

# THE BAPTIST WEATHERVANE

**A**TOP THIS BUILDING is a gilded weathervane that once graced the steeple of the First Baptist Church which stood on this site until it was removed in 1968 at the time this Post Office was being constructed.

The church was built in 1830 and the vane probably dates to then. It had greatly deteriorated over the years and was removed on November 28, 2007 for restoration. This was expertly undertaken by Walt Hautanen of *Walt's Signs* with the assistance of those listed below. The vane was returned to the cupola on June 26, 2008.

Although the Baptist Church building is no longer a feature of Jaffrey's townscape, many parts—other than the



weathervane—may still be found at various locations: The engraved granite foundation stone faces the Post Office in Charity Square. Two of the granite front steps stand at the entrance of the War Memorial Park on River Street. The Hannah Davis memorial window is on display in the basement of the Civic Center. The Paul Revere bell hangs in the belfry of the United Church of Jaffrey. And the belfry itself went off to Concord, Massachusetts, and later to Acton, where it stands today. 🍀 🍀 🍀

Photos of the church demolition may be seen at

<http://smu.gs/1lkruxG>

Photos of the belfry today may be seen at

<http://smu.gs/1lkrKNe>

Photos of the restoration may be seen at

<http://smu.gs/1lkrKNe>

The weathervane restoration project was sponsored and supported financially by the Jaffrey Historical Society with the encouragement of TEAM Jaffrey and the cooperation of the staff of the Jaffrey Post Office. Additional support came from the Terra Nova Trust, a fund of the NH Charitable Foundation. A major gift was made by J&C Management, the owners of the Post Office building. Among those who worked to bring the project to a successful conclusion:

Walt Hautanen (first and foremost) – *sanding, painting and gilding.*

Brad Winters – *metal fabrication and welding.*

Arnold Baldwin – *machining the sleeve that holds the vane.*

Bob Mesrobian (*RWM Painting of Hancock*) and Steve Pelkey (*Atlas PyroVision*) – *platform lifts.*

David Tower, *Esq.* – *advisor on legal matters.*

Rob Stephenson – *coordination and fundraising.*

Today, the weathervane is owned and maintained by the Jaffrey Historical Society, it having been gifted to the Society by J&C Management in 2011.