

WILLIAM FORTNEY HOUSE  
Route 664, approx. 1,500 feet east of  
Jay Street Bridge  
Lockport Vicinity  
Clinton County  
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-5539

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PA  
18-LOKPT.V,  
9-

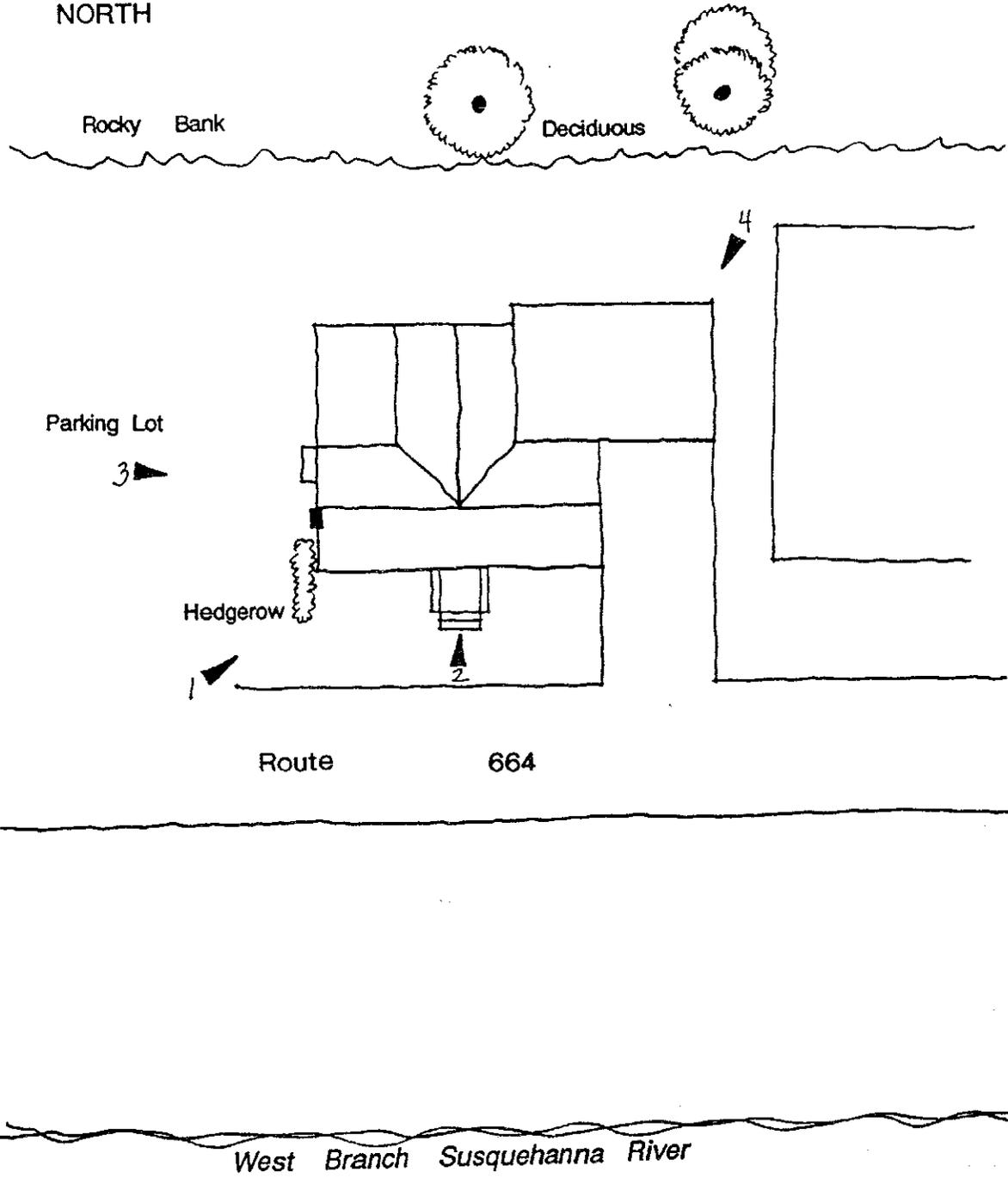
PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

