

## Next Methodist Church

By the year 1856 the Methodist church built in 1829 was no longer suitable for the growing congregation. Construction of a new church was begun. John Gough (1793-1866), one of the earliest settlers and a devout Methodist, drove the first nail. According to Rev. Charles Lench (The Story of Methodism in Bonavista District, Rev. Charles Lench, PANL, BX 8252 N4B6 1919.):

*That first church in Elliston ran its course until 1858 when it was succeeded by a larger sanctuary. This step was taken by the Rev. Thomas Harris...*

Rev. Charles Combden reported (Provincial Wesleyan Magazine, ACC NR.):

*April 22, 1858. -Property*

*...At Bird Island Cove, an interesting part of the circuit, the society are building a large chapel, the frame of which will be up in the spring.*

*April 22, 1858. -Missionary*

*...At the missionary meeting, Father Crew was chairman. He was the first Methodist in the settlement, and had been a consistent member of the Society for upwards of fifty years, during the greater part of which he conducted public worship. He is nearly eighty years of age. The first sermon by a Wesleyan minister was preached in his dwelling house. They built a small place of worship; it was too small, and they built another,- the one they just left.*

C. Combden

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Information Provided by Mr. Doug Cole