

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic *Municipal Building, Central Fire Station, City of Scranton*

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number *340 N. Washington Avenue, 518 Mulberry Street* \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town *Scranton* \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district *10*

state *Pennsylvania* code *42* county *Lackawanna* code \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <i>Fire Station</i>

**4. Owner of Property**

name *City of Scranton, c/o Mayor*

street & number *340 North Washington Avenue*

city, town *Scranton* \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state *Pennsylvania 18501*

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *Lackawanna County Courthouse*

street & number *North Washington Avenue*

city, town *Scranton* \_\_\_\_\_ state *Pennsylvania*

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title *Historic Sites Survey of Lackawanna Co.* has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date *1979* \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records *PHMC / Regional Planning Commission*

city, town *Harrisburg, Scranton* \_\_\_\_\_ state *Pennsylvania*

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Municipal Building:

The Municipal Building of the City of Scranton, erected in 1888 on the southeast corner of Mulberry Street and North Washington Avenue, is a three-story limestone ashlar Victorian Gothic structure trimmed with Ohio sandstone. This edifice is 132 feet long on the Mulberry Street side and 86 feet front on Washington Avenue. The lowest story is a cellar for heating purposes. Next is a basement story mostly above the ground and 12 feet in height, with a suite of offices on the Mulberry Street side; an entrance from the alley for the use of the police to the rear of the building where are the police headquarters, sergeant's room, and two (2) rooms for the confinement of prisoners.

The entrance to the first floor is on Washington Avenue; the vestibule is 10 feet by 30 feet; and the corridor leading lengthwise through the center of the building is 10 feet wide. On the left of this corridor are the treasurer's office and the mayor's office. On the corridor opposite the treasurer's office, are the office of economic and community development, vaults, lavatories, the personnel office and the office of public safety. About the center of the building on the right is the main stairway, 20 feet wide, to the second story. At the head of the stairway and on the Mulberry Street side of the building are located the city council chambers and the city archives. The remaining portion of the second floor is assigned to offices for the city clerk, the controller, and other municipal offices. The third and fourth floors are similarly housed with offices for business administration, purchasing, city solicitor, divisions of the office of economic and community development, etc.

The height of the building from the basement to the attic is about 70 feet, and the tower on the corner of the two (2) streets is 160 feet high. The entire building is fireproof.

Principal facades are vertically divided into five (5) bays and are symmetrical with the exception of the eight-story bell tower that marks the intersection. The remaining three (3) corners of the structure are emphasized by turreted four-story towers capped by steeply pitched hip roofs. Those roofs are adorned by pinnacles in the Decorated style. A slate mansard bands the towers together and is symmetrically pierced by dormers with paired Gothic-arched windows. The central bays of both street facades project from the body of the building and extend above the mansard to form gables. They are further embellished by inset Gothic arches and enframing spires.

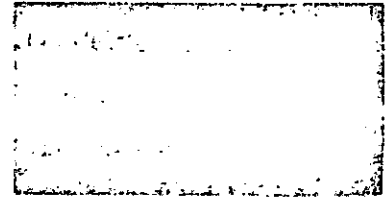
The central bay on the Mulberry Street facade is flanked by wider bays that feature several series of stained-glass Gothic-arched windows. Those windows illuminate the double-story council chambers on the second floor.

A loggia gives prominence to the main entryway on North Washington Avenue. There an arcade of foliated-capped columns supports five (5) pointed arches. A gently-graded stair, broken by a generous landing, leads to the doors and stained-glass sidelights behind the loggia.

The bell tower progresses upward through horizontal bands of closed and open spaces. The central band is characterized by stained-glass rose windows, one on each side. The uppermost band displays open arches enclosed by corner turrets. The steeple is a sharply sloping hipped form.

