

## Property History

The Orford Congregational Church, located in Orford, New Hampshire, is of architectural and historical significance to the town and the northeastern United States. Built in 1854, the church was designed by Moses Gerrish Wood, whose original construction drawings and architectural sketches are signed, dated and hanging in the church today, more than 150 years later.

The church is the only wooden gothic structure in New Hampshire. The building has an ornate, arched window over the main entrance, and arched side windows. Around the clock tower, decorated with a balustrade, lies an ornate frieze, and a recessed cornice with decorative brackets.

## Project Description

In the summer of 2006, the church ceiling collapsed, and the chandelier fell to the floor and was crushed. Entombed in a closed-off section of the bell tower, lay a magnificent 67-inch dodecagonal gothic-style chandelier. This original gas-mirrored reflector chandelier was made circa 1854-1870, and led the restoration search committee chairman Carl Schmidt and Reverend Wilson to Grand Light's restoration experts.

Because the chandelier was found inside the bell tower after a ceiling collapse, the people at Orford Congregational Church requested to have construction drawings done in order to visualize the completed project. After conducting historical research, Grand Light prepared these conceptual sketches for the Church in the initial stages of the custom restoration project.

Restoration of the chandelier included reinforcement of the existing historical frame, custom made reproductions of the decorative crown, custom fabrication of corrugated mirror glass panels, and the addition of a custom 12-light round center pendant with decorative stem. A two tone black and gold finish was applied making this piece the focal point of the church.

## Client

United Congregational Church of Orford

## Client Project Managers

Byron Haynes, AIA, Principal, Haynes & Garthwaite Architects

## Date Awarded

2008

## Completion Date

2008

## Project Webpage

<https://grandlight.com/portfolio/orford-congregational-church/>

