

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM — DATA SHEET
 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: GAI # 6 Tax Parcel/Other No.: _____
 County: 1. Erie 0 4 9 2. _____
 Municipality: 1. Erie 2. _____
 Address: East Sixth Street, between Reed and State Streets
 Historic Name: East Sixth Street Historic District
 Other Name: _____
 Owner Name/Address: Multiple
 Owner Category: Private Public-local Public-state Public-federal
 Resource Category: Building District Site Structure Object
 Number/Approximate Number of Resources Covered by This Form: 280
 USGS Quad: 1. Erie North 2. _____
 UTM A. 17 57550 466490 C. 17 57710 466550
 References: B. 17 57704 466500 D. 17 575550 466480

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category:	Subcategory:	Code:
A. <u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single dwelling</u>	<u>0 1 A</u>
B. <u>Domestic</u>	<u>Multiple dwelling</u>	<u>0 1 B</u>
C. <u>Defense</u>	<u>Arms storage</u>	<u>1 3 A</u>
D. _____	_____	_____

Particular Type: A. _____
 B. apartments, duplexes
 C. armory
 D. _____

Current Function Category:	Subcategory:	Code:
A. <u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single dwelling</u>	<u>0 1 A</u>
B. <u>Domestic</u>	<u>Multiple dwelling</u>	<u>0 1 B</u>
C. <u>Defense</u>	<u>arms storage</u>	<u>1 3 A</u>
D. <u>Commerce/trade</u>	<u>professional</u>	<u>0 2 B</u>

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. <u>Colonial Revival</u>	<u>5 1</u>
B. <u>Bungalow</u> <u>65</u>	C. <u>American Four Square</u> <u>6 1</u>
D. <u>Tudor Revival</u> <u>5 3</u>	<u>Jacobethan</u> <u>5 3</u>
Exterior Materials: Foundation <u>concrete</u>	Other: <u>6 5</u> <u>Roof asphalt</u> <u>6 3</u>
Walls <u>brick</u>	<u>3 0</u> <u>Walls wood</u> <u>2 1</u>
Other <u>wood</u>	<u>Other masonry</u> <u>2 1</u>
Structural System: 1. _____	<u>1 0</u> 2. <u>masonry</u> <u>2 1</u>
Width: <u>3</u> C Depth: <u>2</u>	B <u>2-2 1/2</u> <u>Stories/Height:</u> <u>B</u>

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: C. 1862 to C. 1940s Additions/Alterations Dates: C. ; C.

Basis for Dating: Documentary Physical

Explain:

Architectural styles and features. Documentary sources include published sources, maps, and atlases.

Cultural/Ethnic Affiliation:	1. <u> </u> N/A	2. <u> </u>
Associated Individuals:	1. <u> </u> Ball, Gideon	2. <u> </u> Colt, George C.
Associated Events:	1. <u> </u> N/A	2. <u> </u>
Architects/Engineers:	1. <u> </u> Unknown	2. <u> </u>
Builders:	1. <u> </u> N/A	2. <u> </u>

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation Sheet

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

1982 Survey of Erie conducted by Northwest Institute of Research.
Individual properties surveyed listed on continuation sheet.

EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: Yes No Context(s): Architecture

Contributes to Potential District Yes No District Name/Status:

Explain:

See statement of significance.

THREATS

Threats: 1. None 2. Public Development 3. Private Development 4. Neglect 5. Other

Explain:

District may be impacted by proposed improvements to East Sixth Street as part of the East Side Access Highway project.

SURVEYOR INFORMATION

Surveyor Name/Title: Geoffrey Henry Architectural Historian Date: 1-19-25

Project Name: Erie East Side Highway project

Organization: GAI, Inc. Telephone: 412-856-9220

Street and No.: 570 Beatty Road

City, State: Monroeville, Penna. Zip Code: 15146

Additional Survey Documentation:

Associated Survey Codes:

Survey Code: GAI #6 Tax Parcel/Other No.: _____
County: Erie 049 Municipality: Erie
Address: East Sixth Street, between Reed and State Streets
Historic/Other Name: East Sixth Street Historic District

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

General Description

The East Sixth Street Historic District is located along the north and south sides of East Sixth Street between State Street and Reed Street in Erie. The district is bounded by the east edge of Perry Park and State Street on the west, rear lot lines of properties on the north side of East Sixth Street on the north, the west side of East Avenue on the east, and the rear lot lines of properties on the south side of East Sixth Street on the south.

The district contains approximately 280 contributing historic resources dating from the 1860s to the 1940s, although the overwhelming majority of resources date from the 1890-1920 period.

