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NOV 26 2012

Town of Acton  
Planning Department

***The Church with The Golden Dome<sup>1</sup>***  
*Original poem by Edmund Delaney Roche (1989)*

*Across from my shop stands a lovely old church,  
The church with the golden dome.  
Like a beacon it stands through the day in the sun,  
To welcome the wayward back home.*

*Charisma to me is a small country town  
With a white clapboard church on the Green.  
A bell in the steeple, and quiet within,  
As I open the doors and go in....*

Proposal for

Belfry Restoration

November 26, 2012

<sup>1</sup> West Acton Baptist Church

West Acton Baptist Church

Community Preservation Plan Application 2013

West Acton Baptist Church  
592 Massachusetts Avenue  
Acton, MA 01920  
Tel. 978-263-5902

Community Preservation Committee  
Planning Department, Town of Acton  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720

November 26, 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee:

Enclosed please find 15 copies of the West Acton Baptist Church's application, with supporting documents, for a 2013 Community Preservation Grant—a proposal to restore the belfry of the church. Our goal is to see the building continue to serve as a significant feature of West Acton Village for many more years in the future, with an expanded range of uses in the community.

The proposal describes the structural and conceptual needs for restoring the belfry of this pre-civil war meetinghouse. The proposal includes the cost of doing the structural work required for safety and integrity of design.

The exterior of the building with its gold dome is a reference point and landmark for the Historic District of the West Acton Village, and its design will not be changed. For many years, the people of the Acton Community have used this New England designed church, and as times evolved the gold dome has been a constant reminder of the rich heritage present in West Acton Village.

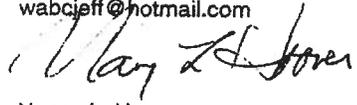
We thank you for your consideration of our application to seek assistance from the Community Preservation Committee of Acton to help us preserve this historical feature by asking the Town of Acton's Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting to vote their approval for this project.

If you require additional information, please contact either or both of the persons below by personal telephone or email, or through Nancy Dodge, Administrative Assistant of the West Acton Baptist Church, 592 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA, Tel. 978-263-5902, [wabcadmin@verizon.net](mailto:wabcadmin@verizon.net).

Most sincerely,



Rev. Jeffrey Long Middleton  
Pastor, West Acton Baptist Church  
978-273-6399 (mobile)  
[wabcjeff@hotmail.com](mailto:wabcjeff@hotmail.com)



Nancy L. Hoover  
Moderator, West Acton Baptist Church  
978-466-7685  
[nhoover7@gmail.com](mailto:nhoover7@gmail.com)

enc.

## PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – 2013

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**Applicant:** West Acton Baptist Church

**Submission Date:** November 26,

2012

**Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email**

592 Massachusetts Avenue

Acton, MA 01720

978-263-5902

wabcadmin@verizon.net Nancy Dodge, Administrative Assistant

**Purpose: (Please select all that apply)**

Open Space

Community Housing

Historic Preservation

Recreation

**Town Committee (if applicable):** Community Preservation Committee

**Project Name:** Belfry Restoration

**Project Location/Address:** 592 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA 01720

**Amount Requested:** \$ 20,625

**Project Summary:** In the space below, provide a brief summary of the project.

The West Acton Baptist Church, built in 1854, is a historic landmark in the community, with a long history of availability and service to the Town of Acton. The exterior of the building features beautiful period detail and stained glass windows topped by a belfry and gold dome which replaced the original steeple. Our belfry stands as a beacon at one end of the West Acton Village, and is such a meaningful part of the village that a neighbor wrote a poem about it (attached). The bell itself, cast in Boston in 1854 by a former apprentice of Paul Revere, is of significant historical value.

However, the wood of the belfry's interior structure is so damaged by water that, according to Edward Mullen of Bluefin Building and Design, LLC, it must be restored and the rotted wood replaced as soon as possible. Until that is done, he advised, the bell should not be rung. The floor supporting the bell is soft to step on and also appears to have dropped, and the underside of the floor shows water damage. A bucket is under it to catch the leak for now. Delay in restoring the belfry also risks further damage to the tin ceiling of the sanctuary, a ceiling unique not only in West Acton but among all the churches in Acton.

Consistent with the Town of Acton's Community Preservation Plan, we seek funds of approximately \$ 20,625, including 25% contingencies, to help us restore the interior of the church belfry, 10% of which we will provide. To date we have obtained one itemized estimate from Bluefin Building and Design, LLC, for this work. In early 2013, closer to the date of actual construction, we will seek three detailed bids from contractors who are qualified and experienced in historical restoration work.

