

Joseph and Barbara Fleig House
1329 4th Avenue
Fourth Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5842

HABS
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7-ALTO,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOSEPH AND BARBARA FLEIG HOUSE

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Location: 1329 4th Avenue

Date of Erection: 1872, moved between 1888-94

Description: The Fleig House is an early Fourth Ward example of the use of brick veneer on a wood frame. The two-and-a-half-story, gable-front dwelling has a later enclosed one-story porch that obscures its original front entrance. The main entrance is now in the 14th Street side, where a small frame porch was added. Trim is modest, consisting of cornice returns on the front gable end and pedimented stone lintels and flat stone sills for the windows. Pointed-arch windows enter the attic space at front and back.

History: The Fleig House, like a sizeable minority of others in the Fourth Ward survey area, remains in its original family, having passed through two generations of daughters. According to family history, the house was moved from the corner to its current location, 25' from 14th Street. This is confirmed by maps that in 1882 and 1888 show a brick dwelling on the corner lot, and in 1894 show that lot vacant and the current location occupied by a brick-veneered house of these proportions. In city directories, however, the address of the house does not change from 1331 to 1329 until 1925.

A full 50' x 120' lot was first purchased by Gottleib and Joseph Fleig from John and Emma Wright in May 1871. The property seems to have been intended only for Joseph, however, as he alone was taxed the following year for a house and lot, valued at \$250. By 1874 the value of the property, at 4th Avenue and 14th Street, had increased to \$525. According to 1885 tax records, Joseph, a laborer, owned the house and lot and five cows.

Gottleib Fleig sold his interest in the property to Joseph in May 1891. In April 1920, Joseph and Barbara Fleig passed the property to their son-in-law and daughter Roy A. and Minnie A. Raichle. When the Raichles lived here in 1925, Roy worked as a pressman for the Mirror Printing Company. Roy Raichle died in June 1941. Minnie Raichle transferred the title to her daughter and son-in-law, Lois M. and Daniel G. Shultz, in 1967. In 1970, the Schultzes lived here, while Daniel worked at the meat counter of K-Mart Foods.

Sources: Maps: 1882, 1888, 1894. Deed books: 86/171, 85/634, 277/564, 858/53. City directories. Tax assessment records. Interview with family members.

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 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.