

7/2/77  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Hope, Warren County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-432

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

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

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Hope, Warren County, New Jersey

Owner: Diocese of Newark  
Custodian - Reverend O. H. Meyer, Belvidero

Date of Erection: 1832-1839

Architect: William Bulgin

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One with gallery and tower

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone

Interior walls - wainscoting  
sill high; plaster above;  
arch ceiling

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

Hope was abandoned by the Moravians in 1808; they sold to Messrs. Kraemer and Horn of Pennsylvania. Episcopal services were held there as early as 1817. The church, however, was not started until 1832. The priest in charge was P. J. Jacques. Father Jacques was what churchmen call "a builder"; he founded several congregations in Warren County. The church was started in 1832 and remained without a roof until 1839. During that interim Father Jacques held services in the unfinished structure.

The interior of the church is practically unchanged. The organ was moved from the gallery at the rear to the front of the church. The rector claims that there is a plate in this organ indicating that it was a gift of Queen Anne to a church in New York City. When the organ was moved from the gallery several pews were taken from the left front of the church to make room for it. The pulpit at one time was centered; it has since been moved to the right side. The chancel and the altar rail are practically as they were; the altar rail has been widened slightly. With the exception of the four corners of the church all of the old pews remain. The windows are all original except the two memorial windows in the rear. These will be taken out and replaced by the originals which are still intact.

One of the finest features of the church is the winding stairs to the balcony which according to Mrs. Haggerty of Vienna was built by William Bulgin himself; Mrs. Haggerty is a granddaughter of Bulgin. William Bulgin was a Londoner; he served a seven year apprenticeship in England and practiced as an architect in Somersetshire before he came to America. When he came, he brought with him his tools and the mouldings of St. Luke's were made by him with these. He and his sons were the builders of other churches in New Jersey. One son, Thomas Bulgin, was an architect in Brooklyn.

The rector at Belvidere says that the church will be restored in the very near future.

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Information from Reverend O. H. Meyers,  
Belvidere and Mrs. Haggerty, Vienna

Walter C. Reith  
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Approved:

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