

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

23

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Dime Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast corner of Wyoming Avenue & Spruce Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Scranton

VICINITY OF

10th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Lackawanna

069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
United Penn Bank

STREET & NUMBER

8 West Market Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Wilkes-Barre

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lackawanna County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

200 North Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Scranton

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
10/5/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Harrisburg

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

The Dime Bank Building is one of the most prominent pieces of real estate in downtown Scranton. The building's north and west facades define the active corner of Spruce Street and Wyoming Avenue.

The building presently occupies 70 feet along Spruce Street and about 107 feet of frontage along Wyoming Avenue. The initial structure was a 70' x 70' three story building. The structure received two additions: two additional stories and a 30' x 175' two bay wing extending to the alleyway, which serves the interior of the block. The five floors and basement are masonry-bearing walls and timber construction with the exception of the latest addition, circa 1908. The two bays in the area now occupied by Arby's are concrete and slab fireproof construction. This wing is separated from the timber construction by a fire wall from the basement to the roof, with fire doors on every floor. The interior space has been organized around a monumental wood staircase and several light wells. One well continues through several of the upper floors and a second, larger skylight provides a generous amount of light to the uppermost level.

The north facade is make up of five vertical bays. The west facade has seven bays. The five floors of the building have been expressed as four horizontal layers. The ground level or first layer (same condition on west facade) unfortunately has been totally lost to late twentieth century commercial strip / store front architecture. The second layer — which sheaths the second and third levels — is a composition of long, narrow, two-story arched openings. The arches of massive stonework are subdivided vertically by a delicate red sandstone columnette. The vertical openings are bisected at their midpoint (the second floor) by a recessed cut sandstone spandrel. The fourth and fifth levels (again representing a later addition) depict a somewhat more functional expression, contemporary to early 1900 architecture. The rough sandstone is repeated here, however, with the introduction of more cut and applied ornamental stonework. The window openings have been expressed as simple rectangles. The facade is terminated by a massive flat-iron ornamental cornice. The cornice crowns the building with large brackets and dentals and other finely detailed jewel-like ornament.

The elevation is further delineated with several elements which add three-dimensionality and help to give scale to the otherwise flat facade. The first of these expressions takes the form of a delicately ornamented bay window at the beginning of the facade along Spruce Street. The facade then moves westward to the corner, where the building responds in the form of a five story turret. This then leads to the Wyoming Avenue elevation. A third element is a three story rectangular projection which is terminated at the third floor by a large arched masonry opening. The Wyoming Avenue elevation then continues for seven bays to complete the facade.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input 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 checked="" 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 1890--91

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dime Bank and Trust Company was organized in 1890 as a people's banking company. The building was built on the corner of Spruce Street and Wyoming Avenue in 1890 to 1891, and the bank opened for business March 30, 1891, organized for the small depositor. It is said to have received its name from the fact that anyone, even a newspaper boy could open up an account with ten cents, a dime. The Dime Bank merged with another bank in 1913 and then merged with the Peoples Savings Bank in 1917. The Bank was very prosperous for many years, but almost failed in the 1929 crash. It was saved by merging with the First National Bank in 1930. Since that time, the building has been an office building with stores and shops on the ground floor. It was built on the site of the William Silkman residence which stood there many years before. A Whelan's drug store occupied that corner for many years. This was then replaced with a men's clothing store. The upper floors have housed a health club and this business is still operating. There have also been offices for legal firms.

The exterior facade of the Dime Bank Building not only represents an exquisite example of "Richardson-like" Romanesque, but it also is an important contribution to the containment and definition of the surrounding urban space. The style is Romanesque and is characteristic of the best commercial buildings of the 1890's. The dynamic use of rough, massive masonry, semicircular arched openings, tower and bay windows represent the powerful expressions of the eclectic-romantic tradition of domestic architecture at the turn of the century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, H.L. History of Scranton, 1914.

History of Lackawanna County. Murphy, Thomas, 1928

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .8

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 444400 | 4584080

B _____ | _____ | _____

C _____ | _____ | _____

D _____ | _____ | _____

E _____ | _____ | _____

F _____ | _____ | _____

G _____ | _____ | _____

H _____ | _____ | _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Peter Cupple, M.D.

