

*Pictures of the Past*

# Grace Chapel thrived during resort period

**Grace Chapel of Branford Point**

An Episcopal chapel once stood at 91 Harbor St. during the period when Branford was a thriving summer resort. Branford Point with its cottages and summer hotel attracted many vacationers.

The chapel was built in 1880 by Isaac Brown who was the sexton for 35 years of Grace Episcopal Church in New York City. Brown was also a yearly guest at the Branford Point Hotel and had the church built to provide a place of worship for

sailors and the summer population.

The chapel was constructed by Richard Bradley of Branford for Mr. Brown. It was a 25 by 40-foot structure, wood with a slate roof and could seat 100 people. Services were held every Sunday during the summer at 4 p.m. and ministers from the Branford Center churches or other guest pastors would preach. Rev. Arthur Chase who owned a cottage in what is now Parker Memorial Park frequently gave the sermon.

The chapel was dedicated in August 1880 and its full name was "Mission Chapel of Grace of the Parish of Trinity Church." Only a week after the dedication the chapel's mentor Isaac Brown died. Services would continue every year until the summer resort era began to wane. The church was last opened in 1919 for a baptism.

In 1925 the building was sold to Oscar Wadstrom. According to Episcopal rules the building had to be torn down since it

was no longer being used as a church. A new home was built on the site by Mr. Wadstrom using the original foundation and some of the building materials. The wood from a shed at the rear of the property was used by the boys of Trinity Church in Branford to make bird houses which they sold at the 1921 Trinity Fair. The home is still occupied to this day by members of the Wadstrom family.

Jane Peterson Bouley

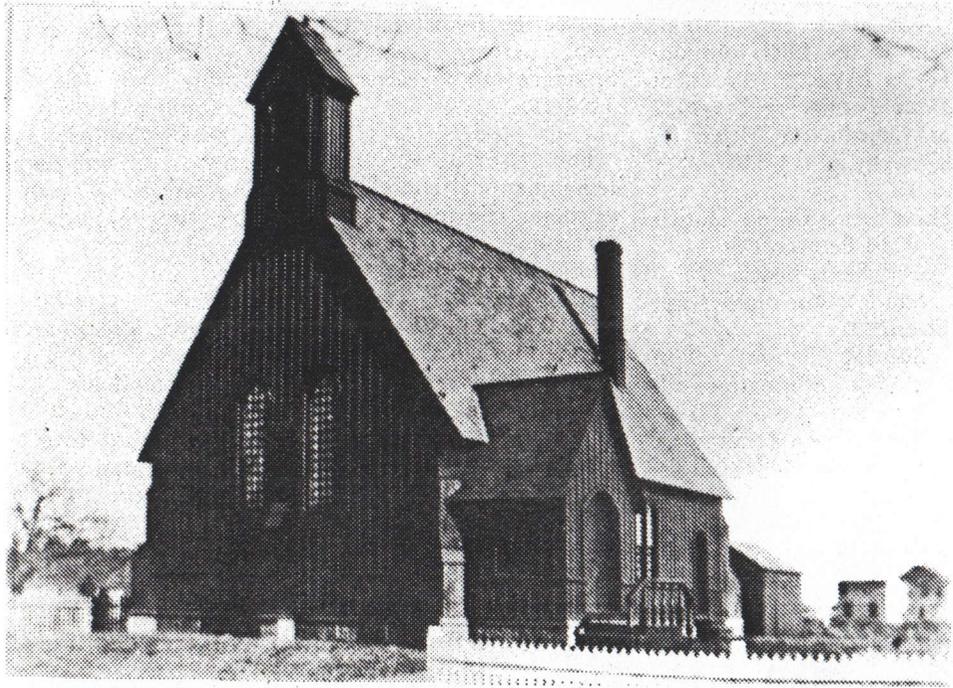


Photo courtesy of Trinity Church

*THE GRACE CHAPEL on Harbor Street, as it looked around the turn of the century.*