









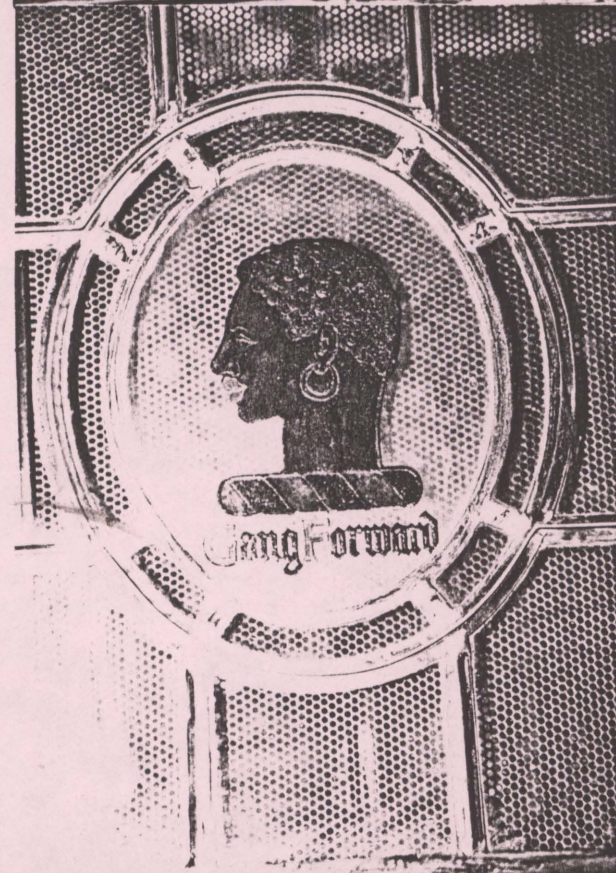
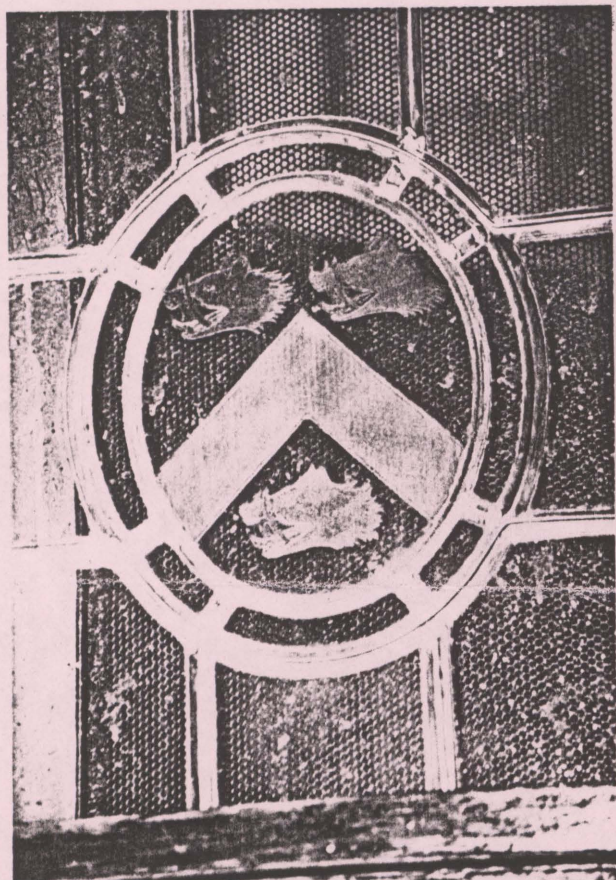
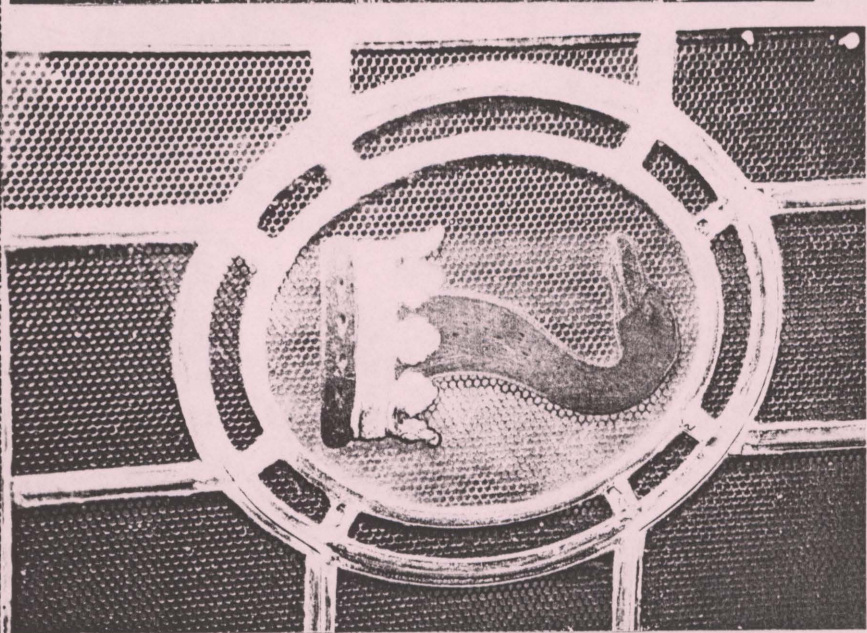
