

Episcopal Church of Our Saviour 23 Monmouth Street, Brookline, MA

Replacement of Steeple with Gothic Tower

Owner: Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, Brookline, MA

Design: Structures-North Consulting Engineers, Inc., Salem, MA

Timeline: December 2001 – August 2002

Project Cost: \$265,000

Built in 1868 by Amos Adams Lawrence, a well-known local businessman and philanthropist, and his brother William, the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour is a handsome stone structure whose gothic design is typical of similar buildings of that era.



The original design of the church featured a 32-foot hexagonal stone steeple extending above a 52-foot rectangular stone and granite tower. In 2001, an engineering firm (Structures-North, Salem, MA) was contracted by the owner to evaluate the structural integrity of the steeple. The firm determined that the steeple was severely deteriorated and recommended that it be removed.

Abbot was initially contracted to remove the steeple and simply finish it with a structural wood roof. However, the construction/design team realized that the appearance would not be consistent with the rest of the church, and investigated similar structures built in that era to create a more aesthetically appealing design. Based on the results of this investigation, the team decided that the tower be finished with a gothic stone crown in place of the steeple.

Abbot used stone salvaged from the steeple to extend the tower approximately 6 feet above the structural wood roof, and installed cascading granite blocks at each of the four quoins. To finish the top of the tower, Abbot created a parapet wall to accommodate the structural wood roof and drainage system. The exterior stone walls were extended above the roof, and a series of ornamental granite “crownations” was added to complete the gothic appearance. An EPDM surface was installed on the roof, and the roof was properly flashed to waterproof the tower.