

DANIEL MULCAHY HOUSE
Route 884, approx. 1,550 feet east of
Jay Street Bridge
Lockport Vicinity
Clinton County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-5538

HABS
PA
18-LOKPT.V,
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Mid-Atlantic Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DANIEL MULCAHY HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5538

Location: Route 664, approximately 1,650 feet east of the Jay Street Bridge, ~~Lower~~ Lockport, ~~Lock Haven~~ vicinity, Clinton County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.295590.4556980

Significance: The Daniel Mulcahy House is locally significant as an intact example of the nineteenth-century canal-era housing of Lower Lockport. As a collection, the canal-era houses of Lower Lockport exhibit simple design and minimal ornamental detailing. They also share similar two-story, side-gabled massing and a uniform setback from the road. Specifically, the late-nineteenth-century Daniel Mulcahy House displays these characteristics within an I-House plan. Its original form is still visible despite additions to the rear of the building.

Lower Lockport's development followed a local pattern of early nineteenth-century agricultural land use yielding to residential subdivision in the wake of the development of the West Branch Pennsylvania Canal in 1834 (see HAER No. PA-188). Lock No. 34 (see HAER No. PA-188-A) of the canal system was sited in Lower Lockport in 1834 and the canal remained in operation until 1889, at which time it was rendered useless by a damaging flood. The canal served as a major transportation route in the pre-railroad era. In conjunction with the canal, the lumber industry also played a major role in the development of Lower Lockport and was central to its economy. Lower Lockport served as the head market for the lumber rafting trade on the West Branch. Many of the extant dwellings in Lower Lockport housed merchants and skilled professionals--blacksmiths and carpenters--dependent upon the lumber trade. Other residents included relatively prosperous boatmen and laborers who worked on the canal. Daniel Mulcahy, the original owner of the house, worked as a blacksmith and kept shop in Lower Lockport for fifty years.

Description: The two-story Daniel Mulcahy House exhibits an I-House form. The original section of the single-pile house contains three bays. The cellar and attic are present only below and above this section of the house. The frame building is clad in flush, vertical wood siding and the foundation appears to be faced with cement. The primary entrance is in the center bay, under a porch which extends across the first story to the edges of the two outside bays. The porch contains a gabled pediment with decorative brackets at its eaves. A wooden panel and keystone are located above the central front door. The original section of the house is side-gabled with gabled and shed-roofed additions. This section contains four-over-four double-hung sash windows with simple wooden lintels and sills. There is an exterior stove chimney on the east facade of the original building. A wooden barn was located on the property prior to 1977.

The Daniel Mulcahy House contains four additions, all to the rear of the original building. Chronologically, the first, which appears to be historic, is a two-story frame addition at the center of the original building, forming a T-

shape with the original building. It contains six-over-six double-hung sash windows, many of which have been infilled or altered. The shadow of a removed one-story addition is visible at the rear of this addition. The second addition is a one-story shed constructed in 1979 onto the western half of the north facade of the original building. The interior of this addition is panelled, covering over former doors and windows of the original building. The third addition is a one-story plywood shed addition constructed onto the north facade of the second addition. A one-story shed porch is located on the northern end of the eastern facade of the original building.

The interior of the Daniel Mulcahy House retains most of its original central hall plan, although little historic fabric remains. The remaining fabric consists of simple woodworking throughout. Interior walls have been stuccoed or panelled, and most ceilings have been dropped with acoustic ceiling tiles. The fireplace in the west front room was converted to a bookcase, and the fireplace in the east front room was converted to a stove chimney.

History:

Historic atlases of Lockport show the present-day lot (now owned by Leroy and Darlene Karchner) to be vacant in the 1860s. Thomas Brown purchased a half-acre of land (which included the present-day Simcox, Karchner, Aungst, and Shoemaker [HABS No. PA-5528] properties) at the eastern end of Lower Lockport from Nathaniel Hanna in 1861, but he apparently built only on the Shoemaker/Aungst lots. In 1872, he sold a half-acre parcel of land to blacksmith Daniel Mulcahy. Mulcahy built his own house on the present-day Karchner property circa 1873, and sold the adjacent western lot, also with a new house on it, to boatman Robert Fortney in 1873 for \$300 (HABS No. PA-5539). Daniel and Ellen Mulcahy occupied the Mulcahy House for nearly fifty years and Daniel's blacksmith shop was probably located on the property immediately to the east. Mulcahy seems to have retired from the blacksmith trade in the late 1890s when he sold his shop to Harvey Laubscher.