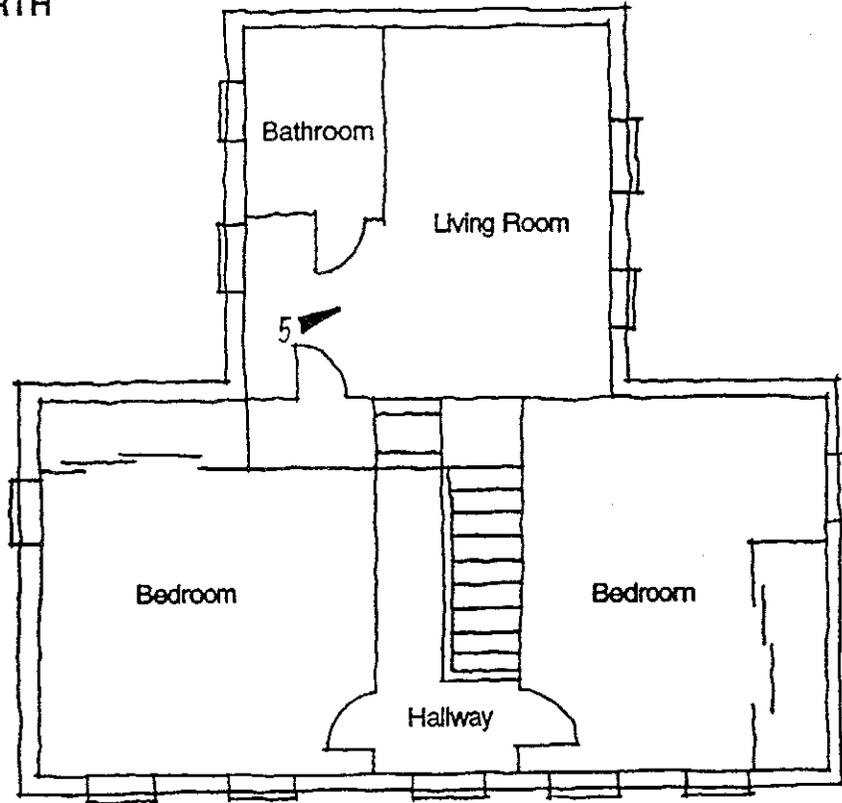


KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS  
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Site Plan  
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992  
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



Second Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992  
Prepared By: Jill Cremer

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM FORTNEY HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5539

Location: Route 664, approximately 1,500 feet east of Jay Street Bridge, Lower Lockport, ~~Lock Haven~~ vicinity, Clinton County, PA

USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 18.293340.4556975

Significance: The William Fortney House, constructed c. 1869, is significant as a representative 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. The William Fortney House is architecturally interesting as it contains vernacular Greek Revival stylistic elements including recessed and panelled front door surrounds, former transom and side light openings, a central hall plan, and corner boards.

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 of the 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. William Fortney, the first owner of the house, worked for a time as a lumberman on the river and was a laborer in 1870 about the time the house was constructed.

Description: The William Fortney House is a two-story, five-bay, frame I-House containing a centrally located front entrance and central hall plan. A two-bay gabled section is appended perpendicularly to the rear of the house, giving the building a T-shape. The house is covered with narrow-width wood siding and the side and rear-gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The house contains a stone foundation with narrow rectangular basement window openings, which have been enclosed with concrete blocks and vents. A concrete stoop is located at the front entrance with brick cheek walls and brick facing. A hood of corrugated metal overhangs the stoop and entrance.

Exterior details include two-over-two double-hung sash windows with simple wooden surrounds, recessed and panelled front door surrounds, former transom and side light openings infilled with wooden panels, and corner boards. Several windows have been boarded to allow for the

installation of air conditioner units. A concrete block stove chimney is located on the western facade of the front section of the house.

