

## Property History

Harvard University, established in 1636, is the oldest institution of higher education in the United States. Harvard University's McKinlock Hall was constructed as part of a House Plan proposed by University President Abbott Lawrence Lowell to construct seven dormitories to separate upperclassmen from freshmen.

## Project Description

The project scope included the restoration of sixty lighting fixtures ranging from large chandeliers, wall sconces, ceiling mounted fixtures, pendant lights, and exterior lanterns. Our artisans utilized different restoration techniques, including conservation of the existing finishes and complete refinishing, including cleaning and hand polishing of crystal and silver components.

Considerable amounts of accumulated dust and grime required each component to be completely disassembled from the fixtures and hand cleaned. The restoration of the silver chandeliers and sconces involved the removal of the original lacquer and hand polishing to reveal the original silver finish before multiple applications of UV resistant clear high gloss lacquer were applied. Where existing silver plating was compromised, spot plating, buffing, and hand polishing was incorporated. Crystal fixtures with damaged and missing crystal strands were re-pinned and replaced as necessary.

In several cast brass fixtures, the finish required a combination of media walnut blasting, hand burnishing, and patina blending in restoring the underlying original finish prior to several applications of a protective lacquer.

All fixtures were rewired with UL listed components and HIPOT tested in accordance with UL standard 1598. All exposed conductors were enclosed in fiberglass braided sleeving and were color matched to the fixture finish. Additionally, all fixtures over 100lbs received safety cables.

## Client

Harvard University

## Client Project Managers

Clare Kirk, Turner Construction  
Joanne Aitken, Kieran Timberlake

## Date Awarded

2013

## Completion Date

2015

## Project Webpage

<https://grandlight.com/portfolio/harvard-university-mckinlock-hall/>

