

Timothy and Mary C. Healy House
1415 3rd Avenue
Fourth Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5839

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
54-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TIMOTHY AND MARY C. HEALY HOUSE

HABS
PA.
7-ALTO.
54-

HABS No. PA-5839

Location: 1415 3rd Avenue

Date of Erection: 1895-96

Description: The Healy House, a good example of a centered cross-gable type found throughout Altoona (see 1220 6th Ave. (HABS No. PA-5849) and First Ward examples), and one of three to sit side-by-side on this block of 3rd Avenue, survives in remarkably original condition both inside and out.

The two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, frame dwelling has a central chimney stack and is still covered with its original horizontal wood siding. A single window is centered in the front cross-gable, but the three windows of the second floor are off-set toward the right side of the front facade. In the first floor the entrance door opens at right and is paired with a wide picture window having a leaded-glass transom.

The interrupted front cornice extends with slight returns into both front and side gables. Decorative cornice brackets are not consistently paired: three small scroll brackets are spaced below the eave on the front facade, while one pair of brackets rests below the side-facade return. A row of sawtooth cutwork along the cornice line is echoed in the decorative window surrounds that have flat-topped projecting crests and bases, and along the eave of the flat porch roof. Most ornamental is the cutwork porch, having four turned balusters supporting sections of a spindled and tracery frieze. Scrolled brackets with incised decoration and beaded edging join the balusters to the bottom of the projecting eave. A row of square vertical spindles supports the porch rail.

History: The lot at 1415 3rd Ave. was vacant when Timothy Healy, a hostler, purchased it from John Wright's heirs in August 1895. In 1893, Timothy was still living next door at 1417 3rd Ave., in the home of engineer Patrick Healy. By 1896, however, he resided at No. 1415; tax records for that year show the "vacant" entry crossed out and a house written in along with a large increase in assessment value.

Healy was at first a hostler but later worked as a mason; he was married by August 1905. In 1925 Timothy Healy worked as a clerk and resided here along with a large family: his wife, Mary C.; Elizabeth B., who worked as a clerk at the PRR system freight office; Helen B., who worked a cashier at the Shoe Tree; Mary R., who taught at the newly opened Roosevelt Junior High; and William G., listed without occupation. By 1930 Cecelia and Timothy T., Jr., both students; William G., a dentist; and Helen, a stenographer, join the list.

Timothy Healy died in 1932 and in November 1938 Mary C. Healy passed the title to the property to her three daughters, Mary R., Helen C., and Cecelia K. In 1939, directories show Mary C. as the head of household, living here with Cecelia, now a teacher at Prospect School; Mary, still a teacher at Roosevelt; and Helen, a bookkeeper at the Olympic Theater. Cecelia Healy married and passed on her share of the title in October 1945. In 1955, Helen and Mary continued to live here with their mother. By 1970, Helen and Mary, now retired, lived here alone. Mary Healy died in November 1976; in 1986 Helen Healy sold the property to its present owner for \$8,500.

Sources: Maps: 1894, 1909. Deed books: 106/630, 159/642, 644 444/241, 519/116, 1126/604. City directories. Tax assessment books.

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 (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsob, 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.

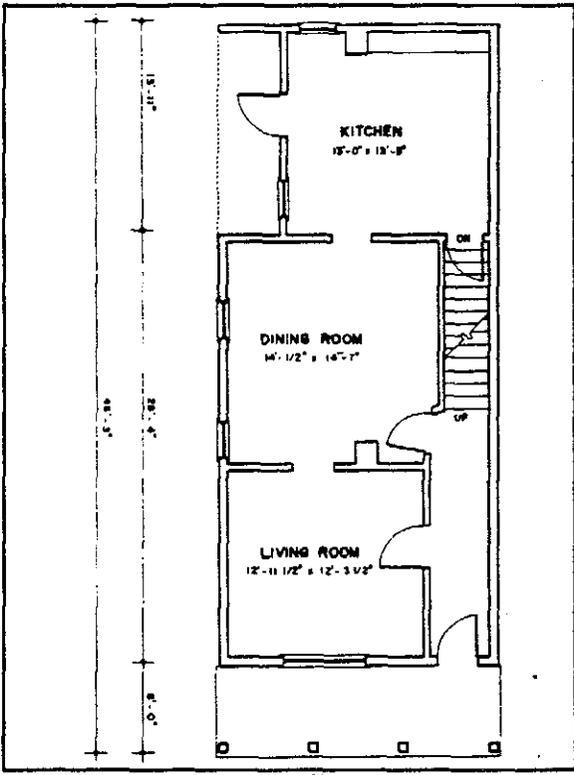


Fig. 1.1 First-floor plan. Drawn by Anette A. Jensen.

Addendum To:
TIMOTHY & MARY HEALY HOUSE
Fourth Ward Neighborhood
1415 Third Avenue
Altoona
Blair Co.
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5839

HABS
PA
7-ALTO,
54-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-1727