

WOOD, GEORGE WASHINGTON, HOUSE
201 E. 5th Avenue
Conshohocken
Montgomery County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-6018

HABS
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46-CONSH,
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GEORGE WASHINGTON WOOD HOUSE HABS No. PA-6018

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Location: 201 E. 5th Avenue, Conshohocken, Montgomery Co., Pennsylvania.

Significance: The George Washington Wood house is a good example of a high style house built for the industrialist elite during the late nineteenth century. The erection of houses such as this one represent the growth and prosperity of the area during the late nineteenth century, which served to extend the upper-class residential neighborhood southeastward.

Description: The George Washington Wood house is a two-and-one-half-story Queen Anne style house. The first two stories are constructed of random granite ashlar while the top half story consists of wood-sided gable ends, dormers and turrets. The building is asymmetrically composed with the two main facades containing projecting two-story stone bays capped by end gables and decorative wall treatments. The northeast and northwest facades meet at a forty-five degree corner tower. The tower is constructed of ashlar and has a decorative wood and stucco frieze capped by a steeply pitched polygonal roof of patterned slate. Situated between the gable and the tower on the northeast portion of the roof is a shed dormer with paired windows. The northeast facade features two-story wood-frame porches with exposed rafters, wide arching brackets, and modified Chippendale balustrades.

The principal entry is located in the center of the northeast facade under the porch and adjacent to the projecting bay. The openings all feature keystone segmental arches. The windows are double-hung and consist of multi-light upper sash with twenty-four to thirty-six lights above a single-light lower sash. Projecting from the northwest facade between the stone bay and corner tower is a full height chimney that intersects the roof behind the overhanging eaves. An ornate wood-frame conservatory extends from the southwest facade and there is a rear entrance through a wood-frame enclosure east of the bay on the southwest facade.

History: George Washington Wood, son of ironmaster, industrialist and U.S. Congressman John Wood, built this house in 1881. The late nineteenth century was a time of substantial growth in Conshohocken and the site chosen for this house helped to extend the upper-class residential neighborhood southeastward. Its high-style Queen Anne design and large corner lot symbolize the prosperity shared by the heirs of the founding Conshohocken industrialists.

Sources:

Conshohocken Historical Society files.

Trumball & Wiesenthal Consultants. "Pennsylvania Historical Resource Survey Form: 201 E. 5th Avenue." July 1989. This survey form provided the date of construction and much of the history.

Historian: Janet G. Blutstein, HABS Historian, 1994.