

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 103-05-0143
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

CI-10

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: 8/25/75

YOUR ADDRESS: Town Hall 655 Main St. Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751 TELEPHONE: 516-581-2000

ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning, Housing, & Development


IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Methodist Church
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Central Islip
- 3. STREET LOCATION: W. side of Wheeler Road between Oakdale St. & Storey Street.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Methodist Church ADDRESS: Same
- 6. USE: Original: Church Present: Church
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain _____

DESCRIPTION

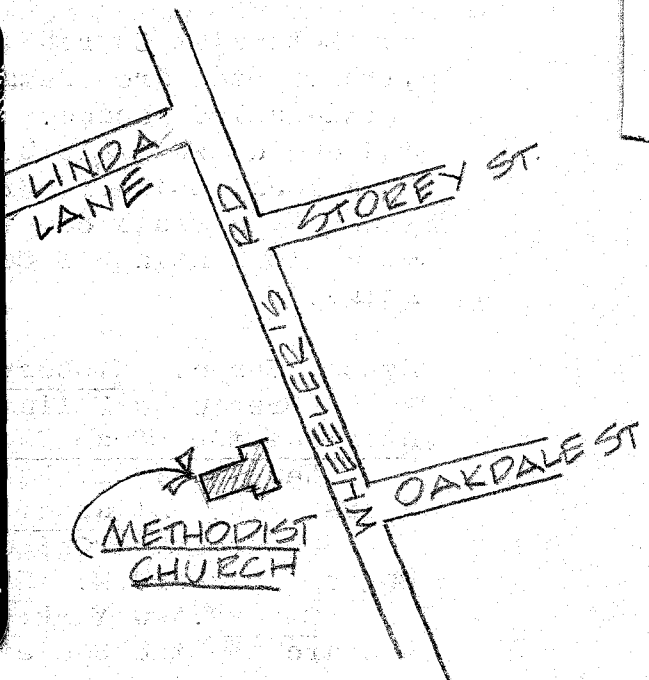
- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
Remodeled in 1939

12. PHOTO: Negative No. D-3

13. MAP: 



HP-1



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: Cemetery
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: Public buildings

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
The Methodist Church is located close to Wheeler Road and is surrounded to the rear and sides by a small cemetery.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
Gothic pointed arch doorway. Stained glass windows. Steeple with gothic arch and louvre panels. Original windows with gothic arched insets. Main body of church has gable roof. Front facade has flanking pavillions with cross gable hipped roofs. Cornerstones : 1870, & 1939.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1870

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
The Methodist Church is an interesting small vernacular church with pointed arch detail and an unusual one story symmetrical multi-gabled facade. The Church was originally built in 1870, and dedicated in 1872. It was remodeled and enlarged in 1938 by a local builder, Mr. Horberg. It is surrounded on three sides by a small cemetery. The Methodist Church can be located on an 1873 Atlas of Central Islip, as well as a later 1915 Atlas.

Dyson, Verne. History of Central Islip. Brentwood, N.Y.:

21. SOURCES: **Brentwood Village Press, 1954.**
Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County (Westerly Section)
New York: E. Belcher Hyde, 1915, Plates 6, & 25.

22. THEME: **Beers, F.W. Atlas of Long Island, New York: New York: Beers,**
Comstock, & Cline, 1873.

Bayles, Richard M. Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County. New York: Ira J. Friedman, 1962, p.206.

Research by the Society for the Preservation of L.I. Antiquities



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Planning DATE: 7/2/90
YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main St, Islip TELEPHONE: (516) 224 5450
ORGANIZATION (if any): _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Central Islip Methodist Church
2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Central Islip
3. STREET LOCATION: 58 Wheeler Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
5. PRESENT OWNER: Town of Islip CDA ADDRESS: 15 Shore Lane, Bay Shore
6. USE: Original: RELIGIOUS Present: VACANT
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: NE Explain Boarded up for protection

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):

1894 - addition built on back. Coal stove replaced by a hot air furnace, memorial windows built, and a bell installed.

