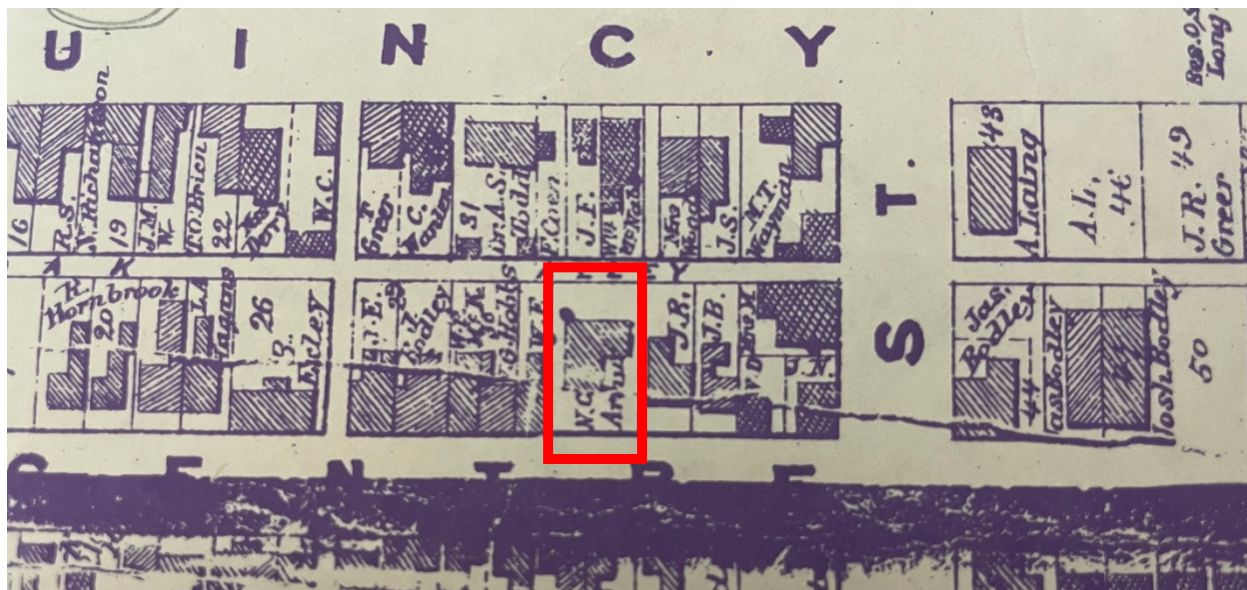


67 15th Street



The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the East Wheeling Historic District (1999) describes this property as “Two story, three bay, brick Italianate with Eastlake details. Full façade shingled front porch with sleeping porch on second floor. Elaborate hood molds of metal. Italianate façade added. Double house with 65 15th Street. 1 contributing building.” The nomination estimates the construction date as c. 1850. However, the Ohio County Assessor has an estimate of 1900 as the construction date, and deed and city directory listings, as detailed below, suggest 1884 as the date that the building that currently stands at this address was built.

An 1871 map of the neighborhood was made when 14th Street was called Quincy and 15th was Centre. The house labeled N.C. Arthur is located at the current address of 67 15th Street. Deed records show that Nathaniel Arthur was the owner at that time, but the shape of the house is not consistent with the current footprint. (Nothing more was found about Arthur.)



1871 City Map (Ohio County Public Library Archives)

Deed records show that Joseph Bodley purchased the property in 1879. Bodley (1828-1897) was listed as being a bricklayer and contractor in the 1880 Wheeling City Directory. At that time, he and his wife Lucretia (nee, Donley 1832-1914) lived next door at 69 15th Street, along with at least some of their children - Mary, Joseph W., Ida Belle, Edwin B., and Anne Maud. On December 26, 1883, Ida Bodley (1863-1933) married John William Brooks (1856-1922). A description of their wedding appeared in the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* the next day, describing Brooks as a “well-known businessman.”

BROOKS-BODLEY.

Pleasant Wedding on Fifteenth Street Last Night.

One of the pleasant social occasions of the season was the marriage last night at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. Joseph A. Bodley, on Fifteenth street, of Mr. J. Will Brooks, a well known business man; and Miss B. Bodley. Rev. Dr. J. E. Smith, pastor of the Fourth Street M. E. Church, performed the ceremony. The happy couple left on the B. & O. road this morning for a tour of the eastern cities.

Many valuable and tasteful presents were received among them being a check for \$100 from the bride's father, together with a bed room set and a handsome family Bible from the bride's mother Mrs. E. Brooks, blankets and spreads; Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Brooks, blue velvet rocker, Miss Emma Bodley, willow rocker Miss Maud Bodley, silver tea spoons, Edward Bodley, ebony clock, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Bodley, silver water set, Miss Bessie Elson, cut glass water set, Jos. E's son, cut glass pickle castor, Jno. L. Kuhl, silver molasses pitcher; Mr. and Mrs. D. Bradley, porcelain tea pot, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Kasley, silver fruit bowl, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Albright, silver butter knife, Miss Alice Rippey, hand painted placard, Dr. and Miss M. Gasmler silver cake basket, Miss Anna Johnson, glass set; Miss Lottie Walters, hand painted fruit plates; Mr. and Mrs. Dr. J. W. Morris, butter dish and knives; Miss Maggie Bodley, silver mounted pickle castor, Mrs. E. L. Weisgerber, bronze mounted pin cushion; Miss Carrie F. Smith, hand painted cup and saucer; Mr. and Mrs. E. Yates, blue satin pin cushion, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dnd'ey, brass fire set, Miss Belle Robb, towels; Mrs. D. E. Jordan, table linen; Mr. Charles Jaffets, silver pickle castor; Mr. H. C. Richards, silver butter dish; Mrs. Rinehart, silver butter knife, Miss Jessie Dean, white satin cushion; Mr. John Robb, set of carvers; Mrs. Riheldaffer and son, silver cake basket; Miss Clara Wallace, embroidered handkerchief case; Hon. J. B. Donnelly, Scott's poems; Miss Nellie Donnelly, iridescent vases.

The 1884 City Directory lists Brooks' occupation as "Superintendent, Kasley & Brooks, lower bank," and the entry for the company states that they were "dealers in anthracite and bituminous coal and coke, manufacturers and dealers in brick, office 1744 Market Street." A large ad accompanied the directory listing.

CALLIN'S WHEELING DIRECTORY. 253

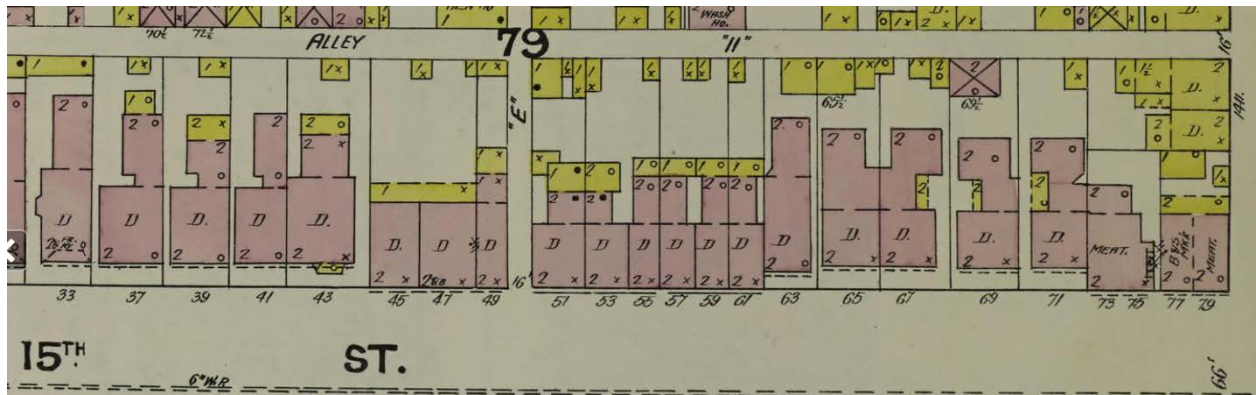
KASLEY & BROOKS,
MINERS AND SHIPPERS OF
Lump, Mixed, Nut, Pea Coal & Slack
AND DEALERS IN
LEHIGH AND WILKESBARRE
ANTHRACITE COAL!
AND CITY GAS WORKS COKE.
PAVING AND BUILDING BRICK
Always in stock. Telephone connection to office and works.
OFFICE, 1744 MARKET ST.
Works, east end Twentieth street, east end Thirty-seventh street and east end Forty-first street. Brick Yard e. end Nineteenth.

1884 Wheeling City Directory

Brooks' residence that same year is shown as 67 15th Street. It seems possible – even likely – that contractor Joseph Bodley had 67 15th Street built for his daughter (next door to her childhood home) and son-in-law around the time of their marriage, thus dating the house to about 1884.

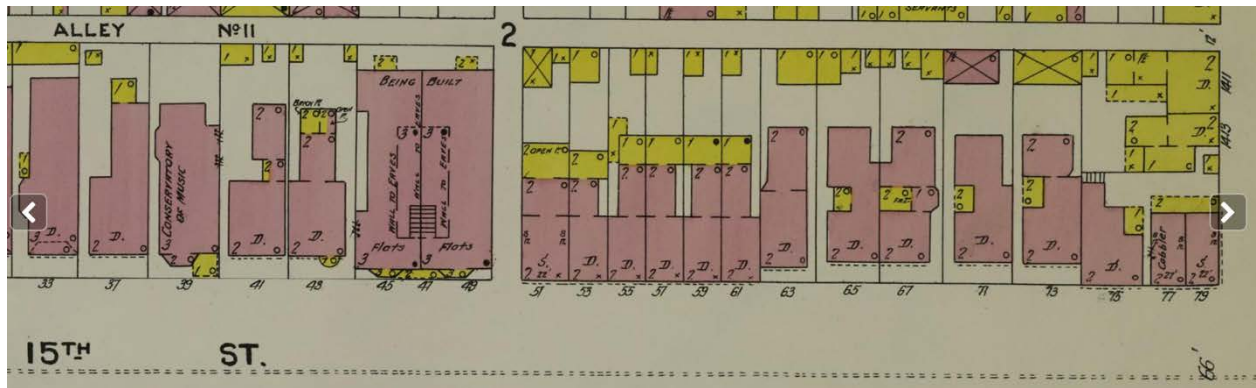
Wheeling Daily Intelligencer,
December 27, 1883

The first detailed map of the neighborhood is the 1890 Sanborn Insurance Map. It clearly shows 67 15th Street as a two-story, brick structure with a few frame outbuildings at the rear of the property.



1890 Sanborn Insurance Map

The 1902 Sanborn Map shows a similar footprint, with some interior changes. In both maps, it appears that the house was set back from the street a bit, suggesting that the current front porch and second-level “sleeping porch” were added later.



1902 Sanborn Insurance Map

Ida and John Brooks had two sons – (Joseph) Bodley Brooks (1885-1942) and Stewart Rhodes Brooks (1888-1942). Ida became the owner of 67 15th Street in 1886, when it was deeded to her by her parents Joseph and Lucretia Bodley. And apparently she also later became the owner of 69 15th Street. Her will (attached) shows that she left the 69 15th Street property to son Bodley Brooks and 67 15th Street to son Stewart Brooks, following her death in 1933.

