

MULLER PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

PO Box 353 • Croton, Ohio 43013 • 800.543.0167 • www.mullerpipeorgan.com

St. Michael's Catholic Church Ft. Loramie, Ohio

**Two manuals, 18 stops, 20 ranks
1880s Wangerin
New Console & Tonal Finishing 2008**

Fort Loramie, Ohio is a small community of about 1,300. Founded in 1837, the town developed from a War of 1812 fort that acted as a supply depot to other forts in Northern Ohio, presumably because of its location near the St. Mary's river. The fort was sold in 1815 to a local man, James Furrow, who created a tavern and a post office. A village sprung up around these buildings, and was comprised of mainly German immigrants from eastern Ohio seeking better land and opportunity. In 1836, when work began on the Miami-Erie Canal, German immigration increased in earnest.

The first building for St. Michael's Catholic Church was begun in 1851. The current building was constructed in 1881, when the 19 rank, tubular-pneumatic Wangerin Organ was installed. This organ served the congregation in original condition until 1985, when the organ was showing signs of wear. The tubular pneumatic playing system became temperamental, especially during seasonal changes in temperature and humidity. Additionally, an easier means of changing stops was desired, as the original console lacked any composition pedals or combination action.

Accordingly, Muller converted the tubular pneumatic system with the installation of electro-pneumatic primaries and a used 1950s detached console. With leather failing, the entire pneumatic system of the organ was releathered as well. In order to stabilize the wind, the original tri-fold reservoir was replaced with three individual reservoirs. In addition, a new static reservoir was installed to help quell the turbulence from the blower. Tonal improvements included the addition of a 2-2/3' Nazard in the Swell division and a new 8' Trumpet for the Great.

By 2007, the used console was over 50 years old and the need for an upgrade was increasingly apparent. The decision was made to replace the console, plus continue a series of tonal updates for the organ. A new two-manual rocker tablet console was designed and constructed at our shop, with new solid state operating system. The traditionally styled console is of quarter sawn oak and features solid walnut interior accents.

Tonal updates included replacing the rarely used 8' Gamba with a new III Mixture to provide the organ with brightness and clarity that was lacking. The original façade (comprised of 8' painted spotted metal pipes) suffered tonally as the result of metal fatigue, and their replacements allow the 8' Principal of the Great to be much more useful. The newly formulated sound boasts, among other attributes, three 16' stops to under gird this modest instrument in a vast acoustic. The entire instrument was tonally finished, ensuring consistent speech from note to note.