

Sartori
TO
*Sacred
Heart*

EARLY CATHOLIC
TRENTON

John B. Sartori



Acknowledgments

The driving force behind this publication has been the Very Reverend Dennis A. Apoldite and the parish's historian, Sally Lane. Father Dennis's unflinching curiosity and respect for the past propelled the research and guided both the selection of items for a companion museum exhibit and the structure of this booklet. Sally Lane's knowledge of church and Trenton history has been invaluable, together with her earlier work preparing the National Register of Historic Places documentation. Sister Catherine Thibault, Archivist at the Diocese of Trenton, kindly made critical research materials available concerning both Sacred Heart and St. John's. Wendy Nardi, Library Historian, made numerous images and research items available from the Trentoniana Collection at the Trenton Free Public Library. Chris Brenner of Trenton-based Restoration Dynamics provided access to a lift for taking interior photographs of the church's sanctuary and stained glass during recent restoration work. This booklet was produced by Hunter Research, Inc. of Trenton, New Jersey. The text was authored by Richard W. Hunter and Patrick J. Harshbarger; layout and graphic design were undertaken by Elizabeth Cottrell. Printing services were provided by Nassau Communications, Inc. of Robbinsville, through the assistance of President Kenneth M. Fisher, who grew up in the parish.



Sacred Heart Church, Postcard, c. 1906. Sacred Heart Church at 343 South Broad Street is located in the heart of downtown Trenton. It is the third church built by New Jersey's first Catholic parish.

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet, produced by Trenton's Church of the Sacred Heart, celebrates the bicentennial of the founding of the first Catholic parish in New Jersey.

*Celebrating
200 Years*

On June 12, 1814, St. John's Church of West New Jersey, the newly erected house of worship at the corner of Market and Lamberton Streets in the section of Trenton then known as Bloomsbury, was consecrated by Bishop Michael Egan of Philadelphia. Since that time, the congregation has multiplied and diversified, growing into the thriving community now served by the Church of the Sacred Heart on South Broad Street.

Along with the exhibit "Sartori to Sacred Heart" recently displayed at the Trenton City Museum, this publication is intended as a tangible commemoration of Sacred Heart's

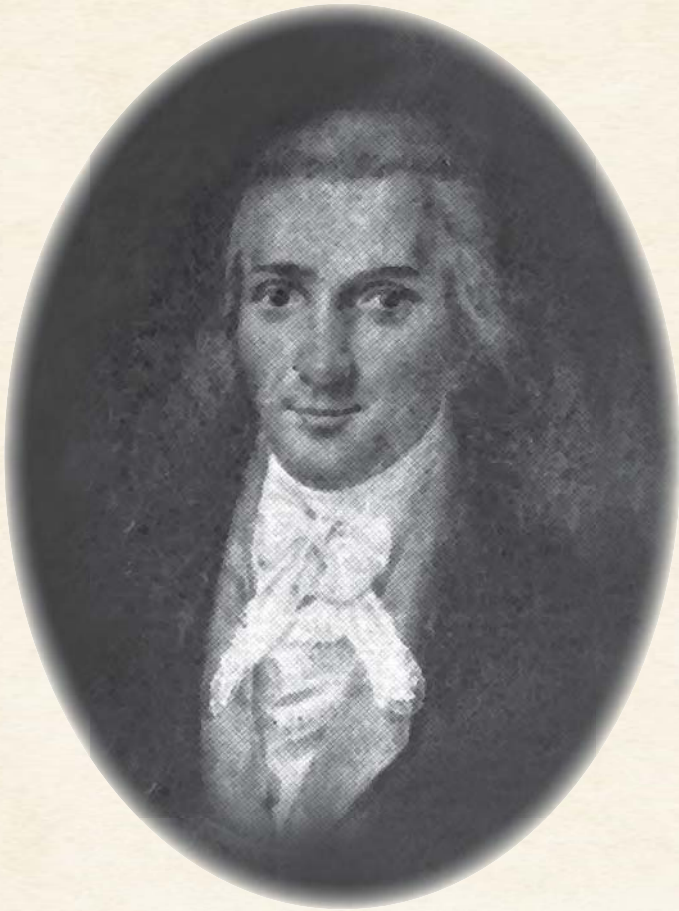
rich and fascinating history. It honors the pastors and parishioners who have contributed so much to Trenton's vibrant past and highlights the decades of stewardship of the third church

edifice that has stood now for more than 125 years.

The booklet also presents the results of a program of parish-sponsored original research that brings to the forefront the colorful figure of John Baptist Sartori, effectively the lay leader of the Catholic community in Trenton during its formative years. Sartori knew popes and cardinals, presidents and royalty, and he lived in Trenton for 30 years,



John B. Sartori



serving for much of the time as U.S. Consul to Rome and later as Papal Consul to the United States. He made a sometimes precarious living as a merchant trading with Italy and the Caribbean, but he deserves particular recognition for establishing the first successful pasta making business in the United States.

Roughly two-thirds of the booklet is devoted to Sartori and his intriguing life. The other third outlines the history of St. John's/Sacred Heart, focusing on the changing demography of the congregation, the educational initiatives of the pastorate and the sequence of buildings erected on church property. Much effort has been expended in recent years on maintaining the physical integrity of the principal church building with parishioners playing a vital role in providing funding support. The booklet is dedicated to them and concludes with several images of the recently restored stained glass windows, a fitting testimony to Sacred Heart's glorious architecture and community spirit.

John Baptist Sartori, c. 1768 - 1854, first U.S. Consul to the Papal States in Rome and later Papal Consul to the United States.

JOHN BAPTIST SARTORI

BUSINESSMAN, DIPLOMAT AND FOUNDER
OF NEW JERSEY'S FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH

Early Life in Italy, c. 1768-1793 A Youth in the Court of the Pope



John Baptist Sartori, or Giovanni Battista Sartori, as he would have been known in his Italian homeland, was the son of Carlo Sartori, jeweler to Pope Pius VI. Very little is known for sure about his early years. He was born, it is thought, in Rome, or possibly Milan, sometime around 1768. His mother's name is lost to history. He had a brother, probably younger, named Vincent.

Carlo Sartori, c. 1735 – c. 1810, jeweler to Pope Pius VI and father of John Baptist Sartori.



By the late 1780s, the Sartori family was well entrenched in Rome, attached to the court of Pius VI. Elected in 1775, this pontiff, in addition to being leader of the Roman Catholic Church, was known for his patronage of the arts and for expanding the museum collections of the Vatican. In that time, popes were also sovereign rulers of the Papal States, composed of territories that included most of the Italian regions of Lazio, Marche, Romagna and Umbria. (The Papal States ceased to exist in 1861 following the unification of the Kingdom of Italy.)

Carlo Sartori worked expertly in gold and silver, setting many of the jewels so prized by the Papacy, including tiaras of Popes Julius II, Paul III, Clement VIII and Urban VIII. His son John Baptist Sartori would have grown up in the papal milieu, exposed to and appreciative of the opulence and rich culture of the Vatican.

Engraving of St. Peter's Square and the Basilica of St. Peter by Giovanni Battista Piranesi, c. 1770.



Portrait of Pope Pius VI by Pompeo Batoni, 1775.

JOHN BAPTIST SARTORI



First Visit to the United States, 1793-1795

The Fledgling Businessman and His First Wife



John Baptist Sartori first came to the United States in 1793, arriving in Philadelphia, then capital city of the new republic and a leading center of American trade. Even with a population of around 50,000, Philadelphia probably seemed small and provincial as compared with Rome, which at the time had a population of about three times that of Philadelphia. In his mid-20s, Sartori came in search of economic opportunity. He was looking to parlay his Papal States contacts into a merchant business importing high-end Italian goods for Philadelphia's wealthy merchant elite and for upwardly mobile, status-seeking denizens of the new American republic.

Detail from *A Plan of the City of Philadelphia* by John Hills, 1796.
Approximate location of Sartori's store indicated by red shading.

Beginning in late 1793, advertisements appeared in the Philadelphia newspapers in which he offered for sale all manner of exotic European goods, mostly shipped in from his native Italy. Marble statuary and furnishings were a particular specialty, but he was also dealing in items such as chandeliers, framed paintings, snuff boxes, fans, visiting cards, Roman violin strings and Italian chocolate. Sartori's imports were sold from his store at 74 Spruce Street, located near Front Street and the public docks on the Delaware River where these goods would have been unloaded from ocean-going vessels.

It is difficult to judge how successful Sartori was in his first venture into the import business. By June of 1794 he was advertising that he was "intending in a few weeks, to ship to Europe the remains of his marble," perhaps an indication that he had unsold stock. By the end of the year he had ceased advertizing altogether and in 1795 he seems to have departed for Italy to re-establish his commercial interests back home.

During his time in Philadelphia, Sartori mingled with the upper echelons of city society and worshipped alongside prominent leaders of the Catholic faith. He came to the United

John Sartori,

Spruce Street, No. 74, has for sale,

ENGLISH Cloth with hair inside, smooth on the right side, for great coats and mantles. Collection of the best workmanship in marble of Italy. Ornaments of every kind in marble, gilded for chimnies, consisting of temples, obelisks, pillars, vases, baskets, &c. and every other kind of ornaments. Basks in marble of the ancient Roman Emperors, Voltaire, Rousseau, Seneca, Cicero, &c. Small dogs, lions, goats, and other beasts. Large and small transparent vases in alabaster, for lamps or candles. Large marble vases for gardens. White, and Mosaic marble slabs of different colours. Desert ornaments for dinner tables. Small statues, busts, and animals in bronze. Ornaments for rooms. Alabaster urns, with branches for candles. Large and small statues in marble of the best Italian authors. Jewels in Mosaic for snuff boxes and rings. Original pictures, consisting of figures, sea views, fishes, fruits, flowers, &c. of every size, with gilded frames, with glass and with out. Prints for studying the pictures, sculpture, architecture, engraving, &c. Ditto ornaments for rooms, superfine and inferior. Ditto views of Rome and Naples, black and coloured. Ditto small visiting cards. Fans with different views painted on leather.

Dec. 30. mth & 3w

Philadelphia Gazette, January 13, 1794. One of several of Sartori's advertisements in the Philadelphia newspapers announcing that he had imported European goods for sale.



A marble stone yard depicted by Denis Diderot in his *L'Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Arts et des Métiers*, 1751 - 1772. One of Sartori's main imports was Italian marble, an item of trade that brought his son Victor considerable wealth in Philadelphia in the mid-19th century.

States bearing a letter of introduction from Cardinal Leonardo Antonelli at the Vatican. Presenting this to Bishop Carroll of Baltimore caused the latter to write back to the Cardinal on September 23, 1793 that Sartori was “an impressive and very refined young man.” Carroll assured Antonelli that Sartori “did not, as do so many who come to us from Europe, begin to be lax in his religious conduct.”

Yet, Sartori, in his brief stay in Philadelphia, complicated matters somewhat by taking as his wife Theresa Henrietta Musgrave, a Quaker. Little is known about Ms. Musgrave.

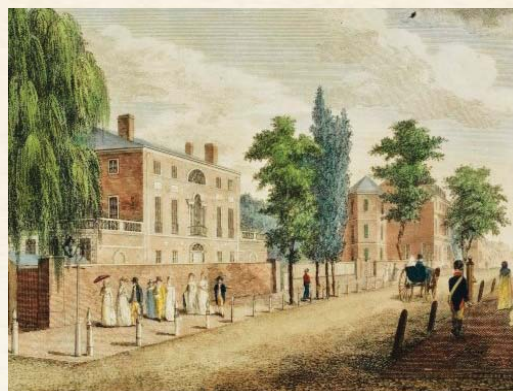
She was born around 1773, probably in the Philadelphia area. She must have met Sartori shortly after his arrival in Philadelphia in 1793. By the summer of 1794, Theresa was already being referred to as Mrs. Sartori, “a most agreeable little woman,” as reported in a letter from William Seton to his wife Elizabeth Ann Seton, North America’s first native-born saint. The Sartoris were not formally married as Catholics until February 19, 1795, in a ceremony at St. Joseph’s in Philadelphia, following Theresa’s instruction and acceptance into the Catholic faith.

Where John Baptist Sartori lived in Philadelphia, either before or following his marriage, is unclear. He possibly lived above his store on Spruce Street. This was a period when Philadelphia was beset with outbreaks of yellow fever, the worst of which occurred between July and October of 1793, with upwards of 5,000 fatalities, and caused close to 20,000 residents to flee the city. Many sought refuge upstream on the farms and estates along the Delaware River. It is not impossible that Sartori ventured up to Trenton as part of this exodus, coming into contact with the growing expatriate European community there.



The City and Port of Philadelphia by William Russell Birch, 1800.

Eighteenth-century marble busts were imported into Philadelphia by Sartori.



View in Third Street from Spruce Street, Philadelphia by William Russell Birch, 1800.

JOHN BAPTIST SARTORI

Return to Italy, 1795-1801

A U.S. Consul in Trying Times



In 1795, John B. Sartori sailed from Philadelphia for Italy with his new bride, Theresa. Settling anew in the Papal States, Sartori undoubtedly resumed contact with family and friends and Vatican officials, perhaps staying with his father while doing so, but he and his wife appear to have lived mostly in Civitavecchia, Rome's port on the Tyrrhenian coast.

On June 26, 1797, U.S. President John Adams appointed John B. Sartori Consul to the Papal States at Rome. Upon presenting his credentials to Pope Pius VI, Sartori became the American government's first official representative to the Catholic Church. Sartori left no record of his reasons for seeking the post of American consul in Rome, but they probably involved equal measure of prestige and business opportunity.

As consul, Sartori represented the United States at official papal functions and celebrations, standing elbow to elbow with Europe's most distinguished foreign dignitaries. He would also have communicated important diplomatic messages, although official American interest in the Papal States was small.

A New Display of the United States by Amos Doolittle, 1799. This portrait of President John Adams, with garland and curtain, is framed by the arms of sixteen states. At the top of the print is a spread-winged eagle holding an arrow, an olive branch and a banderole with the words, "Millions for our Defence Not a Cent for Tribute." Establishing diplomatic relations was an important step for the newly independent United States, which wanted to project an image that placed it on par with European nations.





Engraving of Civita Vecchia by William Barlow, 1797. One of Sartori's principal responsibilities as consul was to greet American ships and facilitate trade, which was centered at Rome's port city of Civitavecchia, about 50 miles northwest of Rome.



The main benefit of being consul, however, was in the development of business contacts and the collection of fees. Upon arrival in foreign ports, American ship captains and travelers sought out consuls for official papers and mail. Consuls also translated and served as trusted go-betweens with local merchants. Sartori certainly was fluent in English, Italian and Latin, and he probably also could speak and write in French and Spanish.

Although technically the American consul in Rome, Sartori spent most of his time in Civitavecchia. This was the best location to carry out the business of being consul, allowing him to gather intelligence from around the world from incoming ships and also further his own mercantile interests and New World connections. Near the harbor in Civitavecchia, Sartori owned a well-stocked warehouse until it was sacked by an invading French army in the spring of 1798.

