

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

4282

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: **Stoehr & Fister Building**

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: **200 Adams Avenue**

City or town: **Scranton** State: **PA** County: **Lackawanna**

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

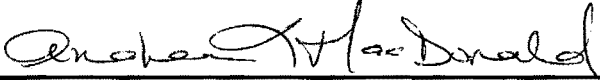
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B X C D

	
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Deputy SHPO</u>	Date <u>9/27/2019</u>
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission - State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government


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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

11/25/19
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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE – Specialty Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT – Government Office

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Terra Cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Stoehr & Fister Building is a six-story former furniture store located at the southeast corner of Adams Avenue and Spruce Street in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The west (primary) elevation faces Courthouse Square. Designed by architects Davis & Lewis and built in 1922-1923, the building has a steel frame and is faced in matte white glazed terra cotta. The overall composition can most closely be associated with the Commercial Style, but with a strong Gothic Revival influence. The building, which is rectangular in plan, occupies nearly the entire 90' by 160' site on which it stands, bounded by Adams Avenue to the west, Spruce Street to the south and Kessler Court to the east. There are concrete sidewalks on all three of these sides. On the north side a driveway separates the building from an adjacent two-story bank (the driveway is located on the bank property and was never associated with Stoehr & Fister).

Narrative Description

The west and south elevations, which are five and seven bays wide, respectively, are the most visible elevations and therefore contain the most articulated facades (**Photos #1 and 2**). On the first floor, each contains an entrance in the center bay (**Photos #3 and 4**). Although located in the original entrance openings, the existing entrance assemblies, consisting of aluminum-framed glass doors with side lights and transoms, were installed when the building was converted into the Lackawanna County Administration Building in 1971. A gilded metal canopy with glass pendants, an original feature, remains above the entrance on the west elevation. A similar flat "canopy" (essentially a valance) is also found on the south elevation (**Photo #5**). On either side of both entrances, there are storefront bays that have largely been infilled with ceramic tile and contain short rows of aluminum windows toward the top of the openings. The storefront infill dates to the 1971 alterations. The storefronts are separated by terra cotta pilasters with capitals that tie into an entablature below the second floor windows. The pilaster capitals flanking the entrances contain pairs of sculpted eagles (**Photo #6**) while the others contain small figures of

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furniture makers and other types of craftsmen (**Photos #7 and 8**).

On the upper floors, the west and south elevations contain three- and four-part aluminum windows, respectively, in all bays, that were installed in 1971. Below the windows, there are terra cotta spandrel panels with Gothic-influenced ornamentation, such as ribbing. The bays are separated by plainly treated terra cotta pilasters that rise uninterrupted from the second floor entablature to the parapet. The whole composition culminates in an elaborate Gothic Revival cornice and crenellated parapet (**Photo #9**).

The east and north elevations are much more plainly treated, consisting of painted brick with an irregular fenestration pattern (**Photos #10 and 11**). On the north elevation, there are original two-over-two, double-hung metal windows that open into one of the interior stair towers.

Interior

The interior of the building was converted into offices for the Lackawanna County government in 1971. On the first floor, the entrance vestibules on the west and south sides remain intact, containing a variety of original finishes including tile floors, paneled wood walls, and plaster ceilings with gilded crown molding (**Photos #12, 13, 14 and 15**). The remainder of the building has been subdivided into offices with a variety of layouts. Typical finishes include carpeting or vinyl tile floors, drywall partitions, and dropped acoustical tile ceilings (**Photos #16-31**). The building also contains two original stairways, one near the northwest corner of the building (**Photo #32**), and another near the center of the east elevation (**Photo #33**). Both are metal and contain wood handrails. Two passenger elevators, located just east of the first stairway, are modern but are located in the original shafts. An original freight elevator, located farther east along the same wall, still exists, including the original counterbalanced metal doors on each floor (**Photo #34**).

Integrity

The Stoehr & Fister Building retains integrity. The aspects of Design and Materials are retained through the building's fully intact terra cotta façade in a Gothic-influenced Commercial Style, which was highly characteristic of the 1910s and 1920s. Although nearly all of the original windows have been replaced, the openings remain, allowing the historic fenestration pattern to be understood. The lack of the original windows also has minimal impact on the overall Commercial Gothic form of the building, which still exists largely in its original condition. The aspects of Location and Setting are also retained since the building continues to occupy its original site on Courthouse Square and remains one of the most prominent buildings surrounding the square, speaking to the high profile of the Stoehr & Fister business during the early twentieth century.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Davis & Lewis, Architects

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Stoehr & Fister Building is significant under Criterion C in the Area of Architecture. Founded by Gustav Stoehr and H. Ray Fister in Scranton in 1906, Stoehr & Fister gradually became the city's preeminent home furnishings store, supplying a vast array of public buildings, banks, schools, theatres, offices and private residences throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania in the early twentieth century. After more than a decade of rapid growth, the company embarked on the construction of the present building on Courthouse Square in 1922. Designed by the local architectural firm of Davis & Lewis, the Commercial Style building was heavily influenced by recent developments in the application of the Gothic style to modern commercial buildings. Due to its striking Gothic form, rendered in one of the most characteristic building materials of the early twentieth century – white glazed terra cotta – the building not only became a downtown landmark in Scranton, but also served as a marketing device and physical symbol of the Stoehr & Fister's reputable position in the home furnishings world. The period of significance is 1923, the year the building was completed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Early History of Stoehr & Fister

Stoehr & Fister was originally known as Stoehr, Fister & Jennings, a home furnishings store that succeeded an earlier wallpaper and carpet business known as the J. Scott Inglis Company. Gustav Stoehr, who had worked for Inglis for years, took over the business when Inglis retired in 1907, bringing on H. Ray Fister and H.S. Jennings as partners but initially retaining the Inglis name. In October of that year, the three partners opened a new, 22,000 square foot store at 121 Washington Avenue. Dramatically expanding the variety of goods sold in the previous Inglis space at 422 Lackawanna Avenue, the new store offered a wide range of home furnishings and floor coverings, "brimful of the choicest new goods America makes – everything needed in the outfitting of a complete home." This included items as diverse as floor coverings – oil cloth, linoleums, and carpeting – to furniture for the dining room, parlor, bedroom, and office, not to mention draperies and bedding.¹ In 1908, the store was officially renamed Stoehr, Fister & Jennings.² Three years later, in 1911, Jennings retired and the store became known simply as Stoehr & Fister. Due to its "constantly increasing business," the store occupied an additional two stories in the 121 Washington building that year, doubling its size.³

As Stoehr & Fister became more renowned, their furniture could be found in more and more homes, banks, theatres, schools, and a variety of local and county government buildings. In a 1925 advertisement in *The Scranton Republican*, the store listed over a dozen nearby theatres owned by the Comerford Amusement Company to which Stoehr & Fister had provided

¹ "Auspicious Opening," *The Scranton Republican*, 18 Oct 1907.

² "What the Retail Stores are Doing," in *American Carpet and Upholstery Journal* 26, no. 1 (Jan 1908), 71.

³ "Stoehr, Fister & Jennings," *The Scranton Republican*, 28 Nov 1911.

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furnishings, not to mention a number of banks and homeowners as far away as Wilmington, Delaware and New Rochelle, New York (**Figure 14**). Thanks to the store's highly visible position on Courthouse Square as well as its prolific advertising – the store took out half- to full-page ads in *The Scranton Republican* on an almost daily basis for years – Stoehr & Fister arguably became the standard home furnishings supplier for Scranton and the surrounding region (**Figures 13-15**).

By 1921, Stoehr & Fister's space on Washington Avenue was quickly becoming inadequate for its growing customer base and ever expanding product lines, which now included electrical home appliances and Victrola gramophones (the store became one of the primary sellers of the Victrola in Scranton). The owners sought to build a new home, seeing an opportunity in the availability of prime real estate on Adams Avenue on Courthouse Square. After acquiring the properties in early 1922, the two dwellings that stood there were demolished, making way for the new six-story building.⁴

The Architectural Significance of the Stoehr & Fister Building

The Stoehr & Fister Building was designed by the Scranton architectural firm of Davis & Lewis, arguably the foremost practice in that city during the early twentieth century. The firm was founded in 1919 when George M.D. Lewis (1891-1987) entered into partnership with Edward Herbert Davis (1867-1943), who had been practicing independently in Scranton since 1892. Known in large part for their work on office buildings, banks and department stores, Davis & Lewis designed many of downtown Scranton's most recognizable landmarks, including the Scranton Gas & Water Company Building (1921) at 135 Jefferson Avenue, the Samter Brothers Department Store (1924) at the northwest corner of Lackawanna Avenue and Penn Avenue, the Scranton Times Building (1925) at 149 Penn Avenue, and the 12-story addition to the First National Bank (1930) at the northwest corner of Wyoming Avenue and Spruce Streets, among others. Characteristic of the period, these four buildings, all of which survive largely intact today, are variations of the Beaux Arts style with symmetrical base-shaft-capital compositions, facades clad in limestone or white terra cotta, and regular, punched window openings.

Although markedly different from much of their earlier work in its Gothic-influenced façade, the Stoehr & Fister Building nonetheless adheres to the Beaux Arts compositional principles in which the practice of Davis & Lewis was firmly grounded. An identifiable base (the storefronts at ground level), shaft (the office floors), and capital (the ornate Gothic parapet), not to mention the symmetry of the south and west elevations, ensure that the form of the building, despite its Gothic flourishes, was recognizable and familiar as a work of early twentieth century commercial architecture.

The exterior design of the Stoehr & Fister Building was influenced by recent developments in the adaptation of the Gothic style to modern commercial structures, most notably in Cass Gilbert's Woolworth Building in New York City, completed in 1913. During the early twentieth century, when architects grappled with the issue of how to give the tall building proper form, the vertical nature of the Gothic style became one means by which designers could emphasize height

⁴ "Removing Houses from Stoehr & Fister Site," *The Scranton Republican*, 3 Apr 1922.

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and monumentality. Over the next decade, the “neo-Gothic” style became widely used in commercial structures of all sizes – ranging from the six-story Wesley Building in Philadelphia (1914-15, enlarged to fourteen stories in 1921-22; extant) to the fifteen-story Union Arcade Building, later renamed Union Trust, in Pittsburgh (1915-16; extant). In Scranton itself, the Commercial Gothic style first appeared in the Scranton Life Building, designed by Edward A. Langley and built in 1916 (**Figure 16**). Located at the corner of Adams Avenue and Spruce Street, on the corner opposite where Stoehr & Fister would subsequently be built, Scranton Life would have served as an obvious model for Davis & Lewis.

Apart from their visual effect, the attenuated vertical lines inherent in Gothic buildings – both ecclesiastical and secular – were also well suited to the technology of tall building construction. Building on the theoretical work of Eugène Viollet-le-Duc (1814-1879), who promoted the Medieval period as one of structural rationalism, architects of large commercial buildings in the 1910s and 20s frequently took advantage of the steel frame to maximize the size of window openings. Unlike a standard early twentieth century Beaux Arts-style office building, which typically consisted of a planar masonry shaft with punched window openings, Commercial Style buildings of the 1920s more clearly expressed the unseen structure within. In this way, the Gothic style paradoxically became “Modern.” Appropriately, the piers between the bays on the west and south elevations of the Stoehr & Fister Building occur only where there are columns in the interior. The piers are also corbelled outward, suggesting that they wrap around the columns, further articulating the building’s structural system.

Appropriate not only as an expression of the building’s structure, Stoehr & Fister’s Gothic design was also likely meant to allude to the high quality craftwork that presumably was a characteristic of the furniture and textiles sold inside. As promoted decades earlier by the likes of William Morris and others, the Middle Ages was a time that “valued craft, handwork, and the individual craftsman – in opposition to the anonymity and uniformity of the modern age, with its increasing industrialization and reliance on machinery.”⁵ The sculpted figures of folk craftsmen present above the ground-level storefronts – representing woodworking, metalsmithing, and loom work, among other crafts – are like gargoyles on a Gothic church and are clearly intended to illustrate the types of goods found inside. Although it is unclear how much of the store’s offerings were handmade and how much was factory produced, this kind of evocation of the Medieval period was likely intended to connote quality. In a manner similar to that of the Woolworth Building, which became known as the “Cathedral of Commerce” shortly after its completion, the Gothic design of Stoehr & Fister became a valuable symbol for the company, the face of the brand as evidenced by the building’s image in numerous advertisements.

The success and popularity of Davis & Lewis’ design for Stoehr & Fister, which may have been an attempt to complement the adjacent Scranton Life Building, influenced other, later works in the area. Outside of Courthouse Square, for example, Davis & Lewis utilized Gothic forms and motifs at the Lewis & Reilly Building, an eight-story department store at 114 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton (**Figure 17**). Built in 1925, the building was, like Stoehr & Fister, essentially a

⁵ Lisa Reilly, “Design and the Study of the Past: The Gothic Skyscraper,” in *Skyscraper Gothic: Medieval Style and Modernist Building*, edited by Kevin D. Murphy and Lisa Reilly (University of Virginia Press, 2014).

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Commercial Style front with a strong Gothic influence. Although the Lewis & Reilly Building's Gothic flourishes are perhaps slightly simplified versions of those seen at Stoehr & Fister, the influence of the earlier building is clear.

Stoehr & Fister as a work of Architectural Terra Cotta

Like many commercial buildings of the 1910s and 20s, the Stoehr & Fister Building was faced nearly entirely in glazed, matte white architectural terra cotta and is one of the most prominent displays of the material in downtown Scranton. A fired clay product, terra cotta has been used in buildings as a structural component, fireproofing, and cladding material. Although manufactured in the United States since the late 1860s, the use of architectural terra cotta in commercial buildings in the United States greatly accelerated after the turn of the twentieth century. Due to its ability to be produced in monochromatic white, it became particularly suitable to the growing influence of Classicism in American architecture during this period. Far less expensive than stone, terra cotta could be molded into almost any shape, allowing the creation of highly articulated facades, often from pieces chosen from a catalog. The material rapidly became a defining characteristic of American downtowns after 1900 and was produced by a range of manufacturers. Companies like the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company (founded 1888 in Chicago), the New York Architectural Terra Cotta Company (founded 1886), the Conkling-Armstrong Terra Cotta Company (founded 1895 in Philadelphia), among a host of others, proliferated throughout the United States to satisfy the ever growing demand for this eminently versatile material.⁶

Beginning with the Woolworth Building in 1913, architects began to design Gothic-influenced facades with the same monochromatic look as their Classical, Beaux Arts counterparts. As explained above, the choice of the Gothic style was often one related to the desire to express greater structural clarity. And terra cotta, due to its plastic nature, became a cost effective means to achieve the Gothic look – ornate shapes and forms could be produced inexpensively relative to carved natural stone. After a single mold was created in the workshop of a terra cotta company, the piece could be reproduced countless times in clay, significantly reducing the time, effort and money required to produce relatively ornate facades. In the case of Stoehr & Fister, the structure was clad in terra cotta manufactured by the New Jersey Terra Cotta Company, which was founded in 1893 and became regionally prominent for their work on hotels, office buildings and theatres from New York to Ohio. (The company had their offices in the Singer Building in New York City and their main plant in Perth Amboy, NJ). As illustrated in a portfolio and catalog published by the company in 1924, New Jersey Terra Cotta were highly experienced in the production of all shapes and forms of architectural terra cotta, from strikingly modern, planar facades to elaborate Gothic designs.

The Later History of Stoehr & Fister

Stoehr & Fister remained under the control of Gustav Stoehr and H. Ray Fister until 1939, when the two men dissolved their partnership and the business passed to Stoehr's son, Robert E.

⁶ Deborah Slaton and Harry J. Hunderman, "Terra Cotta," in *Twentieth-Century Building Materials: History and Conservation*, edited by Thomas C. Jester (Washington, D.C.: Archetype Press, 1995); and Susan Tunick, *Terra-Cotta Skyline* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1997).

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Stoehr, who had been general manager for several years.⁷ No change in the name of the store or its policies changed as a result of this transition. Likely as a result of a drop in business during the World War II years – the younger Stoehr was indicted by a grand jury in 1950 for fraudulent tax returns – the business was sold to Spiegel, a national chain of department stores, in 1946. Again, the name of Stoehr & Fister was retained and the store appears to have maintained a prominent position in downtown Scranton through the 1950s. However, as experienced by most retailers in American downtowns, the store began to face dramatically declining sales by the end of the decade. Stoehr & Fister was ultimately forced to close in December, 1965 after 59 years in business. In 1971, the building was acquired by Lackawanna County and renovated for use as a courthouse annex. The building is still occupied by the county today.⁸

⁷ “Stoehr Controls Furniture Firm,” *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, 29 Jun 1939.

⁸ “Lackawanna County Approves Bonds Sale,” *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, 1 Dec 1971.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Reilly, Lisa. "Design and the Study of the Past: The Gothic Skyscraper." in *Skyscraper Gothic: Medieval Style and Modernist Building*. Kevin D. Murphy and Lisa Reilly, eds. University of Virginia Press, 2014.

Slaton, Deborah and Harry J. Hunderman. "Terra Cotta." in *Twentieth-Century Building Materials: History and Conservation*. Thomas C. Jester, ed. Washington, D.C.: Archetype Press, 1995.

The Scranton Republican (Newspaper)*

Tunick, Susan. *Terra-Cotta Skyline*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1997.

Wilkes-Barre Times Leader (Newspaper)*

*see footnotes for specific citations

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property ~0.33 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.407058 Longitude: -75.661868

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the property is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Site Plan with National Register Boundary" (Figure 2).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the present building is situated. No extant historically associated resources have been excluded.

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Form Prepared By

name/title: Kevin McMahon, Associate
organization: Powers & Company, Inc.
street & number: 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1717
city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19107
e-mail: kevin@powersco.net
telephone: (215) 636-0192
date: March 1, 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Stoehr & Fister Building

City or Vicinity: Scranton

County: Lackawanna State: PA

Photographer: Kevin McMahon

Date Photographed: November 14, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

<i>Photograph #</i>	<i>Description of Photograph</i>
1.	West and south elevations, view northeast
2.	West elevation, view east
3.	West elevation, entrance detail, view east
4.	West elevation, entrance and canopy, view northeast
5.	South elevation, view north
6.	West elevation, eagle detail, view southeast
7.	West elevation, pilaster capital, view east
8.	South elevation, pilaster capital, view north
9.	West and south elevations, parapet detail, view northeast
10.	South and east elevations, view northwest
11.	North elevation, view southwest
12.	Interior – First floor, west vestibule, view northeast
13.	Interior – First floor, west vestibule, view west
14.	Interior – First floor, south vestibule, view east
15.	Interior – First floor, south vestibule, view west
16.	Interior – First floor, offices, view southwest
17.	Interior – First floor, corridor, view west
18.	Interior – First floor, corridor, view north
19.	Interior – First floor, office, view south
20.	Interior – First floor, elevator lobby, view west

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21.	Interior – Second floor, corridor, view northwest
22.	Interior – Second floor, corridor, view south
23.	Interior – Second floor, office, view south
24.	Interior – Third floor, office, view south
25.	Interior – Third floor, offices, view north
26.	Interior – Fourth floor, offices, view west
27.	Interior – Fifth floor, offices, view north
28.	Interior – Fifth floor, meeting room, view south
29.	Interior – Sixth floor, elevator lobby, view west
30.	Interior – Sixth floor, offices, view west
31.	Interior – Sixth Floor, office, view south
32.	Interior – Fourth floor, stairway, view east
33.	Interior – Fifth floor, stairway, view east
34.	Interior – Third floor, freight elevator, view northwest
35.	Roof, view northwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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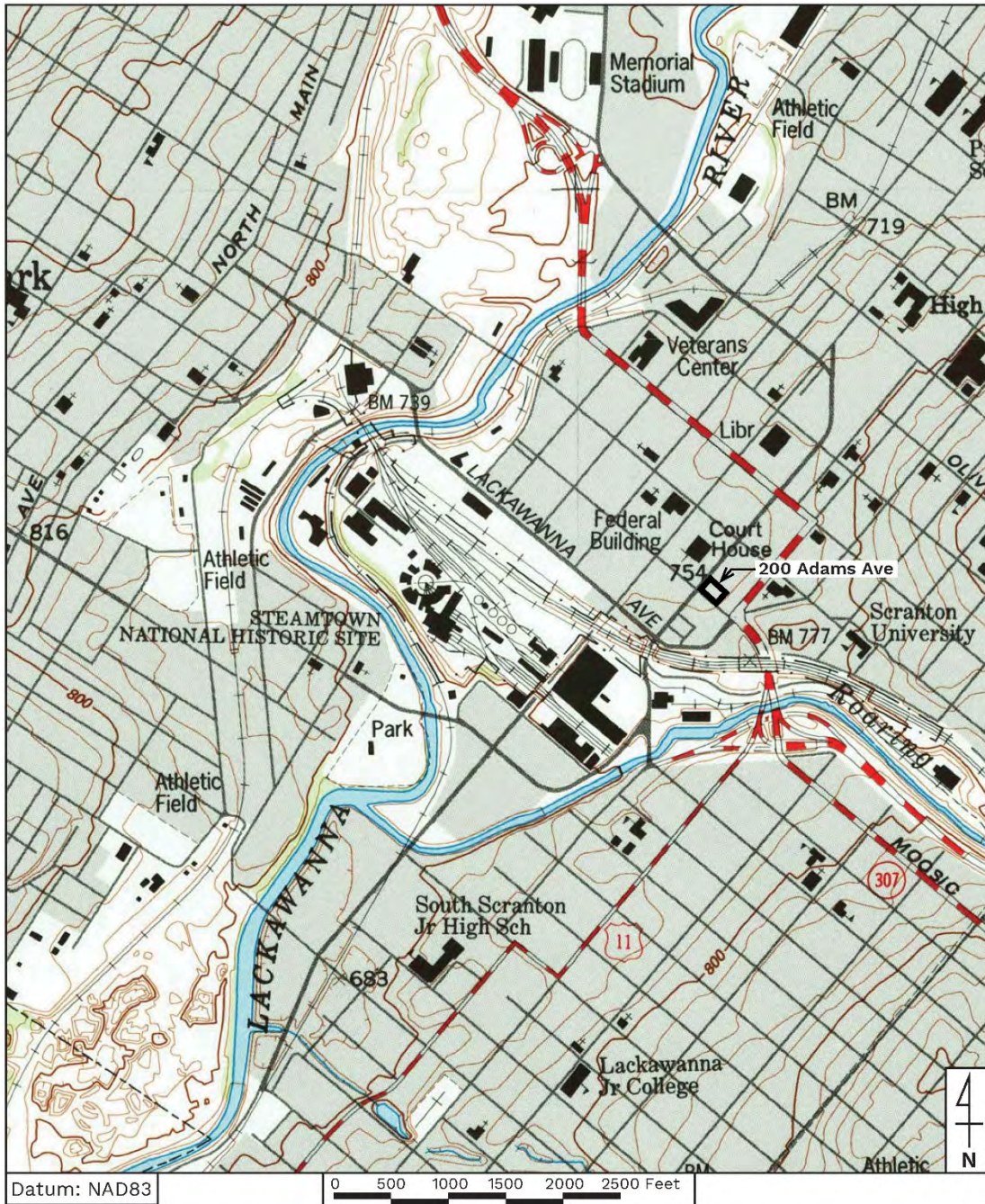
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4.	First Floor Plan with Photo Key
5.	Second Floor Plan with Photo Key
6.	Third Floor Plan with Photo Key
7.	Fourth Floor Plan with Photo Key
8.	Fifth Floor Plan with Photo Key
9.	Sixth Floor Plan with Photo Key
10.	Nirenstein Business Map, 1929
11.	View of the Stoehr & Fister Building under construction, April 1923
12.	View of the Stoehr & Fister Building from the Scranton Republican, September 1923
13.	Stoehr & Fister Advertisement, from the Scranton Republican, July 1924
14.	Stoehr & Fister Advertisement, from the Scranton Republican, October 1925
15.	Stoehr & Fister Advertisement, from the Scranton Republican, May 1933
16.	Current view of the Scranton Life Building
17.	Current view of the Lewis & Reilly Building

