

Chestnut Street

11-16 CHESTNUT STREET

STARK

Full cut #020R • Half cut #020R • Third cut #020R • Fifth cut #020R

11-15 Chestnut Street
Chestnut Street Church

October 14, 1977

Board of Trustees
Chestnut St. Methodist Church
11-15 Chestnut St.,
Portland, Maine

Gentlemen:

A recent observation of your church tower indicated a critical condition of the brick work on the rear side. This has parted and is in bulging condition, ready for complete failure.

Over a year ago, I noted this condition developing and verbally advised somebody in the church office of my findings and suggested action be taken to rectify with haste. As the condition still remains and has worsened, I trust no action was taken.

This can be an extremely dangerous condition when it does let go and falls to the ground and is a potential liability that will not get better.

In advising you I hope real concern and action will be taken immediately so no lives may be endangered.

Very truly yours,

R. Lovell Brown
Director

RLB/r



FILL IN AND SIGN WITH INK

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT FOR HEATING, COOKING OR POWER EQUIPMENT

Portland, Maine, May 16, 1960

PERMIT ISSUED 00533 MAY 16 1960 CITY OF PORTLAND

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, ME.

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to install the following heating, cooking or power equipment in accordance with the Laws of Maine, the Building Code of the City of Portland, and the following specifications:

Location 11-17 Chestnut St. Use of Building church No. Stories 2 New Building Existing
Name and address of owner of appliance Chestnut Street Church, 11-17 Chestnut St.
Installer's name and address Wilbur F. Blake Inc, 9 Forest St, Telephone

General Description of Work

To install Oil-fired steam boiler-(replacement) H.B Smith Mills #4408-13

IF HEATER, OR POWER BOILER

Location of appliance basement Any burnable material in floor surface or beneath? cement
If so, how protected? Kind of fuel? oil
Minimum distance to burnable material, from top of appliance or casing top of furnace 7'
From top of smoke pipe 4' From front of appliance over 4' From sides or back of appliance over 3'
Size of chimney flue 21x24 Other connections to same flue none
If gas fired, how vented? Rated maximum demand per hour
Will sufficient fresh air be supplied to the appliance to insure proper and safe combustion? YES

IF OIL BURNER

Name and type of burner Labelled by underwriters' laboratories?
Will operator be always in attendance? Does oil supply line feed from top or bottom of tank?
Type of floor beneath burner Size of vent pipe
Location of oil storage Number and capacity of tanks
Low water shut off Make No.
Will all tanks be more than five feet from any flame? How many tanks enclosed?
Total capacity of any existing storage tanks for furnace burners

IF COOKING APPLIANCE

Location of appliance Any burnable material in floor surface or beneath?
If so, how protected? Height of Legs, if any
Skirting at bottom of appliance? Distance to combustible material from top of appliance?
From front of appliance From sides and back From top of smokepipe
Size of chimney flue Other connections to same flue
Is hood to be provided? If so, how vented? Forced or gravity?
If gas fired, how vented? Rated maximum demand per hour

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT OR SPECIAL INFORMATION

Oil burner application to be taken out by Fandall & McAllister.

Amount of fee enclosed? 2.00 (\$2.00 for one heater, etc., 50-cents additional for each additional heater, etc., in same building at same time.)

APPROVED 5-16-60 [Signature]

Will there be in charge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto are observed? YES Wilbur F. Blake Inc.

Signature of Installer by [Signature]

CS 300

INSPECTION COPY

282



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Class of Building or Type of Structure Second Class
Portland, Maine, JANUARY 25, 1954

PERMIT ISSUED
00090
JAN 26 1954
CITY OF PORTLAND

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, MAINE

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to erect alter repair demolish install the following building structure equipmer in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code and Zoning Ordinance of the City of Portland plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith and the following specifications:

Location 10 Chestnut Street Within Fire Limits? yes Dist. No. 1
 Owner's name and address Chestnut Street Methodist Church, 16 Chestnut St. Telephone _____
 Lessee's name and address _____ Telephone _____
 Contractor's name and address C. A. Aaskov & Son, 39 Read St. Telephone _____
 Architect _____ Specifications _____ Plans 110 No. of sheets _____
 Proposed use of building Church No. families _____
 Last use _____ " _____ No. families _____
 Material _____ No. stories _____ Heat _____ Style of roof _____ Roofing _____
 Other buildings on same lot _____ Fee \$ 4.00
 Estimated cost \$ 800.