12. PHOTO: _____ 13. MAP: _____
1938 - Basement enlarged, oil heating plant installed, "modern kitchen" built

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers e. deterioration
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
g. shop h. gardens
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: cemetery

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land b. woodland
c. scattered buildings
d. densely built-up e. commercial
f. industrial g. residential
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1870

ARCHITECT: Not known

BUILDER: Not known

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

21. SOURCES:

22. THEME:

We may add that the people of this village are strict adherents to temperance principles, and remarkably liberal in their support of public improvements and educational interests.

North Islip, formerly called Suffolk Station, is a railroad depot and post-office, one and a half miles east of Brentwood, in the midst of the plain. This was formerly the point of connection between stage and rail communication for the village of Islip, four miles south. It is about to be abandoned as a railroad depot, and a new one established at Central Islip in its stead.

About one mile further east, and mostly on the north of the railroad lies the village of Central Islip, another modern settlement which during a few years past has made considerable growth. It contains two churches, a store, school, burying-ground, and about fifty houses. The inhabitants are mostly settlers from abroad. An Episcopal chapel was built here in 1869. In ministerial service it is connected with St. Mark's church at Islip. A Methodist Episcopal church is centrally located, and was built in 1870: dedicated May 19, 1872.

1874

Lakeland is a railroad station, four and a half miles east of Central Islip, and near the angle of Brookhaven town. The settlement contains twenty-five houses, a store and post-office. Manufactories of tobacco and segars, and pearl buttons, have been established here within a few years past. The soil of the neighborhood is good for farming and gardening, and the surface level and beautiful, stretching back to the gentle hills that border the romantic Lake Ronkonkoma about a mile distant, on the north. This settlement was commenced

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THE DUTCH AND ENGLISH

THE WATER MILLS

Study

SUFFOLK COUNTY

pp. 16, 5

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L. Y.

Historical and Descriptive
Sketches

of

SUFFOLK COUNTY

with a

Historical Outline of Long Island

By RICHARD M. BAYLES

EMPIRE STATE HISTORICAL PUBLICATION XVII



IRA J. FRIEDMAN, Inc.
Port Washington, L.I., N.Y.

1962

Islip 4/18/74

SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWS

Carlton Ave.

Ancient

60 Years Ago - 1914

The News said in an advertisement, "Skepticism will give way to amazement next week at the Opera House when Edison's latest achievement in the form of singing, talking and laughing pictures will be shown here. The pictures are not only shown, but you hear every word, song and the patter of the dancers as each participant goes through the incidents as outlined by the producer."

The News said "Petitions have been circulated this week addressed to the Board of Supervisors asking them to have work started on the East Islip-Smithtown state road, which would be the only improved cross-island road in the township."

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico had been broken off and the two countries were practically at war.