We will also contact the Historical District Commission for their advice and consent in the very near future, in case it might be needed. We will seek their support for this project.

**Estimated Date for Commencement of Project:** May 1, 2013

**Estimated Date for Completion of Project:** October 1, 2013

### Narrative

### Background

The golden domed belfry of the West Acton Baptist Church signifies one's entrance into the western edge of West Acton Village, and is essential to its appearance as a New England Village with a rich centuries old history. Townspeople have long appreciated, and perhaps take for granted, the beautiful white West Acton Baptist Church with its lovely gold dome. (The gold dome is younger than the rest of the church, added after 1934 to replace the original steeple.) At least one shopkeeper so loved looking at the church, that he wrote a poem about it (attached). Most of us, even current church members, did not realize how historic the bell itself is.

The bell was cast by Henry N. Hooper the same year the West Acton Baptist Church was built, in 1854 (see attached). It is made of bronze and has an excellent tone and sound that resounds throughout the village of West Acton when it is rung. We propose that the Town of Acton join in preserving and restoring the belfry that houses this extraordinary church bell so that we all can enjoy once again its lovely tones.

### Project Description, and Benefits to the Town of Acton and its Citizens

The WABC belfry has multiple layers. (see photographs). The very top is a dome that is covered in gold leaf, applied again most recently through the generosity of a donor over 20 years ago. Just below the gold dome is the housing for the 1854 bell. This second layer of the belfry is open to the elements through 4 screened windows. Openness to the elements is essential or else the tolling of the bell would be seriously muffled.

The bell is rung in the old fashioned way by pulling on a rope that extends through the multiple layers of the belfry, into the balcony area at the back of the sanctuary, the part of the church over the entrance onto Massachusetts Avenue.

Water entering the belfry area falls eventually onto the belfry flooring which was designed to direct the water flow off the floor to holes on all 4 sides and thus outside the belfry. The belfry flooring itself was supposed to be waterproof but has failed – allowing water to penetrate into the interior below. The flooring directly under the bell assembly as well as the entire exterior of the belfry, especially its joints with the roof, must be impervious to water to prevent leaking into the church interior, in particular risking damage to the tin ceiling and plaster walls that are now also in serious need of restoration.

Over the years the flooring under the bell assembly has been periodically, almost annually, caulked and otherwise treated in attempts to keep it "waterproof." But the original materials have simply worn out over the past decades, and usual maintenance methods have proved inadequate to prevent seepage of some water. Over time parts of the flooring have rotted and sunken (see photographs), as revealed in a recent examination of the larger church restoration needs. The underside of this belfry structure can be seen to be water-stained in places, and there is a slow drip into a bucket below. There may be some insect damage to a part of the structure as well, which can only be determined by more careful examination in the process of restoration.

Due to the compromised nature of the structure, we were advised not to ring the bell until restoration is accomplished, as this could result in a calamity.

Thus a basic restoration is necessary to save this extraordinary historic belfry.

### Timeline and Scope of Project

Ed Mullen of Bluefin LLC has suggested a procedure to replace the flooring supporting the bell and its assembly. First, raise the bell with block and tackle. Next, remove all damaged and rotten wood. Third, install new wood with a waterproof surface and proper drainage. Modern materials will be chosen that will serve the function of being impervious to the rain and other water sources that by the nature of the open air structure, will be continually entering this part of the belfry. Then install a new base for the bell, and finally reinstall the bell. If the exterior appearance of the belfry is affected in any way, the Acton Historical District Commission will be contacted.

### WABC Plans for Funding Restoration Work

West Acton Baptist Church understands it will be our responsibility to:

- 1) pay for 10% of total project costs, and
- 2) raise funds for the initial outlays for restoration work, since the Town of Acton Community Preservation Grants are paid as reimbursements for payments already made, according to the terms of the grant.

For the initial funding of the belfry restoration work, we have confirmed with Middlesex Bank that the bank is willing to grant us a line of credit with the Town Meeting approval of a CPC grant as the primary collateral. Our plan to raise WABC's 10% of the estimated \$20,625 includes special fund-raising drives to appeal to both our membership and townspeople interested in historic preservation.

Given the unique character of a 1854 bell and church, and the bell's direct connection to Paul Revere, we think interested individuals could be found, especially if the Town of Acton lends its support through the CPC grant.

As a non-profit, all lay volunteer organization, West Acton Baptist Church operates on a limited budget that does not allow for undertaking significant restoration and rehabilitation work, in spite of the fact that aging buildings bring ever-increasing costs. West Acton Baptist Church is prepared to cover 10% of the estimated cost of this project by reserving available funds, fund-raising events, and congregational contributions.

