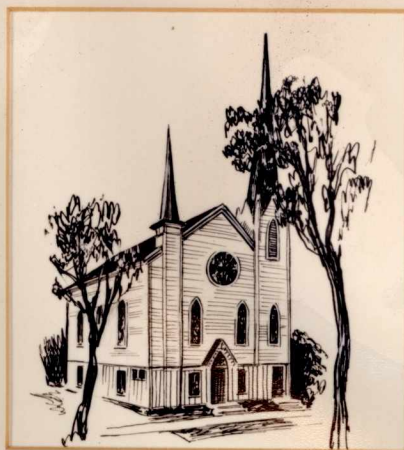
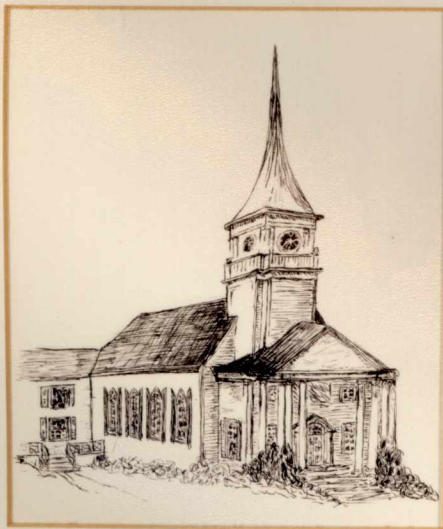




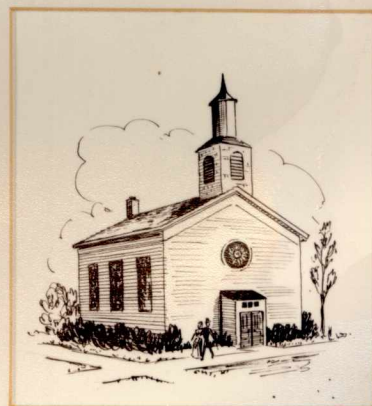
1st Church built in 1853 known  
as ~ Barrington Center Church  
Located on Rt. 68 one mile  
South West of 62



3rd Church built in 1872  
~ Cook Street Church ~  
Now known as the  
Masonic Temple



1928  
Our Present Church  
Formerly used by the Zion Branch  
of the Evangelical Church. Purchased  
for \$700



2nd Church built 1858 ~  
It was located on the corner  
of E. & Franklin St.  
Became the 1st St. Agnes Church





BARRINGTON CENTER WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH parishioners were the Methodist-Episcopalian families who worshipped in homes and schools for 13 years before they built a replica of some remembered house of worship back in New England or, at least, not far from the coast. The lines are austere but with a flourish here and there, unusual in a country church. The original building, 35 x 52 feet, featured an unusually high steeple, perhaps to guide the traveler in the dense forest. Used from 1861-1865 as a recruiting station for farm boys enlisting for the Civil War and through some miracle all names were preserved. On the west lawn a large boulder with a bronze tablet embedded, lists recruits signed up in the war

As is usual with country churches, a large parcel of ground was dedicated for a churchyard. A stroll it makes one conscious of the risks encountered on the frontier. Markers reveal that death came many. Children especially were victims of epidemics, malnutrition and accidents. Renovation and ling have modernized the plant but it remains a lovely church in a beautiful and tranquil setting.



(The Cook Street Church - Milestone III)

III

Our new church on Cook Street was dedicated December 22, 1872, with great ceremony. It was a beautiful church by the standards of that period. A two story, white frame building complete with two spires. The bell had been moved from the former church at Ela and Franklin and carefully hung in place. There was beautiful stained glass in the fine Gothic windows.

The church with furnishings, including a fine \$500 organ, cost about \$4,000. It was lighted by 87 oil lamps and kept warm with two large drum stoves. (In a 1900 winter cold spell the heat was so inadequate that Dr. Robinson stood in the pulpit wearing overcoat and gloves.)

For 57 years the Cook Street Church was the focal point of many church and community activities. Records show that the downstairs meeting hall was in great demand for temperance meetings--literary societies--Epworth League--the Grand Army of the Republics meetings, lectures, concerts and a youth Social Center.

In 1875 the church was the very core of the home and community life. The rules were strict (the road was straight and very narrow.)

As the years rolled by, changes had to be made. The steeple was lowered because it had been hit by lightning. Electric lights and a furnace were installed. In 1915 extensive improvements were made in the auditorium. The women in the Ladies Aid Society were busy doing all sorts of things--sewing, quilting, chicken pie and oyster suppers.