

Landmarks



**The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio
Committee on Education and Information
2013 Mandatory Education Program (1 of 4)**

Preparation:

Read the lesson in its entirety and familiarize yourself with the terminology used to avoid the need to read it word for word.

Instruction:

In the Master Mason Charge, you were charged to uphold the “Landmarks” of our Order yet you were never told what those Landmarks are. Every WM, during his installation, pledges himself to uphold those same Landmarks. So what is a Landmark and how do they relate to Masonry? (Allow the Brothers an opportunity to talk about why landmarks, in general, are important and what might constitute landmarks in Masonry.)

To quote from the *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, “In ancient times, it was the custom to mark the boundaries of land by means of stone pillars, the removal of which, by malicious persons, would be the occasion of much confusion, men having no other guide than these pillars by which to distinguish the limits of their property. To remove them, was considered a heinous crime.”

Just what exactly the Landmarks of Freemasonry are and how many there should be has been debated off and on over the last 150 years. Various Masonic authors and Grand Lodges have established their preferred lists, but the Grand Lodge of Ohio has never done so. The closest thing to such a list is found in Chapter 10, *Recognition of another Grand Lodge*, in the Masonic Code of Law of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. In this chapter, the Grand Lodge of Ohio sets out the necessary conditions for a Masonic Body to be recognized as such:

1. That it makes Masons of men only
2. Acknowledgement of a belief in God, the Father of all men,
3. Secrecy,

4. The symbolism of operative Masonry,
5. The division of Symbolic Masonry into three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason,
6. The legend of the Third Degree
7. That its dominant purposes are charitable, benevolent, educational, and for the worship of God; and that it excludes controversial politics and sectarian religion from all activities under its auspices,
8. The Sacred Book of the Divine Law, chief among the Three Lights of Masonry, indispensably present in the Lodges while at work.

Demonstration:

Ask the Brothers which of the eight may have surprised them.
Ask them if they thought any might be missing and why.

Assessment:

None