

maintenance. The first boatyards were located on the shore of the bay and the Gerard Brothers even built their first boats near the “Four Corners” on Main Street. After the dredging of the harbor, boat yards were located on the river. In 1892 Patchogue had twelve boat yards with over sixty employees, building boats of up to 450 tons.

With the arrival of the railroad in 1869, the opportunity for a new industry- tourism- developed. Now within easy reach by rail from New York, Patchogue became a vacation destination for thousands of New Yorkers, who flocked here in the summertime to enjoy the cool southwest breezes from the ocean. Large hotels were built on or near the shoreline that could accommodate over 1600 guests. From 1880 to the 1920's tourism was a thriving industry. Business declined gradually due to the popularity of the affordable automobile. Motorcars allowed tourists to go to other destinations which, before, could not be reached in reasonable time by rail.



This is the earliest known Patchogue image – an artists 1840 sketch. In the foreground is the West Lake. The building in the right front is the cotton mill of Nathaniel Smith and Daniel Gillette, built in 1832. The large building on the left is the Unichurch on Main Street, opposite

River Avenue.

The building across the street is the first Methodist church. What is now Patchogue's center can be seen in the background on the right.



The Unichurch building on the northeast corner of Main Street and Waverly Avenue. Built in 1820 by George Curtiss, it was a great improvement over the small 1894 Meeting House located on this spot. This 36 by 40 foot building was used jointly by the Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist congregations for several years. From 1831 to 1855 the Congregational Church was the sole owner. After 1855 the building was occupied by stores and apartments until it was torn down in the 1960's.