

Historic Restoration and Soot Removal from New York Church

Restoration contractor uses Sponge-Jet® Sponge Blasting™ System to blast-clean soot and accumulated dirt from decorative sandstone walls and trim in deco-gothic church.



Church officials searched for a quick, dry, sensitive process that would remove fire damage and aged contaminants from walls, ceilings and trim of the New York City landmark.

A local area restoration contractor was hired to evaluate and determine the most effective process. In place of manual cleaning or pressure washing, the Sponge Blasting system was chosen, based on several process characteristics:

■ **Sensitive** - Project engineers were concerned with maintaining acoustical and structural properties of the sandstone block, so the cleaning process would have to be sensitive. Pliant Sponge Media products absorb collision impact at the surface, lowering damage or stress-cracking. This highly controllable process, by which the cleaning agent hits the surface, also limits damage to the acoustical nature of such substrates.

■ **Clean and Easy to Pick-up** - The church would remain functional, thus requiring a clean, quick to set-up and clean-up process. Porous Sponge Media abrasives, on surface impact, flatten and expose its bonded cleaning agent, trapping most of what would have become airborne dust. Therefore the process is easy to contain and quick to pick-up.

■ **Fast and Efficient** - Air-fed Sponge Blasting is normally faster than manual cleaning because of the uniformity of media spray and ease with which blasting occurs.

Due to the superior surface finish, additional areas were cleaned and the project was still completed on time. Church officials, engineers, and the contractor were surprised with the speed of cleaning and the return of the beautiful, brown sandstone color.

Visit Sponge-Jet, Inc. at www.spongejet.com or call **603-610-7950** to learn more about the Sponge Blasting™ System.