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FACES & PLACES OF THE 1870's, continued

library even before it was dedicated in 1873.

Nickerson, Photographer

In March, 1873, Nathan Freeman, Esq. bought the residence of Capt. Whitman Freeman, razed the house and set carpenter Josiah Spow and his crew to work. Old and wealthy, Mr. Freeman wanted to create a living memorial to himself. In December of that year, in ceremonies held at the Center M.E. Church, he handed over the deed to the first Provincetown Library. Trustee Andrew T. Williams accepted it for the Town.

The Advocate for Oct. 29, 1873 says briefly, "Mr. Freeman's building begins to look as if it was nearly completed. The fence enclosing the grounds was erected last week, and Mr. Nickerson, the photographer, has moved in."

This was in keeping (if a bit forehanded) with provisions of the deed of gift. Nathan Freeman had stipulated that the first floor of his building would be a public library; the second floor would house the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA); the third floor would be rented.

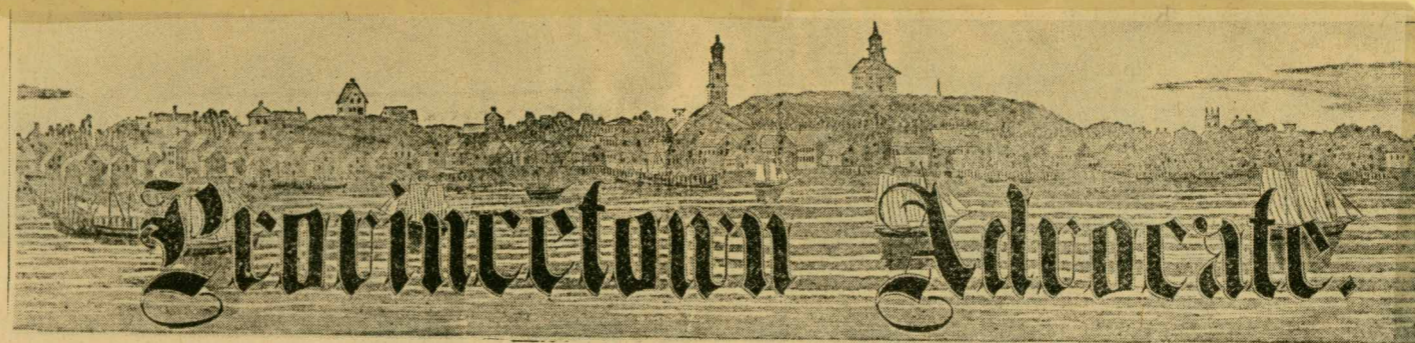
On November 4 The Advocate gave "Nickerson's New Photograph Saloon" a half-column of description and praise starting: "It is generally known that our popular Photographer, Geo. H. Nickerson, has leased the upper rooms in the new Library Building."

It ends thus: "Mr. Nickerson makes a specialty of the "Views of Provincetown" and his success in this particular was shown by the constant demand for them this summer by our summer visitors."



Unknown woman was pensive.

MISS CORA FULLER



First Advocate banner with waterfront scene, made from Nickerson photo.

# Library getting cupola

Anyone entering the Provincetown Library wouldn't recognize it. As the first step in the \$250,000 renovation of the 100-year-old building, the inside has been completely gutted.

There is an enormous square hole in the second floor ceiling, and a smaller hole in the roof. The roof will eventually contain a skylight, mirrored on four sides. Beneath it a strange structure is taking shape—a tall, truncated pyramid. Once completed, it will be hauled out of the roof by a crane and set in place as the building's new cupola. The third floor will comprise a balcony for the third floor reading room.

