

The Pilgrim Memorial Monument Provincetown, Massachusetts.

The Monument which stands upon Town Hill and which is a landmark for many miles around is erected to commemorate the landfall of the Pilgrims at Cape Cod on the eleventh day of November, 1620; their anchoring in this harbor; the adoption in the cabin of the Mayflower, on the day of the arrival, of the Compact of government, the first charter of a democratic government in the world's history; the birth here of Peregrine White, the first white child born in New England; the death of Dorothy Bradford, the wife of William Bradford, afterward governor of Plymouth; the explorations in search of a place for permanent colonization; and the entire train of events which preceded the settlement at Plymouth.

The Monument was erected by the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, members of which are to be found in every State of the Union and in all our insular possessions.

The cost of the Monument was about ninety-five thousand dollars, exclusive of the site, which was given by the Town of Provincetown. Of this sum forty thousand dollars was contributed by Congress, from the National treasury; twenty-five thousand by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; five thousand by the Town of Provincetown, and the remainder by individuals in all parts of the country, in sums varying from one dollar to one thousand dollars. The whole number of contributors was between three and four thousand. The structure is the property of the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, not of the General Government, nor of the Commonwealth.

The expenses attending the laying out of the grounds and the care and maintenance of the Monument are met wholly from the fees of visitors who ascend the Monument.

Any person may become a life member of the Association by the payment of one dollar to the Secretary, Mr. John Adams, Provincetown.

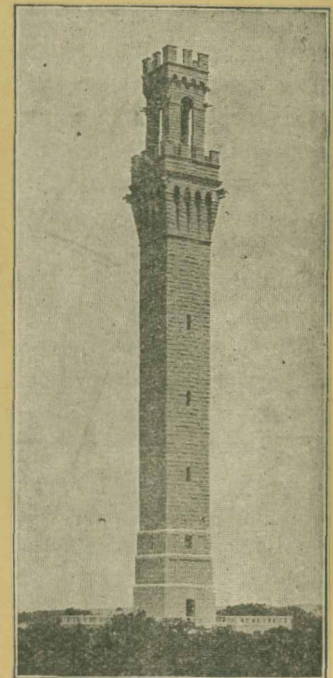
The corner stone of the Monument was laid August 20, 1907, by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, in the presence of Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, who made an address.

The Monument was dedicated August 5, 1910, the dedicatory address being given by Dr. Charles W. Eliot, President-Emeritus of Harvard University. William H. Taft, President of the United States, was present and made an address.

The design of the Monument, after much deliberation, was copied from the tower of Torre del Mangia, in Siena, Italy. It is of the Italian Renaissance order of architecture. There are several other similar towers in different parts of Italy, notably one in Florence, which forms the campanile of Palazzo Vecchio. There was no especial reason for choosing this design save that of its extraordinary beauty and dignity.

The monument is 252 feet, seven and one half inches in total height, from the ground to the top of the utmost battlement. This is about thirty feet higher than Bunker Hill Monument. The site upon which it stands, on Town Hill, is about one hundred feet above tide water, making a total height above sea level of upwards of 352 feet. Its foundation is sixty feet square at its base and is composed of concrete, reinforced with steel bars, placed in layers five inches apart. The Monument is built wholly of Maine granite, and is twenty-eight feet square at the base. Every stone of the structure is of the entire thickness of the wall. The arches of the bell-chamber are thirty feet in height. The masonry is of the most substantial character. Modern skill cannot erect a better building.

The plans for the structure were made in the office of the engineers of the United States Army at Boston and the construction was thoroughly and carefully supervised by that office, after the manner in which the erection of government buildings is supervised. Lieut. Col. Edward Burr was the engineer in charge. At its dedication the Monument was formally turned over to the Association by the Secretary of War.



The view from the top of the Monument is superb. The entire Cape is spread out below the observer like a map, and the view extends many miles out at sea. One of the conditions upon which the government appropriation was granted was that the Monument should be given over to the government, in case of war, as an observation station. Its value as an outlook is thus shown. At night the lights of nearly a dozen lighthouses are visible from the summit.

The ascent of the Monument is extremely easy, an inclined plane, after the manner of that in the famous Campanile San Marco in Venice, taking the place of the usual flight of stairs. It is said that Napoleon Bonaparte rode up the original Campanile San Marco, on horseback. Persons upwards of ninety years of age and young children have ascended this Monument without fatigue.

The care-taker, Mr. Manuel Cook, or his assistant, is in attendance at the Monument daily from 8 a. m. until 5 p. m. The fee is 25 cents for adults and ten cents for children under 14, accompanied by an adult.