

WILLIAM MUELLER STORE
2242 Eoff Street
City of Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-258

HABS
WVA
35-WHEEL,
43-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM MUELLER STORE

HABS No. WV-258

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NVA
35-WHEEL,
43-

Location: 2242 Eoff Street (east side of Eoff Street between 22nd Street
and 23rd Street).
City of Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

U.S.G.S. Wheeling Quadrangle, West Virginia
Universal Mercator Coordinates 17.523700.4434030

Significance: An example of Italianate vernacular brick building, built c.
1860 as a grocery store on the first floor and the merchant's
apartment above on the second floor.

Considered a contributing structure to the 1987, Centre
Market Square Historic District-Amended, as listed on the
nomination form.

Description: A two-story brick bearing wall construction, which faces west
on Eoff Street. The building is situated on a level
rectangular lot that is 22 feet wide and 100 feet deep, and
the structure is built up to the front property line. It covers
approximately half the depth of the lot and has
approximately a 3-foot passage way between it and the
building to its north.

The building is two bays wide and has a recessed store front
on the first floor. There are large plate glass windows in the
store front that have been closed up with plywood. The door
is wood with a center glass panel. The original wood store
sign board and display window transoms have been removed
and replaced with vertical 1 x 6 wood panels.

The second floor windows are one over one wood double
hung sash with limestone sills, arched tops with ornately
carved flush wood stepped-down window hoods with bull's
eye corner blocks.

The brick is common red hard faced burned brick set in a running bond. It is capped with a projecting wood cornice supported by 3 pairs of ornamental wood brackets. The fascia-frieze board has carved vented openings. The roof is flat and slopes to the rear of the structure. It is covered in rolled asphalt.

The side and rear windows are wood double hung sash with one over one glazing. The sills are limestone and the lintels are brick arches. The rear has a simplified projecting wood cornice.

There is a separate entrance to the second floor apartment located on the north side. This entrance leads to a small hall and stairway to the second floor.

The first floor plan is one room wide and contains a large retail sales space in the front and in the rear, a smaller kitchen/storage room. The second floor plan is one room wide and three rooms deep. The stairs run side to side. There is a molded top rail, turned newel post and turned wood spindles.

The walls and ceilings are plastered with some wood paneling. There is a fireplace in each room on the second floor, but only two wood mantels. The doors are four panel wood with stepped down casing. The floor finish is softwood - red pine.

History: Probably built in the 1860s. The architect and builder are unknown.

This commercial property has been determined to have features which contribute to the historical and architectural significance of the Centre Market Square Historic District in the area known as Centre Wheeling. At one time Wheeling had two market houses: one in Centre Market at 22nd and Market Streets and one at 10th and Market Streets.

South Wheeling or Centre Wheeling, as it became known in the 1850s, was incorporated in 1834, seven years after its lots and streets were laid out. After the B & O Railroad arrived at the juncture of Wheeling Creek and the Ohio River in the early 1850s, the area began to grow rapidly. Several

industries were established along the railroad and waterways providing employment for the new flood of European immigrants, especially Germans, in the case of Centre Wheeling. The 1850 census revealed that one of every five persons living in Centre Wheeling was born in Germany. German immigration continued through the end of the century. The 1888 Wheeling city business directory showed that almost all merchants in Centre Wheeling were German. The original owner of the building, William Mueller, was German.

After the Civil War, during which the Centre Wheeling population was loyal to the Union, development in the area continued at a quickening pace. In 1889 there was only one vacancy in the Market area and most of the supporting residential community had also been built. As industry grew, so did the need for workers to operate it, and, as the population increased there was an opportunity for entrepreneurs to serve the people. By the late 1860s William Mueller had probably established his store. Centre Wheeling, already "a melting pot" of German, English, Scotch and Irish peoples, became more diverse ethnically by a rapid influx of Lebanese and Greek immigrants.

Lebanese first arrived in 1888, Greeks in the 1890s. The new immigrants worked in the mine foundry and stamping works and some started businesses such as dry goods stores, restaurants, groceries, and the manufacturing of ice cream. Still others became street peddlers of goods furnished by earlier immigrants who had become successful enough to help their fellow countrymen get started. The immigrants helped one another find jobs, locate housing and learn English.

Architecturally the district has many significant examples of the widely diverse Victorian architectural styles and several very fine vernacular buildings. The most often encountered architectural style is Italianate, which was the dominant architectural style of urban America from about 1840-1885, coincidental with the major expansion period in Centre Wheeling. There are several examples of Greek Revival, which was the "national style" from 1825 to 1860, and later, in the growing communities along the eastern seaboard. Some later houses in the district were designed in the Queen

Anne style, the "Victorian lady." Queen Anne was very popular from 1880 to 1910. Those three styles were the basic architectural character of the district, although there are several eclectic buildings, some Tudor, Romanesque, a bit of Baroque and Byzantine, and a fine Victorian Gothic church.

When immigrants, who had customarily known but one place of residence, came to America, they must have been bewildered by the Americans who seemed to be forever moving somewhere else--even within the cities. So, as savings accumulated or a better paying job became available, the immigrant's first residence was often abandoned for better quarters in compliance with the "American way." According to research for this nomination, this was the case with early German immigrants in Wheeling. As they became more affluent they moved "out the pike." Their original houses, then, were often sold to later immigrants.

