

NOV 12 1991
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Schlicher, George F. Hotel
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 105 - 107 S. Main Street not for publication N/A
city, town Alburtis vicinity N/A
state Pennsylvania code PA county Lehigh code 077 zip code 18011

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Brent D. Glass, PA Historical & Museum Commission
Signature of certifying official [Signature] 3/24/92 Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

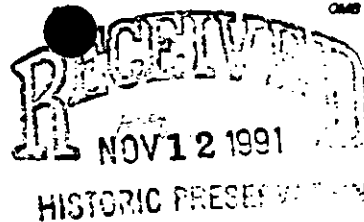
5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Hotel

Commerce/ Trade/ Restaurant

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick, Asbestos

roof Slate

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The George F. Schlicher Hotel, built in 1877, was the first building that was constructed in the southeastern section of the borough. It was located on the main street and was centered in the later commercial area of the borough. Conveniently located approximately 80 feet away from the crucial railroad depot, the hotel faced a general store and the American Hotel, two structures which still stand today. A third hotel, the Hensinger, located on the northeast side of the railroad tracks, no longer exists. Collectively, these buildings constituted the nucleus of commerce for Alburtis before the turn of the century. Traveling west on Main street, past the hotels and general store, the residential section of the borough began. Mostly plain faced brick row homes and a scattered few single homes, dressed with the Late Victorian style architecture of the era, comprised the initial two block area.

Situated on approximately 1/2 acre, the Schlicher Hotel is a classic example of late Victorian architecture. The exterior boasts numerous Victorian dressings which have superficially deteriorated to some extent but can be reproduced to their original 1877 construction. These include elaborate porchway arches, wooden sash surrounding each glass window pane, hand crafted porch spindles, and characteristic gingerbread woodwork, particularly decorative above the windows. (Window surrounds were unremarkable). Hand milled scrolled wooden brackets support cornices on the front and both sides of the building. The original hotel was constructed of brick, 3 1/2 stories in height. Later renovations included the addition of a smaller frame section on the western side of the hotel. This section was built in the early 1900's and a block furnace room was added to the rear of the property in 1944 when the hotel was converted into apartments. Although the conversion altered the interior of the hotel, the exterior retains its original integrity.

 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Schlicher Hotel

Section number 7 Page 1

The first floor front elevation includes a wrap around covered wooden porch 90 feet long by 11 feet wide that extends partially to the side of the building. It is supported by several columns accentuated by Victorian gingerbread archways at the ceiling junction. The ground floor presents three entrance doors and several windows, each 2 1/2 feet apart. The windows are further enhanced by the original shutters, which remain mechanically sound (for opening and closing) as per their original design. These shutters contain several decorative panels. The exterior front doors can also be restored to their original condition. The second and third story front elevations each feature 10 windows crowned by the characteristic Victorian dressing. In addition, numerous decorative brackets support the cornice in the front of the building. The slate roof, viewed from this elevation, exhibits a 5/12 pitch.

The first floor elevation of the building facing west consists of the original brick structure and the frame addition which was constructed in the early 1900's. The first and second story covered porches of the frame addition were designed to match the preexisting original wrap-around porch previously described, both esthetically and functionally. In addition these porches were surrounded by hand made decorative porch rail spindles of Victorian design. Two windows and two doorways are located on the first floor elevation of the frame addition and three windows and one doorway on the second. There is also a hand well pump situated on the side porch. The porch floor is concrete and appears to have been resurfaced over a similar concrete base. The first, second, and third floor elevations on the brick structure each feature two windows which are also crowned with Victorian dressing. The fourth floor elevation, attic area, has two quarter-circle windows centered near the roofline. A brick chimney can be viewed from this elevation.

The side facing east is constructed of brick. The basement elevation, includes a doorway entrance, three windows, and a stucco over stone foundation. The first floor elevation includes the remainder of the wrap around front porch and a side entrance door to one of the apartment units. This entrance is accessed by several steps that lead to a small porch area which is surrounded by hand made Victorian style spindles. It is covered by a curved picturesque looking roof. The entrance door and three windows on this level all have gingerbread carvings above them. The second and third floor elevations each have four windows with the same window treatments above them. Numerous hand carved brackets support the cornice at the roofline of the building. The fourth floor elevation or attic area peaks with an A frame and is centered with a small half moon shaped attic window near the apex. The slate roof here is pitched at the same 5/12 angle.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Schlicher Hotel

