

420 LACKAWANNA AVENUE (Commercial Building)
Scranton
Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5646

HABS
PA
35-SCRAN,
23-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS
PA
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

420 LACKAWANNA AVENUE
(Commercial Building)

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Location: 420 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania

USGS Scranton, PA Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.444340.4583960

Significance: 420 Lackawanna Avenue is one of a row of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings that made up the heart of Scranton's business district during the city's greatest period of prosperity. As the home of the Union National Bank, the building represented one of several financial institutions in the district. Its somewhat abstracted classical style made it quite fashionable for its period.

Description: Three and one half stories on the front and four and a half stories on the rear, 420 Lackawanna Avenue has been significantly altered at several periods. The building faces Lackawanna Avenue. The first story storefront is very recent, while the second story plate glass windows and entablature above probably date from the 1920s. The third story and the parapet above retain their original stone classical revival detailing and bronze window frames and grilles. An advertisement of 1912 shows that the first and second stories of the facade originally had a very stylish two story high metal and glass entrance front with an elaborate suspended glass canopy and flanking stone piers with carved masks. The building's rear elevation faces Bogart Place and the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad viaduct.

History: The building was erected 1902-1910 by the Union National Bank and replaced the earlier Second Empire style home of the Merchants and Mechanics National Bank, which was built about 1870 and levelled in a dramatic gas explosion in 1900. The Union Bank did not last long, as by 1925 the building housed Blum Brothers, a ladies clothing store.

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The building was included in the Lackawanna Avenue Commercial Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The building is scheduled for demolition in February 1992.

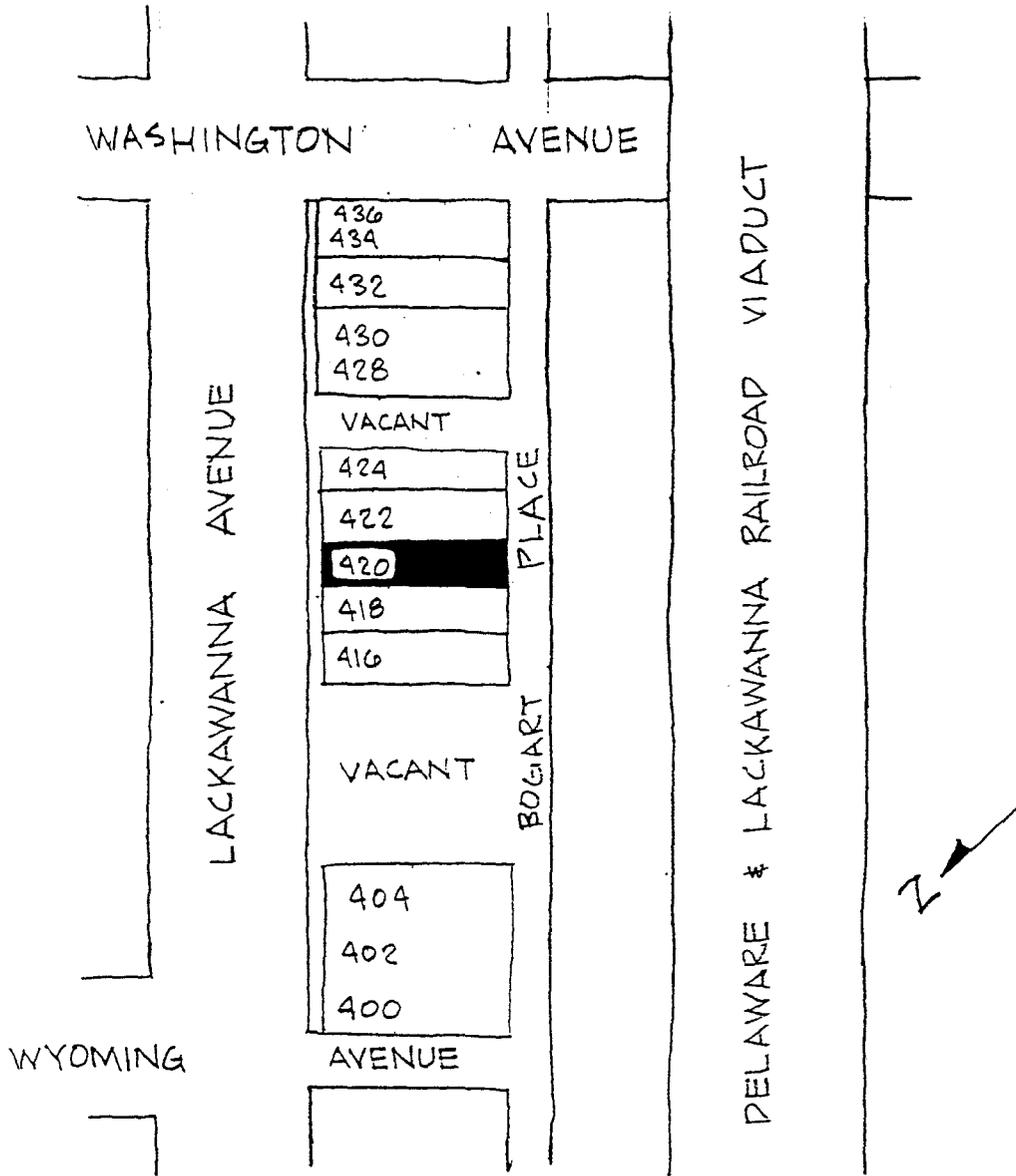
Sources:

- Lackawanna Avenue Commercial Historic District. National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1983.
- Sanborn Atlases of Scranton, Sanborn Map Company, 1955 (updated to 1973), 1898 (updated to 1910), and 1884.
- G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of Scranton, Philadelphia, 1877.
- Scranton Board of Trade, Scranton, Scranton, 1912, p. 86.
- Scranton City Directories, 1956, 1925, 1915, 1902, 1884.
- Photo Merchants and Mechanics National Bank, gas explosion, 1900, Lackawanna Historical Society # Bnk-GP-99 CP.
- Photo Merchants and Mechanics Bank, Lackawanna Historical Society # STRS-58-P, c. 1890s.

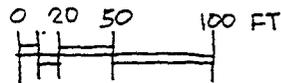
Historian:

Mark Reinberger
Martin Jay Rosenblum, R.A. & Associates
Philadelphia, PA
October 10, 1991

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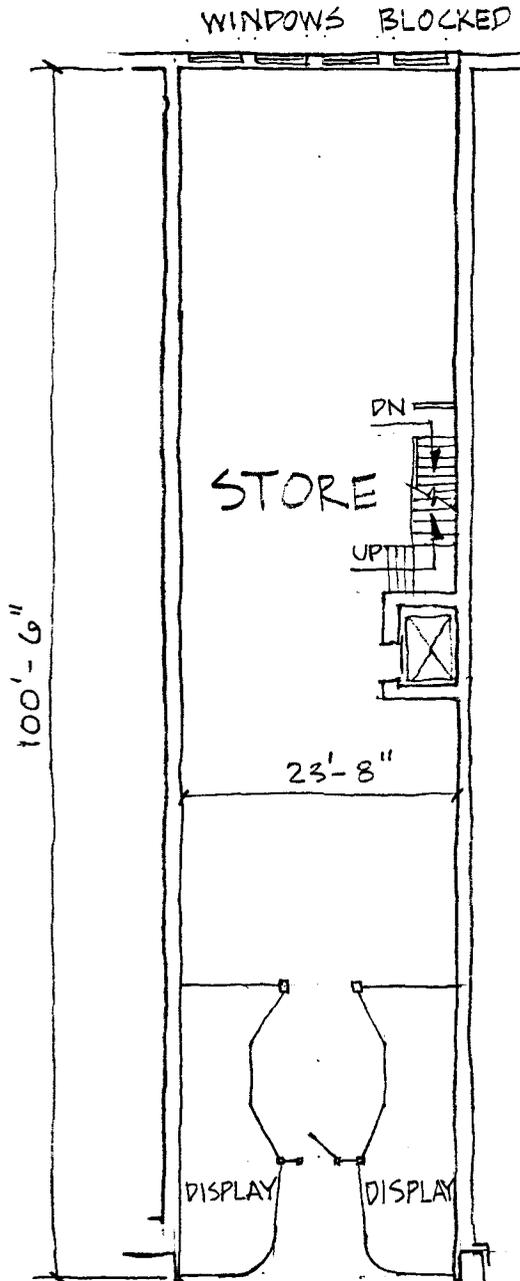
SITE PLAN



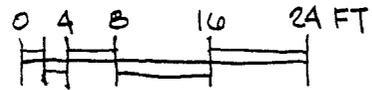
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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— BOGART PL. —



420



— LACKAWANNA AVE. — 10/91 MR

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UNION NATIONAL BANK

SCRANTON, PA.

CAPITAL . . . \$500,000

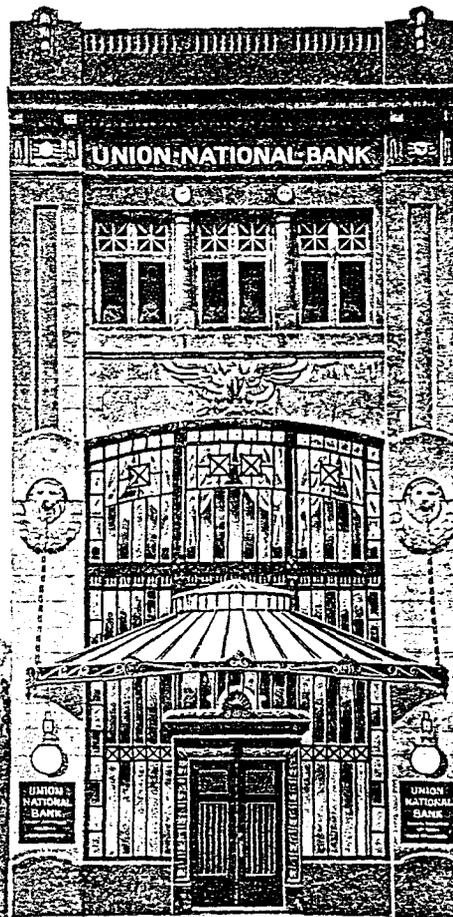
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Union National Bank of Scranton
420 Lackawanna Avenue

Source: Scranton Board of Trade, Scranton, Scranton, 1912,
p. 86.