

Jacob Good House
1225-1225 1/2-1227 7th Avenue
Fourth Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5853

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
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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

JACOB GOOD HOUSE

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PA,
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Location: 1225--1225-1/2--1227 7th Avenue

Date of Erection: by 1881

Description: The Good House is one of two triple houses found in the survey area. It appears on early maps as a frame structure, having acquired its present brick veneer between 1909 and 1932.

Unlike row housing in which the interior separations are visually delineated on the exterior, this unified facade only reveals its function as a triple house through the presence of three exterior doors. The two-and-one-half-story, tenement-style house is arranged in three, two-bay sections and has a steeply pitched side-gambrel roof with gable-front double-window dormers. Its close placement to the adjacent structure at right, and the lack of windows in the exposed side facade, indicate the urban intention of its form.

There is little ornament beyond a modestly molded wood cornice. A one-story front porch with square columnar supports has separate steps to each front door.

History: Although an exact date for this structure has remained elusive, the lot on 7th Avenue represents one of the earliest purchases researched. Henry Eicholtz bought a 50' x 120' lot from Archibald and Jane Wright for \$100 on January 2, 1854. When Eicholtz sold the lot with buildings for \$700 to Ebenezer Mead of Altoona in October 1856, he was described as resident in Ogle County, Illinois. Meade and his wife, Mary A., sold the property "with the house and improvements" to Jacob Good for \$750 nine months later.

Thus, some sort of structure was present when Good purchased the property in 1857. Earliest tax records are not revealing since Good owned a number of properties that are not enumerated by address. The first tax entry referring explicitly to this property appears in 1885, when it is called "1 lot & 3 Houses 7th ave." A corresponding listing for 1881 refers to "1 single & 1 double house," probably the same property, suggesting also that the present structure started as a double house with the third section added. Three connected structures appear on the 1882 Altoona map.

The core of the house may be much older. Tax records show that in 1867, the year of purchase for this property, Good had a lot and double house in the East Ward. In 1862 he had a double frame house and two frame houses in the East Ward. A double house and another house both in the East Ward were credited to Good as early as 1858. Good, who never lived at this address, had various occupations including attorney, agent, and "gentleman."

The property was described as three connected frame tenements when it was sold for \$3,300 in September 1900 to O. P. Bush for the benefit of Good's creditors. In 1907, Oliver P. Bush was a foreman living at 604 4th Ave., along with Carrie & Roberta Bush who ran a dressmaking business. Bush died intestate and his heirs consolidated the title under Carrie B. Prough in August 1926. In 1930, Carrie B. and Jacob C. Prough were living at 911 5th Ave., while he worked as a gang foreman. Carrie B. Prough died intestate on May 12, 1952, and the family vested the property in her daughter Elda Marie Schell in July of that year. After seventy years in the family, Elda M. and her husband James H. Schell, Sr. sold the property to its current owner in 1970 for \$6,500.

Altoona residents are listed by address in city directories starting in 1939. Thus, in the first year when it is possible to tell who is resident at this property, we find: at No. 1225 Jesse (reporter for Mirror Printing Co.) and Anne R. Sell; at No. 1225-1/2 William Turbett, no occupation given; at No. 1227, a physician, Frank DeSantes and his wife Grace D., and Almerinda DeSantes, a nurse who worked and resided here. Residents at the house in 1953 were William Replogle, a clerk for the PRR, and his wife Alma (No. 1225), William Turbett (No. 1225-1/2), and Saul Books, a foreman for the PRR and his wife Tbelma K. (No. 1227).

Sources: Maps: 1882, 1888, 1894, 1909, 1932. Deed books: 106/94, 106/95, 65/465, 128/174, 352/301, 661/163, 911/409. City directories. Tax assessment records.

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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.