

George Paul House
57 Fourteenth Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-198

HABS
WVA,
35-WHEEL,
22-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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22-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GEORGE PAULL HOUSE

HABS No. WV-198

Location: 57 Fourteenth Street, Wheeling, Ohio County,
West Virginia.

Present Owner: M. David Shaeffer.

Present Occupant: M. David Shaeffer & Associates.

Present Use: Engineering Offices.

Significance: Built before 1845, this simple structure of Flemish bonded brick has grown in response to the needs of its owners. It is believed that this was originally a smaller structure to which succeeding generations of residents have made additions. The street facade is a good example of Federal architecture in Wheeling.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: C. 1840. This building was apparently built in stages.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: This house was built on part of lots 15 and 16 in Colonel Ebenezer Zane's Addition, Square 15 in the Clay District of Wheeling. These portions of Lots 15 and 16 were first sold together by the Northwestern Bank of Virginia to Thomas Paull on 1 April 1846, recorded in Deed Book 28, page 463; \$1,850.00 for "the house and lot of ground... which is part of Lot numbers fifteen and sixteen in Col. Ebenezer Zane's Addition." The above citation and the following references tracing the title of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15 may be found in the Ohio County, West Virginia Deed Books.

1865 Deed, 29 August, recorded in Deed Book 49, page 172. William W. Miller, Trustee for Thomas Paull, deceased, to George Paull, William Paull and A. Allen Howell \$500.00 for part of Lots 8, 15 and 16 of Square 15.

1865 Deed, 15 September, recorded in Deed Book 49, page 286. George Paull, William Paull and A. Allen Powell to Charles Berry \$7,750.00 for parts of Lots 8, 15, and 16 of Square 16.

- 1880 Deed, 12 February, recorded in Deed Book 69, page 515. Charles H. Berry to George Paull and wife. \$4,022.00 for parts of Lots 15 and 16 of Square 15.
- 1883 Deed, 30 April, recorded in Deed Book 74, page 141. George Paull and wife to A. Allen Howell and wife, Sarah. \$4,500.00 for parts of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15.
- 1900 Will, 15 February, recorded in Will Book 8, page 363. Sarah Howell devised to Sallie H. Oglebay, Thomas P. Howell, Richard L. Howell, William P. Howell all her property both real and personal.
- 1900 Deed, 15 February, recorded in Deed Book 102, page 424. Thomas P. Howell, executor of will of Sarah W. Howell to Nelson C. Hubbard \$2500.00 for one third interest in parts of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15.
- 1900 Deed, 16 February, recorded in Deed Book 102, page 429. Nelson C. Hubbard to Sallie H. Oglebay and Thomas P. Howell \$2,500.00 for one third interest in parts of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15.
- 1900 Deed, 14 September, recorded in Deed Book 103, page 520. Thomas P. Howell and wife to Sallie H. Oglebay \$3,750.00 for one half interest in parts of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15.
- Sallie H. Oglebay died 20 April 1916 (in Cleveland, Ohio) intestate leaving as her sole heir-at-law, her daughter, Sarita Oglebay Russel.
- 1929 Deed, 19 September, recorded in Deed Book 219, page 250. Sarita O. Russel to William M. Wright \$10,000.00 for parts of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15.
- 1931 Deed, 22 January, recorded in Deed Book 224, page 366. William M. Wright to Jennie M. Wright. Parts of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15.
- 1962 Deed, 1 October, recorded in Deed Book 439, page 268. Jennie M. Wright to M. David Shaeffer and wife \$40,000.00 for parts of Lots 15 and 16, Square 15.
4. Original plans, construction, etc: Not known.
5. Alterations and additions: M. David Shaeffer, the present owner of the building, did a complete interior renovation during the 1960s. As a result of this, he believes that the house was originally a one room, two-story structure. He bases this theory on the fact that the wall between the front room and the rest of the house is 12" thick. In addition, the roof over this room was constructed separately from the roof which covers the rear of the house.

At the time of his renovation there was a staircase which came into the center of the front room. Shaeffer moved the stairway to the side wall behind the front door and gutted the rear portion of the building to adapt it to the needs of his engineering business.

There were many layers of paint on the exterior of the house. At the time he purchased this property, Mr. Shaeffer remembers only that it was painted a nondescript color. He had the exterior cleaned with a water and sand mix and found that the bricks used were not kiln fired and probably had been made on site or nearby. These bricks are extremely brittle and were covered with a silicon solution to prevent further erosion.

The first-floor shutters were seriously rotted. Mr. Shaeffer had them copied and did the same for the second-floor louvered shutters. The front door and entry were gone, and he had a new door and entry way modeled after the first floor shutters and the Frissell House front doorway. The windows were nine-over-one-light, and their frames had rotted out. These were replaced by duplicates, and the original lintels were retained. The final change on the front was the replacement of the original eroded sandstone water table by bricks from the rear of the house.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Thomas Paull, an early citizen and pioneer merchant of Wheeling, first acquired this property in 1846 from the Northwestern Bank of Wheeling. The deed which conveyed this property to Mr. Paull mentioned specifically "the house and lot of ground... which is part of Lot numbers fifteen and sixteen in Colonel Ebenezer Zane's Addition." Whether the house mentioned in the deed is in fact the house under consideration is not absolutely certain.

