

305 LACKAWANNA AVENUE (COMMERCIAL BUILDING) HABS No. PA-6010
Scranton
Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania

HABS
PA
35-SCRAN
12-

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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

305 LACKAWANNA AVENUE
(Commercial Building)

HABS No. PA-6010

Location: 305 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

USGS Scranton, PA Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.444180.4584070

Significance: 305 Lackawanna Avenue was one in a row of mid-to-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 building preserves the nineteenth century scale of the commercial district although only the third story window openings (windows have been replaced or removed) and corbelled brick cornice survive as an indication of the building's original appearance. The first and second stories of the Lackawanna Avenue facade were altered in the twentieth century.

Description: This three story building was one in a row of mid-to-late nineteenth century commercial buildings on Lackawanna Avenue. Adjoining buildings to the southeast have been demolished and replaced with a recently constructed pedestrian walkway between the new construction on a portion of the lot. Constructed of brick, the southwest facade and southeast side wall are now covered with stucco. The first floor of the northeast (rear) wall has been replaced with concrete block construction; the upper stories are the original exposed common brick.

On the Lackawanna Avenue facade, a parapet above the projecting first story exhibits remnants of simplified art deco style metal trim, probably added in the early twentieth century. A large, tripartite plate glass window on the second story replaces a canted bay window, possibly a c. 1890 alteration, which appears in an early twentieth century photograph.

History: The building at 305 Lackawanna Avenue, which extends through the block from Lackawanna Avenue to Centre Street, probably dates to c. 1875. It occupied only a portion of the lot facing onto Lackawanna Avenue according to the Hopkins Atlas of 1877. At that time a small frame structure was located at the northeast (rear) portion of the lot, facing onto Centre Street. A brick building was erected on Centre Street by 1898, although not connected to the Lackawanna Avenue structure. The two buildings were connected by a three storey frame structure by 1910-1912, and by the existing brick masonry construction by 1956.

The upper office stories of 305 Lackawanna Avenue were occupied by attorney offices, including that of D. Silkman, the property owner in 1877. Both the Lackawanna Avenue and Centre Street buildings on the lot contained professional offices and commercial establishments through the early twentieth century, including a tailor, book bindery and taxidermist.

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.
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- 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.
- Scranton Historical Society, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Photograph files.
- Volk & Kuehls. Atlas of Surveys of the City of Scranton and Borough of Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Volk & Kuehls, 1918.

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