

P.D. Shupe Hardware Store
202 Point Street
Saltsburg
Indiana County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5432

HABS
PA,
32-SALT,
18-

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

P.D. SHUPE GENERAL STORE

HABS No. PA-5432

HABS
PA,
32-SALT,
18-

- Location: 202 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.
- Present Owner: Gildo Bertetto.
- Present Use: Warehouse.
- Significance: This is an exceptionally fine--and largely intact--example of a vernacular commercial building that features ornate Victorian storefront detailing of wood, rather than the typical metal.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Probably 1880s. A frame building that served as a ware-house, of the same approximate form, occupied this site off and on as early as the 1840s, but tax records and architectural styling indicate a construction date of about 1880. William Stewart owned the property prior to mid-century, when it was valued at \$800-\$900; and \$500-\$700 in the 1860s, and about \$1100 in the '70s. Tax records indicate the parcel, owned by William McIlwain, was assessed at \$3,300 in 1880--triple the value of the previous decade, which indicates the erection of a new structure.
2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 6 and part of No. 7. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1850 Deed May 11, 1850, Volume 16, Page 627.

Andrew Boggs

TO

William Stewart (no mention of buildings)

1868 Deed June 11, 1868, Volume B34, Page 489.

William and Rachel Stewart
TO
William R. McIlwain (mentions large frame warehouse and
storeroom)

1937 Deed January 9, 1937, Volume 286, Page 137.

William R. McIlwain
TO
Charles H. McIlwain

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, however the building has retained its two-story frame rectangular form with an asymmetrical storefront.
 4. Alterations and additions: The building has been little changed since its construction in the late-nineteenth century. Historically there have been two one-story additions to the rear facade; one remains in place.
- B. Historical Context: The commercial structure at 202 Point St. was probably erected during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, on a site previously occupied by a similar building. William McIlwain, a member of a large family who emigrated from Ireland to Saltsburg, purchased it in 1868. Several members of the McIlwain family worked as merchants, and this store remained in the family until after 1937.

The first and mezzanine levels of the building were restricted to the general store operation. From at least the 1880s until 1909, the second floor housed the Armory Hall, for which it may have been originally designed; for a short time a printing shop also occupied this space (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: This building represents an excellent example of both vernacular Victorian and commercial architecture, with its four-bay, rectangular form and ornamental emphases on an elaborate cornice and ground-floor storefront.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Approximately 30' x 85'.
2. Foundation: Stone (limestone, sandstone, granite).
3. Walls: Horizontal weatherboard; first-floor storefront is predominantly glass.
4. Structural system: Framing is used for the general structure; the interior mezzanine floor is supported by suspended steel rods.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Modillions and highly ornamental paired brackets atop the pilasters articulate the cornice above the storefront story.

There are two entrances on the front/Point Street side; one on the west facade. The first floor, front facade features a single doorway in the easternmost bay that leads to stairs that rise to the second story and mezzanine levels. It is single, decorated with wood panels and is topped by a rectangular transom.

The commercial entrance is located on an off-center, display-window composition: a set of double wood doors with full-height round-topped glazing; recessed and flanked by the canted, display windows. Above the door is a two-light rectangular transom, narrow wood cornice with dentil molding, and a second, single-light transom.

A blocked doorway with architrave trim modeled after that around the windows exists in the southwest corner of the west facade.

- b. Windows: The ground-level storefront features full-height glazing, and articulated vertical features: three asymmetrically placed pilasters on the front facade, and a fourth on the west facade at the window terminus. These have decorative, recessed panels, acorn-and-leaf motif detailing, and paneled "capitals." These elements are unusual in that they are made of wood rather than the more typical metal. A steel beam probably exists at the cornice (junction between first and second floors) line; and eight slender, modestly ornamental, iron rods serve as vertical supports at the window intersections.

The four bays of second-story fenestration on the front and side facades, and two bays on the rear facade, are identical: tall, two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash with segmental-arched surrounds that feature keystone-like carved elements. The three identical windows on the first floor of the west facade also retain three-panel wood shutters.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Flat roof; covering undetermined; plain parapet on all but rear facades.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Elaborate cornice extends around the main and side facades features generous bracketing; corners feature paneled pilasters and exaggerated, carved brackets.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. The rectangular first floor is divided width-wise into two rooms. A wall separates this space from the stairway located along the east wall.
- b. The mezzanine level consists of a suspended floor area around the perimeter of the plan above the first floor space; a central rectangular space preserves the full first-floor height. Access is gained via the stairs located along the east wall.
- c. The second floor contains two large rooms divided width-wise, with a smaller third space in between. Access is gained via the

stairs located along the east wall.

2. Stairways: One stairway runs along the east wall of the building, accessing the mezzanine and second levels; it is separated from the main space by a wall.
 3. Flooring: Wood floorboards throughout.
 4. Wall and ceiling finishes: First floor, unknown. Mezzanine, floor-to-ceiling vertical paneling. Second floor, plaster and lathe with wainscoating that extends about 5' up the wall, simple molding. The first-floor ceiling is wood or sheet metal; the second-floor ceiling is wood/plaster.
 5. Openings: Windows: The front (north) facade at the mezzanine level is fully glazed, allowing for generous visibility and natural lighting.
 6. Decorative features, trim: Wainscoated walls on the second floor. Miscellaneous suspended light fixtures throughout building.
- D. Site: The building at 202 Point St. is oriented north to Point street. The canal right of way is to the west, while to the north, east and south are well-developed town blocks.

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 views.

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 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.

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).