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State



USGS Map Excerpt - Scranton Quadrangle - Pennsylvania (1994)
Stoehr & Fister Building
200 Adams Avenue
Scranton, Lackawanna County, PA

Latitude, Longitude
41.407058, -75.661868

Figure 1 – USGS Map

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State

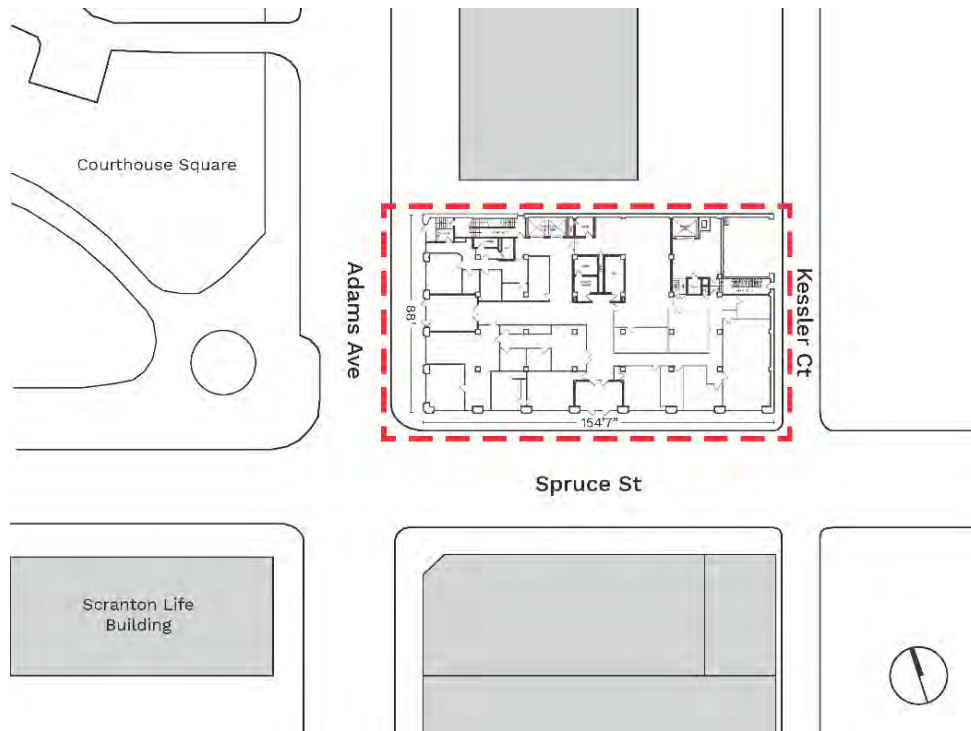


Figure 2 – Site Plan with National Register Boundary

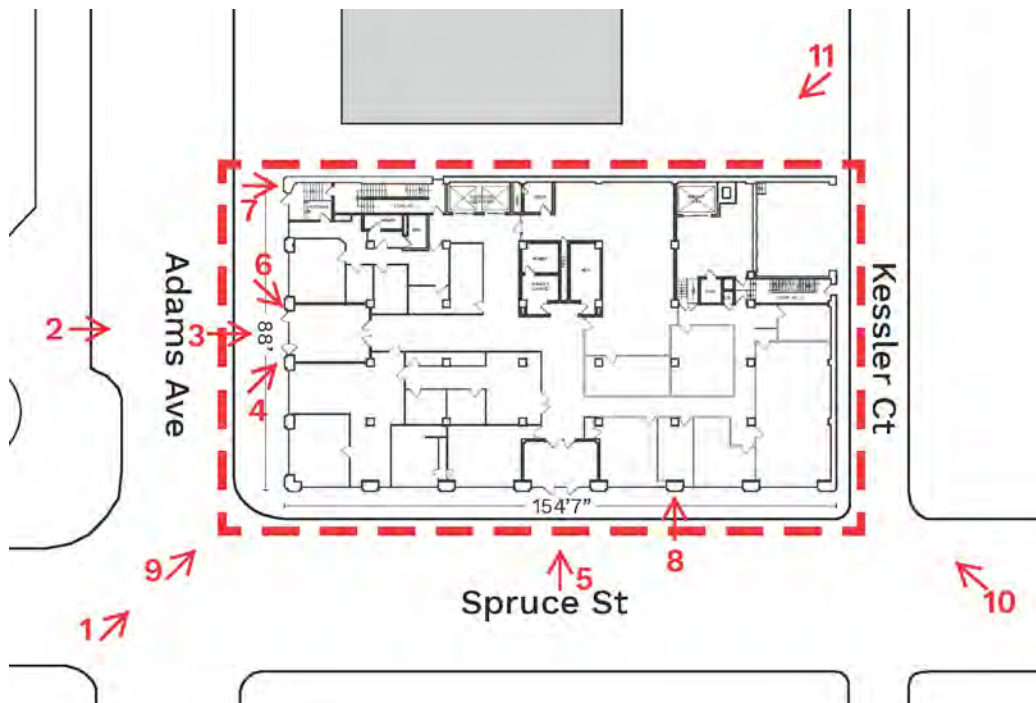


Figure 3 – Site Plan with Photo Key

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State



Figure 4 – First Floor Plan with Photo Key

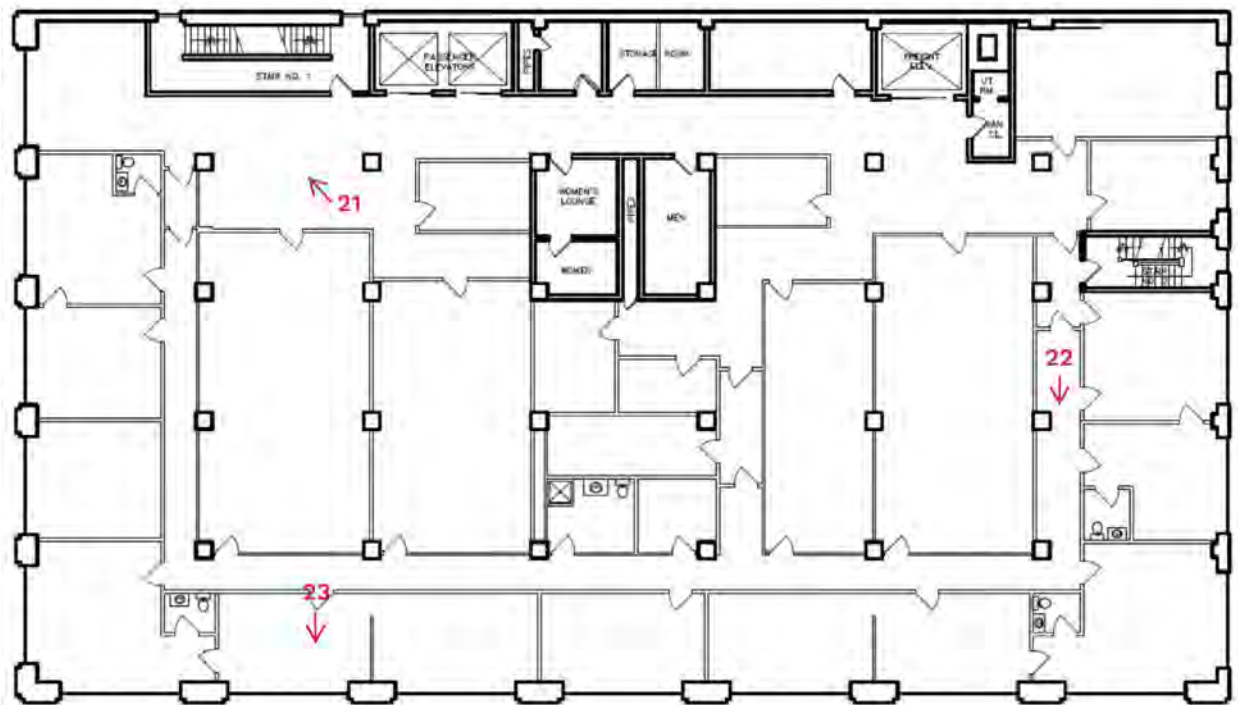


Figure 5 – Second Floor Plan with Photo Key

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State

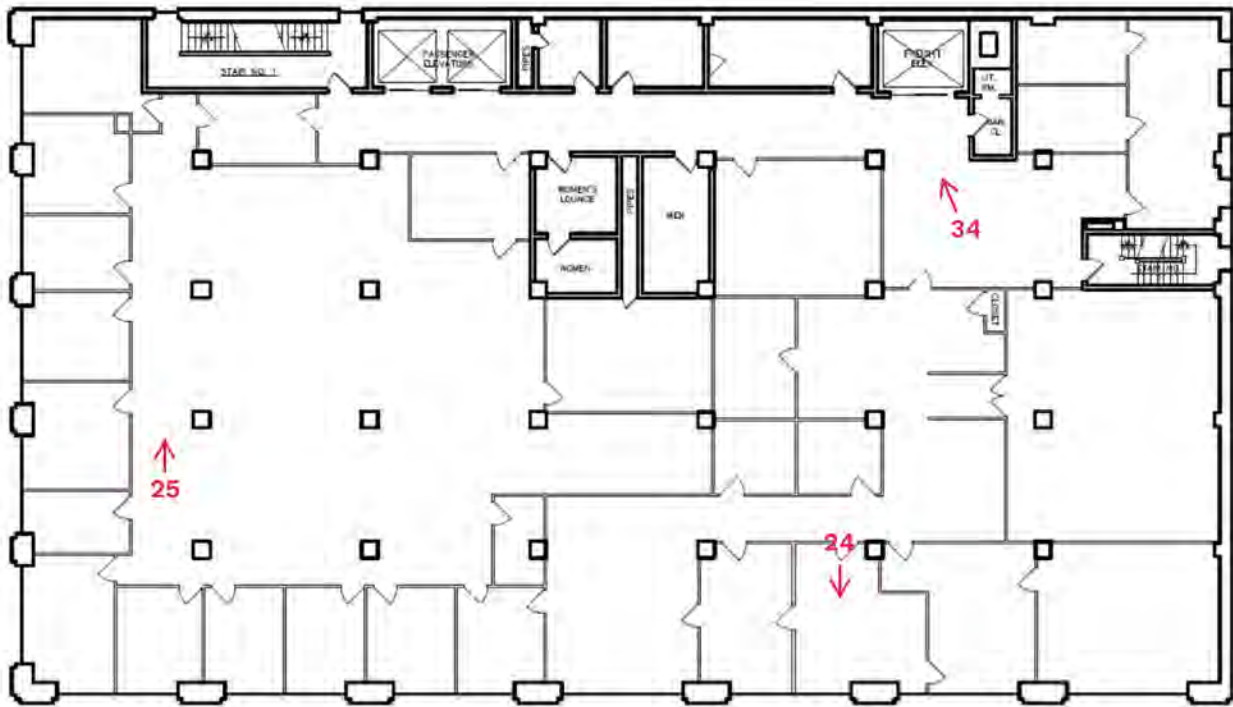


Figure 6 – Third Floor Plan with Photo Key

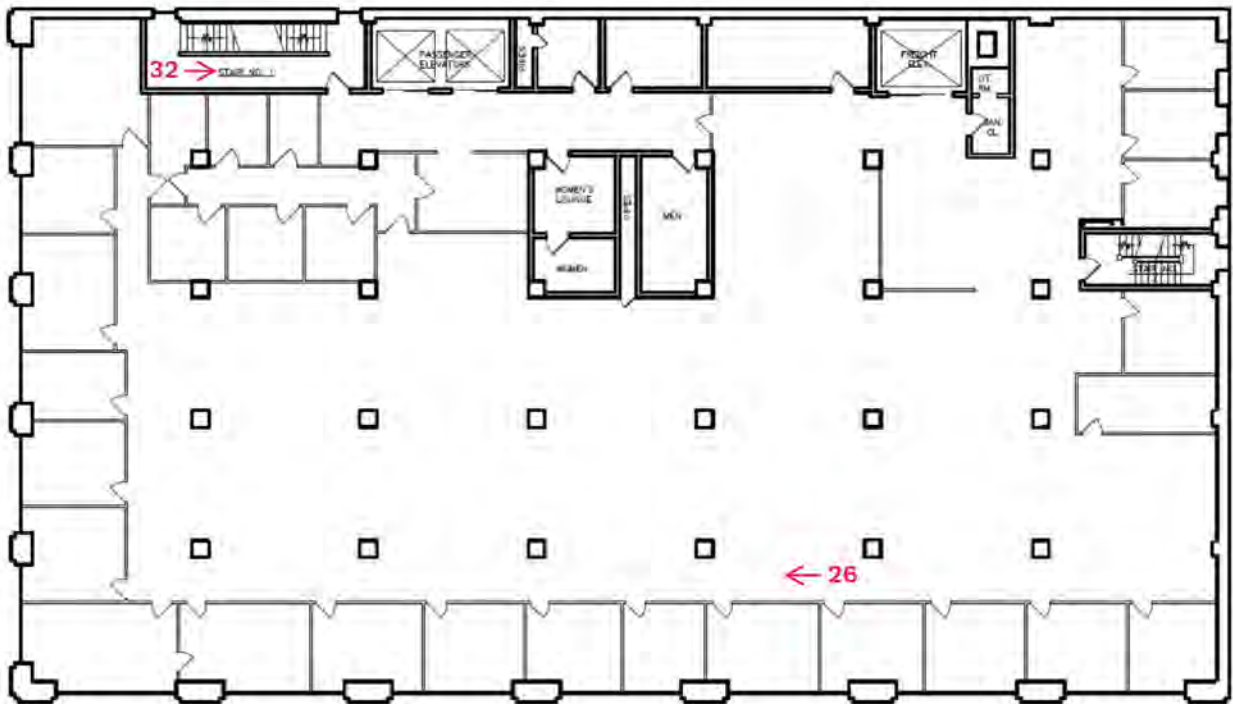


Figure 7 – Fourth Floor Plan with Photo Key

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State

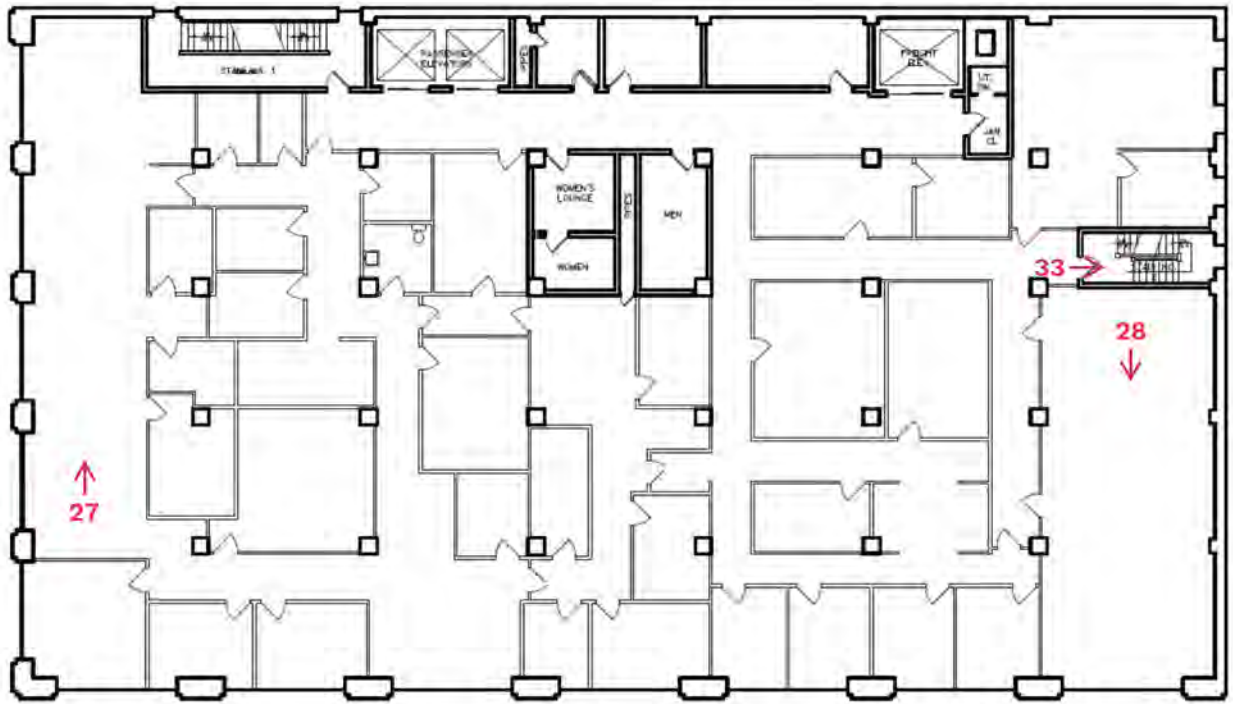


