

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**THE MARTHA AND MARY CHAPEL**  
**AT BRIGHTON HOSPITAL**

Martha and Mary Chapels were named for Henry Ford’s mother, Mary Litogot Ford and Clara’s mother, Martha Bench Bryant. Henry Ford had his architect, Edward J. Cutler design chapels patterned after a church in Bradford, Massachusetts that Henry admired.

Four chapels were built in Michigan and two were built out of state.

The chapel that stands on the grounds at the Brighton Hospital (now Ascension Brighton Center of Recovery) was donated by Ford Motor Company. The chapel was originally dedicated in 1938 on the grounds of Camp Legion, Dearborn, Michigan (a cooperative farming program that Henry started and later became an occupational rehab for WWII veterans). The camp closed in 1952. When Harry Henderson of the Brighton Hospital discovered that the chapel was not being used, he contacted the Ford Motor Company and stated that the Brighton Hospital could use it. Ford Motor then had it moved in one piece from Dearborn to Brighton on a huge truck trailer in 1960. “Where it would stand on a hilltop overlooking a lake and be shaded by great ancient trees.” It still stands there today. Ford Motor was as delighted to give Brighton Hospital the chapel as Harry Henderson was to receive it.

The Martha and Mary Chapels are located as follows:

1. Greenfield Village—Built in 1929. This one was constructed of brick. The others of wood clapboard. Designed by Edward Cutler, architect. The bricks and door, parts of the Bryant home where Henry and Clara were married, have been integrated in the building. The bell in the tower was made ca. 1835 by the Revere Copper Company, Paul Revere’s descendants.

2. Camp Legion (Dearborn)—Built in 1939. Moved to Brighton Hospital, Brighton, Michigan in 1960.
3. Willow Run, Michigan—Built in 1939. Moved to Dearborn Heights, Michigan in 1954. (Cherry Hill Baptists). Later moved to 11900 Belleville Road in 1978 and now is a Presbyterian church.
4. Richmond Hill, Georgia—Built in 1940. It is now a Catholic church.
5. Wayside Inn, South Sudbury, Massachusetts—Built in 1940. It is a non-denominational chapel and is still known as Martha-Mary.
6. Macon, Michigan—Built in 1940. Moved to Trenton, Michigan in 1947 and is now St. Thomas Episcopal Church.



Submitted by Mindy Kinsey (Information from Kelly Rogers, Brighton Historian and support staff, Mark Mullinax, Brighton Library Historian, Livingston Co. Press and Various articles on Martha and Mary Chapels.)