Mulcahy died in 1916 and two years later his widow sold the lot and house to Stanley and Bertha M. Giles. The house stayed in the Giles family for forty-three years and then was conveyed to Carol Brown-Hill in 1959. The Karchner's purchased it from Ms. Brown in 1977. It appears that the house has been owner-occupied since its construction.

Documentation of the Daniel Mulcahy House was undertaken during October and November of 1991. This documentation serves as a mitigative measure for the treatment of this historic property, as it would be affected by a proposed Lock Haven flood protection project under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The Daniel Mulcahy House is slated for removal to accommodate an induced flooding zone. The house will be marketed for sale in an attempt to have it moved. If the house cannot be sold, it will be marketed for architectural salvage. The last recourse for the house is demolition.

Sources:

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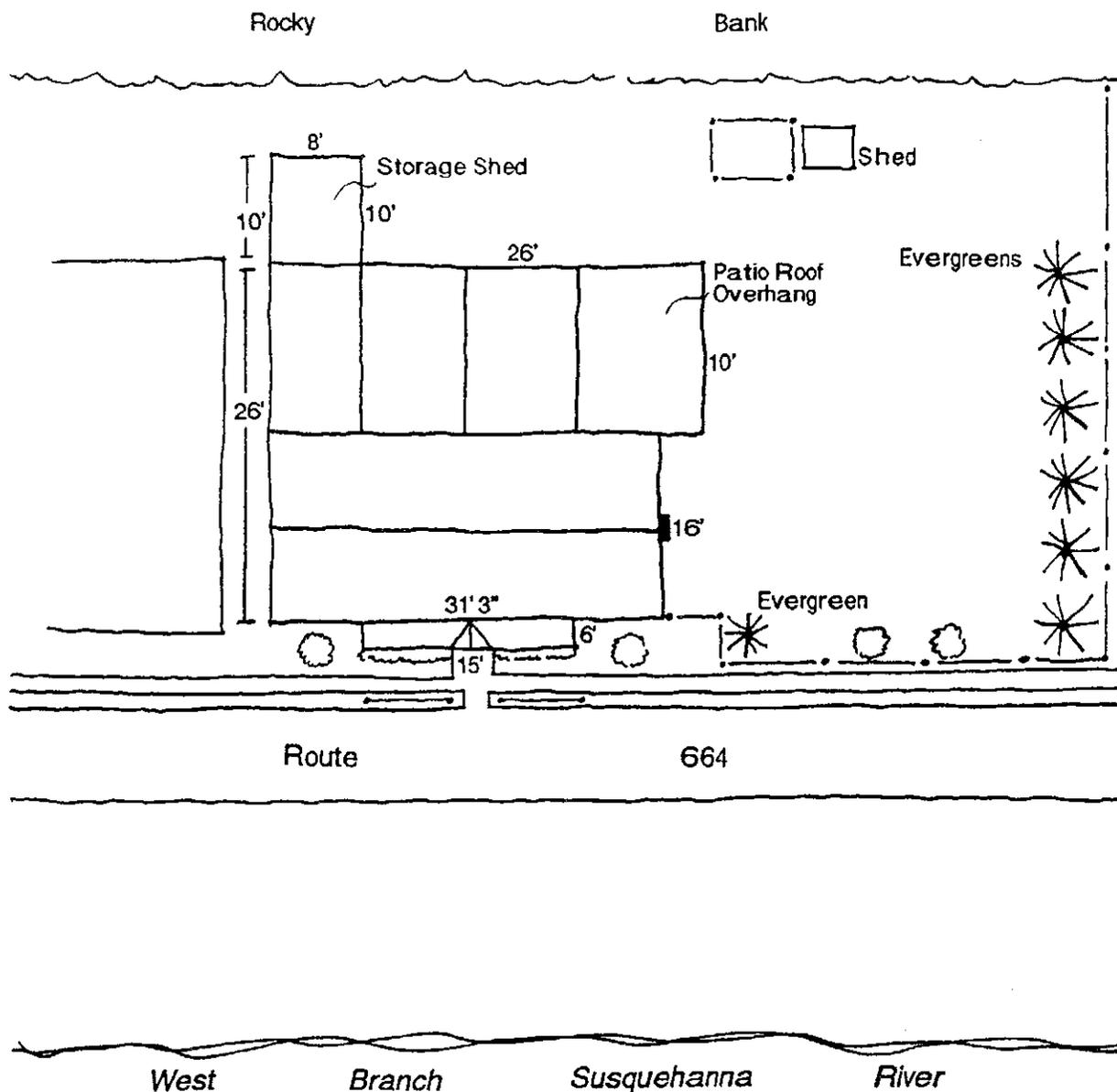
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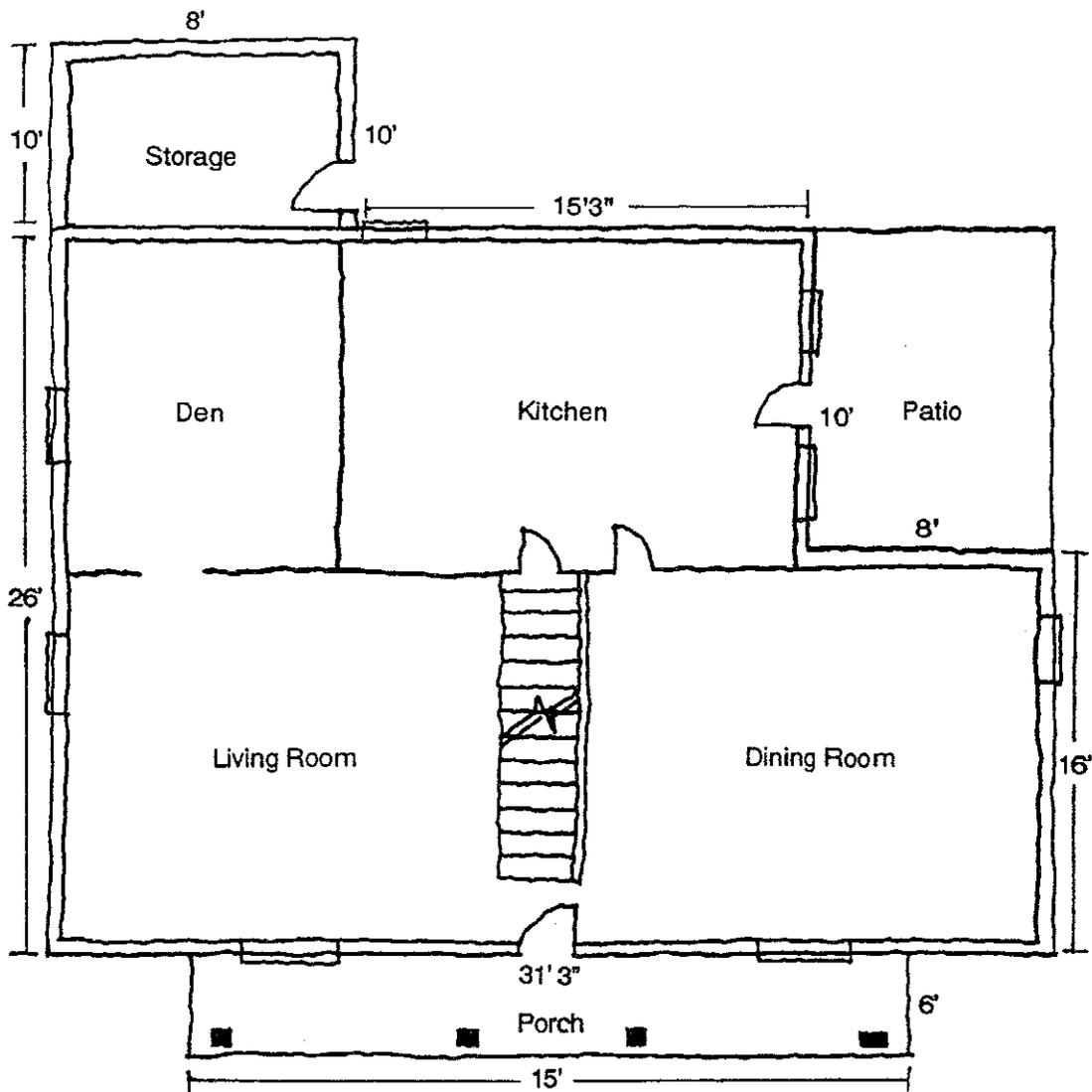
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Historians: Martin B. Abbot and Susan C. Nabors
Kise Franks & Straw
Fall 1991