The district is primarily residential in character with only a few commercial and institutional buildings. The streetscape is clearly different from that found on either Fifth Street to the north or Seventh Street to the south; East Sixth Street is 100 feet wide instead of the usual 600-foot width, and residences along East Sixth Street have large tree-shaded front yards. Buildings in the district range between fair to excellent in condition and the district maintains a good level of architectural integrity.

Individual Building Descriptions

Probably the oldest house in the district is the **Gideon Ball House (049-ER-Z2-1004-210)** at 135 East Sixth Street. It is a 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed brick house built in 1862 in the Italianate style. It possesses elaborate Italianate lintels, cornices and trim around the porches and is one of the more significant examples of this architectural style in Erie.

Much simpler Italianate style farmhouses are located at **530 East Sixth Street** and at **657 East Sixth Street (049-ER-Z11-1019-205)**, both probably dating from the 1870s or early 1880s. The latter house features a tall brick tower, but has been altered somewhat by the enclosing of its porch and addition of a north wing. The one-story Second Empire-style brick carriage house at 628 1/2 East Sixth Street is all that remains of the large **George Colt mansion (049-ERZ-11-1020-116)** that once stood at this location.

The overwhelming majority of houses date from the 1890-1920 period during which time this area was subdivided and developed for a largely middle and upper-middle class population. Most of these are 1-or-2-story, brick or frame houses built in vernacular

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

variants of the Queen Anne, Colonial revival, Tudor revival, Dutch Colonial, American Four Square, or Bungalow styles. Frame houses predominate along East Sixth Street east of Parade Street, and are usually 2-story with a 1-story porch on the front gable end. There are a few houses in this section with such distinctive Queen Anne-style features as turrets and wrap-around porches. Good examples of this are seen at **612 and 605 East Sixth Street**. Residences on the east side of Parade Street are in generally fair to good condition. Typical alterations include the addition of later siding, the addition of porches or wings, and the alteration of window sash.

Brick houses predominate on the area of this district west of Parade Street. These houses are usually 2-story with tall 2-story front porches on the front gable ends. Among the most notable houses on this end of East Sixth Street are the 2 1/2-story brick Queen Anne-style house at **522 East Sixth Street**, with its recessed arch and entrance and a rusticated granite foundation. The house at **529 East Sixth Street (049-ER-Z3-1016-216)** is a large Colonial Revival frame house with a gambrel roof and a 1-story porch with paired Doric columns. It dates from the early 1900s.

There are also several brick and frame Queen Anne-style houses with turrets and wrap-around porches on the 500 block of East Sixth Street, with the house at **531 East Sixth Street** one of the best examples. Many of the houses on the 100 and 200 blocks of East Sixth Street are large 2-story Colonial Revival and American Four Square-style residences with large porches and architectural trim. Many of these buildings have been converted to professional offices and are no longer used as residences, particularly those around the corner of Holland Street.

Although primarily residential in character, the district contains a few large institutional and commercial buildings. The **Pennsylvania National Guard Armory (049-ER-Z3-1016-216)** at East Sixth and Parade Streets is a large 2-story brick building built in two parts in 1920 and 1930. The older portion on the south has curvilinear gables and elaborate limestone trim in the Tudor-Jacobean style around windows and entrances. The 1930 portion is more restrained and has an entrance at the top of a flight of steps at the east. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM — NARRATIVE SHEET
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89C

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Address: East Sixth Street, B etween Reed and State Streets
Historic/Other Name: East Sixth Street Historic District

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The north side of East Sixth Street east of State Street is dominated by the large Georgian Revival-style brick headquarters of the **Erie Insurance company (049-ER-Z2-1005-134)** . Built in 1952, it is a 2 1/2-story building with a central tower and is closely modelled on Independence Hall.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The East Sixth Street Historic District in Erie is potentially significant under Criterion C for its well-preserved collection of residential architecture spanning the years between 1862 and the 1940s. The district contains several intact examples of residences constructed in the Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, Dutch Colonial, Bungalow and American Four Square styles. Many of the buildings are in good condition and the district maintains a high level of architectural integrity.

HISTORY

Sixth Street east of its intersection with State Street and Perry Park was slow to develop during the first half of the 19th century, with most building activity occurring north and west of the square. By 1865 only a dozen houses were standing along East Sixth Street, most of them clustered in the block between State and Holland Streets. One of the most notable of these houses was the Italianate style residence built at 135 East Sixth Street in 1862 by Gideon Ball. Ball, a wealthy silversmith and landowner, served terms as county auditor and treasurer, state legislator, and finally state treasurer between 1849 and 1850. His daughter Oceana lived in the house until her death in 1933. From then until 1974 the house sheltered "aged, respectable maiden ladies of the Episcopal faith" (ECHS Vertical File--Gideon Ball House). It has since been restored and serves as a legal office.

