

RECEIVED

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

PHMS  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 1 1983  
date entered JUL 14 1983  
JUL 14 1983

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

1. Name

historic New Era Building

and/or common Rite Aid

2. Location

street & number 39-41 North Queen Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Lancaster code 071

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Lancaster Newspapers, Incorporated

street & number 8 West King Street

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17603

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 50 North Duke Street

city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Lancaster City has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978-1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

city, town 123 North Prince Street, Lancaster (17603) state Pennsylvania

# 7. Description

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

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The New Era Building is a three story, L-shaped brick structure extending 245 feet on the east/west axis from North Queen Street to North Christian Street. The facade, numbered 39-41 North Queen Street, extends about 31 feet on the north/south axis; the rear elevation, numbered 44 North Christian Street, has an overall north/south width of about 60 feet. The structural materials are brick walls, internal supporting brick piers, and wood joists. All foundations and structural walls of the building are located within the property lines of the premises.

As finished in 1891, the facade of the building was three stories in height, with a storefront occupying the entire first floor level. In this storefront were two doorways each with paired doors, and two large display windows. This storefront was built from wood and glass, being ornamented with panelled pilasters, angular console brackets, dentils, and moldings. The second and third floor walls of the facade are of dark red pressed brick, laid in common bond with dark mortar joints. The lintels and the sills of the windows on these levels were done in textured cut stone. On both second and third floors, there is a four bay treatment; the two central bays were nearly double the width of the flanking end bays. The original window sash were a variant of the Queen Anne type, with transoms being located above the upper sash. This facade was crowned by an elaborate cornice of corbelled brick, wood, and pressed metal. At the center of this cornice rose a pediment enframing a sunburst motif. Below this ornamental device, flanked by cantilevered plinths, was a tablet bearing the signage "THE NEW ERA".

The rear section of the New Era Building, extending eastward to North Christian Street, was built in three major stages of construction: 1900, 1903, and 1914. The northern section of this rear wing fronts on North Christian Street; it is built of red brick, laid in common bond. This northern section is three stories high, with a three bay elevation on all floors; there is a simple corbelled brick cornice. The southern wall of this rear wing has an irregular eight bay elevation. The window openings are spanned by segmental arches in brick; the majority of the window sash are six over six. The southern half of the rear of this property is occupied by a ramp and loading dock at the approximate second floor level. The east elevation of the building, at the loading dock level, is two bays wide. Throughout this expansive structure, all roofs are flat; there is some change in roof levels, due to different stages of construction.

When both the facade and the rear elevations of the New Era Building are evaluated as a totality in regards to the building's exterior integrity, the structure is about 70% original. For the facade, the brick walls, fenestration, ornamentation, and window sash are the originals on the second and third stories. Both the original storefront on the ground level, and the elaborate cornice with pediment, were lost when the facade was entirely covered with the "modern" materials favored in the 1950's. These lost features are being replaced in the original style as part of a c. 1982-1983 rehabilitation project. The walls, fenestration, cornices, and window sash are almost all original to the respective stages of construction on the rear elevation.

### List of Illustrations:

1. c. 1920 photograph showing the original appearance of the New Era Building.
2. December, 1982 photograph of the New Era Building.
3. December, 1982 - detail of second and third stories of the facade wall, New Era Building.
4. December, 1982 - rear elevation, New Era Building.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1914	<input checked="" 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** 1890-1891\* **Builder/Architect** J. Adam Burger, builder/contractor

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** \* Rear additions: 1900; 1903; and 1914)