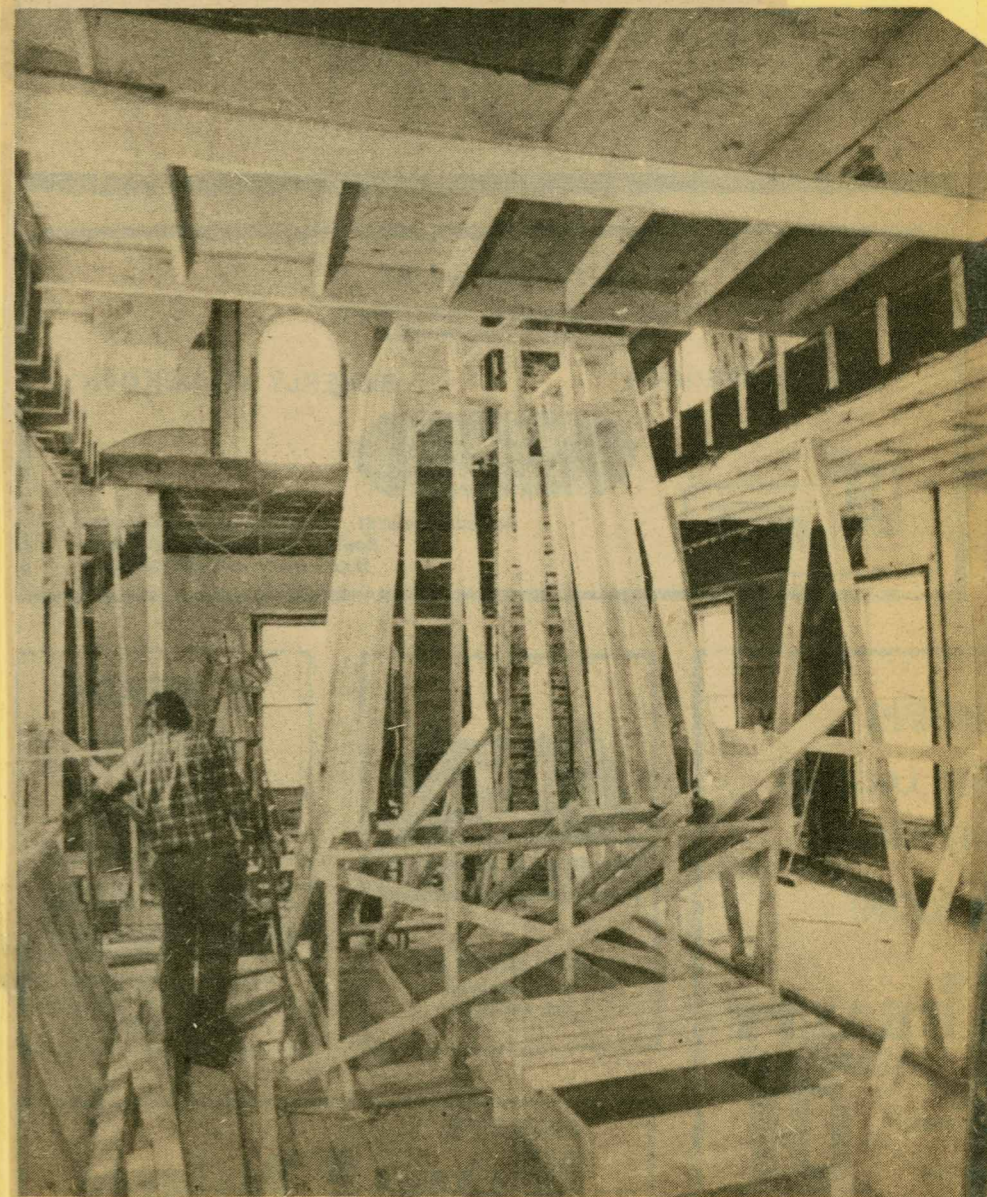
The building will get totally new lighting, heating and air conditioning throughout, a new entrance lobby, stairs and equipment for convenient book storage and processing.

Verne Verhulst, foreman of the three-man crew working from Atlantic Building Systems, said Tuesday the building will be a lot safer than it ever was, with a fire and smoke alarm system.

He was particularly proud of the planned book lift and the entrance ramp for the handicapped and seemed to have a real affection for the old building, which was named last year to the National Register of Historic places.

A three-story concrete-block addition adjoining the rear of the building will house fire stairs, toilets, book stands and staff work areas. Verhulst said the Atlantic is still looking for a local mason to subcontract the work.

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, February 19, 1976



Advocate photo by Alan Bernheimer

Paul Caprio works on cupola frame (center) inside library building.