

2006 Statewide Historic Preservation
Honor Award Presented to:

First Parish Church
Brunswick, Maine
for Restoration



The First Parish Church, United Church of Christ in Brunswick was designed by Richard Upjohn in the Neo-Gothic style and built in 1846, is an architectural treasure. It also holds a notable place in history. Harriet Beecher Stowe reportedly saw a vision while sitting in the sanctuary, which led her to begin writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. And Joshua Chamberlain donated the memorial window behind the pulpit in 1882.

When the restoration project began in November 2001 with the planning phase, it consisted of comprehensive renovations to the sanctuary, vestry and tower. Extensive exterior carpentry repairs, lead paint removal, cooper detailing and structural work were performed. An appropriate designed access ramp was integrated into a porch addition to the vestry and a below-grade perimeter drainage system was installed.

And then - The Big Surprise! In the midst of the project, substantial previously concealed deterioration was discovered in the structure of the lower tower, requiring an additional \$500,000. To their credit, the members of the church committed to raising the necessary funds to save the tower. The total project cost was approximately \$3.3 million and was completed in 2004.

The First Parish Church is located at:
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