A wooden shed addition, located on the west facade of the rear-gabled section, contains a tar paper roof and shadows of former windows and a door in the clapboarding. The rear-gabled section of the house also exhibits shadows of former windows and a door and contains a modern horizontally-oriented kitchen window. An open shed porch is located on the east facade of the rear-gabled section, overhanging a side door and window. A frame and fiberglass shed porch extends over both the older shed porch and the driveway directly to the west of the house. The front yard of the house was paved after a 1972 flood which caused extensive damage to the first floor of the house.

Interior historic features have been removed or covered with modern materials. The conversion of the first floor of the house to a restaurant necessitated extensive alterations to accommodate a bar, dining rooms, and a large kitchen. Panelling has been installed throughout the house, and all ceilings have been dropped and fitted with acoustic tiles.

No outbuildings are presently located on the property.

History:

The William Fortney House occupies a smaller portion of a lot that was purchased by William Fortney in 1869 from Nathaniel Hanna, a primary landowner in Lower Lockport. No building appears in this location on a historic 1862 atlas, but a house labeled "W. Fortney" is shown on an 1869 atlas. A contemporary newspaper account demonstrates that William Fortney worked for a time as a lumberman on the river. In the 1870s, Fortney worked as a laborer, but by 1880 he had become a farmer and had built a house on the adjacent lot to the west (now vacant). William Fortney sold the house and lot in 1874 to James Kinley, a job-logger, and Kinley occupied the house for the next twenty-two years.

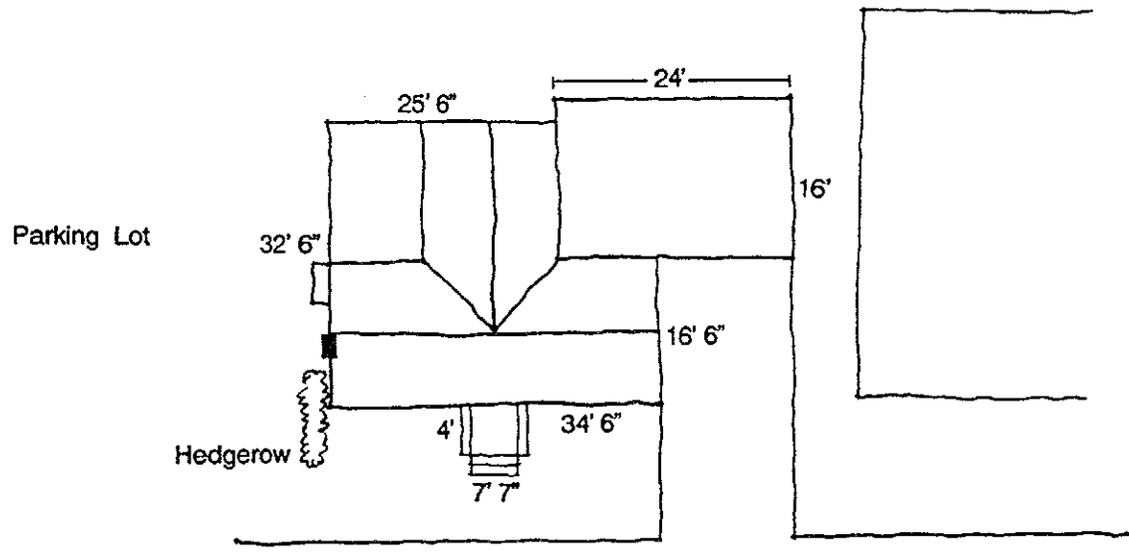
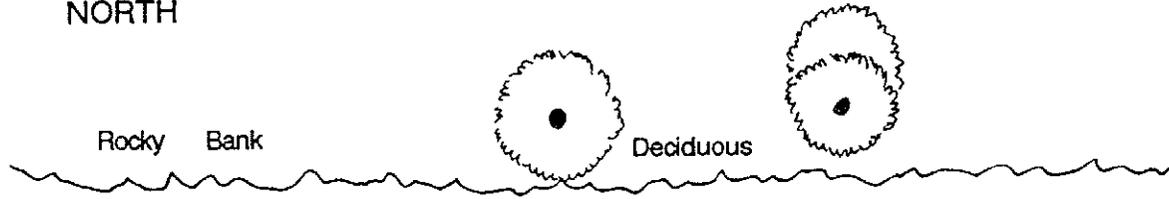
In 1896, the Kinleys conveyed the lot to tailoress, Tillie Rote, who resided in the house for the next forty-one years. Beginning in 1943, the property passed to a succession of short-term owners. The Vilello family obtained the property in 1948 and converted the first floor of the house to a restaurant in the 1950s. The current owner, Mary Jo Caprio, acquired the property in 1962 and has operated a restaurant, The Village Tavern, on the first floor and resided on the second floor since that time.

