarily incident to recognition." New Mexico
16	Maine	May 8, 1996 - 1996 Maine Proceedings, pages 1584-1586; also see 1998 Maine Proceedings, pages 351-352	appears to be full recognition Connecticut and Massachusetts (PH lodge in Maine chartered by PH GL of Massachusetts)
17	New Hampshire	May 18, 1996 - 1997 New Hampshire Proceedings, pages 147-148; and 1996 New Hampshire Proceedings, pages 157, 158	full recognition Connecticut and Massachusetts (PH lodge in New Hampshire is chartered by the PH GL of Massachusetts)
18	Arizona	May 21, 1996 - 1996 Arizona Proceedings, pages 139-140, and 135-137	recognition approved, and visitations are permitted by invitation , but no dual memberships, or transfers of membership Arizona
19	South Dakota	June 21, 1996 - 1996 South Dakota Proceedings, pages 69-70, 78-79; also see 1995 South Dakota Proceedings, pages 57-58	no limit mentioned on recognition of PHA, so presumably full recognition for all purposes Kansas (the PH lodge in S.D. is chartered by the PH GL of Kansas)
20	Hawaii	Nov. 30, 1996 - 1996 Hawaii Proceedings, Resolutions, R97-2	no limit mentioned on recognition of PHA, so presumably full recognition for all purposes California & Hawaii, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Oregon, Pennsylvania
21	Utah	Feb. 3, 1997 - 1997 Utah Proceedings, pages 137 and 103	Colorado (PH lodges in Utah are chartered by the PH GL's of Texas and Colorado)
22	Alaska	May 10, 1997	full recognition of all the rights and privileges between Regular Grand Lodges Alaska
23	Michigan	May 30, 1997 - 1997 Michigan Proceedings, pages 67-68, 129-130	reliably reported to be full recognition Michigan
24	Pennsylvania	June 4, 1997 - 1997 Pennsylvania Proceedings, pages 12-13	intervisitation Pennsylvania
25	Oregon	June 6, 1997 - 1997 Oregon Proceedings, pages 147, 109-110, 131-132	no limit mentioned on recognition of PHA, so presumably full recognition for all purposes

			Oregon, Washington
26	Illinois	Oct. 10, 1997 - 1997 Illinois Proceedings, pages 71-72, and 31	recognition "same" as for any foreign jurisdiction" Illinois, Connecticut, Indiana, Oregon, Wisconsin
27	Indiana	May 19, 1998 - 1998 Indiana Proceedings, pages 83-86	"full fraternal recognition" Indiana
28	Rhode Island	Oct. 22, 1998 - I do not know if these Proceedings have been published yet.	reliably reported to be full recognition for all purposes Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts
29	District of Columbia	May 12, 1999 - These Proceedings have not been published yet.	Full recognition (Grand Lodge voted to give Grand Master authority to sign agreement with Prince Hall Grand Lodge of DC - if and when it is signed, there will be full recognition) District of Columbia
30	Montana	June 25-26, 1999 - 1999 Montana Proceedings, Pages 50 - 51	Full Masonic Recognition, including the privileges of visitation and affiliation, along with all other rights and privileges customarily granted upon recognition of another Grand Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Montana. This recognition is not intended to extend the jurisdiction of either Grand Lodge to the Lodges of the other, or to the Masons of the other, unless they are dual members. Oregon (The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon, Inc., has jurisdiction over Prince Hall Lodges in Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.)
31	Nevada	Nov. 8, 1999 - 1999 Nevada Proceedings, Pages 57- 62	"Full and complete Masonic recognition" Nevada
32	Iowa	September 16, 2000	Full recognition Iowa
SUMMARY - 32 GL's have voted favorably toward recognition of PHA GL's 19 GL's have not yet done so			Full recognition - 25 Visitation only - 4 The rest (5) are unclear or mixed

Royal Arch Grand Chapters ("Mainstream") that have voted to recognize Prince Hall Grand Chapters

Connecticut	May 21, 1994 (possibly the first one)
Massachusetts	I do not have details about when this was done, or Proceedings citations.
Colorado	January 29, 1996 (Colorado Grand Chapter Proceedings 1996, pages 18 and 85)
Washington	possibly April 1998 - I have heard this recognition is not complete yet (October 2000), but is expected to become completed soon
Illinois	July 17, 1998, Illinois Grand Royal Arch Chapter Proceedings, 1998, pages 3-4
Hawaii	1998 or 1999
Indiana	April 28, 1999
British Columbia & Yukon Canada	September 8, 2000 - recognized the Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons of Washington State, Prince Hall, and also recognized all Grand Chapters that belong to the General Conference of Holy Royal Arch Masons (Prince Hall)
District of Columbia	October 14, 2000

