

**HALIFAX, 1921
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ALEXANDER PARRIS

Prominent 19th Century Architect/Engineer

Served as a Captain in the US Army in the War of 1812

Alexander Parris was born on November 24, 1780 in Halifax, Massachusetts. He was the son of Matthew and Mercy Parris. After apprenticing as a carpenter in Pembroke, he married Silvina Stetson in 1801. The couple moved to Portland, Maine, where Parris studied design and developed his building skills on local projects.

Parris returned to Massachusetts around 1808 and served as commander of a company of Army engineers in the War of 1812. Later, he became the architect for well known buildings and lighthouses such as Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth, Quincy Market in Boston, the Barnstable County Courthouse and Minot's Ledge Light in Scituate. He also designed buildings outside of Massachusetts including the Virginia Governor's Mansion and many lighthouses up and down the east coast for the US Treasury Department.

His Federal and Greek Revival architectural style is recognized by large granite columns at the entrance to his buildings.

Alexander Parris died on June 16, 1852 at 61 years of age and is buried in Briggs Burial Grounds in Pembroke, Massachusetts.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.

and

Donna Curtin, Executive Director of Pilgrim Hall Museum

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