

POINTS OF HISTORIC INTEREST

PAXTON CHURCH SANCTUARY

- The current Interior was restored to original design in 1931.
- The lights were patterned after **sconces** in the Rev. John Elder home.
- The **Light on the pulpit** may have been used here as early as 1740.
- The 1847 style **Venetian blinds** were patterned after those found in the sanctuary loft.
- In 1931, workers cutting the plaster were hampered by the mortar of lime, sand, and horsehair.
- The old **wrought-iron holder** fitted with a bowl was found in the loft of the church.
- The **communion table** (farm table) is dated circa 1790-1810.

THE ARCHIVES DISPLAY IN THE HALLWAY

- **Pictures** of former and current pastors and elders are on the wall and the display closet.
- **1847 Pew** from the balcony which was said to be “fearful to sit in.”
- In the hallway above the communion set is a **light fixture** from 1905.
- The **Olde Communion Set** is in the wall case.
 - One large charger made by Townsend & Griffen in London between 1771 and 1801.
 - Another charger, which has initials, was made between 1760 and 1770.
 - Four two-handled cups are attributed to William Will of Philadelphia from 1764 - 1798.
 - Four plates were probably made in Philadelphia 1780 -1800.
 - This communion set used until 1892 when retired because of the weight of plates. Each weigh 10 pounds!
- **Communion tokens**
 - There are 96 lead and pewter communion tokens.
 - They are marked “BP” or “BD” for Rev. William Bertram (1732 – 1736).
 - “BP” for Bertram Paxton and “BD” for Bertram Derry.
 - The Tokens were given to intending communicants during a communion preparatory service.
 - During communion service, the communicant gave the token to an Elder as evidence the person was entitled to participate.

PAXTON CHURCH PARLOR

- The **marble top Console Table**, circa 1830-1840, was used as Paxton's pulpit furniture 1847-1887.
- The **console table** is circa 1790-1810.
- The **Slant Front Hepplewhite Desk** is circa 1780-1795.
- The **tilting lamp table** is circa 1790-1800.
- The **Empire sofa** is circa 1850-1860.
- The **Sheraton card table** is circa 1790-1810.
- The **ceiling lamp** is circa 1900 around the time this part of the building was added.
- The gilt frame **mirror** is circa 1890.
- Outside the parlor is a pine and walnut "**Schoolmaster**" **desk** circa 1800-1825.

THE ARCHIVES DISPLAY OUTSIDE THE GREAT ROOM

- **Keepsakes** made from Rev. John Elder's pulpit torn down in 1847.
- An original **wooden headstone** of William Murray who died in 1773.
- Keepsake of **Rev. Elder's barn** showing the hand-hewed wood and wooden pegs.
- A copy of the June 8, **1754 deed** from Henry and Ann [Kelso] Foster, his wife, to "the Congregation that now belongs to the Reverend John Elder."
- Communion **scriptural cards** given under the tenure of Rev. Luther Davis (1896-1901).
- A **Pulpit Bible** dated in the 1740's found in Paxton. An original Paxton Bible?
- A **pocket New Testament** carried by James Gault Elder, Paxton's only World War One casualty.
- Circa 1876-1880 **Tuning Fork** used by Sunday School Superintendent David R. Elder.

ON THE GROUNDS

- South of the Sanctuary is a stone pier which marks the approximate spot of the **original log church**. The top of the pier is made of the original stones of the church supports.

- The **Manse** was built in 1855 as the home of our ministers. It was built with 9 rooms; windowsills 17 inches deep; center hall construction; and no closets. It is now a private home.
- The **Cabin or “Lodge,”** dedicated in 1950, was donated by Dr. J. Loomis Christian for youth and scouting. It is a general replica of the original church and is the same size, shape, and design.
- One **Honeysuckle bush** to the right of the Paxtang Avenue pillar is the remnant of an 1899 hedge. The hedge was planted to enclose the church property (Glebe) and is a living piece of history.
- **The Paxton Churchyard** probably dates back from the 1720’s to 30’s
 - At first, people were buried around log church and to south and east of stone church in graves unmarked or used wooden markers.
 - The earliest marked grave is for Mary Elder died June 12, 1749
 - In 1792 the stone wall was built, but there were people buried outside the wall to the east and south of the church. If they could be identified they were brought in, if not they were left buried outside the wall.
 - The DAR gate was built in 1905. The plaques list French and Indian War and Revolutionary War participants.
 - The open areas of the old section contain graves of people whose markers have been lost.
 - In 1903, many small rough limestones without inscription or date were exposed to view. They were intended as temporary markers until permanent inscribed tomb stones should take their places. This never having happened.
 - The churchyard currently contains over 1,000 identified residents.
 - A tour pamphlet is available in the church office or on our website.

OFF THE GROUNDS BUT NEAR

Rev. John Elder’s original farmhouse and farm site is about a mile away. This is the oldest house in Harrisburg and was built around 1740, the same time as the sanctuary walls were begun.

- Go south on Paxtang Avenue to Derry Street and turn right.
- Go right on 24th Street.
- Go one block to Ellerslie Street and the site is to your right at 2426 Ellerslie Street.