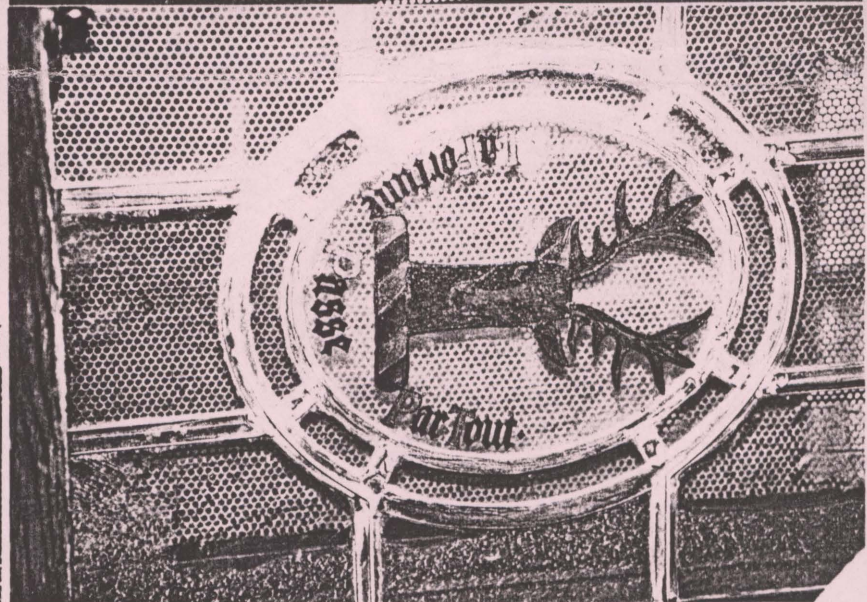
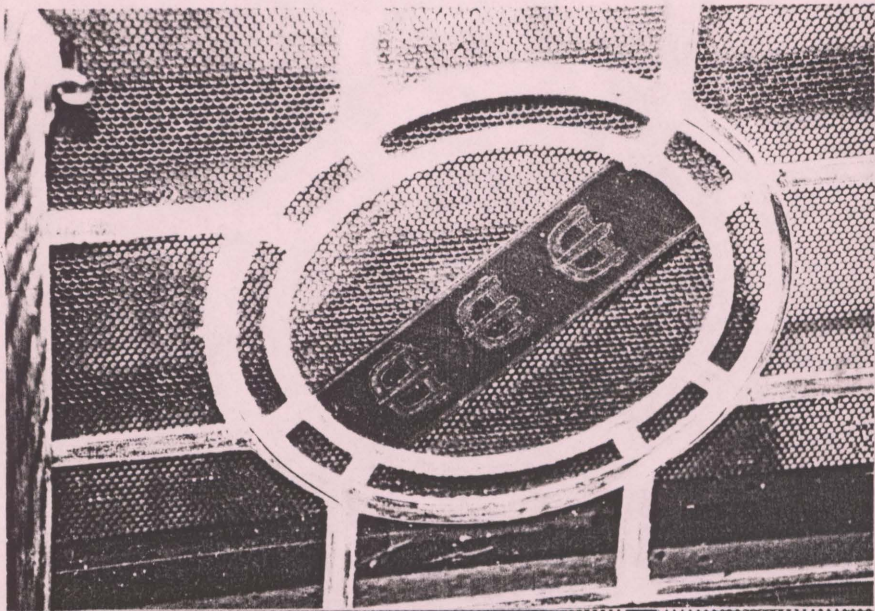
* Joe McDonough

