

301-303 LACKAWANNA AVENUE  
(COMMERCIAL BUILDING)  
Scranton  
Lackawanna County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6009

HABS  
PA  
35-SCRAN,  
10-

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, P.A. 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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(Commercial Building)

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Location: 301-303 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

USGS Scranton, PA Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.444160.4584080

Significance: 301-303 Lackawanna Avenue is in a neighborhood of late nineteenth century commercial buildings that comprised the heart of Scranton's business district during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the city's greatest period of prosperity. The first story commercial facades have been altered, however the building retains its limestone cladding, large plate glass windows, and pressed metal cornice on the main building and two story monitor.

Description: This five story building occupies a double lot at the northeast corner of Lackawanna and Penn Avenues. Nearly all nineteenth century materials have been stripped from the first floor retail facades and replaced with large plate glass windows and doors in aluminum frames. An indication of the original limestone detailing at this level survives in a doric pilaster at the northeast end of the northwest (Penn Avenue) elevation. The aluminum awning which overhangs the sidewalk on the Penn and Lackawanna Avenue elevations is modern, however the building historically had wood frame awnings on both facades. The two story monitor is constructed of buff brick on the northwest and southwest elevations; the rear elevations are common brick. The sheet metal cornice on the monitor is similar to that on the main building.

303 extends the full depth of the block, from Lackawanna Avenue to Centre Street; the back of the building had a Centre Street address (also 303) in 1898. The frame for a large opening supported by decorative cast iron columns and flanked by pairs of wooden doorways may survive from this period. In the nineteenth century the rear (northeast) wall of 301 was originally shared with one of two small commercial buildings on Penn Avenue (now demolished).

History: Originally two separate buildings built c. 1880, 301 and 303 Lackawanna Avenue were opened to each other on the interior by 1956, and possibly as early as the 1920s judging by the continuous limestone facade cladding and sheet metal cornices. The limestone cladding may have been applied to brick structures, as both buildings are shown as "brick" in atlases up to and including the 1918 Volk & Kuehls atlas. 301 may have been altered first, as suggested by the termination of the limestone band at the top, center, of the Lackawanna Avenue facade.

301 Lackawanna Avenue contained a variety of retail businesses on the first floor through the second half of the 19th century and in the early twentieth century (jeweler, grocer, liquor store, etc.) and attorney and insurance company offices on the upper floors. By 1918 301 Lackawanna Avenue was The Coyne House hotel.

303 Lackawanna Avenue was owned and occupied by members of the Fuller family in the nineteenth century. L.S. and E.C. Fuller operated a drug store and post office on the first floor; the offices of Charles Fuller, a life and fire insurance agent and Commissioner of Deeds for the State of New York, and John D. Fuller, agent of Hope and Howard Express, were on the upper stories. By 1918 the building was occupied by The Regent Theatre, one of

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several theaters along Lackawanna Avenue at this time. Smith's Billiards was on the second floor. The painted sign for Smith's survives on the Centre Street elevation.

The building was included in the Lackawanna Avenue Commercial Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The building is scheduled for demolition in June 1994.

Sources:

Atlas of Surveys of the City of Scranton and Borough of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, 1898.

G.M. Hopkins. Atlas of the City of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1877.

"Lackawanna Avenue Commercial Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, 10 November 1983.

Sanborn Map Company, NY. Vol. 1A: Insurance Maps of Scranton, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1919, revised edition 1956.

Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Limited. Vol. 1: Insurance Maps of Scranton, Pennsylvania Including Dunmore. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Limited, 1898, updated October 1910, September 1912.

Scranton City Directories, in files of Scranton Historical Society.

Volk & Kuehls. Atlas of Surveys of the City of Scranton and Borough of Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Volk & Kuehls, 1918.

Historian:

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23 May 1994



