

St. James Episcopal Church 1991 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA

Historical Masonry

Owner: St. James Property Committee, Cambridge, MA
Design: Davies & Bibbins Architects, Cambridge, MA
Timeline: February-August 2007
Cost: \$379,391

Constructed in 1888, St. James Episcopal Church is a historically significant brownstone structure designed in a Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style popular in that era. Over the years, the sanctuary has come to house many beautiful stained glass windows and a historic bell re-cast by Paul Revere.



In 2007, an architectural firm (Davies & Bibbins, Cambridge, MA) was contracted to inspect the bell tower located at the north side of the building, and determined that mortar holding the stones had severely deteriorated over time causing the stones to dislodge.

Abbot was contracted to remove the entire bell tower down to the roofline, and rebuild the tower. Under the direction of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Abbot carefully removed and numbered each of the stones, applied new mortar, and replaced the stones in the exact order as they were removed thereby preserving the historical integrity of the structure.

In addition, Abbot dismantled and replaced a series of buttresses installed to reinforce several corners of the church building.