Section number 7 Page 2

The side of the property facing south, rear of the property, consists of the original brick hotel and the frame addition. The two structures are separated by an offset at approximately the center of the building. This offset veers 20 feet toward the front of the building and is five feet in width. There are several windows on all elevations on both the original brick structure in this offset area. At the basement of the south elevation of the original brick structure the block furnace room and two entrance doors are visible. The first, second, and third floor elevations have two windows per elevation. All have gingerbread dressing above them. The fourth floor elevation, has two small rectangular windows which are centered near the apex. The initials G. F. S. are centered at the middle of the building at each elevation. These initials were placed over a metal bar that tied into the structure of the building. Its function was to add support to the floor joists on each level. These metal bars were unsightly and initials were often placed over them. These particular initials belong to George F. Schlicher. At the basement elevation of the frame addition, an entrance door and a stucco over stone foundation can be seen. The first floor elevation of the frame addition has no windows and is covered with asbestos siding. The second and third floor elevations both have one window and are covered with asbestos siding. At the roofline, three decorative hand made wooden brackets support the cornice.

The interior of the building was gutted in 1944 when the building was converted into apartments. There are three identical one bedroom apartments located on the first, second, and third floors. They consist of a living room, dining room, kitchen, and bedroom. The first floor unit has a private side entrance while the second and third floor units are accessed through the main entrance door. There are two three bedroom apartments, one in the basement and one on the second and third floors of the frame addition. The layouts of these units are dissimilar but they consist of a kitchen, three bedrooms, and a living room. Both units have private entrances and the frame addition has a covered second floor porch. There are five two bedroom apartments that have dissimilar layouts. Each consist of two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. Three of these units are accessed through the main entrance door. One unit is located on the second floor, the other two on the third floor. The fourth unit entrance is on the front of the building. The fifth unit has two private entrances on the western side of the building, accessed through the side porch.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Schlicher Hotel

Section number 7 Page 3

All these units were carpeted except for the kitchens and baths which were linoleum. The walls and ceilings consist of both drywall, lath, and plaster. All trim, plumbing, electrical, interior doors, walls, subfloors, ceilings, fixtures, kitchens, and baths were replaced in 1944. The only original interior features is the deep window sills. These sills are fourteen inches wide. An unusual architectural feature was recently discovered during the current interior renovation. A structural engineer was hired to verify the stability of the structure because each floor level had sunk several inches. It was discovered that the floor joists were comprised of unmilled tree trunks. Many of these tree trunks stretched over forty feet in length before resting on bearing walls. Some of these tree trunk beams had failed and the building was in danger of collapsing. An elaborate network of steel I beams, that were bolted into the existing tree trunk beams and supported by numerous lobby columns, was designed for every floor.

When the frame addition was erected, it was designed to complement the original hotel's Victorian style and provide a residence for the owner/operator of the hotel. It featured a living room, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor with several bedrooms on the second and third. The renovation in 1944 totally gutted the interior of the addition when it was turned into two apartments. There are no remaining items of interior historical significance other than the window sills. The 1914 addition complements the original property and its unique exterior helps preserve the Victorian style architecture of this age. The front porch floor was replaced fifty years ago in 1944 with tongue and groove flooring. The original floors were comprised of simple plank flooring. This appears to be the only exterior item that was altered since the hotel was constructed. The exterior remains in good condition and items that need repair can be remilled and replaced to their identical likeness.

In summary, the majority of the exterior is sound and those items in disrepair can be reduplicated to conform to their original integrity. Because of the overall retention of its varied detailed Victorian characteristics and its one of a kind wrap around covered porch, this hotel is a unique example of Victorian style architecture in both Lehigh and Northampton counties.

5. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance

1877 - 1941

Significant Dates

1877

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Schlicher, George F.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Schlicher hotel is significant in the areas of commerce and architecture. This hotel dressed with gingerbread, ornate window treatments, hand made porch rail spindles and the large covered porch is a prime example of Victorian era architecture. The large covered porch which wraps around the building is one of the largest and most physically appealing in both Lehigh and Northampton counties. Its central location near the railroad depot, made it one of the most significant buildings in the town. It was also located in the main business district directly across from the general store and the American Hotel. The Hensinger Hotel, no longer in existence, was located approximately 400 feet away on the Northeastern side of the railroad tracks. The Schlicher Hotel was the first structure to greet visitor's at the southeastern entrance to the town. This area still remains a major area of commerce in the borough today.

Soon after the construction of the hotel, George Schlicher built an ice house directly behind it. As time passed the ice house was totally gutted on the inside and seriously altered on the outside and is not included in the nominated boundary. As a result this additional structure has no current historical significance. However, it provided ice for hotel guests, the other two neighboring hotels, and the general store. The hotel's restaurant and bar operated continually until the early 1930's when it was replaced by a grocery store which operated until the property was converted into apartments in 1944. The hotel also rented banquet, meeting, and sleeping rooms from its inception until the 1944 renovation.

