

No. R-410. House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial anniversary of the former Concord Corner Congregational Church building.

H.C.R. 321

Offered by: Representative Quimby of Concord

Whereas, on January 7, 1807, 17 individuals in the town of Concord organized a Congregational church, and

Whereas, on September 7, 1809, the congregation ordained the Rev. Samuel Goddard as its first pastor in an outdoor ceremony that attracted attendees from adjoining towns and featured the preaching of the Rev. Joseph Lee of Royalston, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, the pivotal event in the history of the Concord Corner Congregational Church occurred in 1816 when the congregation's magnificent new home was constructed, and

Whereas, the congregation selected a site on the hilltop that, at the time, served as the town's commercial and civic center and is now known as Concord Corner, and

Whereas, this impressive ecclesiastical edifice cost \$3,000.00 to build, a large amount for the second decade of the 19th century, and

Whereas, at the behest of one of the construction project's most generous donors, a Mrs. Azarius Williams, the new home of the Concord Corner Congregational Church was modeled on an existing church located in New York City, and

Whereas, a special element of this new center for worship was the installation of a "very excellent bell" described in a contemporary account as "the first in all the region," and

Whereas, on March 4, 1823, Mr. Samuel Hall, a licentiate of the Worcester County (Massachusetts) Association was ordained as the church's new pastor, and

Whereas, in accordance with his condition for accepting the Concord Corner pulpit, the Rev. Samuel Hall established a normal school or seminary that, according to the University of Vermont, was the first in the nation for training teachers, and

Whereas, during the Rev. Samuel Hall's tenure, which ended in 1830, the congregation prospered, adding 48 new members, and

Whereas, subsequent religious leadership included Mr. Solon Martin, the Rev. John Wooster, and the Rev. Josiah Morse, but as the commercial center of Concord shifted to the west, this glorious house of worship closed its doors and is no longer standing, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the bicentennial anniversary of the former Concord Corner Congregational Church building, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Concord Historical Society.