



THE STEWART HOUSE

When the wealthy Benjamin Butler Family left their comfortable Chester County home in 1805 to “try their fortunes in the wilds of Ohio,” they didn’t expect to meet with tragedy while crossing the Western Pa Frontier. But on the morning of October 7, 1805, after lodging for the night at a tavern in Williamsport (now Monongahela), Mr. Butler became deathly ill. Residents of the village, at a loss to find a real doctor, sent for a local man, who processed to be a general doctor of all species, especially cows. He gave Mr. Butler a powder later found out to be brick dust. Butler died that night leaving his family stranded in a village of indignant frontiersmen, who refused to house the Butler Family, hoping they would move on and let the whole incident be forgotten. Instead, the family stayed, and Joel Butler built this house in the middle of town, on Main Street, two years later in 1807. During most of the 19th century, it was owned by the Stewart Family. The windows throughout the house are original multi-paned sashes with blown glass. When the new bridge was being built across the Monongahela River about 1909, The Stewart House was scheduled to be torn down to make way for the bridge approach. A local citizen saved the doomed structure by moving it to its present site about a mile to the top of Fourth Street on Lawrence Street. A Victorian porch was added and the structure was veneered with a layer of new pressed brick, but otherwise, the rich and architecturally mixed design was preserved.