In many ways, the timing of Sartori's arrival in Italy could not have been worse for business. The Papal States were in turmoil following a military defeat by French troops under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1796. Pope Pius VI sued



Portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte by Francois Gerard, 1803. This likeness captures Napoleon as a younger man and how he would have appeared to Sartori during his time as U.S. Consul in Rome.

for peace but it did not last long. In December 1797, a few months after Sartori's arrival, a French general who had gone to Rome with Joseph Bonaparte, the elder brother of Napoleon and a later neighbor of Sartori's in New Jersey, was assassinated in the French embassy.

A drawing by Joseph-Toussaint Rossignon (1781 - 1862) showing the kidnapping of Pope Pius VI by the French in August 1798.



The assassination provided the motive for the French to retake Rome, demanding that Pope Pius VI renounce his temporal power. The Pope refused and the French took him prisoner while proclaiming a new Roman Republic to replace the Papal States. Pius VI was eventually transported to France, where he died in captivity in August 1797.



The Death of Pope Pius VI by G. Beys, c. 1800.

The French reinvasion was calamitous for Sartori. The French army forcibly seized his warehouse, taking goods that Sartori estimated to be worth \$70,000, over a million dollars in today's currency. The French authorities gave Sartori bills of exchange, which theoretically could be submitted to the French government for reimbursement, but their worth was questionable at best.

Portrait of Timothy Pickering by Charles Saint-Memin, 1806. Pickering was U.S. Secretary of State under Presidents Washington and Adams from 1795 to 1800. Pickering had a strong attachment to British causes and was dismissed by Adams for his unwillingness to support a treaty with France. He showed little sympathy toward Sartori's financial losses in the Napoleonic Wars.

In desperation, Sartori turned to the United States government for advice, hopeful for diplomatic support and some sort of financial relief. The panic in Sartori's letters of 1798-99 to U.S. Secretary of State Timothy Pickering was palpable. Would the United States recognize the new Roman Republic? Would the United States support Sartori in his efforts to recover the value of the goods taken by the French army from his Civitavecchia warehouse? What was the American attitude toward the restoration of the Papacy?

Events on the ground in Italy moved too fast for Sartori to receive any timely counsel from the Secretary of State via trans-Atlantic mail. Trying without success to recoup his finances, Sartori accepted a devil's deal from the French; he traded the bills of exchange for the goods taken from his warehouse and paid an additional \$50,000 cash for the deeds to eight Italian estates. These properties, which consisted of villas, monasteries, and wineries, had been confiscated by the French from the Knights of Malta and other organizations allied with the Papal States.

Sartori miscalculated badly. Napoleon, despite his military conquest of the Italian peninsula, still needed a Pope, if for no other reason than most of the French population was Catholic and respected the Pontiff's religious authority. Napoleon saw advantage in taming the anti-clerical attitudes of the French Revolution and bringing the population to his side. In January 1800, Napoleon supported the election of Pope Pius VII to replace the recently deceased Pius VI.

The new Pope pursued a policy of uneasy cooperation with France. At first Sartori had hope that his French land grants might be upheld. In 1801, however, Pius VII evicted Sartori and others from the Papal lands that they had been granted by the French. Sartori vainly sought restitution but was rebuffed and financially broken.





Portrait of Pope Pius VII by Jacques-Louis David, 1805. Pius VII ignored Sartori's appeals for restitution of property seized by the French army in 1798.

Died,

At Civita Vecchia, in Italy, in the month of March last, Mrs. Henrietta Thekla Musgrave Sartori, daughter of Mrs. Esther Musgrave of this city, and wife of John Baptiste Sartori, Esq. Consul of the United States at Rome, in the 27th year of her age,

Notice of the death of Henrietta Theresa Musgrave Sartori, published in the *Philadelphia Gazette* on July 9, 1800.

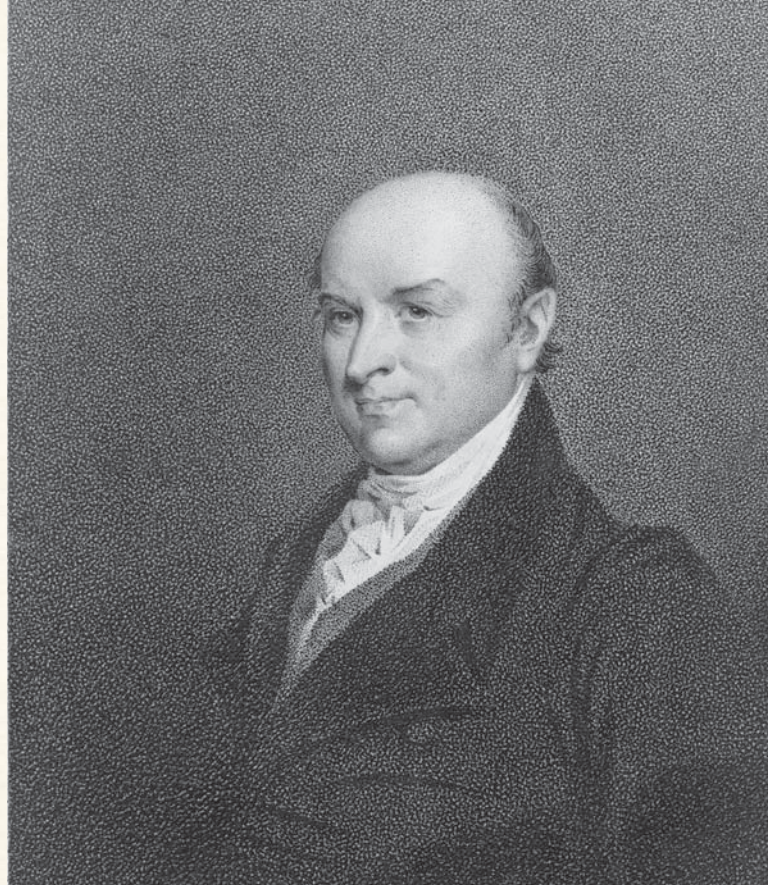
In the meantime, Pickering's letters had finally arrived in Sartori's hands. The U.S. Secretary of State was firm in the opinion that the only American interest was "to maintain a friendly and commercial connection" with the Papal States, whoever controlled them. Commenting on Sartori's business losses, Pickering glibly observed "I cannot flatter you with any such expectations [that property claims will be upheld], you can hardly flatter yourself."

In his personal life Sartori fared little better. With the Napoleonic conflict swirling around them and their failed attempts at preserving what must once have been a comfortable lifestyle, Sartori and his wife were forced to cut back. In March of 1800, Henrietta Theresa Musgrave Sartori died of unknown causes in Civitavecchia at the young age of 27. Perhaps the war and their reduced circumstances contributed to her death; perhaps she died in childbirth (she and John produced no children) – we just don't know.

By 1801, when John B. Sartori returned to the United States, he had every reason to feel a broken man. He had lost a fortune in Napoleon's war against the Papal States. He had lost his wife. His role in the papal court was seemingly diminished.

Upon leaving Italy, Sartori let it be known that his absence was only temporary, driven by pressing business concerns in the United States. The reality, however, was that Sartori was fleeing his mounting financial and legal troubles. His return stateside was driven as much as anything by a need to rebuild his life. After a brief spell in Philadelphia he soon settled in Lamberton, New Jersey (later part of Trenton), resuming a career as a merchant and entrepreneur. Lamberton was his main place of residence for the next 30 years.

Back in America, Sartori somewhat remarkably retained his diplomatic status. Although he failed to return to his diplomatic post in the Papal States, American officials in Washington, D.C. seemed inclined to overlook his long-term absence. They even ignored the irregularity of Sartori transferring his consular duties to his father. After his father's death in 1810, Sartori let it be known that his brother Vincent would serve as acting consul in Rome. Occasional reports to the U.S. Secretary of State's office complained of poor service rendered by the Sartoris, particularly the inability of the father to speak English.



Portrait of John Quincy Adams engraved by James Barton Longacre, c. 1825. Adams, who served as U.S. Secretary of State prior to becoming President, terminated the Sartori family from its consular duties in 1823.

Finally, in 1823, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams removed Sartori from his consular post. Writing Adams, Sartori requested “some light on the subject” and expressed his surprise at having his family replaced “after 22 years of Services rendered.”

JOHN BAPTIST SARTORI



Back in the United States, 1801-1832 Three Decades in Trenton

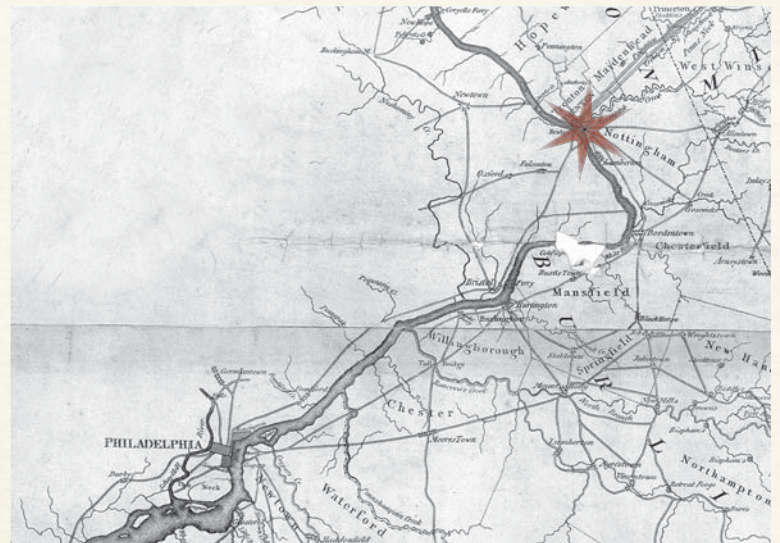
Upon his return to the United States, John Baptist Sartori renewed his business and social contacts in Philadelphia, soon relocating upriver to the southern edge of Trenton to the estate that came to be known as Rosey Hill. Here, Sartori built a new life as husband, father, church leader, consul in absentia and businessman. For the most part, he was successful and enjoyed a comfortable existence, but on occasion, much as happened in Italy, his fortunes fluctuated and there were times when he fought off adversity and was hard-pressed financially.

Throughout this period of his life he was a devout and committed adherent to the Catholic faith. Within a few years of moving to Rosey Hill, his mansion served as a place of worship with church services being held there, led by visiting pastors. In 1814, as “President of St. John’s Church of West New Jersey in trust for the Roman Catholic Congregation,” he acquired

the land for the first Catholic church in New Jersey. This property, a short walk from his home at the intersection of Market and Lamberton Streets, was purchased from the Coxe family, owners of the neighboring Bloomsbury estate.



Detail from *A Map of the State of New Jersey* by William Watson, 1812. The location of the Sartori residence at Rosey Hill is marked on the southern edge of Trenton, a short trip by boat from Philadelphia.





A New Marriage, Many Children

Sartori's second marriage, to Henriette de Woofoin, differed markedly from his ill-fated first marriage to Theresa Musgrave. Henriette was cut from a very different cloth than Theresa and before settling down to married life in south Trenton she endured some difficult and dangerous times in the Caribbean and France. The daughter of wealthy plantation owners, Henriette was born around 1781 in the French colony of Saint-Domingue (modern Haiti) in the western part of the island of Hispaniola. Her father was Chevalier Marin Bazile Gaston L'Official de Woofoin, descended from French nobility, who acquired a sugar plantation in Saint-Domingue in the late 1770s. Not long after his arrival in the Caribbean, de Woofoin married Marie Anne Francoise Salenare, who bore him first a son and then Henriette.

Following the early death of her mother around 1790 and with slave uprisings on the increase in Saint-Domingue, Henriette was dispatched to Paris and placed in the care of the Countess de Gramont. She was briefly exposed to the grand life of the

A miniature of Henriette de Woofoin painted around the time of her marriage to John Baptist Sartori in 1804.



court of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, but soon fled Paris as the French Revolution took hold. In 1791 she moved to the United States, arriving there around the same time that her father and brother landed in Philadelphia after escaping the slave revolts on Saint-Domingue.

In September of 1792 the reunited de Woofoin family bought the 197-acre Bloomsbury estate, moving into the mansion known today as the William Trent House. For almost three years, they lived comfortably at Trenton's premier property, but Henriette's father desperately wanted to reclaim his valuable Caribbean assets. In 1795, Bloomsbury was placed on the market and the de Woofoin father and son returned to Saint-Domingue, only to be killed within a few days of their arrival by forces loyal to Haitian leader Toussaint Louverture. Henriette, meanwhile, remained in Trenton, a teenage orphan abandoned in the family home.

1730
1740
1750
1760
1770
1780
1790
1800
1810
1820
1830
1840
1850
1860
1870
1890
1900

GENERATION 1

1



Carlo Sartori

c. 1735 - c. 1810
Jeweler to Pope Pius VI
Lived in Milan, Livorno and Rome

GENERATION 2

2

married 1 Henrietta Theresa Musgrave

February 19, 1795
c. 1773 - 1800
Lived in Philadelphia, Rome
and Civitavecchia

John Baptist Sartori

c. 1768 - 1854
Diplomat, merchant
Lived in Rome, Philadelphia,
Civitavecchia, Trenton
and Livorno



married 2 Maria Magdalena Henriette L'Official de Woofoin

March 8, 1804
c. 1781 - 1825
Lived in Santo Domingo, Paris
and Trenton



Vincent Sartori

Dates unknown
Brother of John B. Sartori
Acting U.S. Consul in Rome,
c. 1810 - 1823

GENERATION 3

3

1 Charles W. Sartori

1806 - 1873
Physician
Lived in Trenton,
Little Egg Harbor
and Camden

2 Eugenia Sartori Hargous

1807 - 1895
Married Peter A. Hargous,
merchant
Lived in Trenton and
New York City

3 Mathilda Sartori Jaureche

1808 - 1898
Married Peter Jaureche,
merchant
Lived in Trenton and Philadelphia

4 Mary Magdalena Sartori Apellius

1809 - date of death unknown
Lived in Trenton and Livorno

5 Clementina Sartori Fontana

1811 - date of death unknown
Lived in Trenton and Livorno

6 Louis Constant Sartori

1812 - 1899
Rear Admiral in U.S. Navy
Lived in Trenton and
Philadelphia

7 Victor Alexander Sartori

1814 - 1883
Merchant, importer of Italian
marble and other goods
Lived in Trenton and Philadelphia

8 Angelica Isabella Sartori Agostini

c. 1816 - date of death unknown
Lived in Trenton and Livorno

9 Vincent Sartori

After 1817 - c. 1835
Occupation unknown
Lived in Trenton and Livorno

10 Augustus S. Sartori

After 1817 - 1861
Occupation unknown
Lived in Trenton and Livorno

11 Edmund W. Sartori

After 1817 - date of death unknown
Merchant in Chile and Peru
in 1850s and 1860s
Lived in Trenton, Livorno and
South America



The William Trent House, the nucleus of the Bloomsbury estate and home of the de Woofoin family in the mid-1790s.

DIED,
On Thursday afternoon, in the 19th year of his age, BENJAMIN BARNES, son of John H. Barnes, Esq.
On Friday afternoon, 11th inst. at Trenton, (N. J.) MARIA MAGDALENA VAUFOIN SARTORI, wife of John B. Sartori, Esq. in the 44th year of her age, after a short illness.
On Friday morning, 11th inst. JOHN LAMBERTON, Esq. in the 74th year of his age.

Notice of the death of Henriette de Woofoin Sartori, published in the *National Gazette* on February 15, 1825.

