

# West Main Street

The first settlers arrived in Patchogue around 1750. The center of Patchogue in the year 1800 was located on the Kings Highway, which is today's Montauk Highway, extending from River Avenue to the Patchogue Lake. This center expanded towards the east in the coming years, and by 1850 the Patchogue business section extended several hundred feet past the intersection of Ocean Avenue. Many small buildings lined both sides of West Main Street, housing a variety of merchants and craftsman. Eventually larger buildings sprung up in this section. The first one was the Haven's store, ca. 1850, today's Brick House Brewery.

The large three-story building on the south side of the street, which until 2005 housed the Colony Shop, was built in the 1870's. The three-story building on the corner of Ocean Avenue, which later became the home of the Swezey and Newins store, was built in 1869, and the large Wedgewood Building on the north side of the street

was built in 1898. These were the pioneer buildings of the modern Patchogue business section on West Main Street, which were followed by other stores, theaters, banks and movie houses. No great changes were made to West Main Street until the 1960's and 1970's, when many buildings east of West Avenue were razed to make room for the construction of the Sixth District Court Building on the south side and the Breslin Building on the north side of the street.

West Avenue had the distinction of becoming only the second street to cross Main Street in 1967 besides Ocean Avenue. The reason for this lack of intersections was, that Patchogue prior to 1880 developed mainly south of Main Street. Only after 1880 did the northern part of Patchogue attract home builders. There also was a lack of planned development and layout of the streets prior to 1900, resulting in the fact, that there is no other continuous east – west road parallel to Main Street.



This is West Main Street in the year 1918. The first building on the left is the Star Palace, followed by the Central Hotel, the Roe Block and the Patchogue Bank building. The Roe Block is the building with the corner tower, which was removed in later years. The first building on the right, which is only partially visible, is Bartlett's Hotel and Saloon, followed by the Pape building, the Syndicate building and the large red Masonic Temple.