

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 0 1983

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 GAR Building

and or common GAR Building

## 2. Location

street & number 626-628 North Second Street

not for publication

city, town Lykens Borough <sup>RA</sup> vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Dauphin code 043

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<sup>RA</sup> <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: <u>Senior Citizens Meeting Hall</u>

## 4. Owner of Property

name Borough of Lykens

street & number 559 South Second Street

city, town Lykens <sup>RA</sup> vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17048

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dauphin County Courthouse, Register of Deeds Office  
(Deed Book L, Vol. 60, Page 292)

street & number Front & Market Streets

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania 17

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible?

date October 21, 1980  federal  state

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation

city, town Harrisburg state Penr.

FILED  
STR

## 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

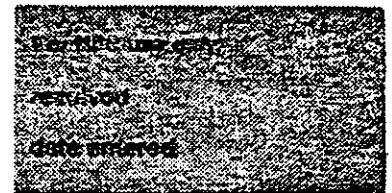
The GAR Building is a two-story structure of mountain stone with a partial story horizontally sided gable roof section. The stone section measures thirty feet, two inches (30'-2") and is three (3) bays wide by forty feet, 2 inches (40'-2") and three (3) bays deep. Cut and coursed stone appears on the front while rubble coursed stone is used on the sides and rear. Watertables are not used on this building.

A medium pitched gable roof with a box cornice and narrow width horizontal siding contrast the gray limestone walls. A cornice return accentuated by a few pairs of brackets adorns the front of the building. Cutout and scroll design fill the apex of the gable. The only other attention provided to the cornice are pairs of brackets on the sides (one pair to each side) located near the front corners.

The remaining exterior woodwork is relegated to the door and window treatment. The front facade is three (3) bays wide on the ground floor and two (2) on the second floor. A set of double doors fills the middle bay. Above the doors is a slightly protruding cornice supported by a bracket on each end, and a spindle-like design acting in place of dentils. Immediately above the doorway is an ornamental head composed of two posts joined by an arch with a keystone at the top of the arch. The posts support an additional cornice. To the right of the double doors is two-over-two double hung sash windows with paneled shutters; to the left a four panel door with transom. Above each, on the lintel, is a bullseye and a scroll design. The double hung sash second story windows once were nine-over-six but are currently four-over-four. The lintel above these two windows each have a bullseye interspersed with the scroll motif while beneath is a four panel insert.

Both sides of the building have the same fenestration treatment. The second story has three (3) symmetrically spaced windows and the first floor has two (2) which align to the spaces between the second story windows. The first floor windows are treated exactly the same as the four-over-four windows on the first floor right front. The second story windows have the same lintel treatment as the front but the surround is slightly wider, has fluting which terminates with an applied ornament and is floored by an applied rectangular panel. Below the panel is a slight 45 degree break designed to carry water beyond the sill. The sills on the entire building are simple. The side adjoining the right front of the building shows a second story window which was changed into a door. A metal fire escape (1929) protrudes and is attached to this bay.

The floor plan of the building indicates the main hall which occupies the middle and right front bays along the entire depth of the first story of the structure. The left bay is divided into two (2) rest-rooms and a vestibule. The second floor is one large room. A narrow width wains-coating, approximately 40 inches in height, is found around the large rooms on each story. It is capped by a simple thin chair rail. Another thin rail is found only on the second floor, located at the top of window heads approximately two (2) feet beneath ceiling level. Windows on both levels have raised panel reveals installed at an angle. An exterior single flue brick chimney appears on the side nearest the right front of the structure.

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DESCRIPTION

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The GAR Building as it stands today is architecturally as originally constructed. The only significant structural change to the original 4-walled stone building was the replacement in 1926 of an old wooden addition by a concrete block structure.

The two cupboards—one at the rear of the main hall and the other in the concrete block addition—are of significance. In 1888 the building was used as an armory by the State Board of Military Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Dauphin County Deed Book Z, Vol. 7, Page 123) and the cupboards were converted into gun racks. The port holes for storing the rifles are visible.

In 1985 a "Reconstruction and Renovation" project consisted of interior and exterior painting, replacement of some damaged wainscoting in the main hall with exact duplicate, installation of new lights and upgrading of electrical service to comply with existing building codes, replacing old steel-ribbed roof with similar type. These renovations did not affect the architectural appearance of the building.

In front of the building stands a stone monument, 7'X5', listing on a bronze plaque the names of 400 Civil War Veterans from Lykens, Wiconisco, and vicinity. The monument was erected in 1926.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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** 1850-1852      **Builder/Architect** Richard Nolen

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The GAR Building is significant in that from the time of its construction in 1852 until the present time it housed a variety of community related functions. For seven decades after it was built it was the only public meeting place in the small community of Lykens.

In 1848 dedicated citizens met and determined that Lykens needed a permanent church. Edward Gratz, who owned considerable land in the area, donated a plot of ground and subscribed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the project. In 1850 construction was begun and the building was dedicated as a Methodist Church in 1852. During 1853 to 1867 it was also a meeting place for the Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations making it a focal point in the lives of the Protestant families. In 1867 the Methodists moved into their newly constructed church.

