

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

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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 Grand Army of the Republic Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 303 Linden Street at Penn Avenue not for publication

city, town Scranton vicinity 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"/> 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 David Leung, David Hemmler, Alejandro Camayd

street & number 428 Spruce St.

city, town Scranton vicinity of state PA, 18503

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lackawanna County Court House

street & number N. Washington Avenue & Spruce Street

city, town Scranton state PA, 18503

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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This building is situated at the corner of Linden St. & Penn Ave., inside the Downtown Scranton area. Almost filling the entire lot of 40' x 100', this building is actually composed of two sections, 40' x 60' section which has 3 stories with a full basement, and a 40' x 34' section which has 4 stories and a full basement. Due to the fact that the third floor of the larger section is double height, the building has a continuous roof line.

The main entrance to the building is from the Linden St. side. A porch with red granite columns and carved brick archway emphasized this main entrance. This porch has a high pitch roof covered with copper sheets. Some old photos show a tile roof on top of copper. The basement of this building is accessible from a sunken courtyard from the sidewalk on Linden St.

The facade of this building features 3 main tiers. The ground level has mostly shop front windows (old photos show canvas awnings on all windows). A bronze plaque (undated) commemorating the veterans of the Civil War is mounted on the only blank brick wall at this level.

The second tier has smaller windows: 3 to each bay on the larger section - 2 to each bay on the smaller section. The windows in the larger section have cast stone jambs and lintels with slate sills. Within this cast stone framework, the windows feature segmented arches. On the cast stone jambs, small carved brick Corinthian capitals are located at each window. The smaller section has only rectangular windows with a carved brick keystone on each window.

An ornate carved brick cornice crowns this tier at the larger section. This cornice is broken at the convex wall at the corner of Penn Ave. & Linden St. There is no cornice at this tier in the small section. Over the main entrance-way at this tier, a highly decorative semi-circular arch window with a detailed keystone is situated. This keystone is extended to form a ledge lower than the cornice of the larger section. On this ledge, there is a carved brick vase.

The third tier is dominated by arches. On the larger section, there are two large semi-circular arched windows on the Penn Ave. side and three similar ones on the Linden St. side. The archways are made of cast stone highlighted by molded brick trims. Stained glass windows filled the semi-circular part of the windows (the stained glass is in a very poor state of repair, some are even missing; total overhaul and some replacement work is badly needed). The spandrel of these arches is made of a molded brick to give a cross hatched pattern. A highly decorated floral patterned brick cornice and a parapet articulated with the geometric motifs. The smaller section at this tier as 2 stories, the lower story has similar windows as the tier below, while the upper story has segmented jack arches with carved brick keystones. A less decorated cornice tops the arches and the parapet has a simple square pattern.

The bay over the main entrance is also divided into 2 stories at this tier. The lower story has a semi-circular blind archway. A square shadow on the brick wall of this archway suggested that a plaque was mounted there in the past. A double window with Corinthian capitals make up the upper story. A carved frieze with floral design is situated between these windows and a square brick panel above. This brick panel is decorated by another blind arch with a helmeted crest in a medallion. Older picture shows a pediment on top of this panel. This pediment must have been demolished some time ago.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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Two carved urns top the minor corners of parapet. At the main corner of the parapet, a tall round turret of molded metal is situated and the turret is crowned with a round cupola and an oval finial. From the ground level to the tip of the finial there is a total height of about 90 feet, making it visible from quite a distance.

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 checked="" 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Built in 1886 **Builder/Architect** John A. Duckworth (Architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Grand Army of the Republic Building is one of the best and most magnificent representations of Victorian Romanesque architecture in Northeastern PA. The intrinsic quality of design of this commanding and majestic structure is an apt reminder of the power and prestige enjoyed by the City of Scranton as well as the Grand Army of the Republic, which occupied the building for many years. The highly ornate carving and molding of the brick work and the ornamental details throughout the building mark it as a true Scranton landmark. As the visual anchor of a full block of handsomely designed nineteenth century structures, this corner building plays a vital part in the architecturally significant neighborhood.

Built in 1886 by Victor Koch, the building originally housed the flourishing Windsor Hotel and Saloon on the first and second floors and the powerful Masonic Order in the large, ornate hall on the top floor. Its major significance as the center of influential political and social gatherings came after 1901 when it was purchased by the GAR, Edward Griffin Post.

Established in 1868, the GAR was the most powerful veterans group in American history. The GAR exercised considerable political power on the national, state and local levels. Indeed, it was virtually essential to have GAR support for political success from 1870 until the 1920's. The Edward Griffin Post boasted over 600 members at the turn of the century, many of whom were prosperous and powerful members of the Scranton business and political communities. This solid, commanding structure aptly reflected the prominence of its owners.

The local GAR Post maintained a large Civil War Museum and Library. Still housed in the building, this priceless collection of memorabilia includes weapons, uniforms, ammunition and books from the Civil War. After the death of the last member of the Scranton GAR, the GAR Memorial Association owned and managed the building and maintained the impressive museum collection.

