

The History of the El Jebel Shriners

- September 22, 23 of 1887 The first recorded ceremonial of Shriners was held in Denver by Isis Temple from Kansas to create new members in a room above the old City Hall located at 14th and Larimer where 45 men were made Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.
- September 27, 1887 At a meeting of the new Nobles the name El Jebel "the mountain" in Arabic was suggested.
- December 1, 1887 El Jebel Shrine receives a dispensation to meet as Shriners under Isis Temple in Kansas (Recorded membership was 13 founding members with an additional 30 existing members).
- June 25, 1888 El Jebel Shrine receives its Charter from the Imperial Council and becomes the 39th Shrine Temple in the World.
- January 16, 1888 The first new class of Shriners under the new Charter was held with 59 men becoming Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at a cost of \$30.00 per person for initiation at the old Linton Hotel, 1312 Lawrence St..
- July 24, 1894 The 20th Session of the Imperial Council of Shriners was held in Denver at the Brown Palace. This event brought in Nobles and Ladies from all over the United States.
- November 1, 1907 The Shriners continued to meet at the old City Hall until they dedicated their first Temple located at 18th and Sherman. That building still stands today as a symbol of the Shriners in downtown Denver. That building was financed by the members through bearer bonds issued by the "El Jebel Shrine Association" which we still have all of the redeemed bonds.
- 1908 Illustrious Sir Henry Steel was the Potentate of El Jebel Shrine. He is the uncle of Richard Miller, one of the partners purchasing our property.
- 1924 The building located at 18th and Sherman had a devastating fire. We received an insurance check for \$53,000 which was used to secure the location of our current building at 50th and Vrain.
- March 28, 1925 The El Jebel Shriners purchased the entire Rocky Mountain Country Club consisting of 193 acres, a club house, golf course, and other improvements for \$80,000. An additional portion of land was purchased for \$4,000.
- June 18, 1925 Shriners Hospitals for Children was incorporated in Denver, CO under the name "The Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America by James C. "Jim" Burger.
- October 1927 The following expenditures were approved for the new Mosque to be built on our newly acquired land. \$200,000 for the construction of the new building, an additional \$25,000 for overages, and \$100,000 for furnishings. This was paid for by a \$25 per member assessment.
- October 11 - 13 of 1929 The Ceremony to dedicate our current property at the corner of 50th and Vrain (Recorded membership at the time was 5,316)
- 1936 Due to the crash of the Stock Market and the toll it took on the Temple, the El Jebel Shriners sold the golf course to the City of Denver for \$36,000 to pay off the building and lessen the financial burden on the fraternity.
- Following WWII The membership of El Jebel Shrine grew to over 9,000 from men who

- were returning from war and wanted a place they could socialize with men of similar mind.
- 1966 The Imperial Session of Shriners International was held in Denver again with a documented attendance of more than 30,000 Shriners coming to Denver from all over the world.
- 1983 The Imperial Session of Shriners International was held in Denver once again bringing tens of thousands of Shriners to our great City.
- 1988 El Jebel Shriners celebrated their 100th anniversary in Denver.
- 1994 The Imperial Session of Shriners International was held in Denver once again bringing tens of thousands of Shriners to our great City.
- 2003 Membership dues were doubled to try and offset the membership loss
- 2009 Recorded membership was 1,937
- 2011 The Imperial Session of Shriners International was held in Denver once again bringing tens of thousands of Shriners to our great City.
- 2013 El Jebel Shriners celebrated their 125th anniversary in Denver.
- 2014 The membership of El Jebel voted 186 - 6 in favor of selling our property and re-locating to a more appropriate sized facility. Recorded membership was 1,302.
- Future With your approval of PUD G-11 we will be able to sell our property to a development team who understands the rich history and current position of the El Jebel Shriners. With your approval we will be able to continue the operations of our fraternity and contribute to our philanthropy of Shriners Hospitals for Children that assists children of Colorado without regard to their families ability to pay. With your approval we will hope to once again hold an Imperial Session in Denver bringing thousands more Shriners to the Mile High City. In fact we will host the Central States Shriners Association convention in August 2015 as one last big event at our beloved building. This convention will bring approximately 2,500 Shriners from all over the Central United States.