

**First Congregational Church
Nantucket, MA
Interior Repairs, Restoration and Conservation**

September 12, 2007 Revised June 13, 2008

**DMH Enterprises, Architects
104 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970
617-745-2172**

**Donald Mroz, Ph.D.
Waves of Change Partnership
268 Madaket Rd,
Nantucket, MA 02554
508-228-5398**

According to the CPC submission of 10/29/2007, the walls and ceilings were decorated in 1970 with trompe l'oeil painting. The submission identified the redecoration as “Major restoration, redecoration of interior with tromp l’oeil, and original ceiling reproduced.” The team was identified as W. Philip Graves, architect, Howard Jellome, contractor, and Artist Walter Sampson, who presumably was the painting contractor. The work was reportedly funded in part by “Nantucket Historical Trust assisted along with others.”

The following pages depict the images available at the HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey) web site

[The Library of Congress](#)



Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record



drawings



b&w photos



data pages

(If noted, names of photographers and date of creation are found in the photo caption pages.)







First Congregational Church, 62 Centre Street, Nantucket, Nantucket County, MA

Photographs 1 through 12 of 19

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For a larger reference image, click on the picture or text.

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 <p>1. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 EAST ELEVATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-1</p>	 <p>2. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer October 1966 EAST ELEVATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-2</p>	 <p>3. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 NORTH VESTRY AND CHURCH, SOUTHWEST ELEVATIONS HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-3</p>	 <p>4. Historic American Buildings Survey DETAIL OF SOUTH ELEVATION Jack E. Boucher, Photographer Nov. 1968 HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-4</p>
 <p>5. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer November 1968 DETAIL, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF CHURCH AND TOWER HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-5</p>	 <p>6. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 EAST ELEVATION, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-6</p>	 <p>7. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 INTERIOR, EAST END, BEFORE RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-7</p>	 <p>8. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 INTERIOR, WEST END, BEFORE RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-8</p>
 <p>9. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 VESTIBULE, BEFORE RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-9</p>	 <p>10. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON WEST WALL HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-10</p>	 <p>11. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, EAST END, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-11</p>	 <p>12. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON CEILING AND WEST WALL HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-12</p>

[The Library of Congress](#)



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First Congregational Church, 62 Centre Street, Nantucket, Nantucket County, MA

Photographs 13 through 19 of 19

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[13. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-13](#)



[14. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 VESTIBULE, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-14](#)



[15. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 VESTIBULE, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-15](#)



[16. Historic American Buildings Survey COPY OF STEREOPTICON BY J. FREEMAN, C. 1885, OF WEST WALL WITH ORIGINAL TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-16](#)



[17. Historic American Buildings Survey PHOTOCOPY OF PHOTOGRAPH, c. 1885 HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-17](#)



[18. Historic American Buildings Survey COPY OF STEREOPTICON BY J. FREEMAN, C. 1885. HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-18](#)



[19. Historic American Buildings Survey PHOTOCOPY OF AN UNSIGNED DRAWING OWNED BY THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, c. 1834 HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-19](#)

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Photographs 13 through 19 of 19

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1885, Sanctuary, looking west

16. Historic American
Buildings Survey COPY OF
STEREOPTICON BY J.
FREEMAN, C. 1885, OF
WEST WALL WITH
ORIGINAL TROMPE
L'OEIL PAINTING
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-16



**7. Historic American
Buildings Survey Cortlandt V.
D. Hubbard, Photographer
July 1966 INTERIOR, EAST
END, BEFORE
RESTORATION
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-7**

1966, Sanctuary, looking west

074346pv.jpg



**7. Historic American
Buildings Survey Cortlandt V.
D. Hubbard, Photographer
July 1966 INTERIOR, EAST
END, BEFORE
RESTORATION
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-7**

1966, Sanctuary, looking west

074347pu.jpg

MASS-902



**9. Historic American
Buildings Survey Cortlandt V.
D. Hubbard, Photographer
July 1966 VESTIBULE,
BEFORE RESTORATION
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-9**

074348pu.jpg

1966, Vestibule, looking north



**14. Historic American
Buildings Survey Jack E.
Boucher, Photographer
August 1970 VESTIBULE,
AFTER RESTORATION
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-14**

074353pu.jpg

1970, Vestibule, looking north



Church records indicate that the interior was painted in the trompe l'oeil manner in 1970, Artist Walter Sampson is recorded in the data and was presumably the artist who painted the interior. The c-1885 stereopticon by J. Freeman looks as if it was used for reference for the west wall.

10. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON WEST WALL HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-10

074349pu.jpg

1970, Sanctuary, looking south west



HABS
NO. MASS-902-

**13. Historic American
Buildings Survey Jack E.
Boucher, Photographer
August 1970 INTERIOR,
TROMPE L'OEIL
PAINTING
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-13**

074352pu.jpg

1970, Sanctuary, looking south west

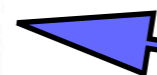


074351pu.jpg

1970, Sanctuary, looking south west

12. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON CEILING AND WEST WALL HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-12

074355pu.jpg



16. Historic American Buildings Survey COPY OF STEREOPTICON BY J. FREEMAN, C. 1885, OF WEST WALL WITH ORIGINAL TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-16





6-13-70 No. 17 MASS - 902

11. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, EAST END, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-11

074350pu.jpg

1970, Sanctuary, looking east



L1030675

**Photos of existing conditions
6/5/2008**

L1030676



L1030690

The central portion of the decoration may be rather early, as it appears to have been painted directly on wooden ceiling boards



L1030676

**Photos of existing conditions
6/5/2008**

The following pages depict existing conditions as of 2007 and recommendations for conservation/restoration.

Trompe l'oeil to be repainted or conserved, ceiling and walls

Appropriate handrails to be added to pulpit area

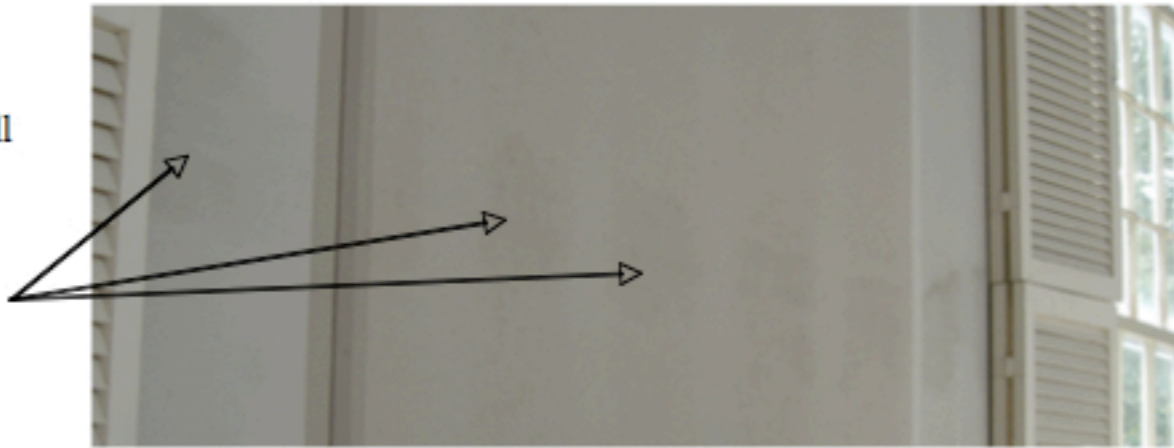


L1030232

Sanctuary, looking west

First Congregational Summer Church
Interior Pictures

Interior Wall
Mold and
discolored



Front
Inside
Church



Interior Cracks and Peeling



Detail of walls and decorative trompe l'oeil to be repainted or conserved.

Morz091107.003

First Congregational Summer Church
Interior Pictures



Interior Cracks and Peeling



Mold

**Detail of walls and
wooden paneling to be
repainted or conserved.**

Morz091107.002

First Congregational Summer Church
Interior Pictures
(Ceiling)



Ceiling behind
Organ in Summer
Church



Ceiling cracked and peeling

Window behind Organ facing
Center Street



**Detail of sanctuary
plaster rosette and ceiling
plaster behind organ to
be repaired.**

Morz091107.001

Interior of windows to be repaired and repainted



L1030184

Sanctuary, looking west

DSCN0570

Detail of window sash and frame deterioration at interior of sanctuary to be repaired and repainted.



DSCN0574



DSCN0572



DSCN0573

Narthex plaster wall and ceilings to be repaired and repainted



L1030211

Narthex, looking east



L1050475



L1030220

Two exterior side doors to be repaired and panic hardware installed

Exterior, south and north facades



L1030233

**Proper lighting to be installed in stair
areas of tower where public has access**

Tower interior, typical