Declaration of Independence Proclaimed by the AFRICAN GRAND LODGE in the City of [illegible] Commonwealth of Massachusetts and United States of America through her Officers. [illegible] whom it may concern. That we the undersigned Past Masters of the A. G. L. being regularly made so under a Charter given to our Worthy Brothers Prince Hall, Boston Smith and Thomas Saunderson (colored brethren) by Lord Howard, Earl of Effingham acting Grand Master under the authority of his Royal Highness Henry Frederick [illegible] Cumberland &c. &c. &c. Grand Master of the most Ancient and Honorable Society of [illegible] accepted Masons. Do assume and take upon ourselves the responsibility of declaring ourselves free from the government and control of our Mother the Grand Lodge of England, by whom our Charter dated the twenty ninth day of September A.L. 5784 — A.D. 1784 bearing the Grand Seal of London was given or any other Lodge or Lodges whatsoever. Allowing ourselves to be bound, however to the most excellent principles and solemn ties of Ancient Free Masonry. We do therefore declare ourselves henceforth free from said Instrument dated as above. And do Create instead thereof this Charter under the head and title of the African Grand Lodge No. 1 to have and to exercise the same power of other Grand Lodges, Granting Warrants and Charters, and establishing Lodges among our brethren for the good of Masonry, when they are found worthy. And to prove more fully our sincerity and to establish beyond doubt our intentions we have caused to be published in a paper called the Columbian Sentinel printed in this City said declaration.

We do therefore agreeably to the power vested in us present this Grand Charter to our most [illegible] Brethren Richard Potter, C. A. De Ra[illegible] and Rev. Thomas Paul Royal Arch Masons and their successors to hold and to keep the same for the special benefit of Masonry and the good of our Brethren. On whom we do solemnly enjoin strict observance to ancient usages and customs that the same may be preserved [illegible] committed in its purity to succeeding generations, that they may under its happy influence enjoy peace, union, prosperity and safety [illegible]

Done agreeably to, or in conformity with the Declaration of our Independence of the [illegible] and accepted by the Lodge this eighteenth day of June A. L. 5[illegible] A. D. 1847 wherein [illegible] our hands and seals.

John T. [illegible]