The primary significance of Lancaster's New Era Building is rooted in its role in the field of printing, which is a vehicle of communication. Although the building is remembered locally as the place where a newspaper, the New Era, was produced for nearly forty years, the greater importance is in its state and national prominence for printing periodicals, journals, and books. The first journal printed here was The Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, commenced in 1893. Between 1893 and 1922, the New Era Printing Company printed more than three dozen periodicals and journals with national circulation. Some of these included the American Historical Journal, the Book Review, the Biological Bulletin, the Journal of Philosophy, Psychology, and Scientific Methods, Economic Geology, the Catholic University Quarterly, the Journal of Pharmacology, Minnesota Botanical Studies, the New York University Bulletin of Medical Science, and Popular Science Monthly. In this same period, the New Era Printing Company printed books for Charles Scribner's Sons, D. Van Nostrand Company, the McGraw-Hill Book Company, and P. Blakiston's Sons. Of all the books printed here, one of the most important was Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada (three volumes; 1896/1898); this was among the very earliest illustrated flora books produced in this country. For the circulation, diversity, and quality of publications printed here, the New Era Building is the most important Lancaster County structure predating c. 1930 associated with the printing business. This significance in the communications field is further complemented by the architecture of the building. The facade is a good example of a commercial Queen Anne style building, and the rear section is a sound, representative industrial-type structure.

For additional information regarding the New Era Printing Company, this building, and publications printed here, see the attached sheets.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to attached list.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .235 acre

Quadrangle name Lancaster Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	8	3	8	8	6	0	0	4	4	3	2	6	8	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Numbered 39-41 North Queen Street, the Old New Era Building fronts on the east side of the first block of North Queen Street. It is bounded by North Queen Street on the west, North Christian Street on the east, the Darmstaetter Store Building on the south, and the Eichholtz Building on the north.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state ----- N/A code N/A county ----- N/A code -----N/A

state ----- N/A code N/A county ----- N/A code -----N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John J. Snyder, Jr. - Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

date January 3, 1983

street & number 123 North Prince Street

telephone 717-291-5861

city or town Lancaster (17603)

state Pennsylvania

# 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 Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/12/83

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 7/14/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Lancaster Co. (PA)

## Significance

Documentation and Additional Information

In March, 1877, Lancaster's New Era Printing House (New Era Printing Company) was founded by J. M. W. Geist and John B. Warfel. The business was first located in a now-lost building at 3 South Queen Street. On April 28, 1877, the premiere issue of the Daily New Era appeared; early in May of that same year, the first issue of the Weekly New Era was printed. The New Era was innovative in many respects, in comparison with other Lancaster County newspapers of the 1870's; for example, it printed all the latest news on the front page. By 1882, the mail circulation of the New Era exceeded the combined circulation of all other local newspapers. In the following year, the New Era had repaid its original loans, and also doubled the size of its first operations. Within several months of the founding of this business in 1877, the firm embarked on custom job printing. The first major commission in this line was in July, 1877; it was the 1876-1877 Catalogue and Circular of the Pennsylvania State Normal School - Millersville. By the early 1880's, the New Era Printing House was known as one of Pennsylvania's finest job printing businesses.

By the late 1880's, it was obvious that the New Era was rapidly outgrowing the rather limited space at 3 South Queen Street. At this very period, work was commencing on what was to become the New Era Building. On March 7, 1889, John A. Snyder, a Lancaster tavernkeeper, purchased an old two story building on the site of 39-41 North Queen Street from J. A. Sprenger for \$24,000. On March 21, 1890, the Daily New Era announced that John A. Snyder would demolish the old building, and replace it with a "New Saleen" to be "...three stories high, with an attractive stone and brick front." Work on demolition and the basement construction for the proposed building was commenced about the last week of March, 1890; the demolition and excavation work was done by Henry Schaub of Lancaster. On April 2, 1890, the prestigious Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders Guide announced construction of this "...handsome business building." The builder/contractor for the building was Lancaster's John Adam Burger. No contemporary account mentioned the architect. Although Burger sometimes was termed an architect, it is not proven that he actually designed buildings in entirety. In a theoretical context, it is at least plausible that the facade and front part of the building might have been designed by Lancaster's noted C. Emlen Urban (1863-1939); there are some stylistic similarities on this facade and that of the 1888 Southern Market, which is a definite early Urban design. However, it must be remembered that other architects were working in Lancaster in 1890; for example, the English born and educated James H. Warner had appeared in Lancaster about 1889.

