

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ad-Lin Building

and or common Linden Plaza

2. Location

street & number 600 Linden Street (Corner of Adams Ave. & Linden St.) N/A not for publication

city, town Scranton N/Avicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Lackawanna code 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Ad-Lin Building Partnership

street & number 600 Linden Street

city, town Scranton N/Avicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Lackawanna County Courthouse, Courthouse Square

city, town Scranton state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lackawanna County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Lackawanna County Courthouse Annex

city, town Scranton state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed in 1896, the Ad-Lin Building is a four-story brick commercial building located across from the Courthouse Square, in Central City Scranton. Construction in the Classical Revival/Commercial Style, the basically rectangular building measures 45' in width at the Adams Avenue side and 150' in depth at the Linden Street side. In addition to its four stories above sidewalk level, the building has a full basement area which was never finished prior to the recent (1985) renovations. The primary exterior building material (excluding wood windows and glazing) is running bond brick masonry with decorative metal ornamentation at pier capitals, parapets, and entablatures. Visually supporting entablature "bands" are masonry columns and piers, which vertically subdivide the building into two distinct architectural bays at the Adams Avenue elevation and ten bays at Linden Street. The remaining two elevations are secondary in nature and, especially at the rear, are devoid of ornamentation. The original interior finishes and details are basic, consisting of plaster wall/ceiling finishes and wood base, door and window trim, typical of late Nineteenth Century commercial architecture. The one exception to the relatively plain interior treatment is the fourth floor "auditorium" area, which is highlighted by a pressed metal ceiling. The nominated property contains one contributing building.

BUILDING EXTERIOR:

The two principal elevations (Linden Street and Adams Avenue) are similarly detailed, and at first glance, identical. At both elevations, large expanses of glass were introduced at sidewalk level to benefit the commercial/business usages; the upper office floors are glazed with repetitive clusters of wood double hung windows. The only deceptive aspect of the building when viewed from the exterior is at fourth floor level, where the fenestration pattern is consistent with the middle two floors (Linden Street only) despite the change in function (auditorium versus office space).

At roof level, the principal elevations feature a projecting metal cornice with metal brackets at the underside. The next major horizontal element is a continuous metal entablature between the third and fourth floor windows. This entablature is visually carried by projecting masonry piers stretching two stories in height. These two-story piers are topped with a decorative metal capital (Ionic influence) and rest on projecting stone bases. Immediately beneath these piers is the last major horizontal element, again in the form of a metal entablature. This is located between the first and second floor windows and is "carried" by heavy masonry columns. These columns are also accentuated with metal capitals and stone bases and they represent the only masonry element at first floor level (principal elevations only). The space between these columns is completely infilled with wood and glass storefront construction.

However, despite many similarities between the two principal elevations, a closer look does reveal that somewhat greater importance was placed upon the Adams Avenue side, no doubt a result of its relationship to Courthouse Square. More specifically, the Adams Avenue elevation possesses a wider bay spacing which typically permits (at upper floors) the introduction of large Chicago windows between two double-hung windows. At the Linden Street side, the distance between projecting masonry piers is smaller and fenestration groups consist of either two or three adjoining double-hung windows. In all probability, the large fixed glass sections were introduced to enhance the quality of interior space fronting on Courthouse Square, and were made possible by the incorporation of light steel members in spandrel sections.

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The other noticeable difference between the Linden Street and Adams Avenue elevations is the appearance of an open balustrade at the Adams Avenue side. At the other two sides, the building is "capped" with a metal parapet wall, containing recessed panels which (at Linden Street) align with double-hung windows below. Projecting metal piers, corresponding with the location of brick masonry piers below, are also incorporated into the parapet wall facing Linden Street. Due to the existence of the balustrade and metal parapet walls, the building's low hipped roof construction is completely concealed from sidewalk level.

The building elevation facing Kressler Court is somewhat "transitional" in nature, as a result of its varying degree of visibility. More specifically, the decorative metal entablature, pilaster capitals and masonry piers extend around the corner from Linden Street and down Kressler Court, but only a distance of approximately 10'-0". From this point to the rear corner (which cannot be seen without special effort), only the buff colored brick, metal parapet wall and projecting cornice at roof level remain, all other ornamentation and detailing typical of the two major building elevations is omitted. Overhanging Kressler Court and attached to the building wall is a metal fire escape which still serves as a required means of egress. This was retained, repaired and upgraded as part of the 1985 renovation project.

