

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Warren
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING**

1. NAME

COMMON: Struthers Library Building
AND/OR HISTORIC: Library Theatre

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Third Avenue and Liberty Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Warren		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 23rd Congressional District	
STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Warren	CODE 123

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of the Struthers Foundation		
STREET AND NUMBER: in care of Warren National Bank		
CITY OR TOWN: Warren	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Warren County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER: Market Street and Fourth Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Warren	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites and Landmarks (a list submitted to Edward F. LaFond)		
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
Pennsylvania

COUNTY:
Warren

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Struthers Library Building is a red brick structure 162 feet long and 73 feet wide consisting of three distinct divisions set one behind another with varying rooflines, each expressing outwardly the different functions within.

In the foremost section is the entrance to the theatre which is covered by a marquee and is flanked, at ground level, by shops on each side. The second and third stories of this section, consisting of an early public library and a large meeting hall respectively, are lighted by large Italianate and rectangular windows containing colored glass in their upper parts. The center window of the second floor has an imposing stone balcony just above the theatre entrance. The floors in this section of the building are strongly marked by string courses of stone and corbelled brick and there is a heavy corbelled brick cornice at the roof line. Surmounting this block is a tower on the southeast corner which dominates the entire structure and adds interest to the skyline as viewed from any angle. Attached to the west side of this front section is a three story brick appendage which has internal connection with the main building and is architecturally unrelated.

Behind the front block and slightly indented is a somewhat lower section which contains, to its full height, the auditorium of the theatre, and which by its length adds great massiveness to the building. The two-story high arched windows in this section were bricked up when the theatre was remodelled internally in 1919 so that no light could enter the auditorium from outside. The entire section is again capped by a heavy cornice of brick dentils.

The last part of the building to the rear is the stage itself, three stories in height and making a strong vertical statement as compared with the horizontal mass of the auditorium. A three story block of dressing rooms was added in 1919 with no effort made at stylistic integration. Overall, the impression which the building makes is one of somber, well-proportioned dignity and bulk. Its architectural lineage might be said to go back to the Renaissance.

Internally, important renovations were made in 1919 by the New York firm of Wetmore and Warren, the architects of Grand Central Station. These changes principally affected the auditorium and, in the spirit of the time, were directed towards eliminating the ornate fussiness of an earlier period already in disfavor. Original balcony, boxes, proscenium, and seating arrangements all were swept away and remodeled in simpler form, every vestige of the old decoration disappearing at this time. The result is an auditorium still pleasing in mass, proportion and line, though grown shabby with time and certainly lacking the period charm of the original interior. Restoration of the surface, however, might again reveal the charm of the 1919 renovation, for the changes made at that time remain a credit to the firm which brought them about, and with the passage of time they have acquired a period appeal and flavor of their own.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1883

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Community</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>cultural</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	<u>center</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The Struthers building has architectural and cultural significance for the town of Warren. In 1882 and 1883, Thomas Struthers, Warren industrialist, erected a massive, imposing brick building which was to become the center of cultural activity for the town. It housed an opera house, a public library, a Masonic hall, and on the first floor, store spaces, including one for the post office. The theatre, although it was extensively remodeled in 1919, is still in use, under lease to a firm which operates a chain of movie houses. The library is no longer a public facility but it is used for storage by the Warren County Library Association. First floor spaces are still in use by local retail firms. Major architectural features of the library room and theatre (after remodeling) are still intact, and the impressive exterior has been little changed from its original appearance; the building is a fine example of Victorian architecture. It seems possible that with appropriate repairs the two upper floors of the building could be restored to public use.

For most of its lifetime, the Struthers Library Building has been the scene of much activity of a cultural nature. Although it is used only for films today, the theatre itself, both before and after remodeling, was the town's major facility for opera, legitimate theatre, variety presentations of all kinds, and for local and touring concert groups. For over thirty years the library served Warren, and it provided a space for various museum-type displays of collections gathered by local people. The third floor, originally a Masonic hall, was the first home of the New Process Company, one of the largest and most successful mail order clothing firms in the country. Both the post office and the offices and plant of "The Warren Ledger" were once housed in the building, and occupants of the other store spaces and rooms in a later three-story brick addition have included physicians, realtors, music teachers, and the United States Forest Service. Thus the Struthers Building is a reminder of the cultural Warren's past cultural life, and a potential site for future cultural activities as well.

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
APR 13 1983
FBI - WARREN

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Various authors, *Historic Buildings in Warren County, Vol. 1*, Warren County Historical Society, 1971, pages 2-4.

(pamphlet) "The Struthers Library Building," *The Warren Library- Its Home and Benefactors*, Warren, PA., 1884.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	41° 50' 48"		79° 08' 53"	
NE				
SE				
SW				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Chase Putnam, Curator, and Quinn Smith

ORGANIZATION: Warren County Historical Society DATE: June 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 427, 210 Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Warren STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____
 Title William J. Wewer
Executive Director
PA. Hist. & Museum Commission
 Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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