

Provenance for 117 Philadelphia Avenue, Shillington

June 22, 1884—Howard M. Shilling, oldest son of Shillington founder Samuel Shilling, marries Amelia Stamm. Howard M. Shilling was a well-known educator and successful businessman, born in what is now Shillington in Nov. 29, 1856. It's likely that since the house at 117 Philadelphia Avenue was built by Samuel Shilling for his son to live in, that it was built as a wedding gift, and this would fix the date the house was built: spring or early summer of 1884. One suspects that Howard Shilling left the house after such a short time because his wife died at the age of 26 on July 26, 1888 after just four years of marriage. Shilling would remarry in 1893 (to Annie Elizabeth Maurer) and built a brick residence elsewhere on Philadelphia Avenue in 1904.

December 5, 1891—Public sale of the house and property formerly inhabited by Howard M. Shilling at 117 Philadelphia Ave. produces an insufficient bid; on December 12 a second auction is held and the house is sold to Charles G. Fischer, the highest bidder at \$3500, with the deed recorded on December 19.

June 30, 1894—Charles G. Fischer and Ida C.E. Fischer sell the house to George B. Steinhauer.

August 10, 1899—Rosa F. and George B. Steinhauer sell the house to Michel Thiry.

May 23, 1918—Michel and Clemence V. Thiry sell the house at 117 Philadelphia Avenue to Irvin J. Griesemer for \$6750.

April 20, 1922—After Mr. Griesemer's death, John Updike's grandparents, John F. Hoyer and Katie Z. Hoyer, buy the house at 117 Philadelphia Avenue for \$8000 from Hannah C. Griesemer and her adult children, named as co-owners.

October 26, 1945—John Updike's grandparents, John F. Hoyer and Katie Z. Hoyer, sell the house to Winfield J. Hain and Dorothy G. Hain, and the Updike family moves back to the farm at Plowville once owned by John F. Hoyer, where Linda Grace Hoyer Updike grew up.

April 30, 1946—Winfield J. Hain and Dorothy G. Hain sell the house to Dr. John S. Hunter and Grace G. Hunter. Dorothy and Grace were sisters, and since the Hains never lived in the house it's likely they bought it for the Hunters until the doctor, a returning G.I., could raise the money. In 1950 Dr. Hunter would build a one-story addition to the house, which he used for his practice. To connect the two buildings they knocked out a bay window where a rocking chair and pole lamp were kept during the Updike's tenure in the house.

April (7) 1989—Dr. John S. Hunter and Grace G. Hunter sell the house to Richard J. Snyder and Carole B. Snyder for \$195,000.

June 5, 1989—Richard J. Snyder and Carole B. Snyder sell the house to David H. Stuckert and Linda H. Wegman.

December 29, 1994—David H. Stuckert and Linda H. Stuckert sell the back half of the property and outbuildings to William D. Hicks and Anne S. Hicks.

November 12, 1998—David H. Stuckert and Linda H. Stuckert sell the house to business partners Theodore M. Niemczyk and Tracy M. Hoffmann, who operate a graphic design firm in the building and give tours to Updike pilgrims.

August 27, 2012—The John Updike Society purchases the home from Ted Niemczyk and Tracy Hoffman with the intent of turning it into a historic site and museum. They pay \$180,000, a purchase made possible by a generous donation from The Robert and Adele Schiff Family Foundation and with the assistance of local realtor Conrad Vanino, Jr., who works pro bono.

July 1, 2014—The John Updike Society redesigns the single-story annex so that the former doctor's waiting room can be used as the museum education room and the doctor's office as the museum gift shop. Three examination rooms are converted to office space—117A—and rented to David W. Ruoff Financial Services. Ruoff grew up on Philadelphia Avenue and had Wesley Updike for a teacher. He is a society member and, when available, will give tours of the house.