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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic CHANDLERY CORNER

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1-3 East 4th St.; 401-403-405 State St. N/A not for publication

city, town Erie N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Erie code 049

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition: | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>N/A</u> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <u>N/A</u> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Historic Square Properties

street & number Suite 60, 400 French St.

city, town Erie N/A vicinity of state PA 16507

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Erie County Courthouse

street & number 140 West 6th Street

city, town Erie state PA 16501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Erie Historic Sites Survey / has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau for Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 1026

city, town Harrisburg state PA 17108-1026

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Continuation sheet #1 CHANDLERY CORNER

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2. Erie County Historical & Architectural Preservation Plan - 1976

Erie County Planning Dept.

Erie County Courthouse

140 West 6th St., Erie, PA 16501

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date <u>N/A</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Peter Rockwell House, Frederick Schneider House, and Schneider/Kessler Chandlery, comprise a group of commercial/residential brick buildings occupying an approximately rectangular plot at the southeast corner of 4th and State Streets. This setting is located in a former 19th century commercial district of the city which included major institutional and financial entities. Most of the surrounding buildings have recently undergone rehabilitation so that the area has a cohesive restored look. These three buildings are arranged in a right-angle axis along both East 4th and State Streets. The Frederick Schneider House faces east 4th Street, while the Schneider/Kessler Chandlery and Peter Rockwell House face State Street.

The three buildings are visually united by virtue of their structural materials, similar form, and contiguous placement on the site. All of them are constructed of red brick laid in common bond with light mortar joints. They range from two to three stories in height, with low-pitched roofs. Fenestration is regular, with windows rectangular in shape, and symmetrically disposed. Integrity ranges from good in the case of the Frederick Schneider House to fair in the case of the Peter Rockwell House.

The Frederick Schneider House retains many of its Greek Revival elements with the exception of some alteration to the eaves, and a roof skylight at the southwest corner of the building which was installed at the time the chandlery immediately west was erected.

The Schneider/Kessler Chandlery has undergone major change, in particular the roof. Shadow lines on the brick surfaces of both the north and south walls of the third floor reveal that the building was originally two stories in height with a low-pitched roof. This alteration occurred when Kessler acquired the building and expanded his business in 1870.

The Peter Rockwell House has experienced the greatest degree of alteration. Originally a Federal townhouse, rafters in the attic show that the roof was adapted to its present Mansard form with dormers, probably when the building was converted to commercial use ca. 1865. At the same time the ground floor was lowered approximately four feet to street level, and a two-story industrial structure was attached to the rear. The front facade was substantially changed to accommodate the new use, including the replacement of the original windows by a store front, and the narrowing of the main entrance at the right.

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| <u>Code</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Photographs</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CC-3 | 405 State St. | <p>PETER ROCKWELL HOUSE (1832)</p> <p>This is a two and one-half story, three bay brick dwelling of Federal design. The planar main facade is austere, embellishment being confined to keystone window arches and stone lintels.</p> <p>The Mansard roof terminates in a rather heavy molded cornice incorporating modillion and frieze elements. One of two small dormer windows has been removed.</p> <p>The water table molding on the main facade and exposed ashlar stone foundation on the south wall, indicate that the original ground floor was some four feet above street level. The remains of the cooking hearth in the basement are still visible.</p> <p>The two story brick wing added to the rear of the building totally obscures four of the original windows of the original townhouse, and partially obscures the other two.</p> <p>The turn of the century storefront has been covered over with 1950's style wooden siding and canopy. Six-over-six window lights have been replaced by one-over-one panes at the upper stories.</p> | <p>#7,8,9 10,11</p> |

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BUILDING INVENTORY

| <u>Code</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Photographs</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| CC-1 | 3 East 4th St. | <p>FREDERICK SCHNEIDER HOUSE (1846)</p> <p>This is a two story five bay brick dwelling of Greek Revival design. It is rectangular in shape with the exception of a small hexagonal one story addition to the exposed wall (east side).</p> <p>The windows are equally spaced and in vertical alignment. Sash are double hung and sub-divided into six panes. Trim is confined to flush, flat-arch window heads, and slightly projecting stone lintels.</p> <p>Of particular note is the main doorway with its enframements made up of Classical members. It features a bracketed canopy supported by columns with carved capitals. Additional elements consist of a transom, sidelights, cast iron porch railing, and six paneled door.</p> | #1,2,3, 11 |
| CC-2 | 1 East 4th St. 401-403 State St. | <p>SCHNEIDER/KESSLER CHANDLERY (1851)</p> <p>This is a three story six bay brick commercial building which architecturally anchors the southeast corner of 4th and State Streets. It was originally constructed in two sections of approximately 20 front footage each, with a party wall.</p> <p>This business block exhibits the scale, massing proportions, and some of the detailing characteristic of mid-nineteenth commercial structures, including a narrow frontage, tall windows, and rear entrances for access to upper floors. The only embellishment to the building's main facade other than stone, flush, flat-arch window heads and stone lintels, is its substantial and somewhat elaborate cornice - the product of a later date.</p> | #4,5,6 |

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1832, 1846, 1851 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Chandlery Corner derives its name from the fact that it is the site of the plant and store of Erie's first soap and candle maker. Frederick Schneider had been in this business for several years in rented facilities across East 4th Street before he erected his own building at the southeast corner of the intersection. Later with the advent of lighting by gas and electricity, groceries and spirits were added to the line. Another important item were various provisions supplied to the shipping trade, particularly up to World War I when steamers of the Anchor Line, a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad, made regular stops at Erie to pick up and discharge passengers and cargo. Proximity to the waterfront made this an attractive market for the store.