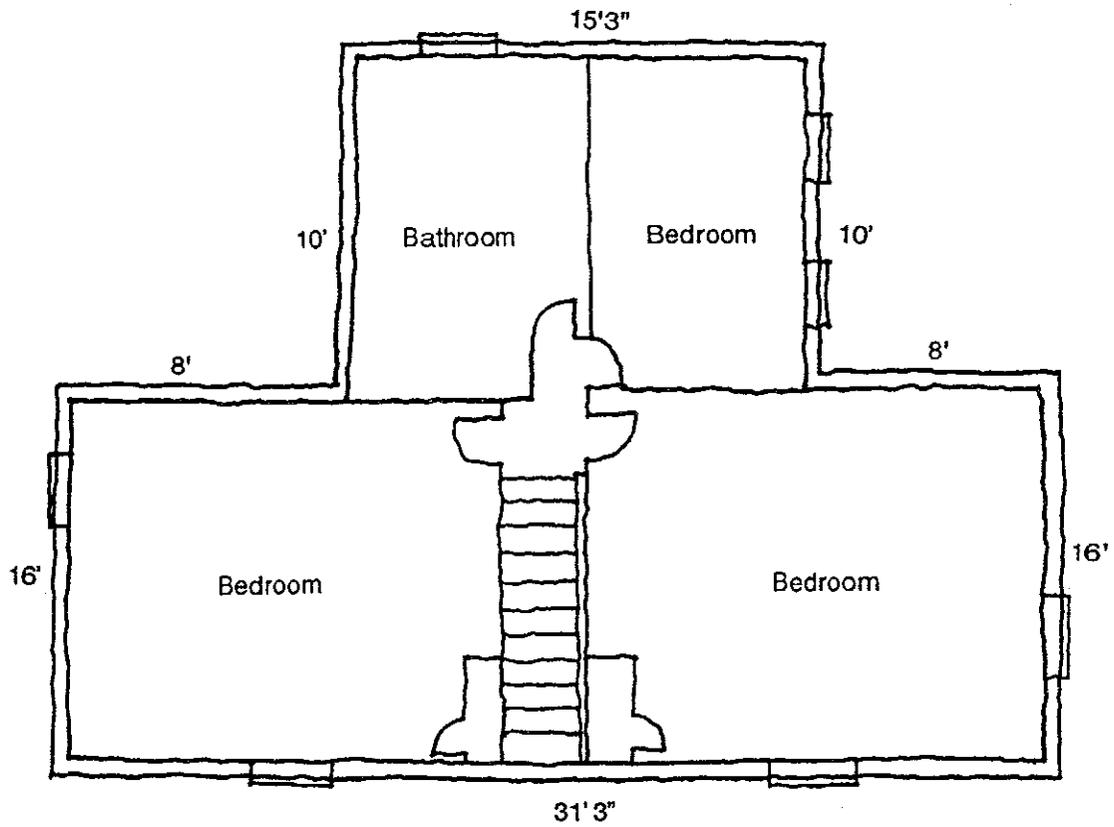
Site Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



First Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



Second Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer