



# WILLIAM HALSEY WOOD

## architect for famous Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Smethport, Pennsylvania



Dashing William Halsey Wood's brilliant career was cut short by his early death in 1896 at age 41.

photo credit: Newark Public Library Collection

### Short-lived but Brilliant Architect Hired by Smethport's Henry Hamlin

One of few remaining Pristine Examples of the Architect's Genius

**W**illiam Halsey Wood had already become nationally famous when he was contacted by Henry Hamlin to design a magnificent church for Smethport. Henry's gift to Smethport was to be a monument of perfection. Wood had the talent to make Henry's dream come true. Smethport's St. Luke's was consecrated in 1892, only five years before his early death.

Wood, born in Newark, New Jersey in 1855, developed an exceptional talent for drawing as a young child. Following his formal schooling, he entered the office of Thomas A. Roberts, architect, and by the age of twenty was admitted to partnership with his employer, under the firm name of Roberts, Taylor & Wood and but soon entered into his own private practice. Multiple trips to Europe influenced his cathedral style. He displayed remarkable ability as a church architect.

He gained his first fame in 1889, when his was one of the four plans selected for elaboration in the international competition for the design of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Fully one hundred architects were in the competition. Mr. Wood's plan, with two others, Robertson and Potter having withdrawn, was placed on exhibition in the See House, 29 Lafayette Place, in 1891. His plan, of which "Jerusalem the Golden," was the underlying motive, was much admired. It was not chosen, however, the design of Heins & La Farge being finally selected.

### Partial List of Architecture by William Halsey Wood:

Source: *Memories of William Halsey Wood 1855-1897* Written & Published by Mrs. William Halsey Wood Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA (from Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ) addresses for some are included/ some may no longer exist/ some churches, unlike St. Luke's, have been heavily altered.)

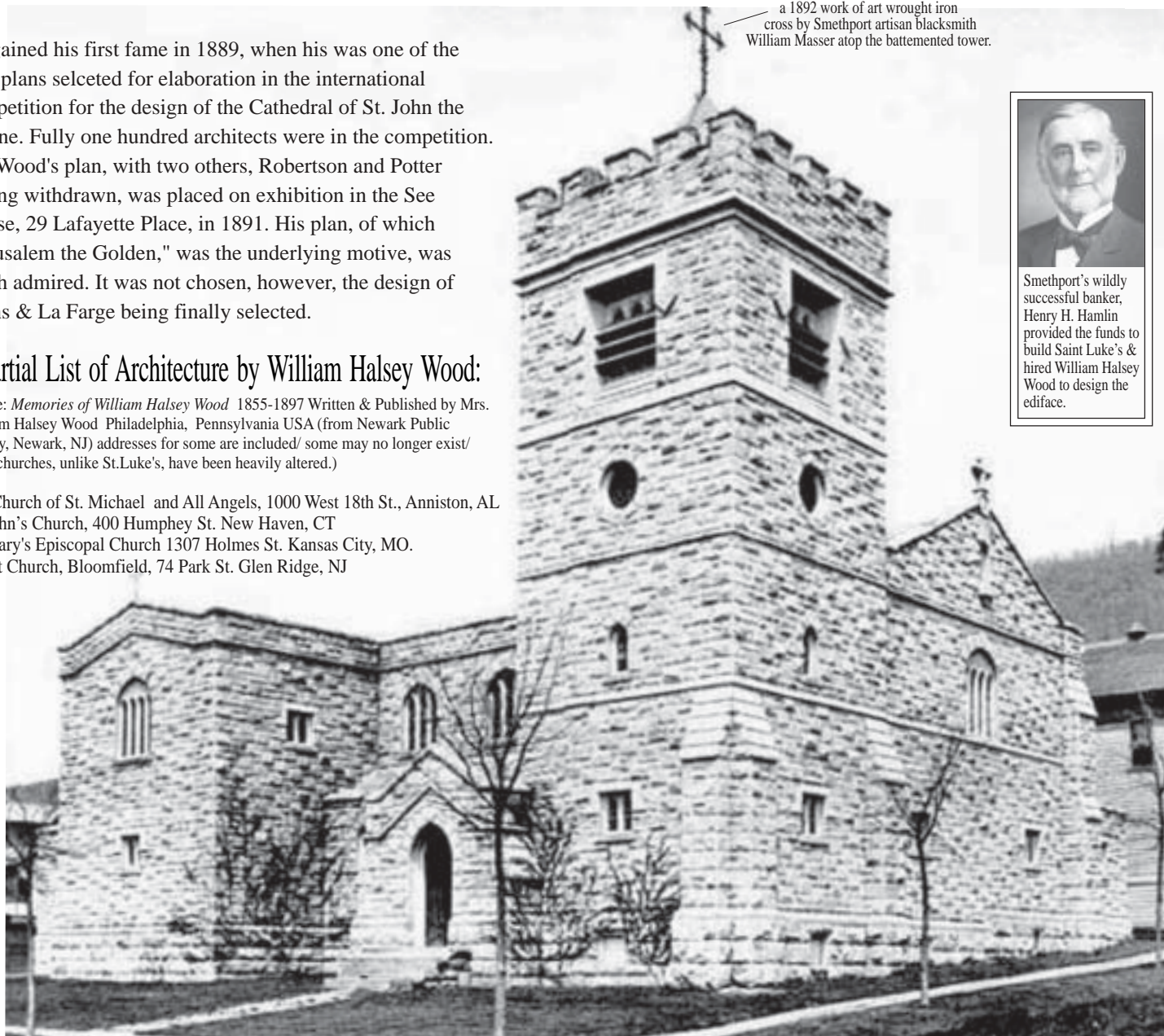
The Church of St. Michael and All Angels, 1000 West 18th St., Anniston, AL  
St. John's Church, 400 Humphey St. New Haven, CT  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church 1307 Holmes St. Kansas City, MO.  
Christ Church, Bloomfield, 74 Park St. Glen Ridge, NJ