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*Exterior alterations have been limited to cleaning, trim painting and dark bronze aluminum replacement windows and doors. All stained glass is original and intact, except for that in the rose window which has been replaced by sectors of solid color.*

Central Fire Headquarters:

*The Central Fire Headquarters is a three-story "Palazzo Type" structure attached to the Municipal Building at the second level by an enclosed bridge and built of the same limestone ashlar. The street facade features three (3) vertical divisions. Openings on the first and second floors are capped by segmented arches; openings on the third level are rectangular. A dentilated cornice projects slightly and is succeeded by a crenelated parapet wall.*

*The first floor firehouse doors are sheltered by a wood-decked portico supported on ashlar piers. The side facades display asymmetrical, but rhythmic, patterns of vertical openings. No bays are expressed there.*

*The picturesque bridge between the structures crosses a court and enframes a view of the Courthouse bell tower. The segmented arch span is pierced by vertically proportioned windows and capped by crenelated parapet walls.*

*The bridge and firehouse have not been altered externally, except for the wood and glass overhead garage doors on the ground level of the fire headquarters.*

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

\* **Municipal Building**  
 \*\* **Central Fire Station**

Specific dates

Builder/Architect \* Edwin L. Walter \*\* Frederick Lord Brown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Builders: **Municipal Building**  
**Conrad Schroeder**  
**Central Fire Station**  
**Mathias Stipp**

## Municipal Building:

The Municipal Building of the City of Scranton has been the seat of municipal government since the 1890's. Up to that time, the City of Scranton had been without a Municipal Building and used various offices throughout the City.

The Municipal Building was originally to be built in the North section of the City; but, on May 1, 1887, Mayor Ripple signed the appropriate legislation for the land to be acquired. On June 28 of that same year, legislation was passed permitting development of plans and architectural drawings.

The Municipal Building is architecturally significant in Scranton because of its location; style, scale, and quality of construction; and interaction with surrounding structures. Situated on the crest of a gentle hill, the Municipal Building's bell tower and strong silhouette are prominent from the major expressway into downtown and along Mulberry Street and North Washington Avenue—major east/west and north/south thoroughfares. The structure, exemplary of late Victorian Gothic in America, is of native stone, so it has a color unique to Scranton and is the only building of its particular style in town. It is the focal point of a surrounding group of quality, early Twentieth Century structures, which it complements in scale, color, and texture. It is a major landmark in the downtown area.

## Architect

Edwin L. Walter, a native of Prompton, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, was originally a carpenter who studied drawing and architecture in his spare time. In 1880, he opened an office; and, six years later, he became a member of the American Institute of Architects. His practice was terminated in 1906.

In addition to the Scranton Municipal Building (1888-1893), his designs include the Lackawanna County Jail (1885-87) and the C.P. Matthews residence, a local structure of notable design.

## Central Fire Headquarters:

The Central Fire Headquarters has served as the main location for fire services for the City of Scranton. The structure is the largest operating fire station in the City and also houses ancillary government services.

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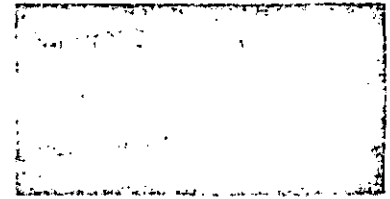
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*This structure is a further complement to the Municipal Building's architectural composition since it is connected by an enclosed bridge-like structure and is of similar construction. It further expands the streetscape to the east and provides architectural balance to the Municipal Building and surrounding structures.*

Architect:

*Frederick Lord Brown was born on June 15, 1859 in Sag Harbor, Long Island, New York, and was graduated from Cornell University with a degree in architecture. For a time, he was a supervising architect for the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C. In 1883, he moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania, and formed the partnership of Brown and Morris with Percival J. Morris. After the dissolution of this partnership in 1895, Mr. Brown continued to practice under his own name until 1920.*

*In addition to the Central Fire Headquarters (1905), he designed the following local buildings: St. Luke's Parish House (Gothic style) in 1898; and the Dime Bank Building in 1891. The latter building, located on the northeast corner of Wyoming Avenue and Spruce Street, is on the National Register of Historic Places.*

# C. Major Bibliographical References

Records on file with the Lackawanna County Historical Society: Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18510. Craft, Rev. David: History of Scranton, 1891. Young, Joseph J., A.I.A. "Early Architects and Architecture of Scranton, Pennsylvania" Charlette Vol. 46, No. 4 April 1966

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .66(.48 Municipal Building; .18 Central Fire)  
 Quadrangle name Scranton, PA Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	1 8	4 4 4 7 3 0	4 5 8 4 2 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 19 & 25, Block 103, City of Scranton

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

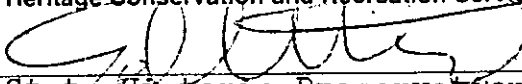
## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anthony M. Caruso, Executive Director  
 organization City of Scranton, O.E.C.D. date \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number 340 N. Washington Avenue telephone 717/ 348-4216  
 city or town Scranton state Pennsylvania 18501

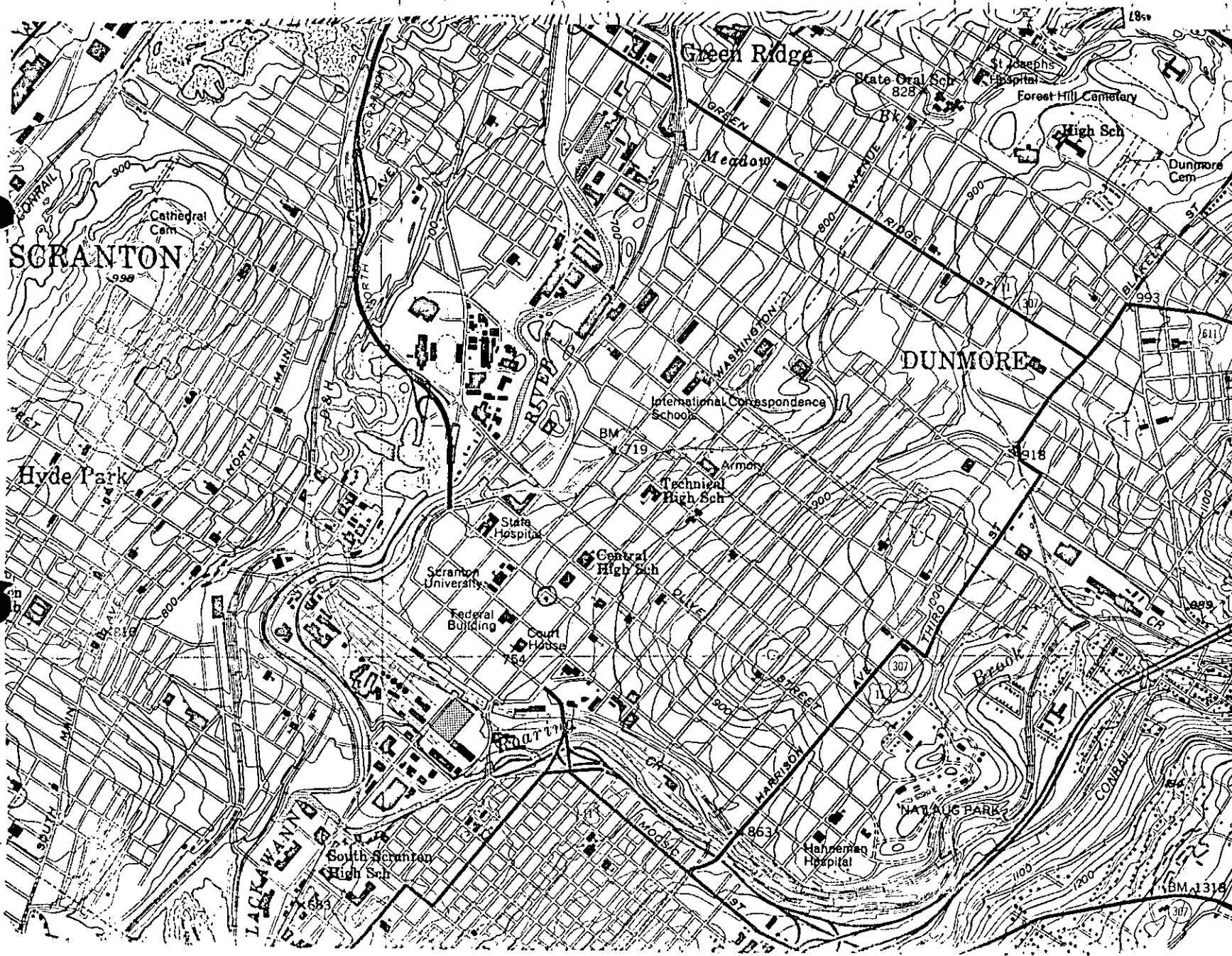
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:  
 national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   
 title Ed Weintraub, Director Deputy, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Bureau for Historic Preservation date 8/5/81

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration \_\_\_\_\_



Municipal Building, Central  
 Fire Station, City of Scranton  
 Lackawanna County  
 Zone 18 5444730 54554260