



## Hook and Hastings Organ, opus 1751

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC  
Lexington, Massachusetts

Built in 1897 by Hook and Hastings Company. Rebuilt and installed at Pilgrim Congregational Church 1972–1973 by Andover Organ Company.



## Hook and Hastings Pipe Organ at Pilgrim Church

Pilgrim Church's tracker pipe organ was built in 1897 by Hook and Hastings as its opus 1751 for the St. Louis Catholic Church in Webster, Massachusetts. In 1971, that church offered the organ for sale because its new building could not accommodate such a large instrument. Around the same time, a committee led by Robert Allen<sup>1</sup> was formed to locate and acquire a pipe organ for Pilgrim Church. In May 1972 a contract was signed with Andover Organ Company to rebuild and install the organ at Pilgrim Church at a cost of just under \$15,000. Including alterations to the chancel and the services of a consultant for the tonal design and finishing, the total came to \$17,872.36 (approximately \$73,000 in 2022 dollars).

The organ was dedicated on Sunday, April 8, 1973. Since then it has been an integral part of Pilgrim's music program. The Beckwith Memorial Fund supports the ongoing maintenance and preservation of the organ.

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<sup>1</sup> Organ committee members: Robert Allen, chair; Mrs. Robert (Ruth) Allen, Mrs. Ellison (Drusilla) Beckwith, Mrs. Norman (Marcia) Boyer, and Mrs. Gordon (Gretchen) Kaufman; Music committee members included: Robert Allen, Mrs. Edward (Pat) Davis, Mrs. John (Anne) Schultz and Mrs. Michael (Mary) Scott Morton.



## Tracker Pipe Organ

In a tracker organ, the organist presses keys and pulls stops that control the organ's pipes and couplers through a complex matrix of levers and valves. In a tracker organ, the valve, which admits air to the pipe in order to produce the sound, is directly controlled by the force of the organist's finger on the key. The organist must overcome the wind pressure resistance on each valve in order to open it and play the pipe. When many ranks are combined as a tracker organ is played, the keys generally become more difficult to depress. Another limitation of the tracker organ is that the console must remain relatively close to the pipes and wind chests. Therefore most tracker organs have the console built as an integral part of the organ's case.<sup>2</sup>

## Hook and Hastings opus 1751

has two manuals and pedal with 16 stops and 19 ranks of pipes. There are 1,016 pipes disposed in the following manner:

### GREAT

8'	Open Diapason	58 pipes
8'	Stopped Diapason	58 pipes
4'	Octave	58 pipes
4'	Flute	58 pipes
2'	Fifteenth	58 pipes
III	Mixture	168 pipes

### SWELL

16'	Bourdon	46 pipes
8'	Stopped Diapason	58 pipes
4'	Flute	58 pipes
2 2/3'	Nazard	58 pipes
2'	Principal	58 pipes
1 3/5'	Tierce	58 pipes
II	Sharp	116 pipes
8'	Oboe	46 pipes
	Tremolo	

### PEDAL

16'	Bourdon	30 pipes
8'	Principal	30 pipes

### COUPLERS

Swell to Great, Great to Pedal, Swell to Pedal



<sup>2</sup> <<http://museumofyesterday.org/saveorgans/tracker.htm>> (accessed September 16, 2022).

## Hook and Hastings Company.<sup>3</sup>

Pilgrim Congregational Church's organ began its life in 1897 at the Kendall Green (Weston) factory of the Hook and Hastings Company.

The company traces its origin to the 1820s when Elias Hook (1805–1881) and his brother, George G. Hook (1807–1880), sons of a prominent Salem cabinetmaker, began their apprenticeships with William M. Goodrich, considered the founder of the organ-building industry in Boston. The brothers formed the firm of E. and G.G.Hook in 1827, probably in their father's workshop. In 1832 they moved to a larger workshop in Boston. In 1854 they moved from their original workshop to a large new factory with steam-powered machinery in the Roxbury Crossing area of Boston. It became the largest organ factory in the country.

Francis Henry Hastings (1836–1916) joined the firm in 1855 at age 19. His mechanical ability and business acumen proved valuable and in 1866 the Hook brothers took him into the firm as a partner, later changing the name to E. and G.G. Hook and Hastings. After the death of the founding partners in the early 1880s, the company adopted the name Hook and Hastings. In 1889, the factory moved to former farm fields near the rail line in Kendall Green in Weston where it employed up to 1,700 people. Hastings desired to create both a harmonious workplace and community at Kendal Green. After Hastings's death in 1916, three long-time associates continued the business into the 1930s. The doors closed in 1935 and the factory was demolished in 1936.

In 108 years of operation in Salem, Boston and Weston, E. and G.G.Hook and Hook and Hastings produced an estimated 2,614 organs ranging in size from eight to 80 feet and costing from \$900 to \$40,000 or more.

Pilgrim's organ is Hook and Hastings opus 1751.

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3 This history of Hook and Hastings is adapted from Barbara Owen's contribution to "Mechanics Hall Worcester – History" <<https://www.hookorgan.org>>, and the Weston Historical Society's account of the Hook and Hastings factory at Kendall Green <<https://www.weston.org/1041/Hook-Hastings-Organ-Factory>> (both accessed September 16, 2022).