

SVIATO-POKROVSKIY RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
(Holy Virgin Protection Church)
333 Weymouth Road
Buena
Atlantic County
New Jersey

HABS NJ-1261
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COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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Location: 333 Weymouth Road, Buena, Atlantic County, New Jersey
Latitude: 39.539678, Longitude: -74.898225
Locational data was obtained on 9 January 2013 using Google Earth, datum WGS84. There is no restriction of the release of its location to the public.

Significance:

The Holy Virgin Protection Church was established in 1957 by Russian Cossack immigrants who settled in Atlantic County, New Jersey, as part of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, also known as the Church Abroad,. The Church Abroad was formed by Russian immigrants fleeing the Soviet Union after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. Initially formed due to the Bolshevik suppression of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russia, the Church Abroad did not break completely with the Russian Church of the Moscow Patriarchate until 1927.¹

Reverend Nikolai Nekludoff was the priest of the church from the 1960s until his death in 2004. At one time church membership numbered 150, but in recent years the members of the church mainly consist of the Nekludoff family. Rev. Nekludoff's wife, Adelaida Nekludoff led church services after his death.

In 2005 members of the Holy Virgin Protection Church voted to leave the Church Abroad, fearing reunification with the Russian Orthodox Church, preferring instead to continue as a church "founded on Russian Orthodox anticommunist traditions which clearly and categorically reject any conciliation with the Moscow Patriarchate."²

This led to a lawsuit, and in 2007 a judge ruled that the Holy Virgin Protection Church owned the property on which the church stood. The church remains part of the Eastern American Diocese of Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Sources:

Facebook user Paul Drozdowski provided initial identification and information about property via Facebook on 8 December 2012.

Holley, David. "Russian Orthodox Church Ends 80-Year Split." *Los Angeles Times* 17 May 2007.

¹ Holley, David. "Russian Orthodox Church Ends 80-Year Split." *Los Angeles Times* 17 May 2007.

² Adelaida Nekludoff as quoted in: Sataline, Suzanne, " Cold War Lingers At Russian Church In New Jersey: Orthodox Dissidents Defy New Union With Moscow, Fearing Putin's Spies." *The Wall Street Journal* 18 July 2007.

Santana, Rebecca, "Russian Church Battles for Future in NJ." *USA Today* 5 September 2007.

Sataline, Suzanne, "Cold War Lingers At Russian Church In New Jersey: Orthodox Dissidents Defy New Union With Moscow, Fearing Putin's Spies." *The Wall Street Journal* 18 July 2007

website of the Eastern American Diocese of Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, accessed 9 January 2013. <http://eadiocese.org/en.index.htm>

Historian: Anne Mason, 2013

Project Information:

This property was featured on Heritage Documentation Programs Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/HeritageDocumentationPrograms>) as part of a crowd sourcing experiment begun in 2012 to identify the "Lost Photos of HABS/HAER/HALS." These photos were taken with the intention of becoming part of the HABS/HAER/HALS collection, but their provenance and identity had been lost and they were never transmitted to the Library of Congress. The crowd sourcing experiment resulted in the identification of a number of photographs. Facebook user Paul Drozdowski identified this property for HABS.