How long Henriette continued to live in the Trent House is not known. She may have stayed there as a tenant of subsequent owners of the Bloomsbury estate or been taken in by another local refugee household. While she and John Baptist Sartori could well have crossed paths in the mid-1790s, it was probably not until 1801-02, upon Sartori's return from Italy, that the two entered one another's affections, he in his early 30s, she around 20. Sartori in 1803 acquired the 17-acre estate, later known as Rosey Hill, that neighbored Bloomsbury on the south and on March 8 of the following year he and Henriette were married in Lamberton.

For more than two decades Henriette de Woofoin Sartori was the light of John B. Sartori's life. In his correspondence he made countless requests of business associates for favors and considerations relating to his wife's care and comfort. By all accounts he was distraught and depressed beyond measure when she died in 1825 at the age of 44, giving birth to twins. Over the course of their 20-year marriage she bore no less than 14 children, eleven of whom reached maturity. One imagines her as a vibrant, engaged wife and mother, surrounded by children and thriving as a social hostess receiving the Delaware Valley elite at the Sartori home.



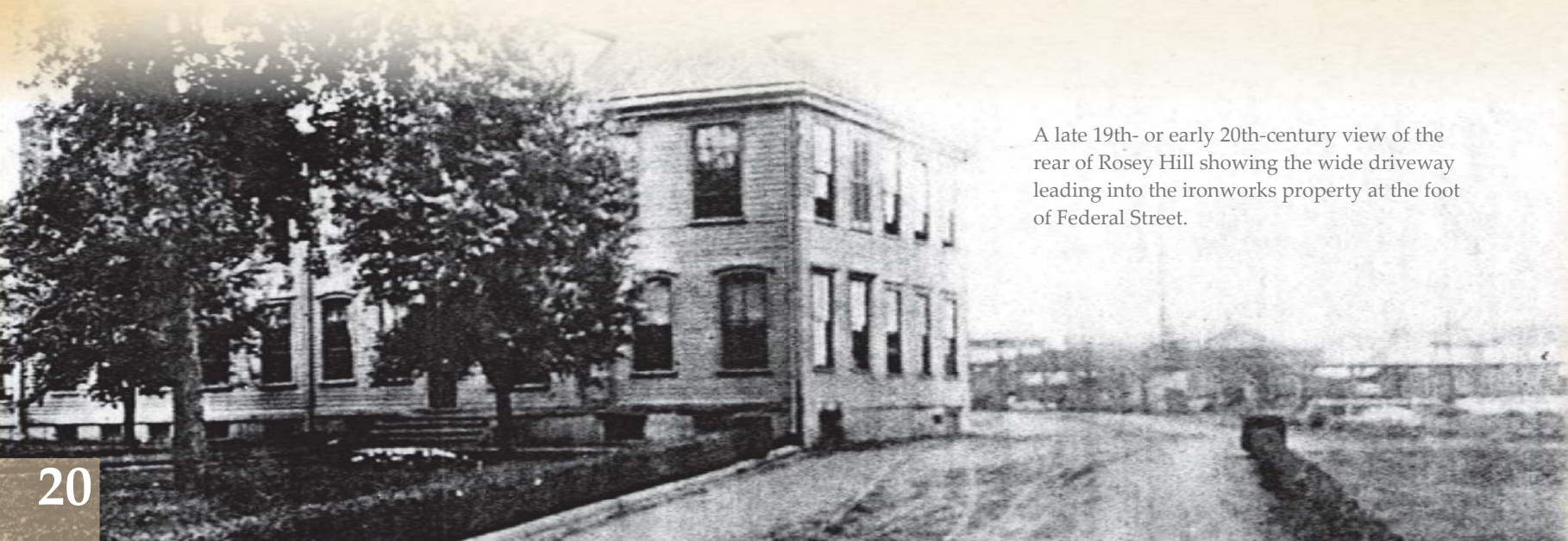
Trenton Sur La Delaware by Edouard Charles-Victorien Colbert, 1798. This view of Trenton's Delaware River frontage shows the series of estates lining the riverbank, several of which were taken up by French and other European refugees in the 1790s. The Trent House, owned for three years by the de Woofoin family, is in the right foreground.



Rosey Hill The Sartori Family Home

John Baptist and Henriette Sartori raised their rapidly growing family in a finely appointed mansion on the banks of the Delaware River just downstream of the wharves at the foot of Ferry Street on the southern outskirts of Trenton. John B. Sartori bought this property in 1803 from Nicholas Lewis Fresnaye, a Philadelphia merchant with whom he had just recently entered into the business of pasta making.

The Rosey Hill mansion was built in the Federal style in the late 1780s or early 1790s and faced south with a fine view looking downriver toward the port of Lambertson and beyond. The two-story main building was five bays wide with a central doorway, and three bays deep. Of timber-frame construction with clapboard siding, it sat on stone foundations and was capped with a hipped roof. There may have been a smaller kitchen wing



A late 19th- or early 20th-century view of the rear of Rosey Hill showing the wide driveway leading into the ironworks property at the foot of Federal Street.

adjoining to the north or east. At various points in its history, the main block of the house was expanded, probably first to the north with the addition of two bays, and then in several stages to the east and eventually to the south.

The Sartoris' social circle included many in the upper stratum of Trenton society. Their family and political connections, inherited wealth and periodic commercial success meant that they maintained a high standard of living, despite sometimes amassing sizeable debts and fending off occasional court challenges. A steady stream of high-profile friends and neighbors was likely received and entertained at their home.

Among them were several refugees from the



An early 20th-century view of Rosey Hill in which the Federal-style front of the building is still recognizable.

French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars, most notably Joseph Bonaparte, elder brother of Napoleon, former King of Naples and Sicily and of Spain, who settled at the Point Breeze estate outside Bordentown in 1816. Joseph Bonaparte is claimed to have been godfather to one of the Sartori children.



Portrait of Joseph Bonaparte by Dessin de Jean-Baptiste Wicar, 1808. John B. Sartori first became acquainted with Joseph Bonaparte (1768 – 1844), elder brother of Napoleon, in the mid-1790s in Rome. Later, they were neighbors on the banks of the Delaware for 16 years following Joseph's settling at Point Breeze, outside Bordentown, in 1816.



Jean Victor Marie Moreau (1763 - 1813), a French general who helped Napoleon Bonaparte to power, later became his rival and was exiled to the United States in 1805. John B. Sartori had many business and social dealings with the Moreau family and Madame Moreau is said to have been godmother to one of his children.

Portrait of Ann Savage and her two daughters by Bass Otis, 1823 (Philadelphia Museum of Art). Ann Savage (c. 1800 - 1865), Joseph Bonaparte's mistress, and her two daughters, both fathered by Bonaparte, lived at Pine Grove, a small mansion located roughly midway between Point Breeze and Rosey Hill. The Sartoris were likely acquainted with Ann during her period of ascendance within the Bonaparte household, c. 1817 - 1824.



Other prominent expatriate French figures well-known to the Sartoris were:

Jean Victor Marie Moreau, a French general who helped Napoleon to power, but was later exiled to the United States (he lived in nearby Morrisville from 1805 until 1813);

Prince Lucien Charles Joseph Napoléon Murat, a nephew of Joseph and Napoleon, who emigrated to the

United States in 1825 and lived next door

to Point Breeze; and Nicholas de Belleville, a

French-born physician, who settled in Trenton in 1778

after briefly serving as a military surgeon for the Continental

Army. The Sartoris also rubbed shoulders with numerous other

Trenton notables, including neighbors Daniel W. Coxe and

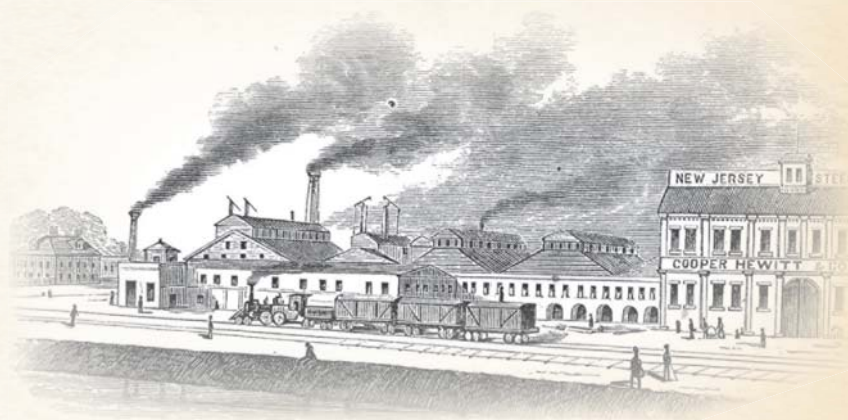
Barnt de Klyn, owners, respectively, of the riverfront estates

centered on the William Trent House and Bow Hill.

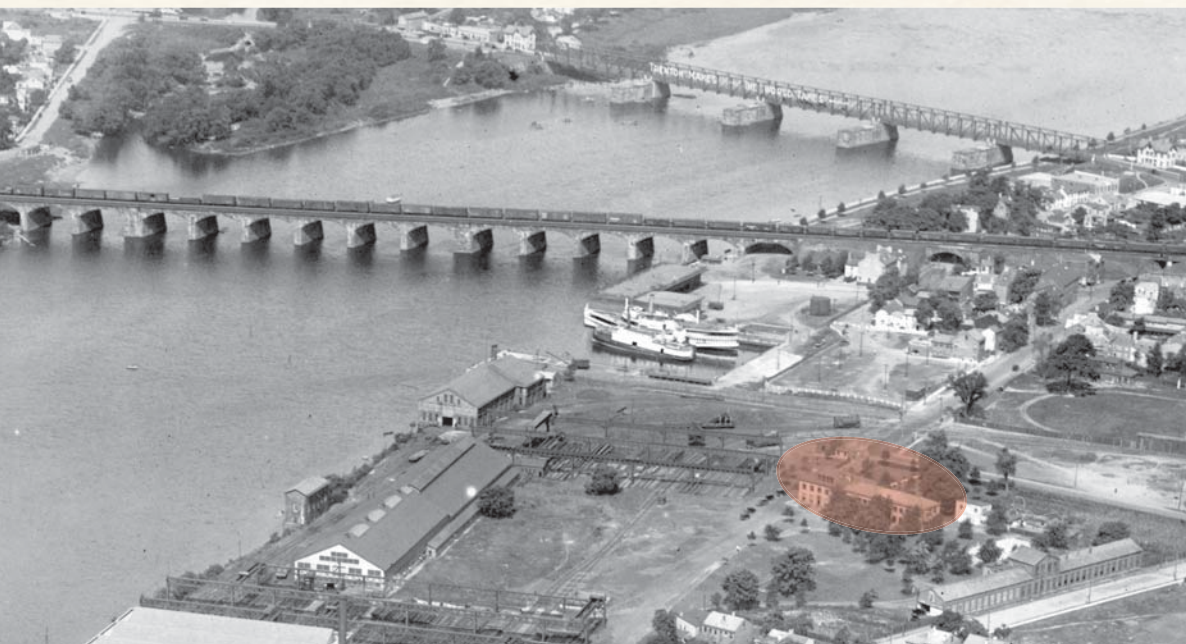


The French politician Prince Lucien Charles Joseph Napoléon Murat (1803-1878), second son of Joachim Murat, King of Naples and Napoleon Bonaparte's sister Caroline, emigrated to the United States in 1825. For the period that he and the Sartoris overlapped as residents of the Trenton area (1825 - 1832), they would have mingled in similar company.

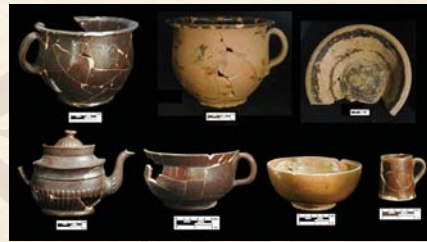
After the Sartoris left the United States in the early 1830s, their home stood for almost 150 years, serving for much of the time as the offices for the iron and steel works that was built on the property in the late 1840s by New York industrialists Peter Cooper and Abram Hewitt. The building was eventually pulled down in 1980 to make way for the reconstruction of Route 29. Archaeological studies of the mansion site, conducted in the late 1990s as part of the highway project, yielded ample trace of the Sartori family's presence, including an outdoor privy or "necessary," that contained a trove of china and glassware dating from the period of their occupation.



"Peter Cooper's Iron Foundry at Trenton" in *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly*, 1877. The Rosey Hill Mansion, by this time the office of the New Jersey Steel and Iron Company, is the hipped-roof building at the far left.



By the mid-1920s, when this aerial photograph was taken, virtually all trace of the Sartori estate known as Rosey Hill had vanished from the heavily urbanized landscape of south Trenton. All that remained was the much-altered mansion (shaded) which had by this time functioned for almost 75 years as the ironmaster's residence and then the main office of the Trenton rolling mills.



The privy pit or "necessary" at Rosey Hill yielded a trove of ceramics and glassware dating from the period of the Sartori family's occupation of the mansion in the early 19th century. This view shows the privy under excavation. Typically, archaeologists will excavate a shaft feature like this in half section, so that the vertical sequence of soils can be examined and recorded. Here, one half of the privy fill has been removed.





Merchant Dealings

During his second, more prolonged stay in the United States, John B. Sartori greatly expanded his commercial reach. While he maintained his family and consular contacts with Italy, his business focus from 1802 to 1832 shifted to the eastern and southern ports of the United States and to the Caribbean islands, in particular Cuba. His correspondence with other merchants and published logs of goods being imported into Philadelphia and New York present a fascinating glimpse into his multi-faceted business activities.

Sartori was busy trading in all sorts of commodities ranging from sugar, coffee, tobacco and honey, all imported from Cuba, to flour, ham and Trenton-made Bologna sausage, exported to east coast cities and the Caribbean. He developed a specialty export market in pasta, for which he was nationally and internationally known, and he even assisted a business partner of the DuPont family in acquiring a highly prized billiard table that may have been owned by the Moreau family.

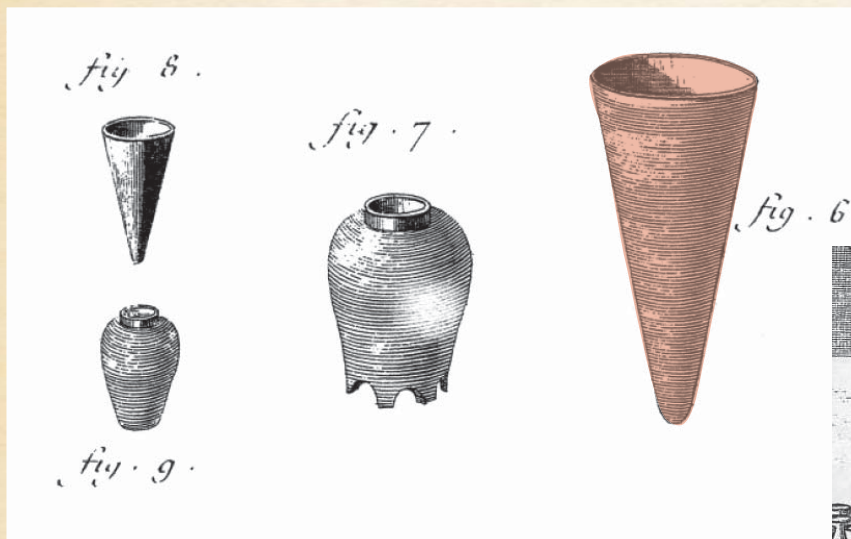
Arrivals and Abstract of Merchandise entered at the CUSTOM HOUSE at Philadelphia.			
FOREIGN AND COASTWISE.			
Trinidad, Cuba, Schooner Nymph, A. 142 tons. N. Stanley.		Petersburg, Va. Sloop J. E. Davis, 63 tons.	
Sugar 123 hhds. 4 tier. 46 bbls.	} J. B. Sartori.	Tobacco 12 hhds	Wm. Robertson.
Molasses 13 hhds.		Do. 1 do.	Richard Davis.
Tobacco 2 bales,		Feathers 2 bales,	To order.
		Flour 130 bbls.	M. Carey.
		Misc 4 boxes,	
			Ox Hides dried 550,
			Indigo 3 seroons,
			Drugs 10 packages,
			Camphor 11 do.
			Md-c. 26 packages,
			Store Patterns 1 box,
			French Goods 11 cases,
			T. & P. Kelly.
			M. Edwards.
			A. Denman.

