

Solomon Blumenthal House
1308 9th Street
First Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5791

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
18-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SOLOMON BLUMENTHAL HOUSE

1985
PA.
7-ALTO,
18-
HABS No. PA-5791

Location: 1308 9th Street

Date of Erection: 1889

Description: This large house has a polychromatic slate hipped roof with large and small gable dormers, and ornamented chimneys. The wood-framed structure is veneered with brick. The 35' x 35' house has several projections, including a two-story bay on the front, rounded on the first floor, square on the second. The windows also have stone keystones. There is a one-story porch across the front. An 1896 photograph shows the building to be remarkably unchanged, except for the addition of the fire escapes.

History: This house was built in 1889 for Solomon Blumenthal, a merchant who sold boots and shoes from his store on 11th Avenue. In 1892 he sold it to David Koch, assistant foreman at the PRR tin shops, for \$9,000. In 1896, this house (then No. 1320) was featured in the Board of Trade's publication Illustrated Altoona; it was no coincidence that Koch was a founder and treasurer of the Board of Trade. Koch, who was born in Germany, was also the secretary of the Logan, Keystone, and Fidelity Building and Loan associations. The Altoona Rescue Mission has owned the house since 1970.

Sources: Maps: 1882, 1894. City directories. Tax assessment records. Deed books: 73/364, 92/274, 196/502, 275/152, 902/91. U.S. Census, 1900. Clark, Illustrated Altoona, photograph p. 95.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of the first ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5788) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by HABS Senior Historian Alison K. Hoagland, project leader and editor, in the summer of 1989. Hoagland's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.