- St. Paul's Church, East Orange, NJ
- St. Mark's Church, Jersey City, NJ
- Peddie Memorial Baptist Church, Newark, NJ
- First Congregational Church, Newark, NJ
- St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ
- St. John's Church 215 Lafayette Ave, Passaic, NJ
- St. Paul's Church, corner of Broadway & East 18th Patterson, NJ
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 127 Broad Street Washington, NJ
- William Halsey Wood's Queen Anne-style Mansion, 112 Willow St, Brooklyn Height, NY
- St. Paul's Church, Morrisania, New York, NY
- The Bellevue Hospital Library, New York, NY
- Church of the Redeemer, 84th St. & Park Avenue, New York, NY
- Extension of All Angels' Church, New York, NY
- Zion and St. Timothy's Church & Parrish Hall, New York, NY
- Yadoo Castle - Spencer and Katrina Trask Mansion, Saratoga Springs, NY
- St. John's Church, 323 Wick Ave., Youngstown, Ohio
- Braddock Carnegie Library. Library Street and Parker Avenue, Braddock, PA 1888 (1st of 1,679 Carnegie Libraries)
- Emmanuel Church, Corry, PA
- Church of the Good Shepherd, corner of Johnston & 2nd Ave, Hazelwood, Pittsburgh, PA
- Church of the Ascension, Ellsworth Ave. & Neville Street, Shadyside, Pittsburgh, PA 1898
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, corner of Main & Church St. Smethport, PA
- St. Paul's, Chattanooga, TN
- St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral 672-92 Poplar Ave Memphis, TN (finished after death of architect- altered "disastrously" by a local architect)
- Chapter House of the University of the South, Sewanee, TN
- The Theological Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin- 1893 (immense quadrangle of buildings much of which has been destroyed by fire)
- St. Matthew's Cathedral, 3rd and Iverson Laramie, WY  
Towers added in 1916 - 19 years after WHW death
- St. John's College, Shanghai China

a 1892 work of art wrought iron cross by Smethport artisan blacksmith William Messer atop the battlemented tower.



Smethport's wildly successful banker, Henry H. Hamlin provided the funds to build Saint Luke's & hired William Halsey Wood to design the edifice.



St. Lukes was consecrated September, 1892 photo credit: Saint Lukes Archive Collection