

First Parish Church
Portland, Maine

HABS-ME-6

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Portland, Cumberland County, Maine

Owner

Unitarian Church Society

Date of Erection

1825

Builders

Committee to Build
 Albert Newhall
 Joshua Richardson
 John Mussey

Builders
 Henry Dyer, Mason
 Nathan How, Carpenter
 Stephen Morrell, Stone Cutter

Present Condition

Galleries lowered and walls stuccoed in 1852. Sunday School Room or Parish Room added in 1890.

Number of Stories

Main Building-One Story and Gallery
 Addition-One Story

Materials of Construction

Exterior Walls-rough cut Granite. Slate Roof. Interior walls stuccoed. Maple mouldings on pews-side panelling on pews painted. Pulpit-mahogany. Gallery balustrade panelled. Curved hung ceiling.

Other Existing Records

Etching of First Meeting House built by Unitarian Society which was located at corner of India and Middle Streets. Engraving of frame church first built on present site of stone church. Signatures of parishioners who endorsed petition to build present stone church. In custody of the First Parish Church. Parson Thomas Smith's diary which has since been published as "Smith's Journal" and in the files of Maine Historical Society Library, gives history of church and of Portland. First Parish, Portland, Maine book published by Maine Genealogical Society and in files of Maine Historical Society Library, history of church.

Additional Data

The Unitarian Church Society was the first organized church society east of Wells, Maine and built the first meeting house in Portland (then Falmouth) in 1721. It was a small single story frame building which was afterward used as a town house. Its location was at the corner of India and Middle Streets.

The second church, a sizable frame structure with a bell tower, was built in 1740 on the site of the present First Parish Church. In the present church, there are two hand painted landscapes which were removed from the panelling of the pews in the second frame church. These paintings were the work of Charles Codman. The frame church stood from 1740 to 1825 when it was torn down and the stone structure built to replace it.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet, when a student in Bowdoin College, wrote an interesting poem protesting the razing of the frame church. The Wadsworth and Longfellow families were members of the First Parish and the pew which the Longfellow family occupied can be seen in the church.

The main church building remains much as it was built. An addition has been built at the east side of the main church and is used as a Sunday School room and parish room.

Cyrus H. K. Curtis, noted publisher, who was born in Portland, purchased the Municipal Concert Organ for the city of Portland in memory of Herman Kotzschmar.

The ashes of Hermann Kotzschmar, organist and composer, who was organist of this church for forty-seven years, are placed in a niche in the rear wall of the gallery of the church.

Parson Harveo Smith, minister of First Parish Church for a number of years beginning 1727, in his personal diary now published, gave much of the history of the church and the early history of the city of Portland. Parson Smith was a physician to his parishioners as well as the minister of the church. Prof. Portland Sunday Telegram August 11, 1885. (Portland Yearbook number 21 Maine Historical Library)

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved: *Joseph J. Tubby*

Date *April 22 1937*

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Addendum to
First Parish Church (Unitarian)
425 Congress Street
Portland
Cumberland County
Maine

HABS No. ME-6

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FIRST PARISH CHURCH (UNITARIAN)

HABS No. ME-6

Addendum to
First Parish Church
425 Congress Street
Portland
Cumberland County
Maine

Location: 425 Congress Street (N. side between Elm and Chestnut Streets) Portland, Cumberland County, Maine.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

All of the information in this addendum is from the First Parish Church Archives. Copies courtesy of William B. Jordan, Jr. First Parish Historian, 672 Ocean Avenue, Portland, Maine.

- A. An account of the expenses that went beyond the contract between the Parish Committee and the contractors.

THE FIRST PARISH IN PORTLAND TO NATHAN HOW AND HENRY DYER

To the following materials and work furnished in completing their Meeting House exclusive of what is embraced in their contracts.

To putting the carving on the sides of the Main House	130.00
" do on the do on the porch and gable end of M. House	60.00
" 60 feet additional hammered stone on steeple at 1/6 per foot	15.00
" materials and labor in building columns in cellars to support Galleries	27.87
" materials and do putting on second coat of plastering	58.00
" do Mr. Haverland for stucco cornice on two side of the house	50.00
" do Mr. Farrey for fifty feet addition to the tread of steps at 50 cents ..	25.00
" do Mr. Farrey for two perches of rocks under the steps	4.00
" do Mr. Brooks for 46 1/2 tbs lead at 11 cts. per tb for ..do.....	5.11
" materials (except copper) and labor in the addition of height of steeple	25.00
" paid Messrs. Wyer, Noble & Co. for copper and labor in coppering same	149.86
" paint and labour in putting on the third coat on steeple	30.00
" paid for oak for bell stock and truckage of same	3.50
" do Mr. Stanley for his labor in stocking the Bell	10.00
" do for oak plank to stock the tongue of the Bell17
" do truckage and putting on Counter Balance to Bell	3.50
" five pair of cloth doors, pannelled, at 4 dols per pair	20.00
" casing out the short entry ways and materials for same	12.00
" paint and painting doors and entry ways	10.00
" paid for door springs for the five pair of doors	7.80