See continuation sheet

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Schlicher Hotel

Section number 8 Page 1

According to deed reference, this property was initially purchased on August 6, 1877 by George F. Schlicher and John S. Saul from John D. Meitzler. Meitzler's father, Jacob Meitzler was one of the earliest property owners in this locality. The Meitzler family had owned this tract since the mid 1700's. This property was strategically located approximately 80 feet from the train station. The founding of the village of Alburdis coincided with the opening of the East Pennsylvania Railroad in 1859. The town also expanded with the construction of the Lockridge furnaces, one decade later (currently listed in the National Register). These two events were the major reason why John Saul and George Schlicher purchased this property. Its strategic location near the railroad depot made it a perfect location for a hotel. Construction began immediately after settlement.

On January 15, 1878, George F. Schlicher and his wife Messina conveyed their half interest to John Saul for \$1,500.00. Approximately one year later on April 2, 1879 John Saul and his wife Mary sold their entire interest in the Hotel back to the Schlichers for \$2,900.00. In 1890 Messina Schlicher passed away and her estate conveyed the Hotel to George F. Schlicher on March 25, 1890 for \$6,500.00. In 1894 the estate of Messina Schlicher was unable to pay all its debts and George F. Schlicher was held responsible for their accountability. We noticed by deed reference that in 1894, Mary E. Schlicher and George Schlicher bought the Hotel from the Reading Trust Company. Mary Schlicher owned the property until the early 1900's when it was sold to Lewis F. Neuweiler, a prominent Allentown business man who owned the Neuweiler Brewing Company. The Neuweiler Brewing Company promoted Horlacher beer until the late 1960's. Louis Neuweiler continued to own this property and operated it as a Hotel until 1926 when it was sold to Charles and Helen Eschlenbach. From this time forward, several owners occupied and operated the property as a Hotel until the end of World War II.

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Continuation Sheet**

Schlicher Hotel
Section number 8 Page 2

In the early 1900's, the second and third floors were used by local people as Lodge Halls for groups similar to the Elks Club and Moose Lodges that we know of today. One of the names that was mentioned was the Redmans Lodge. Apparently the second and third floors had several large open areas that were used for banquets and town meetings. In addition to providing general accommodations for visitors to Alburdis, the Hotel sheltered employees of the Lockridge Furnaces. Many employees traveled to Alburdis from neighboring communities and went home on weekends. The Lockridge Furnaces were located less than a half mile from the hotel and could be accessed directly by the railroad. The neighboring towns of Alburdis and Lockridge intertwine with each other and the name Alburdis has been applied collectively to both. Lockridge had received its name from the blast furnaces and the former Lockridge Iron Company (LIC). The (LIC) was chartered December 26, 1866. Two furnaces were erected in 1877. The plant ran regularly from its inception until the early 1920's. It employed approximately 85 men excluding management. The combined annual output of the furnaces was approximately 36,000 tons of iron. Between the furnaces' inception and the early 1890's, the LIC was the only major non-agricultural employer in the Alburdis borough.

Because of its strategic location, the Schlicher Hotel was the first hotel that greeted travelers as they unboarded the train. It was also the largest and most desirable establishment in the borough. The American and Hensinger Hotel's were more modest in appearance. The Schlicher Hotel as well as the American and Hensinger Hotels all had bar rooms and eating facilities. However, the Schlicher Hotel had the largest restaurant facility of the three and was the only hotel in town which provided banquet and meeting room facilities. It also had its own ice house. For these reasons, the Schlicher Hotel played a vital role in local commerce. Today, the Schlicher Hotel is the only surviving commercial building constructed in the borough that reflects its late 1800's Victorian origin. Other local commercial structures (the general store is currently covered with aluminum siding) of the era have been demolished or compromised in terms of their architectural heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- #1. Deeds, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Lehigh County Courthouse, Allentown, PA. Deed book Volume 64, Page 51.
- #2. History of Lehigh County, Old Lehigh County Courthouse, Allentown, PA 18101. History of Lehigh County, Allentown, Lehigh Valley Publishing Co. Ltd. Volume 1, Chapter 23, 1914. Charles Rhodes Roberts, Thomas H. Krich, John Baer Stoudt, William J. Dietrich.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Lehigh County Historical Society
5th and Hamilton Streets, Allentown, PA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1/2 Acre

UTM References

A

1	8
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4	4	8	8	5
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4	4	8	4	5	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Deed Book Vol. 1462, Page 156

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary reflects the legally recorded boundary lines for the single lot upon which the resource sits. The boundary contains the nominated building and addition and all historically associated land. The ice house to the South of the nominated property has been excluded because of the major structural alterations that occurred when it was turned into a residence.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Kusko, General Partner

