

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC RUTER HALL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Located on N. Main St. on Allegheny College Campus

CITY, TOWN

Meadville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

24th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Crawford

CODE

039

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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

Allegheny College

STREET & NUMBER

520 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Meadville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Crawford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

903 Diamond Park

CITY, TOWN

Meadville

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

10/19/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
William Penn Memorial Museum, P. O. Box 1026

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

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

Ruter Hall's present exterior appearance is identical to its appearance when constructed in 1853. It is a three story, rectangular building measuring 50 by 90 feet. It is constructed of brick on a stone foundation. Its low gable roof and pediment with wide plain cornice outline the roof with clean and simple lines. Windows are nine over nine with plain frames and wide stone lintels and sills. Doorways are located in the center bays of the gable ends. The front entrances open on Main Street. Three stone steps lead to plain but massive classical doorway flanked by two square pilasters. The rear door is identical except that the hood is triangular.

Ruter Hall is a fine pure example of the Greek Revival style.

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"/> 400-1499 | <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 checked="" 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ruter Hall was the second building constructed on the Allegheny College Campus, the oldest college west of the Allegheny Mountains, founded in 1815.

The architecture of this three story brick building is exceedingly plain. When it was first constructed Ruter Hall suffered by comparison with its handsome neighbor, Bentley Hall. Mid 19th century students did not regard it kindly dubbing it "the factory". Despite opinions of the students of yesteryear, Ruter Hall may be considered architecturally more valuable than Bentley Hall, because it is a purer example of Greek Revival architecture. Ruter Hall utilizes red brick. Its building form resembles that of a Greek temple. The choice of a Greek temple form for Allegheny College's second building in 1853 was a natural one. The college, formed in 1815, was a clear reflection of the classical concern which swept the young nation in the first half of the 19th century. For its first President the Trustees chose Timothy Alden, Harvard scholar, professor, antiquarian, librarian and clergyman. Alden himself was imbued with classical knowledge and concern and led the new college down a Classical path which was reflected in Bentley Hall, the college's first building.

As could be expected, the new college in the semi-frontier community of Meadville faced financial problems that were nearly insurmountable. Year after year the new college faced financial disaster. The problem was not solved until the Methodists assumed sponsorship of the college in 1833. Bentley Hall, a classical styled building of considerable architectural merit, was completed and the college began to grow significantly. By 1850, an additional building was needed, and again a classical style was deemed necessary to reflect the character of the school. However, unlike Alden's Bentley Hall which he designed himself, the new building was to be much more basic and lacking in refinements that cost large amounts of needed money. Ruter Hall, then, was erected with excellent adherence to classical proportions and appearance, but with very simple decorative motifs. The central doorway displays a set of simple pilasters topped by a very basic but elegant pediment, reflective of the gable ends of the structure. The brick walls are pierced with equally simple but classically proportioned windows. Wall surfaces are as smooth as the brick material allows. The roof has a low pitch, like temple roofs. All the windows and doors are trabeated, which reinforces the building's straight forward, simple style. It has a simple rectangular shape, without either

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RUTER HALL - Crawford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Significance (continued):

projections or re-entrant angles. Bilateral symmetry governs the design of Ruter Hall as is typical of the Greek Revival style.

The architectural style of Ruter Hall, as with the earlier Bentley Hall, reflected not only the classical curriculum offered by the college, but the prevalent belief that the classical world was a proper example for the young democratic nation. The strong feelings of Jacksonian Democracy had yet to run their course in the western Pennsylvania forests and newly formed cities and towns. The buildings of young Allegheny College clearly reflected this aspect of America's history.

Ruter Hall was named in honor of the Reverend Martin Ruter, D.D., the first Methodist president of the College. Reverend Ruter served as president from 1834 to 1837 and was the college's second president. Reverend Martin Ruter was a many-talented man; pastor, missionary, college president, publishing agent, and linguist. In the field of education he advanced many new ideas. In 1817 he founded the First Methodist Academy in New Market, New Hampshire; this was the first co-educational school in the United States. At Allegheny College he developed the Manual Labor Plan in which students could pay their expenses by working for the College or in the community of Meadville.

This educational experiment was broadly advertised and resulted in attracting to Meadville many youths of limited financial means who had intense ambitions to secure an education. Ruter, also, was successful in securing a grant from the Pennsylvania Legislature to aid the college in handling financial difficulties. Through Ruter's efforts Allegheny College became widely known as an excellent place for a person with small means to obtain a quality education.

Ruter left Allegheny, in 1837, to become a missionary in Texas. He spent less than a year in Texas before he died at the age of 51. But he left behind a charter issued by the Republic of Texas for a college and sufficient pledges to enable the college, the first in Texas, to open in two years. Significantly enough, the college was named Ruter-ville College. Ruterville College is still in existence through its lineal descendant Southwestern University, located at Georgetown, Texas.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 Acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 57,10,8,0 4,6108,6,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

John P. Davis

ORGANIZATION

Crawford County Planning Commission

DATE

December 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Crawford County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Meadville

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

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

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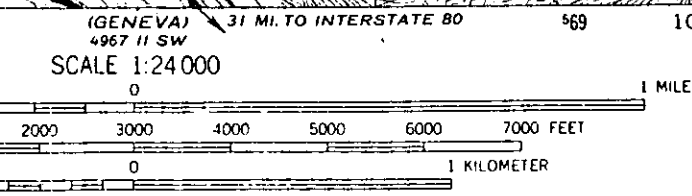
RUTER HALL - Crawford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

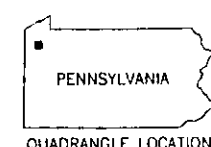
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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- Smith, Ernest, Ashton. Martin Ruter. (New York: The Methodist Book Concern, 1915).
- Smith, Ernest, Ashton. Allegheny, A Century of Education. (Meadville, Pa.: The Allegheny History Company, 1915) pp. 84-110, pp. 141-144.
- Stotz, Charles Morse, A.I.A. The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania, (Pittsburgh: Wm. Helburn, Inc., For the Buhl Foundation, 1936) p. 154.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



COCHRANTON 12 MI. FRANKLIN (U.S. 62) 28 MI. INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1975 572000m E

41°37'30" 80°07'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface ————

Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface ————

Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface. ————

Unimproved road, fair or dry weather. ————

○ Interstate Route ◻ U. S. Route ○ State Route

MEADVILLE, PA.
 N4137.5—W8007.5/7.5

1968
 PHOTOREVISED 1973
 AMS 4967 II NW—SERIES V831