

The Steeple Project

The scope of work will include steeple restoration, roof restoration, structural renovations, electrical and mechanical improvements, entry upgrades, utility upgrades and masonry repair. The total cost of all these items is approximately \$1.5 million.

Already, we have raised one third of the total \$1.5 million needed for this project. We have formed the Market Square Steeple Fund – a community-based, non-religious 501c(3) organization separate from North Church – to ensure the steeple is preserved. The remaining \$1 million will pay for:

Steeple Repair & Restoration	\$719,763
Roof Repair & Renovation	\$128,064
Structural Repair	\$207,320
Total	\$1,055,147

**The Result-
The Portsmouth Skyline
is Preserved and Can be
Shared Forever**



Market Square Steeple Fund Campaign Advisory Committee

Jameson French, Advisory Committee Chair

Steve Alie

Martha Fuller Clark

Ted Connors

Tom Ferrini

Mary Carey Foley

Sam Jarvis

Elaine Krasker

Jay McSharry

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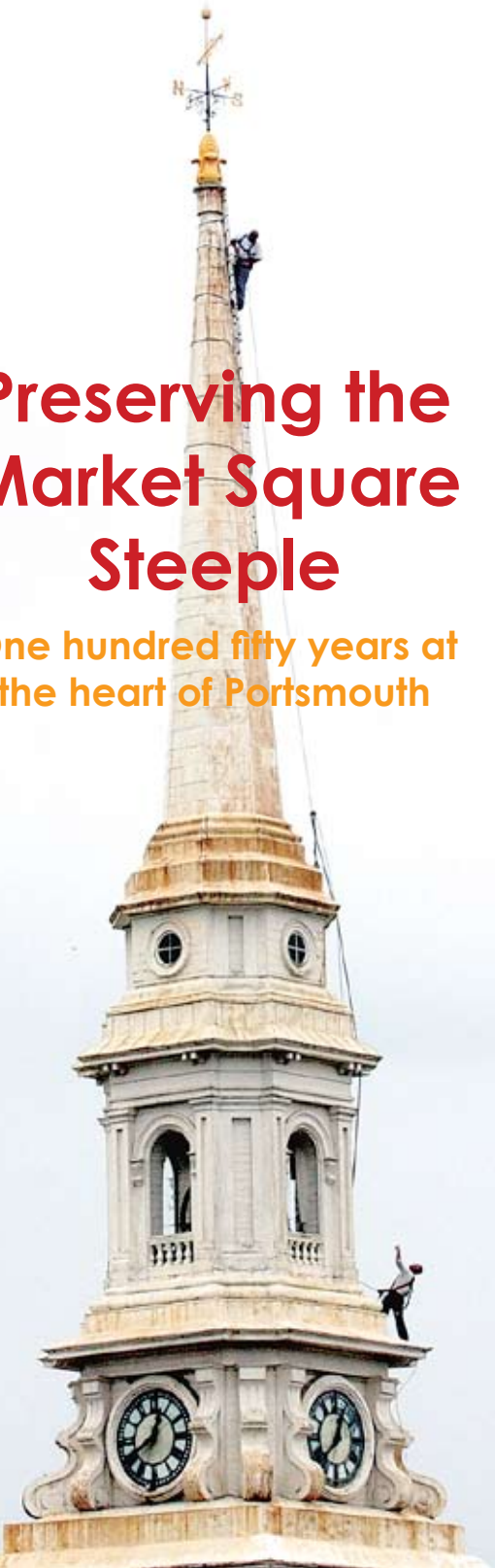
Campaign Chairman, Phil Pettis

Campaign Treasurer, Jay Gibson

Fiscal Agent, Greater Portsmouth Chamber of
Commerce Foundation

Preserving the Market Square Steeple

One hundred fifty years at
the heart of Portsmouth



The Past 150 Years

The North Church steeple has been Portsmouth's most famous landmark for 150 years. Built in 1855, the structure is an architectural masterpiece. The 195 foot

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The building contains some of the oldest and most beautiful attractions on the Seacoast. The unique stained glass windows that surround three sides of the building were installed in 1890. A clock has marked the hour for Market Square since 1749, with the current timepiece wound for the first time in August 1893. The weather vane dates from 1855.

"The steeple of the North Church has always served as being an icon. By land or sea, day or night, wherever you are, you know you are in Portsmouth."

—Sam Jarvis

steeples were constructed primarily out of wood timber posts. The exterior of the steeple is sheathed with painted wood, but the highest spire section is sheathed with painted copper.

A Gathering Place for Portsmouth

How many times have you given directions to friends, or planned a meeting downtown, using the The North Church steeple as your landmark? It remains the focal point of the city. Since 1855, the building has been a gathering place and venue for community events. More recently, the list includes:

- Music in Market Square Summer Series
- Peace Treaty Lecture Series
- The Mayor's Take Back Our Children Forum
- First Night® events

And of course all city parades converge on the church to pass by the viewing stand there. Any of us in Portsmouth can't think of a downtown event without looking forward to whom we may see in front of North Church.

"From my earliest recollections, the North Church steeple has personified downtown Portsmouth. The steeple truly belongs to all of us who treasure the uniqueness it brings to Market Square. That is why I feel privileged to be a part of the effort to maintain its historic presence for future generations."

—Elaine Krasker

Preserving the Portsmouth Skyline - The Market Square Steeple

In order to preserve the symbol of Portsmouth, the damaged and rotting woodwork, such as the scrolls, will need to be custom milled to match the original using Spanish cedar and mahogany. All existing woodwork that is salvageable will remain part of the structure. The bell in the tower will remain, but it will be temporarily removed in order to replace and re-secure the bell's deck and cradle. The weather vane, cardinals and decorative ornament atop the steeple will be preserved and clad in Manetti 23 ½-karat Italian gold leaf.



"Portsmouth looks to the North Church as the heart of the community and the point to which all eyes and ears habitually turn. One of New Hampshire's most significant mid-nineteenth century religious buildings, the North Church embodies much of the long history of its community and captures in its imposing form the architectural language of its era."

— James L. Garvin,
State Architectural Historian