

BELLEFONTE INDUSTRIES

Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Co.

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What is the Historical Resources Series?

Under a local history grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bellefonte conducted research and documentation of the industrial heritage of the Spring Creek waterfront. As part of this project, Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey forms were completed to document each surviving industrial resource and evaluate its significance. The Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register as a contributing element of the Bellefonte Historic District.

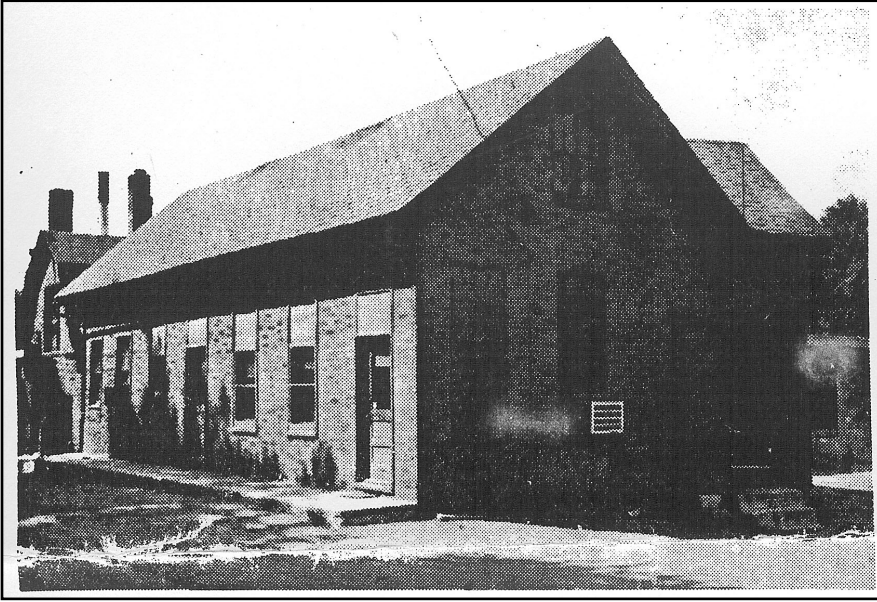
—by Erin Hammerstedt

THE BELLEFONTE AND SNOW SHOE RAILROAD COMPANY ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED THIS BUILDING CIRCA 1865. ALTHOUGH IT WAS USED BY THE RAILROAD FOR LESS THAN TWENTY YEARS, THE BUILDING REMAINED IN USE IN ASSOCIATION WITH A COAL YARD INTO THE 1940S.

The Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company occupied property behind the Bush House from the 1890s into the 1940s, making it one of Bellefonte's longest lasting enterprises along Spring Creek. The oldest of the buildings on this property, which are occupied today by Victorian Signs, was built circa 1865 to serve the Bellefonte and Snow Shoe Railroad Company. In 1874, the building served as offices and scales for the company in association with their coal yard and freight house. Although the building has been highly altered, its stone foundation and four-over-four attic windows survive to reflect the building's period of

construction. The wing attached to this building today occupies the location of scales that weighed the coal carried by rail in and out of the yard.

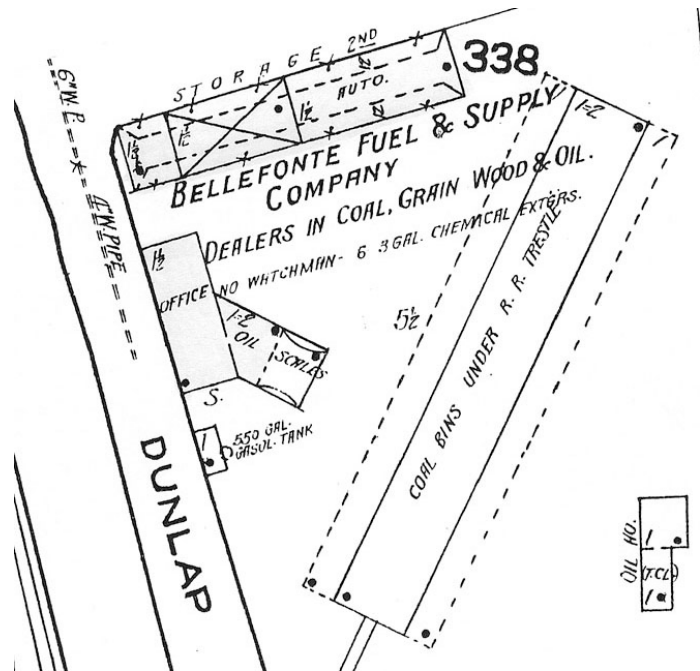
By 1887, the property had become the Harrison & Budd Coal Yard, and a series of conjoined sheds had been constructed along the northern edge of the property. The Harrison & Budd Coal Yard became the Hoover & Miller Coal Yard by 1892, with few notable changes to the property. By 1894, the function of the property had not changed, but it was identified as the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company. Like its



Photograph of the Bellefonte and Snow Show Railroad building while it was in use as the office for Kofman Trucking. Notice that the siding had been modified and window openings shortened by this date. However, a comparison of this photo with the current photo indicates that when the aluminum siding was installed, window openings and evidence that the remaining openings were once taller was covered.

predecessors, the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company handled anthracite and bituminous coal, as well as other types of fuel. They were a wholesale agent for the Atlantic Refining Company, selling their oil and gas exclusively. The Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company had a “large and commodious shed for storing their coal and keeping it dry and clean” and had “teams constantly delivering both oil and coal to their customers.” During the 1890s, Thomas A. Shoemaker and Joseph Montgomery managed the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company. Between 1904 and 1922 the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company built the long, narrow brick building with a flared gambrel roof and a series of gabled dormers and louvered vents along the roof ridge to replace the series of conjoined sheds that had existed on the property since the 1880s. In 1922, this new building housed automobiles in the eastern half on ground level, and the second story of the building was used for storage.

Ownership of the property changed many times, but the it continued to serve as the Bellefonte Fuel and



This map illustrates the property in 1922, in the middle of the 60-year period that it housed the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company. The main building and scales were still present, but the long, narrow brick building had been erected in place of the former sheds along the northern edge of the property.

Supply Company for at least sixty years. When the property was transferred in 1924, it included 1.21 acres of real estate as well as “all the equipment, tools, trucks, horses, wagons, machinery, stock in trade and good will composing the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company.” The buyers agreed to carry on the ongoing business known as the Bellefonte Fuel & Supply Company, and the former owners agreed to pay all accounts contracted prior to the date of sale.

Although the company had been in operation since at least 1894, a certificate of incorporation for the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company was recorded in 1926. The corporation was formed with the “purpose of wholesaling and retailing coal (bituminous and anthracite), wood, hay, straw, grain, and all kinds of oil, gas, gasoline, lumber, and all kinds of building and paving material” in Bellefonte. Capital stock in the company was \$50,000, divided into 500 shares. Subscribers in the company were H. J. Thompson, C. O. Norris, A. Z. Wolf, and Tavish McTavish, all of Curwensville, P. C. Ake (treasurer) of Mahaffey, and L. C. Norris of Clearfield. Also in 1926, the same men listed as subscribers in the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company purchased the property that the company had been occupying for many years. As had been the case in 1924, they purchased the business and all of its equipment, tools, trucks, machinery, existing accounts, etc. in addition to the real estate.

The incorporators of the Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company sold their interests in the property to M. W. Gettig in 1936. Gettig then sold the same property to H. J. Thompson of Curwensville in 1942, and Thompson sold the property to Max H. and Edward Kofman of Bellefonte in 1944.

Several members of the Kofman family operated an unincorporated partnership conducting business under



The Bellefonte Fuel and Supply Company added this building between 1904 and 1922 to replace a series of sheds that stood in its place since the 1880s. The building was used for storage of delivery vehicles on the first floor and hay and other products on the second storey.

the name Kofman’s and Keystone Moving and Storage Company. Shortly after 1950, the company added the large one-story warehouse/garage building that connected the two existing buildings. The principal business of Kofman’s Trucking was transporting goods for Titan Metals and Cerro. When Cerro decided to do their own trucking rather than contracting the work to Kofman Trucking, the company closed. In 1983, the Kofmans sold the 1.21-acre property to Supina Rentals, Inc. The Ham Store, Inc., the property’s current owner, acquired the property in 1994.