Sometime in the Summer of 1890, John A. Snyder apparently changed his plans for the building then under construction, and he offered the unfinished structure to the New Era Printing House. On October 3, 1890, Snyder sold the property to Warfel and Geist, founders of the New Era, for \$35,000. For the following four months, the New Era completed the building, made some structural adaptations to support the great weight of the presses, and slowly moved into the new office and printing plant. The editorial and news departments occupied the third floor of 39-41 North Queen Street by January 1, 1891; however, as late as January 22, 1891, the business office was still located at 3 South

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Item number 8

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Significance

Documentation and Additional Information (continued)

Queen Street. All facets of the business were situated in 39-41 North Queen Street by January 31, 1891. On that date, the Daily New Era ran a feature on the new building, with accounts of the facade, the then-new Goss Printing Process, and the Perret Electric motor. The business flourished and expanded rapidly in the new building. In August, 1897, five Linotype machines were installed. Between 1904 and 1908, five more linotype machines were put into operation. In 1903, an electrotype foundry was bought from Hoe & Co. of New York.

Along with this physical improvement of the actual printing machinery, the building itself grew in stages. The front or main block of the building was enlarged to the east in 1900; the total east - west depth of the structure was 152 feet. In 1903, a one story rear addition, extending eastward to North Christian Street, was erected to house the then-new electrotype foundry. This wing was rebuilt and expanded to its present three story height in 1914.

Commencing in 1893, the New Era Printing Company embarked on a very extensive and influential role in custom printing journals, scholarly reports, and periodicals. Among the titles of such publications produced here in the approximate three decades following 1893 may be listed the following:

- Catalogues for the Champion Forge and Blower Company
- Mycologia
- Economic Geology
- Weekly Roster & Medical Digest
- Journal of Philosophy, Psychology, and Scientific Methods
- Biological Bulletin
- Transactions of the American Mathematical Society
- Science
- School of Mines Quarterly
- Psychological Review
- Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Science
- Popular Science Monthly
- Physical Review
- Philosophical Review
- Papers Read Before the Lancaster County Historical Society
- New York University Bulletin of Medical Science
- Minnesota Botanical Studies
- Mathematical Bulletin
- Journal of the New York Botanical Garden
- Journal of School Geography
- Journal of Pharmacology
- International Medical Magazine
- The Forester
- Columbia Quarterly
- Catholic University Quarterly
- Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club

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Significance

Documentation and Additional Information

The Brief

Book Review

American Historical Review

Annals of the New York Academy of Science

In this same period, the New Era Printing Company also printed many miscellaenous monographs, manuals, and catalogues. The various journals and periodicals printed in this building enjoyed a nationwide circulation; the majority were of a specialized, scholarly character.

At this same general time, the New Era Printing Company did a large amount of book printing for major publishing houses, including P. Blakiston's Sons of Philadelphia, the McGraw-Hill Book Company, D. VanNostrand Company of New York, and Charles Scribner's Sons of New York. It is interesting to note that the New Era did custom book printing for Scribner's before that noted publisher had its own printing factory. Many of the books printed at the New Era dealt with medicine, botany, and zoology.

