

# Savior Sought for Historic Chapel

*H.B. Independent*  
By Melinda Keller

3-24-88

A Costa Mesa minister may be the savior of a historic Huntington Beach church which has been chosen as a redevelopment sacrificial lamb.

Bill Acton of Grace Fellowship Church has expressed interest in acquiring the 11th Street wedding chapel that will be torn down to make room for condominiums, according to his wife Fay.

"We hold our Bible study and church services at Lindbergh School in Costa Mesa and would really like the little church for our congregation. But it may be financially impossible," she said.

The 67-year-old church received a temporary reprieve in order to give the Huntington Beach Historic Resources Board and City Council time to work some miracles, said City Admin-

istrator Paul Cook.

Cook said city staff is formulating a back-up plan to place the church inside city limits if Acton's congregation is not able to take it, Cook said.

"Right now we're looking at moving it near the Newland House (on the corner of Beach Boulevard and Adams Avenue) and opening it as a wedding chapel, Cook said.

Costa Mesa resident Arlie Starn, who served as the chapel's Church of God pastor for 24 years, hopes the little house of worship can be saved.

"It has a lot of history and was very popular at one time. I kept it painted white with green trim and it reminded many people of a little country church," he said.

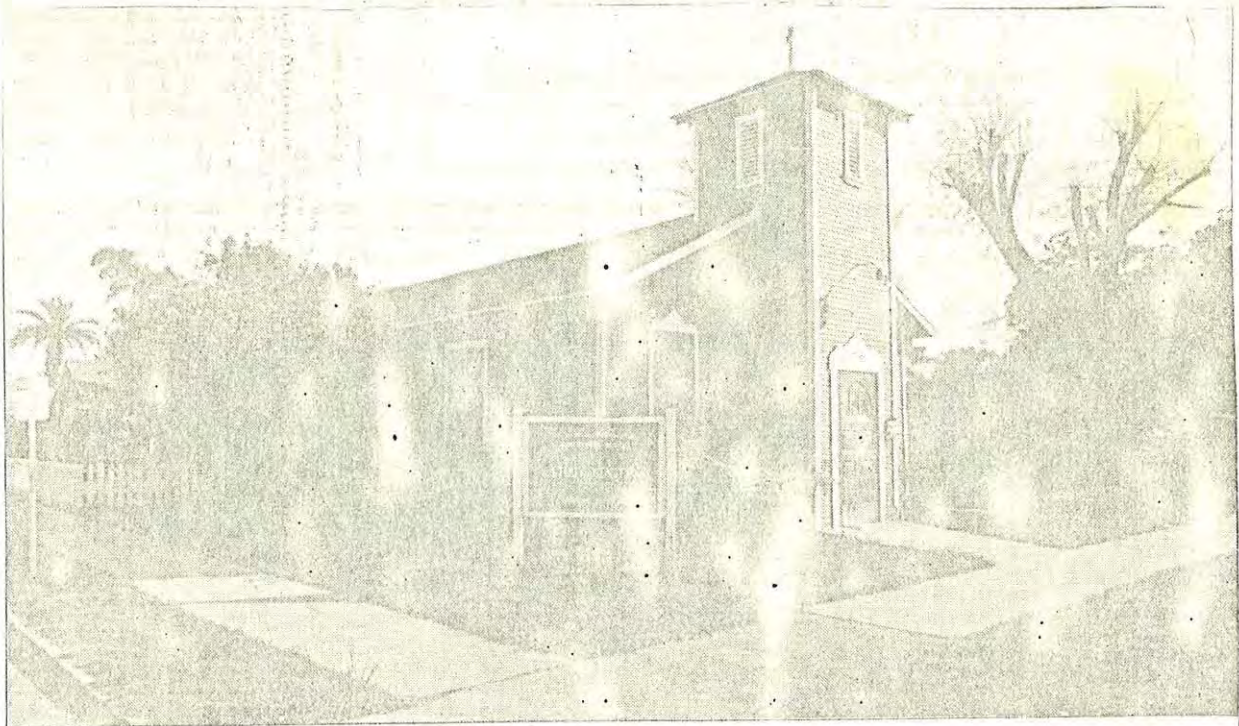
Built in 1921, the 80-seat chapel garnered popularity in 1948 be-

cause Starn was also the local postman. Church attendance rose as residents became familiar with their local letter carrier, Starn recalled.

"I performed a good majority of the city's weddings and funerals. Many of the people weren't from the congregation, but came to me anyway."

According to Starn, the chapel was built as a non-denominational church. In 1935, the Church of God bought the building and used it until 1979, when it was sold to Calvary Chapel Church of God repurchased the chapel a few years ago for a new congregation, but have decided to sell it to developer Surendra Barot.

Council is expected to finalize plans for the church next month.



Independent Photo by Jasquine Matthews

For 67 years this little chapel has graced the corner of 11th Street in Huntington Beach.