At the rear elevation, the facade possesses a slight offset (5'-0" in plan view), which most likely was introduced to create a "lightwell" at the point where the Ad-Lin Building abuts an adjacent Adams Avenue structure. This offset begins approximately 40'-0" from the Adams Avenue property line and the resulting 5 feet strip of land represents the only non-developed portion of the site. As a result, the site contains no outbuildings and only one minor attachment in the form of a small rudimentary shed roofed structure protecting the exterior basement stairs from the elements. The rear elevation is faced with a reddish brown common brick and, with the exception of wood double-hung windows at all floors, contains no other architectural detailing. Also, brick mortar joints at the rear elevation are standard size, as opposed to the tight (1/8") joints found at the principal facades.

BUILDING INTERIOR

The interior of the Ad-Lin Building (pre 1985) was very basic and consisted of plaster walls, plaster ceilings and common wood trim configurations. The only aspect of the interior that could be categorized as unique is the fourth floor auditorium space (82' x 36'), which is highlighted by a pressed metal ceiling and decorative wood entrance screen at the westerly end. The present interior appearance will be discussed in further detail within the following section of this description.

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DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING AND SITE ALTERATIONS

In 1985, the Ad-Lin Building was rehabilitated following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Exterior treatments included non-abrasive cleaning of brick walls, repointing of mortar joints, retention and refurbishment of operable wood windows, and repair and painting of ornamental metal work. Wood storefront construction was restored at bays possessing old design elements while bays which had been sealed with plywood or other non-historic materials were renovated to blend with surviving wood and glass storefront construction. Interior renovations included addition of a central stair/elevator lobby at the approximate midpoint of the Linden Street elevation, replacement of the staircase (not a significant architectural feature) with a more centrally located code-complying firestair and passenger elevator, and minor addition and removal of partitions on the second and third floors. Second and third floor woodwork and doors were retained and reused to the greatest possible extent. The metal ceiling, decorative wood screen and wood trim at windows and base of the fourth floor auditorium were also retained. No full height partitions were constructed within the auditorium area and special care was taken to terminate stair and elevator enclosures short of the existing metal ceilings.

In summary, the Ad-Lin Building has seen surprisingly little change over the years and the objective of the recent (1985) renovation was to maintain the buildings inherent architectural integrity while accommodating new uses and complying with present-day fire and panic codes. In several instances, its design integrity was not only preserved but, in fact, restored as evidenced by the first floor storefront improvements. As a result, the building stands today with all significant features typical of Classical Revival/Commercial architecture fully intact and its importance to the community in this respect will be discussed in detail within the following section.

8. 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896-1897 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ad-Lin Building is a locally significant example of turn of the century commercial architecture. Completed in 1897, the Ad-Lin Building employed a design not common among local commercial buildings of its era which combined traditional internal structure of heavy and light timber framing with an external expression of steel frame technology and the reduced ornamentation of the Classical Revival and Commercial Styles. The Ad-Lin Building survives with excellent integrity and clearly illustrates a transitional stage of local commercial construction.

When first placed in service (1896), the structure was referred to as the P.P. Carter Building and, since then, it has continually housed a wide variety of commercial/business enterprises including a printing company, axe and mining tool sales (P.P. and M.P. Carter, Proprietors), sweet shop, bank & trust company, dance studio, advertising agency, bus terminal and newsstand. In 1928, the structure became known as Ad-Lin (Adams Avenue and Linden Street) Hall. From the date of initial construction and until the renovations in 1985, there is no record of major alterations, nor is there any physical evidence that the structure underwent significant change.

In the time span between 1870 and 1900, Scranton experienced tremendous growth and prosperity and the commercial building from which dominated this era was the mid-rise (three to four stories) "walk up", constructed of masonry bearing walls and wood frame infill. The facades of these buildings were fundamental from a structural standpoint, usually consisting of storefront construction at street level and minimal amounts of window area at upper floors. Details originating from past architectural styles normally highlighted these facades and in Downtown Scranton Italianate, Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival influences were most prevalent. Examples of these buildings may be seen today in the 300 block of Penn Avenue.

