

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

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

1. Name

historic Hart Building

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 26-30 W. Third Street N/A not for publication

city, town Williamsport N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Lycoming code

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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 OK Properties

street & number 39 N. Market St.

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lycoming County Courthouse

street & number 48 W. Third Street

city, town Williamsport state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hart Building is a three-story corner commercial building. Constructed in 1895, it measures roughly fifty by eighty feet. The building's principal architectural interest lies in the free use of a variety of elaborate decorative elements and materials. The exterior detailing includes pressed brickwork, terra cotta, carved stone, wood window sash and frames, and pressed metal cornice and window trim.

The structural system consists of steel and cast iron columns and beams with wood floor joists and heavy timber roof trusses. The structural system is not clearly expressed on the building's exterior, being hidden behind buff brick.

The metal structural system permitted a more open interior plan than traditional masonry bearing wall construction, and this openness was reflected in the original first story storefront. This storefront stretched around the building from the arched, carved stone entryway on Third Street to a secondary entrance, flanked by similarly carved pilasters, in the northernmost bay of the Court Street facade. Between these stolid, stone entries the architect built an airy glass storefront reaching virtually from sidewalk to second story. This large expanse of glass clearly expressed the metal structure of the building.

The first story has been altered from its original appearance. The storefronts in the northernmost four bays of the Court Street elevation were replaced with buff brick infill c. 1950. Only the transom panels remain from the original storefronts in this area. The remainder of the extant first story storefront is an aluminum and glass replacement dating from c. 1950. The transoms survive behind a later signboard. The most intact elements of the first story are the carved stone Third Street entrance occupying the easternmost bay of this elevation and the similar Court Street entrance. The elaborate carving exhibited on the arched Third Street entry is Romanesque in style.

A raised terra cotta beltcourse in an egg and dart motif separates the first story from the remainder of the building. It is on these upper floors that the building's wealth of decorative detail is most evident.

The two-story window bays constitute the major design element of the upper stories. The large one-over-one sash with fixed transoms sashes (presently obscured with paint) are paired at the second story and arranged in tripartite groups at the third story. Wooden semi-columns separate the third story sashes. Pressed metal panels, with a wreath and swag motif, separate the second and third story windows. Each bay of windows is set off from the rest of the facade by a surround of pressed brick with a raised checkerboard motif. This treatment creates the effect of the windows being located within distinct panels wholly separate from the principal masonry elements of the building.

The building is capped by a pressed metal, entablature and a flat roof. A pedimented signboard, centered on the Third Street facade, rose above the cornice until its removal in the 1930s.

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 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 1895 **Builder/Architect** Amos S. Wagner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hart Building is significant as an example of the transition from the masonry bearing wall commercial buildings of the nineteenth century to the steel frame and curtain wall structures of the twentieth century. It is also significant because of its associations with Amos S. Wagner, an important Williamsport architect of the late nineteenth century.

Constructed in 1895, the Hart Building exemplifies the development, at the close of the nineteenth century, of a modern, commercial architectural style. The use of structural steel in the building skeleton enabled the architect to incorporate such "modern" features as the widely spaced bays and diminished structural mass. The glass curtain-wall storefront, which sat in front of the structural skeleton, boldly illustrated the design freedom engendered by the use of steel. This storefront, since altered, reflected the period's trend towards more open and unrestricted ground floor space.

The modernity of the building's basic form is belied by the traditionalism apparent in its wealth of decorative detail. No fewer than six distinct materials are used to ornament the building's exterior. Among the most distinctive features of the building that harken to the architectural past are the heavy, pressed metal entablature the pressed metal panels separating the second and third story windows, the checkerboard patterned brick used to accentuate the bays of windows, and the delicately carved, arched stone entrance on the Third Street facade.

The architect who designed the Hart Building, Amos S. Wagner, pursued a long and distinguished career as an architect in the second half of the nineteenth century. Throughout most of his career Wagner labored in the weighty Richardsonian Romanesque style. The Hart Building marks a distinct break from this past experience and a tentative reaching towards the possibilities inherent in new materials and new technologies.

Wagner came to Williamsport in 1858 at the age of eighteen, apprenticing himself to local architect Eber Culver. After completing his apprenticeship Wagner established a successful business as a contractor and builder, also furnishing designs for buildings. From 1867 to 1880 Wagner was identified in local business directories as both an architect and a builder. After 1880 the actual construction work was left to contractors and Wagner devoted his practice to architecture.

Wagner enjoyed great success in the Williamsport area, designing a number of prominent commercial, institutional, and ecclesiastical buildings in the 1880s and 1890s. These included the High School Building, Pennsylvania Government Building, City Hospital, and at least four churches in Williamsport, the State Normal School in Lockhaven, and a Court House in Emporium. Wagner also designed buildings far removed from North Central Pennsylvania, including the Orange County Courthouse in Orlando, Florida and the second place design for the Pennsylvania Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Upon Wagner's death in 1899 the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin eulogized him as "one of the best known residents of the city" and a "prominent" architect.

The Hart Building is locally significant as an example of the revolution in building design that occurred in American architecture in the last decade of the nineteenth century. The building incorporates a steel structural system, the cornerstone of the architectural revolution, and exhibits several strikingly modern design motifs. It is, however, clearly a transitional building, this role being principally evidenced in the wealth of exterior detailing.

