

SHEPLEY BULFINCH RICHARDSON AND ABBOTT

ARCHITECTS

AMES BUILDING, BOSTON 8

HENRY R. SHEPLEY  
FRANCIS V. BULFINCH  
JOSEPH P. RICHARDSON  
LEWIS B. ABBOTT

TRINITY CHURCH REDECORATION, COMPLETED OCTOBER 10, 1957

Henry Richardson Shepley and I, Joseph P. Richardson, both grandsons of Henry Hobson Richardson and partners in the Firm which he founded, have on this day completed the interior restoration work on our grandfather's church.

My father, F. L. W. Richardson, H. H. Richardson's youngest son, who is still living, was christened by Phillips Brooks in the Church shortly after its opening in 1877; and Mr. Shepley's mother, Mrs. George F. Shepley (Julia Richardson) - the eldest daughter, still living - recalls accompanying her father, H. H. Richardson, and John LaFarge on the original staging while construction was going on.

It has always been a great disappointment to me that I never saw the Church in its original magnificence, illuminated by gas light. Unfortunately, in the electric-light era, the main central gas chandelier was removed and the gas jets throughout the Church abandoned. The intensity of the few chandeliers installed and particularly the central chandelier with its bare bulbs, made it impossible to see the richness of the walls and ceilings beyond. In addition, dust had drifted down from the top tower, obscuring the beauty of the LaFarge decoration.

In 1954, when Mr. Robert M. P. Kennard, Senior Warden, requested us to restore the interior of the Church to its original grandeur, we welcomed the challenge with enthusiasm. Mr. Shepley and I immediately visited Trinity with Mr. Kennard. We took with us a powerful search light, directed it into the gloom, and were all aghast at the beauty revealed, which had been obscured so long. The interior design and painting which came to view surpassed anything we could imagine, even from the descriptions written by our grandfather and Phillips Brooks.

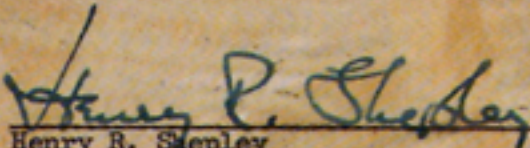
It was immediately evident to us that the proper way to light the Church was by even illumination, with the majority of the light directed upwards. This resulted in a solution which we hope still remains, upon discovery of this letter!

Before undertaking the lighting and the cleaning and restoration of decoration, it was necessary to seal the Church from the weather and the infiltration of dust. After completing the roof repairs and protecting the stained glass windows with plate glass, and after sealing the main tower and removing the antiquated heating system to eliminate the dust, we proceeded with the decoration. We were most fortunate in having Mr. Lewis F. Perry of the Edward K. Perry Company and his devoted craftsmen, Arthur H. Nyberg and Herbert F. Elliott, who are so adept in their trade and so ably duplicated the original craftsmanship.

During the progress of the work we had many consultations with the Vestry who were most appreciative and particularly the Rector, Dr. Theodore P. Ferris, who so courageously supported what initially appeared to be our revolutionary proposals.

10 October 1957

It is now 80 years since the Church was consecrated by Phillips Brooks, and it is our hope that this restoration will remain intact well into the 21st century. We are living in a most interesting period in the world's history, the Russian satellite "Sputnik", launched last week, having passed over this Church this morning at 6:40! We pray to God that, 80 years from now, in the year 2037, the horrors of intercontinental missile warfare be averted forever and the Church still standing.

  
Henry R. Shepley  
Joseph P. Richardson

THE INTERIOR OF TRINITY CHURCH WAS CLEANED AND RESTORED IN THE YEARS 1956 and 1957. THE ORIGINAL INTENTION HAD BEEN TO CLEAN AND RESTORE OR REPAINT THAT WHICH ALREADY EXISTED, BUT AS THE WORK PROGRESSED, IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND THE ORIGINAL DECORATIVE SCHEME. IN ADDING TO THE WORK OF RICHARDSON AND LaFARGE, HOWEVER, GREAT CARE WAS TAKEN TO RESPECT AND TO ADHERE CLOSELY TO THEIR AESTHETIC TASTES AND STANDARDS. IN THE MAIN, THE ADDED DECORATIVE WORK TOOK THE FORM OF STENCILLED DETAIL APPLIED TO THE SIDEWALLS AND SPANDRELS OF THE TRANSEPTS AND TO THE ORGAN PIPES IN THE WEST GALLERY. THERE WERE A FEW COLOR CHANGES, NOTABLY IN THE GREAT PIERS WHICH SUPPORT THE LANTERN AND WHICH WE BELIEVE WERE GREATLY ENHANCED BY BEING PICKED OUT IN RED AND GREEN IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN MORE NEARLY THE INITIAL COLOR SCHEME. MUCH OF THE PAINTING HAS BEEN DONE IN A TEMPERA TECHNIQUE; CASEIN WATER PAINT AND WHITE BEESWAX. THIS HAS BEEN DONE TO APPROXIMATE THE QUALITY WHICH LaFARGE ACHIEVED IN HIS MURALS BY THE USE OF ENCAUSTIC.

THE REDECORATION OF THE INTERIOR OF TRINITY CHURCH WAS EXECUTED BY THE FIRM OF EDWARD K. PERRY COMPANY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF THE ARCHITECTS, SHEPLEY, BULFINCH, RICHARDSON & ABBOTT, ALSO OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. MR. HENRY R. SHEPLEY AND MR. JOSEPH P. RICHARDSON, PARTNERS IN THAT ARCHITECTURAL FIRM, WERE GRANDSONS OF HENRY HOBSON RICHARDSON.

LEWIS F. PERRY OF CHESTNUT HILL, MASSACHUSETTS, TREASURER OF EDWARD K. PERRY COMPANY, UNDERTOOK THE COMMISSION; ARTHUR H. NYBERG OF EAST MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS, WAS THE FOREMAN AND GENERAL SUPERVISOR OF THE WORK; AND HERBERT F. ELLIOTT OF ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS, WAS THE CHIEF DECORATOR AND RESTORER.

THIS MEMORANDUM IS WRITTEN ON THIS SEVENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1957.

*Lewis F. Perry*  
Lewis F. Perry

*Arthur H. Nyberg*  
Arthur H. Nyberg

*Herbert F. Elliott*  
Herbert F. Elliott

WALTON DALTON

During the year 1957, when the tower of Trinity Church was renovated by Edward K. Perry Company, under the direction of Mr. Henry R. Shepley of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Hobott, Architects, the following persons held official positions in the Church Organization:

STAFF

Rev. Theodore Parker Ferris, D.D., Rector  
Rev. Gardiner H. Shattuck, Assistant Minister  
Rev. Samuel Tyler, Jr., Assistant Minister  
Rev. John Crocker, Jr., Assistant on Student Work  
Miss Carolyn J. Nichols, Associate in Student Work  
Mr. George Faxon, Organist and Choirmaster  
Mr. Thomas A. Gibson, Director of Christian Education and  
Boys' Work  
Mr. Alden B. Ackerman, Business Administrator  
Miss Ruth O. Cheyne, Rector's Secretary  
Miss Carolyn Samson, Financial Secretary  
Mrs. Millicent T. Furbish, Secretary  
Mrs. Robert Tillinghast, Secretary  
Mr. Malcolm D. MacLeod, Sexton  
Mr. Herbert W. Francis, Maintenance  
Mr. George Meloney, Maintenance  
Mr. Coleman Connolly, Maintenance  
Mr. James T. Curley, Watchman  
Mrs. Velda E. Rogers, Dietitian

VESTRY

Mr. Robert M. P. Kennard, Senior Warden  
Mr. Henry C. Everett, Jr., Junior Warden  
Mr. Franklin T. Pfaelzer, Jr., Treasurer  
Mr. F. Stanton Deland, Jr., Clerk  
Mr. Talbot C. Chase, Vestryman  
Mr. Alden B. Ackerman, Vestryman  
Dr. William Jason Mixer, Vestryman  
Hon. Channing H. Cox, Vestryman  
Dr. Henry F. Allen, Vestryman  
Mr. John Barker, Jr., Vestryman  
Dr. Lewis Perry, Vestryman  
Dr. Harold C. Stuart, Vestryman  
Mr. Wilmot T. Pope, Vestryman  
Mr. Philip H. Theopold, Vestryman  
Mr. J. Wade Miller, Jr., Vestryman

Painting & Decorating by the following  
men named below

Trinity Church in the City of Boston

Copley Square

Herbert F. Elliott Painter  
Arthur H. Nyberg "  
Mario Cianchi "  
Lawrence Whalen "  
Working for Edward K. Perry Co  
Boston  
Allen George FOREMAN  
Albert George Scaffold Builder  
John J. Kruskus "  
John P. Dooley " "  
Dubs Fabely " "  
John (Bud) Broderick "  
Hugh Quessy - carpenter  
Geo. O. Pomeroy Contractor  
Malcolm D. MacLean Sexton