

Old Saint Mary's Church  
Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey

HABS NJ-72

HABS

N.J.

3-BURL

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.E.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS  
N.J.  
3-BURL

Old Saint Mary's Church  
Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Saint  
Mary's Church

Date of Erection: 1703

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good; the church has been enlarged  
three times - 1769, 1810, 1834

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick stuccoed

Interior walls - wainscot to  
window-sill - plaster above

Floor - wood

Roof - pitch, slate

Historical Data:

Old Saint Mary's Church is the oldest church building now standing in Burlington County. The corner stone was laid on March 25, 1703 by Reverend John Talbot; the first sermon was preached in it on August 22, of that year, by Reverend George Keith. These two were the first missionaries of the church of England sent to America by "The Society for the Propagating of The Gospel in Foreign parts."

N. J.

3- BURL

1-

The charter of the church, issued by Lord Cernbury in 1704, called it St. Annes; the original name was restored by a new charter in 1709.

The original building was forty by twenty-two and constructed of brick. It was extended twenty-three feet in 1769; again in 1810 under Robert Mills, architect, and Samuel Gillis, carpenter, the church was enlarged and improved; the apse at the eastern end was added; and a year later, 1811, a new pulpit was erected. The building was made cruciform in 1834 when the north and south wings were added. The nave of the new building measured eighty feet by thirty feet.

The exterior of the church today is very much the same as it was in 1834 except that the bricks have been stuccoed. The interior has been altered in many respects.

One of the most treasured possessions of the church is the silver communion service presented by Queen Anne when the church was erected.

In the graveyard are the graves of William Bradford, Attorney General of the United States under Washington; and Elias Boudinot, president of Continental Congress in 1783 when the Treaty of Peace with England was signed.

Old Saint Mary's Church is now used on special occasions. The new Saint Mary's was erected in 1846; its architect was Richard Upjohn of New York City.

N.J.

3- BURL

1-

Bibliography:

Hills, George Morgan  
History of the Church in Burlington, New Jersey  
Trenton, William S. Sharp, 1876

Data compiled by Frances Moffett

Walter C. Rutt

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.

District Officer