Grotjan's Philadelphia Public-Sale Report, June 30, 1817. Sartori imported substantial quantities of sugar, molasses and tobacco into Philadelphia from the Cuban port of Trinidad in the summer of 1817.

Sartori cultivated a complex web of relationships in conducting business in the early 19th century. He often acted as a middleman for Trenton area merchants dealing in agricultural produce, assisting them in exporting pork and beef. He was also in partnership in the firm of Vanuxem and Sartori, which owned a gristmill and sawmill in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, just across the river from his home. This firm supplied flour to the New York, Philadelphia and Caribbean markets and perhaps also to the Sartori pasta making business. Sartori maintained his own network of representatives in several Cuban ports, such as Havana, Matanzas and Trinidad, through which he kept his finger on the pulse of the Spanish colonial marketplace.

Trinidad Cuba, Schooner Nymph, A. 142 41-95 tons N. Stanley.			
Sugar 87 hhds 88 tierces,	} J. B. Sartori.		
Do 13 bbls. 1 box,			
Coffee 19 bbls.			
Tobacco 16 seroons,			
Honey 2 hhds. Coffee 1 bbl.	} John Keefe.		
Sugar 34 bbls.			
Do. 5 hhds.	Peter Bingham.		

Grotjan's Philadelphia Public-Sale Report, August 25, 1817. More evidence of Sartori's Caribbean imports in the summer of 1817.



These images document the process known as “claying” in which sugar loaves are formed in conical earthenware molds. Examples of these ceramic molds were recovered from archaeological excavations at the Rosey Hill Mansion Site (*Encyclopedie, ou Dictionnaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Arts et des Métiers*, by Denis Diderot, 1751-77).



Yet, much of the time, Sartori was beholden to larger import/export firms in the bigger port cities, such as Jeremiah and William R. Boone in Philadelphia and Lynch & Aymar of New Haven and New York, depending on them for assistance in shipping and sales. When business was good and trade was flowing, his relationship with these larger firms thrived, but there were also periods when he struggled to meet his obligations, borrowed heavily and owed them substantial sums of money. American maritime commerce in the early 19th century was often a risky endeavor, subject to wars, pirates, unpredictable weather and the fluctuations of the global market. Sartori experienced it all.

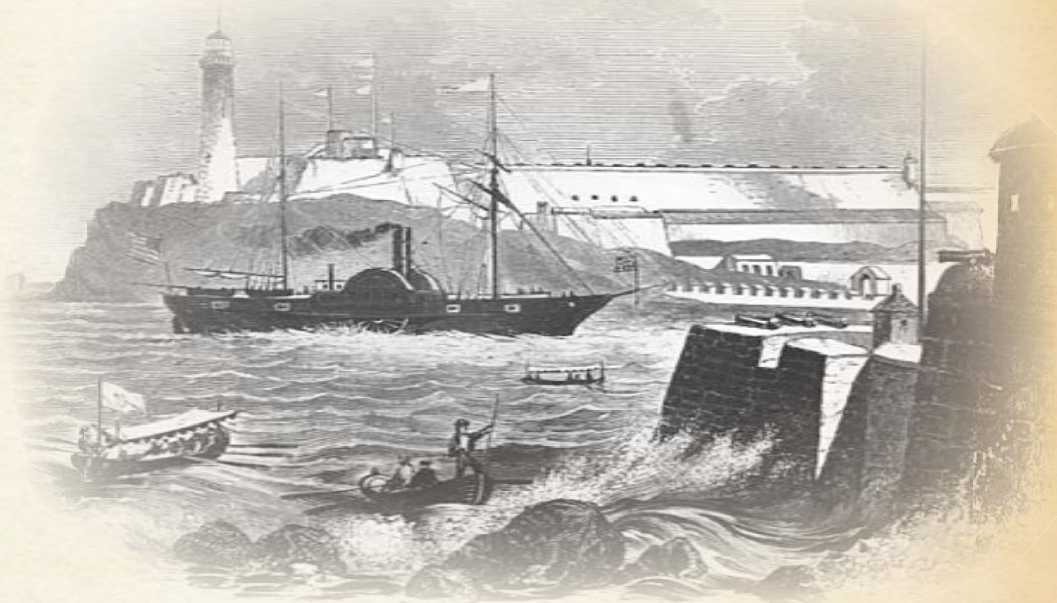
At various times, business was sufficiently profitable that Sartori was able to own or part-own ocean-going vessels and exercise greater control over his import and export activities. In 1820, for example, he bought the schooner *Mentor*, a five-year-old ship built in Sullivan, Maine, for \$1,325. Two years later, however, he was forced to sell this vessel at a substantial loss to help pay off his debts to the Boones.

Entrance to the Port of Havana, Cuba, in *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion*. 1854. On a business trip to Cuba in 1823 the ship on which Sartori was traveling ran the gauntlet of pirates as they tried to make land.

Sartori also occasionally ventured abroad in support of his business interests. In 1823, he took a two-month trip to Cuba, primarily to attend in person to some tenuous commercial arrangements in the port of Trinidad. His movements are difficult to trace in the documentary record, but it is thought that Sartori traveled widely in the United States and the Caribbean between 1802 and the mid-1820s. For instance, passenger lists appear to show him arriving in Philadelphia from Martinique in August of 1802, possibly returning from a business trip.



This reassembled sugar cone mold recovered from the fill of the privy pit at the Rosey Hill Mansion implies that John B. Sartori was refining sugar on the



One of the principal commodities that Sartori imported from Cuba was sugar, harvested by slaves on the many Spanish-run plantations. He distributed this and other Caribbean imports to stores and individual customers in the region. Interestingly, his involvement in the sugar trade seems to have extended beyond sales and distribution – clear evidence of his undertaking sugar refining on the Rosey Hill property has been found in the archaeological record. This implies he was further refining sugar to obtain a higher-quality product for the American market.



Philadelphia Gazette, December 27, 1802. This revealing notice appeared in the Philadelphia and New York newspapers just a few months after John B. Sartori & Company established their pasta making business on the riverfront close to the Rosey Hill Mansion.

Pasta Maker and Pasta Merchant

For almost a quarter century, from 1802 until at least 1825, John B. Sartori owned and operated a factory making vermicelli and macaroni, selling his pasta products to discerning gastronomes in the upper echelons of American and Caribbean society. Although not the first person to make and sell pasta on a commercial basis in the United States, his was the first enterprise to develop a widespread national and overseas market. Sartori's pasta factory was located on the Delaware riverfront close to his mansion at the foot of Federal Street on the southern outskirts of Trenton.

The origins of pasta can be traced to at least the mid-12th century in Sicily and southern Italy. Up until the 17th century production and consumption of this food staple were chiefly confined to the central Mediterranean region, with Genoa and Naples prominent as centers of manufacture and trade.

Vermicelli and Macaroni.

THE subscribers having at a considerable expence established at Lambertton, near Trenton, New-Jersey, a manufactory of Vermicelli and Macaroni, for which purpose they imported the necessary apparatus, and procured the most experienced workmen from Italy—beg leave to inform the public, that they will constantly have for sale a large quantity for exportation or home consumption, at reasonable prices; besides its being always fresher, they warrant it equal to any imported. Although immense quantities are used in the southern parts of Europe, and East and West Indies, yet this article of food, recommended by all physicians who have tried it, as gratifying the taste of those in health, and proving beneficial to the convalescence of the sick, is little known in this country.

The articles above mentioned are put up in boxes of different sizes, with directions for using it, and may be had wholesale of Lewis Freshays, agent of the company, No. 57, South Front-street, Philadelphia; and wholesale and retail of

Isaac Winslow, Boston,

Joseph Wiseman, Newport, R. Island,

Dufrayer & Soret, no. 6, William-st. N. York,

Lewis Desauque, no. 63, South 2d street, Philad.

Michael Milhau, no. 24, Gay-street, opposite the branch bank, Baltimore,

Soulage and André, Norfolk,

John Richards & co. Richmond,

James D. Barry, City of Washington,

Francis B. Faures, Charleston, S. C.

Montmollin & Heron, Savannah.

Merchants, by giving notice beforehand, may have any quantity in any kind of package they desire.

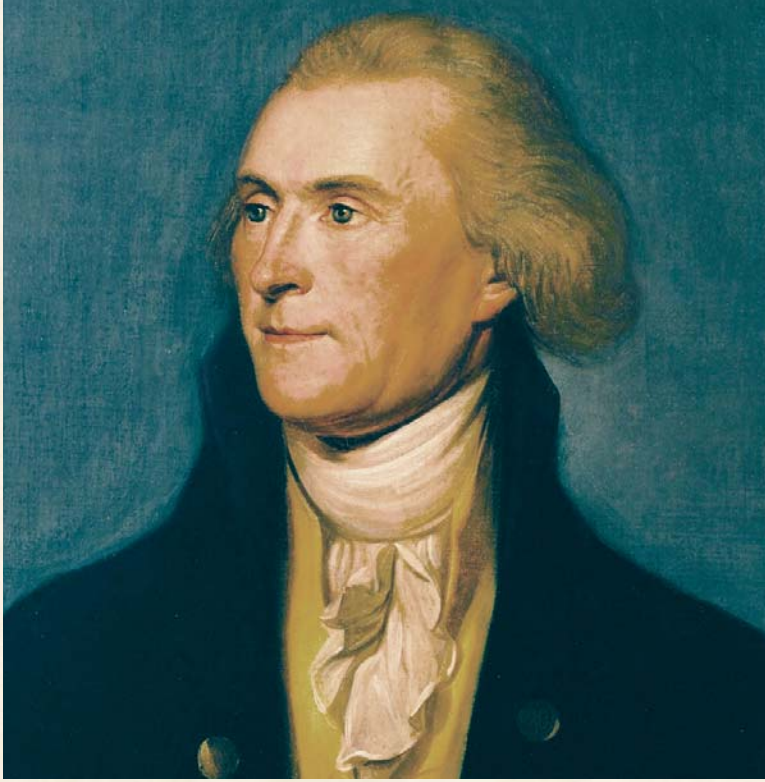
The subscribers will be happy on the application of any decent persons, to shew them the curious process of this manufactory, and particularly the extreme cleanliness with which it is performed, it being entirely done by machinery.

John B. Sartori & Co.

Lamberton, New-Jersey,

December 1, 1802.

Dec. 1, 1802



Portrait of Thomas Jefferson by Charles Willson Peale, early 1790s.

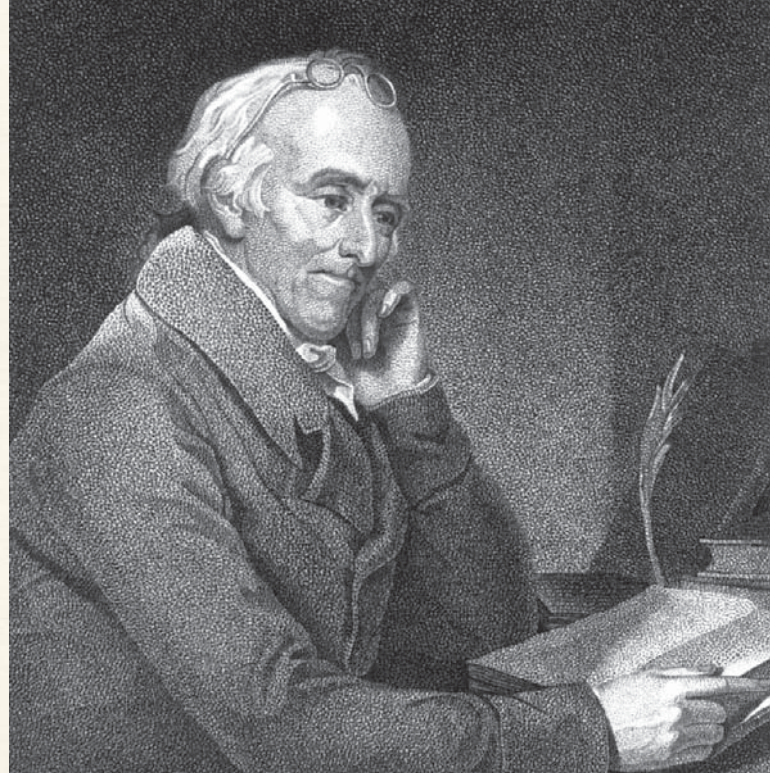
As the popularity of dried pasta products spread in the 18th century, the Spanish and French colonies in the Caribbean emerged as an important market. The United States began to acquire a taste for pasta soon after the American Revolution, encouraged in part by immigrants and refugees from Europe and the West Indies. Initially a food preference of the American social elite in the 1790s and early 1800s, pasta was increasingly embraced by the population as a whole, spurred on by the waves of Italians coming into the United States in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

Thomas Jefferson is often touted as the person most responsible for popularizing pasta in the United States. He likely acquired a taste for this food while on diplomatic duty in Paris in the 1780s. Upon his return stateside he arranged for a macaroni machine to be sent to Monticello for his own kitchen use.

While President, Jefferson is known to have served his dinner guests with macaroni pie, a concoction that was not always appreciated. In 1802, Meriwether Lewis (of Lewis and Clark fame) commented that it “tasted very strong, and not agreeable,” perhaps owing to its being mixed with liquor. In his earlier years it seems that Jefferson experimented making his own pasta, but by the end of his second term as President he was being supplied by commercial pasta makers, among them the Sartori Company of Trenton.

The precise origins of the Sartori pasta business are somewhat obscure. The manufacturing end of the business commenced in 1802 on the Rosey Hill property, which at this time was still owned by the Philadelphia merchant and tobacconist, Nicholas

Portrait of Benjamin Rush engraved by James Barton Longacre from a painting by Thomas Sully, 1814.



Lewis Fresnaye. Indeed, Fresnaye may well have invested in the business and perhaps even started it before Sartori appeared on the scene (Fresnaye was advertizing “fresh vermicelli” for sale as early as 1800 when Sartori was still in Italy). Advertisements in late 1802 and 1803 indicate that the factory was heavily capitalized, made use of machinery and workmen recently brought in from Italy, and distributed its product to wholesalers and retailers in major port cities along the east coast.

Around this time Dr. Benjamin Rush, the well-known physician and educator in Philadelphia, was another Founding Father who took a particular interest in pasta, as much for its nutritional value as for its social benefits. He was one of the first people to get a taste of the Sartori Company’s vermicelli shortly after the factory opened in 1802. In November of that year, Fresnaye presented Rush with a free sample, apparently as a promotional move. Along with his cover letter, Fresnaye enclosed a broadside containing a recipe for a meat-based pasta soup or pudding. The Sartori Company evidently sought out prominent and influential citizens in the hope they would pass on a good word about this new and somewhat exotic foodstuff.

Nicholas Lewis Fresnaye died in August 1803, leaving Sartori in full control of the pasta works. Sartori, just a few months earlier, had purchased Fresnaye’s riverfront estate, albeit with a hefty mortgage. Sartori then rapidly built up the business, experimenting with different varieties of wheat flour, until by 1805 his “pastes [were] so good ... they were pronounced in Havana equal to those of Italy.” In 1807 he received a patent from the U.S. government for “Making Italian pastes, macaroni, vermicelli, etc.” Sadly, the patent has not survived and it is unclear if it pertained to pasta making machinery or to pasta recipes.

A broadside published in Philadelphia in 1802, coinciding with the start of production at the Sartori Company's pasta factory. Beware, the soup recipe appears quite unappetizing to the modern palate.

But in the long run the business enjoyed only mixed success. Its most profitable market was in the Caribbean, while American customers at first were few and far between. U.S. trade embargoes placed on merchants doing business with Spanish-American colonies restricted the company's growth and led to unsold surplus. In December 1807, when one such embargo was imposed, Sartori was left high and dry with more than 200,000 pounds weight of pasta valued at \$35,000. He reckoned that, were it not for the embargo, his export business would soon have earned \$80,000 or \$90,000 annually. A year later he unsuccessfully petitioned Congress to remove his pasta business and its machinery out of the country, which would have enabled him to trade more easily with Havana and the Caribbean market.

Over the following 15 years or so Sartori's pasta operations waxed and waned, often subject to fluctuating American trade relations with the Caribbean islands. The business no doubt received a boost from supplying celebrated customers like Thomas Jefferson, a connoisseur of pasta since his diplomat days in Europe. In 1809, for example, Sartori supplied Jefferson with two 25-pound boxes of macaroni for a meager \$8. Yet, his business correspondence makes clear that Sartori

To make Soup of Vermicelli, Maccaroni and other kinds of Paste.

DIRECTIONS.

TAKE a pound or two of meat or a fowl, and boil it as usual, when the meat or fowl is sufficiently boiled, and the broth has arrived to a proper consistency, take about six cakes of the paste to a pint of broth, break them in your hands; take the meat or fowl out of the pot, and while the broth is boiling, stir the paste in with a spoon, then let it boil about eight minutes..... But if the paste is of a larger size boil it more in proportion.....It is then fit for use.

It may also be made by boiling the paste in milk, or in water with a little butter, in which a little grated parmesan or other good cheese will be an addition. It is in this manner that it is very salutary and nutritive for persons of a weak stomach, and in a weak and debilitated state of body, and is much used in the Italian Hospitals. This dish may well be substituted in the place of meat especially in the hot seasons of the year, when the too great use of meat is prejudicial to the health.

It is also prepared like pudding, thus:

TAKE six pints of water and boil it with a sufficiency of salt, when boiling, stir in it one pound of paste, let it boil as above, then strain the water well off, and put the paste in a large dish, mixing therewith six ounces of grated parmesan or other good cheese; then take four ounces of good butter and melt it well in a saucer or small pot, and pour it over the paste while both are warm. It would be an improvement after all is done, to keep the dish a few minutes in a hot oven, till the butter and cheese have well penetrated the paste.

It may be rendered still more delicate by boiling the paste in milk instead of water, and put a little gravy of meat, or any other meat sauce thereon

T. S. Manning, Printer, 41, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

was constantly struggling to make sales, ensure deliveries and collect payment. After some difficult years in the early to mid-1820s, and following the death of his wife in 1825, Sartori seems to have lost his appetite for pasta manufacture and the business shortly after faded into obscurity.



A Brief Foray into Calico Printing

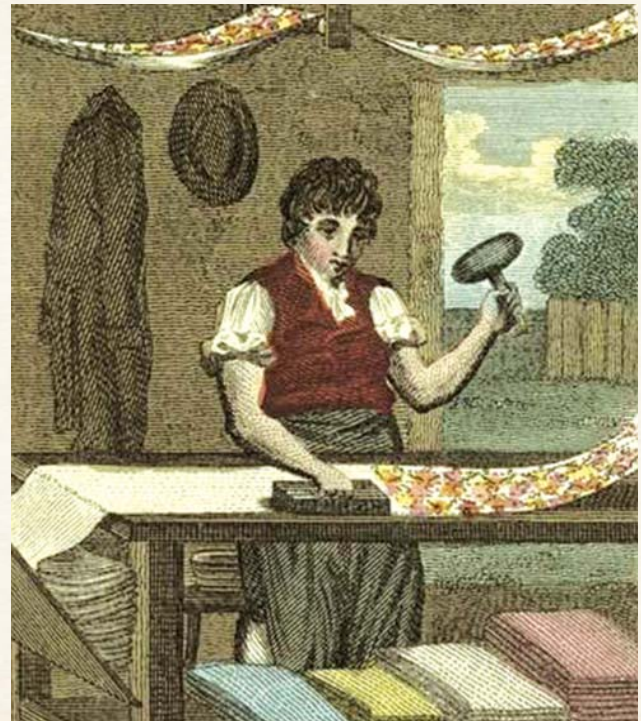
Calico was a popular fabric in the United States during the late 18th and 19th centuries. The printed cotton cloth was simple, cheap and colorful, often featuring a small floral pattern. John B. Sartori was part owner in a calico printing factory, established on his Rosey Hill property no later than 1828, and possibly located in the former pasta factory.

Calico printing, while rare in New Jersey in the 1820s, had been conducted in the state as early as the 1790s in Springfield, Paterson and Pompton. In 1828 Sartori and his son-in-law Peter A. Hargous received a charter of incorporation from the New Jersey Legislature for the Trenton Calico Printing Manufactory. According to the charter, the sole purpose of the company was the manufacture and printing of “wool, cotton, silk, flax and hemp,” although as commonly understood calico was always cotton. The act authorized a capital stock of \$100,000.

The printing technology used by Sartori and Hargous involved the pressing down onto fabric of wood blocks or flat copper plates, each prepared with a pattern and ink or dye. Most likely, such blocks or plates would have been applied with the help of manually operated machinery.

In 1829, a court judgment was made against the calico company for a debt of \$6,000. At that time, Hargous was listed as a director but Sartori was conspicuously absent, suggesting he may have sold his interest. The Trenton Calico Printing Manufactory faded into obscurity after the court judgment of 1829, almost certainly due to financial difficulties.

A calico printer at work with a block and mallet in 1805. The Sartori and Hargous factory of the late 1820s probably made use of hand-operated machinery to increase output.





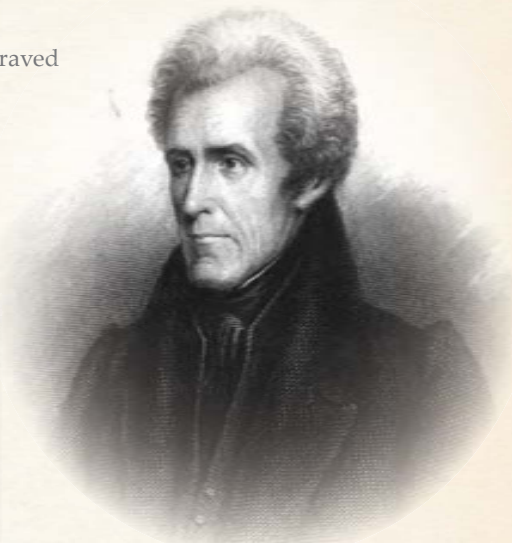
Papal Consul

In 1828, five years after being dismissed as U.S. Consul in Rome by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, John B. Sartori returned to the diplomatic stage when the newly elected Pope Leo XII appointed him Consul General to the United States. President Andrew Jackson officially recognized Sartori in September 1829. Sartori was not the first Papal Consul to the United States, that honor was held by Count Ferdinando Lucchesi who had served previously in Washington, D.C. starting in 1826.



Portrait of Leo XII by unknown artist, c. 1825. In December 1828, the Pope appointed Sartori his Consul General to the United States.

Portrait of Andrew Jackson engraved by William Greatbach, 1839.



This certificate, written in Italian, recognizes John B. Sartori as the Papal Consul in Trenton, 1828.



Sartori chose not to relocate to the seat of government in Washington, but to serve his diplomatic post from Trenton, which kept him near family and established business contacts. As consul, Sartori's duties consisted primarily of fostering commerce between the United States and the Papal States. An advertisement placed by Sartori in a Baltimore newspaper in 1830, for

instance, encouraged American merchants to contact him in writing for an explanation of new tariffs put in place in the ports of Civitavecchia, Ancona and other custom houses of the Papal States. The Papal States, however, were not a major American trading partner and Sartori's consular responsibilities appear to have been relatively light.

JOHN BAPTIST SARTORI



Departure from Trenton and the Final Years in Italy, 1832-1854

In 1832, John Baptist Sartori left the home he had occupied in Trenton for almost three decades to return to his native land, where he lived out his final years in Livorno, Tuscany, along with several of his children. Sartori's reasons for leaving Trenton were undoubtedly complicated by the abysmal state of his personal finances. He was in debt to creditors who were in the process of suing him for missed payments. In 1829 he had been taken to court by Nicholas de Belleville for defaulting on the mortgage for the Rosey Hill property, which was promptly sold at a sheriff's sale on July 31, 1830 for \$4,550. It seems that the Sartoris may have continued living there, however, until their departure for Europe.

Curiously, Sartori's decision to leave America coincided with a similar decision made by his famous neighbor Joseph Bonaparte. Both men departed for Europe in the same year never to return to the United States. For his part, Bonaparte hoped that the political climate was right to reclaim power in France. His attempt failed, however, and he, like Sartori, spent the rest of his life in Livorno, where he died in 1844.



The Port of Leghorn by Sir Augustus Wall Callcott, engraved by Joseph Clayton Bentley, 1850.

As for Sartori's motives for leaving the United States, these remain unclear. He might have been hoping that a Bonaparte-governed France would somehow enable him to restore his lost wealth. Perhaps he felt that returning to Italy would help him press his case for financial compensation from the Papal States. Or perhaps Sartori, now an older man in his late 60s, was merely hoping to return to his native land one more time.

DIED,
At Leghorn, Tuscany, on the 18th September, JOHN B. SARTORI, in the 86th year of his age, for many years a resident of Trenton, New Jersey.

John B. Sartori's obituary, published in the *Trenton State Gazette* on October 16, 1854.

In this final phase of his life, Sartori continued to seek opportunities to press his claim for restitution of the French military's seizure of his Civitavecchia warehouse in 1798. Failing to find redress in Rome or Paris, Sartori turned once more to his important contacts in the United States, hoping they might have some influence. Writing U.S. Secretary of State Daniel Webster in 1852, Sartori pleaded his case under a clause in a treaty that provided American citizens entitlement to recover damages for property seized by the French in the years leading up to the War of 1812.

The Sartori case bogged down when the State Department determined that Sartori was not an American citizen during the time he lived in Italy from 1795 to 1801. After Sartori's death in 1854, his children in the United States continued to press the case, unsuccessfully petitioning the American government again in 1855 and 1859. With each telling, the facts became less clear as dates changed and new evidence was presented, sometimes relying on the Sartori family's own translations of half-century-old Italian documents.

Sartori lived for more than two decades in Livorno, dying there on September 18, 1854. He left a bevy of descendants, many of them in Tuscany, some in New York and Philadelphia, none in Trenton. His eldest son, Charles, after a brief period as a merchant, became a physician in South Jersey. His eldest daughter, Eugenia, married Peter A. Hargous, prominent New York City merchant and son of his close Trenton friend, John Hargous. Second daughter Mathilda married Peter Jaureche, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant. The three youngest daughters, Mary Magdalena, Clementina and Angelica Isabella, all moved to Livorno with their father and married into Tuscan families. Best known of Sartori's sons was Louis Constant, who distinguished himself as a U.S. naval officer in the Mexican War, the Fiji Expedition of 1855 and the Civil War, before rising to the rank of Rear Admiral. Another son, Victor Alexander, made his fortune importing Italian marble into Philadelphia, while the three youngest sons all apparently dabbled in trade and maintained a close connection to Livorno.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1814-2014

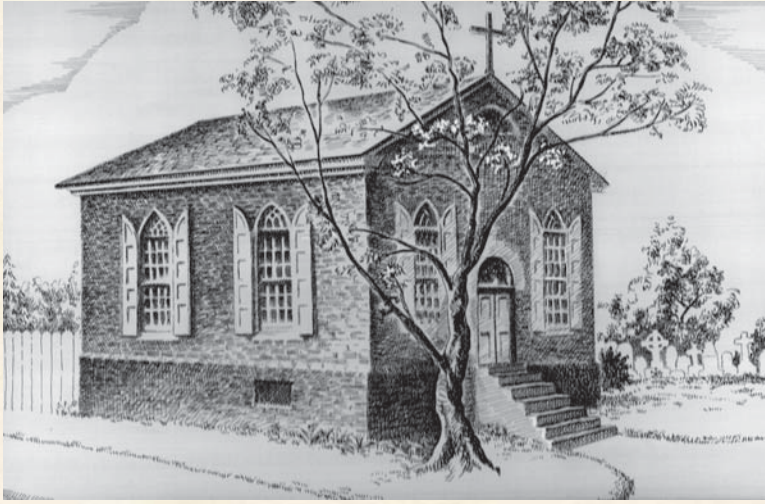
Sacred Heart, founded in 1814 as St. John's Church of West New Jersey, is the oldest Catholic parish in New Jersey. The Irishman Patrick Colvin, who operated a ferry at Trenton from 1772 until 1792, is often named as the city's first Catholic resident. Whether or not that is the case, we know that by the

It is stated that in addition to the Churches already established at Trenton, New-Jersey, a ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH will shortly be erected—the first in that state. “*In my Father's house there are many mansions.*”

Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, April, 2, 1812.

late 1790s priests from Philadelphia's St. Joseph's Church were traveling to Trenton to celebrate Mass with a small but growing number of families. Some early services were held in the downtown printing office of Isaac Collins, a Quaker, and at the Fox Chase Tavern on Brunswick Avenue. Early in the 19th century, Trenton's tiny Catholic population grew to several dozen families with the arrival of French, German and Italian expatriates, among them John B. Sartori.

From 1811 to 1814, the Sartori family welcomed Trenton's Catholics to celebrate Mass at their Rosey Hill mansion. Sartori and his neighbor, Captain John Hargous, were responsible for



St. John the Baptist, First Catholic Church In New Jersey by Peggy Peplow Gummere, Trenton, New Jersey, 1976. This frequently reproduced pen and ink rendering captures the church's original appearance.

buying the lot and erecting the first St. John's at the southeast corner of Market and Lamberton Streets, near present-day Warren Street, about 500 feet west of where Sacred Heart stands.