General Description of New Work

To remove existing non-bearing partition in basement and to partition off ~~two~~ toilet room and wash room in basement
Studs - 2x3, 16" O.C., plaster both sides
Partitions to be 6' high and closed over at top

PERMIT TO BE ISSUED TO C. A. Aaskov & Son

It is understood that this permit does not include installation of heating apparatus which is to be taken out separately by and in the name of the heating contractor. **PERMIT TO BE ISSUED TO C. A. Aaskov & Son**

Details of New Work

Is any plumbing involved in this work? yes Is any electrical work involved in this work? yes
 Is connection to be made to public sewer? _____ If not, what is proposed for sewage? _____
 Has septic tank notice been sent? _____ Form notice sent? _____
 Height average grade to top of plate _____ Height average grade to highest point of roof _____
 Size, front _____ depth _____ No. stories _____ solid or filled land? _____ earth or rock? _____
 Material of foundation _____ Thickness, top _____ bottom _____ cellar _____
 Material of underpinning _____ Height _____ Thickness _____
 Kind of roof _____ Rise per foot _____ Roof covering _____
 No. of chimneys _____ Material of chimneys _____ of lining _____ Kind of heat _____ fuel _____
 Framing lumber—Kind _____ Dressed or full size? _____ Size _____
 Corner posts _____ Sills _____ Girt or ledger board? _____
 Girders _____ Size _____ Columns under girders _____ Size _____ Max. on centers _____
 Studs (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet.
 Joists and rafters: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
 On centers: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
 Maximum span: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
 If one story building with masonry walls, thickness of walls? _____ height? _____

If a Garage

No. cars now accommodated on same lot _____, to be accommodated _____ number commercial cars to be accommodated _____
Will automobile repairing be done other than minor repairs to cars habitually stored in the proposed building? _____

Miscellaneous

Will work require disturbing of any tree on a public street? no
Will there be in charge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto are observed? yes
Chestnut Street Methodist Church
A. Aaskov & Son

APPROVED:
O.N. - 1/26/54 - A.A.S.

Signature of owner By: C.A. Aaskov PH

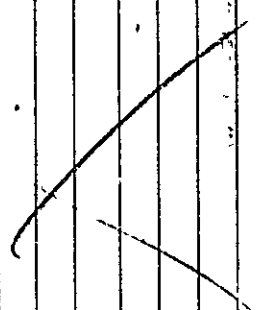
INSPECTION COPY

845

Permit No. 5490
 Location 11 Chestnut St.
 Owner Chestnut St. Methodist Church
 Date of permit 1/26/54
 Notif. closing-in _____
 Inspn. closing-in _____
 Final Notif. _____
 Final Inspn. & none
 Cert. of Occupancy issued _____
 Staking Out Notice _____
 Form Check Notice _____

NOTES

2/1/54
 less than
 no inspection was
 necessary. P.S.S.





CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

COMPLAINT NO. 46-141

DUPLICATE A/C OF
LOSS OF ORIGINAL
INSPECTION COPY INSPN COPY. made 8/2/50

COMPLAINT

Date Received October 23, 1946

Location 11-15 Chestnut St. Use of Building Church

Owner's name and address Chestnut Street Methodist Society in Portland Telephone _____
c/o I. W. Maxwell, 120 Exchange St.

Tenant's name and address Chestnut St. Church Telephone _____

Complainant's name and address wmed Telephone _____

Description: Question of safety of the small diameter brownstone columns or towers in front of the church.

8/2/50 - Inspection has been made
sent to City Manager - W.M.
Pl. ask R.M.P. to hold in case of ins.
8/7/50 - Better - W.M.
8-30-50. Staging being built. W.M.
--- 2nd floor. V.F.M.B.
10-5-50 about giving in to remove dangerous
conclusion. W.M.

Complaint No: 46/41 11-14-50
Location: 1.1 - 1.5 - 2.0 - 2.1
Date Received: [blank]
Date Disposed of: 12-2-50 [blank]

NOTES
11-27-50 [blank] going in
[blank] [blank]

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C-32-193-I
R-12/30/32

December 2, 1932

Methodist Episcopal Society Trustees
C/c Mr. H. A. Holden
55 Spruce Street
Portland, Maine

Gentlemen:

Complaint has been lodged in this department to the effect that pieces of limestone or sandstone trim have been falling from the front of the Chestnut Street Church and landing upon the public sidewalk.

Upon examination of the front of the building, it appears that quite a large amount of this stone trim has fallen off in times past, and there are many cracks in evidence in the balance of the stone trim, notably in the ornamental columns. There also appear to be some loose bricks near the top of the brick pier at the southwest corner of the church building which are quite likely to fall upon the public sidewalk or upon the steps of the church.

It is fully realized that this may be a very difficult situation to remedy, but, of course, it is obvious that something must be done to prevent either stone or bricks from falling upon the public sidewalk and possibly doing serious injury to persons or property.

