

HILBUS CHAPTER

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

WWW.HILBUS.ORG

Volume 34

Number 7

March 2005

Whole No. 309

Saturday, March 19th Crawl to Three Organs in Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland

9:30 AM, Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church, 1501 Arcola Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902. Carl Barckhoff organ.

Directions: From the Beltway (495) take Georgia Ave. (MD 97) north to Arcola Ave. (past University Blvd.). Right on Arcola. The church is on the left just past the intersection of Kemp Mill Rd. and Arcola.

Alternate route from points east – Take University Blvd. (MD 193) westbound to Arcola. Right on Arcola to the church.

11:00 AM, Colesville Presbyterian Church, 12800 New Hampshire Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20904. Adam Stein organ (Opus1) 1893

Directions: From SSCRC turn right out of parking lot. Make first right on Kemp Mill Rd. Travel to dead end at Randolph Rd. Turn right (east). At New Hampshire Ave. (MD 650) turn right (south) to the church.

Noon Lunch on your own at Harry's American Café

Directions: Exiting the CPC parking lot, turn left on New Hampshire Ave. Turn right on Randolph Rd. Turn left onto Fairland Rd. Turn left on Old Columbia Pike to restaurant (just before Briggs Chaney Rd.)

1:30 PM Residence of Carl Schwartz, 12802 Ruxton Rd., Silver Spring, MD. Lewis and Hitchcock Organ (1998/2003) 2 manuals 4 ranks, mechanical action.

Directions: From visit to churches on the west Harry's turn right (south) on Old Columbia Pike. Pass Fairland Rd., Musgrove Rd. and make next right on Ruxton Rd. (across from St. Mark's Episcopal Church). House is sixth on left.

February's Silent Organ Crawl to West Baltimore

By Mary Akright and Jim Houston

It was a cold day in Baltimore, but our visit to churches on the west side of town was warm and welcoming, starting with donuts and coffee at the First Unitarian Church and a tour of its two Niemann organs.

We then ventured into a day of beautiful churches, interesting architecture and organ cases. Members who gave us histories of their churches, their organs, and their music through the years welcomed us.

Below are the specifications as we know them and pictures to show the interesting architecture and organ caseworks. (Organ information gathered by Jim Houston – total accuracy “not” guaranteed!)

The First Unitarian Church of Baltimore Organ by Henry Niemann 1893

		Original Stoptlist			
Great 58 notes		Swell 58 notes		Pedal 27 notes	
Double Open	16'	Bourdon Treble (TC)	16'	Open	16'
Open Diapason	8'	Bourdon Bass	16'	Bourdon	16'
Dulciana	8'	Violin Diapason	8'		
Viola di Gamba	8'	Salicional	8'		
Doppel Floete	8'	Vox Celestis	8'	Pedal Movements	
Octave	4'	Stopped Diapason	8'	Gr. To Ped. Reversible	
Flute D'Amour	4'	Flute Harmonic	8'	6 unlabeled double acting ped	
Twelfth	2 2/3'	Flautino	2'	Gr. Piano, Mezzo, Forte	
Fifteenth	2'	Mixture	III-IV	Sw. Piano, Mezzo, Forte	
		Cornopean	8'	Balanced Swell pedal	
Couplers		Oboe (TC)	8'		
Sw. to Gt. 8'		Tremulo			
Gt. to Ped					
Sw. to Ped.					