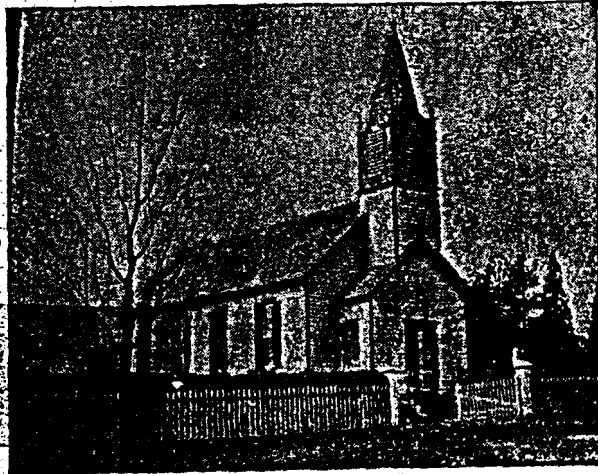
There was strenuous com-

copy for Carlton Ave. Roads

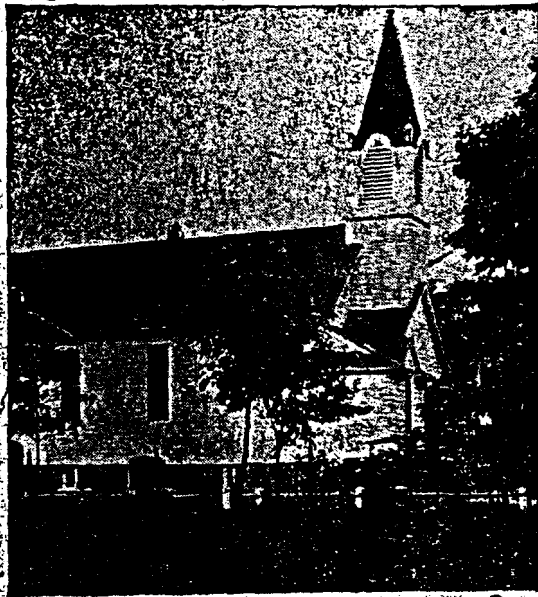
CARLETON AVENUE
AND WHEELER ROAD

WHEELER ROAD

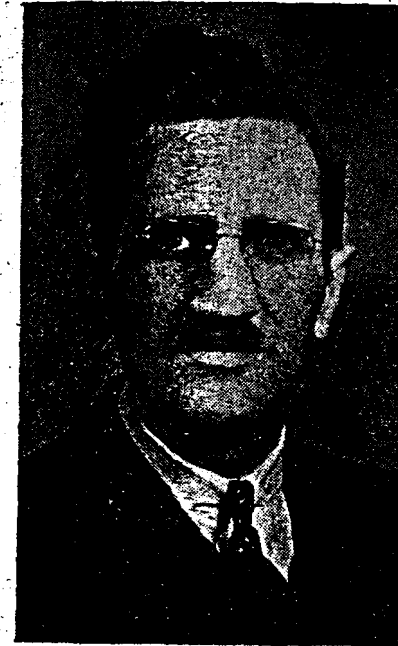
TWO VIEWS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH



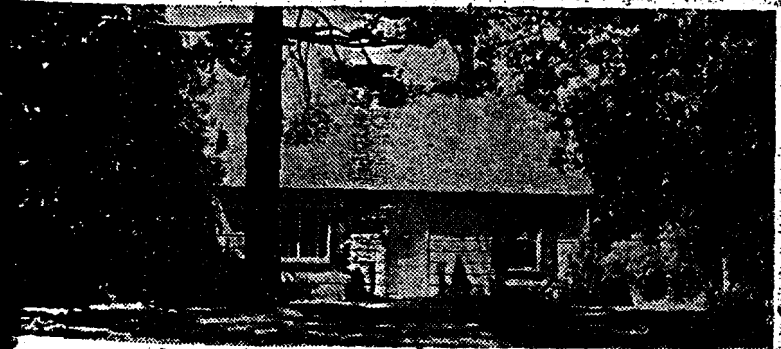
Without Corner Rooms and Showing Fence



The Present Building

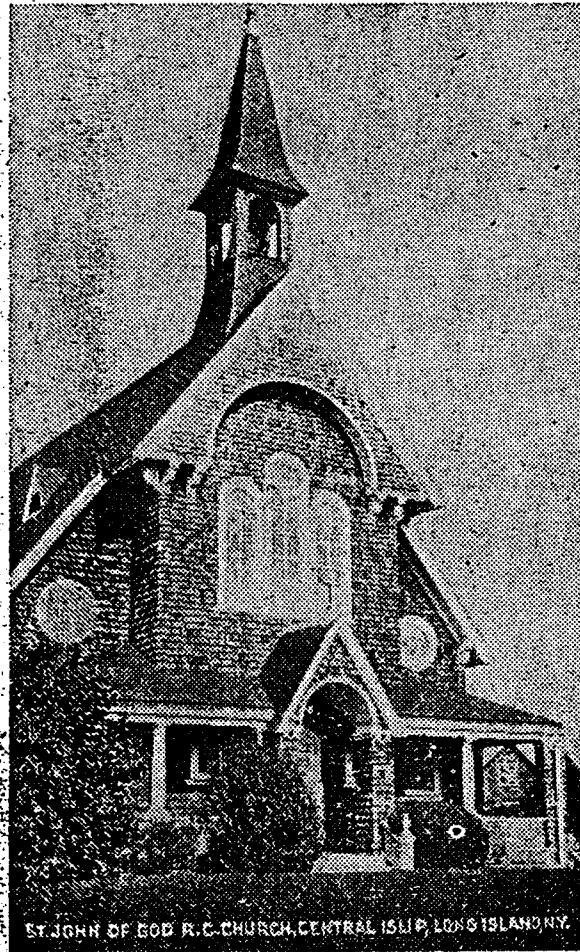


REV. BURDETTE SANFORD CLARK
Pastor of the First Methodist Church



THE METHODIST PARSONAGE, FORMERLY THE PARISH HOUSE





ST. JOHN OF GOD R. C. CHURCH, CENTRAL ISLIP, LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

ST. JOHN OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

gregation grew slowly. In 1890, when the house of worship was twenty years old, the membership amounted to only ten, with sixteen children in the Sunday School. Rev. James Hall was the first resident minister, arriving in April of that year and serving for one year. His death occurred on November 4, 1911.

Thomas Cornell, Sr., a local preacher of Hauppauge, was asked to take charge of the services in 1891, his salary to be \$200 a year; he served the Church for two different terms, often walking from Hauppauge. During his pastorate in 1894 an addition was built on the back of the original structure, the coal stove was replaced by a gas furnace, benches were replaced by chairs, memorial windows were installed in loving memory of Jane Corrigan and Elizabeth Holmes, a belfry built and a bell installed!

Rev. Herbert Marsland and his attractive young wife arrived in 1899 and served successfully for three years. The Ladies Aid Society met at the homes of members before the first recorded gathering, which was held on March 8, 1899, in the pastorate of Rev. Frederick Gunton. Seven women were present. The first officers were: Mrs. Henry Holmes, president; Mrs. Frederick Gunton, vice-president; Mrs. George Hubbs, secretary; Mrs. Orlando Hubbs, treasurer. The other members were: Mrs. Sophie Brinsley, Mrs. Abel Davis, and Miss Lottie Hubbs.

Mrs. George Graham Ayling joined the society when she was 13 years old and was a member for 45 years.

Rev. Ralph Waldo Thompson (1904-1907) was an enterprising pastor. While serving the local church and Hauppauge, he completed his medical studies and, after leaving Central Islip, began the practice of his profession in Cornwall-on-the-Hudson.

During the five years that Rev. George H. Allatt (1910-1915), served the local church and that of Hauppauge, a most delightful friendship and spirit of co-operation developed between the two congregations. In the fine tradition of the early Methodist ministers, the Rev. Mr. Allatt often walked the distance between the two churches of his circuit. The Hauppauge and Central Islip churches had been formed into a circuit in 1895, an arrangement which lasted to 1918.

The good minister who had gained a multitude of friends passed away April 18, 1918, at the parsonage in Hicksville. He was survived by his wife Ella; two sons, James of Farmingdale and Charles Hubert of Rochester; and two daughters—Ina May of Southampton, and Ruth Louise of Rochester.

The two Allatt daughters—Ruth and Ina May—participated in a double wedding on December 18, 1915, in the parsonage at Hicksville. Ruth, who has been a member of the choir in the Central Islip Methodist Church, married Raymond B. Hubbs, the church

organist; and Ina May was wedded to Henry Nenspiehl.

Ray Hubbs, a native of the village of Central Islip, became organist of the church in 1908. At a special ceremony in 1948 he was given a present to commemorate the completion of forty years of organ and piano playing in the church. Innumerable are the offerings held and the duties performed for the church by Mr. and Mrs. Hubbs in their long period of membership.

The fiftieth anniversary of the church was celebrated with a special service on September 12, 1920, during the pastorate of James V. Williams. That same year, George H. Hubbs gave a piece of property south of the school house for a parsonage. The old shed back of the church, a reminder of the horse and buggy days, was torn down and the plot presented to Hubbs as a family burial ground. Under the leadership of Ira P. Lent, chairman of the Board of Trustees, the parsonage was built.

