

# Symbolism: An Artistic Tour of Central City – ANSWER KEY

Grade Level: 9-12

Estimated Time: 1 hour





**Virtual Tour Buildings:** St. James United Methodist Church, 1859; Masonic Hall/Weekly Register Call/Ermel's Emporium, 1862; and Teller House, 1872.

**Directions:** Go to the [CSU AVL Website](#) and click on Central City Buildings page. Then, click on “St. James United Methodist, 1859” to start. The answers to the questions can be found by clicking on the colorful dots, called Matteredtags, found around the building. Have fun on your historic art tour!

## St. James United Methodist Church, 1859

The tour will begin at the entrance to the church on the first floor. Use the staircase on either side of the entrance to navigate to the second floor of the building to begin the stained-glass tour. The answers to the following questions can be found by clicking on the dark green Matteredtags located on the stained-glass windows.

Fill in the missing portions of the table below:

Symbol Drawing	Symbol Name	Symbol Meaning
	Cross	Symbol of Christianity
	Anchor	Christian symbol of hope
	Hourglass	The wings and hourglass represent the rapid passage of time, while the arrows represent the termination of death.
	Lamb	Christian symbol for Christ

Symbol Drawing	Symbol Name	Symbol Meaning
	Balance	The scales of justice
	All-Seeing Eye	Christian symbol reminding everyone that the eye of God is always watching you
	Alpha and Omega	Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, respectively, and are used to represent God.
	Dove	Symbol of peace and renewal
	Wheat	Symbol of Christ's body
	Open Bible	Symbolizes that all people are welcome to learn of God through its open pages
	Cluster of Grapes	Symbol of Christ's blood and his followers

### Masonic Lodge/Weekly Register Call/Ermel's Emporium, 1862

Return to the main CSU-AVL Central City Buildings page and click on the Matterport tour of the “Masonic Lodge/Weekly Register Call/Ermel's Emporium, 1862”. The tour will begin at the entrance to the Masonic Lodge on the third floor. Navigate to the main hall and start at the large portrait of George Washington to begin the art tour. This floor plan can be used to help navigate to the portrait of George Washington.



Describe the materials used to paint the portrait of George Washington.

This stunning portrait of George Washington is painted on linen damask with hand-mixed pigments sent over the plains via oxen.

Moving to the RIGHT of George Washington, describe the painting with the Mattertag titled “Southeast Door Panel”.

2-Dimensional Holy Bible by Brother Brewer.

Keep moving to the RIGHT for the rest of the tour. Locate the Mattertag titled “South Side, Third Panel from the Left, the Phantom Horse”. Summarize the history of this painting in your own words, then find the “Phantom Horse” and describe where it is located.

This scene belongs to the Red Cross degree of the Knights Templar. The bridge is being guarded by three knights. Originally, Brother Glendenning wanted this painting to be a Knight Templar on horseback, but he was never able to finish it. This original scene was painted over, but the horse has re-emerged over the years. The phantom horse can be seen on the bridge.

Locate the Matteredtag titled “South Side Panel Behind the Junior Warden’s Chair”. Why does this painting depict the sun at its highest point in the sky? HINT: You will need to look at more than one Matteredtag to figure this one out.

Sheaf of wheat hanging near a waterfall. This 2D depiction has been described as one of Brother Glendenning's greatest works. This is the South wall. The South symbolizes rest and refreshment. In the South, the sun is at its meridian. It is important to note here that this symbolism was developed in Jerusalem, where the sun travels across the equator in the South and sun never shines through a north facing window.

Locate the Matteredtag titled “South Side, Third Panel from Right”. What is so unique about this painting?

An alter surrounded by three burning tapers forming a triangle. This 3D illusion draws attention from visiting Masons.

Locate the Matteredtag titled “South Side, Far Right Panel”. What does a burning pot of incense represent for the Masons?

An alter with a burning pot of incense that represents a pure heart for Masons.

Locate the two Matteredtags titled “West Panels on Either Side of the Senior Warden Station”. Who are the two gentlemen in the paintings? Why are these particular paintings so revered by Masons around the world?

Frescoes of Saint John, the Evangelist, and Saint John, the Baptist, both Patron Saints of Masons. These 3D frescos have drawn thousands of people from around the world to see the illusions in person.

Locate the two Matteredtag titled “Northwest Door Panels”. What is the significance of the Northwest corner of a Masonic Lodge? How does the artist represent this symbolism in his two Northwest Door Panel paintings?

The Northwest represents the meeting of lightness (from the West) and darkness (from the North). Note the juxtaposition of the skull and crossbones panel on the North wall with the boat in the sunrise on the West wall.

Locate the Mattertag titled “Left Panel on the North Side”. Why do you think this painting has five columns representing the Five Orders of Architecture? What do these columns have to do with the Freemasons?

A winding staircase leading to a chamber has five columns at the bottom representing the Five Orders of Architecture: Doric, Ionic, Tuscan, Corinthian, and Composite. This represents the origin of the Freemasons as stone masons.