### Urgency and Priority

Restoration of the Belfry is the most urgent and therefore of highest priority. However, the Master Plan is essential before further restoration work can be done. The sooner the additional phases of the overall West Acton Baptist Church restoration project are completed, the sooner the building will be suitable and available for expanded uses by the larger community.

### Attachments

Bluefin Itemized Estimate for Belfry Restoration (1 page)

Table: History of WABC Availability and Service to the Town of Acton, with Possible Future Community Uses (2 pages)

Poem: "The Church with the Golden Dome," by Edmund Delaney Roach (1989) (1 page)

Blueprint Showing Side View of West Acton Baptist Church (1 page)

Map: West Acton Baptist Church in the center of the West Acton Historic District (1 page)

Photos & information: The bell, its supporting floor, and the underside of the supporting floor. (3 pgs)

Deed: West Acton Baptist Church properties owned by West Acton Baptist Church, Inc. (3 pgs)

Map: Part of Tax Assessor's Map of West Acton, centered on the WABC (1 page)

**ATTACHMENTS**



Appendix A

**Estimate**

537 Massachusetts Avenue  
Acton MA 01720

Date	Estimate #
11/14/2012	781

Name / Address
West Acton Baptist Church

Description	Qty	Rate	Project
			Total
Restoration work for West Acton Baptist Church		0.00	0.00
Remove Bell, raise with block and tackle		3,500.00	3,500.00
Remove existing roof		1,500.00	1,500.00
Remove all damaged, and rotten wood		1,200.00	1,200.00
New wood installed		1,500.00	1,500.00
EPDM roof installed		3,500.00	3,500.00
PVC trim used to replace all trim		1,200.00	1,200.00
New base installed for bell		1,000.00	1,000.00
Reinstall bell		500.00	500.00
Dumpster rental		650.00	650.00
Manlift rental		1,500.00	1,500.00
Police detail		450.00	450.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$16,500.00</b>

Phone #  
978-375-1143

Fax #

### History of WABC Availability and Service to Acton with Possible Future Community Uses

*The West Acton Baptist Church is a historic landmark in the community, with a long history of availability and service to the Town of Acton. After restoration, we seek to expand the community uses of our handicapped-accessible church building.*

(key: S = Sanctuary, F = Fellowship Hall, E = Education Wing, L = Library)

Locations & Dates	Historical Community Uses	Possible Future Community Uses
S October 2011	<b>Photography slide show</b> on the theme of "Darkness to Light," by amateur photographer Rev. Jeffrey Long Middleton.	Painting and photography shows, hanging or in other visual media.
S March 2010	<b>Community-wide talent show</b> with 14 acts by people aged 5-86. (The choir and pulpit areas, with moveable furniture, are designed to be adapted for different uses.)	Talent shows, gymnastic and dance exhibits...
S March 2004 March 11, 2005 & Sept 23, 2004 Feb 21, 2004 Mar 9, 2002 October 1991	<b>Musical performances (recent years only):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Billy &amp; Guy – vocal &amp; instrumental</li> <li>• Phil Argiris &amp; Wendy Nottenham (instrumental group)</li> <li>• Firehouse Band</li> <li>• Covenant Players</li> <li>• Organ Recital – Charles King</li> <li>• Katherine Geller, soloist</li> </ul>	Dances, auditions and rehearsals for musical concerts, paid performances open to the public.
S On-going	<b>Ecumenical Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interfaith Thanksgiving service</li> <li>• Christmas Eve Candles and Carols</li> <li>• Maundy Thursday (The Last Supper)</li> <li>• Good Friday community services</li> <li>• Community Holiday Sing</li> <li>• Annual State-Wide Ecumenical Choir rehearsal (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in October)</li> </ul>	All are annual events that will continue.  Cherished by many West Acton area residents.  Led by many local pastors
S, F 1990's-Present	<b>Community interest group meetings</b> and open forum regarding overrides, and other such meetings, have continued here through the years. The Acton Forum met here several times in the past few years.	Community meetings as needed; political and educational lectures, debates, and forums (a la Ralph Waldo Emerson) are possible expanded uses for both the sanctuary and the fellowship hall, depending on audience size.
S, F 2005 - present	A <b>Brazilian congregation</b> shares our worship space on Wednesdays and Sundays and uses our fellowship hall for dinners and special events.	Igreja Batista Renovada de Acton expects to remain and continue both its own worship and shared services and functions with WABC.
E 1957 (a historical note; no restoration proposed)	A significant population increase occurred in Acton. The existing school system was unable to house all students. The church opened its newly-built education wing to provide <b>class-room space</b> for the growing student population and a Community Cooperative School.	Fifty-five years later, the educational wing is still home to the <b>Acton Cooperative School</b> – the building is alive on weekday mornings with the sound and songs of preschoolers. The school has significantly invested in its space and expects to remain for the foreseeable future.
F 1970's – 1990's	WABC hosted a <b>Boy Scout</b> troop with leadership provided by church members.	Scouts would again be welcome, should they need the space.
F 1980 - 1994	Fellowship hall was the site for <b>Senior Citizens'</b> lunches and programs for several years before construction of the senior center.	A senior day care program might be possible, adjacent to the preschool, to their mutual benefit in stimulation and story-telling.

<p>F 1964 – 1970</p>	<p>During the pastorate of the Rev. David Hirano, a <b>coffee house for teenagers</b> was opened at the church during evening hours. It proved so popular a “place to go” for young people that it led to the establishment of a youth center which later became incorporated and relocated at a facility of its own. With seminarians from Andover Newton leading the senior and junior high youth and under the guidance of Rev. Hirano the social and spiritual nurture of teenagers was addressed.</p> <p>The Acton Jaycees honored Rev. Hirano in January 1968, with the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award. Rev. Hirano was the chairman of B.A.C.K Inc., a group that sponsored the newly established teen center.</p>	<p>With perhaps a more flexible and adjustable lighting and sound system, another coffee house might even attract the grown-up generation of those same youth—along with their children and grandchildren. Not to compete with the fine musical offerings of the Acton Jazz Café, this coffee house might host poetry and author readings, murder mystery meals, comedy shows, and similar entertainments.</p>
<p>L 1988-2003</p>	<p>A <b>Single Parents</b> group formed and met for 15 years – until their children grew up.</p>	<p>We will continue to identify a community need and provide a service or function to meet it.</p>
<p>F Several decades</p>	<p><b>Six AA groups</b> (veterans, women, &amp; open) currently meet on Saturdays and evenings, not only in the Fellowship Hall but also in the Library (off the Fellowship Hall) and in a non-Coop School space in the Educational Wing. A women’s group provides child care in that same space, so mothers of young children can focus for that time on their own recovery. Overaters Anonymous, and Al-Anon and Alateen have also met in our building in the past.</p>	<p>The AA groups have always been welcome and will continue to be; other self-help support groups would also be welcome if they should need space to meet.</p>
<p>F March 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Oct 18, 2011  Nov 16, 2010 Dec 13, 2010 April 14, 2009 March 2, 2008 June 14, 2007 AM &amp; PM</p>	<p><b>Specialist Presentations</b> Slowing Down in a Hurried World Rev. Cheryl Harris Healthy Relations: Tools for Resolving Conflict Michael Landers  Five Ways We Grieve – Susan Burger Male Grieving – Support follow-up Whole Health Fair – Many Local Businesses Bullying – w/ Network for Women’s Lives Healthy Eating &amp; Living for a Healthy Brain - Dr. Nancy Emerson Lombardo</p>	<p>Several of these presenters are still available and their offerings could be repeated or followed up with sequels. More are possible, in response to perceived or identified community needs.</p>
<p>F, L 11/9/06 &amp; 8/30/07 9/2010- 5/2011 Nov 18, 2006 2007 - 2010 Mid-1980’s  Feb-June 2009</p>	<p><b>Other Occasional Uses:</b> Lifeline Screening Violin Lessons – Suzuki Music School Community Craft Fair – Annette Lockery ESL every Monday Emerson Hospital Auxiliary – Made puppets for pediatric unit every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Fox Moms Exercise Group</p>	<p>Flexibility is characteristic of the building’s uses.</p>
<p><b>Various Rooms</b> (recent years only) Feb-Mar 2008 Oct-Nov 2008 March 2009 Oct-Nov 2009</p>	<p><b>6-week Workshops</b> (Nancy Hoover, Rev. Jeffrey Long Middleton, Bob Williams, Nancy Emerson Lombardo) Reconciliation The Non-Financial Aspects of Retirement Parenting, Transitions &amp; Stress Living with Afflictions</p>	<p>Participants were consistently about 50% community members and 50% church members. The workshop leaders are currently shepherding the church through a transition period, but later, as we identify more community needs, we would like to resume offering similar workshops.</p>
<p>L Nov 2009 - present</p>	<p>The <b>Sharing and Caring</b> community group, an outgrowth of the ‘Living with Afflictions’ series, has sponsored guest speakers which several community members have attended.</p>	<p>Sharing and Caring, part of WABC’s mission to church and community members alike, will continue meeting monthly and inviting occasional guest speakers.</p>

## The Church with The Golden Dome<sup>1</sup>

Original poem by Edmund Delaney Roche (1989)

Across from my shop stands a lovely old church,  
The church with the golden dome.  
Like a beacon it stands through the day in the sun,  
To welcome the wayward back home.

