

The Rennas Hotel (State Store Building)
403 Penn Street
Reading
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5148

HABS,
PA,
6-READ,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING RECORD
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

NERSUnited States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Washington, D.C. 20243

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY BERKS	TOWN OR VICINITY READING
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) THE RENNAS HOTEL REGISTRY OFFICE		HABS NO. PA-5148
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE STATE STORE BUILDING		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 403 PENN STREET		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1867	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) JAC. C. HOFF (?)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) THE ORIGINAL USE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN FOR A DWELLING		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) BRICK WITH STEEL GIRDERS FOR REINFORCEMENT		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 30' X 95'		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE BUILDING FACADE COVERED WITH A GLAZED STEEL VENEER, UNDERNEATH IT, WAS THE REMNANTS OF AN ITALIANATE STYLE BRICK FACADE. ARCHED WINDOWS ON THIRD FLOOR. RESTORATION OF FACADE WOULD HAVE BEEN MAJOR.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) THE INTERIOR OF THE RENNAS HOTEL HAS LOST ANY ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES IT ONCE MAY HAVE POSSESSED EXCEPT FOR THE STAIRCASE WITH ITS ORIGINAL HANDRAILS AND CARVED BALUSTERS. THE FIRST FLOOR HAD BEEN PARTITIONED AND PANELLED BEYOND RECOGNITION, AND THE UPPER FLOORS CONSTITUTED LARGE SPACES.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES IN THE 1950'S A GLAZED STEEL VENEER WAS APPENDED TO ORIGINAL FACADE.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE DEMOLISHED, SEE ATTACHMENT A FOR CHAIN OF TITLE.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE THIS STRUCTURE WAS RECORDED BY THE BUREAU OF PLANNING, CITY HALL, READING, PENNSYLVANIA IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 11593 AND A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) CITY OF READING REGISTRY OFFICE		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION MICHEL R. LEFEVRE, BUREAU OF PLANNING, CITY HALL READING, PENNSYLVANIA		DATE 6/25/80

ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS

References to the chain of title to the land upon which these structures once stood are in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Berks County Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.

- 1846 Quit Claim Deed, February 5, 1846, recorded in Volume 52, page 21: Rosa C. Muhlenberg to Dr. Hiester H. Muhlenberg and Henry A. Muhlenberg.
- 1865 Deed, October 6, 1865, recorded in Volume 82, page 414: Annie H. Muhlenberg, widow of Henry A. Muhlenberg to Daniel Berg.
- 1867 Deed, March 26, 1867, recorded in Volume 87, page 52: Daniel Berg and wife to Jacob C. Hoeff.
- 1876 Deed, July 20, 1876, recorded in Volume 124, page 46: Frederick W. Clause and wife to Jacob C. Hoeff.
- 1903 Deed, April 27, 1903, recorded in Volume 301, page 5: Joseph R. Dickinson and wife to Augustus W. Hoeff or Hoff et al.
- 1906 Deed, April 16, 1906, recorded in Book 210, page 389: Henry A. Muhlenberg to Francis H. Brobst.
- 1910 Deed, February 10, 1910, recorded in Book 422, page 326: Frederick W. Nicolls and Minni T. Nicolls.
- 1910 Deed, February 10, 1910, recorded in Deed Book 376, page 422: Mary M. Kissinger and Clifford W. Kissinger, her husband, to Augustus W. Hoff.
- 1912 Deed, May 28, 1912, recorded in Deed Book 398, page 626: William E. Sharman to Augustus W. Hoff.
- 1912 Deed, May 28, 1912, recorded in Deed Book , page : Augustus W. Hoff, Charles L. Hoff and Elizabeth Ferguson Hoff, his wife, to William E. Sharman.
- 1921 Deed, November 13, 1921, recorded in Volume 301, page 5: Augustus W. Hoff and Florence Wooten Hoff, his wife, to Emil D. Sanner.
- 1921 Deed, November 30, 1921, recorded in Volume 535, page 167: Augustus W. Hoff to Emil D. Sanner.
- 1924 Deed, March 1924, recorded in Volume 580, page 284: Emil D. Sanner to Rennas Hotel.
- 1931 Deed, February 27, 1931, recorded in Volume 725, page 552: Sheriff's Sale Victor L. Goodhart of Berks County to Penn Trust Company.

- 1936 Deed, March 20, 1936, recorded in Volume 780, page 316: Penn Trust Company to Berks County Trust Company.
- 1947 Deed, May 27, recorded in Book 969-280: Berks County Trust Company to Elias Liner and Eva Liner.
- 1953 Deed, March 27, 1953, recorded in Book 1126, page 372: Elias Liner and Eva Liner to Bernard Liner, F. Liner, M.H. Liner and George Liner.
- 1954 Deed, June 30, 1954, recorded in Volume 1181, page 10 and Volume 1181, page 13: all the above to Elias Liner and Company.
- 1960 Deed, December 20, 1960, recorded in Book 1381, page 566: Elias Liner and Company to Fourth and Penn Realty Corporation.
- 1961 Deed, October 16, 1961, recorded in Book 1396, page 773: Fourth and Penn Realty Corporation to Reading Eagle Company.
- 1980 Deed, March 28, 1980, recorded in Book 1779, page 0255: Reading Eagle Company to Berks County Industrial Development.