

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Preservation Project of Erie, Inc. 454-1813.		5. present name Commercial-Corry	1. County Erie		
8. property owners name and address Multiple See List		9. tax parcel number / other number Multiple					
12. classification site () structure () object () building () in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 14. period 1883-1920		10. U.T.M. zone easting 17 612710 11. status (other surveys, lists etc.) Comp. Survey June 1986			
15. style, design or folk type See Reverse		19. original use Commercial/Industrial 20. present use Commercial/Industrial		6. other name (historic name if any) Industrial Historic District	2. municipality Corry		
16. architect or engineer A. P. Mount		17. contractor or builder				18. primary building mat./construction Brick Bearing	
21. condition Good		22. integrity Intact-Partially		3. street address or specific location Center and Main Streets	4. survey code 049-CY-1334 1395		
23. site plan with north arrow See Map Attached		24. photo notation Erie County Historical Society				25. file/location	
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) As proposed the Corry Historic District had 55 buildings and delightfully few intrusions, only three on Main St., when Susan Zacher made her survey visit last year. She agreed with the idea of separating the commercial area from the residential because of the sheer size of each. She recommended that industrial buildings be added to make it a Commercial/Industrial District. The district comprises the commercial buildings on the east and west sides of Center Street from Park Place to South Street and the commercial buildings on the north and south sides of Main Street from First Avenue to King Street. Twenty-eight of the buildings are Italianate or have Italianate Influences, the most common style in the district. Twenty are Vernacular, three Queen Anne Influence, two Neo-classical, one Art Deco Influence and one Sullivanesque. Forty-one of the buildings were built between 1860 and 1900 and fourteen were built between 1901 and 1950.		27. history, significance and/or background The Corry Commercial/Industrial historic district is significant because it reflects the development of the only "oil boom" town in Erie County. The district is also significant architecturally.				Modified	
28. sources of information Phase I Data Analysis Report.		29. prepared by: Shirley Ruth French		(Over)			
30. date 3/23/88		revision(s)		(continue on back if necessary)			

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#27 cont'd.

An 1883 Italianate commercial building marks the development of a more permanent commercial district along Main Street, replacing Corry's early frame buildings clustered along the railroad. An 1896 and 1900 date stone on each of two Queen Anne influence commercial buildings illustrate the culminating development of the commercial district along Center Street.

Corry's industrial base peaked in the late teens and early 1920's. This brought the development of residential areas where styles which the Old-House Journal refers to as "Post-Victorian" proliferated. These styles included: Tudor Revival, Georgian Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, Basic Homestead, Tri-Gabled Ell, Princess Anne, American Foursquare and the Bungalow and Semi-Bungalow.

This period of Corry's industrial development (1910-1930) also brought a host of public buildings. This is illustrated by the 1917-built public library, the 1919-built Post Office, a 1924-built neighborhood school and a 1936-built church. The public buildings built during this period were a direct result of the healthy industrial base established during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Corry Post Office, for example, was made possible because of revenue from a mail order corset business. This corset business was a major Corry industry between 1909 and 1922.

In researching the history of Corry's historically and architecturally significant buildings, survey personnel repeatedly came across the name of A. F. Mount, a man who occupied "a position of prominence and influence among the foremost architects of Western Pennsylvania." (Miller 1909: 362)

Aretus P. Mount was born October 23, 1851, at Cherrycreek, Chautauqua County, New York. His parents were Mary Frost Mount and William Mount. The latter in his lifetime worked as a farmer, carpenter and superintendent of the carpentry department for the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company in Urbana, Ohio. It was while in the employ of the railroad company that he came with his family to Corry in 1871.

The architectural services of A. P. Mount were employed as far away as Harrisburg, Pennsylvania but primarily in Northwestern Pennsylvania. He designed the Harrisburg Baptist Church at 15th and Market Streets (The Harrisburg Patriot, June 28, 1909). He was awarded contracts for the design of state armories at Meadville, Pennsylvania, Grove City, Pennsylvania, Warren, Pennsylvania and Corry, Pennsylvania. He designed the Elk's Lodges at Bradford and Corry, Pennsylvania.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)