

William Clark Residence
Clarks Green, Pennsylvania.

HABS Pa. 231

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Ralph W. Lear, District Officer
311-312 Dime Bank Bldg., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

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THE WILLIAM CLARK RESIDENCE
Clarks Green Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Present Owner

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Lewis.

Date of Erection

Built 1811.

Builder

William Clark.

Present Condition

Excellent. Very little departure from original state.

Number of Stories

Two and one-half.

Materials of Construction

Wood siding, stone foundations.

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THE WILLIAM CLARK RESIDENCE
Clarks Green Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

This house was built in 1811, by William Clark, the son of the founder of Clarks Green, who was known as Deacon Clark. It is the second oldest home in Clarks Green, being one hundred and twenty-five years old. It was used as a hide-out for Negro slaves, fleeing North, before the Civil War. The fugitives were kept in the attic and fed, until darkness permitted them to continue their trek North. In case of alarm, they were dropped through a hole in the flooring of the attic, into a closet on the second floor, which had a suspended ceiling. This closet is still to be seen, between two bedrooms, on the second floor. The hole in the flooring has been closed up in recent years. It was about two feet wide, and slightly more in length, and is located along the side of the original field stone chimney, which is about five feet, by five and one-half feet, as seen in the attic.

The house is called the old William Clark home by the older residents of the vicinity, but has become better known as the Matthews House. The present occupants are Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Lewis. Just before Mr. Lewis acquired it, the house was owned by Mr. Thomas, and before that, by Mr. Willard Matthews.

This fine house which is about 42x40 in size, is in an excellent state of preservation, and is remarkable, because it has been left almost entirely in its original state. The house is situated on a rather high terrace, and has a modern front porch, with four fluted columns supporting the roof. There are three Colonial entrances, with elliptical shaped transoms. There are four large rooms and a kitchen

leading off from the front entrance hall, on the first floor. There is a stairway to the left of the hall, leading to the second floor, which has four large bedrooms and two baths. The kitchen on the first floor, which was formerly known as the butler's pantry, was built about 1860.

On the right side of the hall on the first floor, is the living room, which has a very large fireplace, left entirely in its original state. It has a stone facing. To the right of the fireplace is a narrow cupboard which is original. There are three windows in this room, and under these are carved panels, in a floral design. In this room, as in every other one in the house, is a chair rail.

The dining room, which is somewhat smaller than the living room is directly beyond and has the largest fireplace in the house. The mantel is much higher and slightly narrower than the one in the living room. On one side of the fireplace is a room-high log closet, which is original. There are three windows in this room, which have the original glass. There is another exterior entrance between the dining room and living room, which opens into a small vestibule.

On the left side of the hall is the parlor, which is almost as long as both rooms on the other side of the hall. This has two large windows in the front, two on the side, and another entrance. There is panelling under these windows but not as elaborate as that seen in the living room. Beyond the parlor is a very small library, which may have been a small bedroom at one time. The identity of this room is not definitely known, but one entire side of the room has cupboards reaching from floor to ceiling. Beyond these rooms, and across the back of the house is the kitchen.

Most of the doors and windows in the house are fastened by the original latches and hooks. There are four different types in the entire house.

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There is one peculiar detail in the house worth mentioning. The ceilings on the first floor are lower than the ceilings on the second floor; and where the entrance doors are located, the plaster ceiling is slightly indented over the circular entrance transoms.

On the second floor there are two bedrooms on either side of the hall and in two of these, there are fireplaces, but these have been closed. Here too, the windows are stationary. There are old linen closets in the back part of the hall. The rooms, which have been made into baths were formerly large closets, and it is possible, that one may have been a clothes press.

The quite extensive grounds are landscaped, providing a beautiful setting for the house.

Historic material obtained from: Mrs. W.H. Lewis,
owner of the house; and from Scranton newspaper, October 28,
1934

Author: *Bettie Paul Morrison*
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