

## About Trinity Lime Rock:

We are a friendly, inclusive parish of the Diocese of Connecticut of the Episcopal Church USA.

### **"The Church that Iron Built"**

Trinity Church is the oldest surviving structure constructed as part of the historic iron industry that is still in use by its original owners for its original purpose.

## Worshipping at Trinity:

**Sundays:** Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and 10:30 AM (music at 10:30 AM) Sunday School for children at 10:20 AM

Throughout the year Trinity holds special services, as well as concerts and other activities of interest to the larger community. We invite you to join us!

**Companionship  
along the Way**

## A self-guided tour of

# Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock



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**You are welcome  
at Trinity Lime  
Rock!**

## Background

Although the recorded history of the hamlet of Lime Rock begins in the 1730s, the history of Trinity begins with the arrival in 1820 of the Barnum and Richardson families.

Entering the iron industry in a small way, they consolidated their interests and by 1864, they had begun to make Lime Rock over into a model "company town."

In the early 1870s, Congressman William H. Barnum, head of Barnum Richardson Company, later United States Senator and Chairman of the Democratic Party in the United States, concluded that Lime Rock needed an Episcopal Church. He turned the task of raising the necessary funds over to his wife, with the promise to make up any shortfall. Built on land donated by the Goodwin and Ensign families, the church was constructed of sandstone quarried on Sharon Mountain. The cornerstone was laid in 1873. The Richardson family contributed many of the furnishings.

Senator Barnum became Trinity's first Senior Warden, the heads of most of the local Protestant families were members of the first Vestry, and Barnum Richardson Company continued the practice of making up Trinity's financial shortfalls until the demise of that company in 1919. Thus, "the Church that Iron Built" began its life very much as a "company church" in a company town.

The rectory was built in 1883. Around 1900 the sanctuary underwent a major renovation which included darkening its original light oak interior and installation of many of the memorials one sees today.

The death of the local iron industry after World War I brought difficult years for Trinity. Lime Rock quickly became a ghost

town, and although the church survived, for many years it was too small to pay for a Rector, or even to heat the building, which necessitated holding services in the rectory barn – until the barn was destroyed by fire. Services were conducted by Priests in Charge from Canaan, Salisbury, and the Salisbury School. However, beginning in the mid-1920s, an artists' community was gradually forming in the area.

The years following World War II brought economic recovery to Lime Rock and to Trinity. Membership increased, and the parish was again able to call a full-time Rector. Lime Rock Park was built across the road in the mid-1950s, bringing still more people to the community and the church. By 1962 the parish had outgrown the undercroft, and constructed Walker Hall, named for the Rev. Milledge Walker, the first Rector of Trinity.

In the late 1990s, Trinity expanded again, with the acquisition of Reid Field, once the site of the Golden Rod Bicycle Track, from the Goodwin family. On Trinity Sunday 2003, following a successful capital campaign, ground was broken for an addition to provide needed administrative and Sunday School space. This addition, along with overall renovation of the earlier structures, was completed during the summer of 2004.

### **Trinity Lime Rock firsts:**

- Trinity was the first parish in Connecticut to have a man serve on the Altar Guild.
- Trinity was the first parish in Connecticut to be served by two woman Rectors in succession.