

Gasson Hall Tower, Boston College Chestnut Hill, MA



2012 BSA Design Award
from Boston Society of Architects
Citation: Technical merit

Building description:

Designed by Charles Donagh Maginnis and constructed between 1909 and 1913, Gasson Hall is an early example of Collegiate Gothic design, a style that incorporates Gothic Revival ornamentation with Beaux-Arts building and site planning.

Gasson Hall was one of the first buildings designed as part of the master plan for a new campus of Boston College in Chestnut Hill. The building currently contains administrative offices and classrooms as well as an assembly hall on the ground floor.

The tower of Gasson Hall rises from a three-story lower structure and serves as a clock tower and belfry for the campus. It is constructed of load-bearing masonry exterior walls with wood and steel floor and roof framing.

On the exterior, cast stone is used for the decorative units, including the quoins, corner piers, window surrounds, tracery, crenellated parapet and octagonal turrets.

Puddingstone in random rubble coursing is used in the field of the walls at the lower portions of the tower.

Scope of work:

- Investigated and documented existing condition of exterior masonry at the tower.
- Provided live-feed video to project team during inspection.

Building owner:

Boston College

In collaboration with:

- McGinley Kalsow & Associates LLP, architect
- Building & Monument Conservation, stone conservator
- LeMessurier Engineering, structural engineer

Photos by Vertical Access