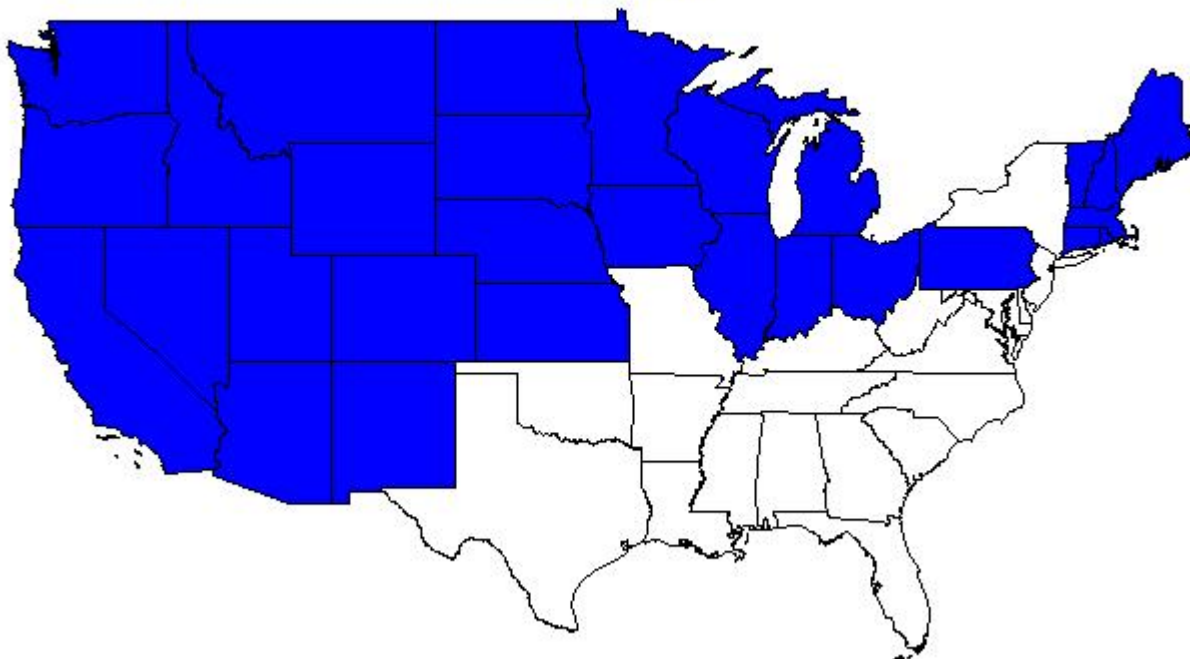
Cryptic Masonry (Royal & Select Masters) Grand Councils ("Mainstream") that have Recognized Prince Hall Grand Councils

Illinois	1998, Illinois Grand Council of Cryptic Masons Proceedings, 1998, page 25
Michigan	1999

Knights Templar Grand Commanderies ("Mainstream") that have Recognized Prince Hall Grand Councils

Illinois	July 18, 1998, Illinois Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Proceedings, 1998, page 32
Ohio	since 1998 (according to an email message sent to me)
Indiana	Email message received May 1, 2000: This last week at our Grand Session, Grand Commandery of Indiana recognized Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Ohio. Most, if not all Prince Hall Knights Templar in Indiana are member of Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Ohio.

32 U.S. Grand Lodges (including Alaska, Hawaii, & D.C.) have voted in favor of Prince Hall Masonry
as of Sept. 16, 2000



Prince Hall Grand Lodges or Prince Hall Masonry in general have also been recognized by the following 8 (out of 10) Grand Lodges in **Canadian Provinces**:

British Columbia

Manitoba

New Brunswick

Nova Scotia, June 6-7, 1996, in 1996 Nova Scotia Proceedings at page 90 (said to now recognize Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Ontario and Connecticut)

Prince Edward Island

Quebec (said to recognize Oregon, Connecticut, Ontario)

Alberta (Pentagraph's *List of Lodges* says Alberta recognizes all Prince Hall Grand Lodges)

Saskatchewan (recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Colorado and Connecticut in September of 1999)

Prince Hall Grand Lodges have also been recognized by the following **non-U.S. Grand Lodges**:
Europe

United Grand Lodge of England	California & Hawaii Colorado Connecticut Hawaii (included with California) Illinois Indiana Kansas Massachusetts (Dec. 14, 1994)	Minnesota Nebraska New Mexico Ohio Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island Washington Wisconsin Liberia
	Grand Lodge of France	since the 1950's

