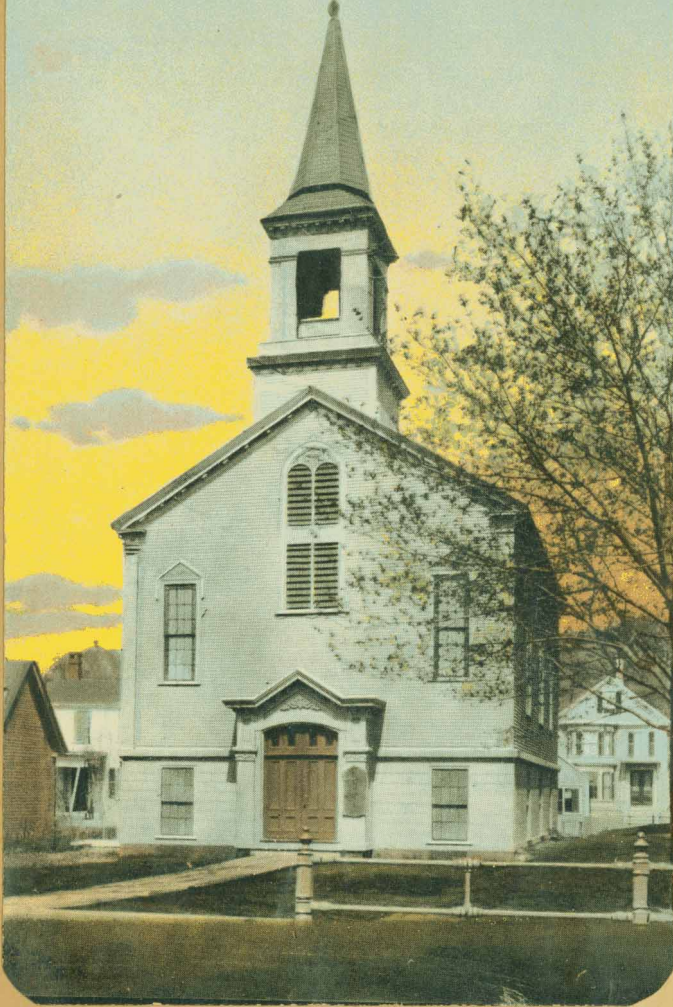


Congregational Church, Provincetown, Mass.



First Church of the Pilgrims next to Town Hall - - 1908.



The Church of the Pilgrims, Congregational - 1900 - Photo by John R. Smith

October 9, 1947

Church Is Sold To Local Buyers

Judge Robert A. Welsh Says Church Of Pilgrims Will Remain Intact

Although final details have not been completed, it is now pretty certain that the Church of the Pilgrims property on Commercial street, west of Town Hall, will be sold within a few days, the transfer being made to Alma D. Welsh and Emma F. Silva, Mrs. Robert A. Welsh and Mrs. William F. Silva, respectively.

The fact of the transaction was confirmed this morning both by the Massachusetts Congregational Conference of 14 Beacon street, Boston, owners of the property, and by Judge Robert A. Welsh who is representing the purchasers. Added confirmation was given in a letter read at a meet-

ing of the Provincetown Civic Association last night, stating that the "property had been sold and at our price".

This morning Judge Welsh said that he would have to await the final completion of the sale before divulging plans for the use of the property. He did say, however, that these plans anticipate the preservation of the present structure.

The sale is being made, according to the office of the Massachusetts Congregational Conference, through the office of Ralph A. Chase, real estate dealer, of Eastham, and the latter had acknowledged the receipt of agreements of purchase. Judge Welsh also said that a cash deposit had been accepted.

For some time the Provincetown Civic Association had been interested in the possibility of a community effort to buy the property for a centrally located youth and adult center. However, for a considerable period the title was being cleared and the property put through the Land Court. Finally the price of \$17,000 quoted by the Conference seemed out of reach.

The Church of the Pilgrims is one of the old and classic New England church structures on Cape Cod, although more severe in line than many. It has played a significant part in the history of Provincetown and, at one time, its large membership was instrumental in lending aid to other denominations here.

September 1951

Old Church Leased As Summer Theatre

The old Church of the Pilgrims, just west of Town Hall, has been leased to Burt Lane of Plainfield, New Jersey, for use as a summer theatre next season. Mr. Lane plans to direct an experimental group theatre, after extensive remodeling and alterations to the church building, during the summer of 1952.

The season will open next year with the play "Dark of the Moon" starring Robin Roberts. Miss Rob-

erts returned to this country last Spring from Europe, where she assisted in authoring and performing over London's British Broadcasting Company with the distinguished American ballad recorder, Alan Lomax.

Mr. Lane intends to use brilliant contemporary American actors and playwrights, who feel as he does that the theatre needs revitalization through creative experimentation.

A graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, Mr. Lane was house manager at the Provincetown Playhouse during the past season. He has done direction with the Civic Theatre in Cincinnati, Ohio, and has been on Station WKRC and WKRC-TV in that city. He was also co-manager of the Maxinkuckee Playhouse in

Culver, Indiana.

Mr. Lane plans to return to Provincetown about the first of the year, when remodeling of the building will start.