The First Unitarian Church of Baltimore - Parish Hall - Henry Niemann 1880

Jim Houston, organist of the church, owns instrument

Manual 58 notes, enclosed

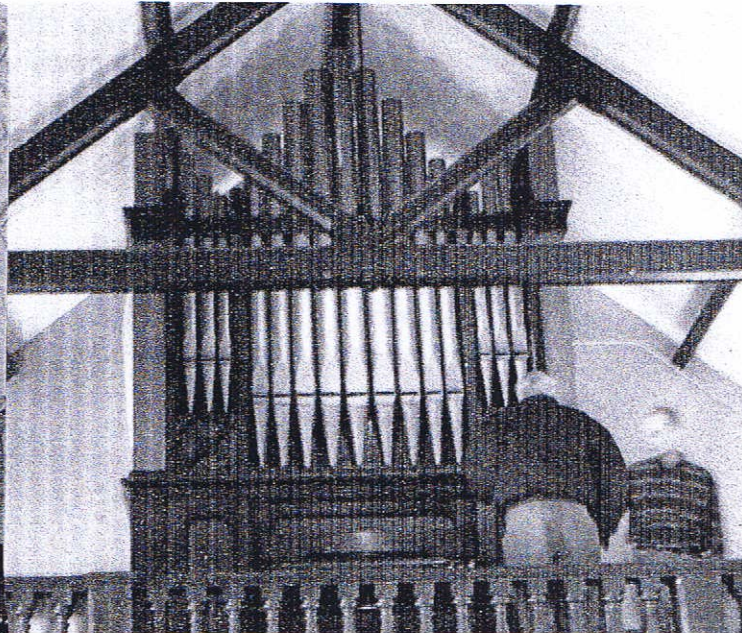
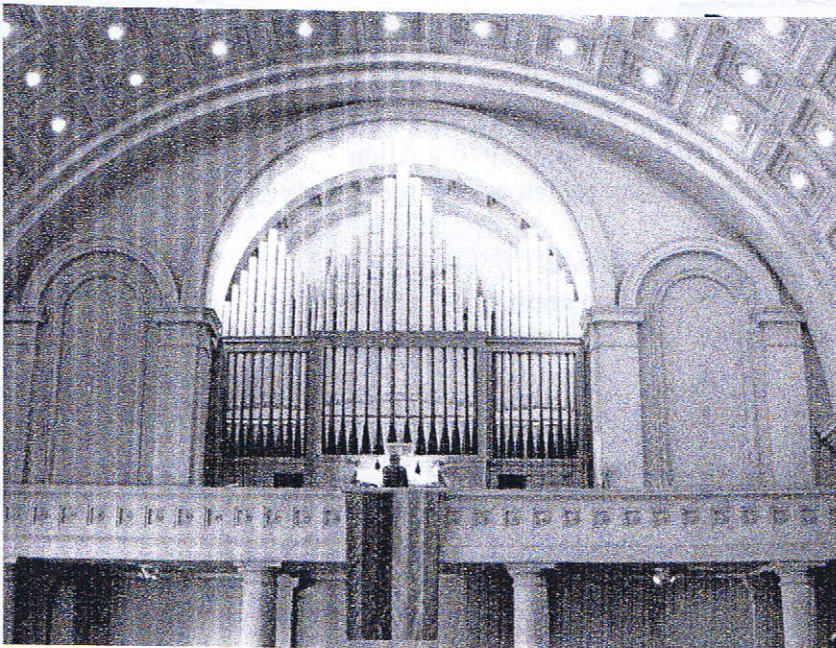
Open Diapason 8'
 Melodia 8'
 Dulciana 8'
 Octave 4'
 Fifteenth 2'
 Tremulo

Pedal 27 notes
 Bourdon 16'

Couplers
 Octave coupler
 Manual to Pedal

Bellows signal
 Wind indicator

Pedal Movements
 2 unlabeled single-acting pedals
 Piano, Forte
 Balanced Swell pedal



The large Henry Niemann organ at First Unitarian Church Baltimore 1893 Photo: P. Birckner

Small one manual Niemann in the Parish Hall Photo: P Birckner

Sharp Street United Methodist Church (Baltimore's oldest black congregation- founded in the eighteenth century, present building under construction 1860-1890) Dolphin and Baltimore Streets. Very old Moorish Gothic case containing a Moeller organ 1955-1990 (sweet sounding)