FIRST PARISH CHURCH (UNITARIAN)
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" do for butts and serves for same	3.00
" do for 7 solid knots for doors at 2/3 each	2.62
" do for hooks and staples 3/--2 tacks \$/	1.50
" altering and rehanging 2 pair large doors & for butts & screws	4.00
" paid Mr. J. Rimball for carving capitals and foliage & truckage	59.25
" materials and labour on and about the pulpit beyond the estimate ...	60.00
" paid for wire and brass eyes for carpet rods	1.93
" 1 clout mails '63-- For 4 days work by K. L. D. on chandelier \$8 ...	8.63
" paid for 10 hooks and staples for window fastenings83
" 3 days work in putting up the Organ by Cummins at 9/--.....	4.50
	carried
	over
	<u>\$793.07</u>

To amount brought forward	793.00
" screws and nails furnished in setting up the Organ	2.00
" 2 days work by How in putting down carpets and draperies	4.00
" paid Johnson and Eaton for extra work on circular pews	30.00
" labour in putting on brass numbers to the Pews	5.00
" paid for white oak to brace the spear and labor in putting on same .	2.75
" materials and labour in making steps to light the Chandelier	2.75
" ...do...do...do...publishment box and trimmings	1.00
" paid W. S. Loud of Boston for mahogany	310.00
" do freight and truckage of same	9.41
" do W. Haskell for mahogany \$8.63 ...to paid same for do \$4.03	12.66
" do W. Evans for wire for galleries	9.00
" do Davis for labor on same and do	5.00
" do N. Marstin for turning bannisters	3.00
" do E. Marstin " do	8.41
" do J. Barnes " do	18.17
" do John Kimball for carving	10.75
" do William Hoit for building gallery pews	130.00
" do Clark, Davis, Smith, Brown, Beal, Cummings, Bolton, Mason and How for work on galleries	422.79
" do Clark for fiscing in the time piece and alterations of same	12.00
" do timber and survey of same for side galleries	80.00
" do framing and truckage of same	20.00
" do furring the under side galleries	7.00
" do plastering and materials for same under galleries	35.00
" do 6 clear and merchantable boards for pews and floors	68.00
" do for iron braces to secure the side galleries to the walls	10.00
" do hinges, buttons and screws for side gallery pews	8.50
" do for paint and Hamlin for painting gallery pews	52.00
	carried over
	<u>\$2072.26</u>

To amount brought forward	\$2072.26
" oiling and varnishing mahogany work including materials	10.00
" 150 lbs. of nails for side galleries	10.50

Boston Novr. 4th 1790

Mr. Cotton:

In according to your advice to me Sometime agoe I have Got a vain made for the Steeple of your meeting house and send it packt up in a Boxe by Capt Ebenr. Maho---- and here with Enclose.....or Note of it, With Some Directions about a fixin it up. I Thote proper the spindle the vane Turns on sho be procurd by the make of the vane that he might use it to turn Easey, but as there is a shank to be joynd to it special Care must be taken that the Spindle if not affected so as Cacht on one hair breath and well It was made by Mr. Thoas Drowne who is the most Imloyd for making vains. The of Esteamd the best Workman at it of any In the Province. as the materials are Cash articles. Thatte paid for pat [part] of the Work allready. Mr. Drowne prayes his money may be sent as soon as posable. the other article you sent for Capt. Maho hath procurd and brings with him. I wish them Safe to your hand, and am With Respects your most Humble Servant.

Samuel Parkman

Boston March 16th 1761

Gentlmen

This is to Desire you to Remitt The pay For the Vane I made for you Meeting house Last fall. I am inconsiderable Advance for the Copper and Gold, and should be glad to have it Discharged. I have not Received a farthing for it, I was to Wait a reasonable Time Till Mr. Parkman to whom I charged the same, had Received it of themselves, which I think, Gentlemen, I have.

Your Humble Servant

Thomas Drownne