

Hendryx House,
Riceville, Pennsylvania

HABS No. Pa.-520

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PHOTOGRAPHS,
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey,
Karl E. Morrison, District Officer
319 Marine Bank Bldg., Erie, Pennsylvania

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HENDRYX HOUSE
Riceville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

Owner.

Mrs. Ethel Stafford, Riceville, Pennsylvania.

Date of Erection

1852 or earlier.

Architect

Unknown.

Builder

Shuman Hendryx.

Present Condition

Fair.

Number of Stories:

Main part two; wings, one each.

Materials of Construction:

Native sandstone, native white pine.

Other Existing Records:

Deede, records of sale of materials, a few records in histories.

Additional Data-Bibliography:

An illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Egle,
William H., M. D. Harrisburg, DeWitt C. Goodrich & Co. 1876,
Crawford County.

History of Crawford County, Pennsylvania: Chicago, Ill. Brown,
Runk and Co., Publishers, 1890.

Day book belonging to Mr. Arthur Westgate.

HENDRYX HOUSE

Riceville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

This house was built in 1852 or perhaps somewhat earlier, and tradition claims that it was built by Shuman Hendryx who was a Revolutionary soldier. At least he lived in the house with his son Dr. W. H. Hendryx who seems more likely to have been the builder. Shuman Hendryx also had a son named Shuman who left Riceville and went west. Dr. H. E. Hendryx married and had two daughters Martha and Alice who later located in Michigan.

B. B. Westgate and Sons furnished the sash for doors and windows that are in the house, and the original record for them is in possession of Mr. Arthur Westgate of Riceville. The mill where they were made is still in existence, although it is not operated as formerly. The ell or wing at the back of the wing of the main front part was built on a few years after the front part and east wing, by Walter Lindsay, a hardware dealer who bought the place. The house has changed hands many times and at present is owned by Mrs. Ethel Stafford who bought the house while she was Mrs. Ethel Cunningham, October 1925, from Carl Lines, and had some repairing that was necessary done, consisting of a new floor in the east wing, and several doors to replace old doors which had warped with weather conditions, and also some plastering. These changes do not detract from the general effect.

Originally the house was built on a level with the highway, but when a new highway was constructed the bank was cut down some six or eight feet, leaving the house on an elevation.

The Hendryx House consists of a front part with wing to east, facing the south, and another wing directly behind the front part to the north. From the foundation which is of sandstone about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, the height of the front part is 17'1", the length 24'6" and the width 16'4". The first floor has two rooms, a parlor and a dining room, with a stairway ascending to the second floor from the dining room corner. The second floor has two bedrooms. The east or front wing of the house from foundation is 12'1" high, 16'4" long and 16'4" wide, and is used as a living room. The back wing is 28'6" long, 20'3" wide and 15'2" high and is used as a kitchen, and on the extreme rear as a woodshed with opening to the east side. The back wing and woodshed are under one roof which extends from the front part of the building to rear. The opening is large enough to admit a car or wagon.

HENDRYX HOUSE

A cellar is under the front wing with one opening to the east, and entrance is gained from a porch on the east elevation which is of recent construction, supported by three ordinary 4 x 4 posts. The rear wing on the west elevation has a porch which is supported by four columns which are ornamented by being slotted in three sections surmounted by a cap, the whole is suggestive of French influence.

In the front wing a door is placed directly in center with window at each side of 12 lights of glass. The front or south elevation is ornamented by pilasters reaching to cornice at each corner. These pilasters are decorated by two long carvings which curve toward the center gracefully having a scroll ending and a scroll saw-cut flower depending from the center and having a center bud with curved enclosing slender leaves. The lines of this flower are cut on original ideas as they curve outward then back toward center of flower. Architecturally the house tends toward the Greek style.

The doorway is reached by two native stone steps 4' 7" x 9' 10" and is ornamented by pilasters on each side which are duplicates of the pilasters on the corners of the house. A cornice is above the pilasters, ornamented with dentil or bead moulding, above that a plain board and additional wide moulding or weather board. Above this on the clapboards is an ornamentation of scroll-saw cut flowers, duplicates of those on the pilasters, but turned upward, and set together for the width of the doorway. The front door and one other are original doors, and all other doors are of recent addition.

The front door is 2' 8" x 6' 8" and has six door panels, with set in pieces of hand-carved mouldings, framing the center plain part of panel. A cornice of dentil moulding ornaments the entire main portion of the front part.

There are no historical incidents connected with this house, nor personages of outstanding note. However the house depicts unusual ornamentation in a portion of the United States which was not settled until after 1795, in an almost trackless wilderness.

Annie Scott Baxter

Approved

Karl Emerson Dickey
Oct. 5, 1936