Will you be kind enough to attend to this matter as promptly as possible?

Very truly yours,

Inspector of Buildings.



Complaint No. C-52-791

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

November 8, 1932

COMPLAINT

Location 11 Chestnut Street Ward 4

Owner's name and address Trs. Methodist Episcopal Society in Portland Telephone _____
for Mr C Holden 53 Spruce St.

Tenant's name and address _____ Telephone _____

Use of building Church

General Description

Pieces of limestone or sandstone trim falling on public sidewalk

Complainant's name and address Stevens Telephone _____

Date of examination and conditions found _____

Action taken _____

INSPECTION COPY

File: 8 46/141 (Chestnut Street Church 11-15 Chestnut St.,)

H. Norton Maxfield, Assistant to City Manager

Warren McDonald, Insptr. of Buildings

Structural safety of stone masonry construction and trim in towers or steeples of Chestnut Street Methodist Church at 11-15 Chestnut Street.

Examination of this stone work from the ground, from the upper floors of City Hall and from the Masonic Building discloses that the masonry has deteriorated a great deal and that the safety of persons on the public sidewalk is definitely threatened—probably an immediate danger.

Our records shows an approach to the Church Authorities after complaint in 1932. At that time I am told that men were employed who removed much of the loosened surface of the stone where it appeared necessary.

Probably much of the stone (it is my belief that it is some type of brown limestone or sandstone) which is gone from the surface, was either taken down in 1932, or gradually eroded by the weather, fell in small particles or was blown away. I find that at least one large section of stone has fallen, however, since Bert Skillings reports that about two years ago a passerby brought a large section of it into City Hall, that section having fallen on the public sidewalk.

These twin towers have the main structure of them built of brickwork up to a point where the masonry begins to narrow down toward the peak. The brick portions had originally cylindrical trim the entire height from near the sidewalk to the top of the brickwork and set into the brick masonry at the corners. Large sections of this cylindrical trim are gone leaving other sections above without much of any support. In a number of places this stone trim has deteriorated so much that there are now openings between the stone and the brickwork which will allow the moisture, snow and ice to penetrate the brickwork readily.

From the top of the brickwork to the peak of each tower, the construction appears to be entirely stone masonry, the sections of stones increasing in size as the courses proceed upward. Some of the mortar is gone out of joints in these large stones also, and if this situation is let go much longer, serious results are likely to ensue. I should say the most immediate danger, however, is related to the cylindrical trim at the corners of the brickwork.

The church is faced with a most difficult problem which can hardly be solved without considerable outlay.

The principal concern of the City, I should say, is the immediate question of safety of pedestrians on the public sidewalk, as well as the public entering the Church.

H. Norton Maxfield-----2

August 2, 1950

There is authority under the Building Code for closing the public sidewalk or street in case of danger from the building and the Police Department are instructed to enforce such orders.

Obviously such orders should not be given without full notice to the Church Authorities.

Inspector of Buildings

C 45/141
(Chestnut St. Church, 11-15 Chestnut St.)

August 7, 1950

Copies to, Mr. Doten for Board records
Mr. Wilbur F. Blake
9 Forest Street

Mr. Forrest W. Doten
Pres. Board of Trustees
Chestnut St. Methodist Church
41 Coyle Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Doten,

Having talked with Mr. Blake and yourself about the situation of the stone masonry and trim on the twin towers at the front of Chestnut Street Church, 11-15 Chestnut Street, a formal order from this department as indicated by Section 109 of the Building Code hardly seems necessary. Let us say that the prompt and cooperative action of both Mr. Blake and yourself is much appreciated, and that it is with great regret that we find this situation which will undoubtedly be a difficult one for the church to handle.

More than fifteen years ago I contacted the Board of Trustees (M. A. Holden) about this situation, and at that time someone was employed to go over the towers and remove all of the stone which seemed to be loosened or threatening. It has always been my impression that the sandstone was wearing off and dropping in small pieces which would not do damage to anyone, but I have found out differently. We have had at least three reports about the danger of the situation at City Hall within the past two or three weeks, and upon making a careful examination, using field glasses, from the ground and from the upper floors of City Hall and from the Masonic building, I have reached the conclusion that parts of the stone work are perhaps immediately dangerous from the standpoint of falling on the sidewalk or upon persons entering the church.

I believe the more immediate danger is from the cylindrical sections of sandstone which are inserted in the recessed corners of the brickwork. Some sections of these are practically gone leaving sections above without much support. In places I could see what appeared to be apertures between the sandstone remaining and the brickwork which undoubtedly admits moisture to the brickwork itself and would tend in freezing weather to pry off the sections of sandstone as well.