Rev. William Dye and family came in November, 1926, while on furlough from missionary activities in India. Through his efforts much was accomplished; the parsonage mortgage was considerably reduced by George H. Hubbs; the church properties were incorporated; and Mr. Hubbs gave a third piece of property to the cemetery.

In the pastorate of Rev. Wayne Snider, the Men's Club was formed, June 13, 1929, at the home of Chester H. Beebe, with fourteen charter members. Raymond B. Hubbs was chairman. The officers elected were: Mr. Beebe, president; George Graham Ayling, vice-president; Harold F. Crozier, secretary; and Wilford B. Brown, treasurer. The charter members were: Raymond B. Hubbs, Robert Scott, Frank B. Martin, Rev. Wayne Snider, Chester H. Beebe, Wilford B. Brown, George Graham Ayling, Chester F. Kelly, Dan Cordingley, Chris J. Wohlfarth, Harold F. Crozier, James Ashour, Harry P. Schnizer, and Norman F. Mason.

In 1951 the club sponsored the publication of a History Directory of the First Methodist Church. Profits amounting to \$100 were turned over to the church building fund. The editorial committee was composed of Verne Dyson, chairman; Robert H. Schmitt, William Zimmerman, E. Eugene Hughes, and Everett J. Sadding.

In 1953 the organization changed its name to Methodist Men and became affiliated with the Department of Methodist Men in the Methodist Church. Early in 1954 the club began preparations to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in June.

During the pastorate of Rev. Asbury G. E. Stromberg (1937-1939), Miss Phoebe Holmes bequeathed \$5,500 to the church; a plot of ground with a frontage of 160 feet, adjoining the parsonage on Wheeler Road for a parish house; and cancelled a mortgage remaining on the parsonage. A bronze plaque on the wall at the front of the church auditorium now bears this inscription:

"In Loving Memory of Miss Phoebe Holmes, whose generosity made possible the reconstruction of this church as a memorial to the families of George H. Hubbs and Henry Holmes."

Rev. Miller F. Timbrell became pastor in June, 1938. Under his able leadership the work of remodeling, enlarging, modernizing, and beautifying the church went forward. The building was lifted off its foundation and the basement enlarged to full size. An oil heating plant was installed, and a modern kitchen built.

After a pastorate of ten years, Rev. Mr. Timbrell left the church in June, 1948. In a letter from High Ridge, N. J., dated February 7, 1953 and addressed to Rev. James L. Rhinesmith, Mr. Timbrell called attention to these facts of church history which he thought should be recorded:

The pulpit was made and presented to the church by Harold Dujat.

The pews and cushions came from the Simpson Methodist Church in Brooklyn at a nominal price of \$50.

Charles Eldridge made a bequest to the church of \$1,700 out of which the sound recorder and record player were purchased.

The work of repairing and redecorating the sanctuary was done by members of the Men's Club.

The two stained glass windows at the front of the church were presented by Mr. Horberg, the architect and contractor who remodeled the church.

One of the few events which occurred in the brief pastorate of Rev. John J. Buchanan was the organization of the present choir in August, 1948. Mrs. Benjamin Corey, a talented singer and former associate of Ernestine Schumann-Heink, the noted opera star, was the first director of the choir. She gave the group a good start on the road to success. Mrs. Georgiana Smith has been the capable leader of the choir for five years; she also is a soloist of much charm. Mrs. Ruth May Rhodes is the faithful organist.

The church continued to grow and prosper under the leadership of Rev. William Franklin Smith and his attractive wife, Barbara (1948-1951). The finances of the church were strengthened, making it possible to increase the pastor's salary.

The large and tearful farewell party given to Rev. and Mrs. William F. Smith, was shortly followed by an equally large and enthusiastic reception to welcome the new pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. James J. Rhinesmith, in September, 1951.

Mr. Rhinesmith initiated a youth program consisting of a Junior High Fellowship, with Mrs. Ann Firko as advisor, and a Senior High Fellowship which has Elbert Ayling as advisor. He establish-

ed a Sunday evening devotion hour which proved to be popular.

Pastor Rhinesmith was a fine preacher and an able executive. A tall, strong man, he had boundless energy and drive. He accomplished much. The outstanding achievement of his administration was the acquisition of the house and lot at 34 Wheeler Road, joining the church property on the north. It was first used as parish house, and under the supervision of Mrs. Eleanor Rhinesmith, the wife of the pastor, who was a trained and experienced social worker, a much-needed day nursery was established there. Over flow classes from the church school met there on Sundays, and the Men's Club and other organizations also held their meetings there. The pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Rhinesmith ended May 17, 1953.

The new pastor who came to the church in the spring of 1953 was the Rev. Burdette Sanford Clark. The zeal and eloquence of his sermons, backed by his personal sincerity and friendliness, quickly brought him many friends.

The minister is a native of Bridgeport, Conn., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elford L. Clark. The family moved to Stratford, Conn. in 1919 where young Clark was graduated from high school in 1937. It was then that he began a varied career as student, business man and minister of the gospel. His life for ten years or more was a surprising mixture of these elements, centering finally upon the ministerial.

For five years, Mr. Clark, was employed by Sears, Roebuck & Co., and Montgomery Ward in their retail stores. For an equal length of time he was precision inspector for the Underwood Corporation, General Electric, and General Motors. Then for two years he was in business for himself as a personnel director and business consultant.

Mr. Clark gave up business to attend Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., for two years, majoring in economics and sociology. Then came one year at Drew University, Madison, N. J. College work was completed at the Central Michigan College of Education, Mount Pleasant, where he took an A.B. degree in 1945.

Mr. Clark prepared for the ministry at the Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, Pa., and the Garrett Biblical Institute of the Methodist Church at Evanston, Ill., where he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1951.

On February 24, 1944, the Rev. Mr. Clark went to the Heights Methodist Church, Houghton Lake, Michigan. He served three churches in that state. In October, 1951, he was transferred to the Wesley Methodist Church, Bridgeport, Conn., and from there to the First Methodist Church of Central Islip, May 24, 1953.

The minister and Miss Alice W. Green, daughter of the

Rev. George W. Greene, a Methodist circuit rider, and Mrs. Lydia C. Green, were married January 1, 1942, in Indianapolis, Md. They have two daughters, Adelle Cornelia, born December 27, 1944, in Mount Pleasant, Mich., and Rosemary Jane, born December 7, 1946, in Muskegon, Mich.

The pastor and his pleasant family were faced with near-tragedy on October 14, 1953, when the church parsonage caught fire and was partly destroyed. Starting from an unknown cause in the basement the flames spread rapidly through the two-story building. His wife, Alice, who happened to be on the ground floor escaped without difficulty. Their two daughters were in school. The house was filled with blinding smoke when Rev. Clark helped Mrs. Green, his mother-in-law, descend from the upper floor.

The family was left homeless with most of their clothing and much of the pastor's library destroyed. The Clarks and Mrs. Green were given shelter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Graham Ayling where they remained until living quarters were provided.

In the crisis, the trustees of the church at once called a meeting of the congregation. James Christian, president of the board, presided. The response was immediate and generous. Money was contributed to replace the clothing and personal effects lost in the fire, and it was decided to transform the newly acquired parish house into a parsonage. The necessary alterations were begun at once and most of the labor was donated by the men of the church. In a few days the pastor and his family were able to move in.

The Catholic Church

The Catholic church has made phenomenal progress in this region in the last half century. Peter Ross in his *History of Long Island* (1902) says: "Up to eight or nine years ago a Catholic was almost unknown in Brentwood. Now they are quite numerous." This same observation might with equal truth be applied to Central Islip. Catholic history in the two villages follow parallel lines.

The St. John of God Parish was at first a part of the Parish of St. Anne in Brentwood. The latter had its beginning on July 3, 1895, when mass was celebrated in a room in the Quanahassett Hotel. The Most Reverend Charles E. McDonnell, Bishop of Brooklyn, approved the formation of the desired parish and, in October, appointed Rev. Henry Murray to take charge of it. This good priest collected sufficient money to build the church, the present St. Anne's.

Father Murray was succeeded in 1897, by Rev. John M. Kiely who was a pastor of St. Anne's until 1911. Father Kiely supervised the building of the St. John of God Church in Central Islip. The corner stone was laid, July 5, 1903, by Bishop McDonnell, assisted by Vicar General McNamara, and the church building completed in the following year. Rev. Nicholas Keating was appointed as

chosen was on the corner of Brightside and Carleton Avenue where Frank Hocker had an ice plant for many years. The site had originally been owned by a Gissell family whose old home had been the parsonage since 1917. An oblong building was moved from Nicholl Road to serve as The Parish Hall, then the church was covered with stucco. A fence enclosed the complex which has weathered the storms of half a century. Rev. John Tilley became pastor on April 15, 1917. He was highly respected and loved for his spirit of ecumenism and humanism toward all regardless of race, creed or color during his 25 years of faithful service.



Methodist Church on Wheeler Road in 1870

Both Episcopal and Methodist Congregations were established almost simultaneously and led to a spirit of ecumenism between the followers of Westly and those of the Anglican group. It was a spirit that strengthened both young Congregations. In 1869 William Sheppard came to the village fired with zeal for the spread of Methodism. Converted at a meeting in Jamesport, Long Island, he brought Methodism to Central Islip while developing the property he bought on East Suffolk Avenue.

In October 1869 a school-house meeting was held and George K. Hubbs donated one plot for the cemetery and church which was erected at a cost of \$1,500 of which Sheppard contributed \$900. While under construction, services were held on alternate Sundays, in the schoolhouse, with the Episcopal Congregation. Mary Bridger was a long-time

organist for both Congregations. By 1890 the membership reached 10 families with 16 Sunday School Children. Rev. James Hall was 1st resident pastor. The Ladies Aid Society was founded in 1899 and the Men's Club in 1929. Among the pioneer parishioners were Hubbs, Sheppard, Lowton, Stokes, Saddington, Slater, Holmes, Crozier, and Cordingley.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE

Education had its roots in a one-room schoolhouse over the carpenter shop and home of Thomas E. Bridger in 1857 with Catherine Homan as teacher of 15 pupils. Among our earliest teachers were Lottie Hubbs, daughter of the Senator and Bernice Monk who served over fifty years. In 1860 George K. Hubbs presented one acre of land at the present Alfano School site to Union Free Common School District #13 then Smith R. Rippingale was awarded the contract to construct a brick school which was formally opened in September 1861.



The little Schoolhouse of 1861

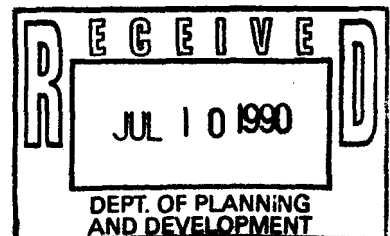
CENTRAL ISLIP: PROPERTY TYPE; CHURCHES

One of the Town of Islip's property types of which many significant examples remain is churches.

Midway in the context of the church buildings in the Town of Islip is the Methodist Church in Central Islip. Here we have a community that was established in the pine barrens and settled by immigrants from Europe. The fact that the Methodist Church was constructed in the early decades of that settlement and that the structure was a most ambitious one for such a modest community is substantial evidence in itself that this building is worthy of recognition.

From the earliest ^{church}, which is the 18th century in Oakdale, thru the mid-nineteenth century ^{churches} such as the Episcopal Churches in West Islip, Brentwood, the former Presbyterian church in Holbrook, etc., etc., and the handsome structures erected in the last quarter of the 19th century for the estate/resort hamlets of which St. Marks is the most outstanding, (although they are all magnificent), to the important 20th century structures some post-dating World War II, - Islip has a wide variety of important religious structures that for the most part completely retain their integrity.

The C.I. Methodist church building
could be relocated in the
context of Churches in Islip.



the executive committee. One of his former Sunday School pupils, Richard Timm, will succeed Mr. O'Donohue as the new treasurer.

A reception, sponsored by the Executive Committee and Lay Guild of the church, was given for Mr. O'Donohue in the Parish Hall. Rev. Lloyd Ballinger, priest in charge of the church and master of ceremonies for the evening's program, addressed some remarks to O'Donohue on behalf of the congregation. He then called upon the Rev. John Tilley, priest in charge of the church for a quarter of a century, to present a gift to Mr. O'Donohue from the congregation in recognition of his years of faithful service. This was a beautiful set of monogrammed cuff links.

George MacDonald, secretary of the Executive Committee, then read and presented to Mr. O'Donohue a framed testimonial scroll signed by members of the Executive Committee, and recording the church's appreciation of Mr. O'Donohue's many years of service in different official capacities.

Mrs. George H. Randall, chairman of the committee on arrangements, then presented to Mrs. O'Donohue, a gift from the ladies of the church, in appreciation of her long and faithful service.

The First Methodist Church

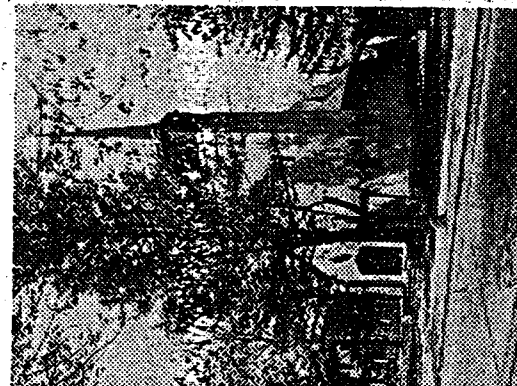
The Episcopal and Methodist churches in Central Islip were established at almost the same time—both in the latter part of 1869. On October 2, Henry Holmes gave a building site to the Episcopal Church. Nine days later on October 11, a group of villagers met at the school house and voted to organize a Methodist Church. On November 1, George K. Hubbs gave the followers of Wesley one acre of ground for a church building and cemetery. At the meeting held on the 11th, the Rev. Daniel Jones was chairman, and William Sheppard was chosen secretary. Three trustees were elected: Sheppard, Joseph Box, and George Lowton, Sr. Others who shortly joined in the founding of the Methodist Church were William Stokes, George Saddington, and James Slater.

The corner stone of the church was laid on September 13, 1871, with Rev. L. I. Weed of John Street Church, New York City, officiating. Rev. Daniel Jones preached the sermon. The original church was a box-like structure without a belfry. It cost about \$1,500. William Sheppard subscribing \$900 of this amount.

While the church building was under construction, services were held in the school house every other Sunday, the Episcopalians holding their services there on the alternate Sundays. The close and friendly co-operation between the two congregations which existed for many years, was most admirable. Miss Mary E. Bridger served as organist for both churches, and a group of young people from the Church of the Messiah led the singing at the Methodist Church.

During the first several decades of the church's history, the con-

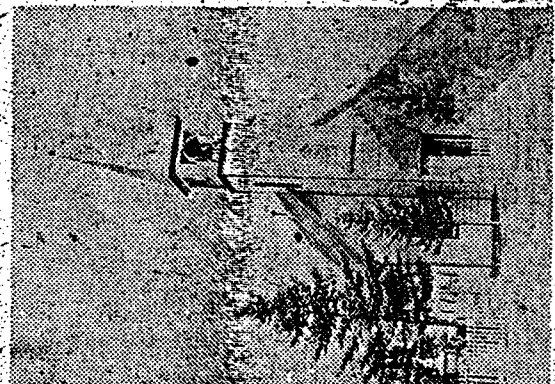
THREE PHASES OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



THE PRESENT CHURCH



WITHOUT STEEPLE



ORIGINAL BUILDING