

William Everhart Building (Highley Building)
28 West Market Street
West Chester Borough
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1207

HABS
PA,
15-WCHES,
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

WILLIAM EVERHART BUILDING

Street Address 28 West Market Street, West Chester, Chester
or Location: County, Pennsylvania

HABS
PA,
15-WCHES,
11-

Present Owner: George N. Highley, Malvern, Pennsylvania

Present Use: Office building

Brief Statement This office building, dating from the 1830's,
of Significance: was for a time occupied by the Chester County
Times and retains a great amount of original
architectural design.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: William Everhart and descendants 1833-1905; Channing Way 1905-1954; George N. Highley 1954 to date.
2. Date of erection: 1833 or 1834, or very shortly thereafter.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers, etc.: Unknown
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Original plans not found; building very little changed.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Except for possible changes in basement front, little has been done.
6. Important old views and references:
Views: No old ones known.
References: Sources of information all to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. classified printed and manuscript files under heading West Chester.Streets - Market. West Chester Sesqui-Centennial...1799-1949, West Chester, Pa., 1949.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Building has always been used for business purposes. Most famous occupant was the Chester County Times, a newspaper published in West Chester. At the same time Joseph J. Lewis had his law offices in the building. For the issue of February 11, 1860, Mr. Lewis wrote a biographical account of Abraham Lincoln for the paper from an autobiography written by Lincoln himself for the purpose. This editorial was copied widely and is called the start of Lincoln's campaign. Wayne McVeagh also had offices in the same building; he became prominent in national politics and his family continued in the foreign service.

- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known
- D. Supplemental Material: The following is quoted from The Village Record, West Chester, Pa., for Saturday, May 2, 1868:

"Improvement.- Squire Everhart is putting up a handsome balcony, from the foundry of Jacob Baily, corner of 15th and Wood Streets, Philadelphia, intended for the convenience of public speakers, at the Republican headquarters of Chester county, a few doors east of the Mansion House, in front of the building, lately the printing office of the AMERICAN REPUBLICAN. A central location, with a wide street, and the Court House yard in front. The executive committee are fitting up suitable rooms to meet the wants of the coming Presidential campaign, under the supervision of the efficient chairman, Dr. J. B. Wood, for which they deserve thanks."

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August 1958
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This three-and-a-half story office building, dating from the 1830's, includes much of its original interior and exterior architectural detail and has an interesting iron balcony of elaborate design.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 20'-6" wide north front; 27' wide south end; 39'-10" deep.
2. Foundations: Stone
3. Wall construction: Brick
4. Porches: Second-floor iron balcony
5. Chimneys: Original
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Original
 - b. Windows and shutters: Shutters removed. Windows all original, except that two on the east wall, second and third floors, have been bricked up, as have two cellar windows on the same wall.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape: Gabled - Covering: Tin
- b. Cornice, eaves: Original brick cornice
- c. Dormers: One in north roof and one in south roof

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Three-and-a-half stories. Each floor consists of hall, with stairway, on west side of building with two offices off the hall. The offices have double doors between them. There has been no change in the original floor plans of the building.
2. Stairways: Original
3. Flooring: Original
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster - seems original
5. Doorways and doors: Original
6. Trim: Nearly all original
7. Hardware: Some old
8. Lighting: Nothing original remains
9. Heating: There is a fireplace in each office.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces north on Market street and is built to the edge of the lot on the north front and east and west sides.
2. Enclosures: None
3. Outbuildings: None
4. Walks: None
5. Landscaping: None