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Heritage Association

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1656 Sanderson Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Scranton

STATE

Pennsylvania 18509

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William J. Wewer

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION

DATE

3/16/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

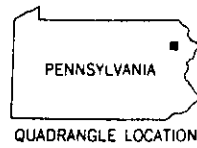
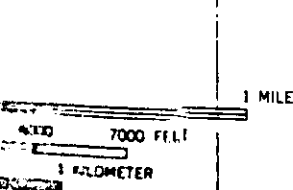
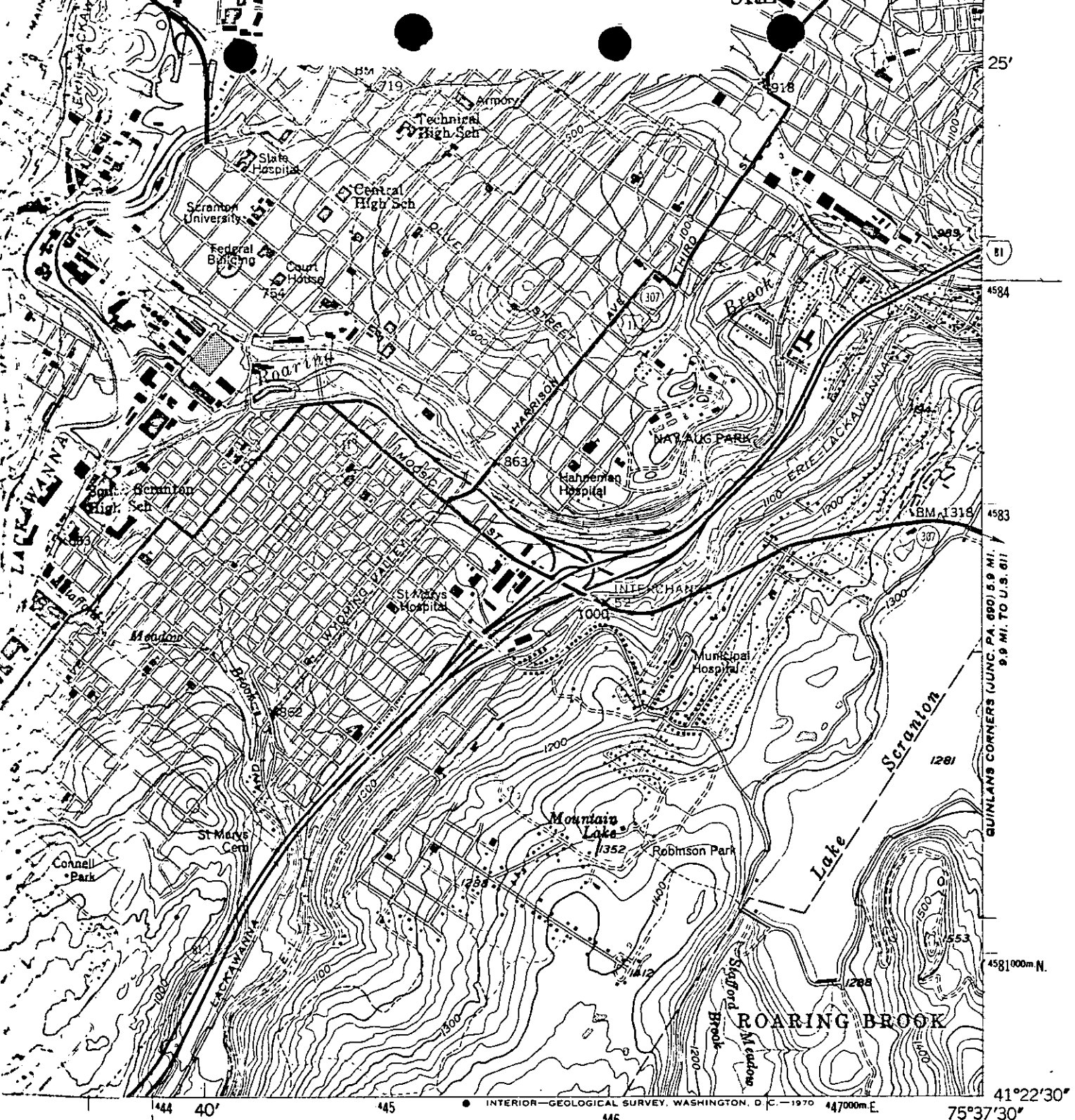
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
⊖	Interstate Route	⊖	U. S. Route
⊖	State Route	⊖	State Route

SCRANTON, PA.

N4122.5—W7537.5/7.5

1947
PHOTOREVISED 1969
AMS 5866 1 NW—SERIES V831

DC 70242
TABLE ON REQUEST

(MOSCOW)
5866 1 SE