Charisma to me is a small country town  
With a white clapboard church on the Green.  
A bell in the steeple, and quiet within,  
As I open the doors and go in.

I sit in a pew thinking thoughts of the past,  
The sermons on Sunday at dawn,  
Of the glory of Christ rising up from the dead,  
Giving hope on that first Easter morn.

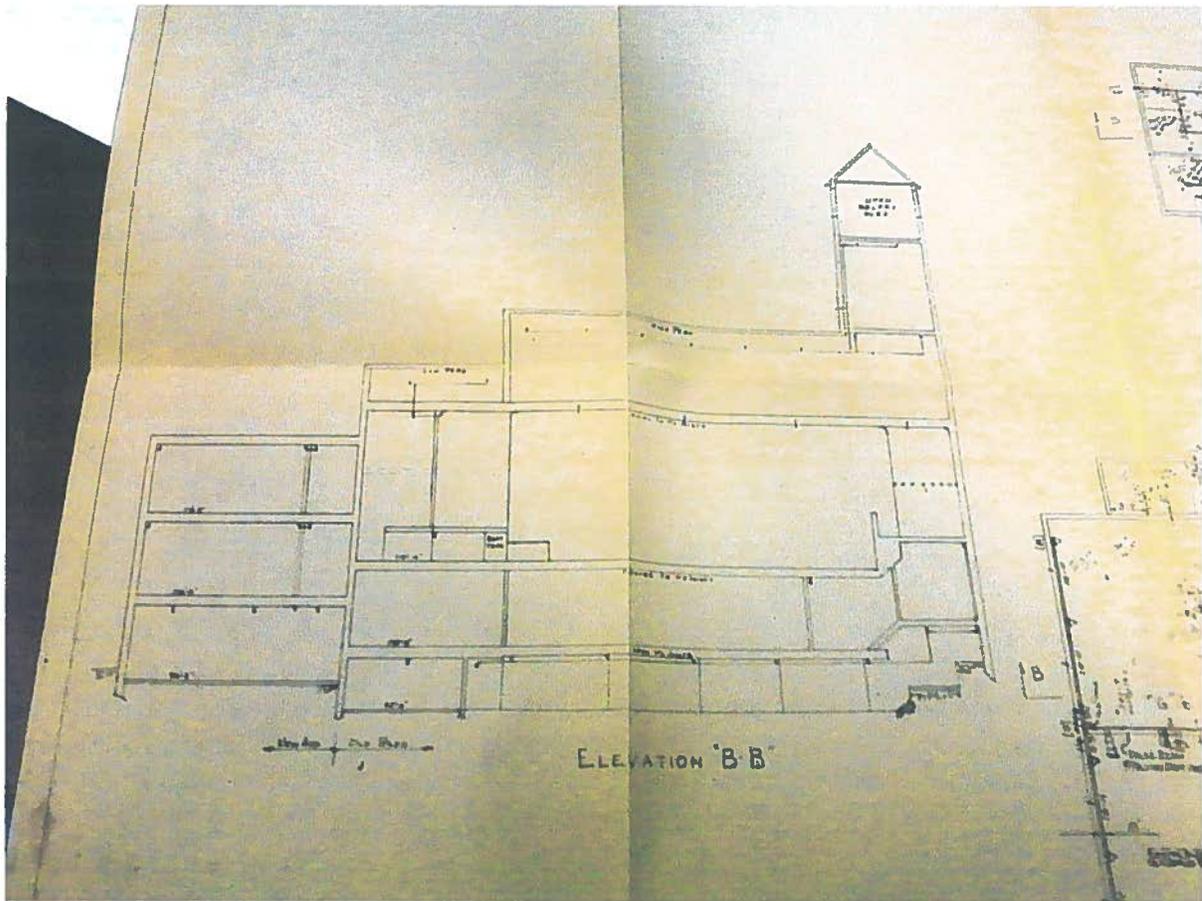
Yes, hope there will be for you and for me  
If we yearn not for riches on earth.  
Rather bask in the peace and the love of our God,  
As did Christ on the day of his birth.