According to the Ohio County deeds, the original owner of the property was William Mueller. He owned the store until 1871 when the property was transferred to Joseph Straub. The property was not sold again until 1956 when Robert Straub, a relative, became the new owner. In 1969 the present owner, James E. Curry, acquired the property.

Sources: National Register of Historic Places
Inventory-Nomination Form (1991)
Completed by the WV State Historic Preservation Office
Northern Regional Office

Ohio County Deed Books, City-County Building, Wheeling,
West Virginia

Sanborne Map, c. 1952

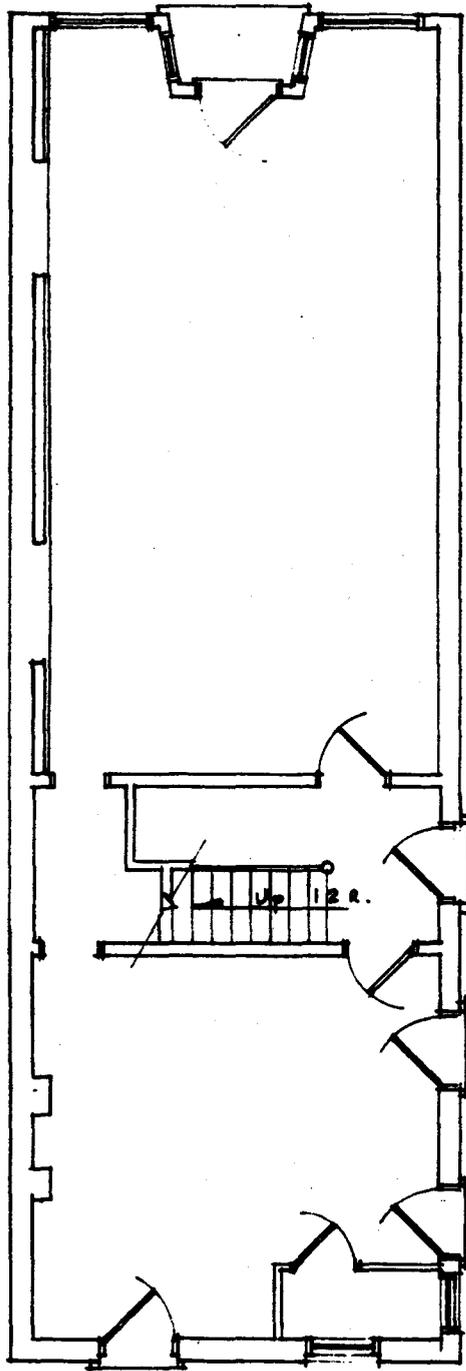
Site visit in July, 1992

Katherine M. Jourdan, Director
Northern Regional Office
WV State Historic Preservation Office
August, 1992

Historians: Walter J. Haglund, AIA
Registered Architect
August, 1992
Mullin and Lonergan Associates, Inc.

Marjorie Williams
Planner
August, 1992
Mullin and Lonergan Associates, Inc.

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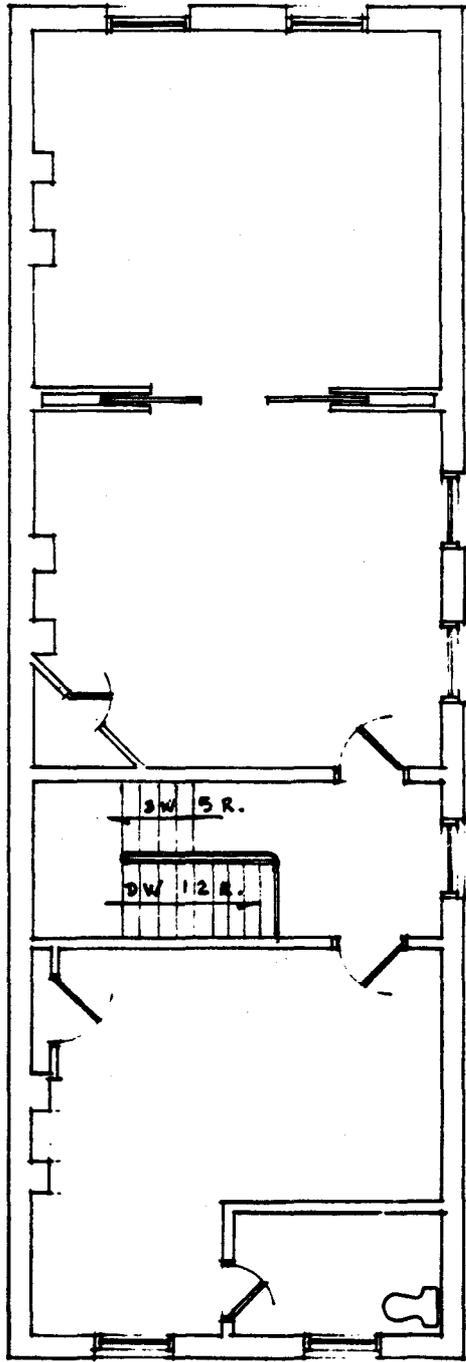


• **FIRST FLOOR PLAN** •

SCALE:

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$





• SECOND FLOOR PLAN •

SCALE:

1/8" = 1'-0"

