

401 Penn Street (House)  
Reading  
Berks County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1547

HABS,  
PA,  
6-READ,  
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20423



United States Department of the Interior  
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
 Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS, PA, 6-READ, 4-

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING RECORD  
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY BERKS	TOWN OR VICINITY READING
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HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)	HABS NO. PA-5147
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SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE  
None

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)  
401 Penn Street

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Late 19th and early 20th centuries	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
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SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)  
 This structure was constructed at two different times. The rear section was built first, probably late 19th century, and has 6 bays facing on N. 4th Street. The corner building which has four bays on N 4th and 3 bays on Penn Street, was probably constructed in the  
 SEE ATTACHMENT A

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)  
Brick/Steel Frame

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)  
30' x 130'

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE  
 Corner Building consists of two brick structures. Front structure facing Penn. St. is a four story, 3 bay wide building with flat roof. Rear connecting structure is also a four story slightly taller structure, 6 bays wide facing 4th St. The first floor arches on this structure have been bricked in.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)  
 The interior retains very little of its original appearance. Remaining is an ornate tin-pressed ceiling, and the original wood stairs with their handrails, and carved balusters.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES  
 1933 Rear Building, arches bricked in.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE  
Demolished

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This structure was recorded by the Bureau of Planning, City Hall, Reading, Pa. in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)  
 City of Reading Registry Office

COMPILER, AFFILIATION Michel R. Lefevre, Bureau of Planning, City Hall Reading, PA.	DATE 6/25/80
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(A) 1920s. The structure was owned by the Saylor family since 1877, when the land was acquired by John Seltzer Saylor. See attached chain or title.

ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS

401 PENN STREET

References to the chain of title to the land upon which these structures once stood are in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Berks County Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.

- 1877 Deed, October 4, 1877, recorded in Book 126, page 682: Frederick Claus to Benjamin and John Seltzer Saylor.
- 1907 Deed. May 24, 1907, recorded in Book 126, page 246: Howard B. Saylor and Lucy Saylor to John Seltzer Saylor.
- 1910 Will, 1910, recorded in Book 25, page 306: Benjamin Saylor to Susan A. Saylor and John S. Saylor.
- 1933 Deed, December 14, 1933, recorded in Book 754, page 698: John Seltzer Saylor and Lucy S. Saylor to Ella May Bitler.
- 1935 Deed, May 24, 1935, recorded in Book 768, page 455: Doris Boyer Lebo to John Seltzer Saylor.
- 1938 Deed, May 11, 1938, recorded in Book 800, page 575: Jane E. Kemmerling to John Seltzer Saylor and Lucy Saylor.
- 1948 Deed January 2, 1948, recorded in Book 1007, page 186: John and Lucy Saylor to Ella May Bitler.
- 1965 Will, John and Lucy Saylor to John S. Saylor, Jr.
- 1967 Deed, July 31, 1967, recorded in Book 1511, page 1016: John S. Saylor, Jr. to Reading Eagle Company.
- 1980 Deed, March 28, 1980, recorded in Book 1779, page 0255: Reading Eagle Company to Berks County Industrial Redevelopment.