Figure 8 – Fifth Floor Plan with Photo Key

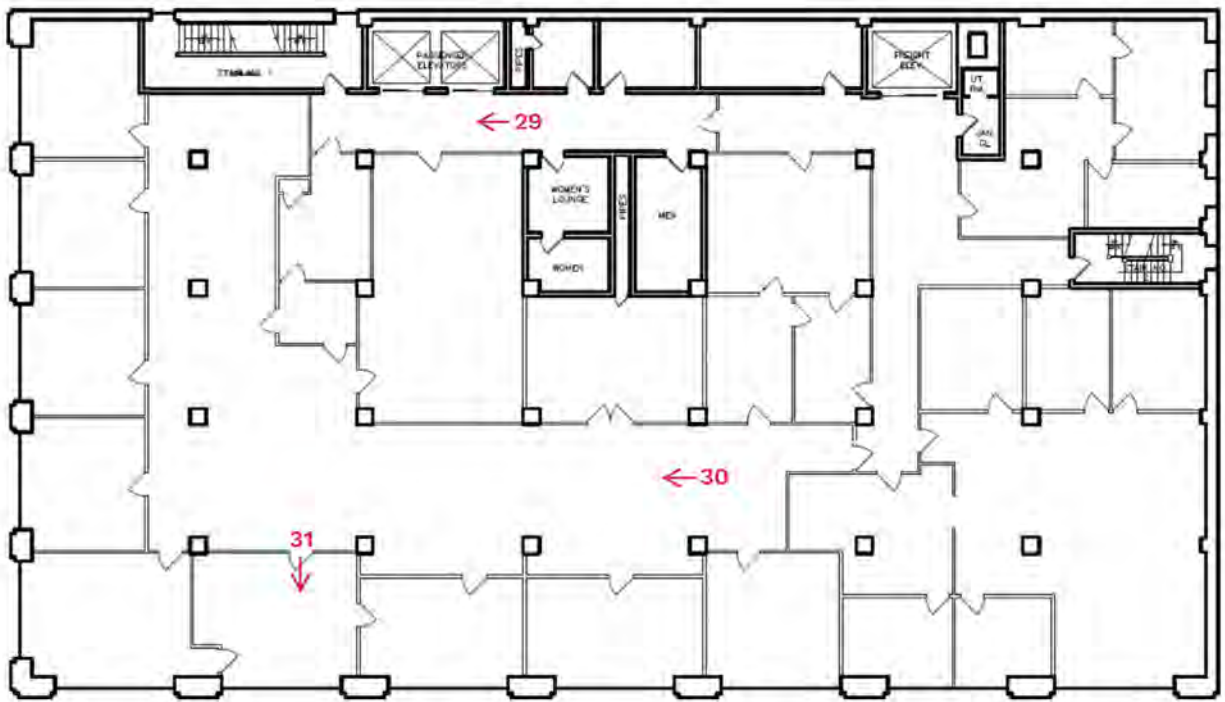


Figure 9 – Sixth Floor Plan with Photo Key

Stoehr & Fister Building
 Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
 County and State

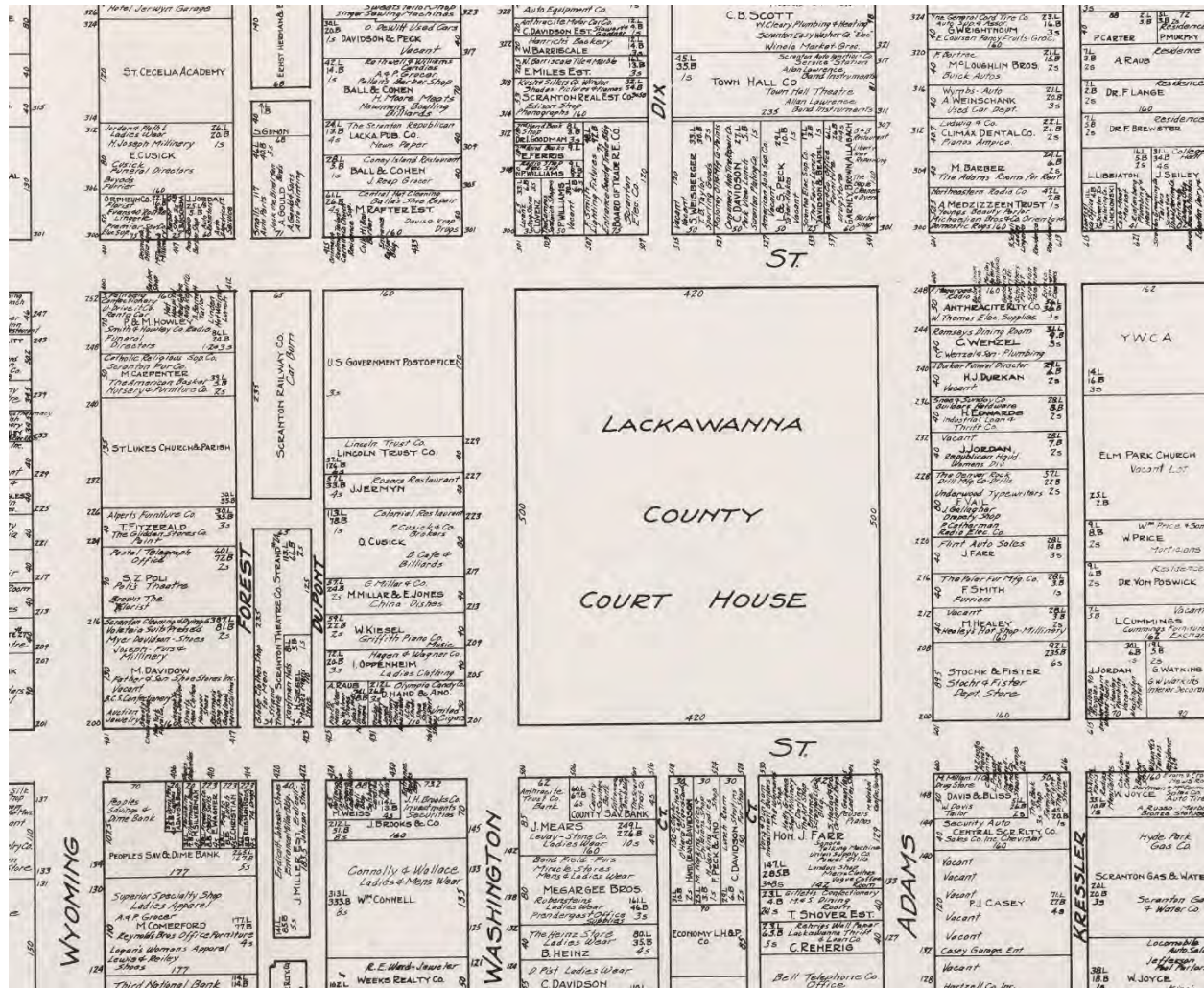


Figure 10 – Nirenstein Business Map, 1929. Stoehr & Fister is outlined.
 (David Rumsey Map Collection)

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State



Figure 11 – View of the Stoehr & Fister Building under construction in April 1923.

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State



Figure 12 – View of the Stoehr & Fister Building in *The Scranton Republican*, September 1923.

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State

THE SCRANTON REPUBLICAN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 23 1924

Broadcasting Outstanding Facts Concerning the Stoehr & Fister Semi-Annual Clearing Sale

The Home-Furnishing Event Which Establishes a Standard of Values
By Which All Other Furniture Sales Are Judged

Starting Today, July Twenty-Third

A Sale of furniture, rugs and draperies without an equal!

With original prices and sale prices on separate tags, in plain figures.

With a positive, iron-clad, money-back guarantee of safeguarding every purchase.

With home-furnishings from the most trustworthy makers in America!

With a helpful method of extending payments over several months' time.

Original Price Tags Remain Unchanged

This widely-discussed and eagerly-awaited clearance is an event that is distinctively and exclusively a Stoehr & Fister innovation, established more than twenty years ago. Each piece of furniture bears not only the original price ticket, but also a colored sale tag showing the prices in plain figures, thus stamping this sale as absolutely genuine.

Our Bona-Fide Unqualified Guarantee

If an article purchased here is found upon examination in your home to be other than absolutely satisfactory to you, it will be exchanged or the money paid for it refunded. Can you ask for any fairer proposition? It is this same unqualified guarantee that is the cornerstone of the great foundation wall of confidence upon which this business is built.



THE STOHR & FISTER STORE is acknowledged to be one of the finest exclusive furniture stores in America! Seven spacious floors are richly stocked with furnishings for the entire home—with huge reserve stocks in our great storage warehouse (the old Clark & Snover factory building). Painsstaking service insures positive satisfaction.

We Are the Foremost Representatives of These World-Famous Manufacturers!

Century Furniture Co.	Detroit Cabinet Co.
Phoenix Furniture Co.	Royal Furniture Co.
Widdicomb Furniture Co.	Berkey & Gay
W. A. Berkey	Grand Rapids Furniture
Valentine-Seaver	H. Z. Mallen Co.
Barnard & Simonds	Luce Furniture Co.
Grand Rapids Chair Co.	Michigan Seating Co.
Holland Furniture Co.	Limbert Furniture Co.
	Aulsbrook & Jones

—and at least one hundred others.

WHERE QUALITY IS HIGHER
THAN PRICE

Stoehr and Fister

With the most complete stock of home-furnishings ever shown under one roof anywhere in this section of America!

With positively the lowest prices for good sound merchandise.

We'll let you be the judge—compare the values with any in America.

We are not selling discounts, but rather dependable merchandise!

Only Two Sales Each Year

Only during February and August do we offer you an unrestricted choice of our entire stock of Home Furnishings (with the exception of Victrolas, Victor Records and some Whittall Rugs) at Clearing Sale prices, and, limiting ourselves to but two sales a year, only serves to emphasize the importance of this event. Quality for quality and dollar for dollar, you can buy better furniture for less money, in the Stoehr & Fister sale, than you can possibly buy elsewhere!

You Can Join Our Better Home Club

A new system of extended payments put into effect in the Stoehr & Fister Better Home Club affords unlimited possibilities to people who wish to work out a home budget of expenditure. This system makes it possible for responsible people to make an agreement with us and get their furniture at once—then, the payments may be extended over a period of several months, to suit the convenience of the purchaser—"out of income, not out of savings."

The measure provided for a fine of Construction company had a force of ten from by Solicitor W. H. Gillespie Brownstown, will be held tomorrow p.m. next Sunday with relative here

Figure 13 – Stoehr & Fister Advertisement in The Scranton Republican, July 1924.

Stoehr & Fister Building
 Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
 County and State

THE SCRANTON REPUBLICAN, TH

The Home of
STOEHR & FISTER

By Special Appointment:

STOEHR & FISTER Furnished the New Comerford Theaters

—because of the
 unequalled service
 offered its patrons



RECOGNIZING the eminent position, of this Home-Furnishing institution, which has been won through a combination of square dealing, high-quality merchandise and painstaking service, The Comerford Amusement Co., of this city, delegated STOEHR & FISTER to furnish eighteen of their theaters, in the city and out-of-town.

Though in direct competition with New York and Philadelphia furnishers, STOEHR & FISTER were able to obtain these contracts, because of exceptional facilities and capable, competent help.

Scranton has a good reason to feel proud of the Comerford theaters, and the fact that a local firm was chosen to furnish them. It gives home owners and the management of large institutions real satisfaction to know that right within the confines of Scranton is an organization equipped and qualified to handle furnishing contracts of any size, in a truly metropolitan manner.

These are the Comerford theaters, STOEHR & FISTER furnished throughout:

The "Fay" Theater Philadelphia, Pa.
 The "Sayre" Theater Sayre, Pa.
 The "Columbia" Theater ... Bloomsburg, Pa.
 The "Palace" Theater Berwick, Pa.
 The "Freedman" Theater ... Forest City, Pa.
 The "Shawnee" Theater ... Plymouth, Pa.
 The "Honesdale" Theater ... Honesdale, Pa.
 The "Irving" Theater Carbondale, Pa.
 The "Kingston" Theater ... Kingston, Pa.
 The "Capitol" Theater ... Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
 The "Savoy" Theater Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
 The "Poli" Theater Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
 The "Roman" Theater Pittston, Pa.
 The "American" Theater ... Pittston, Pa.
 The "Capitol" Theater Scranton, Pa.
 The "Strand" Theater Scranton, Pa.
 The "Poli" Theater Scranton, Pa.
 The "Roosevelt" Theater ... Scranton, Pa.

AND, the contract for the entire refurbishing of the Capitol Theater, of this city, has just been secured. The work will soon be under way.

Six Nearby Banks Recently Furnished

BECAUSE of the superior grade of furnishings supplied by this store and, the unequalled, specialized service, which gives personal attention to the smallest details, STOEHR & FISTER have, within the past six months, been favored with the contracts for the furnishing of half-a-dozen new banks, in both the Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys. Such contracts are only awarded to a firm well qualified to execute the orders with dispatch and painstaking care. These are the banks referred to:

Danville National Bank Danville, Pa.
 Stroudsburg Bank Stroudsburg, Pa.
 First National Bank Nanticoke, Pa.
 Wayne County Savings Bank ... Honesdale, Pa.
 First National Bank Peckville, Pa.
 Jermyn National Bank Jermyn, Pa.

Folks Living Far Away Prefer Our Service

THAT the fame of STOEHR & FISTER has spread far beyond the limits of this community, is quite evident in that many folks living in distant cities and towns, in other states, come to this great store for desired furnishings, and the extra bit of service, which insures lasting satisfaction. Here are a few names, selected at random, from a lengthy list:

J. H. Gardner; Lansing, Mich.	Earl Rice, Wilmington, Del.
Maurice L. Miller; West Point, N. Y.	P. O. Ferris; Albany, N. Y.
E. B. Guild; Walton, N. Y.	H. C. Manchester; New Rochelle, N. Y.
Edward Cole, Belvidere, N. J.	N. R. Osborne; New Rochelle, N. Y.
Sam Schaeffer; Ithaca, N. Y.	W. J. Edinger; Oneonta, N. Y.
Mrs. Gray; Elmira, N. Y.	C. Francisco; Liberty, N. Y.
Catherine Smith; Phila., Pa.	G. J. Rogers; Johnston City, N. Y.
Rev. Jacob Winterstein; West Chester, Pa.	Jesse Treise; Lansford, Pa.
A. E. Farrington; Sunbury, Pa.	I. D. Thomas; Frackville, Pa.
N. H. Dreher; Stroudsburg, Pa.	Dr. S. M. Lewis; East Stroudsburg, Pa.
F. L. McHenry; Truckville, Pa.	D. M. Rosser, Truckville, Pa.

Adams
 at
 Spruce

WHERE QUALITY IS HIGHER
 THAN PRICE

Stoehr and Fister

Scranton,
 Penna.

Figure 14 – Stoehr & Fister Advertisement in The Scranton Republican, October 1925.

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State

THE SCRANTON REPUBLICAN. THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1933

STOEHR & FISTER

Space Is At a Premium In Our Store Now! And
Necessity Demands This Great

REMODELING Clearance

which will take place this morning, and include



ALL LIVING ROOM SUITES
ALL DINING ROOM SUITES
ALL BEDROOM SUITES
ALL OCCASIONAL PIECES
(excepting summer merchandise)

—in fact, practically everything is reduced for this great Remodeling Clearance. Plan to be here early this morning for best selection.



TO INSURE A COMPLETE CLEARANCE
SO THAT CARPENTERS, PAINTERS
and DECORATORS MAY START TO
WORK as SOON as POSSIBLE

—almost incredible reductions have been placed on all merchandise in this sale. Today will be one furious, exciting, thrilling day—nothing reserved or spared except price-restricted merchandise.

affording a complete variety to meet the demands of your preferences and the limitations of your budget. This stock has been repriced on a basis that enables us to promise you more for your money—in downright value—than at any other time in our history. Thrifty buyers will realize their dreams of having Stoehr & Fister high quality furniture at unheard-of low prices!

Sale Starts This Morning

See Today's and Tomorrow's Papers
For Details of the Sale

Stoehr & Fister

Adams Avenue At Spruce Street

Behind this great store are the experience and prestige of over 30 years of progress, during which time Stoehr & Fister has been a symbol of all that is fine in merchandising. Yet to serve this inevitable march of progress, this familiar landmark must be remodeled. And so, we're going to tear out all our model rooms on our Third Floor, and replace the entire floor with a modern, more spacious floor of architectural beauty, to be known as "THE WHITNEY HOUSE" and "GRAND RAPIDS GUILD HOUSE." When complete it will be the finest thing of its kind in the East . . . for it will not only express more than beauty and modernism, it will be a challenge of the future, a vision of merchandising advance with supreme faith in the ever constant progress of this aggressive city. A greater Stoehr & Fister is sure to rise from these remodeling plans—for we are doing everything a great store can do to make shopping here both pleasant and profitable for Scranton and vicinity.

THE SUCCESS OF STOEHR & FISTER HAS BEEN BUILT ON THESE FACTORS:

FRIENDSHIP carries with it responsibility. It confers an obligation ever to be worthy of the trust others have in us. In the future as in the past, we shall untiringly make every effort to deserve the Friendship which the public has given us.

SERVICE—Stoehr & Fister Service does not hinge upon how much you buy. It is given freely, gladly, with but one thought in mind . . . to serve you faithfully in a manner that will unquestionably be highly satisfactory.

CONFIDENCE—You will always be able to come into Stoehr & Fister's with the assurance that the furniture you may select is honestly represented and honestly priced . . . for we are building upon the foundation of the past.

Figure 15 – Stoehr & Fister Advertisement in The Scranton Republican, May 1933.

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State



Figure 16 – Current view of the Scranton Life Building on Courthouse Square.

Stoehr & Fister Building
Name of Property

Lackawanna County, PA
County and State



Figure 17 – Current view of the Lewis & Reilly Building (1925) at 114 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA..



NO
TURN
ON RED

LEFT
TURN
SIGNAL

ONE
WAY
←



2

ONE WAY

NO
LEFT
TURN



Wells Fargo Bank



ENTER

WELLS FARGO BANK

CANDY LUNCH COFFEE



LACKAWANNA COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
200 ALBANY STREET

NOTICE
NOTICE
NOTICE
NOTICE

CAUTION
WALK WITH CARE



LACKAWANNA COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
200 ADAMS AVENUE

ENTER

CAUTION
WHEEL CHAIRS





LACKAWANNA
ADMINIS
200









Drive-Up
ATM →



**PRIVATE
PARKING**

ALL OTHERS WILL BE TOWED
AT OWNERS EXPENSE TO
D & S AUTO 570-558-1300





WET FLOOR

COMMISSIONER

CAUTION







EXIT

ELEVATOR
→

EXIT
←

CREDIT UNION

EXIT



Office of the Court Administrator

DIRECTOR



Family Court





NOTICE:
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 18 PA C.S.A. 6105
THE POSSESSION OF FIREARMS OR OTHER
DANGEROUS WEAPONS IS PROHIBITED IN A
COURT FACILITY. A GUN LOCKER IS AVAILABLE
AT THE SHERIFF'S STATION ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
FOR THE CHECKING OF FIREARMS. FAILURE TO
COMPLY WILL RESULT IN CRIMINAL ARREST.







DIRECTOR

Administration Building

Lower Level	Third Floor
First Floor	Fourth Floor
Second Floor	Fifth Floor
Sixth Floor	

(Note: The directory sign contains a list of departments and their locations, which is partially obscured and difficult to read in detail.)

EXIT





EXIT

EXIT

STAIRS









Lackawanna County Winery

W



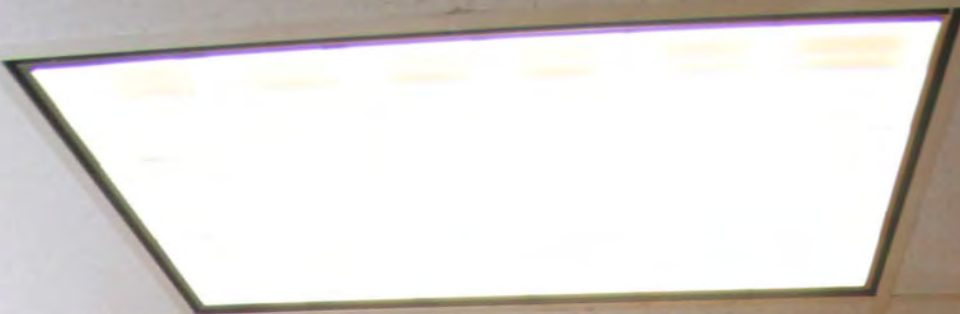


















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Stoehr and Fister Building

Multiple Name:

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Lackawanna

Date Received: 10/9/2019 Date of Pending List: 11/1/2019 Date of 16th Day: 11/18/2019 Date of 45th Day: 11/25/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004662

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 11/25/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary NR Criterion: C
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria AOS: Architecture; POS: 1923; LOS: local. Architects: Davis & Lewis

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 11/25/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

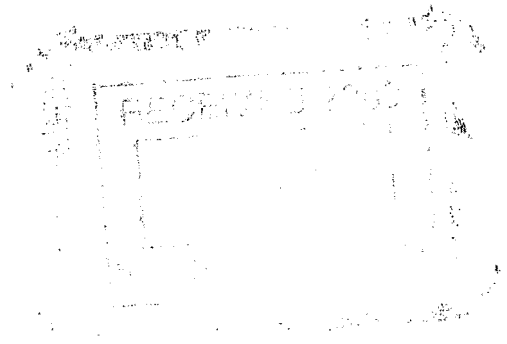


Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

October 8, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240



Re: Highland Park, Allegheny County
Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, Montgomery County
Stoehr & Fister Building, Lackawanna County
Wilkes-Barre Silk Company Mill, Luzerne County

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the National Register of Historic Places nominations for the above properties. Included is the signed first page of each nomination, CDs containing the true and correct copies of the nominations and letters of support, and CDs with tif images. The proposed action for the properties is listing in the National Register. Our Historic Preservation Board members support the nominations.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations or our request for action, please contact David Maher at damaher@pa.gov or 717-783-9918. Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

David Maher
National Register Reviewer

enc.