

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Uniontown Downtown Historic District (Boundary Increase)
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 18 S. Beeson Boulevard and 9 E. Peter Street not for publication N/A
city or town Uniontown vicinity N/A
state Pennsylvania code PA county Fayette code 051 zip code 15401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Arnt D. Shas 12/19/02

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register _____

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register _____

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the
National Register _____

 removed from the National Register _____

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

 2 0 buildings

 0 0 sites

 0 0 structures

 0 0 objects

 2 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce / Trade Sub: Specialty Store

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce / Trade Sub: Specialty Store

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance
Moderne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof asphalt
walls brick
other terra cotta

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance 1924-1929

Significant Dates 1924

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

D. Major Bibliographical References

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .3

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- | Zone Easting Northing | Zone Easting Northing | (Boundary Increase only) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>17 608958 4417648</u> | 3. _____ | |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ | |
- See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles H. Uhl (Boundary Increase)

organization Historic Preservation Services date October 4, 2002

street & number 6711 Stanton Avenue telephone 412 492-9100

city or town Pittsburgh state PA zip code 15206

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Uniontown Downtown Historic District (boundary increase)

Name of Property

Fayette County, PA

County and State

The Uniontown Downtown Historic District (Boundary Increase) adjoins the north central portion of the Uniontown Downtown Historic District (NR, 1989) and is located one block north of Main Street, the district's principal artery. The buildings occupy the western one-third of the block bounded by Penn Street (north), Gallatin Avenue (east), Peter Street (south), and Beeson Boulevard (west). The eastern two-thirds of the block is within the historic district. Adjacent properties to the north, east, and south are within the existing district boundaries.

The nomination form for the existing district identifies the district as containing 113 contributing and 23 noncontributing resources covering 31 acres and describes the district as containing a "mixture of commercial buildings, governmental buildings, and residences that have been converted to commercial use." The nomination further describes most of the buildings in the district as being two and three-story commercial/mixed use masonry buildings and states that the "majority of buildings in the district represent construction of the late 19th and early 20th centuries corresponding to the height of the coal and coke boom." Fifteen percent of the buildings in the existing district were dated to the 1920-1932 period.

The Uniontown Downtown Historic District (Boundary Increase) consists of two contributing buildings that are compatible in scale and style with the existing district, as follows:

18 S. Beeson Boulevard

The former department store is a tall two story plus full basement buff brick building measuring approximately 120 by 65 feet. The Beeson Boulevard and Peter Street corner of the building is chamfered to provide a focal point for the main entrance. This is the oldest section of the building, constructed in 1924, and once had plate glass windows in the first floor. The second floor windows are multi-light rolled steel sash surviving behind a projecting red metal skirt. The Peter Street and older section of the Beeson Street elevation have a terra cotta coping.

The store received an austere commercial style addition to the north, filling the block to Penn Street, in 1956. The interior was remodeled in 1956, and again when offices were constructed in the building in the 1970s. It is in a fair state of integrity.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2 Uniontown Downtown Historic District (boundary increase)

Name of Property

Fayette County, PA

County and State

9 E. Peter Street

This is a two story commercial building, measuring 24 x 64'. It was constructed in 1924 of brown brick, with a symmetrical storefront with a center recess. The second floor has four symmetrically spaced 1/1 wooden double hung sash in rectangular masonry openings. The second floor openings have brick sills and lintels, and there is no decorative cornice treatment. The integrity of the building is very good. The only visible alteration is a covering or replacement of the original material below the storefront windows.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1 Uniontown Downtown Historic District (boundary increase)

Name of Property

Fayette County, PA

County and State

The existing Uniontown Historic District (NR, 1989) was deemed significant under National Register Criterion A in the Areas of Commerce, Politics/Government, and Transportation and Criterion C in the Area of Architecture with a period of significance of 1811-1939. The proposed Uniontown Historic District (Boundary Increase) complements the significance of the existing district under Criterion A in the Area of Commerce and Criterion C in the Area of Architecture. The period of significance for the Boundary Increase begins with the construction dates of the two buildings in 1924 and ends in 1939, consistent with the period of significance ending date for the existing district.

18 S. Beeson Boulevard

The former department store building is a vestige of Uniontown's 20th century boom era. The city's prosperity was based on the coal and coke industry. A network of interurban rail lines connected Uniontown with smaller outlying communities, gathering commuters and shoppers in the Fayette County seat. The small city boasted a bustling commercial Main Street with a number of department stores, five-and-dimes, and several impressive movie theaters.

A fire in 1922 cleared the western third of the block between Gallatin Avenue, Peter and Penn Streets, and Beeson Boulevard, half a block north of Uniontown's Main Street. A small department store, the Fair Store, built a new building on the site in 1924, moving from a smaller building in downtown Uniontown. The Fair Store was a two-story building at the corner of Beeson Boulevard and Penn Street.