Land east of Holland Street was owned by wealthy businessman George C. Colt. His mansion, built in 1872 at 528 Sixth Street, was one of Erie's largest residences and an excellent example of the Second Empire style (ECHS Vertical File--Colt Mansion). It no longer is standing, a victim of a fire in 1988, although the small brick carriage house at 528 1/2 East Sixth Street still exists. Another house from this era, although far simpler, stands at 530 East Sixth Street.

After Colt's death, his land was subdivided and developed by his heirs beginning in the 1890s (Sanborn Map: 1895). This section of town grew rapidly. Erie's population grew by one-third between 1890 and 1900, fueled by the city's booming industrial economy (U.S. Census: 1900). Both large and small businesses flourished during this period, swelling the ranks of the city's middle and upper middle classes. The building of large industrial plants by

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Hammermill Paper and General Electric Company pushed the city's development even further east along Sixth Street, and shifted the locus of economic activity in Erie. Scores of substantial brick and frame houses in the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Tudor Revival styles were built along East Sixth Street during the 1900s and 1910s and by 1917 the street was fully developed east to Wayne Park. In the 1910s and 1920s the area acquired new churches and schools and in 1920 the majestic Pennsylvania National Guard Armory was built at the corner of Parade and East Sixth Streets (ECHS Vertical File--National Guard Armory). The area along East Sixth Street continued to be a desirable place in which to live until the 1960s, when an out-migration of established homeowners was replaced by lower income renters. Many houses were divided into apartments and allowed to deteriorate, while houses closer to State Street were converted to professional offices.

REFERENCES

"Gideon Ball House", vertical file, Erie County Historical Society, Erie, Penna.

"George C. Colt House", vertical file, Erie County Historical Society, Erie, Penna.

"Pennsylvania National Guard Armory", vertical file, Erie County Historical Society, Erie, Penna.

"Erie Insurance Company Building", vertical file, Erie County Historical Society, Erie, Penna.

Northwest Institute of Research, Data Analysis Report (1982)

Mueller, A. H. Atlas of the City of Erie (1917).

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Erie (various dates between 1888-1952)

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES

The district is bounded by the east edge of Perry Square and State Street on the west, rear lot lines of properties on the north side of East Sixth Street on the north, the west side of Reed Street on the east, and the rear lot lines of properties on the south side of East Sixth Street on the south.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The proposed boundaries include the historic resources located along East Sixth Street, a major east-west artery that is distinguished by its wide width and landscape features from streets located to the north and south of it. East Sixth Street terminated at State Street on the west, marking the district's western boundary. Areas located along East Sixth Street to the east of Reed Street, outside of the district, consist of a large number of modern buildings and a shopping center.

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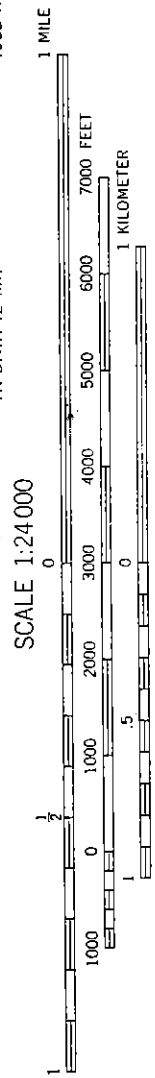
PHOTOGRAPHS

View and Camera Position

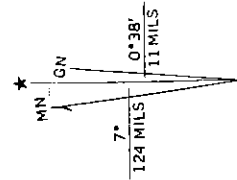
- 21:20 View of 249-252 East Sixth Street west
- 21:13 National Guard Armory, Parade and East Sixth Streets
northeast
- 21:23 Gideon Ball House, 135 East Sixth Street, north facade south
- 21:10 522 East 6th Street s. facade northwest
- 21:11 530 East 6th Street, s. facade north
- 21:8 558-554 East 6th Street west
- 21:22 Erie Insurance Co., 100 block East Sixth Street s. facade
northeast
- 21:31 Perry Square west
- 21:12 529 East 6th Street south
- 21:6 646-644 East 6th Street northwest
- 21:17 402-410 East 6th Street east



ERIE NORTH QUADRANGLE
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 1959, revised 1969, 1975
SCALE 1:24000



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



UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY