

Then...

St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley and the Warner Quarry



Image taken by Aero Services, 1927. *Courtesy of Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society Archives .*

Saint Peter's Church in the Great Valley, built in 1744, is the oldest Episcopal sanctuary in Chester County. Restored and added to by R. Brognard Okie and Charles T. Okie in 1944-50, its high hill within the Valley has been used as a burying ground since the beginning of the 18th century. But the adjacent land contained high-quality limestone deposits, and by the 1920s strong demand had caused the Charles Warner Co. to expand its operation, and the precipice of its 250' deep quarry, to within less than 100 yards of the church property. The very survival of the parish, at bottom right in the photo above, was in doubt.

and Now



The former quarry property in 2009, with St. Peter's at lower right. *Photo by Roger Thorne .*

During the ensuing decades, the Warner Company prospered through the 1960s and then began the decline that would finally end operations in Cedar Hollow in 1994. The Trammell Crow Company purchased the 388-acre site in 2000, and its development as the Atwater Corporate Park is proceeding slowly, with one office building constructed to date. Ground water has partially filled the quarry, nature is reclaiming the scoured land atop the quarry bluff, and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley continues to draw the faithful to its "holy hill."