Great		Swell		Pedal	
Open Diapason	8'	Rohrbourdon	16'	Untersatz	32'
Melodia	8'	Rohrfloete	8'	Bourdon	16'
Dulciana	8'	Gamba	8'	Rohrbourdon	16'
Octave	4'	Voix Celeste	8'	Flute	8'
Flute	4'	Principal	4'	Rohrbourdon	8'
?	2'	Flute	4'	Reed Cornet	32'
Mixture	III-IV	Nasard	2 2/3'	Trompette	16'
Chimes		Flute	2'		
		Scharf	III-IV		
Usual couplers		Trompette	8'		
		Tremulant			



Sharp Street United Methodist. Case contains Moeller Organ. We have no clues as to who built the original organ for the Gothic Revival case. Photo: P. Birckner

St. Pius V Roman Catholic Church (1878) This is an incredibly beautiful medium size Gothic revival building with random white marble floor tiles and large "Gothic tower" altar candlesticks. Schroeder Street and Edmondson Ave. Builder unknown (1878) case and manual chests only – no pipes. There is a partially functioning 1970's Allen electronic is use now. Possible specs. By Jim Houston using tabletops and toe boards as guides.

Great		Swell		Pedal
Bourdon	16'	Diapason	8'	no chests: 2-3 stops
Open Diapason	8'	Flute	8'	rack and age shadows
Flute	8'	String	8'	showing at least 16 open
String	8'	?	8'	
Principal	4'	Flute	4'	
Flute	4'	Flute	2'	
Mixture II (12 th & 15 th)		Oboe	8'	
Mixture III (15-19-22)				
Trumpet	8'			



St. Pius V Roman Catholic Church (1878). A pipe fence and the Great & Swell wind chests are all that remain of this once substantial instrument. Builder unknown. Photo: P. Birckner

Transfiguration Catholic Community St. Martin of Tours R.C. Church (1865) A large Romanesque space with bas-relief sculptures in the apse. (Vat. II wainscot and pew replacement) A beautiful space. Fulton Ave. & Fayette St. Pomplitz organ of c 1865? Case enlarged with mostly new organ by Casavant 1924, Opus 1044.

Great		Swell		Choir	
Double Open Diapason	16'	Bourdon	16'	Open Diapason	8'
Open Diapason	8'	Open Diapason	8'	Stpd. Diapason	8'
Violin Diapason	8'	Stpd. Diapason	8'	Dulciana	8'
Gross Flute	8'	Melodia	8'	Viole	8'
Salicional (old)	8'	Viola di Gamba	8'	Rohrflute	4'
Principal (old)	8'	Voix Celeste	8'	Clarinet	8'
Harmonic Flute	4'	Aeoline	8'	Tremulant	
Twelfth	2 2/3'	Principal	4'		
Fifteenth	2'	Flute	4'		
Mixture (15-19-22) old III		Flautino	2'		
Tromba	8'	Cornet	III (12-15-17) old		
		Trumpet	8'		
		Oboe	8'		
Pedal		Normal couplers			
Resultant (Open & Bourdon)	32'	There may be many more old Pomplitz ranks. It was hard to see everything in our limited time.			
Open Diapason	16'				
Bourdon	16'				
Gedeckt Sw	16'				
Octave	8'				
Stopped Flute	8'				
Cello (old)	8'				
Trombone	16'				



Transfiguration Catholic Community St. Martin of Tours R. C. Church. Originally a Pomplitz tracker changed to electro pneumatic by Casavant sometime in the first third of the last century. We don't know how much of the original pipework was reused by Casavant. Photo: P. Birekner