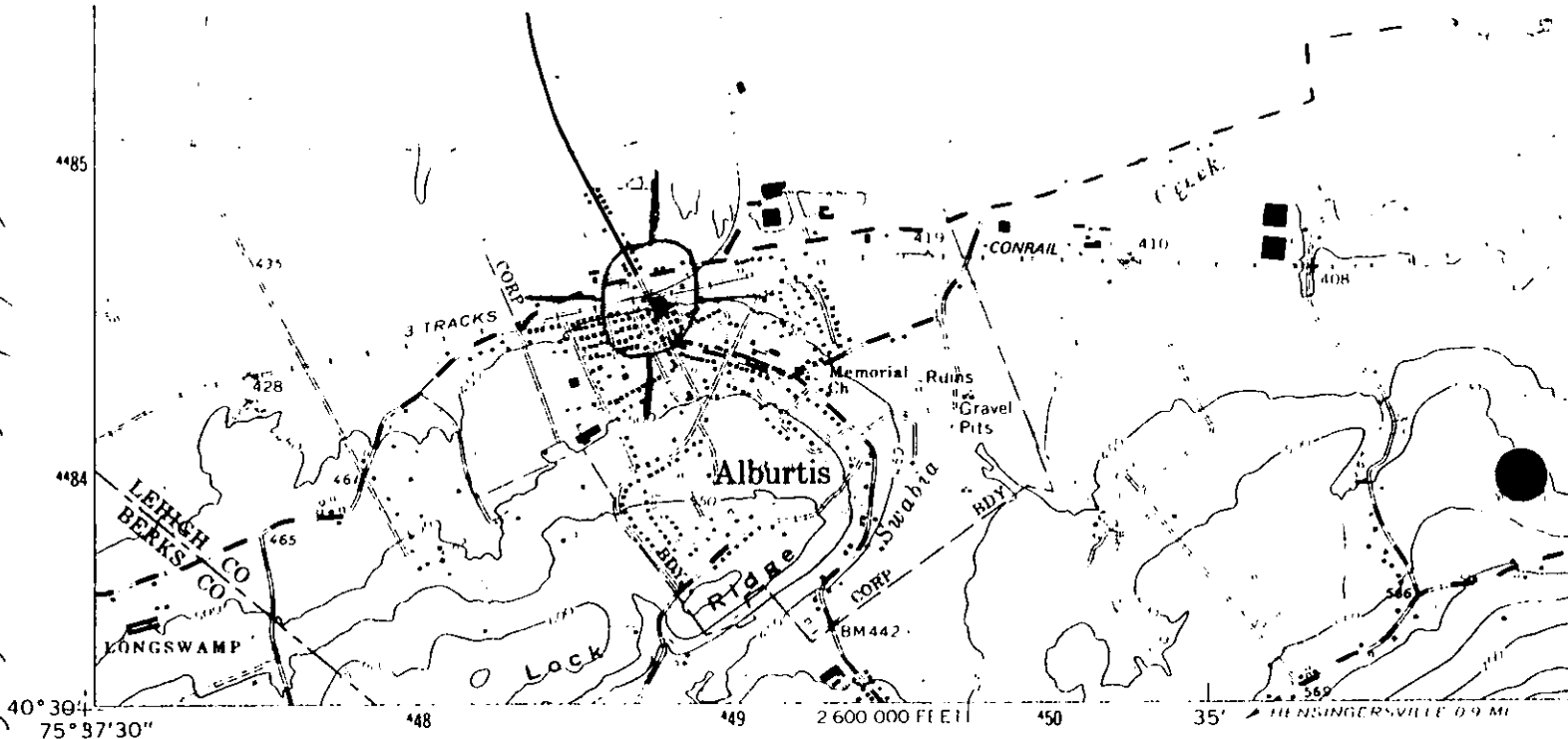
organization Alburtis Apartments Ltd. Ptns. date _____

street & number 4555 Hamilton Blvd. telephone 215-398-8044

city or town Allentown state PA zip code _____

Schlicher Hotel
 Leinen Company
 Zone 18
 Anderson West Canal
 E 447885 N 4474550

(MANATAWNY)
 5864 / NW



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1964

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone

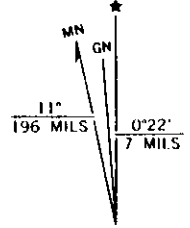
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

1927 North American Datum

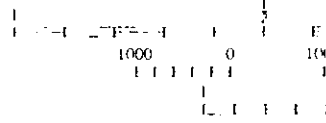
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 31 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



NATIC
 THIS MAP IS
 FOR SALE BY
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING IT