



THE LONGWELL HOUSE

Riverboat Captain David Longwell lived in a brick house behind this house during the Civil War. His house, an adjacent barn, and the cellar of nearby Bethel A.M.E. Church were used to hide slaves as part of an Underground Railroad station run by local citizens. After the war, when the Pennsylvania Railroad was being built through Monongahela City, the tracks were laid very close to Longwell's old house. He retained local architect and builder John Blythe to build a new house closer to West Main Street. At that time, Blythe was enjoying a very successful career, and was largely responsible for the architectural transformation of Monongahela City, in the period of a few short years, from a Greek Revival style village to an impressive Italianate small city. Especially notable were his Italian Villa houses of which the Longwell House was the most elegant. This house is distinguished from neighboring Blythe designs by its round attic window, its three-part door composition with etched glass, its tall graceful windows with keystone moldings, and especially its gazebo-like bay window whose steep concave roof lances upward between a pair of second story windows. The porch has been removed, but otherwise the exterior is perfectly in tact. This house has also been recognized as a national landmark for its architectural design.