Wilkes

Sterling Hall Library's
6 pane colored glass
(3 sided bow window)

* Joe's done research
on symbols -

Sterling Hall



STERLING



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

River Street Historic District

Luzerne County

has been entered in the

National Register of Historic Places

under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Register of Historic Places, kept by the United States Department of Interior, is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation and includes properties significant in American History, Architecture, Archeology, Engineering and Culture. These resources contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

State Historic Preservation Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely of the Director, Bureau for Historic Preservation.

Director, Bureau for Historic Preservation

September 10, 1985

Date entered

72 S. River St.

STERLING HALL

Built in 1860, Sterling Hall was acquired by the College in 1949. It was received through a bequest of Col. Walter C. Sterling. The Victorian Italinat styling of the building, with its lacy ironwork is reminiscent of the New Orleans Latin Quarter of New Orleans.

Sterling Hall was placed on the Pa. Register of Historical Buildings by Ronald Andrews, a Wilkes College Alumni, and author of this work.

The property that this building was built upon was, at one time, part of the Hollenback Estate.

In 1805- owned by Matthias Hollenback

In 1825- owned by Ellen J; dau. of Matthias Hollenback
other children were: George M. Hollenback

Mary Ann who m. Jas. Laning

Sarah H. who m. Jacob List

Chester Butler?

In 1852- George M. Hollenback bought it from his sister, Ellen, wife of Charles F. Welles

In 1860- sold to Walton Carleton Sterling.

PART OF MATTHIAS HOLLENBACK'S WIFE'S LOT

1805- William Rolfe- Commonwealth--that part of W.B known as "Bullfrog"

1805- 28 June deed to Wm Wright to Josiah Wright..for 60 feet on River St. next to Hollenback line

1805- 27 August Josiah Wright to Lord Butler for same land

1817- Deed Lord Butler to Philadelphia Bank

1831- August- Bank of Phila to Thomas Williamson

1834- Thomas Williamson to David Townend

1837- March 17-deed of Thomas Williamson, D. Townend, et al. to W.H. Alexander

1837- March 28 deed of W.H. Alexander to William Bowman
1838- 6 April deed Alexander, wife of W.H. Bowman to H.B. Wright

1856- 20 July - deed H.B. Wright to John J. Ulf

1867- John Ulf declared Abraham Martin his trustee

1867- Abe Martin sold to G.M. Reynolds

1867- 23 April G.M. Reynolds to W.G. Sterling

During the 1972 flood, damages to Sterling Hall were estimated at about \$50,000

(Information from the Wilkes College Archives- file on the History of their buildings)

added: 1 March 1983

Georgetta Nelson

Sterling Hall
72 South River Street

The building which is presently known as Sterling Hall is said to have been erected as the residence of Walter G. Sterling (1821-1889), a financier. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, the house was probably built about 1860 when Sterling purchased the property.¹ The property was given to Wilkes College in 1949 by Carl Sterling, a descendant of the original owner.² The building, which stands on the easterly side of South River Street, is presently used as a residence hall.

Sterling Hall is an example of residential Italinete architecture of the mid Victorian period. The front porch, which was rebuilt in 1973 after having been damaged by the flood in the prior year, is one of the most prominent features of the facade. Tradition says that the iron work on the porch was made by Robert Wood, a manufacturer of ornamental iron work located in Philadelphia. The principal rooms on the first floor are arranged around an L-shape hall. The main staircase is located in the southerly section of the hall. Of particular interest is the carved marble mantelpiece in the southwest room of the first floor. It is probably indicative of the mantels that were originally used in the other rooms of this floor.

Sections of the first floor of the interior were

renovated in the twentieth century before the college acquired the building. The alterations generally involved changing the style of the rooms from the original Victorian to an "academic" style. William G. Kaelben of the Rochester, New York architectural firm of Gordon and Madden designed several alterations in 1914 for the dining room to the east of the staircase.³ The designs called for the replacement of the north wall with a series of open arches and the installation of casement windows and classical style trim. In 1925 the firm of Gordon and Kaelben, Rochester, drew up a plan to create the present large room, used by the Sterlings as a library, that is on the north side of the center hall.⁴ This plan called for the removal of a partition between two smaller rooms. The cornice of this room was designed by the C. H. Rugg, Company of Rochester.⁵

★
see Mr. Donoghue
Wilkes
has
info.
(
see
windows
family

¹Deed, 1860. (Wilkes College, Finance Office)

²Interview with Dr. Eugene S. Farley, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, November 1, 1971. This contradicts what is stated in Real Property Inventory of Wilkes College, 1969, which lists Gilbert McClintock as the donor. The deed reference given in this publication, however, does not cover the college's acquisition of the property. I was unable to locate the proper deed.

³William G. Kaelben of Gordon and Madden, architectural drawing, 1914. (Wilkes College, Business Office)

⁴Gordon and Kaelben, architectural drawing, September, 1925. (Wilkes College, Business Office)

⁵C. H. Rugg, Company, architectural drawing, 1925. (Wilkes College, Business Office)



Ill. No. 16
Sterling Hall
72 South River Street
Spring, 1972
source: author



Ill. No. 17
Sterling Hall
source: Art Work of Wilkes-Barre.
1910