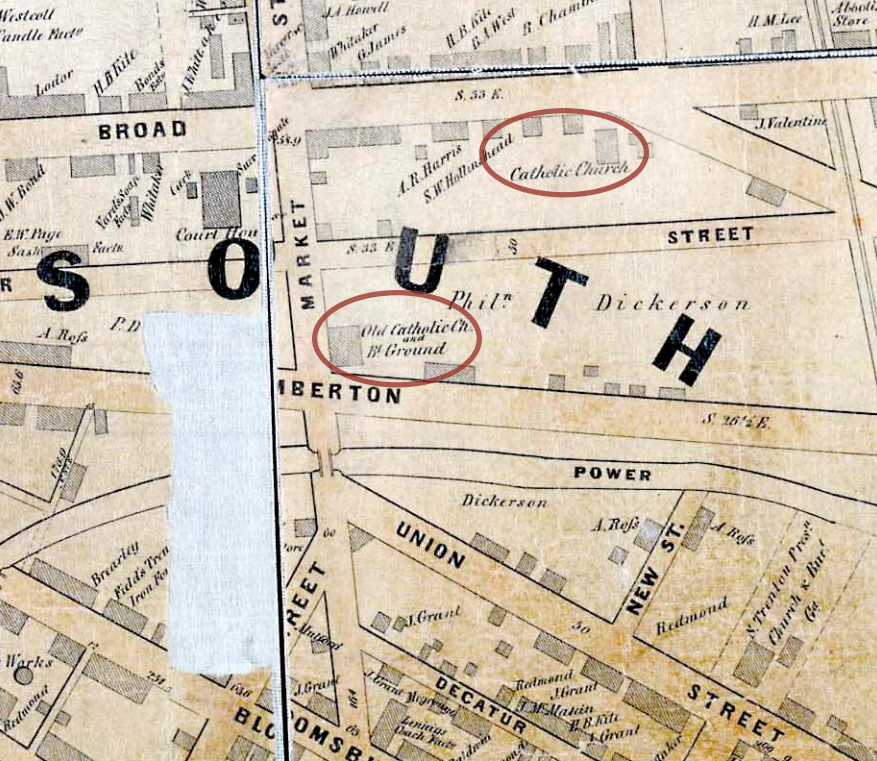
St. John's was consecrated on June 12, 1814. It was a modest brick building, 30 feet wide by 50 feet deep, located on a lot 120 feet by 160 feet. A small cemetery was established beside the church. Sartori was officially listed on the mortgage as the President of St. John's. It is probably no coincidence that Sartori, Hargous and the church shared the same Christian namesake. The property was purchased from Daniel W. Coxe,



St. John's Church and School, c. 1870. This photograph, looking south on Market Street, is one of the only known images of the original St. John's. The church is the one-story gabled building in the background, behind the row of six small children. The building in the foreground served as a parish school.

owner of the Bloomsbury estate, which was centered on the nearby home originally built by William Trent. According to chancery court records, the parish had difficulty paying off the mortgage. Sartori was sued in 1824 for defaulting on an outstanding payment of \$154.08.

After Sartori returned to Italy in 1832, the Hargous family maintained an abiding interest in St. John's and became one of its most important benefactors. John Hargous, while a captain in the French navy in the early 1790s, participated in the rescue of French citizens fleeing the slave revolt in Saint-

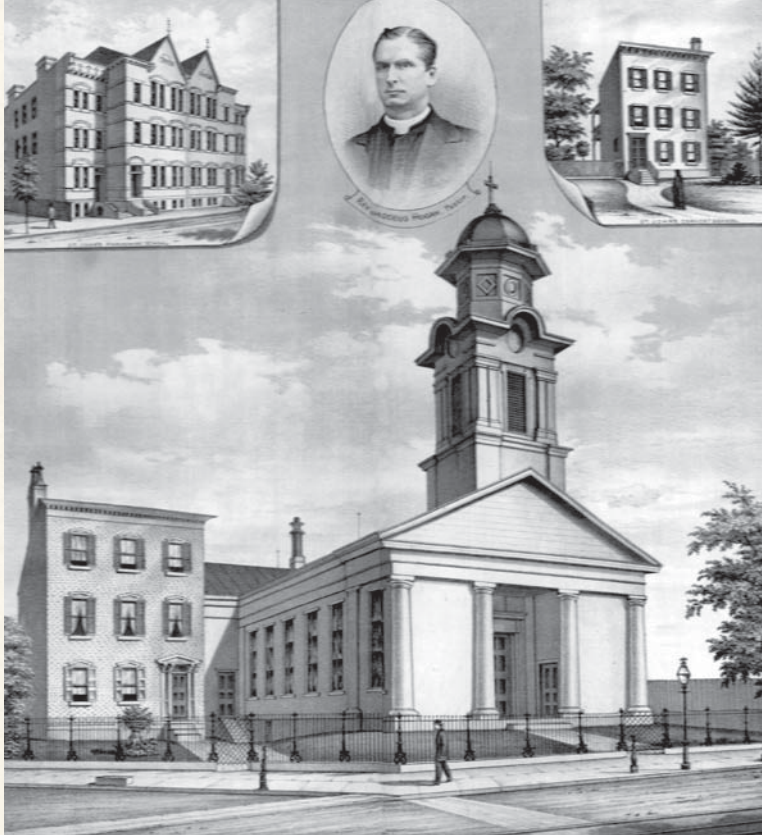


Detail from J. C. Sidney, *Map of the City of Trenton, New Jersey, 1849*. This map shows the original St. John's labeled as Old Catholic Church and Burial Ground, as well as the second St. John's, which opened in 1847.

In 1808, when five dioceses were created and Baltimore was elevated to an archdiocese, the southern half of New Jersey was placed under the auspices of the Philadelphia Diocese. Priests from the earliest Philadelphia Catholic churches continued to make their way to Trenton for Sunday Mass and their rotation included visits from German priests from Holy Trinity Church, to minister to the growing German Catholic population. From 1833 to 1838, two Jesuit priests alternated the Trenton duties. Finally, 25 years after the building of St. John's, the congregation welcomed its first resident pastor, Reverend Daniel Magorien.

Within a few years, Irish immigrants had begun to swell the ranks of a congregation of German, French and Italian origin. The cornerstone for a new, much larger St. John's was laid in 1844 at Broad and Centre Streets, one of the highest points in the city, by the Reverend John P. Mackin, recently appointed pastor. Dedicated on August 27, 1848, the new church was classical in design, built of stuccoed brick with a three-story bell tower. So rapid was the parish's growth that a wing was added in 1853.

Domingue, now Haiti. Like Sartori, Hargous married the daughter of a refugee and settled in Trenton with other expatriates. The Sartori and Hargous families were connected eventually by the marriage in 1829 of the Hargouses' eldest son, Peter, to the Sartoris' eldest daughter, Eugenia. The couple settled in New York City where Peter flourished as a merchant in the Caribbean trade. The Hargouses generously supported Catholic charities and contributed to the founding of New York's St. John's College (later renamed Fordham University) in 1841. They also made substantial donations to St. John's in Trenton.



Church of St. John The Baptist (Second St. John's), lithograph by Packard & Butler, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, c. 1882. Top center is a portrait of Father Thaddeus Hogan. St. John's Parochial School is at upper left and St. John's Convent School is at upper right.

German members of the congregation, asking themselves whether the Irish immigrants joining the parish could afford the mortgages associated with constructing the new church, began to talk of a German parish. In 1851, the original church was sold to Peter Hargous, son of Captain Hargous, who presented



Confirmation Certificate, Church of St. John The Baptist, Trenton, N.J. Lithograph by Packard & Butler, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, c. 1882. A rare interior view of the second St. John's.

it to the bishop for the use of a German congregation. The first pastor was appointed in 1853 and the original church remained German until 1866, when the congregation of St. Francis of Assisium moved to a former Methodist church on West Front Street. The first St. John's was razed in the early 1880s.



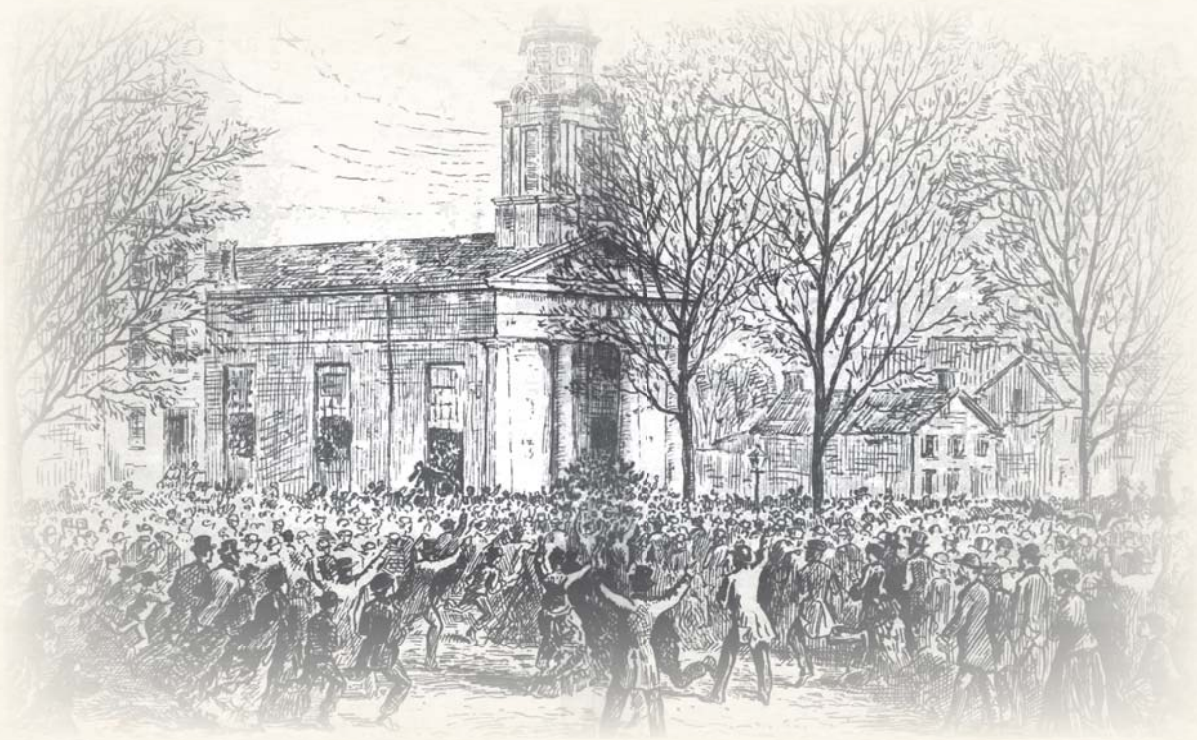
Father John P. Mackin, c. 1870. Father Mackin oversaw the construction of the second St. John's.

Other changes came rapidly. In 1854, Father Mackin established a small school in the church basement, with one class for boys and one for girls. This first of Trenton's Catholic schools came a decade after the creation of the city's first public school in 1844. When Father Mackin's health failed in 1859, he was succeeded as pastor by the Reverend Anthony Smith. Realizing that the older boys were overwhelming the basement school, Father Smith in 1861-1862 built a small frame structure on Cooper Street, behind the church, to accommodate 50 boys aged 10 and older and their teachers. That same year, Father Smith purchased a two-story frame house and its land, three lots north of the church, for use as an asylum for the orphaned children of Catholic Civil War soldiers.



Raffle ticket, c. 1862. The St. John's orphanage was established for the children of Civil War soldiers.

On March 27, 1862, four Sisters of Charity took up residence in the parish, in response to Father Smith's petition for teachers. They moved into the orphans' asylum and at first devoted themselves to it exclusively, before taking up the girls' education in the school. In 1871, the sisters took over management of the school, replacing the lay teachers. A brick building, begun in 1874 on Lamberton Street, opened in 1876-1877 as St. John's School and Parish Hall; its 16 classrooms were



The Panic in St. John's (Catholic) Church, Trenton, N.J. on Monday, *The Daily Graphic* (New York, N.Y.), April 2, 1873. A false rumor that the church's gallery was collapsing caused a panic during the funeral for Father Mackin. The event made news in many out-of-town papers including the *New York Times*.

topped by a large hall on the upper floor. From 1876 on, the school conducted by the Sisters of Charity was for girls and small boys, while the Brothers of the Holy Cross were placed in charge of the Lamberton Street school, taking up residence in a house next door. The brothers remained only a few years, after which the school's operation reverted to a lay teaching staff, apparently as an economy.

In 1873, the funeral for Father Mackin at the second St. John's drew a huge crowd, estimated at over 1,600 people. As they celebrated the life of the man who had done so much for his church and community, a woman fainted, then a bench broke with a loud cracking sound, causing people to think the gallery was collapsing. In the ensuing panic, a dozen people were injured, several fatally, in the crush to escape the building.



Monsignor Thaddeus Hogan, c. 1918. Father Hogan was a large and imposing man, according to contemporary accounts.

When Father Thaddeus Hogan arrived as pastor in 1878, he found that the parish owned a number of buildings in poor repair. After repairs, the orphans' asylum was converted to the sisters' use for the school, known as St. John's Academy. In 1879, Father Hogan organized a new group for young Catholic men, and the church basement space was turned over to them.