On March 31, 1920, the New Era Printing Company was purchased by Samuel R. Slaymaker, a member of a Lancaster County family prominent since the eighteenth century. Slaymaker already owned another Lancaster Newspaper, the Examiner, which he had bought in March, 1919. These purchases actually marked the beginning of a reorganization and eventual division of the various operations of the New Era Printing Company. Both the job and book printing departments moved to a large brick building on the northeast corner of North Prince and West Lemon Streets in the first five months of 1922; this part of the business was incorporated as the Lancaster Press, Inc. on March 19, 1923. To this day, the Lancaster Press is situated in the building at Prince and Lemon Streets; it is nationally noted for printing journals and many periodicals. The newspaper business of the New Era Printing Company was sold to Block and Hanson, a partnership of nationwide newspaper publishers, on March 12, 1923. On April 17, 1928, the New Era was purchased by Lancaster's Steinman family, and shortly thereafter the publication and printing of both the New Era and the Intelligencer were consolidated at 8 West King Street, Lancaster. At that time, the role of the building at 39-41 North Queen Street was a center for printing newspapers, books, journals, and periodicals effectively came to an end. The building thereafter served a number of commercial and rental functions; the facade was covered with the popular materials of the 1950's as part of what then was termed an "improvement". At that time, the original storefront and cornice with pediment were removed. In 1982-1983, Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. commenced an extensive rehabilitation project for the building.

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Major Bibliographical References

Books and Periodicals

- Lottie M. Bausman, A Bibliography of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania 1745-1912, Philadelphia, Patterson & White, c. 1916, pp. 173-430.  
Frank R. Diffenderfer, "The Newspapers of Lancaster County". Papers of the Lancaster County Historical Society, vol. VI, 1902, pp. 103-113.  
Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Everts & Peck, 1883; particularly pp. 506-507.  
Lancaster City Directories, 1890-1894.  
Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, V-13, April 2, 1890. This rare periodical is available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.  
Donald J. Sumar, Lancaster Press - The First Hundred Years 1877-1977, Lancaster, Lancaster Press, Inc., 1979.

Newspapers

- The Lancaster Daily New Era for the following dates: March 21, 1890; March 25, 1890; April 1, 1890; January 1, 1891; January 2, 1891; January 10, 1891; January 22, 1891; January 31, 1891.  
Lancaster New Era Fiftieth Anniversary Souvenir Section, April 28, 1927.

Unpublished Sources

- The following are situated at the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster:  
Information Files - "Newspapers".  
Photograph Files - "North Queen Street".  
Mrs. David F. Watt's Scrapbook - LC 658n W 346  
The following Deeds at the Archives of the Lancaster County Courthouse, Lancaster:  
Deeds M-11-578 (1880); G-11-175 (1878); F-11-53 (1878); N-12-142 (1886);  
F-13-17 (1889); P-13-198 (1890); M-15-419 (1897); and R-17-281 (1905).  
The following Deed at the Registry of Deeds, Lancaster County Courthouse, Lancaster:  
Deed E-75-106 (September 11, 1978).  
The following primary sources are owned by the Lancaster Press, Inc., North Prince at West Lemon Streets, Lancaster:  
New Era Printing Company Journal Invoices, c. 1896-1927.  
New Era Printing Company Correspondence, 1897-1925.  
Library of books printed by the New Era Printing Company.  
There are limited and rather miscellaneous primary sources available at the offices of Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., 8 West King Street, Lancaster, PA.



New Era Building  
Lancaster County

Additional Documentation

As originally built in 1890-1891, the old New Era building was a large rectangular brick structure, with a three story facade facing westward on the first block of North Queen Street. The entire first floor of this Queen Anne style brick building was occupied by an ornamented storefront with two entry doors and two display windows. Both the second and third floors had a four bay treatment, with Queen Anne type window sash. The roofline was embellished with an elaborate cornice of corbelled brick and other materials, with a prominent central pediment enframing a stylized sunburst motif and the signage "The New Era". For this original appearance consult the copy of the c. 1910-1925 photograph (copy attached).

Until 1982, both original storefront and the upper parts of the cornice including the central pediment, had been lost due to past alterations. The facade wall on the second and third floors is intact to its original design; it retains the original pressed red bricks set in common bond, the horizontal courses of rusticated stone, the original window openings, and all the original window sash.



USGS

Lancaster Quadrangle

New Era Building

N 4432-630

E 388600