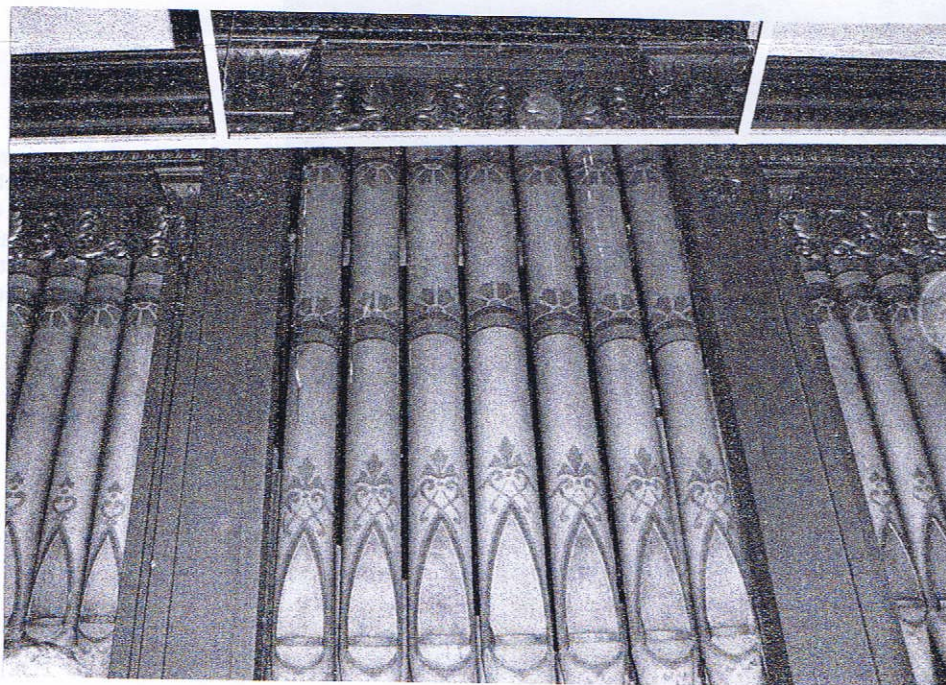
St. Paul's United Methodist Church 100 W. Saratoga St., Maryland Church Organ Company #6. Organ in old case. Perhaps a Hook or Stevens?? c 1850. 11'w x 7'd. Appearance similar to Stevens case in Belfast, ME

Great 61 notes		Swell 61 notes		Pedal 27 notes	
Open Diapason	8'	Violin Diapason	8'	Bourdon	16'
Doppelfloete	8'	Stopped Diapason	8'		
Melodia	8'	Salicional	8'		
Dulciana	8'	Principal	4'		
Principal	4'	Flute	4'		
Flute D'Amour	4'	Oboe	8'		
Twelfth	2 2/3'	Bassoon (bass)	8'		
Fifteenth	2'	Bellows			

On name board: Gt to Pd, Sw to Pd, Tremolo, Sw - Gt, Sw - Gt Octaves



St. Paul's United Methodist. The organ stands in a traditional rear gallery. Ceiling has been lowered hiding the top portion of the instrument. Organ is in poor condition but it is all there. Photo: P. Birekner



St. Paul's United Methodist, detail of front pipes' stenciling. Case design appears to be from the c 1840s. Case is painted a muddy brown. Front pipes are colored blue, green and gold. Photo: P.B.



St. Paul's United Methodist's organ by the Maryland Church Organ Company (opus 6) Pedal board has 27 notes, three mechanical combinations and a balanced Swell pedal.
Photo : PB

St. Paul's keydesk. Keys need to be adjusted, trackers repaired, windlines sealed and the double rise reservoir needs to be reathered.
Photo: PB

We thank Michael Britt for making the arrangements for this crawl and also for the help of Mary Akright and Jim Houston in making this review.

In Memory

The Hilbus Chapter has sent a \$30 donation to the E. Power Biggs Fellowship, along with other gifts from individual members, in memory of Ruth Charters. Another \$30 was sent to Emergency Services Ministries in memory of Janet Becker.

Chairman: Carolyn Booth, 9200 La Belle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD, 20879
Vice Chairman: Michael T. Britt, 3022 Westfield Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214
Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Birkner, 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Editor: Paul Birkner, 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Editorial Advisor: Carolyn Fix, 116 Battle Street, SW, Vienna, VA 22180

(301) 869-6271
(410) 319-9634
(301) 449-4399
(301) 449-4399
(703) 281-5046

Dues: Due in October, Send \$10.00 to Secretary-Treasurer. (NOTE: Please make out checks to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)