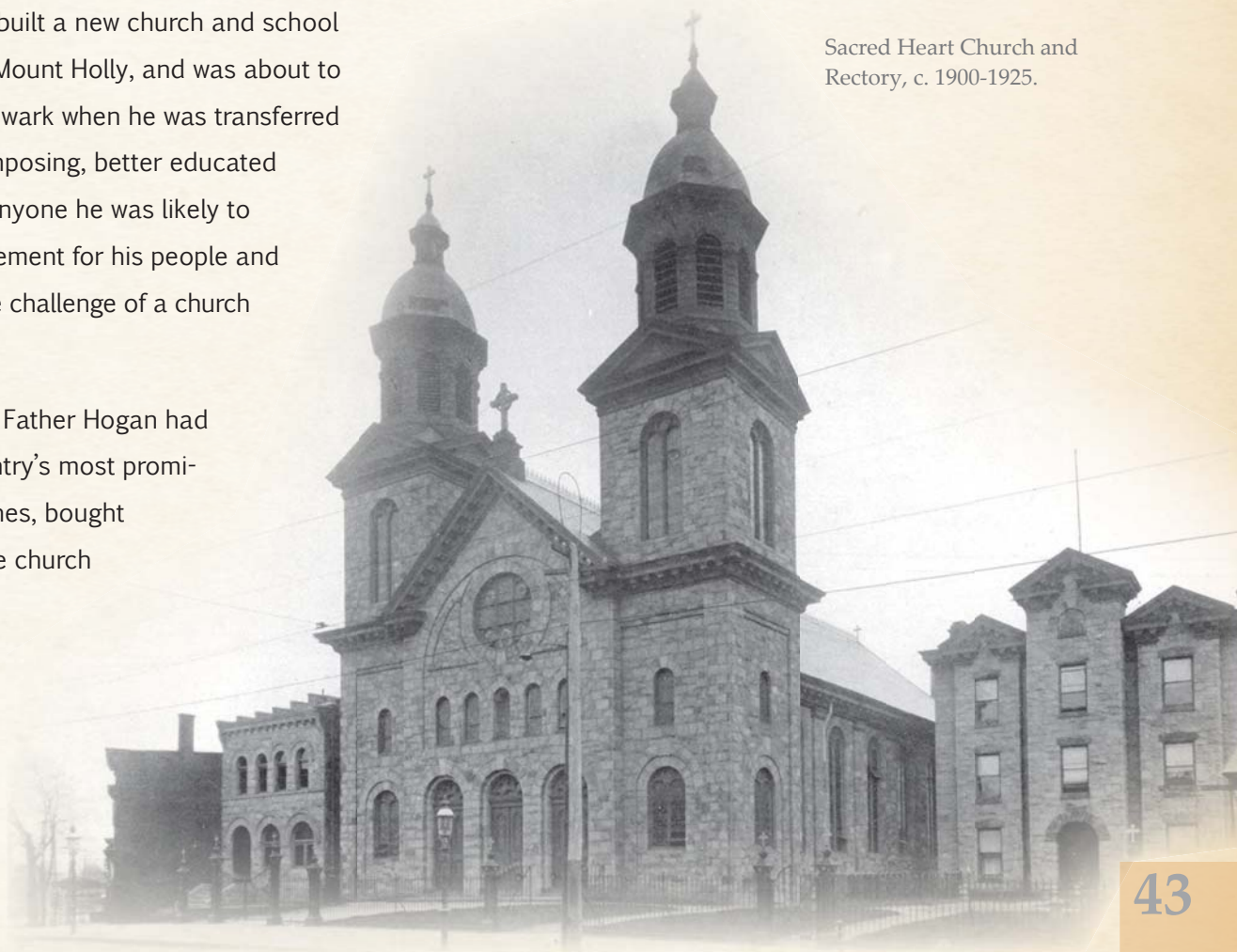
Four years later, on Sunday night, September 30th, 1883, fire destroyed St. John's Church, leaving only the exterior walls, belfry and cupola standing. Within one hour of the alarm, every fire engine in the city had responded, but to no avail. A crowd of several thousand parishioners gathered to watch their church burn. A bronze bell, now displayed in front of the rectory, was one of the few objects to survive the fire. An inscription on the bell indicates it was cast by J. Bernhard & Co. of Philadelphia in 1857, and was donated to the church by members of the Hargous family. In the aftermath of the fire, police blamed it on a vagrant, but the magistrate's court acquitted him for lack of any proof. Insurance eventually paid \$10,000 on the loss, less than ten percent of what it would cost to rebuild.

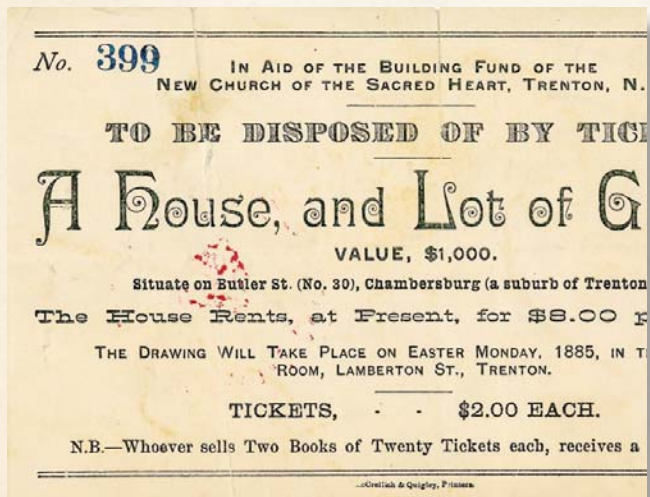
Father Hogan took charge of the rebuilding effort following the fire. A native of Limerick, Ireland, and a graduate of All Hallows College, Dublin, he was a classical scholar who had begun his priesthood with an 18-month stint in Australia, followed by a year in Rome. He built a new church and school in his first American posting, at Mount Holly, and was about to start on a new church in East Newark when he was transferred to Trenton in 1878. Physically imposing, better educated and more widely traveled than anyone he was likely to meet, and ambitious for advancement for his people and himself, Father Hogan rose to the challenge of a church destroyed.

A bare ten months after the fire, Father Hogan had secured the services of the country's most prominent architect of Catholic churches, bought additional property, renamed the church and assisted at the cornerstone laying by Bishop Jeremiah F. Shanahan of Harrisburg,

the bishop of Trenton being away in Rome. Ten months later, on June 12, 1885, the basement chapel of the new church was opened for worship.

Sacred Heart Church and Rectory, c. 1900-1925.





Raffle ticket, 1885. This partial ticket illustrates one of the many ways the parish raised money for the construction of Sacred Heart Church. The holder of the winning ticket won a house and lot at 30 Butler Street in Chambersburg, near where many of the Irish parishioners lived.

There were raffles for new houses in Chambersburg in addition to the annual church fair. There was first a Church Fund subscription, which became the Building Fund Subscription, supplemented as the years went by with an Altar Subscription, a Pictures and Stations of the Cross Subscription, a Stained Glass Window Subscription, even a Children's Offering for New Pulpit. In mid-1884, at the time of the cornerstone-laying, a newspaper account predicated a year's building period. The brownstone church flanked by square towers took close to five years during which a congregation of some 700 families, many of them immigrants, raised a construction fund of more than \$120,000.

Patrick Charles Keely, the well-known Irish-American architect, designed the new Sacred Heart Church built between 1884 and 1889.

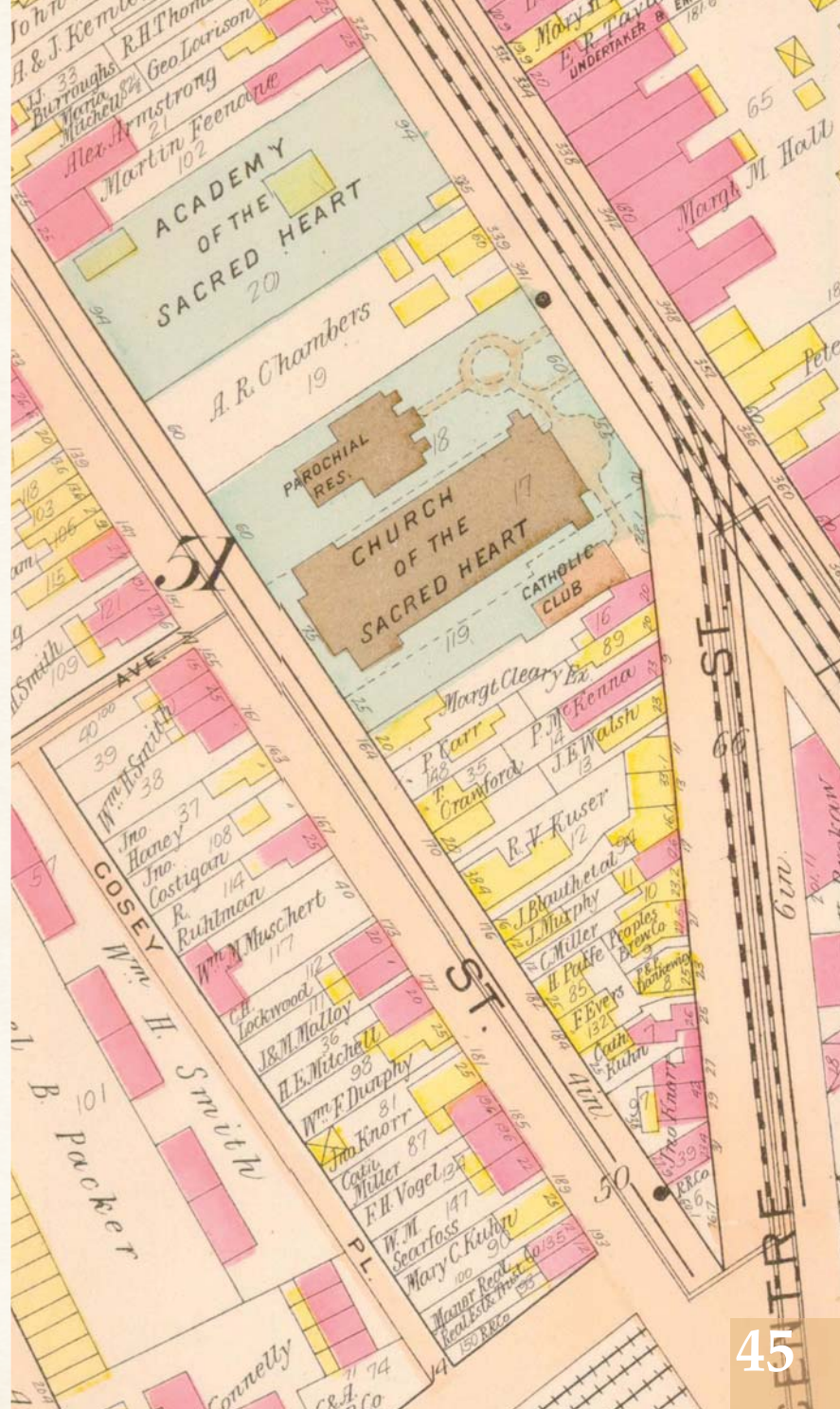


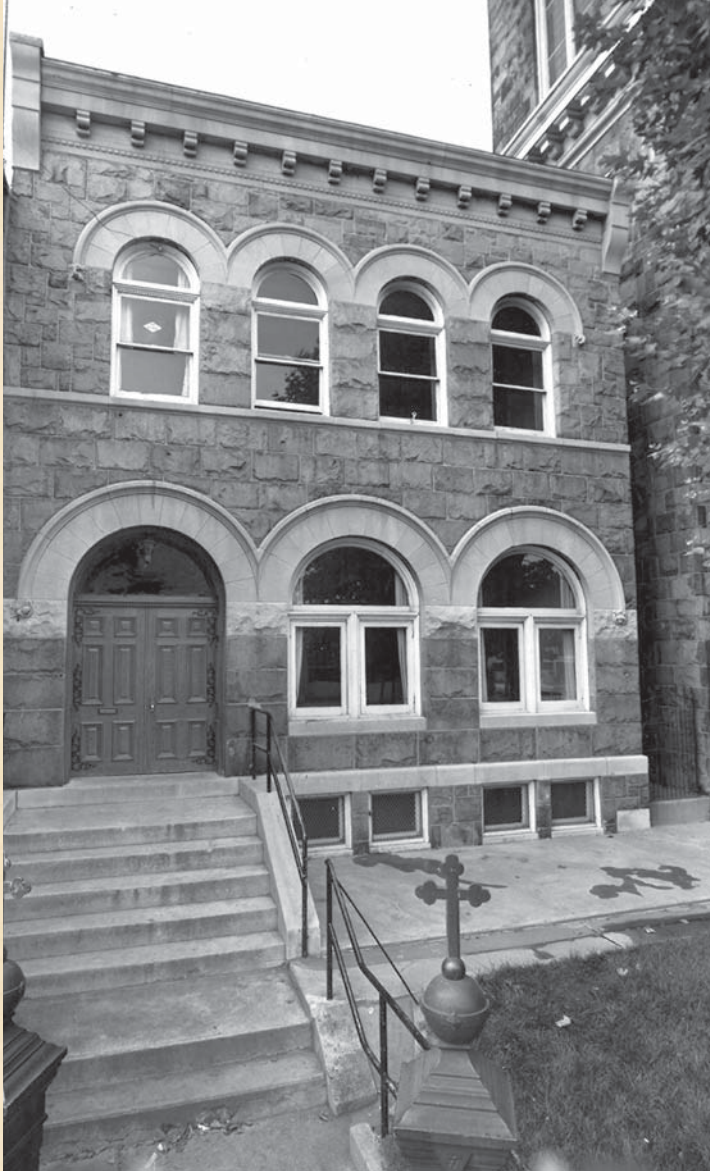
As their immigrant flocks grew in the latter half of the 19th century, America's Catholic bishops sought to build churches and other institutions that would lend their people dignity. Patrick Charles Keely, himself an Irish immigrant and the son of a builder, was the country's most prominent and prolific Catholic architect, the designer of some 20 cathedrals and at least 150 churches. He was adept at designing large, simple structures on tight budgets for congregations and priests unaccustomed to big projects, but when given the freedom and the funds, he showed great skill and refinement. Sacred Heart is a superior example of Romanesque Revival style from late in Keely's career.

Keely also designed Sacred Heart's Rectory, located on the north side of the church, to serve as the parish office and clerical residence. Although the date stone on the Rectory indicates it was built in 1886, church records confirm the building was not complete and occupied by Father Hogan until three years later. The Rectory has undergone few alterations and retains many of its interior finishes, including fireplaces with Minton tiles and heavy carved mantelpieces.

J.M. Lathrop's *Atlas of the City of Trenton* published in 1905 shows the evolving complex of buildings at Sacred Heart with the church, rectory (parochial residence), Catholic Club and St. John's Convent School (Academy of the Sacred Heart). Buildings in brown are made of stone, pink are brick and yellow are frame.

In 1790, when the U.S. government undertook the first national census, the Irish-born made up less than 10% of New Jersey's population, but after the famine-induced migration of the late 1840s, the Irish formed over half of the state's foreign-born numbers by 1860. In Trenton alone, the total population nearly tripled from 1850 to 1855. The migrants tended to be young, unmarried people of both sexes, the children of field workers from the west and south of Ireland. They took whatever menial labor they could find and their world revolved around family, church, saloon and street. As anti-Irish sentiment rose against them, and America's small Catholic church struggled to deal with the problems this new population presented. Father Hogan's 40-year campaign to educate and enlighten Trenton's Irish immigrants, to pull his own people to respectability as Americans, played an integral part in the planning of the church and rectory, and later of the Catholic Club, and is at the heart of Sacred Heart's historical significance.





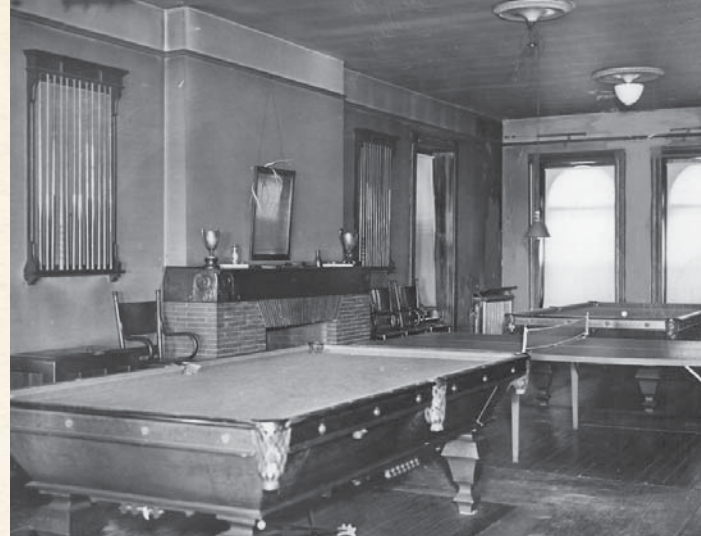
The Catholic Club, designed around 1890 by noted Trenton architect William A. Poland, c. 1964.