These thoughts come to mind as I look 'cross the road,  
At the church with the golden dome.  
Like a beacon it stands through the day in the sun,  
To welcome the wayward back home.

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<sup>1</sup> Set to music by Katherine Gellar (2012) Music dedicated to Robert Peabody on the occasion of his retirement from the West Acton Baptist Church Choir

**Blueprint Showing Side view of West Acton Baptist Church**



**Belfry at right  
Original building at right center  
1898 addition at left center  
1956 education wing addition at the left end**



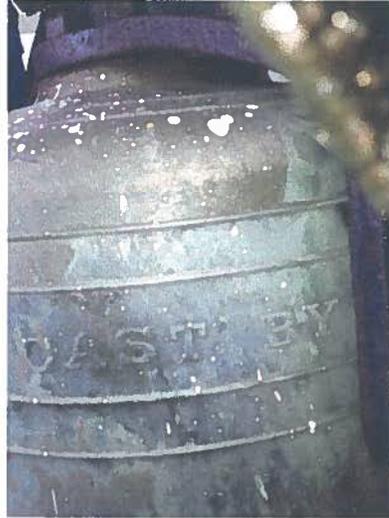
## About the Bell in the Belfry of the West Acton Baptist Church



The man who cast the bell in the West Acton Baptist Church's bell tower is Henry Hooper (1799-1865), a notable historic figure described in Wikipedia as "a preeminent 19<sup>th</sup> century American manufacturer and merchant of decorative lighting, Civil War artillery, and bells and chimes." He cast the first life-size bronze statue in the United States. He had been an apprentice to, and thus was trained by, Paul Revere, in Revere's foundry. Hooper later purchased Revere's foundry to establish the Henry N. Hooper & Co. where he produced lamps and lighting fixtures, bells, and by 1862, artillery for the Union Army. Hooper was well known for his highly prized bells and chimes dating from 1838. His many clients included the City of San Francisco Fire Department, many churches in New England and elsewhere, and Town Halls. The Monhegan ME lighthouse bell is the subject of the Jamie Wyeth painting, "Bronze Age" and Winslow Homer sketched the Hooper foundry yard for Harper's Weekly in 1860. West Acton Baptist Church's 1854 bell predates bells cast for other larger churches in Boston, Cambridge, Providence and elsewhere.

### **Multiple Layers of WABC Belfry**

The bell is held in place by a bell wheel assembly made of metal (the bell wheel and fittings were replaced circa 1934), which in turn rests on a flooring (see photographs, close up of bell assembly resting on floor). This floor also serves as the "roof" over the next layer of the bell tower, which is the space immediately over the balcony end of the sanctuary, at the north end of the building over the main entrance from Massachusetts Avenue. This is the smaller section of the tin ceiling which is so central to the sanctuary's historic uniqueness, where water damage shows from an earlier roof leak, already repaired.



**This bell was cast by...**



**...Henry N. Hooper ...**



**...in 1854.**

**BELL SUPPORTING FLOOR**



**Floor is open to the outside.**



**The beam supporting the bell...**



**...rests on a failing floor.**

**BELFRY STRUCTURE**



**Underside of the floor beneath the bell, with a ladder and trap door to the bell.**



**Water damage to the underside.**

We, Donald Feltus, Eugene I Hall, Harry Holt, H. Benjamin Smith, and Edward Bailey, as Deacons of the West Acton Baptist Church,

DEC 20-55 AM 0843 COGRE \*\*\*6.0.

of Acton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

for consideration paid, grant to The West Acton Baptist Church, a corporation established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and having a principal place of business in said Acton,

XXXX

with warranty covenants

the land in that part of said Acton known as West Acton, with the buildings

thereon, bounded as follows: (Description and encumbrances, if any) Easterly by Central Street; Northerly by Massachusetts Avenue; Westerly by land of one Stevenson; and Southerly by land formerly of Tasker and now of Flora Beach.

For our title see deed from Asa Wilbur to James M. Brown et al., Deacons of the Baptist Church in Acton dated September 5, 1846, recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, Book 493, Page 128.

Also the land in the westerly part of said Acton, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stake and stones at the Southwesterly corner of the premises on the old road leading from West Acton to Stow, and at land now or formerly of George Hager; thence running Northerly by said Hager land about forty-six (46) feet to a stone bound; thence Northerly by said Hager land about seventy-four (74) feet to the County road; thence S. 71° 17' E. one hundred forty-six and 3/4 (146 3/4) feet on said County road to the junction of said County and Stow Roads; thence S. 65° 46' W. on said Stow road one hundred and forty-nine and 1/4 (149 1/4) feet to the point of beginning. Containing about eighty-five hundred (8500) feet of land, more or less.

