

I-20

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. 103-05-0237
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

JUN 21 1977

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: 2 September 1976
Town Hall
YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main Street TELEPHONE: 516 581-2000
Islip, L.I.; N.Y. 11751
ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning, Housing & Development

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Rectory
2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN: Islip CITY: Islip VILLAGE: _____
3. STREET LOCATION: 754 Montauk Highway Hwy
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
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: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____

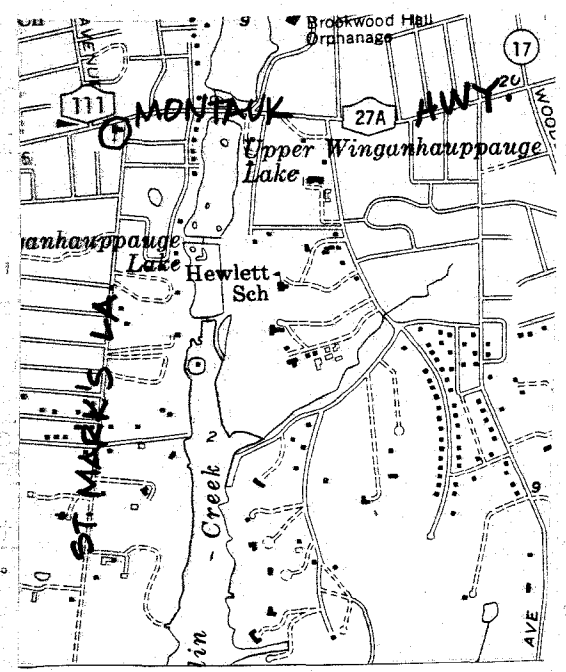
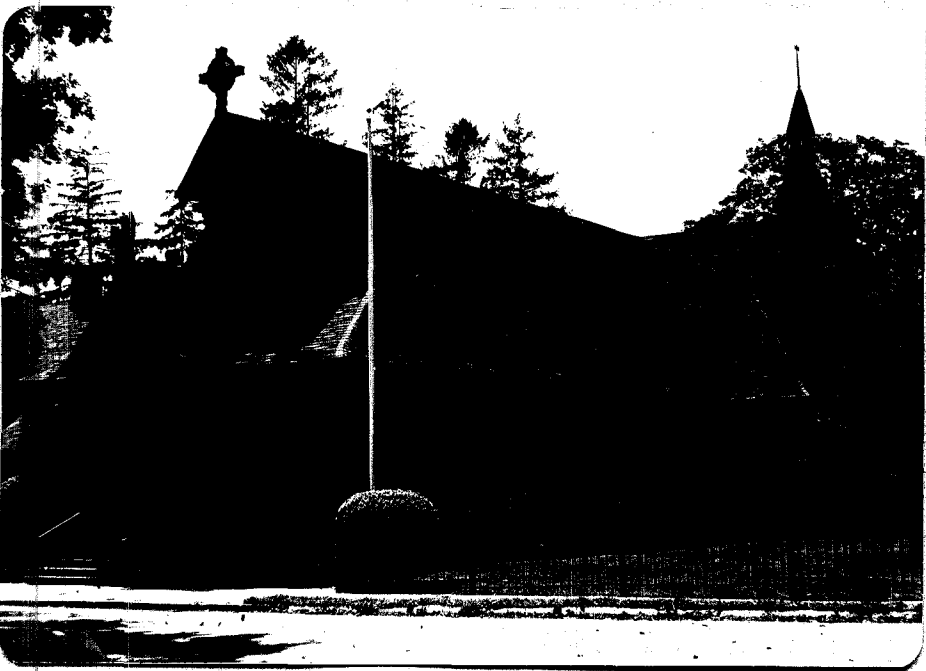
*Destroyed by fire c. 1992
Completely rebuilt/restored.*

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): Addition in 1890, also gift of Mr. Vanderbilt. Electricity installed in 1927.

ROLL ISL-BAN-I-20
NEGATIVE I-20
LOOKING SW

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



NEGATIVES DEPOSITED AT
SOCIETY FOR PRESERVATION OF
L. I. ANTIQUITIES

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: Parish house and Rectory

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)
Town of Islip approved St. Mark's Church as a Town Landmark 5/22/75.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known): Norwegian Dragon Style structure; cast iron fence; fishscale shingles; corbelled brick chimney. Parish house built 1890. Tiffany windows 1878.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1880

ARCHITECT: Richard Morris Hunt

BUILDER: Commissioned by William K. Vanderbilt

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
St. Mark's Episcopal Church was organized in 1847. The present building was designed by Richard Morris Hunt, and was commissioned to be built by William K. Vanderbilt, in 1880. The parish house was designed by a prominent Sayville architect, I. H. Green. The old St. Mark's Church was moved to East Islip and is now St. Mark's Hall.

1915 map: St. Mark's Church, 2 1/2 story Parish House, 2 1/2 story Rectory. The design of St. Mark's Church is in the Dragon Style of Norway, where logs were used, along with stave-church and farmhouse motifs.

American & Architectural Bldg. News, v. 7, p. 58, pl. 216, Feb. 14, 1880.

Hyde, E. Belcher. Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk Co., L.I.

21. SOURCES: Westerly Section. Brooklyn-Manhattan, 1915.

American Architect & Building News, Vol. 7, p. 58, pl. 216, Feb. 14, 1880.

Kidney, Walter C. "The Dragons and the Swiss: An Earlier International Style?" Nineteenth Century, Vol. I, No. 4, Winter 1975, p. 25, 27.

22. THEME: Ross, Peter. History of Long Island. Vol. I. The Lewis Publishing Co., 1902.

Research by: Society for the Preservation of L. I. Antiquities
Barbara Nadel, Research Assistant

I-20A



ST. MARK'S RECTORY
16 ST. MARK'S LANE
ISLIP, N.Y.

ROLL ISL-BAN-I-20A
NEGATIVE I-20A
LOOKING NW
AUGUST 1976

Died Oct. 8, 1860
Age 67 yr, 6 mo, & 8 days
Our Father

Lawrence Edwards chartered a sailing vessel and came from Barbadoes and settled in Bayport. He was a large land owner and as there was another Edwards family in Sayville, Lawrence always used the expression that is on his tombstone. He was my wife's great grandfather.

Another epitaph appears on the tombstone of James M. Terry:

"Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh, . . . Matthew 25, Chap. 13th Verse."

The first cemetery used by the Nicoll family in the part of the grant, known as "Islip Grange" was from about 1770 to 1820 and the last one to be buried there was Deborah Seaman Nicoll, wife of William Nicoll the sixth. This cemetery is located at a spot near the northeast part of Heckscher State Park, and efforts are now being made to have a State Historical Marker placed at the site.

The historic church of St. John's at Oakdale now stands as a landmark, and part of the tradition of our American heritage.

In Prime's history of Long Island, dated 1845, two churches are mentioned as being in the Town of Islip—the Methodist Church in Mechanicsville (Bay Shore) and old St. John's Episcopal Church in Oakdale. It was in 1847 the next Episcopal Church was built in the town. This was St. Mark's in Islip. The building was located on the same corner as the present church—St. Mark's lane and the Montauk hwy.

The cornerstone of the first edifice is dated July 4, 1847. It rests on top of the cornerstone of the present church. At a meeting held Nov. 15, 1847 and called by the Rev. William Everett of St. John's, Oakdale, the following were chosen wardens: Harvey W. Vail and Herman Leroy. Vestrymen named were John D. and Edwin A. Johnson, Harry Cook, James H. Carll, Peter R. Crandall, Wilmot Scudder, Platt Vail and Jonanthan Small.

The first resident rector called to St. Mark's was the Rev. James W. Coe on June 29, 1848. The church was incorporated on Sept. 16, 1850. The Rev. Henry M. Davis was the second rector, and was called in July of 1852. In 1859 the first rectory was built and in April of 1861 the Rev. Reuben Riley succeeded the Rev. Davis.

