

Constituted December 3, Anno Domini 1964/Anno Lucis 5964

Reading the Valley-Hi Lodge Masonic Chart

The Valley-Hi Masonic Chart was conceived, designed, and constructed based on an underlying theme based on the significance and symbolism of the number three in masonry.

This chart represents three dimensions or three "layers" in the life and history of the lodge running bottom to top. The bottom represents the physical, the mid or middle section represents the spiritual or allegorical, and the top represents the cognitive dimension or the level from which our divine and earthly authorities emanate.

On the bottom we see our lodge as the physical entry way to masonry complete with representation of the protective nature of our tiled sanctuary, and representations of the three degrees offered within. We see the altar which is the center of masonry, where a mason seeks and receives divine guidance and wisdom. Our checkered pavement illustrates our constant contest between forces alternatively helping our new masons along their paths while also challenging the lodge to maintain the West Gate and keep our facility operating. We also see the beehive representing the activities of our brothers and their service to masonry and our brethren, our working tools used to initiate and instruct new masons, and the changing of the guard from our founding generations of brothers to the new generation who will take the reins and lead the lodge into the future.

In the center we see the symbols of our esoteric work as illustrated through the standard masonic tracing boards. We see those lessons that are beautifully promulgated to our new brothers who will internalize these vital principles and concepts of freemasonry.

At the top we see the divine and masonic authorities that provide our way ahead and define our obligations to our fellow man, to each other as brothers, to new masons, and to God.

The chart also presents three sections running left to right representing the functions and operation of the lodge.

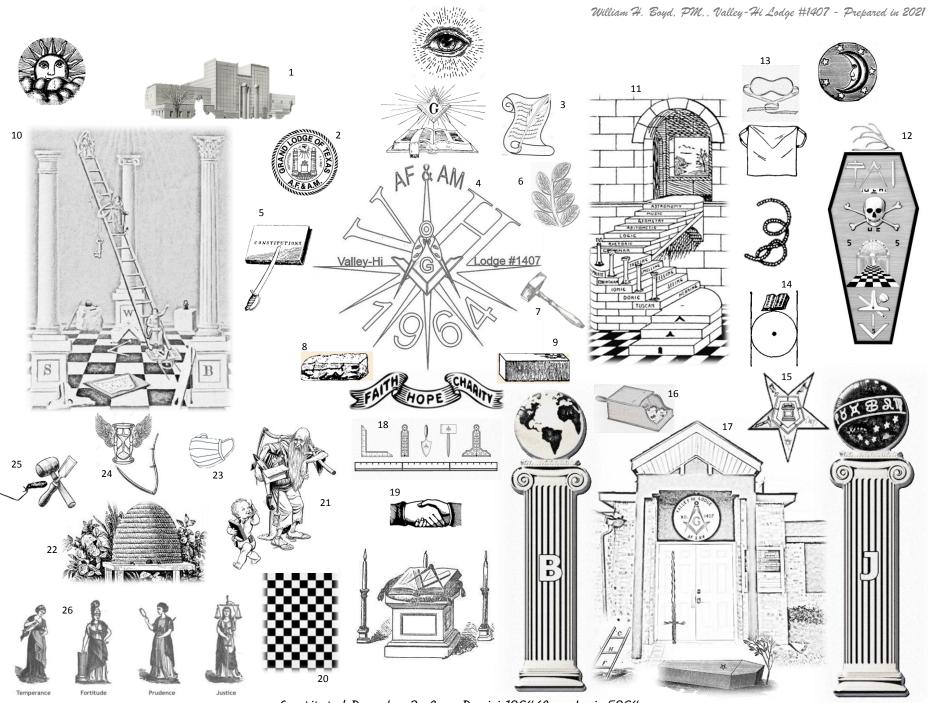
On the left we see day-to-day actions and interactions represented by the busy bee hive, working tools, the effect of the pandemic on our labors, and the interaction between the generations of masons laboring to keep the lodge alive and productive.

In the center we have the operative tools of the lodge including our Volume of Sacred Law, our Charter, our working tools, our fraternal relations between brothers, and our alter, the center of freemasonry where all men are on the level.

And finally on the right, we represent the West Gate with the entrance and attributes of candidacy for the degrees of masonry. He approaches a guarded door and is judged, assessed, and dressed as an initiate for the degrees in preparation for the esoteric and spiritual lessons that Valley-Hi Lodge provides through the three degrees in masonry.