Being the same premises conveyed by Delette H. Hall to Snock Hall et al., Deacons of the Baptist Church in West Acton, dated November 12, 1831, recorded with said Deeds, Book 1590, Page 396.

~~Witness our hands and seals this~~ 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 19 55.

The consideration for this Donald O Feltus

conveyance is less than George E. Smith

one hundred dollars. Eugene L. Hall

Edmond R. Bailey

H. R. Smith

Deacons of West Acton Baptist Church.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex, ss. December 20, 19 55.

Then personally appeared the above-named Donald O. Feltus

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me, and the free act and deed of said West Acton Baptist Church, before me,

[Signature]  
Notary Public  
for the County of Middlesex

My commission expires July 14, 1960

Deed (2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 pages)

Hx 636 Pg 484

At a meeting of the parish of the West Acton Baptist Church, duly called, it was

Voted:

That the Deacons, <sup>O. Felius (list names) E.</sup> Donald Felius, Eugene Hall, Harry Holt, H. Benjamin Smith, Edward Bailey, be authorized to sign, execute, and deliver a deed to all real estate now standing in their names to the West Acton Baptist Church, a Corporation.

The above motion was carried.

*Minetta D. Lee*

Clerk of the Parish.

Then personally appeared the above named *Minetta D. Lee* and made oath that the above is a true copy taken from the records of a meeting of the Parish held Dec 14, 1955.

*Karlson E. Tuttle*

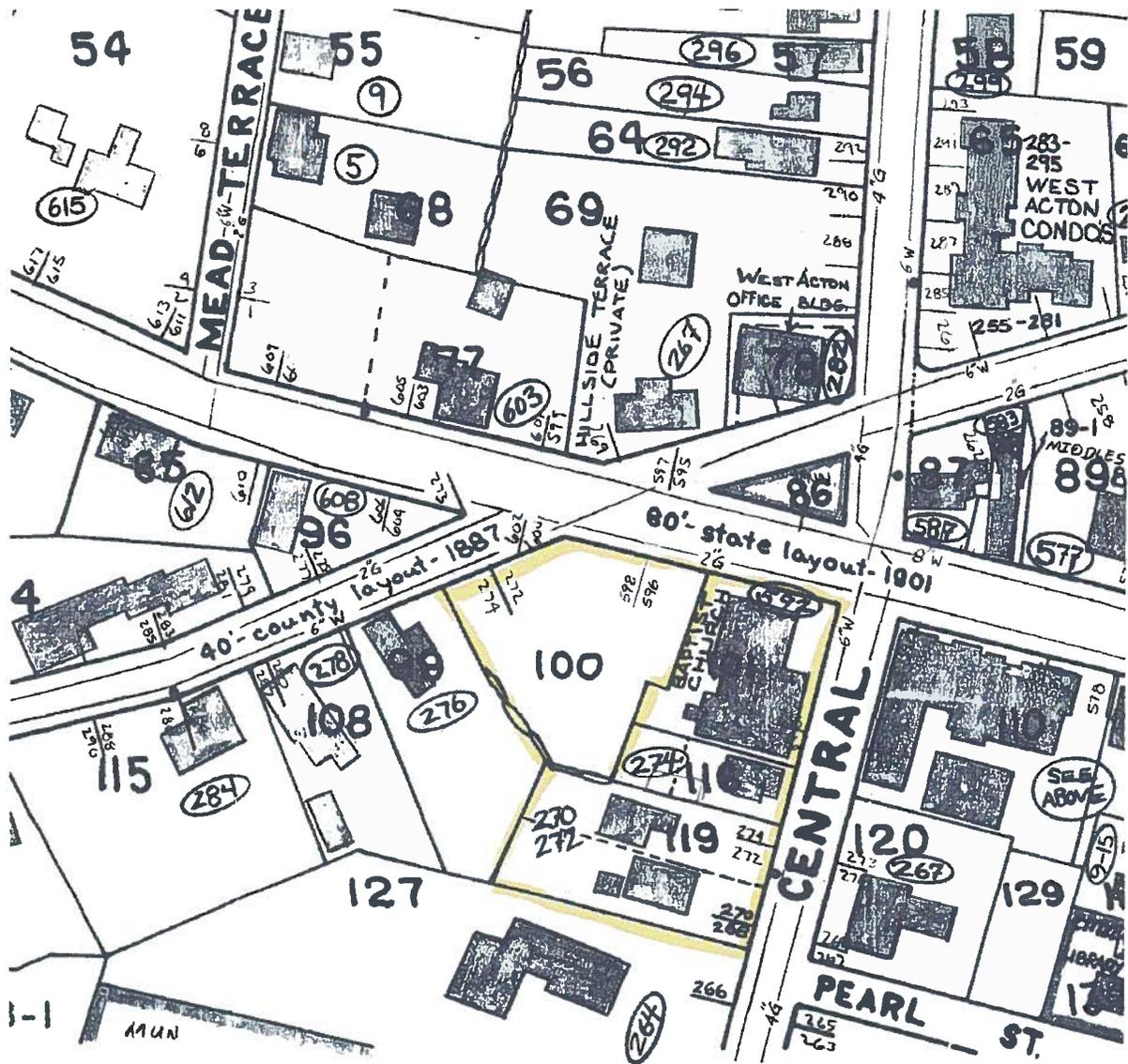
Notary Public.



*My Comm Expires March 2, 1956.*



Section of Town of Acton Tax Assessor's Map



E-1	E
F-1	F-2A
	F-2B

PHOTO. AEROSERVIC

## West Acton Baptist Church

Historic Resource Built in 1854



592 Massachusetts Avenue • 978-263-5902 • www.westactonbaptistchurch.org

## We have a long history...



**Igreja Batista Renovada**  
(Brazilian church, 7 years)



**Acton Coop School**  
(35 years)

## ... of sharing our spaces with the Acton community.



**Fellowship Hall**

- **Senior Citizens**  
(until they had their own center)
- **AA meetings**
- **Workshops**  
forgiveness, retirement, stress, brain health...
- **Boy Scouts**
- **Youth Coffee Shop**



- Christmas Eve Candles & Carols Services
- Organ, Vocal & Instrumental Concerts
- Community Talent Show (2010)
- Photography Slide Show (2011)
- Seats 200, excellent acoustics

## Our Community Preservation Goals



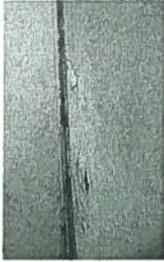
- To restore the interior structure of the bell tower, a historic landmark
- To restore and preserve WABC's beauty as a community resource
- To develop a master plan for the restoration process
- To make our building available for still more community uses

## Sanctuary Restoration Needs



Cracked & bulging plaster walls

## Painting has to wait...



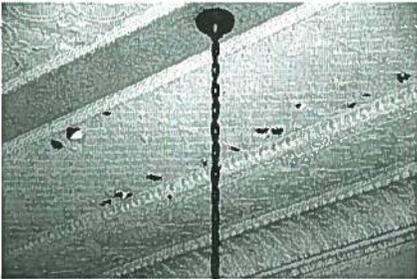
until we fix the plaster walls – do we

- cover them?
- remove and redo the plaster?

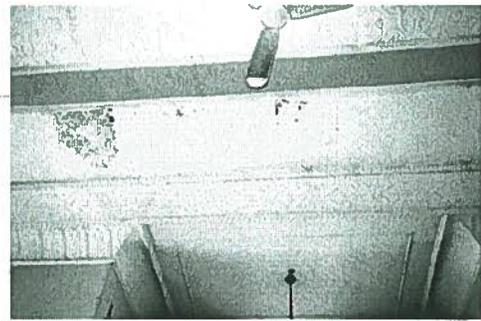
If we cover the plaster, what happens to ceiling molding & window frames?



## Sanctuary Restoration Needs



Restore and preserve the historic tin ceiling



Water damage to tin ceiling from prior roof leaks (already repaired), but there may be a new risk of more damage from the bell tower.



## BELFRY

Underside of bell tower floor showing water damage



Bell tower floor deteriorated and open to outside



**Bell tower floor & beam**

## WABC Funding Request



1. Restore the interior structure of the bell tower
2. Hire an architect to prepare a master plan for a program of restoration work
3. Ultimate goal: preservation of beauty and expanded community uses of building

## Our Values



*Members of the West Acton Baptist Church represent different communions, but one fellowship; varied beliefs, but one faith; many viewpoints, but one Christ; we agree to differ, resolve to love, unite to serve. (on web site & Sunday bulletins)*

**Our Vision Statement:**

To be an inclusive and diverse community, centered in Christ, that fosters the spiritual vitality of its members and the community, and supports each individual's faith journey and discipleship, emphasizing intentional outreach to youth and families.

**Our Community Mission** includes offering healing and caring for the whole person, and emphasizing the wisdom of adults and inspiration of youth.