In comparison to the above described structures, the Ad-Lin Building has several similarities and, in these respects, belongs to the 19th Century. More specifically, roof and floor framing is accomplished with wood bearing on masonry walls at the building perimeter and wood columns and beams at interior locations. Also, the building was not constructed with an elevator core, placing it into the category of a four-story "walk-up".

However, in other significant respects, the Ad-Lin Building went beyond the typical late 19th Century commercial formula by adopting elements of the more modern Classical Revival and Commercial Styles. For example, the building's restrained exterior ornamentation and large expanses of glass on the Adams Avenue elevation are elements which, in 1896, were uncommon even on the few

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high-rise structures completed or underway in the Downtown area. Other typical features of the Ad-Lin Building include the relatively flat profiles of facades, balance of horizontal and vertical elements and, on the Adams Avenue elevation, Chicago windows. In contrast to the Ad-Lin Building, the Brooks and Mears Buildings, both of which are high-rise brick structures completed in the early to mid 1890's and both of which are situated on Courthouse Square have low ratios of window to wall mass and are ornamented with stone trim and other detailing. An inspection of these "contemporary" buildings reveals that although, in comparison to the Ad-Lin Building, they were technologically superior in many ways (elevators, steel frames, etc.), the exterior treatments lack the design clarity of the Ad-Lin Building. Not until well into the new century did the simplified facades become visible in Scranton's streetscape. For example the Household Building at 306 Lackawanna Avenue (Lackawanna Avenue Commercial Historic District-NR), an eight story building which features prominent second story Chicago windows, was not built until 1924.

Also, worthy of note is the fact that after the turn of the century, major high-rise construction was undertaken which employed ornate historical revival, as opposed to Classical Revival or Commercial Style elements. For example the Scranton Life Building (1916), is an eight story glazed terra cotta tile high-rise executed in the Late Gothic Revival Style. Although constructed of steel and concrete with a group of three elevators in the main entrance lobby, the Scranton Life Building is appointed on the exterior with such elements as pointed arches and battlements. The six story Stoehr & Fister Building (1922-23) also on Courthouse Square and the eight story Lewis and Reilly Building at 114 Wyoming Avenue are other examples of tall buildings with Late Gothic Revival design and ornament. Some twenty years earlier, the designers of the Ad-Lin Building discarded these embellishments and achieved, with 19th Century building structure, a design solution which was not widely recognized in the City until after 1920.

In summary, the Ad-Lin Building is not only a fine example of the influence of Classical Revival and Commercial Styles but is also an important example of transitional, turn of the century architecture in the City. If there were other comparable structures belonging to this brief architectural period, one which looked to the past for its structure and the future for its visible treatment, they have long since disappeared or have been irreversibly altered.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.2
Quadrangle name Scranton

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>444719</u>	<u>4584056</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on the southeast corner of the intersection of Adams Avenue and Linden Street (10'-0" in from each curb line), the property line extends in a southerly direction parallel to Adams Avenue a distance of 50'-0"; it then returns in an easterly direction.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see attached sheet)

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Thomas C. Horlacher, A.I.A., Principal/Greg Ramsey</u>		
organization	<u>Palumbo and Horlacher, Inc./PHMC</u>	date	<u>1987</u>
street & number	<u>318 Penn Avenue/Box 1026</u>	telephone	<u>(717) 961-2385/(717) 783-8946</u>
city or town	<u>Scranton/Harrisburg</u>	state	<u>Pennsylvania</u>

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

title Brent D. Glass, State Historic Preservation Officer date _____

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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Scranton Directory 1897 (Scranton, Pa.: Taylor's Directory Company, 1897), p. 709.

Scranton City Directory 1920 (New York: R.L. Polk and Co., 1920), p. 808.

Scranton City Directory 1935 (New York: R.L. Polk and Co., 1935), p. 815.

Scranton City Directory 1951 (New York: R.L. Polk and Co., 1951), p. 815.

Scranton City Directory 1963 (New York: R.L. Polk and Co., 1963), p. 124.

Scranton City Directory 1975 (New York: R.L. Polk and Co., 1975), p. 129.

