

South Canaan Baptist Church

Granddads
Father &
Grand father's
church.



MICROFICHE REFERENCE NUMBER: 66-m

STREET ADDRESS: Wilson Road

CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE: South Canaan

MUNICIPALITY: Yarmouth

COUNTY: Yarmouth

YEAR BUILT: 1893-94

PRESENT OWNER: Trustees- Free Baptist Church of South Canaan

ADDRESS: 638 Wilson Road

ORIGINAL OWNER: Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia

SOURCES: Registry of Deeds; Yarmouth Light, 29 June, 1893; 02 Aug, 1894; History of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces, by E.M. Saunders (Halifax, 1902) Rev. Frederick C. Burnett, Hartland, N.B.

BUILDER: Messrs. Saunders & church members

ORIGINAL USE: Church

PRESENT USE: Church

ARCHITECTURAL COMMENT:

Small Greek Revival style church with 1 storey enclosed front entry porch. Medium pitched gable roof has return eaves, interior end wall chimney at back; entry porch has gabled roof with pediment. Symmetrical facade with central entry and window in gable. All windows have double hung sashes, 2/2 glazing, plain straight crowns. Wood construction, shingle clad with corner-boards and frieze-board trim.

HISTORICAL COMMENT:

Started in 1893 and finished in 1894 by the members of the church. This is one of several surviving Free Baptist meetinghouses that were built between 1890 and 1905 in Yarmouth County, but one of only two that remain "Free Baptist" in Yarmouth Municipality.

CONTEXTUAL COMMENT:

West side of Wilson Road just before bridge; across from cemetery. Wooden roof shingles have been replaced by asphalt shingles, but no other changes.

HISTORY OF BUILDING

OWNERS:

FROM:

TO:

OCCUPATION:

Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia	Oct. 5, 1896	Oct. 1, 1903	N/A
Primitive Baptist Church	Oct. 1, 1903	Dec. 3, 1957	N/A
Free Baptist Church of South Canaan	Dec. 3, 1957	Present	N/A

COMMENTS ON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

From Yarmouth Light, 29 June, 1893: "The new meeting house at East River is rapidly progressing under the workmanship of Messrs. Saunders of Carleton. From Yarmouth Light, 02 August, 1894: "People of East River seeing the need for a place of worship little more than a year ago began to build a house. Having finished and furnished it, it was dedicated on 22 July by Rev. C.D. Turner."

The following is quoted from a brief history written by Rev. Frederick C. Burnett, in response to an inquiry about the Free Baptist churches in Yarmouth County.

"The area now known as South Canaan and Springhaven was formerly known as East River and the church is mentioned under that name in the old records. There had been enough Free Baptist interest in the place that a small meetinghouse had been built in the present cemetery across the highway from the present Free Baptist church building, this had burned and the interest had become very weak before 1874, any Free Baptist members in the place would have belonged to the old Tusket Lakes church or later to Tusket Free Baptist church. There is no mention of this place in the minutes of the Ninth Conference of the Free Baptists of Nova Scotia in 1874.

The minutes of 1875 state on page 6, "No special interest has occurred with the church at Tusket except the resuscitation of our interest at two outposts of this church, namely that at East River and Salmon River. The former place occupies the school houses for Sunday school and worship. Our brethren of this place participate in two union Sunday Schools that are doing a good work." This indicates that there were brethren or members of the Tusket church living there in 1875. The school houses were at Canaan and Springhaven, the union Sunday schools were with the Regular Baptists.

I do not have the minutes of 1876-79. The minutes of 1880 page 9 'Pastorate No. 9, embraces Carleton, Kemptville and East River Churches and their surrounding preaching stations. This pastorate has been without a minister this year." on page 21 the Statistical Table give "East River, membership 14, one Sabbath school with 68 scholars." This shows that a church had been organized between 1875 and 1880. The census of 1881 shows no Free Baptist meeting house at East River, so it must have been built after that year, perhaps around 1887. Old residents have told me that the last minister of the N.S. Conference to preach there was Walter Weston of Chebogue who came once a month in the 1880's.

The Free Baptist Conference minutes of 1905, still list East River with 15 members, but no other mention of it. This was the last year before the majority of the conference joined the United Baptists, but this church did not enter the Union. About the year 1885, Elder John Hartt 1830-1904, son of Elder Samuel Hartt a leading Free Christian Baptist minister came to Yarmouth County from New Brunswick, John Hartt had joined the Free Baptists of N.B., Maine and N.S., he stayed only about 2 years in N.S., he baptized a number at Tusket Falls and at Hawthorne where he gathered a small church, but his greatest success was at East River, where he preached at the schoolhouse at Springhaven and other locations, he baptized quite a number and organized a large church for the size of the place, I have seen the list of members and to the best of my memory it would have numbered about 50 members. Ministers from N.B. visited this church quite often including Elder Colby Turner, Elder David Brooks, Rev. Lorenzo Lockhart, Rev. Allen Stairs, Rev. Lorenzo Foster and others. Mr. Brooks added a number to the church. I do not know the exact year when the church building was built. Older people there have told me that when it was built every pew except one was allotted to a separate family who attended meetings. One large family held two pews. There were at that time a large

number of free baptist families in Springhaven. There was also a regular Baptist church building about a mile and a half distant in Canaan.