Stewart Brooks married Iris Cherry (1890-1950), and the couple lived at 67 15th Street. Stewart’s obituary states that he worked as a contractor and then at LaBelle Nail Works for 20 years. Their son was William Stewart Brooks (1909-1986) was deeded the property in 1935. His obituary stated that he was “employed as a federal auditor for the department of the Army and served in the Army Intelligence during World War II. He was former state mutual auditor of the W. Va. Racing Commission, formerly served as treasurer of the city of Wheeling, and served as the city’s auditor from 1961-1982.” He had been a member of several professional organizations and

also a 50-year member of the Wheeling Musical Society and a member of the Beethoven Singing society.

William Brooks married Ingrid Schiffendecker (1926-2000), who worked as a claims representative for Blue Cross, Blue Shield, and the couple had two sons – Bernard S. Brooks (1947-January 2024) and Geoffrey Brooks (1954-April 2024).

Following the deaths of Bernard and Geoffrey Brooks, both in 2024, the property was purchased in October 2024 by William Ryan Stuehler, who plans to rehabilitate the property.

Prepared by Jeanne Finstein, Friends of Wheeling
November 21, 2024

Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- FindaGrave.com
- National Register Nomination for East Wheeling
- Ohio County Census Records
- Ohio County Deed Records
- Ohio County Public Library Map, 1871
- Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1890 and 1902
- West Virginia Vital Records
- Wheeling City Directories
- *Wheeling Intelligencer*

Ida B. Brooks "Will".

I - Ida B. Brooks, do claim this to be my last will and testament and being of sound mind do make the following bequest.

First - I bequeath to my grandson William S. Brooks \$2500.00 (Two thousand five hundred dollars) Cash

Second - I bequeath to my grandson Joseph B. Brooks \$2500.00 (Two thousand five hundred dollars) Cash

Third - After the payment of all of my just debts I hereby bequeath the balance of my estate in the following manner.

(A) - To my son Bodley Brooks I bequeath the house and lot known as 69-14th Street and one thousand dollars.

(B) - To my Son Stewart Brooks I bequeath the house known as 67-15th Street Believing the A & B bequest to be of equal value

(C) To my son Bodley Brooks I bequeath the following personal belongings. My parents old family Bible, My father & Mother's portrait, One large diamond to be made into a stick-pin. And one chair of my parlor furniture.

(D) To my son Stewart I leave his parents old family Bible, My mother's latest portrait, Uncle David's and David's portrait One large diamond to be made into a stick-pin, and my small diamond ring, and one chair of my parlor furniture To my grandson William I leave his grandfather's watch, and the quilt made by my Mother

To my grandson Joseph I leave my watch, and the blue and white cover lid made by my grandmother

To Iris B. Brooks I leave my Caseo pin, my Haviland china set, My white and black silk evening dress

To Laura K. Brooks I leave my Gold necklace, my cut glass Candelabra and cut glass and my evening coat

To Marianna Barnes I leave my Mother's Mink Cape and to Maude Post my gold bracelet. To Angileen B. Graham I leave her mother's portrait, To my Sister Emma I leave all my Modern clothes, and brother Ed

To Lucretia B. Briceland I leave _____ To Emma Travis I leave _____

To my first great grand daughter I leave my wedding dress

Fourth I do hereby do give and bequeath the balance of my estate and effects consisting of real estate, Stocks, and money also personal property of which I may be possessed, to my two sons Bodley and Stewart Brooks share and share alike

I appoint J. Bodley Brooks and Stewart R. Brooks my sons, as joint executors of this my will. Without Bond.

In witness whereof I have subscribed the presents at Wheeling W. Va. the day of Mar 9th 1926 in the presence of three witnesses.

Ida B. Brooks

Signed by the Testator, as for her last Will and Testament)Witness Jno. A. DOT
in presence of us, who at her request, and in her presence, and)Witness H. C. CLARK
in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names)Witness John L. BOLT
as witnesses.)

Teste:

Raymond J. Falland, Clerk.

(Probated February 11, 1933.)
(For Orders See Order Book 26
Pages 214-240-240.)