The Fair Store did not survive the Great Depression. Sears Roebuck and Company bought the vacant building and reopened it as a Sears store in 1934. Sears remodeled the store in 1934 but the exact work done is not known. In 1951 Sears planned an expansion of the Uniontown store, acquiring the property to the north between the existing store and Penn Street. T.G. Lehman Architect of Newark, New Jersey prepared plans, apparently working corporately for Sears. Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry approved the 1951 plans, but the addition was not constructed. In 1956 the plans for the new addition to the Sears store were revised, and the addition was built.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2 Uniontown Downtown Historic District (boundary increase)

Name of Property

Fayette County, PA

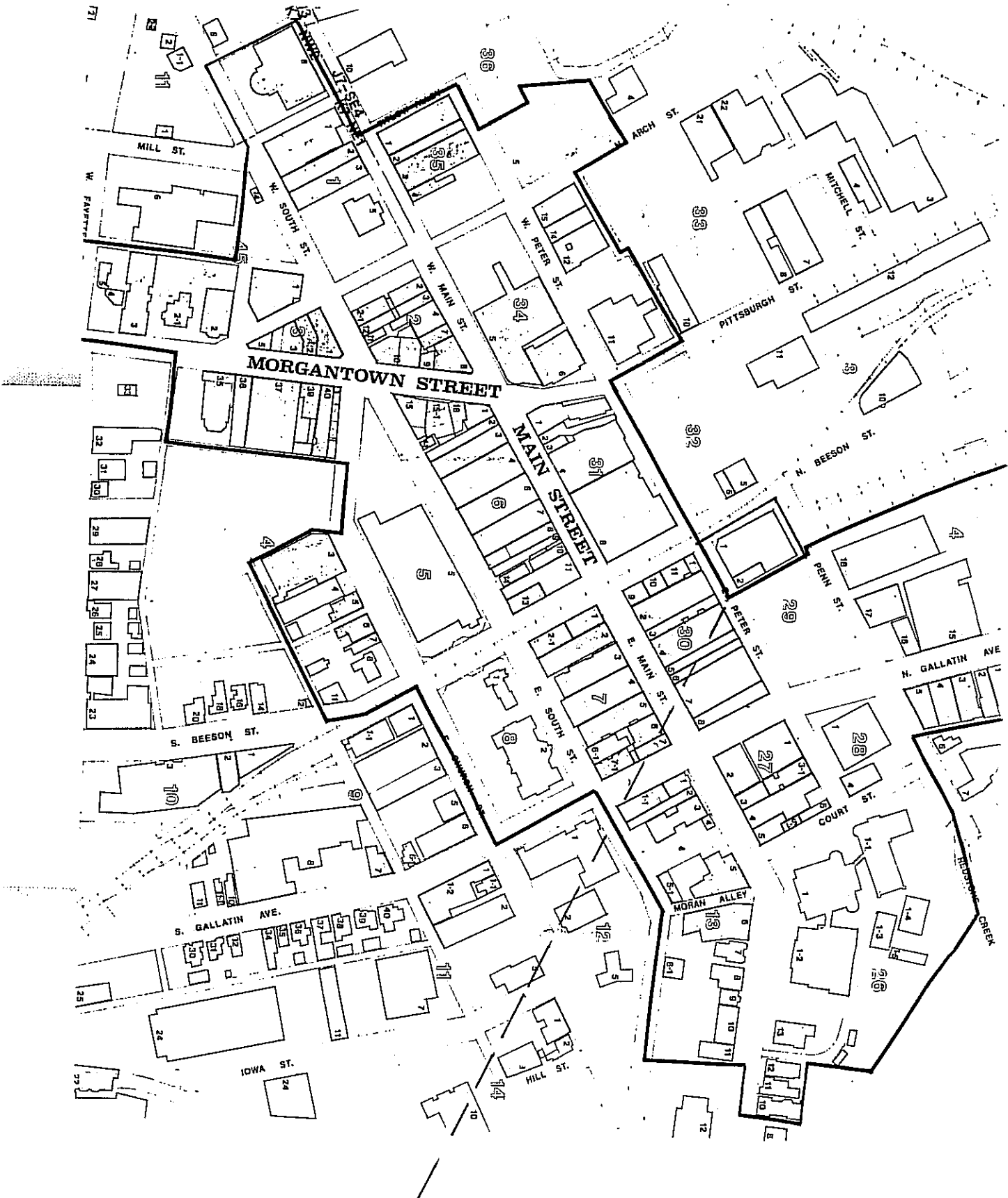
County and State

In the early 1970s Sears moved its Uniontown store to the new mall constructed west of town on US 40. In November 1975 the building was purchased by a consortium of Uniontown businessmen, remodeled for use as office space, and renamed Professional Plaza. It has served that purpose until 1998.

