



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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**CEREMONY OF THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE
OF THE NEW FREEMASONS HALL, SYDNEY.**

(This building was situated at No. 102 York Street, Sydney, and was privately owned but occupied by the Corporation of Sydney as a Town Hall. It stood on the western side of York Street between Market and Druiitt Streets and the property extended through to Clarence Street. It was purchased for the sum of £5000. It was this land in Clarence Street which is referred to in this report).

From an account in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 24 May 1860

The erection of a masonic hall, having been for a long period felt to be much wanted by the Masonic body, whose members have much increased lately, the contemplated attainment of that object has been hailed with enthusiasm by the whole of the craft in this city.

The building, which has for a long time been used as the masonic hall, and which was formerly the Town Hall, has both from the increase in the craft and the unsuitableness of the interior to the purposes required, confirmed the determination of the heads of the masonic body in their desire to provide a building worthy of the order, and more suited to the requirements of the craft.

Yesterday being fixed for laying the foundation stone of the new hall, large numbers of the brethren, under the English Constitution, assembled at the hall, in York Street. The Provincial Grand Lodge, E.C., was opened in form, by the V.W. the D.P.G.M., Brother John Williams, and the necessary arrangements perfected for the procession to the site of the intended building. About twelve o'clock, the brethren of the Irish and Scotch constitutions arrived at the hall, accompanied by the officers of their Provincial Grand Lodges, and preceded by a band of music, when the following procession was formed (for greater convenience in the old burial ground), under the direction of the Prov. G. Director of Ceremonies, Br. M. Israel (P.M. 941):-

BAND.

Scotch Lodges (according to seniority)

Irish Lodges (ditto)

English Lodges (ditto)

Prov Grand Lodge of Scotland

Prov Grand Lodge of Ireland

Prov Grand Lodge of England

Prov Grand Architect, carrying plans and design

Prov Grand Superintendent of Works, carrying brass plate

Past Prov Grand Deacons

Prov Grand Deacons, carrying wands

