

A canal was dug out in the 1890's, just on the east side of the foot of Rider Avenue, by the Patchogue-Blue Point Oyster Company to serve as a base for their operations. Previous to this time, this company had their buildings at the foot of Cedar Avenue.



The Patchogue River provided an excellent harbor. In 1870, over three hundred boats were based here. The Army Corps of Engineers dredged the harbor in 1890 to make it the only deepwater port on the south shore of Long Island. Schooners of up to

450 tons were trading here, with their coastal trades stretching as far as the West Indies. From 1875 to 1922, Patchogue was a port-of-entry, with a customs house on South Ocean Avenue.



A view from the west bank of the river. On the left is a large reel used to dry fishing nets. In the background is Bailey's Lumber Mill. This is a 1905 picture.