

Thomas M. and Catherine Lyman House
1300 3rd Avenue
Fourth Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5835

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
62-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THOMAS M. AND CATHERINE LYMAN HOUSE

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Location: 1300 3rd Avenue

Date of Erection: 1887-90

Description: This example of a three-bay, cross-gable type house is clad in brick veneer rather than the more common wood siding. Sanborn insurance maps suggest that the brick veneer was added between 1888 and 1894 to a newly built frame structure; an entry for "improvements" and a greatly increased tax assessment for the year 1890 suggest that the house took its final form over the course of several years. By 1891 it was described as brick.

Ornament is less extravagant on this brick example, particularly because of the relative plainness of window surrounds--a modest arch at top is picked out in a row of vertical bricks while a projecting molded sill rests below. A bracketed wood cornice beneath the front eaves has cut-in arches which complement the window surrounds and a band of cutwork applique. A two-story hexagonal bay window on the side of this corner house has a matching cornice which extends into the ell addition at the rear of the house.

The entrance door is at the left of the front facade; next to it is a wide picture window. There is an enclosed chimney to the right of center. The current simple porch is a later addition. Gable returns have been boxed in on the front and sides of the roof line.

History: Like many other Fourth Ward properties, the corner lot at 1300 3rd Ave. changed hands several times before any structure was built. Alexander Smith purchased six lots in this block of the city from the Wrights between 1865 and 1871. He, with his wife Louise, sold all six to Francis McCullough for \$2,000 in June 1871.

Thomas M. Lyman, a blacksmith, purchased a single 50' x 120' lot from McCullough in March 1887. The house was built by 1888 as Lyman's tax entry for that year shows "vacant" crossed out and "House" written in; assessment value jumped from \$75 to \$375. Lyman's \$200 worth of taxable improvements in 1890 were possibly the addition of the current brick veneer, although the overall increase in assessment to \$1,400 suggests many improvements since the original construction date.

Thomas M. and Catherine Lyman sold the house and corner 25' x 120' lot to James P. and Regina Hazlett later that year, on August 12, 1890. In 1891, directories show Porter J. Hazlett (probably James P.), a watchman, living here along with William T. Hazlett, a carpenter for the PRR. By 1896, Regina Hazlett, a recent widow, is listed, along with Elizabeth and Margaret, both teachers.

James P. Hazlett's wife and daughters, as heirs, sold the house with the front 25' x 70' section of the lot to John H. Brown for \$3,000 in 1909. J. Howard Brown worked as a clerk and was listed as resident at this address by 1912. Brown sold the house to Walter L. and Cora L. King for \$4,800 in June 1924; Walter worked as a machinist when they lived here in 1925. The property has been sold several times since then: to John C. Waite in February 1929; back to John H. Brown in August 1931; to Sherman H., a plumber, and Catherine M. Foor in April 1944.

Sources: Maps: 1882, 1888, 1894. Deed books: 26/213, 62/686, 82/124, 188/82, 321/680, 380/71, 400/531, 491/99. City directories. Tax assessment records.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record

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(HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. Overviews of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and the fourth ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5786) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Susan Garfinkel in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of HABS senior historian Alison K. Hoagland and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Garfinkel's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.