

Discover Historic Rolling Mill

Written by Chris Stevens

Wednesday, 16 March 2016 20:36 -

DISCOVER HISTORIC ROLLING MILL: *The Architect Designed Homes by Wright Butler (227 Cecelia Street; 408 & 410 Park Street); by Aaron May (404 Park Street); and by J.S. Seibert (404 Park Street)*



The City of Cumberland and the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation, an

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instrumentality of City government, plan to demolish portions of the historic Rolling Mill neighborhood to build incompatible and economically unsustainable low-density sprawl. Proponents of demolition have suggested that the buildings are not historic; so in an effort to better understand what may be lost, we'll be sharing short stories about many of these threatened properties.

227 Cecelia Street, designed by Wright Butler

Although most of the houses in the historic Rolling Mill neighborhood are builder-type, pattern book architecture, local architects designed a number of outstanding homes here. Renowned local architect, Wright Butler, was born as the son of a furniture manufacturer. Butler studied architecture at the Maryland Institute of Baltimore for three years beginning in 1888. At the Institute, Butler familiarized himself with fashionable architectural styles of the time like Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne Architecture. Upon his return to Cumberland in 1891, the young architect opened an office, working mainly on residential designs. In 1893, Butler received his first large commission, the Allegany County Courthouse on Washington Street. Other impressive Butler designs in Cumberland include: the Cumberland Masonic Temple, the Cumberland Liberty Bank Building, the George Troug House on Baltimore Avenue, and Butler's own personal home at 205 Columbia Street which is listed on the National Register and is currently for sale!

Wright Butler designed the 2-story brick house at 227 Cecelia Street for Jonathan Dodd in 1912. Another version of the gable house, this architect-designed house sports a heavily articulated gable in the attic story. The gable is the prominent element in this house as it is in many Rolling Mill homes. It sports slate shingles in both rectangular and diamond-shaped patterns and a Palladian window. Butler included the over-sized double hung windows that he preferred in this period. The porch has been altered with the addition of a new brick porch.

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Park Street opposite the now demolished Queen City Station was the home of many solid, middle-class citizens of Cumberland. Handsome two to three-story houses line the east side of the street. Wright Butler-designed both houses at 408 and 410 Park Street.



408 Park Street, designed by Wright Butler

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J.S. Seibert designed 404 Park Street. J.S. Seibert, a civil engineering graduate of Lehigh University, operated a substantial architectural practice in Cumberland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Other impressive Seibert designs in Cumberland include: Rosenbaum's Department Store on Baltimore Street and the McKaig Mansion at 528 Washington Street. The Butler and Siebert houses contribute to a pleasing streetscape. Employing gables, slate, dormers, wood, stone, and brick, these two architects accomplished harmonious groupings which possess variety and interesting details which give some indication of the earlier grandeur of Park Street.

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the 1910s by the architect as plans for the plans for the house and 404 Park Street designed by