Attributed to noted architect John Duckworth (1859-1912), the GAR Building is one of the few existing examples of his work that survives close to the original design. Born and educated in Toronto, Duckworth worked under the direction of William Tronig in designing the Canadian Parliament Building. After practicing in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Buffalo, he moved to the flourishing city of Scranton in 1884. His 28 years of practice in Scranton coincided with the city's era of prosperity, and his work includes over 600 buildings. Among his most noted works are The Jermyn Hotel, Scranton and St. Rose Church, Carbondale. The juxtaposition of different color stone and brick in these two buildings and the use of Romanesque features are typical of Duckworth's design and are the basis for attributing the GAR Building to him.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1889 Scranton Business Directory, p. 80

David Croft, et. al., History of Scranton, United Brethren Publishing
Lackawanna County Records, Lackawanna County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .5

Quadrangle name Scranton

Quadrangle scale 1=24,000

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David C. Leung, AIA, AICP

organization Leung Hemmler Camayd PC, Architects date December 12, 1983

street & number 428 Spruce St. telephone 717-961-1302

city or town Scranton state PA, 18503

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

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

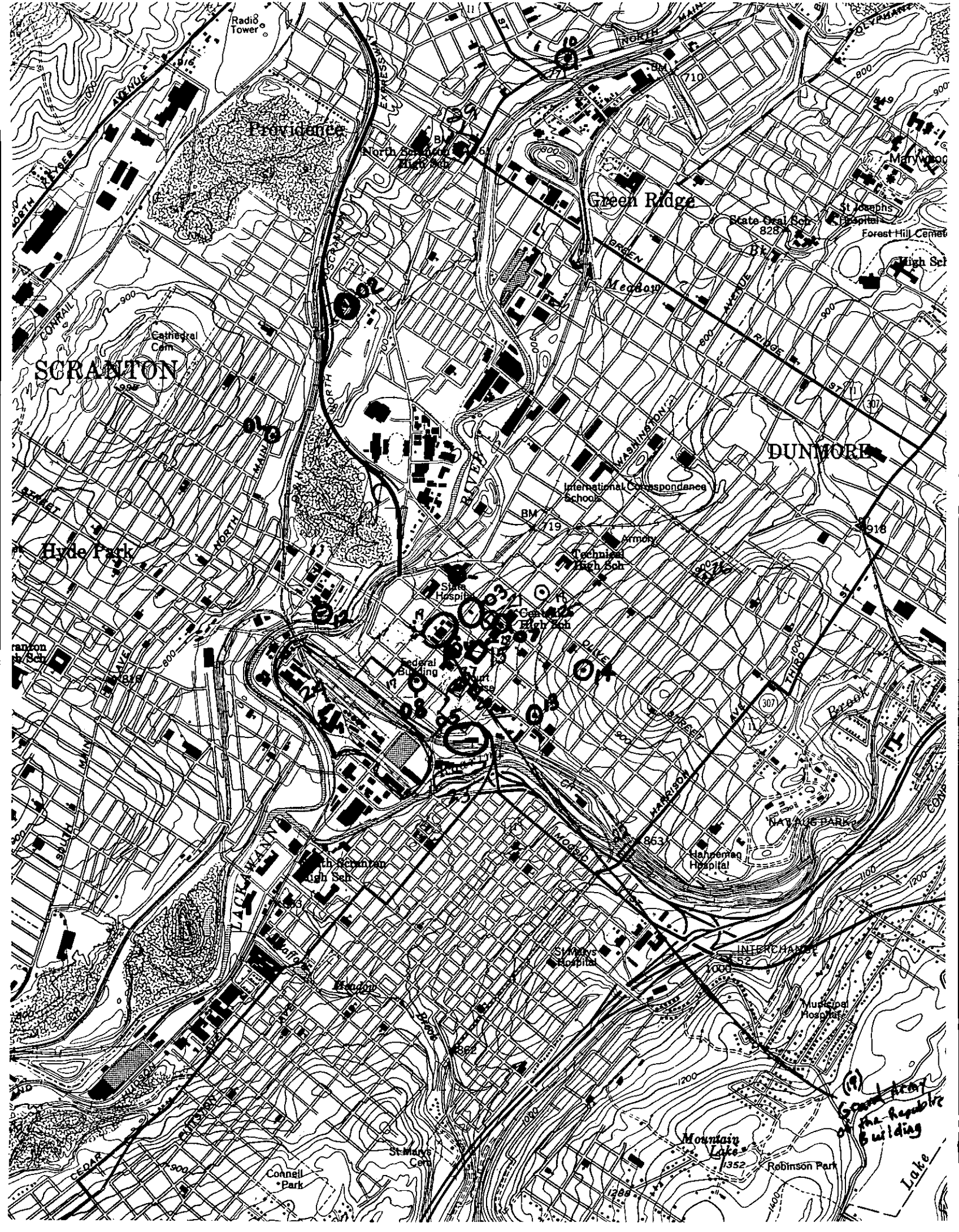
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Radio Tower

Provincetown

Green Ridge

SCRANTON

State Grad Sch 828

St Josephs Hospital

Forest Hill Cem

High Sch

Meadow

DUNMORE

Hyde Park

International Correspondence School

BM 719

Army Technical High Sch

St. Josephs Hospital

Federal Building

Hahnemann Hospital

St. Marys High Sch

St. Marys Hospital

INTERCITY

Municipal Hospital

Connell Park

St. Marys Cem

Mountain Lake 1352

Robinson Park

(19) Grand Army of the Republic Building

Lake