

First National Bank of Saltsburg
(Lions Activity Center)
214 Point Street
Saltsburg
Indiana County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5431

HABS
PA,
32-SALT,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SALTSBURG
(Lions' Activity Center)

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PA,
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3-

- Location: 214 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.
- Present Owner: Saltsburg Lions.
- Present Use: Lions Club Activity Center.
- Significance: This was the first bank building erected in Saltsburg, and it represents an excellent example of Victorian commercial architecture coupled with occasional Greek Revival and eclectic features; it is largely intact.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1875 (date plate on facade).
2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 4. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1847 Deed June 30, 1847, Volume Pro S & T 2, Page 70.
Wm. McFarland (by sheriff, at suit of W.H. McConnell)
TO
H.P. Laird (frame dwelling and stable, razed to accommodate bank)

1878 Deed February 16, 1878, Volume 40 A, Page 464.
Harrison P. Laird
TO
Benton K. Jamieson, et al. (First National Bank of Saltsburg founders)

1890 Deed November 29, 1890, Volume 54 A, Page 352.
Benton Jamieson, et al. as First National Bank of Saltsburg

TO
William R. McIlwain

1893 Deed April 14, 1893, Volume 58A, Page 560.
William R. McIlwain
TO
First National Bank of Saltsburg

1945 Deed February 20, 1945, Volume 343, Page 192.
First National Bank, Saltsburg, PA (formerly First National Bank
of Saltsburg, a corporation)
TO
William A. Rumbaugh

1947 Deed May 27, 1947, Volume 363, Page 233.
William A. Rumbaugh
TO
William F. Fennell

1969 Deed April 18, 1969, Volume 595, Page 233.
William F. Fennell
TO
Saltsburg Lions Activity Center, Inc.

3. Contractor, builder: James Hudson of Saltsburg was the contractor; H.F. Stear the stone mason. The metal cornice and brackets were supplied by Lacock and Irwin of Allegheny City. Plaster work was by Hart and Harris.
 4. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, but the narrow, rectangular, one-story commercial building remains largely unchanged.
 5. Alterations and additions: The upper portion of the display window appears to have been altered in some way, and originally may have contained decorative glass or different signage. Sometime prior to 1891, a 25' long, one-story brick addition was made to the rear of the facade, and it remains in place today.
- B. Historical Context: The town's first financial institution, the Saltsburg Bank, was established by William Sterret in 1871. Sterret had organized the Fairbanks Coal Company in 1886 and subsequently served the banking needs of

company workers out of his house; he served as bank president for ten years (Palmer and Miller, 36-37). The bank was first housed in an addition attached to the west side of Robert Taylor's house at 211 Point St. Harrison Laird owned the property until three years after completion of the building, when he conveyed it to the bank partners (deeds). Laird, an attorney, was also involved in a general-trade concern with John McQuaide. By 1927 the bank building was used simply as an office (Sanborns).

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: Victorian and eclectic detailing highlights this otherwise narrow, one-story and modest commercial brick storefront.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 25' x 60'.
2. Foundation: High-quality, dressed stone; slightly banked.
3. Walls: Brick laid in six-course American bond on all facades. An unusual and elaborate entablature demarks the top of the first floor; it is nearly full, constructed of wood, and includes a wide frieze with modillions that descend into stout, attached columns; paired end brackets rest on rough-cut stone "capitals"; and there is dentil coursing on the fascia. The termini are marked by mini-gable-front temple forms.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick.
5. Chimneys: Two small, brick interior chimneys.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: A single glazed door is located in the east corner of the facade; it features a recessed base panel and modified, blank transom. The door features an ornate etched-brass (or similar alloy) handle.
- b. Windows: A large display window occupies most of the ground-floor portion of the Point Street facade. The upper portion of the window, that now contains "Saltsburg Lions Activity Center," may have originally contained different signage or decorative glazing.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Flat, covering out of view.
- b. Cornice: A wide, heavily bracketed cornice includes large modillions and a projected central pediment with raked cornice, supported by two pairs of exaggerated brackets that overlap a decorative stringcourse. At the corners of the roof, atop the cornice, are finial-like iron urns raised on blocks. A large, central date plate reads "A.D. 1875."

- C. Site: The First National Bank of Saltsburg building faces north, nestled among neighboring buildings on each side and across Point Street.

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 historical 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.

Saltsburg Press, April 18, 1963, p. 3.

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

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).