Rev. Riley remained in charge of the parish until 1889 and it was during this period (1880) the present church was built, through



the generosity of William K. Vanderbilt, and the addition ten years later was also the gift of Mr. Vanderbilt. Mr. Vanderbilt gave the church with the understanding the parish should build a new rectory. The church construction cost \$15,892, and the rectory \$4,695. Members of the church who contributed heavily to the cost of the rectory were George L. Lorillard, Frank C. Lawrance, sr., Benjamin Welles and son, H. B. Hollins, Bradish Johnson, sr., Rowland Redmond, H. Duncan Wood, Henry B. Hyde, John H. Vail, James Bankard, George W. Hall, Frederick Neilson, Charles H. Sackett, William Osgood, C. R. Roberts, Charles Redmond, William Barclay Parsons and J. Morgan Slater.

From the sale of old material and the old church building, another sum of \$559.80 was realized. The old church was sold at auction on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 1879 at 11 a. m. The old church building became the nucleus of the present St. Mary's Hall in East Islip.

At that time, incidentally, St. Mark's lane was known as Johnson ave.

The original corner property was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey W. Vail. In 1879, Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Thompson gave an additional 16,000 square feet. In 1890, another parcel of land was bought from the estate of Dr. Thompson for \$5,000.

When the present rectory was built, the old rectory was sold and became a part of what is now the East Islip Hotel, conducted for a long time by Frank Markvart. It was greatly altered when once it was used for other than ecclesiastical purposes.

The church was consecrated June 22, 1880, by the first bishop of Long Island, Bishop Littlejohn. At this service, the choir of Trinity Church of New York took part, through the efforts of John D. Prince. On June 19, 1880, the Rev. Riley and his family moved into the new rectory—the present one, by the way—after it had been beautifully furnished as a gift of the following women: Mrs. John D. Prince, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Mrs. H. B. Hollins, Mrs. Frank C. Lawrance, sr., Mrs. Bradish Johnson and Mrs. Charles H. Sackett.

Next minister to answer the call at this church was the Rev. Henry R. Freeman. At the end of three years, the Rev. Ralph L. Brydges came to St. Mark's (1892-1908), and then the Rev. William H. Garth.

The next in charge of the parish was the Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft from 1934 to 1939. The Rev. Newell D. Lindner was the rector from 1939 to 1949, serving part of the time in the U. S. Navy as a chaplain. Since 1949, the Rev. Frederick R. Isacksen has been in

charge. The present vestry consists of Buell Hollister, senior warden; Robert J. Bartley, junior warden; Thomas C. Merrick, clerk; Gerard Hallock, treasurer; and W. Kingsland Macy, Charles D. Webster, Harry B. Hollins, jr., William F. Prescott, J. Fred Cordes, Stanley Carrington and James MacIntosh.

The achitecture of most churches built on Long Island are characteristic of the period in which they were constructed. This, however, is not true of St. Mark's Church, Islip. The famous Richard M. Hunt was the architect and he used a theme of Norwegian design. The building in Norway from which he got his inspiration is undoubtedly that of the Norwegian Church near the Sogne Fjord in Norway. This type of wooden structure dates back to the 11th century, and the profile of St. Mark's is almost a replica of the design.

Other buildings of the parish follow the same plan, and therefore there is a unique group of buildings surrounded by evergreens, creating a beautiful scene.

For many years, the lamps in the church—donated by James Whitely were lighted by kerosene. Later, after alterations, gas was used for the lighting. In 1927, electric lights were installed.

In 1890, when the church was enlarged through the gift of Mr. Vanderbilt he stipulated that all new pews would be free. This of course is a figure of speech since all who worship in a church do contribute to maintain it.

The open porch to the church was enclosed in 1927 through the efforts of Bayard C. Hoppin. In the vestibule hangs the original bell that was used until 1920 when the belfry was added on and a new bell installed. The old bell and the first cornerstone are the only links of a material nature with the early days of the parish.

A vested choir was organized in 1909 through the efforts of the rector along with Mrs. H. B. Hollins and W. K. Vanderbilt. For several years the choirmaster was Dr. G. Edward Stubbs of Trinity Parish, New York. For a long time, Mrs. Sophia Worder officiated as "choir mother" and her assistance was indeed very beneficial.

BUILD PARISH HOUSE

It was on July 24, 1890, that a meeting of the Pew Holders was held at the residence of H. H. Hollister, at which time committees were appointed and I. H. Green of Sayville was selected as architect for the purpose of building a parish house. The contract was awarded to George B. Howell, and the building was dedicated on the evening

of Oct. 26, 1891. The principal address was made by the Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, one of the noted orators of that time.

