

15 Storch Avenue



Peter Storch acquired this property from Benoni S. Good in April of 1886. Amazingly, it stayed with Storch's descendants until the current owners, Robert and Marlene Ingram, purchased it in 2013.

Storch (1834-1919) was a German immigrant who arrived in Wheeling when he was 20 years old. At that time, his last name was spelled Storz. He soon began

operating a coalmine along Edgington Lane and, according to his obituary, "gradually increased his business until he became one of the most prominent coal operators in the valley." He was survived by his widow, nee Katherine Krock/Crock, sons John and George, and daughters Anna (Mrs. George Ebbert) and Bernetta (Mrs. John Hirt).

Following the death of Katherine, the property was left to numerous descendants. It's unclear which of them actually lived in the house, as early city directories didn't include the Woodsdale area, and later ones just listed addresses as Edgington Lane, without actual street numbers.

However, a death certificate shows 15 Storch Avenue as the residence of Peter Storch's son-in-law, John William Hirt (1880-1959), the husband of Bernetta Storch. His occupation is listed as "florist." It was the Hirt name that appears on tax records at the time the property was sold to the Ingrams.

Prepared by Jeanne Finstein
Friends of Wheeling
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Sources:
Deed Records
Wheeling City Directories
Death Records
Census Records
Naturalization Record (April 9, 1860)