Locate the Mattertag titled “Right Panel on the North Side”. Find nine common Masonic symbols painted in this panel, circle them below, and explain their meaning:

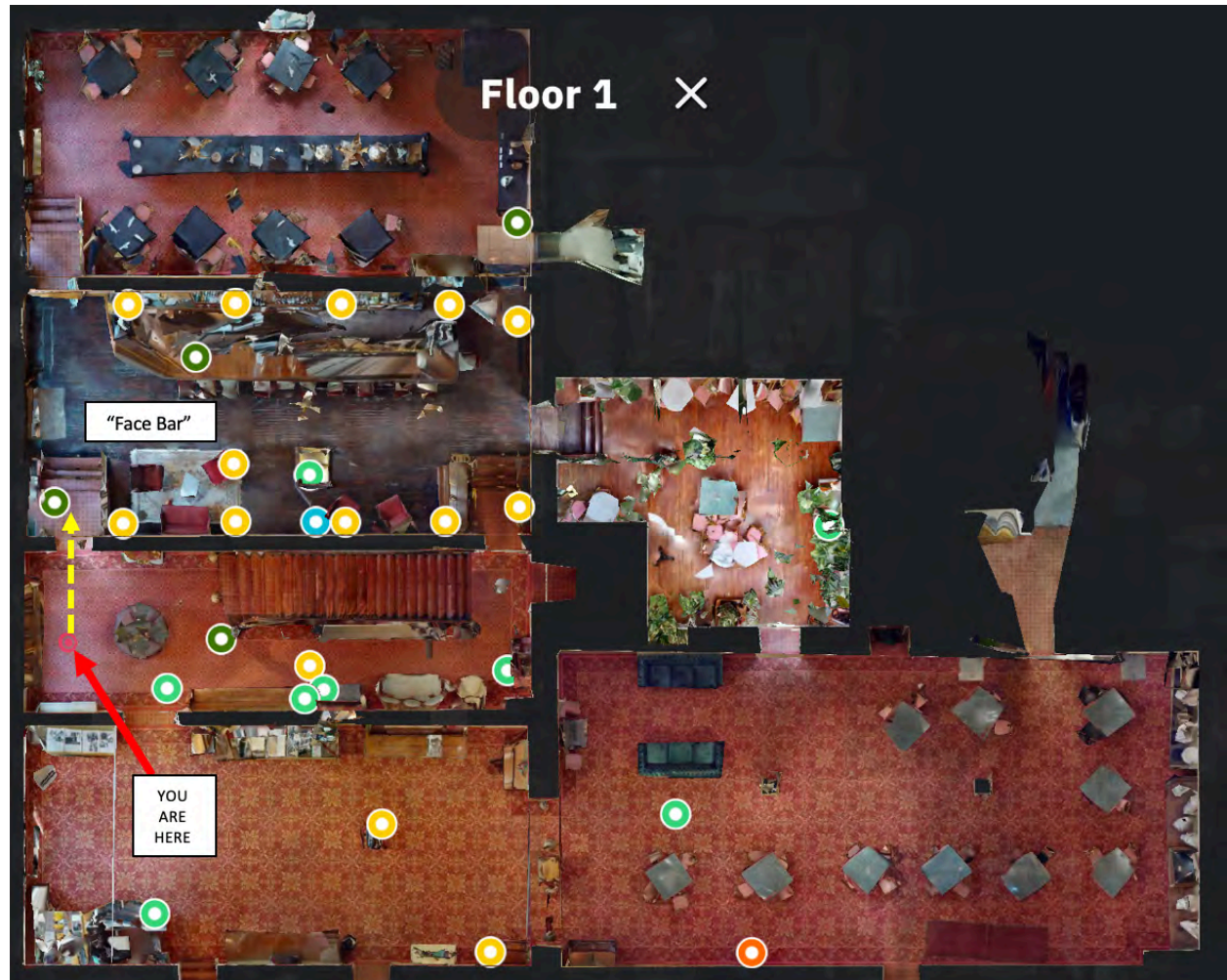
The all-seeing eye symbolizes how God's eye is always watching you. The anchor and the ark represent hope and peace. The Masonic blazing star symbolizes using knowledge to guide you. The burning pot of incense represents a pure heart. The gavel represents both authority and maintaining a pure soul. The sheaf of corn represents charitable giving. The beehive represents the Mason's need to work together. The coffin represents mortality. And the 47th problem of Euclid (AKA the Pythagorean Theorem) represents living your life in order.





## Teller House, 1872

Return to the main CSU-AVL Central City Buildings page and click on the Matterport tour of the “Teller House, 1872”. The tour will begin at the entrance to the Teller House on the first floor. Navigate to the building’s bar, the Face Bar, located on floor level 1. In the bar, click on the dark green Mattertag titled, “The Murals”, and read about the history of the room’s murals. This floor plan can be used to help navigate to the Face Bar.



What are the ten murals called? The Muses of Central City

See if you can find the intentional distortions in each painting. Start from the Mattertag called “Mural 1”. The answers can be found by clicking the yellow Mattertags on each mural, but see if you can spot them first!

Mural 1: A man's face is painted on a woman's body.

Mural 2: There are two big toes on the right foot.

Mural 3: Mars is clad in armor but has no clothes.

Mural 4: The female is painted with a "five o'clock shadow" on her face.

Mural 5: The male figure is painted with a female torso. Note the corseted waist.

Mural 6: The figure has two left feet.

Mural 7: Venus' left nipple is located on the apple.

Mural 8: There is no blade in the sword.

Mural 9: The swan's head is backwards.

Mural 10: The child's face and the woman's face are on opposite bodies.

Locate the "Face on the Barroom Floor" painting and summarize its history below:

The poem, "The Face Upon the Floor", was written in 1912 by Hugh Antoine D'Arcy. The picture, "The Face on the Barroom Floor", was painted by Denver artist Herndon Davis in 1936 while he was intoxicated at the Teller House bar. The woman is said to be Davis' wife, Juanita, who was, ironically, a leading figure of the Prohibition Movement.