The memorial windows in the church are probably the greatest attraction to visitors. Many articles in the church were given as memorials, but the most prominent of these are the windows.

I think it proper to mention that the Cathedral of the Incarnation at Garden City has 70 beautiful stained glass windows and like the windows in St. Mark's, they are symbolic of the era of Christianity.

Up to 1865 the Episcopalians residing in Sayville worshipped at St. John's in Oakdale. It was on March 14, 1866, that land was purchased in Sayville, by the Rev. Charles Douglas, Rector of St. John's Church, and John R. Suydam.

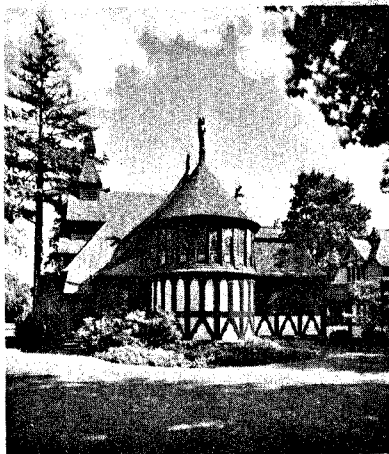
A wooden building was erected in 1866 and named St. John's Academy. This building was used as a day school and on Sunday for divine service. In 1867 the name was changed to St. Barnabas Chapel. On July 13, 1873 the Rev. John H. Prescott was sent by Bishop Littlejohn of Long Island as the resident minister of the parish and of St. Paul's, Patchogue. Under date of April 30, 1874, the name of St. Barnabas was changed to St. Ann's which appears in the Certificate of Incorporation. This change of name was at the request of John R. Suydam.

In 1875 the parish was admitted into the union with the convention of the Diocese of Long Island in 1875. It was on Oct. 27, 1878 that the church was consecrated and in the autumn of 1887 the old wooden church was moved to the rear of the property and a stone church was built upon the original site, the gift of Walter L. Suydam and Helen Suydam Cutting. On June 15th, 1896, the following appeal was sent to all those interested in St. Ann's.

"The friends of St. Ann's Church at Sayville, L. I., for the past two years have by their gifts enabled the Vestry to avoid holding a fair and this letter is addressed to you in the hope that you will enclose this year as much as you are able in the envelope herewith and send to the Rector that there may be money enough to support the services of the church for your benefit and that of others."

Sincerely yours,

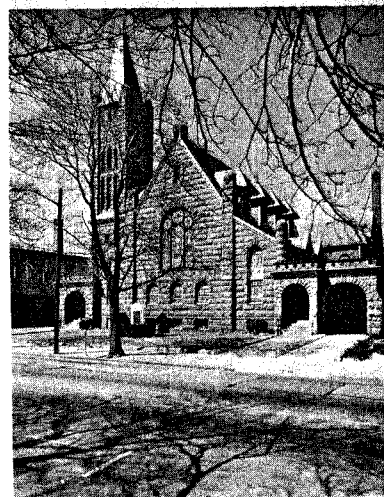
John H. Prescott, Rector	A. D. Foster,
Isaac H. Green, Sr.,	C. H. Merriman,
Walter L. Suydam,	I. H. Green, Jr.,
Wardens.	John R. Suydam,
	Vestrymen



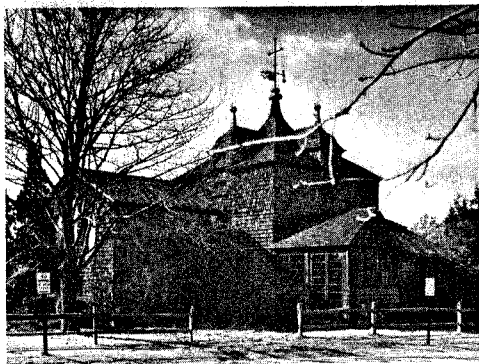
39. SAYVILLE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Deacon Robert Nunns, Builder
1888



37. ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ISLIP
Richard Morris Hunt, Architect
1878-80



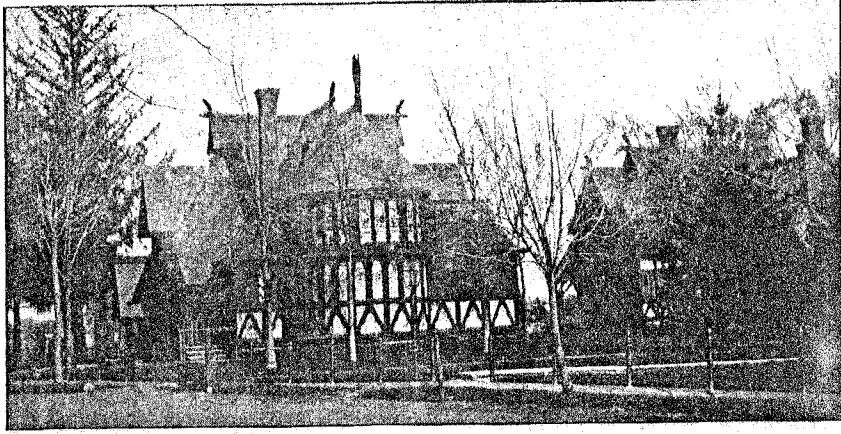
40. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PATCHOGUE



38. CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT, QUOGUE
Sidney V. Stratton, Architect
1883-84



41. NORTHPORT TRUST COMPANY

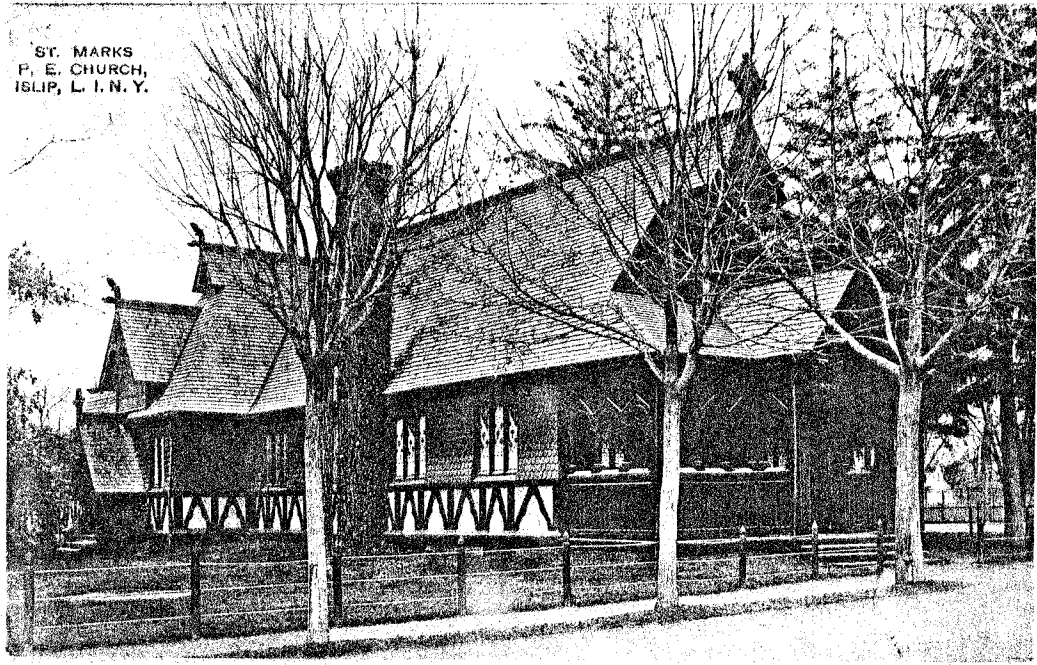


Great Ring April 13th 1905

1905

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ISLIP, L. I.