Documentation of the William Fortney 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 William Fortney 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.

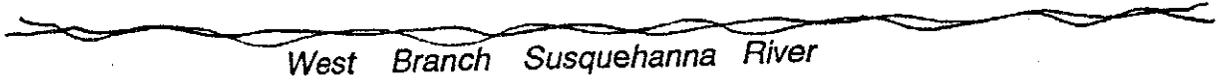
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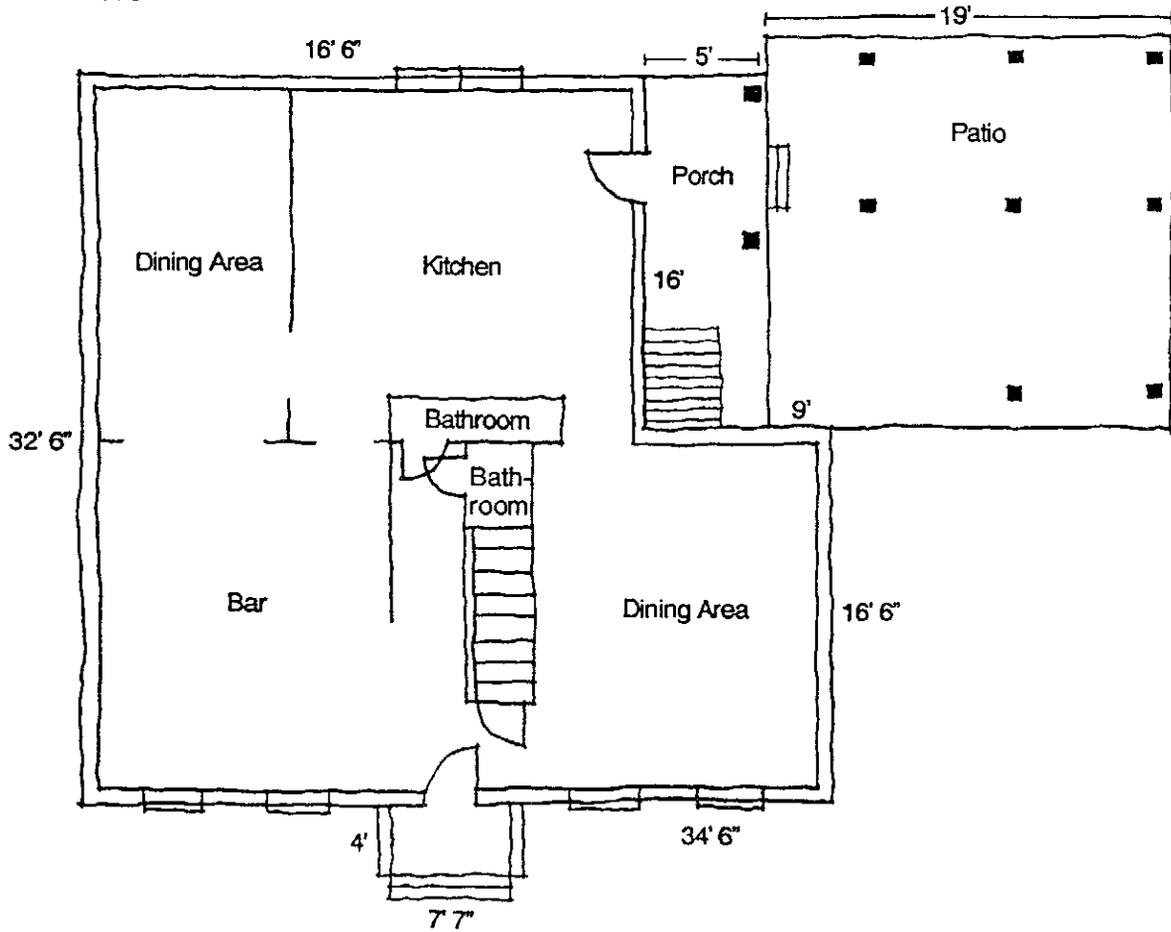
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Historians: Martin B. Abbot and Susan C. Nabors  
Kise Franks & Straw  
March 1992



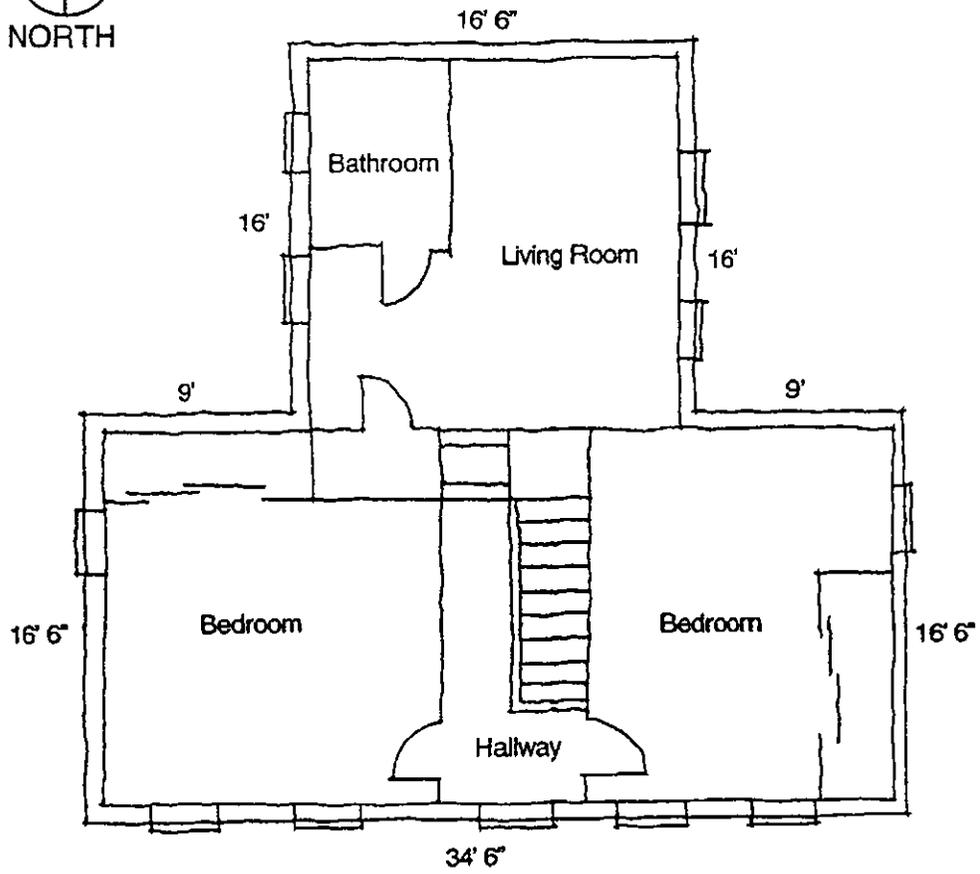
Route 664





First Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992  
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



Second Floor Plan  
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