

Joseph Stouffer House III
1305 8th Street
First Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5803

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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

JOSEPH STOUFFER HOUSE III

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Location: 1305 8th Street

Date of Erection: 1885

Description: This wood-frame structure, which measures approximately 18' x 28'-6", is clad with narrow-board siding. The two-and-a-half-story building has a mansard roof with slate shingles and two dormer windows. The three-bay front has two entrances, one to what appears to have been a shop.

History: Like the house at 1301-03 8th St., this house was built for rental purposes by Joseph Stouffer. In 1885, Stouffer was taxed for a house (803 Lexington Ave.) and a double house (1301-03 8th St.); in 1886 his properties had increased to include three houses, indicating that this one had been built. In 1900, the building was occupied by Alfred Talhelm, a blacksmith, his wife Annie, their three children, and six boarders, all single males who worked at the PRR shops. The shop entrance in this building remains a mystery, although deeds in the 1920s describe the building as having a first-floor store and apartments on the second and third floors. Stouffer's heirs sold the building in 1923.

Sources: Maps: 1882, 1894. City directories. Tax assessment records. Deed books: 26/385, 305/678, 322/15, 322/17, 322/20, 360/629, 372/687, 794/618. U.S. Census, 1900.

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.