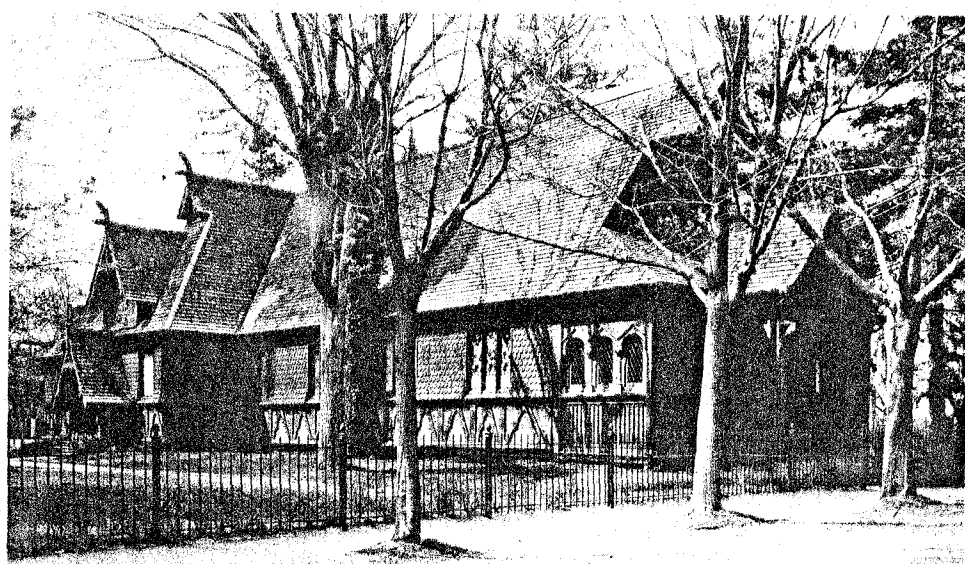
M. E. S.



ST. MARKS
P. E. CHURCH,
ISLIP, L. I. N. Y.

1909

Thos F. Schweitzer postal collection



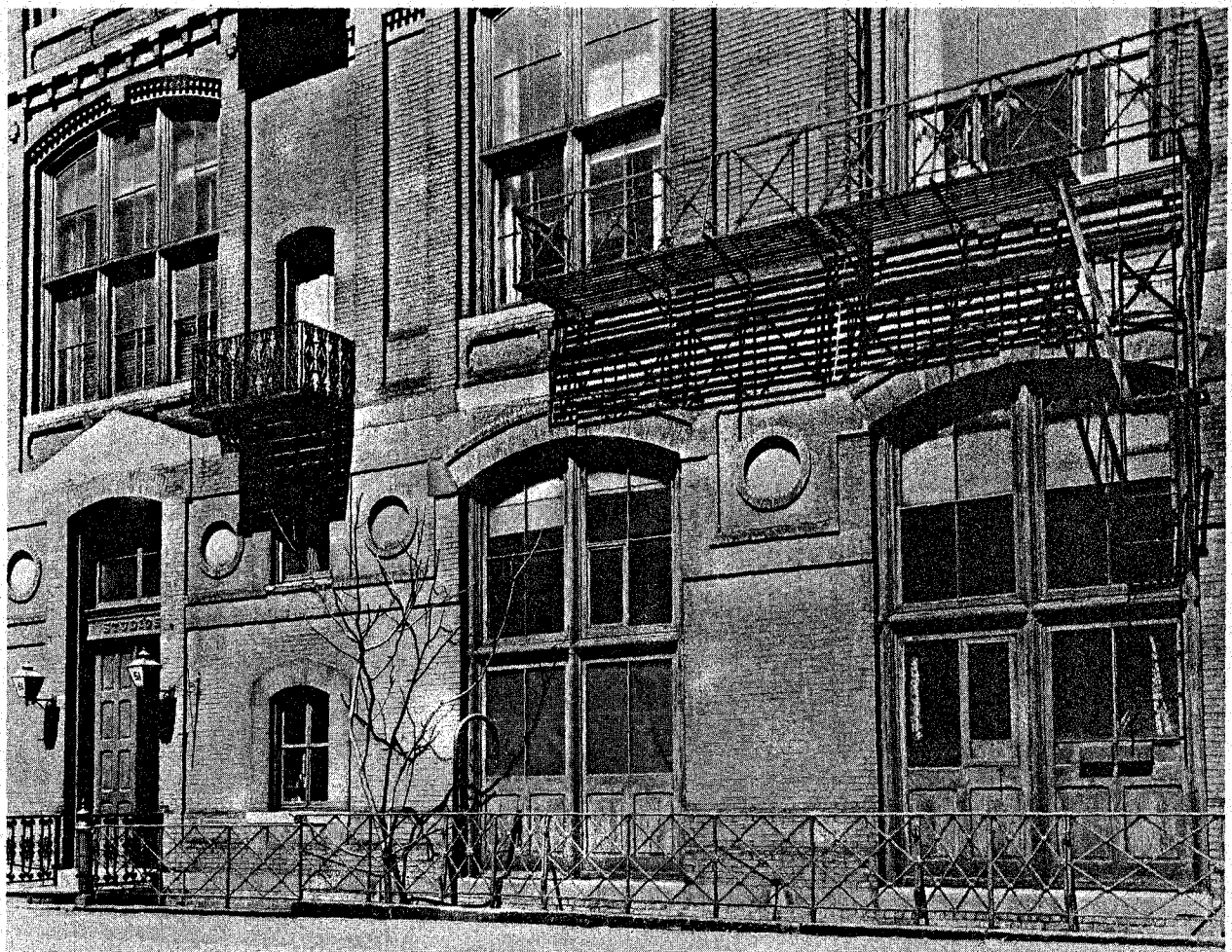
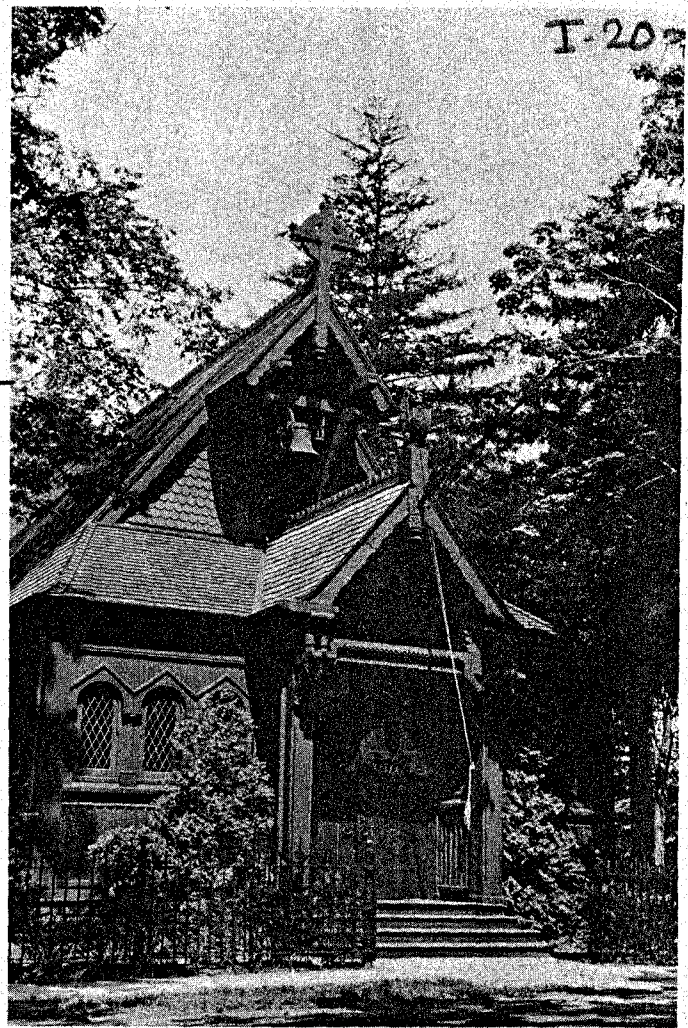
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Islip, Long Island, N. Y.

1941

THE ADVENT OF RICHARD MORRIS HUNT

ABOVE: *Saint Mark's Church, Islip, Long Island, 1880 (Richard Morris Hunt)*. BELOW: *The Studio Building, 51 West Tenth Street, New York City, 1856 (Richard Morris Hunt)*. Demolished. In neither *Saint Mark's* nor the *Studio Building* could Hunt reveal his ambition: *Alva Vanderbilt* had not yet appeared on the horizon. But the *Studio Building* was the retreat of many well-known artists, including *William Merritt Chase*. It was in *Chase's* studio that *John Singer Sargent* arranged for *Carmencita* to dance for *Isabella Stewart Gardner*.

Andrews, W., *Architecture in New York, N.Y. Atheneum, 1969.*



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