

Then... and Now

Paoli Chapel



This structure was built in 1893 on Darby Road in Paoli by Otto Palmer for \$715, and was originally a "Mission Sabbath School" of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Berwyn. From 1899 to 1906 it served as the chapel for the newly-formed Paoli Presbyterian Church. In 1907 it became the Paoli Town Hall. Three years later a library was started in a corner of the Hall. The Library Association was formally chartered in 1920. By the 1980s the building was getting too small to hold the library. In 1985, Meridian Bank offered to build a shell for the Library as a part of a new renovation project it was undertaking. Thus a unique cooperative effort between Meridian Bank, Tredyffrin Township, and the Paoli Library Association created a new home for the Paoli Library. The Library moved its collection and contents out of the old building and vacated the premises in March 1986. The building was re-purchased by the Paoli Presbyterian Church. On April 14, 1986 it was moved to the church property at the corner of South Valley and Waynesborough Roads. The mansard-roofed structure to the left still stands, although much modified, while the lot on which the chapel stood is used for parking by Wachovia Bank and the Paoli Library.

References:

History of the First Presbyterian Church of Paoli by Horace McCann & Mrs. Franklin Wandless, *Quarterly* Vol. 7, #2 (December 1949);

Historic Paoli Landmark Saved - a pictorial report, *Quarterly* Vol. 24, #3 (July 1986),

Paoli Chapel / Library by Barbara Fry, Mimi Lang, & William E. Riggs, *Quarterly* Vol.28, #1 (January 1990)

Photo: *Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society*; Inset: *Mike Bertram 2009*.