

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

PLUMER BLOCK

AND/OR COMMON

HANCOCK BUILDING

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1205 Liberty Street (at corner of 12th st.,
CITY, TOWN lot #141)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Franklin

VICINITY OF

23

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Venango

121

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:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Joseph and Jacqueline K. Poliforn

STREET & NUMBER

1501 Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 16323

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Venango County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty at 12th Street

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Pennsylvania 16323

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

6/7/77

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania 17120

INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE APPLICATIONS

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 three story Plumer Block sits on the corner of Liberty and 12th Streets, across the street from the Venango County courthouse in downtown Franklin. The flat roofed red brick structure is a local example of the Victorian Italianate style.

The first story is used for commercial purposes and has large radiating arches with massive keystone forming the window openings. Some of the shop entrances have been altered from the original by the addition of Victorian store fronts with rectangular windows. The first story brick and stone trim have been painted white setting it off from the up two story's which remain red brick.

The second story has elongated 2 over 2 windows with stilted segmental or straight-sided arches associated with the Victorian Italianate style. Between each window on the second and third story runs a raised panel of decorative brickwork which helps to tie these two stories together visually. At the top of each panel is a small decorative stone arch.

Between the second and third stories is a decorative belt course of stone and recessed rectangular sections. The third story windows are also two over two but have semi-circular stone arches. Above the third story windows the frieze and overhanging lip are highly decorated with large and small dentils.

Alterations have been mainly interior except for the altered store fronts and addition of a fire escape. Originally all the trim was left, the natural brownstone color but today all the stonework has been painted.

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/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

November 1866

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Builder: Arnold Plumer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Plumer Block was built in 1866 at a time when Franklin was the booming county center for the infant Pennsylvania oil industry. Only seven years earlier, Drake had drilled his first oil well at nearby Titusville.

Built by Arnold Plumer, an outstanding citizen of the early oil period, the Plumer Block housed the first bank in Franklin, many commercial ventures and numerous lawyer's office.

Arnold Plumer served as sheriff, prothonotary, clerk of courts, recorder of deeds and register of wills of Venango County. He was member of the 25th and 27th Congress of the United States, the United States Marshall for the western district of Pennsylvania, an Erie Extension Canal Commissioner and a State Treasurer. As a close friend of James Buchanan, his assistance helped in Buchanan's election to the Presidency, for which he was offered cabinet post, which he declined because of poor health.

Located across the street from the Venango County Courthouse, the Plumer Block has enjoyed an ideal location for business for over 100 years. Built in the Victorian Italianate style it predates the courthouse by three years which is also of the same style. Little altered over the years, the Plumer Block maintains the character and richness of the early oil period in Venango County.

Today the building is known as the Hancock Building, named after James D. Hancock who purchased the building in 1911. In 1866 when the building was completed, Mr. Hancock was one of the original tenants having occupied a suit of law offices for 46 years before he purchased the building. He was attorney for the Allegheny Railroad, the Pittsburgh-Titusville, and Buffalo Railroads, and the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad. Later he was attorney for most of all valuable oil properties in Venango County.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

The Plumer Block with its attractive white trim adds to the character to the downtown area and the nearby courthouse.

Irwin, Alfred. "Hancock Building Pres. Courthouse" The News Herald, Franklin, Pennsylvania Dec. 19, 1968.

Newton, J. H. ed. History of Venango County. Columbus: J.A. Caldwell, 1879

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .3

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	5 07 0 20	4 5 8 32 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

Kathryn H. ^{ent}Yaska / Susan M. Zacher

7/1977
DATE

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET & NUMBER

1400 Elk Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Pennsylvania 16323

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 and Museum Commission

DATE 9/13/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

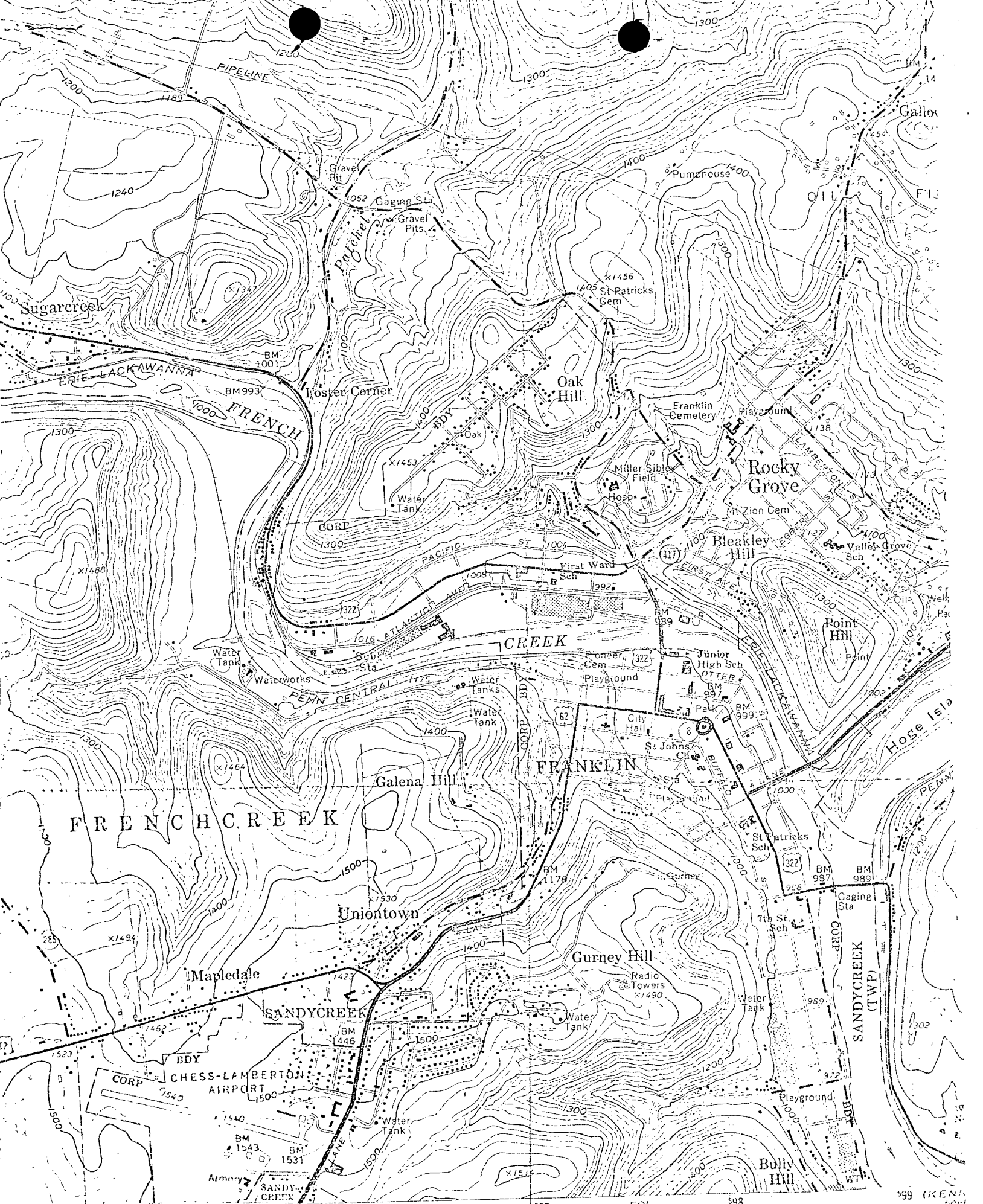
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



1:50,000 FEET 8 9 MI. TO PA. 308 597 50' 598 599 (KENN) SCALE