When his church burned down, Father Hogan had turned to America's most prominent Catholic architect to get a new one. Having accomplished that feat, he hired William A. Poland, Trenton's most prominent architect – and both a Baptist and a Mason – to design the Catholic Club. Located on the south side of the church, the building was completed in 1891.

The Catholic Club created by Father Hogan was an institution he identified with thoroughly. The charter made him its president as long as he was pastor and he looms large in every account of the club. His hand is most evident in the design of the club building, which provided an immersion experience. Men dirty from a long day's labor in the wire rope mill or pottery entered the basement to bathe and change before hearing lectures and dining on the first floor and later playing billiards or cards on the second floor. The basement included a gymnasium, while the library on the ground floor boasted "hundreds of volumes of fine reading matter for young men," as a newspaper story reported.

Father Hogan's list of speakers was so impressive and their topics so interesting that an invitation from him to dinner and a lecture at the Catholic Club was rarely turned down. With the club in place, he used it and his own speaking engagements to demonstrate to a Protestant elite that Irish Catholics were not to be patronized.

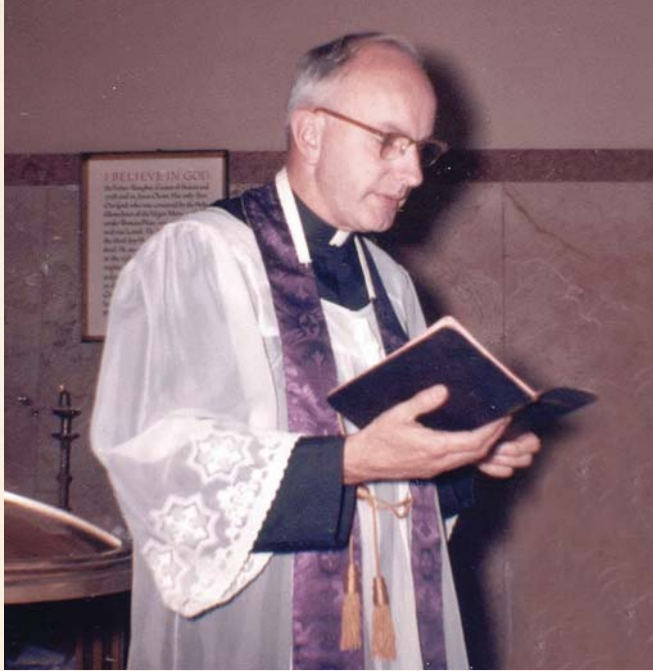
Under Father Hogan's guidance, the curriculum at the parish school expanded from reading, writing, arithmetic and religious instruction to include foreign languages, music and art. Classes for boys and girls were traditionally kept separate and Father Hogan arranged for the purchase of a house adjacent to the church on South Broad Street for the girl's school. After his death in 1918, the old Lamberton Street academy was razed for a new brick school building, located in 1924 to the north of the rectory on South Broad Street, where the girls' school had been. A monastery was built in conjunction with the school for the Poor Clare sisters, who took charge of the school.



The Catholic Club, second-floor interior view, c. 1925 - 1950.



The Catholic Club, first-floor interior view, c. 1925 - 1950.



Father Leonard R. Toomey conducts a church service in 1964.

The Rev. Leonard R. Toomey was appointed pastor in 1966 and over his 26 years at the parish, he worked to integrate the church and school complex into a rapidly changing urban environment. He was active in putting together new housing, and as director of the Catholic Youth Organization. He used his considerable Irish charm to reclaim as parishioners people who had moved out of Trenton. And he evoked the most Irish of his predecessors as he set his parishioners on a multi-year program of revitalizing and restoring the church and neighboring buildings.

St. John's Parochial School, c. 1920. This school, also known as St. John's Academy and located on Lamberton Street, was opened in 1876-1877.



Sacred Heart School, c. 1964. This school, opened in 1924, replaced and united St. John's Academy and St. John's Convent School.





Msgr. Toomey (right) and the children of Sacred Heart School welcome Revolutionary War reenactors on the 200th anniversary of Rochambeau's march to Yorktown, October 1981.

The restoration of the church in the 1970s began with a drive to raise the funds for a finite project, dubbed a "miracle," when it was paid. Slowly, the parish came to realize that as each project was paid off, Father Toomey would unveil the next. He spoke often of what impoverished immigrants had been able to do in the 1880s, challenging his much more prosperous parishioners to equal their ancestors' generosity. When the church restoration was completed, he started on the school, invoking Father Hogan's emphasis on education on the lives of

his parishioners. When the school, which had been renamed Sacred Heart School in the 1950s, was designated a National School of Excellence by U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett in 1988, no one was prouder.

Retired as pastor, he was still cheering on the endless work of fixing parish buildings when, in 2002, the Sacred Heart Church complex, consisting of the church proper, the Rectory, Catholic Club, parish school and monastery, was listed on the National



Left to Right: Msgr. Leonard R. Toomey, retired pastor; Father Dennis Apoldite, pastor; Sister Ann Cecilia, Sacred Heart School principal; and, Father Joseph Rosie, parochial vicar of St. James Church, 1992. This photograph was taken in honor of Sister Ann Cecilia's retirement and published in *The Monitor*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton.



Sacred Heart parish celebrated its 200th anniversary by sponsoring a historical exhibit at the City of Trenton Museum at Ellarslie. The exhibit, titled Sartori to Sacred Heart, Early Catholic Trenton, featured many objects from the church's collection.

those with a vocation as they study at seminary, returning at vacation to take part in parish life and gain practical experience of the priesthood.

Today's Sacred Heart parish is the size of Monsignor Hogan's post-fire congregation, some 700 families. In addition to the church and rectory, the parish includes former school and convent buildings, the latter now rented by El Centro, a program of Catholic Charities. The former Catholic Club is used for religious education classes.

The parish operates The Lord's Table, a food ministry to the urban poor, which sponsors a monthly hot meal in the parish hall, and oversees the monthly collection and distribution of groceries. Seasonal collections of basic needs (winter coats, school supplies and back packs), as well as Christmas presents for young people, are part of the ongoing parish effort to aid its neighbors.

Another round of restoration inside and outside the church has been completed in time for the anniversary, including the conservation of all of the stained glass windows. Surely Monsignor Hogan and Monsignor Toomey are pleased.

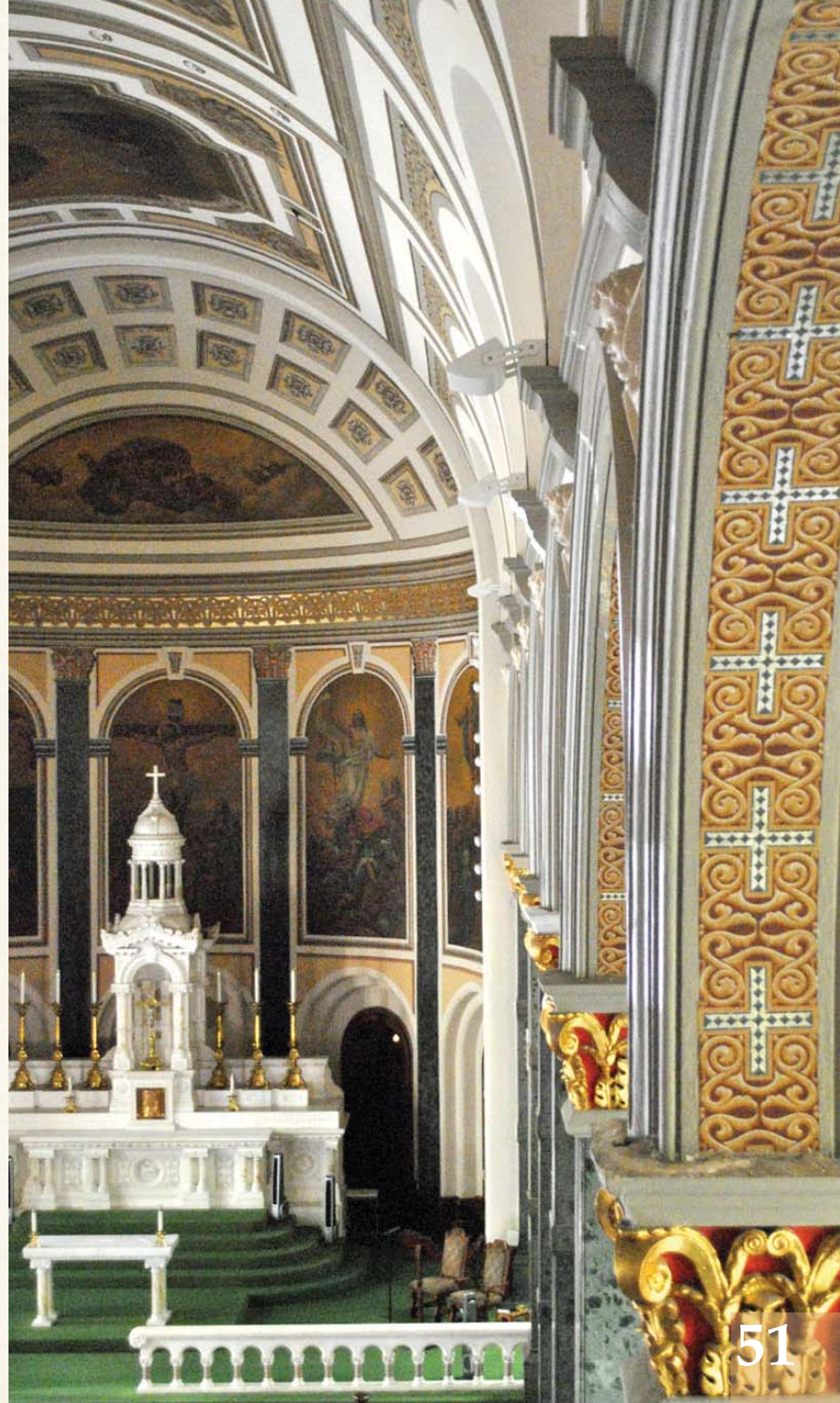
Register of Historic Places. Like Thaddeus Hogan, Leonard Toomey was made a monsignor, and though others rarely called him anything but Monsignor, he always introduced and signed himself Father Toomey.

As the 200th anniversary year is celebrated, The Very Reverend Dennis A. Apoldite is the pastor and diocesan director of vocations, as well as pastor of neighboring Divine Mercy Parish. The Rectory serves also as the House of Discernment for those contemplating becoming a priest, and acts as home base for

Recently undertaken painting and plaster repairs have restored the interior finishes of Sacred Heart's sanctuary.



St. Lucy, a detail from one of the restored stained glass windows.



PASTORS OF ST. JOHN'S AND SACRED HEART

Since 1838, when Father Daniel Magorien became St. John's first resident pastor, the Sacred Heart parish has benefited from the care of 19 pastors. These spiritual overseers have consistently welcomed newcomers to the City of Trenton – from the European immigrants of a century ago to the Latin American immigrants of today. Many parish families have built significant relationships within the congregation and with its pastors, spreading over multiple generations. Moreover, the church has witnessed thousands of life's important events from baptisms and confirmations to weddings and funerals.

Rev. Daniel Magorien, 1838-40

Rev. John C. Gilligan, 1840-44

Rev. John P. Mackin, 1844-59

Rev. James John Joseph O'Donnell, 1859-60

Rev. Alfred Young, 1860-61

Rev. Anthony Smith, 1861-71

Rev. John P. Mackin, 1871-73

Rev. Patrick Byrne, 1873-78

Msgr. Thaddeus Hogan, 1878-1918

Rev. Peter J. Hart, 1918-28

Rev. John H. Sheedy, 1928-34

Rev. Frederick J. Halloran, 1934-52

Rev. John H. Horan, 1952-57

Rev. William A. Barron, 1957-63

Msgr. Maurice P. Griffin, 1963-66

Msgr. Leonard R. Toomey, 1966-92

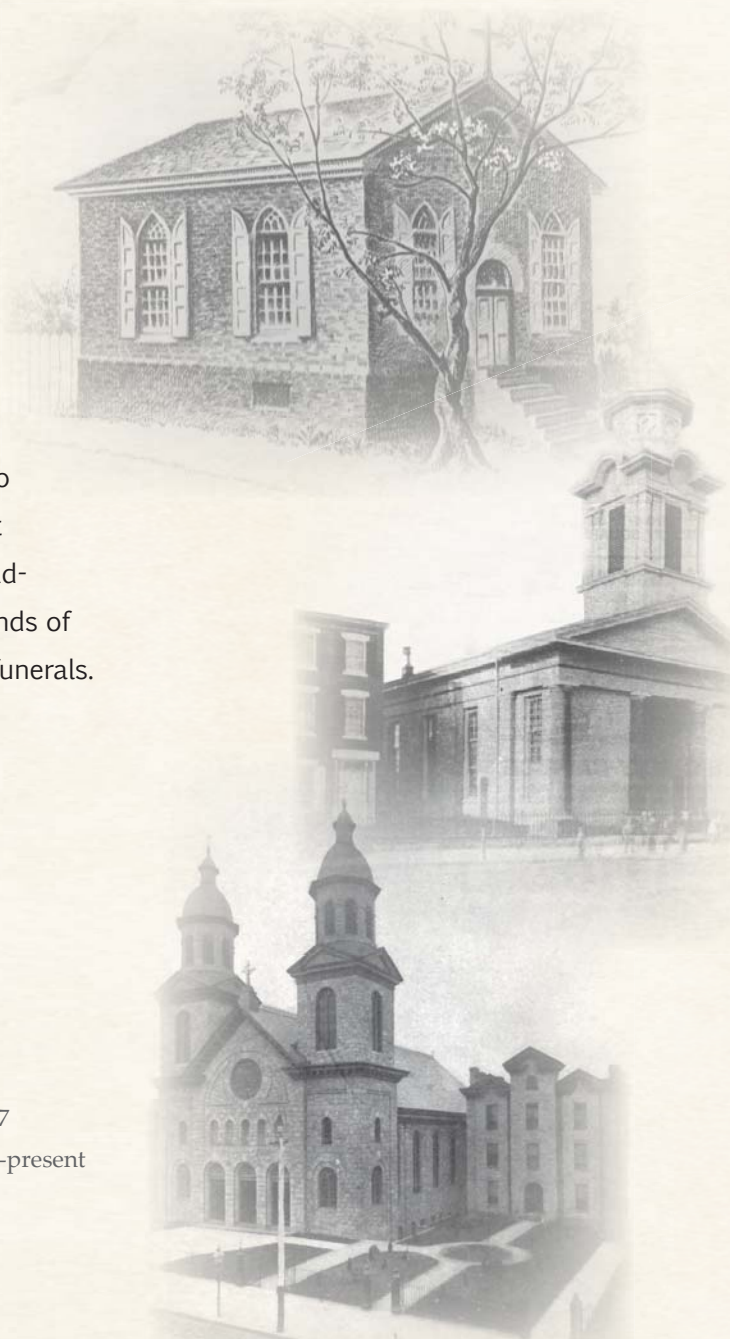
Rev. Dennis A. Apoldite, 1992-1997

Msgr. Leonard F. Troiano, 1997

Rev. Robert M. Tynski, 1997-2001

Rev. K. Michael Lambeth, 2001-2007

Very Rev. Dennis A. Apoldite, 2007-present



For further information about the history of the Catholic Church in Trenton, readers are referred to...

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