

Alexander and Mary McLaughlin House
210-12 Logan Blvd.
Llysven Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5897

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
142 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ALEXANDER AND MARY MCLAUGHLIN HOUSE

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Location: 210-12 Logan Blvd.

Date of Erection: 1904

Description: This two-story, cross-gabled double house has three bays per side and full porches on both levels, supported by boxed wood columns. The front of the house has false bevel drop siding. The facade also has the original tall, narrow windows and transomed door frames, although the doors themselves are replacements. According to the 1909 Sanborn map, the original porch was one story and divided.

History: This duplex was built in 1904 for Alexander McLaughlin, an electrician, who bought the lot from the Altoona Suburban Home Company for \$400 the previous year. The 1904-05 city directory lists McLaughlin's address as "Logan Avenue, 3 e. of Whittier"; the two houses between this property and Whittier Avenue at that time were Nos. 218 and 216. McLaughlin sold the duplex to Holmes Ertley, a traveling salesman, for \$5,100 in 1920, apparently as an investment property. Augustus Griebel, a salesman-turned-grocer, bought it from Ertley in 1923 for \$8,500, but continued to reside on 3rd Avenue. Griebel sold it in 1926 to mortgage and insurance broker Louis Leopold, whose home was at 204 Logan Blvd. In the tight economy of the Depression years, Leopold chose to deed the duplex back to the bank holding the mortgage on it. Dolly Kennedy, who rented No. 212 during the 1940s, remembers going to the bank to pay her rent. Ella and Rose Port bought the duplex as investment property in 1948 for \$12,000. Rose and her husband, Samuel, who was a frozen foods wholesaler, lived on Aldrich Avenue in the newer section of Llyswen east of Logan Boulevard. In 1951 Yesinene Jacobs, a widow, bought the duplex and lived at No. 212 with her son, George, a clerk for the PRR, until 1964, when she sold it for \$17,500.

Sources: Maps: 1909, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 143/33, 279/140, 307/652, 347/432, 429/519, 581/331, 633/465, 636/150, 819/675, 996/256, 1076/938. Interview: Dolly Kennedy Miragliotta, 409 Logan Blvd., July 23, 1989.

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. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) 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 Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards'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.