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The building is also significant for its associations with Amos S. Wagner, a prominent local architect responsible for the design of many important buildings in the Williamsport area in the late nineteenth century. Wagner's local significance is reinforced by his second place design for the Pennsylvania Building of the 1895 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and by his Orange County Courthouse in Orlando, Florida.

¹ Williamsport (Pennsylvania) Gazette and Bulletin (11 December 1899).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Boyd's City and Business Directories: Williamsport, Pennsylvania (1870-1923).
(Williamsport) Pennsylvania Grit (5 May 1895). Williamsport (Pennsylvania) Gazette and Bulletin (11 December 1899). Industries and Wealth of Northeastern Pennsylvania (1890).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.1

Quadrangle name Williamsport

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	3	2	2	2	0	4	5	6	7	2	0	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Starting at the northeast corner of the intersection of West Third Street and Court Street and extending approximately eighty feet north along the east side of Court Street to a point; hence on a ninety degree angle to the east, approximately fifty feet to a point; hence on a ninety degree angle to the south approxi-

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 Patrick W. O'Bannon, Ph.D.

organization OK Properties

date 4/30/84

street & number 39 N. Market St.

telephone (717) 299-4371

city or town Lancaster

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 _____ 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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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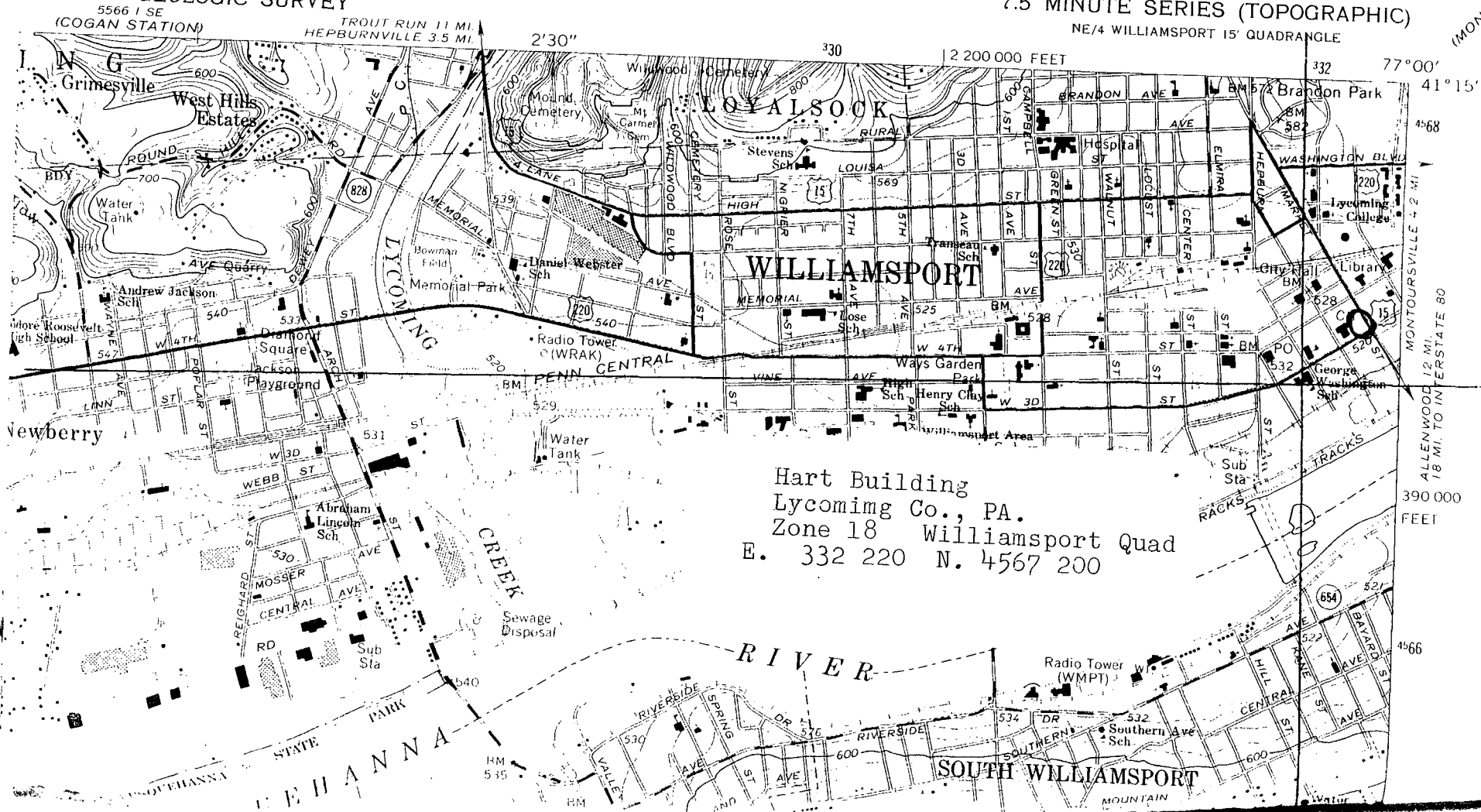
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mately eighty feet to a point on the north side of West Third Street; hence west along the north side of West Third Street spproximately fifty feet to the starting point.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
PHYSICAL AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

WILLIAMSPORT QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA-LYCOMING CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 WILLIAMSPORT 15' QUADRANGLE



5566 I SE (COGAN STATION) TROUT RUN 11 MI. HEPBURNVILLE 3.5 MI. 2'30" 330 12 200 000 FEET 332 77°00' 41°15' 4568