

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN

Pacine Co.

H.A.B.S. No WIS/26

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• PHOTOGRAHS •
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT No. 28
REDUCED COPIES OF A REPRODUCED DRAWING

Historic American Building Survey
Alexander C. Guhn, District Officer
1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin.

Owner (or Custodian). Immaculate Conception Parish.

Date of Erection. 1854-59

Architect. Victor Schulte

Builders. Mason Contractor - Joseph Wackerman
Carpenter work by the firm of Burhaus and Reuter
Steeple built by John Kemptner

Present Condition. Interior greatly altered. Exterior well preserved.

Number of Stories. One

Materials of Construction. Stone

Other Existing Records. None known.

Additional Data. The Immaculate Conception church building is located on one of the main highways leading through the city of Burlington, Wisconsin. A modest church building known as St. Sebastian's preceded this structure. This was built in 1844. In ten years the congregation outgrew this edifice and it was decided to build a new one. So in 1854 Victor Schulte, a Milwaukee architect, was commissioned to draw plans for the new edifice. Schulte was an European trained architect with a decided leaning toward the classic. He was the architect for the superstructure of the St. John's cathedral of Milwaukee, probably the outstanding building architecturally in Milwaukee today (1935). This building is classical in design, but the Immaculate Conception church in Burlington is Gothic.

It took five years to complete the erection of the church building. Money was scarce and because of this shortage, work was suspended from time to time. Finally in 1859 the church was dedicated.

This mason contractor of the church was Josph Wackerman and the carpenter work was done by the firm of Burhaue and Reuter. The steeple was built by John Kemptner.

This church building has a fine feeling for the Gothic style. Some parts of it, like the buttrsssss and the pinnacles on top of them, are very characteristic indeed of that style. The elongated windows are reminiscent of some of the parish churches of England. The workmanship at the walls indicates the highest type of etone craftsmanship. The woodwork around the entrances is reminiscent of some of the choicest bits of Gothic detail. All in all the work appears to be well studied. The hand of a master architect is very evident.

The interior of the building has been so completely altered that little remains of the original work. In attempting to make this building serve as a school many changes were made.

This building is not in use today. It has made way for a newer church edifice situated nearby. This latter, howsver, is just another church structure; modern and (yes!) very ordinary when compared with the old structures of yesterday.

ALEXANDER C. GUTH
District Officer.

(Revised by HABS Headquarters
September 9, 1935.)