It is apparent that this house was originally a small residence which grew in response to the needs and tastes of subsequent owners. Charles Berry purchased this house from Mr. Paull's sons and son-in-law, Andrew Allen Howell, in 1865. Berry was a prominent man in Wheeling and a successful rope merchant who both lived and worked at this house. As part of his business, Mr. Berry built a "rope walk" where rope, attached to a post at one end of the long narrow building could be braided until the braider reached the opposite end of this building. River traffic along the Ohio River made Mr. Berry quite successful, and he was able to sell the property back to the Paull family. The rope walk was later torn down, but records exist to prove that it once stood beside this house.

George Paull, son of Thomas Paull, was born in Wheeling in 1837. He worked for many years for various merchants and grocers before joining, in 1868, the firm of Howell, Bloomfield and Co., which subsequently disbanded in 1873. In 1880 the firm of Hubbard, Paull and Company was formed. After two years Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Paull became sole proprietors of the company, at which time they became known as Hubbard and Paull. This company became one of the "leading wholesale grocery establishment of the city." 1

Mr. Paull lived at 54 Fourteenth Street until 1883 when, his wholesale grocery business successfully launched, he sold his house to his brother-in-law Andrew Allan Howell. Howell was listed in the 1883 City Directory as a "capitalist" and resided at 1320 Chapline Street. He evidently considered this property as an investment, and from that time on until 1930 the property was rented out to a variety of people.

C. Sources of Information:

Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley. Madison, Wisconsin: Brant & Fuller, 1890.

Callin's Wheeling City Directory 1882/83.

Interview: M. David Shaeffer, August 24, 1976.

1. Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley p. 394.

Prepared by: Candace Reed, Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September, 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-story brick building was originally a small residence, built before 1845. It has since been added to, but the original facade has been altered very little and is a good example of Federal style architecture in Wheeling.
2. Condition of fabric: Both the exterior and interior are in very good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is a basic rectangle measuring approximately twenty-six feet across the three-bay front. The original building extends back twenty-one feet, and the addition another thirty-nine feet. Two stories plus basement.
2. Foundations: Stone and brick.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The exterior walls are all brick. The original building is Flemish bond brick of a light rust-orange color with light gray mortar. The addition is running bond with red and black random pattern. The brick work is all in good

condition with the exception of the rear (north), which was originally stuccoed. The original building included a sandstone base from the water table to grade along the front. This was changed to brick when the building was modified in the 1960s.

4. Structural system, framing: Heavy timber beams and rafters, of both the original building and addition are connected at the apex with wooden pegs.
5. Chimneys: One brick chimney along the west wall at the gable ridge, projecting about four feet above the ridge line.
6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front doorway is on the east side of the front. The paneled wood double doorway is one of the striking features of the building facade. The entrance is about two feet above the street level with four sandstone steps leading to the doorway. The doorway is recessed in the front wall, with side panels. Both the paneled doors and solid, paneled transom area are not original. See photographs. There is one door on the east facade (probably contemporary). Several doorways at the rear facade have been bricked in.

- b. Windows and shutters: See photographs. All trim, including windows, doors and cornice is painted ochre yellow.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof configuration is two intersecting gables. The original building has its gable ridge parallel to the front (south), while the later addition has its gable perpendicular to the front. The roof is covered with tar paper, the shingles having been removed at some earlier date.

- b. Cornice, eaves: See photographs. The overhand is about nine inches.

- C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: There is a full basement under the original building and a partial basement under the addition. The first floor of both sections has been altered considerably to adapt to a contemporary commercial use. Both the first and second floor of the original building had a basic one room plan. The second floor is now an apartment and has been modified.
2. Stairways: There is a stairway to the basement entered through the south end of the addition. The stair to the second floor is new but is in approximately the same position as the original, along the east wall of the original building.

3. Flooring, wall and ceiling finish: The basement walls and ceiling are exposed masonry walls and timber spanning members. The floor is concrete but was probably dirt originally. On the first floor all wall, floor and ceiling materials are contemporary. The ceiling has been lowered to incorporate mechanical duct work. Wall and floor materials of the second floor apartment are contemporary, but the original ceiling and white plaster finish have been maintained.
4. Doorways, trim and hardware: Doorways, trim, etc. have all been altered and bear little or no resemblance to original condition.
5. Mechanical equipment: Contemporary.

D. Site and Surroundings:

The building is located in an urban setting. It abuts a large structure to the west, and there is a small alley-type space separating it from structures to the north and east. The front (south) faces 14th Street. There is no landscaping, and there are no outbuildings. There is evidence, however, that an additional structure or part of the present building existed at the rear.

Prepared by: John McRae
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September, 1976

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John McRae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie D. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Wilig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher.

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