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Essex Builders completes renovations for The First Church in Salem, Mass.

May 17, 2012 - Construction Design & Engineering

Essex Builders has completed an extensive renovation and addition for The First Church in Salem, Unitarian.

This project is the largest undertaking by the church, since 1926. The church is located on Essex St. and is home to one of the oldest continuing Protestant congregations in North America, starting in 1629.

"Being selected to work on a beautiful building such as this historic church; truly is a privilege and honor," said David O'Neil, president of Essex Bldrs.

Design was provided by Menders Torrey and Spencer.

The new addition houses an elevator. The church's commitment to sustainability is reflected in the installation of a new efficient heating system. Other aspects of the work focused on renovations to areas other than the Meeting House. This included remodeling of classrooms for the Henny Penny Nursery School, which is the oldest operating pre-school north of Boston.

Priceless elements such as stained glass windows were recovered during the demolition phase for incorporation in the new work.

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540