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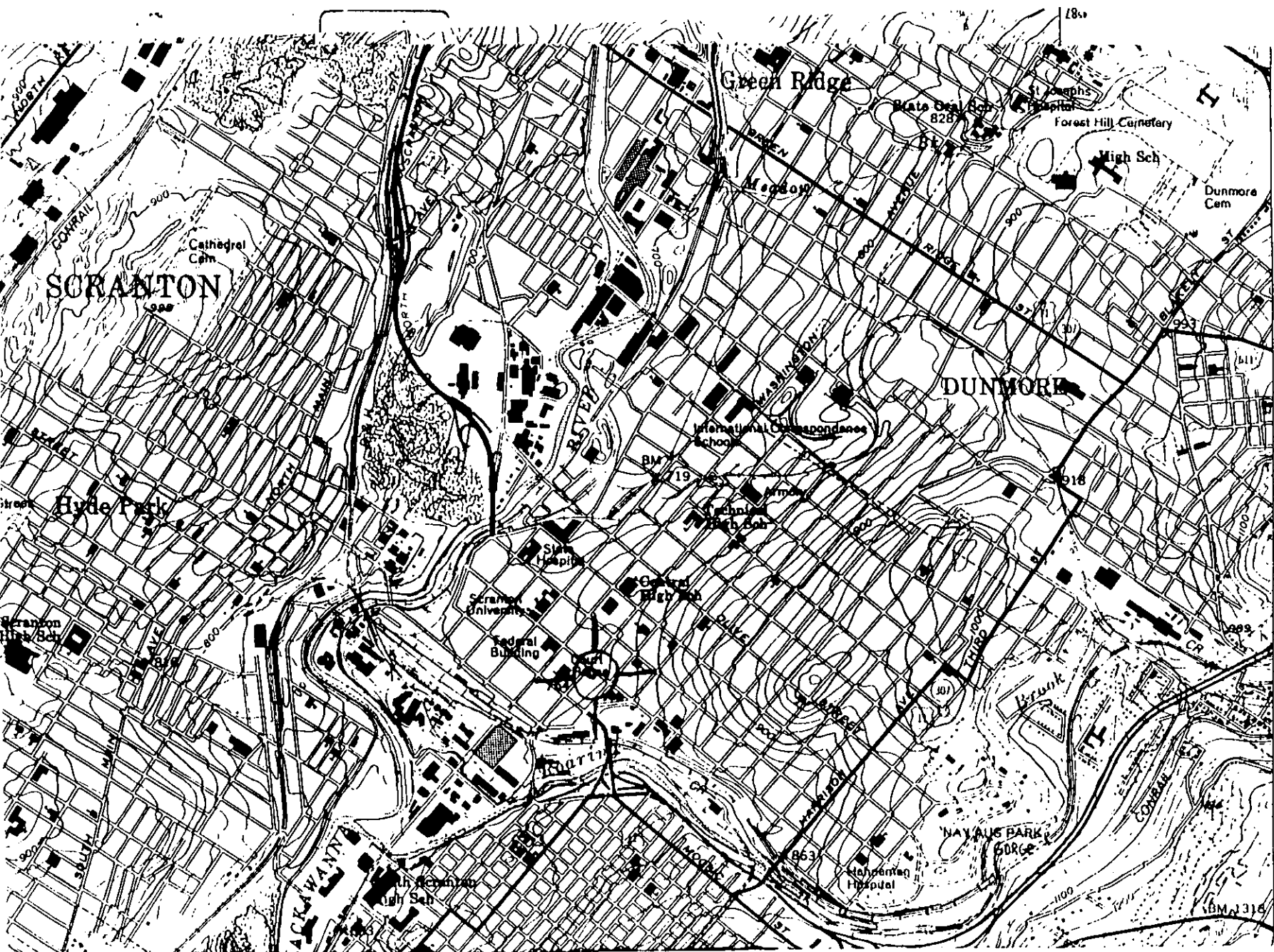
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(parallel to Linden St.) a distance of 160' to Kressler Court; since the property is a rectangle, the line runs 50' parallel to Kressler Court (northerly) and returns parallel to Linden Street a distance of 160' (westerly) to the point of origin. The Boundary contains the nominated building and all historically associated land.



4986
 ELMHURST 2.3 M.
 MOSCOW 9.5 M.

25

4986

810

49-6-5-1
 1444719 = 1-1-10-6
 2004-1-1-10-6