As to the larger sections of stone running from the brickwork of the main towers up to the peak, these are badly deteriorated and some of the mortar is out of the joints. Just how dangerous these upper parts may be is hard to determine, but I should think that all of the hazards should now be cleared up once and for all.

I was forced to give up my theory of steady deterioration by small particles coming off when I learned that about two years ago a pedestrian walking along the sidewalk picked up a fairly long section of the cylindrical sandstone and brought it into City Hall to the Superintendent of the building.

It is of great importance that you proceed without delay to get this defective condition corrected from the standpoint of safety to pedestrians on the public sidewalk as well as that of persons entering the church, that none of us may have any vain regrets should an accident occur.

Mr. Doten has assured me that the Board of Trustees will have a meeting on the matter on August 8, and I shall ask for word from him as to what is to be done before deciding whether or not it is my duty to require under the Building Code that the public sidewalk be closed.

Very truly yours,
Inspector of Bldgs.



Complaint No. C-32-193

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

November 8, 1932

COMPLAINT

Location 11¹⁵ Chestnut Street Ward 4
Owner's name and address Trs. Methodist Episcopal Society in Portland Telephone _____
Tenant's name and address _____ Telephone _____
Use of building Church

General Description

Pieces of limestone or sandstone trim falling on public sidewalk

Complainant's name and address Stevens Telephone _____

Date of examination and conditions found _____

Action taken _____

ORIGINAL



(G) GENERAL BUSINESS ZONE

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Class of Building or Type of Structure Second Class
Portland, Maine, August 21, 1950

PERMIT ISSUED

AUG 21 1950

CITY of PORTLAND

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, MAINE

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to erect alter or ~~erect~~ the following building structure equipment in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code and Zoning Ordinance of the City of Portland, plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith and the following specifications:

Location 11 Chestnut Street Within Fire Limits? yes Dist. No. 1
 Owner's name and address Chestnut Street Methodist Church Telephone _____
 Lessee's name and address _____ Telephone _____
 Contractor's name and address C. H. Gailey & Son, 643 1/2 Forest Avenue Telephone _____
 Architect _____ Specifications _____ Plans no No. of sheets _____
 Proposed use of building Church No. families _____
 Last use _____ No. families _____
 Material masonry No. stories _____ Heat _____ Style of roof _____ Roofing _____
 Other buildings on same lot _____
 Estimated cost \$ 5200. Fee \$ 5.00

General Description of New Work

peak of
To remove two towers and replace with flat roof and remove free stone and replace with stucco

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY
REQUIREMENT IS WAIVED

It is understood that this permit does not include installation of heating apparatus which is to be taken out separately by and in the name of the heating contractor. PERMIT TO BE ISSUED TO C. H. Gailey & Son

Details of New Work

Is any plumbing involved in this work? _____ Is any electrical work involved in this work? _____
 Height average grade to top of plate _____ Height average grade to highest point of roof _____
 Size, front _____ depth _____ No. stories _____ solid or fueled land? _____ earth or rock? _____
 Material of foundation _____ Thickness, top _____ bottom _____ cellar _____
 Material of underpinning _____ Height _____ Thickness _____
 Kind of roof flat Rise per foot _____ Roof covering metal
 No. of chimneys _____ Material of chimneys _____ of lining _____ Kind of heat _____ fuel _____
 Framing lumber—Kind _____ Dressed or full size? _____
 Corner posts _____ Sills _____ Girt or ledger board? _____ Size _____
 Girders _____ Size _____ Columns under girders _____ Size _____ Max. on centers _____
 Stucco (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. Bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet.
 Joists and rafters 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
 On centers: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
 Maximum span: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
 If one story building with masonry walls, thickness of walls? _____ height? _____

If a Garage

No. cars now accommodated on same lot _____, to be accommodated _____ number commercial cars to be accommodated _____
 Will automobile repairing be done other than minor repairs to cars habitually stored in the proposed building? _____

Miscellaneous

Will work require disturbing of any tree on a public street? no
 Will there be in charge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto are observed? yes

APPROVED:

Chestnut Street Methodist Church
C. H. Gailey & Son

Signature of owner By:

C. H. Gailey & Son
Clayton H. Gailey

INSPECTION COPY

NOTES

10/28/50 - work will stop & etc
11/29/50 - work done P. P.

1941
Permit No. 50/1458

Location 11 Portland St.

Owner Portland St. Church

Date of permit 8/21/50

Notif. closing in

Inspn. jour. in

Final Notif.

Final Inspn. 11/29/50

Cert. of Occupancy issued

