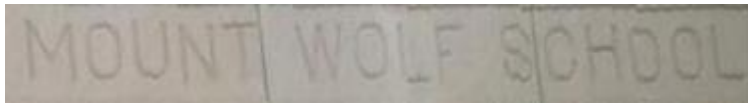


History of Mount Wolf's 100-year-old School Building



In 1915, a two-story school was built on South Third and Maple Streets in Mount Wolf. Hundreds of area senior citizens can tell you stories about the school. It was the pride of the neighborhood. Many organizations had their pictures taken in front of it. The Mount Wolf ball team even played on the grounds of the school for several years. It was used as an elementary school for the next 43 years. The Northeastern School District then used the building as an administration office until 1985. Mount Wolf Borough also had office space there during that time.



Then around 1986, a private group took over the building and opened Northeastern Day Care in the first and basement floors. The owner of the day care, Judy Gelnett, had a passion for girls who found themselves in a pregnancy situation and had nowhere and no one to care for them. She founded and opened Crisis Pregnancy Life Center on the third floor in 1987. There was a video produced called "A Living Experience" about the Center. It showed the inside of the facility and explained the services of the Center. The faith based organization was the first of its kind in the County. The video was aired by WGCB on Mother's Day 1989. The organization then changed its name to Cornerstone Maternity Home and a few years later moved to 27 N Belvidere Ave in York.



After the passing of Judy Gelnett, the Daycare and building was sold in 1991. A few years later, the Daycare closed. The owner then leased the building to Mission Home Ministries. For a few years, they housed troubled girls and then they switched to troubled boys. The boys caused issues in the neighborhood and there was a community meeting about it. Mission Home Ministries left the building in 2003. In 2006, Pinkney's Vineyard of Faith Ministries opened a home for young unwed mothers, in the building. Their lease ran out in 2009 and they left. Since then the building has been for sale. The only activity in the building since has been by various York County police departments, using it for training exercises.



The 100-year-old building is now up for Absolute Auction. Hopefully, it will again become a respectful place benefitting both the community and mankind like it has for most of its life. Mount Wolf does not need another waste land like the old New York Wire property.

You may ask why are you, Charles Stambaugh, so interested in this building and area. In 1982, my wife and I were on our way to watch the Manchester / Mt Wolf Halloween parade, when she went into labor with my oldest son. Then my first exposure to Mount Wolf was when Judy Gelnett invited me to do a photo shoot of the Crisis Pregnancy Life Center, in 1987. I then produced and directed the Center's video in 1989. I was in the building several times doing voluntary work for the Center. My kids and grandkids had played in the school's lot. As a historian, I am interested in saving old buildings, have many photos of the building and have listened to many stories about the school. But the biggest reason is that for about a third of the building's life, I have looked at it every day. I care because, since 1988, I live across from the building. It has become my neighbor.

Charles Stambaugh October 2016