



Parkesburg National Bank  
 Chester County  
 Zone 18 E421180 N4423470

COATESVILLE 1.7 MI. TO PA. 82  
 4424  
 57°30'  
 4423  
 4422  
 COATESVILLE 2.2 MI. TO PA. 82  
 GLENROSE 0.9 MI.  
 5963 IV NE

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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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 Parkesburg National Bank

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Corner Gay and Main Streets \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Parkesburg \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 16

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Chester code 0029

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Chester County Redevelopment Authority

street & number One South Church Street

city, town West Chester \_\_\_ vicinity of state Penna

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number High & Market Streets

city, town W. Chester state Penna

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Chester County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date 1979-80 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Chester County Historical Society

city, town West Chester state Penna

# 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 architectural style of the original Parkesburg National Bank (1883) is Mansard or Second Empire style, characterized by a distinctive double pitched roof, elaborate elliptical dormer windows, brackets, and eclectic use of four small towers. The later addition, circa 1900, is basically a period revival in the Greek mode, featuring a concrete dentilled cornice, columns, plain windows, and a detailed entablature with the PNB logo in molded concrete.

The core structure (1883) is rectangular and is composed of two sections, the original Bank portion facing south towards the railroad and the rear section facing Main Street which housed the commercial enterprizes. The major addition also is rectangular and extends the entire length of the original core with its facade facing Main Street. Both the core and major wing have three floors.

The three corbelled chimneys of the core are all located in the interior of the structure. The major addition has one lipped chimney placed flushly on the building's exterior side wall. There are four bays in the core structure whereas the major wing has but one.

Structurally the core has a green serpentine cut stone foundation. The new bank building also has a cut stone foundation; however, it is a brown stone of local extract. Both structures have full banked basements. The dominant exterior material of the core is stretcher bond brick, now painted, with two intervals of three horizontal lips of brick, the center brick of which are placed angularly with their corners exposed. The facade material of the major wing is probably concrete, painted white, and molded in elaborately detailed floral patterns, the bank's insignia, and a lion's head. The other walls now feature artificial brick over their original surface. The dominant roof material of both structures is tin. In addition the core has a fish scale patterned slate Mansard roof on two sides.

Certain design features make the bank building especially unique. The highly ornate round and three-pointed arch dormer windows of the core and the major wing's pedimented former pay compulsive attention to detail. The core's wide expansive rain gutters are supported by a large brackets and are finished with a boxed cornice. The core structure's main entrance is a large spacious doorway with a rounded arch transom protected by bracketed pent roof. There are also two side entrances of the same design but of a lesser scale both in detail and scale. The entrance to the major wing is through a painted concrete pedimented doorway with side lights.

The core building's windows, other than the dormers already described, are both rounded and flat-arched with keystones. Adjacent to the corner doorway of the original bank is a multiple aperture consisting of three (7-8' high) rounded arched windows covered by a bracketed and arched pent roof. The remainder of the windows in the wing are rectangular with prominent lintels some still having protective iron bars over them.

The core's store fronts are essentially unaltered except for interior partitions

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esburg  
Park National Bank

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constructed in the last decade as dividers. This commercial portion of the core has molded tin ceilings and walls, small recesses for the store fronts, wide moldings, and trim characteristic of the period. There are two walnut and oak open wooden staircases which circle to the third floor. The second floor has a long hallway off which are several transomed entrance ways. One of these rooms has a fireplace surround and mantel of a marble-like material. The third floor rooms of the core are dominated by the recessed elliptical windows and prominent trim. Access to the second and third floors of the addition are via the core's hallways. These rooms are expansive and finished in a plain fashion except for the elaborate treatment of the windows. In all the upper two floors housed nearly a dozen apartments.

The first floor of the addition is also quite large. A vault remains in the center of the front room. Raised paneled wainscoating is found along the walls. The rear room was the most lavish, unfortunately the fireplace mantel built-in mirror and ornate woodwork have suffered extensive water damage. The basement still contains a vault with deposit boxes. It also served as a two-lane bowling alley which is still present. Since the building is built into a hill the rear basement rooms (ceiling are very high and probably were used as storage.

The original bank has been converted to a apartment and a dropped ceiling negates the effect of the tall slender windows along both exterior walls. The original stairway leading to the second floor has been closed off and the partitions making smaller rooms take the place of the teller booths. Wainscoat and wide moldings are abundant throughout.

# 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/ humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input 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 (in one paragraph)

The Parkesburg National Bank was a product of extensive industrial growth and America's expansionism associated with the railroad (Columbia RR 1835, later PA RR) and the establishment of Horace Beale Sr.'s Iron Works in Parkesburg in 1872. The RR established repair shops which were situated on the opposite side of the railroad adjacent to the Bank and were the result of legislative and political pressure by members of the Parke family. The Parke family was unhappy about the positioning of the rail line since it bisected their farm and as a compromise for damages the railroad agreed to place engine repair shops in Parkesburg. It was Parke's vision to emulate the development of European industrial center and Parkesburg with its centralized position between Philadelphia and Harrisburg met this economic need.