The founding or guiding basis of this chart is the number three; three dimensions, three section, three degrees, and three fundamental masonic principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity represented by the Three Muses.

Valley-Hi strives to imbue these qualities in our candidates and new brothers and this masonic chart represents those efforts as well as the life and history of our lodge.



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Key to the Valley-Hi Lodge Masonic Chart

Valley-Hi Masonic Lodge No. 1407 235 Cedarhurst, San Antonio, Texas 78227

- 1. Grand Lodge of Texas building in Waco, Texas
- 2. Seal of the Grand Lodge of Texas
- 3. (Representing) Charter of Valley-Hi Lodge
- 4. The Logo of Valley-Hi Lodge
- 5. Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas
- 6. Sprig of Acacia Representing the cycle of masonic life expressed through initiation, passing, and being raised; the acacia representing the new mason and his promising masonic journey and life and the ever-growing life and spirit of the lodge
- 7. The gavel represents the discipline we apply to our life and the life of Valley-Hi Lodge
- 8. Valley-Hi born as a rough ashlar from brothers of other lodges who sought to create this new lodge
- 9. Valley-Hi struggles to become the perfect ashlar, fine-tuning, building, and smoothing our ashlar into a perfect ashlar
- 10. The EA Tracing Board represents the new lodge in its early stage, learning its work, and demonstrating its proficiency the masonic arts
- 11. The FC Tracing Board represents Valley-Hi passing through its youth into manhood, improving its use of the arts and sciences in its masonic growth
- 12. The MM Tracing Board represents Valley-Hi reaching maturity and attaining the wisdom that comes with age; it represents the instruction and education Valley-Hi provides to masons ranging from petitioner/candidate, through Fellowcraft, and to Master Mason and the improvement of its work and understanding of its masonic ideals
- 13. The hoodwink, apron, and cable tow the leveling implements that bring all men to the level and teach the initial lessons of brotherhood, trust, and faith
- 14. The "Point Within a Circle" represents Valley-Hi's existence as a singular and unique lodge within a masonic community of lodges and masons. At the high point in the life of the San Antonio area, there were over 30 masonic lodges at labor and Valley-Hi was but one within that circle, guided by the principles from the Volume of Sacred Law and of the Holy Saints John.

15. Valley-Hi was home to Chapter No. 1104 of the Order of the Eastern Star

16. Nothing as sacred as the masonic ballot and Valley-Hi has faithfully executed its reasonability to guard the west gate throughout its masonic life.

17. The West Gate of Valley-Hi Lodge, adorned with the necessary implements to not only guard against the approach of those without permission, but also to guide those with permission through the early milestones of their masonic journeys

18. The Working Tools the brothers used to build their lodge, add on their kitchen and dining room, and build the bonds of brotherly love

19. That certain friendly grip between brothers

20. The brethren have added a checkered pavement under the alter and this symbol represents the constant contest waged by the brethren between the forces of good, growing and advancing our lodge and the bad forces struggling to hold us back

21. The passing of the lodge history and heritage from our founding generation to the new, younger generation, eager to take the reins and lead the lodge into the future

22. The brethren form a community of workers laboring together for the betterment of the lodge and community. Also, the brethren struggled for several years with a large bee's nest below the connex trailer, finally resolving it in 2020 when they pulled the floor up and removed the nest.

23. Valley-Hi Lodge's labors were completely halted by the Coronavirus pandemic that swept the world in 2020 and half of 2021. Valley-Hi and all Texas lodges went dark for seven months before gradually returning to labor. The mask represents the COVID-19 Virus that wrought havoc in our lodge operations and affected so many brothers on many different levels.

24. The passing of the life of the lodge is represented by sand in the hourglass, continually flowing in one direction. The Scythe represents the looming fate for the lodge and the brethren, laboring away all the while the ultimate fate of the lives of lodge and brothers awaits, ready to cut them down at a time known only to the Grand Architect of the Universe

25. The tools of the brethren of the lodge, used to construct and shape the life of the lodge and to continually maintain the bonds and spirits of the brethren, constantly striving to improve our lodge and improve ourselves in masonry

26. The brethren of the lodge pursue their efforts constantly while minding the values of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice, ensuring their labors are just and worthy in eyes of the Grand Architect of the Universe.