

Dr. Thomas Murray House
101 Point Street
Saltsburg
Indiana County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5417

HABS
PA,
32-SALT,
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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32-SALT,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. THOMAS MURRAY HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5417

Location: 101 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Rose M. Gaworecki.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This house is in the prominent canal-era location between the river and what was the canal. Today it is one of a small group of extant Saltsburg canal-period buildings in close proximity to each other.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1847, according to deed and tax records.
2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically the west half of lot No. 11. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1846 Deed April 1, 1846, Volume 15, Page 299.

James R. and Mary Ann Dougherty

TO

Dr. Thomas Murray (No buildings noted; parcel includes all lot No. 11)

1848 Dr. Murray sold east half of lot No. 11 to William Robinson (see WM. ROBINSON HOUSE, 103 Point Street).

1852 Deed August 26, 1852, Volume 18, Page 431.

Dr. Thomas Murray

TO

Daniel R. Stitsel (Brick dwelling noted; this and future transactions refer to west half of lot No. 11.)

- 1854 Deed April 10, 1854, Volume A-52, Page 15.
Daniel R. and Matilda M. Stitsel
TO
Reverend Thomas J. Penny
- 1861 Deed September 29, 1861, Volume A-52, Page 16.
Reverend Thomas J. and Martha Penny
TO
Martha Weaver (who bequeathed it to Susanna Weddel)
- 1869 Deed June 16, 1869, Volume B-35, Page 452.
Peter M. Waddle, et al. (including Susanna Weddel)
TO
Dr. William F. Barclay
- 1921 Deed December 17, 1921, Volume 200, Page 177.
Union Trust Co. of Pittsburgh (administrator of Wm. Barclay
estate)
TO
J.M. Patterson

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans exist, but Sanborn maps indicate the building has always consisted of the two-story front block and one-story rear shed, in one material or another.
4. Alterations and additions: The one-story brick front-entry porch was added between 1909 and 1927 (Sanborn); it replaced a similiary wood structure, prior to which there was no known front porch.

The Water Street facade appears to have been partially rebuilt, probably in part to accommodate the new picture window. A one-story brick addition with a shed roof was added to the north end of the two-story ell. A frame porch existed on the rear portion of the east wall from at least 1886 to 1929.

- B. Historical Context: A cluster of buildings including 101 Point St. was erected during the late 1840s in this important location between Water Street and the Conemaugh River on the west and the canal to the east.

Dr. Thomas Murray, who commissioned the house about 1847, hailed from the Susquehanna Valley in southern Pennsylvania. There he earned a medical degree before attending medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania.

Murray arrived in Saltsburg in 1837 and quickly established a lucrative practice. He served as a town burgess 1838 and ultimately retired to a farm on nearby Elder's ridge (formerly Watson's ridge).

A later resident of 101 Point St. was also a physician. Dr. William F. Barclay occupied the house from 1869 until his death in 1918. Barclay was born in nearby Centre Township, was educated at the academies in Saltsburg and Greenburg, and studied medicine with a Saltsburg doctor before attending Bellevue Medical College in New York. He may have practiced in Saltsburg from 1866 until 1878.

For additional context, twenty-one reports on other buildings in Saltsburg may be consulted, as well as overview histories of the town of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438) and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666). See also, Sara Amy Leach, ed., Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg (Washington, DC: Historica American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building at 101 Point St. is a modest, three-bay, Federal-style brick dwelling organized on a side-hall plan, two and one-half stories tall and largely unadorned.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 20' x 50'.
2. Foundation: Stone; partially banked.
3. Wall construction: Brick, laid in five-course American bond, except for some portions of the altered west facade, which are running bond.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick.
5. Porches: The easternmost bay of the front facade contains the entry to the house. This all-brick, gable-roofed porch features an elliptical arch

supported by columns with "capitals."

6. Chimneys: One interior brick chimney exists at the gable end of the ell's north facade, west of the ridge line.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front door is located in the easternmost of the three bays; single, wood, possibly with a transom.
 - b. Windows: The front facade features three windows on the second floor, two on the first. All are one-over-one-light double-hung aluminum sash, with wood lintels and sills. Modern picture windows are installed on the west wall of the main block, and the west and east walls of the shed addition. Also on the west facade, attic story, are two four-light single sash, and small single-light basement windows.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Side-gable with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Wide, plain, boxed frame eaves.
- C. Site: The corner site is faced on the west by Water Street and the river; on the east and south by additional residences; and on the north by an alley and vegetation. A frame stable that existed from at least 1869 until 1921 is no longer extant.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Old Views and maps:

The collection of the Saltsburg Branch, Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, Stone House Museum, contains numerous historic images. Beers, F.W. Atlas of Indiana County. New York: F.W. Beers and Co., 1871.

Johnson, George B., and Palmer, Ann. Saltsburg--The Way It Was--An Appreciation. Indiana, Pa.: A.G. Halldin Publishing Co., 1986.

Peelor, David, and Barker, W. "Map of Indiana County, Pennsylvania." North

Hector, New York: 1856.

"Saltsburg, Pa." New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. Ltd., February 1886; New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd., October 1891, January 1897, July 1903; New York: Sanborn Map Company, April 1909, February 1927.

B. Primary and unpublished sources:

Indiana County, Pennsylvania, deed books and tax records.

C. Secondary and published sources:

Arms, C.T., and White, E. 1745-1880, History of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Newark, Ohio: J. A. Caldwell, 1880.

Berringer, Gloria, ed. Canal Days Sesquicentennial: 1838-1988. No publisher, 1988.

Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Indiana and Armstrong Counties.
Philadelphia: John M. Gresham and Co., 1891; reprinted 1982.

Johnson, George. Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal. Historic Saltsburg, 1984.

McCullough, Robert, and Leuba, Walter. The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal. York, Pa.: American Canal and Transportation Center, 1973.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory, "Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal: Indiana and Westmoreland Counties." 1979/82.

Stewart, J.T. Indiana County, Pennsylvania: Her People, Past and Present. Chicago: F.W. Beers, 1913.

Wallner, Peter A. "Politics and Public Works: A Study of the Pennsylvania Canal System, 1825-1857." Ph.D diss., Pennsylvania State University, June 1973.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record in cooperation with the America's Industrial Heritage Project under the directorship of Randy Cooley; AIHP is an undertaking of the

National Park Service, based in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Recorded under the direction of Robert J. Kapsch, chief of HABS/HAER, the project was completed during summer 1988 at the HABS field office in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Project leader was Alison K. Hoagland, senior HABS historian; field supervisor was Dorothy Burlingame, University of Vermont; project historian, Kristin Belz, University of Virginia. Large-format photography is by David Ames. Editing of the final report was done by Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.

This report was completed as part of a larger project documenting two canal towns--Saltsburg, on the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, and Alexandria, on the Juniata Division--flanking the Allegheny Divide. Twenty-one reports on other buildings in Saltsburg, an overview history of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438), and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666) are part of the HABS/HAER collection. Twenty-two reports on buildings in Alexandria (Huntingdon County) and an overview history of Alexandria (HABS No. PA-5407) are also available. Results of the project were published as Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg, Sara Amy Leach, editor (Washington, DC: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).