From 1867 until 1885 the building was the residence of A. F. Englebert and his family and Emanuel Deibler and his wife. The Deiblers, intending to move to Kansas, and not being able to find a purchaser for the property, permitted the local unit of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Reserves to use the building as an armory. In 1888 the Department of Military Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the property and continued its use as an armory. They also made it available for town meetings as well as for other social functions such as dances, parties, and other civic meetings.

In 1890 the building was purchased by the Trustees of the Rescue Hose Company #1 of Lykens. This organization of volunteer firemen which had been organized in 1883, now had a permanent home. The Lykens Register reports many incidents which required the services of the only fire-fighting organization in the area. By taking into its organization young men as volunteer fireman, a source of firemen for the area was assured. During this period the building was still available for public functions.

In 1898 the building was sold to the Heilner Post #232 of the Grand Army of the Republic Department of Pennsylvania. From 1898 to 1926 this organization was primarily responsible for the human service needs of Civil War veterans in this area. The GAR Building became the meeting place of Civil War veterans of not only Lykens and vicinity, but those living in the surrounding towns of Gratz, Elizabethville, Williamstown, and Tower City. None of these towns had Civil War veteran organizations.

The Heilner Women's Relief Corps #101, an auxiliary to the GAR Post, also used the building. The women's organization had in its membership residents of Lykens and adjoining Wiconisco as well as Tower City, Reinerton, Joliett, Williamstown, and Elizabethville and at one time

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listed a membership of over 200. It was, by far, the largest women's organization in the area. Being of a patriotic nature, these women were instrumental in seeing that the graves of departed veterans were decorated on every Memorial Day; that the sick and infirm Civil War veterans were not forgotten; and by popular subscription sponsored the Memorial Marker which is in front of the building. During the 1918 influenza epidemic the building was pressed into use for a hospital.

During the first decades of the 20th century the building was available for the newly formed Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and civic clubs. Thus this building continued to serve an important function in Lykens. It was the only building available to a range of public groups until the 1920's, when other buildings were constructed or utilized for these purposes.

In 1926, with only five (5) GAR veterans remaining, upon a token payment of a five-dollar gold piece to each, ownership of the building was assumed by the Women's Auxiliary. They were able to maintain their organization until 1973, when, with only six (6) members remaining, the GAR Building was "sold" to the Lykens Borough with the stipulation, "subject to the condition that it shall be maintained...as a memorial to said Heilner Post #232, GAR, Department of Pennsylvania".

The Lykens Area Senior Citizens have taken over the responsibility for the building. They were solely responsible for the "Reconstruction and Renovation" Project, restoring the building more closely to its original form, and assuring that the building will be properly cared for over, at least, the next 20 years.

# 9. Major Bibliographic Reference

Engle, William Henry History of the Counties of Dauphin and Lebanon in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883) p. 456

~~ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED~~  
~~ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED~~  
~~UMT NOT VERIFIED~~

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .5  
 Quadrangle name Lykens Quadrangle scale 1:24,000  
 UMT References

A	1 1 8	3 5 6	0 7 1 0	4 1 4 9 1 1	9 6 1 0	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing				Zone	Easting	Northing		
C						D					
E						F					
G						H					

## Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

## 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

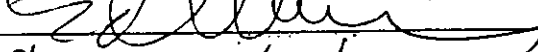
# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Dunlevey, Sally Ryan  
 organization Bureau for Office of Historic Preservation/PHMC date 6/82  
 street & number Box 1026 telephone 787-4363 (717)  
 city or town Harrisburg, 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   
 title Director of Historic Preservation date 10/21/80

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 officer  
 date  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date  
 Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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Kelker, Luther Reily, History of Dauphin County, Volume I, Pages 444/446, Lewis Publishing Company, New York City, N.Y. (1907)

Engle, William Henry, History of the Counties of Dauphin & Lebanon in Pennsylvania, Page 456, Everts & Peck, Philadelphia, Pa., (1883)

Lykens Register Newspaper, Lykens, Pa., January 1872-August 1905.

Lykens Standard Newspaper, Lykens, Pa., September 1905-January 1972.

Heilner Women's Relief Corps #101 of Lykens, Minute Books

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** item number 10

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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

Being lot number one hundred and fifty (150) as marked on the plan of the town (now borough) of Lykens, laid out by Daniel Hoffman, CE, for Edward Gratz, in the year A.D. Eighteen hundred and forty-eight; having a frontage of fifty (50) feet on the south side of said North Second Street and extending southward of the same width one hundred and forty (140) feet to a twenty (20) feet wide alley; bounded on the north by said North Second Street; on the east by lot number 148; on the south by a twenty(20) feet wide alley; and on the west by lot number 152.

This boundary includes the nominated building and all historically associated land.



G. A. R. Burfening, Lykens  
Dauphin County  
Zone 18 E350070 N4491960