Ireland	(I don't have details about when this was done, but Ireland is said to recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois)
Scotland	I have heard from some very reliable sources that this GL has recognized the PH GL of Massachusetts, but I have heard from other sources that this GL has not yet recognized any PH GLs.
Netherlands (Grand Orient)	June 1995 (said to recognize Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Massachusetts and Connecticut)
Belgium (Regular Grand Lodge)	March 1996 (said to recognize Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Oregon, Wisconsin)
United Grand Lodges of Germany	April 1997 (said to recognize Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Connecticut, Massachusetts)
Austria	February 1999 for PH GL of Massachusetts and October 1999 for the Ph GL of Indiana

Asia

Philippines	November 1997 (recognized PH GL of Washington)
Japan	May 1998 (recognized PH GL of Washington)

Report From The United Grand Lodge of England
Prince Hall Masonry and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

BACKGROUND

1. Annex A states the Board's view of Regularity and recognition.
2. Annex B is a short history of Prince Hall Masonry.

COMMENT ON PRINCE HALL MASONRY

3. By the standards of today, the formation of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was irregular. In the 18th Century, however, three Grand Lodges in North America were formed by not three but two Lodges, and the Grand Lodge of New Jersey was formed simply by a Grand Convention of Masons. By standards then prevailing, the formation of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts could have been seen as merely eccentric, and of acceptable regularity.

4. Notwithstanding the unusual transformation of its original Lodge into a Grand Lodge, the philosophy and practice of Prince Hall Masonry today are of exemplary regularity.

RECOGNITION OF OR OTHER RELATIONS WITH PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGES

5. Some Grand Lodges in North America have recognized Prince Hall Grand Lodges, and others allow inter-visitation between their Brethren and Brethren of Prince Hall Grand Lodges in their territory. Both sorts are dealing with what the Board sees as irregularly-formed bodies. Grand Lodge's initial reaction was to stop Brethren of the English Constitution visiting Lodges in the affected jurisdictions.

6. In 1988 the Board was unable to support an application from the Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, seeking recognition for his Grand Lodge (and in ultimate effect on behalf of some 300,000 Prince Hall Masons in jurisdictions descended from his).

BOARD'S CURRENT VIEW AND PROPOSAL

7. The Board has been reconsidering the application for over three years, and it believes that the proper course is now to ignore the unusual formation of the African Grand Lodge and to recommend instead that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts should be deemed to be and accepted as regular, and recognized. This is not intended to set a general precedent, but the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, which was the African Grand Lodge's forerunner may also merit special consideration.

8. If the problem of regularity were to be solved in this way, the State Grand Lodge of Massachusetts would have no objection to the United Grand Lodge of England recognizing the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, both-Massachusetts Grand Lodges having sovereign jurisdiction over the Brethren and Lodges of their Constitution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Recognition of other Prince Hall Grand Lodges descended from African Lodge might follow similar lines.

9. The Board recommends that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts be recognized.

10. An appropriate resolution will be moved, and appears at item of the paper of business.

11. The administrations of the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland have been kept informed of the Board's deliberations. They agree in principle that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts should be recognized and are aware of what might follow.

Annexes

A. Regularity and Recognition

B. Short History of Prince Hall Masonry

Annex A: REGULARITY AND RECOGNITION INTRODUCTION

1. The regularity and recognition of Grand Lodges are separate but allied subjects. Unless a Grand Lodge is regular, it cannot be recognized. Unless a Grand Lodge is recognized, its Brethren cannot (or should not) be met as Freemasons by Brethren of regular and recognized Grand Lodges.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

2. The "Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition" were adopted by Grand Lodge in 1929. This was a codification, and not a statement of new principles. summarized the tests which the United Grand Lodge of England had applied and would apply in recognizing regular Grand Lodges throughout the World. Eight principles are set out in 'the Book of Constitutions, and restated in Grand Lodge's leaflet "Freemasonry's External Relations" To be eligible for recognition, a Grand Lodge must

a. be regular in its origin (see paragraph 3 below)

- b. be truly independent and self-governing (see paragraph 4 below)
- c. adhere to 'landmarks' (a landmark is an essential characteristic of regular Freemasonry), viz:
 - (i) its Brethren must believe in a Supreme Being (the GAOTU);
 - (ii) Obligations must be taken on or in full view of the VSL;
 - (iii) it must display the three Great Lights of Freemasonry when it or its Lodges are open;
 - (iv) discussion of religion and politics in its Lodges must be prohibited, and
 - (v) its membership must be male, and it must have nothing to do with mixed or women's Lodges.

REGULARITY OF ORIGIN

- 3. The original Grand Lodges (England, Ireland and Scotland) were formed by private Lodges which had formed themselves Time immemorial Lodges, in English parlance. the 18th Century, three State Grand Lodges in the United States of America were formed by two Lodges, and one was formed by a Grand Convention of Masons Subsequent Grand Lodges follow the modern rule in paragraph 4.
- 4. A Grand Lodge must have been established by: a) a recognized Grand Lodge, or b) three (nowadays) or more regularly constituted private Lodges, formed in accordance within the rules and customs of a regular Grand Lodge.
- 5. A Grand Lodge must have undisputed authority over Craft (or basic) Freemasonry within its jurisdiction, and not be subject in any way to or share power with any other Masonic body.
- 6. This principle is expressed overseas as exclusive Territorial jurisdiction, but has recently been qualified as being "subject to exceptions" This qualification means the principle is not violated if Grand Lodges agree to share territory while remaining authority over Brethren under their jurisdiction (e.g., our recognition of four Grand Lodges in Colombia; the acceptance of the Grand Lodges of New Zealand and South Africa (etc.) of Lodges under the UGLE (etc.) in their territory, and the fact that Lodges under the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington work in the territory of the Grand Lodge of Alaska). Agreement by one Grand Lodge to share its territory with another does not imply license for other Grand Lodges to insert Lodges into the territory of the first Grand Lodge.
- 7. England's view, of jurisdiction over the Brethren in its constitution regardless of where their Lodges meet, has the merit of simplicity, and is compatible with the territorial view described above. In practice, England does not ignore territorial sovereignty when it considers recognition.

RECOGNITION

- 8. Recognition is a series of bi-lateral relationships between Grand Lodges. If a Grand Lodge seeks recognition from England, and in due course is recognized, the mutual recognition between it and England cannot bind a third Grand Lodge.
- 9. England's recent policy on recognition has been described as needing to be convinced that it should be granted, rather than noting an absence of reasons why it should not.

SHORT HISTORY OF PRINCE HALL MASONRY

- 1. On 29 September 1784 a warrant was granted by the premier Grand Lodge of England to 15 men in Boston, Massachusetts (including Bro Hall, whose first name was Prince) forming them into African Lodge, No. 459 on the English Register.

2. African Lodge contributed to the Charity Fund until 1797 and was in correspondence with the Grand Secretary until the early 19th Century. Grand Lodge's letter books for this period are, however, incomplete and it is not impossible that correspondence on both sides may have seemed to have been ignored. After 1802, largely due to effect on transport to and communications with North America of the Napoleonic War, contact was lost.

3. In 1797 African Lodge, contrary to the terms of its warrant and the English Book of Constitutions by which it was bound, gave authority to two groups of men to meet as Lodges: African Lodge No. 459B to meet at Philadelphia in Pennsylvania and Hiram Lodge (without a number) to meet at Providence, Rhode island. Authority may have been given to others after 1808.

4. At the amalgamation of the two Registers after the Union of the two Grand Lodges in England in 1813, African Lodge (and many others at home and abroad) was omitted from the register, there having been no contact for many years. African Lodge was, however, not formally erased.

5. What is now the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was formed in 1815.

6. In 1827, having been refused acknowledgment by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, African Lodge declared itself to be an independent Grand Lodge, the African Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. African Lodge was then (or later) disbanded.

7. In the 1830s and 1840s the new Grand Lodge and other Lodges which it had formed made various unsuccessful attempts to form a National African Grand Lodge. The style "Prince Hall Grand Lodge" became current in the 1840s, Prince Hall Grand Lodges were formed and survive in most of the United States of America. Some Lodges work overseas, especially in the West Indies.

8. All Prince Hall Grand Lodges are descended from what is now the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

RELATIONS WITH BRETHREN OF OTHER GRAND LODGES

10. Visitors and visiting R.125 of the Book of constitutions requires Masters of our Lodges to ensure that visitors are from Grand Lodges recognized by the UGLE. This requirement is the subject of an annually repeated article in "information for the Guidance of Members of the Craft" (1991 Edition, p.6). The corollary is the annual notice on "Attendance at Lodges overseas" (Ib. p.5), which should be printed once a year in every Lodge's summons and which includes advice to withdraw from accidental contact with Brethren from unrecognized Grand Lodges. (Note: This is to avoid potentially difficult and possibly unharmonious situations, and is not an attempt to impose any particular view on Grand Lodges overseas.)

RESOLUTION FOR GRAND LODGE

The Grand Registrar to move that, notwithstanding its unusual formation, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts should now be accepted as regular, and be recognized.

[This resolution was adopted by the United Grand Lodge of England in December 1994.]