The members of the church organized by Elder Hartt took a very active part in the construction of the meeting house at South Canaan but the deed must have been made out to the Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia, another body. I have not seen the deed, but have been told by persons who were then present that two of the ministers of the Free Baptist Conference of N.S. came to the place, called the church and people to meet with them and gave them a deed to their church building. The old people never forgot this act of Christian kindness by Rev. George Wilson and Rev. Edwin Crowell. This deed is recorded at Yarmouth in Book C.O. page 646. I have a partial hand written copy of it. "Oct. 1, 1903 Between the Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia and John Blauvelt, Richard Hatfield and John W. Raynard as trustees..... their heirs and successors, In trust for the sole use and benefit of the church and congregation at Springhaven aforesaid, known as the Springhaven Primitive Baptist church and belonging to the Denomination formerly known as the Free Baptist Church of N.B, Maine and N.S., now known as the Primitive Baptist church and for no other use, trust or purpose whatsoever..... signed by Edwin Crowell and G.M. Wilson.

This deed wrongly describes the property as being in Springhaven; it was very near the line, but actually in South Canaan. The late George Trefry of Springhaven was very active in this church about that time, being its delegate to yearly conferences.

This church was represented by six or seven members at the organization of the N.S. Free Baptist Conference in 1925, later a number of others joined with them in organizing the Free Baptist church at South Canaan. Mr. Fred Tinkham and Mr. Benjamin Trefry were the Deacons, Mrs. William White its clerk. I was chosen clerk of a business meeting held at South Canaan on Dec. 3, 1957 when the Primitive Baptist church of East River as a body united with the Free Baptist church of Springhaven (being the names found in both church books) and voted to henceforth take the name Free Baptist Church of South Canaan. These people had worshipped together as one body and congregation for thirty years. The formal union by vote and unanimous agreement of the members of both churches was made at my suggestion. The following Free Baptist ministers have at various times held regular services with this church since 1917, J.T. Gordon, A.T. MacDougall and Frederick C. Burnett. It has been visited by the following Free Baptist ministers from New Brunswick, Earl H. Giberson, Ziba S. Lockhart, Foy Pratt, John Ruff and H.P. Shaw. I have often visited this church since I moved to N.B. both to bury its members and to preach to the congregation. I was there last June and have an appointment to visit them again on June 15, 1991. The general conference of the Free Baptists of N.S. and N.B. met here on Oct. 20, 1958.

This building is in good repair, and exactly as built on the outside except for asphalt shingles on the roof instead of the wooden ones. Inside the only changes are electric lights in place of oil lamps and two short seats at the left side of the pulpit have been removed many years since to make room for a reed organ.

Frederick C. Burnett Dec. 11,th 1990

P.S. Some preaching has been provided by United Baptist ministers to this church in recent years.

Raynardton Baptist Church



MICROFICHE REFERENCE NUMBER: 66-m

STREET ADDRESS: Raynardton Road

CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE: Raynardton

MUNICIPALITY: Yarmouth

COUNTY: Yarmouth

YEAR BUILT: c. 1897-1898

PRESENT OWNER: Trustees- Free Baptist Church of Raynardton

ADDRESS: 1486 Raynardton Road

ORIGINAL OWNER: Trustees- the Free Baptist Church of Raynardton

SOURCES: Registry of Deeds; Rev. Frederick C. Burnett

BUILDER: Church Members

ORIGINAL USE: Church

PRESENT USE: Church

ARCHITECTURAL COMMENT:

Gothic Revival influenced church with steeple-topped tower at front end of east side. Tower has shallow cross gables with decorative moldings in the shape of windows on the outward sides, with similar decoration repeated at the base of the steeple. Steeply pitched gable roof with prominent rear chimney, return eaves. Asymmetrical facade has one large triangular-headed window centered in front gable end wall, with a small triangle window centered in gable; entrance, with triangular light over door, is in the tower base. Windows have double hung sashes; facade window has 2/2 glazing; windows in side walls are narrower with 1/1 glazing. Wood construction, shingle clad with frieze-, base-, and corner-board trim.

HISTORICAL COMMENT:

Built around 1897 by the people of the community. Several other Free Baptist churches were built in this county around the same time, all of them being built mostly by local residents who usually hired a

professional carpenter to assist and to oversee the work. This church is still used for most of the year, only being closed during the coldest winter months.

CONTEXTUAL COMMENT:

Corner of Raynardton Road and Hamilton Road. No changes. Recent damage to steeple caused by a windstorm is being repaired.

HISTORY OF BUILDING			
OWNERS:	FROM:	TO:	OCCUPATION:
John W. Raynard, et al	Dec. 1, 1897	Present	Trustees

COMMENTS ON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Rev. Frederick C. Burnett of New Brunswick is the acknowledged expert on Free Baptist churches, and one of the few remaining Free Baptist ministers in the country. He says " I think the date of construction at Raynardton would have been 1897 or 1898, perhaps begun one year and finished the next. Charles Raynard, and Annie Raynard who gave the land for the Raynardton church building, Job M. Raynard, J.P. who wrote the deed, and Isaac Hatfield the subscribing witness were all members of that church."

The following is quoted from a brief history written by Rev. Burnett in response to an inquiry about the Free Baptist churches in Yarmouth County.

Free Baptist Church at Raynardton:

The church organized by Elder Charles Knowles near Chebogue in 1832 soon grew to include people living at Tusket Lakes, which name took in the present community of Raynardton. Some of these people joined the Chebogue church on Sept. 9, 1838 and before 1843 at least six others joined that church. Soon after the year 1850 at least thirteen of the members of Chebogue church were dismissed to form a Free Christian Baptist church at Tusket Lakes. These people built a small meeting house on what is now called the Canaan Road about a mile from Gavel's Bridge; only a number of upright field stones that mark graves in the woods remain to indicate its site. It was not far from the present old cemetery on the opposite side of the road. The location, though a central one, was quite distant from the homes of many of the members, and the meeting house was abandoned though some members resided in the vicinity, and joined the Deerfield church in 1878 when twenty-one people living at Tusket Lakes united with that church as the result of a reformation that occurred by a sermon preached by Elder S. Bennison at the funeral of Mr. David Hatfield's first wife and several children who were drowned. Within a few years fifty-five members of the Deerfield church lived at Tusket Lakes, quite a number of them at Raynardton, they were dismissed from the Deerfield church to form a church at Tusket Lakes and built a church building in Argyle municipality that was quite a distance from the members at Raynardton. Meetings were held in the hall over the Raynardton school house, but the need of a better building was felt and about 1890 they began to build the present church building. This proved to be one of the best built of the country church buildings in the county and the largest of the remaining Free Baptist ones. Materials came from sources far apart. There had been a Free Baptist meeting house, raised and boarded in Central Kemptville a short time before, but before its completion some of the leaders in the enterprise died and a gale damaged the frame to such an extent that the remaining people did not feel able to complete it. Some of the lumber in this structure was hauled to Raynardton with oxen to help with their building. Capt. John Blauvelt of Tusket and his wife, who was a daughter

of Elder John Knowles, were very interested and active in promoting the building at Raynardton. Capt. Blauvelt while sailing his vessel came upon an abandoned vessel on the high seas, he towed it to a seaport, and received bricks that had been ballast in the ship, with other things for bringing the ship to port. Some of these bricks of English manufacture may be seen in the foundation of the Raynardton church building at the present time, an unusual foundation in the country districts of Yarmouth County. Many ministers labored with this congregation, I have mentioned Mr. Bennison, later G.O. Curry, Colby Turner and John Hartt ministered to the people. Elder David Brooks was very useful here about the time the church was being built. Although he lived in New Brunswick he stayed about a year in Raynardton on one occasion. He gained many converts. Many other ministers visited them for longer or shorter periods and it became the center of the Free Baptist interest in Yarmouth County. A parsonage was built near the church building. Rev. J.T. Gordon lived here a few years before he moved to Deerfield. Six of the people who organized the Free Baptist Conference in 1925 were from this church. Rev. J.T. Gordon came here in 1917 and preached quite regularly here till his health failed prior to his death in 1973. Rev. Angus T. MacDougall moved to Yarmouth County in 1940, and also served this church till his death in 1975. Frederick Burnett also preached here at times, held meetings here this summer and has left an appointment for June 16, 1991.

This is one of three organized Free Baptist churches remaining in Nova Scotia. When I first was there the late Edgar Clayton was deacon and Mrs. Nettie Marling was the clerk. Like other communities there are less people resident here than in times past, yet this building is in quite good repair. Inside the only changes are electric lights in place of the oil lamps and an oil stove has replaced the wood stove in recent years. Outside the only change is asphalt shingles that have replaced the wooden ones. This building is very well constructed, it has a graceful spire that yet remains though it has never had a bell. The membership at present is quite small.

Frederick C. Burnett
Dec. 11, 1990