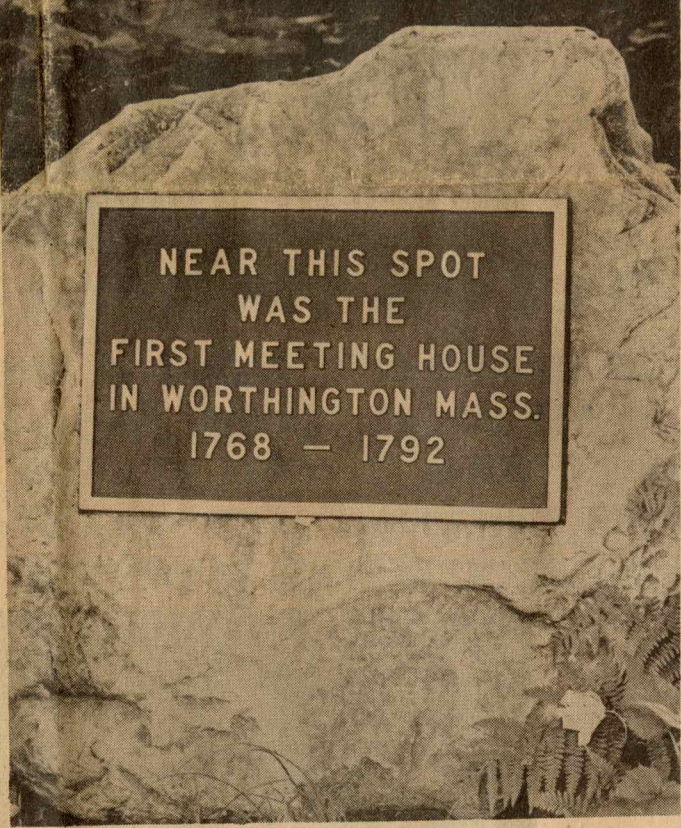


"THE CHURCH OF Our Fathers," this sketch depicts either the first or second church in Worthington, nobody seems to know which since the structures were identical. This drawing is preserved by the church.



THE SITE of the first church at the corner of Sam Hill Rd. and West St. is marked with this stone today.

were saved. Parts of the bell were salvaged from the ruins and sold to help raise money for a new church. Fortunately the church had \$7,000 insurance which was a help in rebuilding.

The present church was dedicated in 1888 under the leadership of the Rev. Frederick Sargent Huntington, pastor. The new church was a copy of an English church, which caused some dismay as many preferred the old colonial style. The new church features rose windows in the gable ends of the sanctuary and memorial windows along the sides.

Addition Built

In 1960 a two-story, four-room addition was built at the back of the building. In 1961 the church, known as the First Congregational Church of Worthington, united with the United Church of Chrsit. At the present time there are 182 members with a town population of 768 year-round residents. The Rev. Jerome H. Wood is now pastor, but will leave this summer to enter the teaching field.

Many years ago the Women's Benevolent Society of the church was organized. This group had as its objectives the building of the present parsonage and its upkeep. This the women did entirely until a few years ago when they deeded the parsonage to the church. They still work toward its upkeep.

Other church organizations are the Friendship Guild and an active Youth Group.

On July 11 the church will formally observe its bicentennial. There will be a morning service with Dr. Warren Wright, a summer resident of Chesterfield and widely-known orator, as guest speaker. Those attending have been urged to take a picnic lunch and eat on the lawn afterwards.

The afternoon program will consist of a "Conversation" or dramatic dialogue by several of the church people, giving a look at the folks of former days as they lived 200 years ago.

Dr. Warren Wright, guest speaker for the morning service, is a member of the speech department at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. He has been a professional speaker and lay preacher for 20 years. He was interim pastor for the two Cummington churches for a year and has preached in various churches in New York State.



THE FIRST PARSONAGE, on West Street, has recently been restored as a private home by Mrs. Jerrilee Bunce.