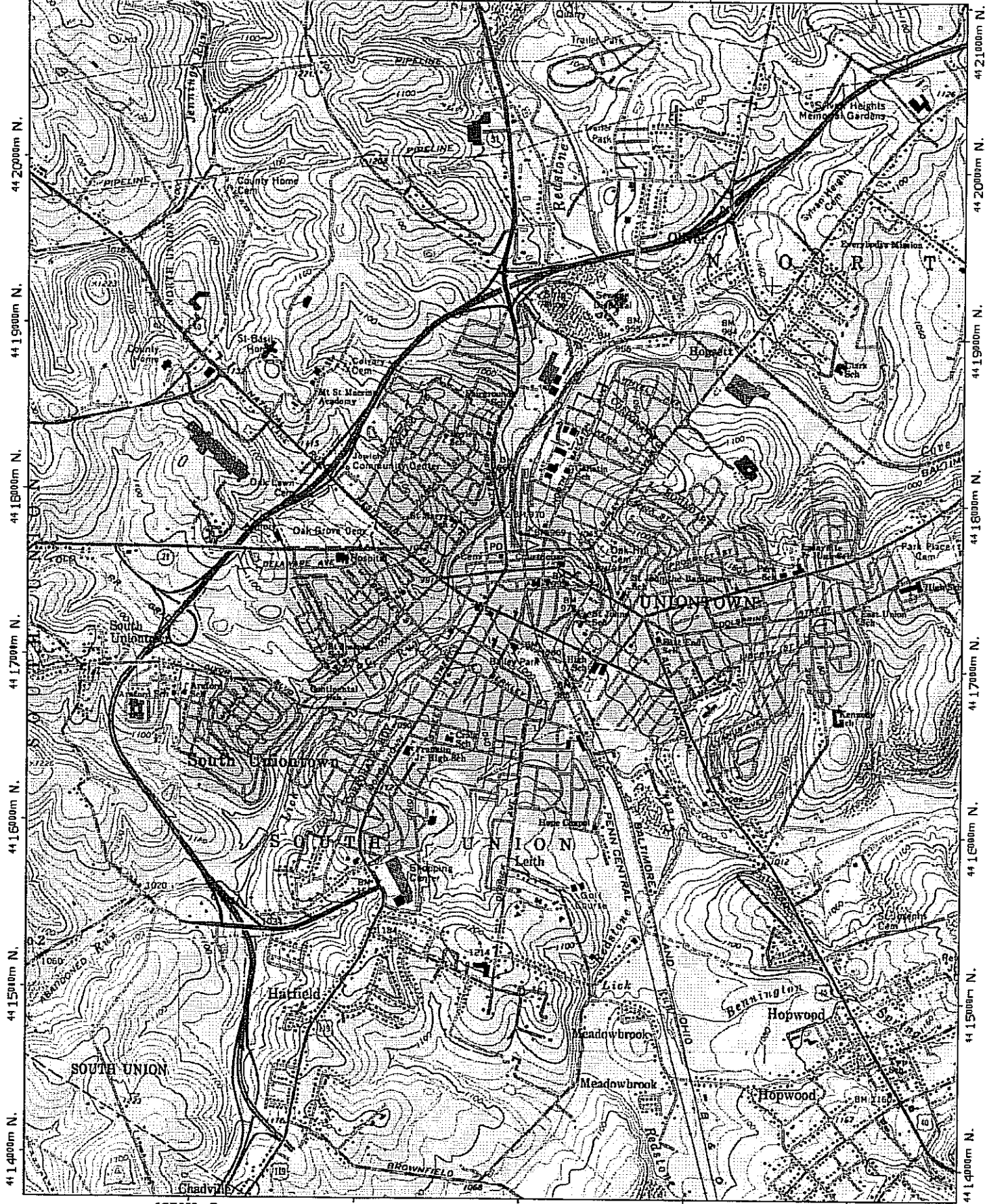
In December 1998 the owners of the Laurel Business Institute purchased the former Sears store, and began plans to rehabilitate the building for use by the school and other tenants.

9 E. Peter Street

The two-story commercial building adjacent to the Fair / Sears store on Peter Street was constructed within two years after the 1922 fire. The earliest tenant of the storefront has not been discovered. A billiard parlor operated on the second floor in the 1920s. In the 1930s the building housed an A&P grocery store. From the early 1940s through the mid 1960s a locally owned produce store and meat market occupied operated from the storefront. The last tenant was a local variety store, recently moved to a Main Street location.



Downtown Uniontown Historic District (Boundary Expansion), Fayette County, PA
October 2002



41 2000m N.
41 1900m N.
41 1800m N.
41 1700m N.
41 1600m N.
41 1500m N.
41 1400m N.

41 2100m N.
41 2000m N.
41 1900m N.
41 1800m N.
41 1700m N.
41 1600m N.
41 1500m N.
41 1400m N.

