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Lemuel Stone House
Clarks Green, Pennsylvania
LACKAWANNA Co.

HABS No. Pa. 220

HABS
PA.

35-WAV

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

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LEMUEL STONE HOUSE

Clarks Green, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

Custodian

J. W. Oakford, owner.

Date of Erection

1822

Present Condition

Good. Much modernized. Occupied.
Good exterior detail.

Number of Stories

Two and one-half stories.

Materials of Construction

Frame house, wood shingle roof.

LEMUEL STONE HOUSE

Clarks Green, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

Until about 1820, Waverly, formerly called Abington Centre, remained an unbroken forest. The early settlers of Abington suffered much from the incursions of beasts of prey which often confronted them while making their frequent trips to the mill in Slocum Hollow (now Scranton) or visiting the different settlements, which had sprung up, almost overnight, in the midst of that great wilderness.

About seven years after the first settlements were made the outlook was quite promising. Titles to the land could be obtained on easy terms and the toils of the farmers were rewarded with excellent crops; but the nearest market was Wilkes-Barre, which was twenty-five miles to the south with only a single pathway leading to it, through a dark extent of forests.

Lemuel Stone settled here about 1806, coming from Coventry, Rhode Island. The first frame building built in this vicinity, was erected on the site of Glenburn. Lemuel Stone did the carpentry work. He was the first Justice of the Peace of Abington, and the first Sunday School superintendent. He and a Dr. Bedford were the first to do their harvesting without whiskey, and were always conspicuous in the cause of temperance.

Lemuel Stone built his home in 1822, on the Philadelphia and Great Bend Turnpike, between Clarks Green and Glenburn. The town, as was mentioned above, was formerly known as Abington, and was, at that time, located in Luzerne County. It is a frame building, two and one-half stories high, and has a wood shingle roof. The windows are double-hung, and are protected with louver shutters. The house has a very beautiful front entrance, which was brought from Connecticut, and is probably its most distinguished feature. The home, as it stands today, has been much modernized, but some of the important details, such as the front entrance are still as they were when Lemuel Stone built it----- over a century ago.

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A large addition, built on the rear, which is comparatively new, is not included in our work on this home.

The architecture of the Lemuel Stone House is reminiscent of Connecticut. The front entrance is quite narrow. Most of the original hand-made hardware is still in place. There is one old fireplace in the living room of the house, which has been left intact, except that the brick face has been painted white, to harmonize with the wood mantel. It has a very narrow stone hearth. This fireplace is really authentic in design. There is also an exceptionally fine staircase, leading from the main entrance hall to the second floor. The floor boards are the original ones, and are of random widths. The rest of the Lemuel Stone House has been modernized.

The old home stands for much in this vicinity since it is one of the first frame houses erected here, and is historically connected with a great deal of the early activities of that section, and the conception of a new township.

Historical data obtained from: "History of Luzerne County, Lackawanna, and Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania, 1786-1880"

Author

Betty Seal Mansueti

Approved

Ralph W. East

Date

June, 1936