The earliest of the buildings, that erected by Peter Rockwell in 1832, never figured directly in the chandlery business except perhaps as a warehouse. Its importance as a commercial structure dates from its acquisition by the Pelton family for use as a marble works in 1865. Prior to that time it was maintained as residential rental property, and served among other uses as a boarding house for naval officers during the Civil War. The Pelton Marble Works was closed in 1904 and the property passed into the hands of Christian Kessler who operated the grocery business at the corner, three years later. From then until the present it has served a variety of purposes: headquarters for the Erie County Milk Association until 1924, restaurant from the early 1930's until the late 1950's, a bar and lounge in recent years.

In 1846, the second building on the site, namely the house of Frederick Schneider was constructed. Schneider as we know had established the community's first candle business. It prospered permitting the owner to build a house which would have been considered quite substantial for its time. Schneider was a leading member of the local German community and served on Erie's Select Council on three separate occasions. He was also acquainted with people of German descent nationally, and in 1860 entertained the Hon. Carl Schurz in his 4th Street residence, when the latter was campaigning in Erie in behalf of the election of Abraham Lincoln. In 1870 Schneider gave up his chandlery to become city tax collector, and the dwelling was purchased by Christian Kessler whose family remained there until 1913, when the building was converted to a boarding house, which it remained until recently.

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^{commercial building}
The ~~business block~~ which Schneider erected at the corner in 1851 as an outlet for his soap and candle production, would continue in operation until 1919. Under the ownership of Christian Kessler from 1870 on, it would diversify and expand to include many other products such as groceries, spirits, and small wares. Kessler was also of German descent and a grocer by occupation. As a prominent member of the community, he would serve on both the Select and Common Councils, as well as the License Board.

Kessler developed the best stocked ship chandlery in the city. Among the items he stocked were oakum, spun cotton, hemp packing, mast hoops, caulking irons, sheaves, cleats, gaff-top sail hooks, sailors palms, needles, navy lanterns, plus all kinds of marine paint, varnish, and pitch, rosin and oil. The 1901 city directory lists only one other ship chandler - Henry Beckman at 506 State Street, indicating that Kessler pretty much had all the business to himself.

Kessler closed his chandlery in 1919. By that time sailing vessels had by and large been replaced by large lake freighters, and other customers for groceries had moved to other sections of the city. The buildings, however, remained in the family as rental properties for various commercial enterprises until 1977.

Chandlery Corner spanned a long period of time from 1851 until 1919. It was a part of the commercial vitality that centered upon this section of State Street from the late 1830's until the turn of the century. It catered to the several hotels that were located north of the park during these years, and in particular it supplied a substantial shipping and fishing fleet with provisions and materials.

Chandlery Corner serves as a strong reminder of a time when Erie's economy and prosperity was to a large extent centered upon its waterfront.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .237

Quadrangle name Erie North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 17 | 575490 | 4664550 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

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|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John R. Claridge, Director, Research and Publications

organization Erie County Historical Society date 6/2/1968 Rev. 9/8/86

street & number 417 State Street telephone (814) 454-1813

city or town Erie, PA state Pennsylvania 16501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/26/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

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Continuation sheet 4 CHANDLERY CORNER

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Bibliography

Biographical and Historical Reference Book for Erie County, Pennsylvania. Erie: S. B. Nelson, 1896. pp. 515, 656.

Miller, John. A Twentieth Century History of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Chicago: The Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1909. p. 54.

The City of Erie, Pa. Erie: Herald Printing & Publishing Co., 1888. p. 82.

Map of the City of Erue, published by John Bevan, 1853.

Map of the City of Erie, published by Wm. H. Reese, 1861.

Hulbert's Directory of the City of Erie, 1853.

Lynn's Erie Business Directory, 1867-68.

Atkinson's Directory of the City of Erie, 1901.

Diary of Judah Colt Spencer, December 21, 1835. Erie County Historical Society Collection.

Gifford Kessler Papers. Privately held.

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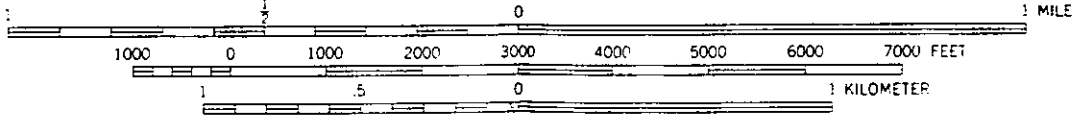
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Beginning at the point of intersection of the east line of State Street with the south line of East 4th Street; thence eastwardly along the south line of East 4th Street 125 feet to a point; thence southwardly and parallel with State Street 82-1/2 feet to a point; thence westwardly and parallel with East 4th Street 125 feet to a point in the east line of State Street; thence northwardly along the east line of State Street to the place of beginning.

The above boundaries conform to the property lines for the parcels of land on which the Frederick Schneider House, Schneider/Kessler Chandlery, and Peter Rockwell House are situated.



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 570.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CHANDLERY CORNER
 Erie County
 Erie north Quadrangle
 Zone 17
 E575490 N4664550