

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

2/3/78 ED

1 NAME

HISTORIC

CLARK MEMORIAL HALL

NPS Change name to Silas M. Clark House

AND/OR COMMON

History House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth Street and Wayne Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Indiana

VICINITY OF

12th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Indiana

CODE

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Indiana

STREET & NUMBER

8th and Philadelphia

CITY, TOWN

Indiana

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Indiana County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

8th and Philadelphia Streets

CITY, TOWN

Indiana

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

8/24/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Clark Memorial Hall is a three story house built in the Italian villa manner, with the characteristic round headed windows, central tower and arched entranceway. Four bays by six bays the house has a cross gable roof and heavy cornices with brackets and dentils. The walls are smooth brick with large brick quoins. Windows are two over two with rounded arches and carved wooden hoods. Some windows are paired under a common hood. There are bay windows on the north and east elevations. Windows in the tower are in sets of three with connected hoods. The tower once had a finial but this was blown off during a heavy wind storm in 1920 and was never replaced. Below the sets of windows in the tower is a wooden belt course and circular windows with wooden hoods.

Both the north and east elevations have one story wooden porches. Heavy pillars, brackets and dentils decorate these porches. Originally these porches had roof banisters. Since the buildings constructions in 1869-70, both the north and east porches have been enlarged.

Interior doorways also have rounded arches. In 1920, the interior walls separating the diningroom from the livingroom and four second floor bedrooms walls were removed to make larger rooms. The main stairway, and a dumbwaiter and shaft were also removed, as were several fireplaces. Although the marble and tile fireplace in the former parlor still remains.

The present occupant, the Indiana County Historical and Genealogical Society, hope to restore and maintain this building in its original character.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1869-70

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark property adjoins Washington Street in the rear, which is the approximate route of the Kittanning Path over which Lt. Colonel John Armstrong led a party of colonials to destroy the Indian village of Kittanning in 1756. The property also adjoins the present Memorial Park, the first cemetery within the borough of Indiana. Originally owned by George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the property was sold from Clymer's estate to the trustees of the Indiana Academy in 1816. The Academy, the first institution of learning equivalent to a high school in the county, was opened in 1818. The original stone building was originally replaced by one of brick and the Academy was reopened under the name of the Indiana Seminary, a co-education institution. Among its graduates were Matthew Stanley Quay, who later became Republican boss of Pennsylvania, and Silas M. Clark, who returned to teach in the Seminary for several years. The Seminary was destroyed by fire in 1858 and the property was sold to Harry White, later to become a county judge and a prominent Civil War veteran. White sold the property to Silas M. Clark who, in 1869-70 built his residence, the present Clark Memorial Hall.

Silas M. Clark, the descendent of pioneer ancestors who had settled in Indiana and Westmoreland Counties, was born on January 18, 1834. After teaching at the Indiana Seminary, he entered into a law apprenticeship and was admitted, in 1857, to the bar. He had also embarked on a short career as a newspaper man when, in 1856, he established the "Indiana Messenger", a Democratic journal. He was elected as a senatorial delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1872-3, and in 1882 was elected on the Democratic ticket as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Although he was largely known as an able and fair jurist, he never lost his early interest in the field of education. Serving for several years as director of the Indiana County Schools, he became one of the founders of the Normal School of Indiana, now Indiana University of Pennsylvania. When the Normal School opened in 1875 he was serving as secretary on its board of trustees, and after the death of John Sutton he served as president of the board until his death. The early success of this institution can be largely attributed to his intelligent efforts in its behalf.

Clark built his home at a time when Indiana was rapidly growing as the center for county government and higher education. Its elegant style and impressive size show the wealth and feeling of the 1870's and 80's in the town of Indiana. John Sutton Hall, a

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CLARK MEMORIAL HALL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

National Register property on the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was also built in the Italian villa style during the same period. While John Sutton Hall is a good example of the vernacular Italian villa on a large public building scale, Clark Memorial Hall shows this style of building used for a home.

After Clark's death, his residence was occupied by his son, J. Wood Clark. The Pennsylvania legislature passed an act in 1911 allowing county commissioners to erect a monument or memorial to Civil War veterans of their counties. In heirs for \$20,000, and renamed it the Soldiers' Memorial Hall (later dedicated to veterans of all wars). The building was originally planned to be torn down and replaced with a new memorial hall and armory, but due to the urgent wartime need for a Red Cross headquarters and a patriotic meeting place the building was allowed to remain. As the American Red Cross headquarters from 1918 until 1930, the building was known as the Chapter House. In this regard it served as a focal point for war and disaster relief efforts within the county.

Clark Memorial Hall is still the meeting place for many civil, political and veterans groups. Since 1951 the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County has met in the building. Silas M. Clark's library is now the library of the Historical Society.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8
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6	5	6	3	8	0
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4	4	9	8	0	1	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard A. Burkert / Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Historical & Genealogical Society / PHMC

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

6th & Wayne Avenue / Box 1026

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Indiana / Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Berringer, Patricia Jane. "The Public Life of Silas M. Clark." Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, Oct. 1974. pp. 389-401. picture opposite page 393.

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Swetnam, George; Smith, Helene, A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania. University of Pittsburgh Press, 1976. p. 157.

Stewart, Prof. J.T. Indiana County, Her People, Past and Present. J.H. Beers & Company, Chicago, 1913.

Wiley, Samuel T. "Hon. Silas M. Clark." Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Indiana and Armstrong Counties, John M. Gresham & Co., Philadelphia, 1891. pp. 81-89, photo opposite p. 87.

Master's Thesis:

Oravec, Veronica M. A History of the Indiana County Chapter of the American Red Cross. A Thesis Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, December 1973. 296 pages.

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Stephenson, Clarence D. "Biographical Sketch of the Life of Silas M. Clark." 14 pages.

Newspaper Articles:

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 656380 | 4498010
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William J. Wewer

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 1-18-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