The repair shops eventually were moved to Altoona and Horace Beale, Sr., used the old railroad shops for his Parkesburg Iron Company (PICO). The iron business prospered and the Beale family contributed to the borough employment and many innovative ventures by the early 1900's (namely a professional ball team and stadium, professional basketball team and basketball hall, horse racetrack, radio station and mobile unit, and an airport and hanger for pioneering pilots.). The Iron Works began to falter from archaic manufacturing methods and lack of capital within the company since it was tied up in Mr. Beale's son's forementioned hobbies and interests. By 1926 the Iron Company was forced to close and eventually its main buildings were sold for scrap

The bank was located in the heart of the commercial section of Parkesburg and was financed by two prominent residents, Parke and Smith who foresaw the potential of the burgeoning "boom" town. Samuel Parke was President of the National bank and was Parkesburg's first Burgess (1872). Parke, described in his 1899 obituary as a "worthy representative of a worthy family, and long ranked with the representative citizens of this county," was a descendant of the distinguished Parke family who emigrated from Ireland in 1724 and settled in the Parkesburg area as prosperous farmers and merchants. Smith was a descendant of a frugal and equally productive Quaker family which had settled and farmed the western portion of what is now Parkesburg. (The Smith and Parke homesteads are still preserved at opposite ends of Main Street).

In its centralized venue the Bank was surrounded by the following commercial structures: a hotel (1850's), Owens Department Store (1857), and railroad warehouses and shops. Today its solitary setting is misleading except to the most observing as only subtle vestiges of many of these other structures remain. The Bank's store fronts facing Main Street housed a variety of businesses; a drug store; the "Bee Hive," a variety shop subsidiary of Owen's Department Store; a jewelry store; and the 3rd floor was headquarters for the "Red Man Indians" which became the Keystone Masonic Lodge in 1883

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*By 1900, the population of the town had climbed to nearly 2,000 and the community was entering its "Golden Age" which was to last until the late 1920's. As the Bank prospered, an addition was placed on the east side of the original building directly beside the Hotel Livery Stables. However, in 1906 a trolley line was placed on the opposite side of the rail line on what is now the community's business district (the Main Street merchants felt the new trolleys would frighten the horses as they drank from the fountain adjacent to the Bank). By 1924 the National Bank failed, businesses were relocating on the south side of the borough along the trolley line and eventually another bank was established there. The socio-economic impact of this on Main Street was gradual but ominous. The 30-40 shops and businesses present at the turn of the century diminished to 2-3 by the 1970's and many of the associated buildings were razed.*

*The Bank building has become a sole survivor of an opulent era of Parkeburg's "Main Street" and is the only example of elaborated detail make edifice a study of "Victorianism". By virtue of its building site the Bank building can be seen aurally 100-200 yards by pedestrians as they approach it coming south down to Strasburg Aveune and its intersection with Main Street. In addition, the homes overlooking Main Street have an unusual vantage point when viewing the bank from their verandums. Due to its proximity to PRR main Line, commuters can observe the building approximately 50 yards from the rail lines.*

*The effort for revitalizing Main Street and the Bank building was initiated by the Borough Planning Commission whose work with the Chester County Planning Commission resulted in a comprehensive plan for Parkeburg which encouraged identification and preservation of the borough's historic resources. This interest in the community's heritage spurred citizens to form Historic Parkeburg Restoration Enterprises, inc., a non profit organization to identify and inventory historic resources and initiate historic preservation activities in Parkeburg. This group has been working actively in the Main Street area and lists getting the Bank on the National Register as one of its goals.*

# 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Atlas of Chester County from actual surveys by H.F. Bridges, A.R. Witner et al.  
 Parkesburg Centennial, A history of the Borough, Published 1972  
 Chester County Courthouse, West Chester, PA Property Deeds, Recorder of Deeds  
 Newspaper obituary, 1899 for Samuel R. Parke  
~~Old commentary Chester Miller, Parkesburg Farmers Bank~~

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .18

Quadrangle name Parkesburg, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

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4	4	2	3	4	4	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Site of resource measures 91.74 ft. by 81.8 ft, by 92.69 ft. by 86.5 feet. See enclosed site map.

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 Betty Shoemaker, Susan Gill, Jeffrey Hery, Sonnie Wilson

organization Historic Parkesburg Restoration Enterprise date 3-17-80

street & number 311 Strasburg Ave. telephone 857-9171

city or town Parkesburg state PA

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

ED WEINTRAUB, State Historic Preservation Officer

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration