

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
125-129 West Crawford Avenue
City of Connellsville
Fayette County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6208

HABS
PA
26-CONL,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

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26-CONL,
2-

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

HABS No. PA-6208

Location: 125-129 West Crawford Avenue, Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Connellsville Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.621560.4431680

Present Owner: City of Connellsville, PO Box 698, Connellsville, Pennsylvania 15425.

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The First National Bank Building (FNBB) is significant as a local example of a multiple-use, multiple-story, commercial building in the Beaux Arts/Eclectic style. The building was designed by the New York City based architectural firm of Mowbray and Uffinger, the designers of similar bank buildings throughout the northeast. The high style architecture of this commercial building is representative of the extreme wealth Connellsville achieved during the coal and coke era.

The building also has important ties to commerce as the historic headquarters of the First National Bank of Connellsville and as home to the Wright-Metzler Department Store. Wright-Metzler was eventually absorbed by the equally successful Troutman Department Store in 1925. The period of significance for this building begins with its construction between the years of 1901 and 1903, and ends in the 1940s with the beginning of a slow decline resulting in the closing and subsequent abandonment of the building in the early 1980s. While historically known as the FNBB, it has commonly been referred to as the Troutman Building since 1949.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

- 1. Date of erection:** According to period accounts in a local newspaper, The Daily Courier and the 1906 *Connellsville Centennial History*, construction of the First National Bank Building began in May of 1901 and was completed in February of 1903. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of July 1901 indicates a foundation for a six story brick building, and the map of March 1908 shows a completed building.
- 2. Architect:** The June 8, 1900 edition of The Daily Courier and the 1906 *Connellsville Centennial History* both state that the First National Bank Building was designed by the New York firm , Mowbray and Uffinger. New York City directories reveal that the firm operated from several Manhattan addresses between 1895 and 1921. Mowbray was from a family of Brooklyn-based builders and real estate developers active in both the Manhattan and Brooklyn area from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. William E., Anthony, and Louis M. Mowbray were all involved with design work in the firm during its operation and collaborated on various projects. Justin M. Uffinger was a resident of Jersey City and subsequently moved to Summit, New Jersey, however, little else is known about him.

Mowbray and Uffinger designed both private residences and large-scale public buildings primarily in the northeast, including over 850 projects in the New York City area. Private residences included a modest Englewood, New Jersey house dating to 1896, Louis M. Mowbray's own 1904 neo-Georgian residence at 874 Carroll Street in New York, and a 1910 neo-Federal mansion at 1 Montgomery Place, also in New York.

Public buildings executed by the firm included the Dimes Savings Bank at 9 DeKalb Avenue, and the 1903 People's Trust Company at 183 Montague Street, both in Brooklyn. Another bank designed by the firm is the Chatham and Phoenix National Bank of circa 1916-1917 at 205-209 East 57th Street in Manhattan. Outside of New York City, the firm designed the circa 1901 Trust Company of New Jersey in Hoboken, the 1902-1906 Newark, New Jersey City Hall, the 1906 Somerset Trust Company Building in Somerset, Pennsylvania, (Somerset County) the 1924 American Bank and Trust Company Building in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, (Luzerne County) and the Second National Bank Building in Nashua, New Hampshire also built in 1924.

- 3. Original and Subsequent Owners:**
References to the chain of title for the land upon which the structure stands are in the Recorder's Office in the Fayette County Court House, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Legal Description of Property

All that certain lot or piece of ground situated in the First Ward of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being lot No. 126 in the Plan of Connellsville, of record in the Recorder's Office of Fayette County in Plan Book Vol. 1, Part 1, Page 6, and being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the southerly line of West Crawford Avenue and the easterly side of South Meadow Lane; thence along West Crawford Avenue, northeast 66 feet to the dividing line between Lots Nos. 118 and 126 in said plan; thence by said dividing line southeast 165 feet to Church Place; thence by said Church Place southwest 66 feet to South Meadow Lane; and thence northwest 165 feet to West Crawford Avenue, at the place of the beginning.

Property Ownership

- 1894 Deed, 13 August 1894, recorded in Deed Book 132, p. 236. Henry Goldsmith and wife to First National Bank of Connellsville.
- 1931 Deed, 29 June 1931, recorded in Deed Book 513, p. 120. George H. Smith, Receiver of Citizens National Bank of Connellsville and First National Bank of Connellsville, to Frank E. Markell.
- 1936 Deed, 14 January 1936, recorded in Deed Book 502, p. 404. Frank E. Markell to The Markell Company, Incorporated of Wilmington, Delaware.
- 1943 Deed, 16 August 1943, recorded in Deed Book 586, p. 415. The Markell Company to Charles Loevner.
- 1976 Deed, 9 August 1976, recorded in Record Book 1204, p. 397. Isabelle and Gerald Loevner, executors of the estate of Charles Loevner, to Burton J. and Mabel Butker.
- 1992 Deed, 24 March 1992, recorded in Record Book 953, p. 162. Fayette County Tax Claim Bureau to Gary T. Phares.
- 1994 Deed, 11 June 1994, recorded in Record Book 1378, p. 114. Gary T. Phares to the City of Connellsville, present owners.

4. **Contractors:** William Kerr's Sons, 315 Lewis Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, were the general contractors according to an advertisement placed in the January 1902 supplement of The Daily News, a contemporary local newspaper, by the firm. This firm is no longer in existence.

The Connellsville office of C.L. Edmonds, Brick Building Contractor was responsible for the erection of the brick portions of the building according to an article about the firm in the same January 1902 supplement to The Daily News mentioned above. The firm was headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

5. **Original Plans and Construction:** According to The Daily Courier, of 8 June 1900, the initial scheme for the First National Bank Building was for a three story combination bank, office, and opera house. The newspapers describe the bank portion of the building as measuring 30'-0" x 85'-0" and the opera house measuring 66'-0" x 80'-0" feet. The exterior facings of the building were to be polished granite, white marble, and red Pompeiian brick. The building was to have a steel skeleton, making it "as fireproof as possible." The interior of the banking hall was to be fitted with San Domingo mahogany cabinet work, marble wainscoting, marble counters, mosaic floor tiles, bronze metal screens, and ornamental plaster work. The upper floors were to be designed with interconnecting offices accessible from a separate entrance vestibule and stair. The plumbing and waste systems in the building were considered the "most advanced" for the day. The building was to be lit by both gas and electricity.

After discussion among the bank directors, it was decided to erect a six story building with a bank, offices, and a department store rather than an opera house. The switch from opera house to department store seemed practical, however no agreements had been made with any department stores prior to construction of the building. Mowbray and Uffinger essentially took the same plans they had already prepared and expanded the three story building to six stories with much of the same detailing as was described in the newspaper account of 1900, the major exception being the structure was built using structural masonry with an interior of cast columns and wood floor construction. The footprint of the new building required not only the space provided by the demolition of the banking room of the then existing two story bank building, but also the adjoining vacant lot. Once the site was cleared, construction began in May of 1901.

Upon completion, the six story facade had two asymmetrical portions joined by horizontal bands in the form of an entablature above the first floor entrances. The first floor facade had an entrance in the eastern portion and two entrances in the western portion. The eastern portion, flanked by two plate glass display windows was originally the entrance to the department store. The frieze of the entablature above the western portion originally had "First National Bank" carved on to it. This western portion was divided into three parts by means of two ionic columns resting on stone bases. On the east was the original access to the bank offices on the upper floors. The

largest of the three bays, the central bay, served as a display window for the bank and the western bay was a recessed entrance to the First National Bank (FNB). The copper cornice of the building was decorated with lion heads, dentils, brackets, acroterion, and two flag poles.

The west elevation of the building originally had seven first floor openings into the banking hall, the central four of which had large tripartite, transomed window configuration with a steel lintel and stone sill. The two southern most windows were transomed, and divided, and the northern most window was a one-over-one light double-hung with transom.

The new building was finished in February of 1903.

On-site exploration inside the banking hall revealed original marble wainscoting and marble baseboards intact behind a later false wall. Some of the original mahogany windows divisions and trim on the west wall were found. They were initially stained and later painted before their eventual removal.

In the basement, directly below the former banking hall, is an original 13'-0" x 7'-0" bank vault with approximately 2'-0" thick brick walls. The original vault, according to The Daily News, was constructed by Herring-Hall Marine Safe Company of Hamilton, Ohio. The vault originally had two doors, one on the west side and one on the north side.

6. Alterations and Additions:

- 1904** In June of 1903, the First National Bank Building opened a foreign department to buy and sell foreign bills and to sell steamship tickets. According to the *Connellsville Centennial History*, this portion of the bank's operation expanded quickly and in March of 1904, a space in the basement, under the banking hall, was turned into an office with a separate entrance from Meadow Lane. Physical evidence of this change includes the remnants of a plaster finish on the walls and ceiling of this portion of the basement and an intact hexagonal marble floor with a mosaic tile border.
- 1906** Although space had been provided for a department store, it was not until circa 1905, that the Wright-Metzler Department Store was established and took over the remainder of the first floor space not occupied by the bank. *The Connellsville Centennial History* states that in the summer of 1906, due to demand for additional

space, a second story was added to the existing one story rear of the Wright-Metzler portion of the building. Physical evidence indicates that to access the addition, a wide opening was cut through the exterior brick wall. Several original window openings were enclosed. The construction methods, material, interior finishes, and details in this addition were very similar to the original first floor, also confirming that this addition must have been built shortly after construction of the original building. A staircase similar in materials and detail to the main office lobby stair was built along the east wall to connect the first and second floors of the department store. The Sanborn Map of March 1908 indicates that this second floor addition had five skylights. These skylights were removed when new roofing was applied. The date of the removal of these skylights is unknown. The shafts for these skylights still exist, but are obscured by plywood panels on the plaster ceiling.

- 1913** The 17 September edition of The Morning Herald of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, reported that the remainder of the second floor of the building, which was previously divided into office space, was taken over by the Wright-Metzler Department Store.
- 1914** The Sanborn Maps of 1914 reveal that the northeastern portion of the second floor was used by the Millinery Department.
- ca. 1930** Contemporary photographs and postcard indicate that the acroteria at the top of the cornice and the flagpoles on the roof had been removed.
- ca. 1931** An original stair connecting the banking hall with a bank vault in the basement below was covered. The stair can still be seen in the basement.
- ca. 1947** A wide opening with a ramp was installed between the first floor of the Troutman's Department Store and the former banking hall. The date of this opening is based upon the fact that 1947 was the first year that Troutman's occupied the former FNB banking hall, and the presumption that Troutman's would want a connection between all retail spaces. The opening is indicated as an existing condition on the 1954 renovation construction drawings.
- 1954** An article in the 8 September 1954 The Daily Courier stated the intent of the Troutman's Department Store to renovate the existing building. The Daily Courier reported that the general manager of the store, R. M. Evans, initiated the renovation. He retired just prior to the beginning of the actual work. Drawings for this renovation by the firm of Paul A. Bartholomew, architect of Greensburg, Pennsylvania are located at Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry Building Section. There are three sets of drawings under in the Department's files

dated 15 July 1952, 27 March 1953, and 1 July 1953. The first two sets appear to be for preliminary review, while the July 1953 set details the work actually completed.

On the exterior, the street level of the facade of the building was modernized with a metal marquee or canopy, new pink polished granite cladding, and reconfigured entries and display windows. The current configuration of first floor facade dates to this renovation. Two fire escapes on the west elevation and one on the east elevation were removed at this time.

Interior renovations included the reconfiguration of the stair and elevator at the south end of the six story portion of the building. This included the installation of a concrete block wall to separate the stair and elevator from each of the floors, a new stair to replace the original wood stair, and a new, slightly larger elevator to replace the original freight elevator. The new stair was concrete from the basement to the first floor, and metal pan from the first floor to the sixth. The first floor entry to the stair was altered and had new metal doors installed in the opening. The new elevator was installed inside a new block shaft wall which extended above the roof line to a new penthouse which contains the elevator equipment. Original window openings at the third through sixth floors were enclosed on the east wall of the new elevator shaft. At the same time a door from the third floor to the roof of the two story portion of the building was enclosed. Adjoining office partition walls were slightly altered on the fourth and fifth floors to accommodate the new configuration.

An freight elevator at the southeast corner of the building was removed as part of this renovation. This elevator served the basement through the second floor of the department store.

Renovations in the basement included the installation of a new conveyor belt, reconfiguration of the south end of the floor, the enclosing of light wells at the north end of the building, and enclosure of the stair to the first floor along the east wall. The conveyor belt went from the first floor receiving area to the southwest corner of the basement. In this area concrete block partition walls were added, a concrete floor was poured, and additional electrical service was installed. At the north end of the building, the light wells which had served the bathrooms and the basement were enclosed from the inside. The sidewalk grates above the light wells were sealed. The stair along the east wall was enclosed with birch plywood clad frame partitions and double doors.

First floor renovations included the installation of new receiving doors on the south elevation, the encasement of the stairs from the first floor to the basement and from the first floor to the second floor, the installation of new built-in birch plywood display

cabinets, the installation of new fluorescent lighting, and the installation of concealed air-conditioning units.

Second floor renovations included the relocation of the bathroom at the southeast corner of the building, the installation of a new opening between the office lobby stair and the northeast department store space, the redirection and enclosure of the stair along the east wall, the installation of new lighting, and the installation of new concealed air-conditioning units. The bathroom at the southeast corner of the building was moved south from its former location to the corner where the freight elevator had been removed. Physical evidence indicates the fixtures were reused. The stair along the east wall, which originally had turned west at a landing, was reconfigured to travel south along the east wall. This stair was encased and enclosed in a manner similar to that of the stair from the basement to the first floor.

The third floor had all partitions removed and an opening installed in the building's central bearing wall. The plan of the partitions were similar to that of the fourth and fifth floors. This open space was used by the department store as additional retail space.

Major work on the fourth through sixth floors in this renovation was limited to the new stair and elevator configuration at the south end and the removal of the fire escapes described above.

The renovation construction drawings show a new stair to the basement from the office lobby, however, this was never installed. In addition, the drawings do not show the reconfigured stair along the east wall of the second floor, however, based on physical evidence, it seems that this work was done during this renovation. The drawings for this renovation were rudimentary and did not show much of the electrical and mechanical work that appears to have been done at this time. Although little of these systems appears on the drawings, an article in the 25 June 1976 edition of The Daily Courier, recalls that air conditioning and new lights were installed during the 1954 renovation.

ca. 1960 The fifth floor bathroom was reconfigured in ca. 1960, based on the 'age of the fixtures and interior finishes, to a single toilet and sink.

The northwest retail space of the second floor was partitioned to provided storage and an employee training space for the department store. The date of this work is based upon the age of the materials and finishes.

ca. 1970 Based on physical evidence, the seven openings that lit the former banking hall, which

were shown as existing-to-remain on the 1954 renovation construction drawings, were filled with concrete block. At the same time, a false wall was built across the length of the west wall of the banking hall and fitted with display racks.

- ca. 1980** The west elevation originally had five light wells to the basement at the street level. The well closest to the facade originally provided an exterior public entrance to the basement. All the openings were subsequently enclosed and paved.
- 1992** The City of Connellsville removed all the windows on the east, west, and south elevations of the building, since they were beginning to fall into the alleys.

B. Historical Context:

Connellsville developed as a small cross roads town at the point where the Youghiogheny River pierces Chestnut Ridge, the western most ridge of the Alleghenies. It was an early focal point of Quaker farming settlements as well as home to several Revolutionary War heroes. While experimentation with coke processing can be traced to circa 1817, the industry did not develop any permanency until the 1840s when several coal mine operators turned to the coking process to overcome transportation difficulties in the Youghiogheny River valley. The Youghiogheny River was shallow and prone to flooding, making it difficult to navigate or canalize. The rocky river valley roads often caused the raw coal being transported to crumble, coking the coal eliminated this problem.

Early coke companies in the Connellsville region supplied markets in Cincinnati and other Ohio River ports. The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company was formed to provide a route up the Youghiogheny River valley reaching Connellsville in 1855. The rail strengthened the link between the Connellsville and Pittsburgh regions. Conversion of iron furnaces in the Pittsburgh area from coal to coke fuel began in 1859 with the Clinton Furnace, and resulted in increased demand for coke. One of the greatest impulses for coke production came in circa 1873, when the Edgar Thompson Works was built. This led to the conversion of the industrial base of Pittsburgh from iron production to Bessemer Steel, which required coke. As demand for coke grew in the Connellsville area, individual mine owners developed beehive coking plants along the Youghiogheny River Valley. They also developed plants along the railroad at the foot of Chestnut Ridge, with Connellsville as the focal point.

The coke industry, and the other prominent coking centers such as Uniontown and Brownsville, experienced a sudden boom in 1901, the year Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick sold interests to J. P. Morgan, resulting in the formation of United States Steel. During this same period, Connellsville coal was recognized as producing the best coke available for steel making, however it was rapidly being depleted. New mines were being started west of Connellsville to

produce a coal of similar quality for mixing with Connellsville coal in the coking process. It was during this period of wealth, derived from coal and coke, that the directors of the First National Bank (FNB) in Connellsville had a new elaborate building designed by architects Mowbray and Uffinger. The bank, according to The Daily Courier of 8 June 1900, was following the lead of another bank, the Title and Trust Company. Title and Trust had just completed a new five story brick building at North Pittsburgh Street and Crawford Avenue.

The FNB of Connellsville was organized in March of 1876 with capital stock of \$50,000. The board of directors consisted of many locally prominent businessmen including John M. Cochran, Porter S. Newmyer, J.R. Laughrey, and Joseph R. Stauffer. The first space for business was rented for several years at \$400 per year in A.B. Morton's jewelry store. In September of 1894, after much success and realizing the need to expand, the bank purchased a brick building and adjoining vacant lot on West Crawford Avenue for \$23,000. In the last years of the nineteenth century, the directors considered improving the bank property with a more modern building. According to the Connellsville Centennial History of 1906, the bank retained Louis M. Mowbray and Justin M. Uffinger in May of 1900, to prepare drawings for a new building on this site. Construction started in May of 1901 and was complete in February of 1903.

According to The Daily Courier of Connellsville, the bank-sponsored reception on the 26 February 1903 was “. . . the biggest reception held by any business institution in the history of Connellsville.” Male guests at the open house received cigars while women received flowers. Refreshments were provided on the second, fourth, and sixth floors. In the evening, the twenty-piece symphony orchestra played in the large sixth floor hall. In addition to the FNB, other original occupants of the offices in the building included insurance agents, architects, construction companies, civil engineers, coal and coke companies, dentists, lawyers, and the Douglas Business College.

In the middle to late nineteen twenties, Polk's City Directories of Connellsville indicate that the third through the sixth floors of the building continued to be occupied by doctors, dentists, insurance companies, lumber companies, construction companies, tailors, lawyers, notaries, accountants, and numerous coal companies as they had been when the building first opened. In 1925, the Wright-Metzler Department Store was taken over by Adam E. Troutman's interests of Greensburg, however the City Directory did not indicate a name change until 1928, when the store became Troutman's. By 1931, the FNB closed, victim to both the depression and the decline in the coal and coke industry. Most of the coal companies had also disappeared, likely a combination of the depression and a switch on the part of industry to other fuel sources. The 1934 directory indicates that the banking hall had been taken over by the American Stores Company.

During the 1940s the first vacancies appeared, however the department store remained strong and slowly took over spaces on the upper office floors. In 1942, a Christian Scientist Reading Room was located on the first floor and the former banking space was taken over by Hagan's Dairy

Store. In 1947, Troutman's had taken over the banking hall as an annex. In the 1949 directory the building is referred to for the first time as the Troutman Building, a name it still retains. Also during this period the Franklin Commercial College was operating on the sixth floor. In 1950, a portion of the first floor was used by the Connellsville Broadcasters and WCVI Broadcasting Station. By 1953, the Commercial College moved out of the sixth floor. In 1954, the store underwent a major renovation which included the removal of offices on the third floor of the building to provide space for training and retail space as well as a hair salon. During this remodeling new departments were added and others were relocated. The present first floor facade of the building with aluminum doors and plate glass windows also dates to this period. In 1963 the department store took over the sixth floor as storage.

In the early 1970s both the fourth and fifth floors of the building were gradually vacated, with only three offices on the fifth floor and four offices on the fourth floor in 1979. In 1985, Troutman's Department store closed, as did the few remaining offices on the upper floors. For the next eleven years, the building stood vacant. During this time numerous plans to revitalize it were planned and never executed. The building is still structurally sound, however the mechanical systems are antiquated, some details of the building have periodically fallen, many of the original windows have been removed, and the flat roof has been the source of water infiltration.

The multiple-use, multiple-story, FNBB of Connellsville was typical of the commercial buildings built in the early part of the twentieth century. It was during this period that the multiple story mixed use building was on the rise in American Architecture. Beginning in the cities of New York and Chicago in the late nineteenth century, technology allowed more than five floors to be built and served by elevators, this meant that buildings could be more than sixty feet in height. Along with this advance in technology came increases in downtown land values. Multiple-story buildings also meant a certain amount of prestige for the builder or tenant, serving as self advertisement. The first floors of many of these buildings housed some anchor business such as a bank or department store, the upper floors being used for housing professional and service oriented offices such as doctors, lawyers, dentists, tailors, and small businesses. In the case of the FNBB, the upper floors were designed with individual offices and suites, each opening to a main hall. To take advantage of natural light and air circulation, many of the offices often had interior windows, doors, and transoms facing the hall. Most of these buildings were constructed of either structural masonry or, in some cases, concrete and steel, resulting in many of the buildings being regarded as fireproof.

The architects and contractors of FNBB utilized technology of the age by erection of a six story building with elevators, gas and electric lighting, and followed the trend of combining bank, department store, and offices into one building. The load bearing masonry building had one of the most ornate facades in Connellsville with a number of colonial, classical, and eclectic details such as keystones, friezes, columns, belt courses, swags, cartouches, an elaborate entablature with dentils, lion heads, brackets, and acroterion. Much of the detailing was made of marble,

sandstone, and copper.

Department Store History

In February of 1904, Frank W. Wright of Connellsville and Sankey W. Metzler of Uniontown, both of whom were involved in the mercantile business, organized the Wright-Metzler Company to operate a department store in Connellsville. In January of 1905, the Wright-Metzler Company was incorporated with \$50,000. Subsequently, the Connellsville store opened on the first floor of the FNBB. The officers of the company were: Frank W. Wright, president; William W. Wright, vice president; and S. W. Metzler, secretary. In 1907, the Wright-Metzler Company established a second department store on East Main Street in nearby Uniontown. At the time, these two stores were considered the largest department stores in southwestern Pennsylvania with each employing approximately sixty clerks. The 17 September 1913 edition of The Morning Herald, reported that the Uniontown store had experienced such rapid growth that more floor space was necessary. The paper stated, “. . . the store has completely outgrown its present quarters,” as a result two floors were to be added to the existing building. Having already added a second floor to the rear portion of the Wright-Metzler Store in Connellsville in 1906, the papers of 1913 reported that the Connellsville store was taking over the entire second floor of the FNBB forcing the offices on that floor to be vacated.

Corporate organization in the late 1920s consisted of J. L. Cote, Jr., president; S. W. Metzler, vice president; H. D. Wright, secretary; and Adam E. Troutman's, treasurer. Troutman subsequently took over the department store by 1928 and changed the name to Troutman's. Adam E. Troutman, along with J. L. Cote, Sr. founded the first Troutman's store in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, in 1897. The original store operated from the corner of Main and Second Streets in Greensburg. The Troutman's chain became a part of Allied Department Stores which subsequently resulted in expansion and acquisition of stores in Washington, Indiana, Latrobe, and Butler. Following major trends, Troutman's expanded into local shopping malls in the early 1980s. Expansion into shopping malls, however, combined with the purchase of Allied by the Canadian conglomerate of Olympia and York, lead to the closing of most of the downtown based stores in the mid 1980s including Troutman's in both Greensburg and Connellsville.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. GENERAL STATEMENT:

1. **Architectural Character:** The First National Bank Building stands as an excellent local example of Beaux-Arts/Eclectic style architecture, which was popular with multiple story, high style buildings of the early twentieth century. Despite slow decay and neglect, the second through the sixth floors of FNBB facade and a portion of the

west elevation, still retain decorative detailing including marble bands, sandstone window surrounds, tripartite keystones, copper panels, arched portals, carved swags, cartouches, and an elaborate copper entablature complete with acroterion surmounting the roof.

- 2. Condition of Fabric:** The overall condition of the exterior of the building, despite deterioration and decay, is good. In 1992 many of the windows on the east, west, and south elevations were removed and placed inside the building since they were falling into the street. The openings were then covered with chicken wire, leaving the structure open to the elements. Leaks in the roof have caused water infiltration to many levels of the building. On the second floor, where the roof of the second story meets the original building, is a particular problem which has caused interior damage to the plaster, walls, and floor. Another problem area is the floor along the south wall of the sixth floor, which is badly deteriorated from water leaking from the roof above. There have been some problems with exterior portions of the building falling off, including a decorative copper panel on the facade and a portion of the brick cornice at the rear of the west elevation. Despite these problems, the building is still structurally sound. Many interior details and finishes and details are still intact, including original mosaic tile and marble floors, marble wainscoting, marble chair rail, a coffered ceiling in the banking hall with decorative acanthus leaf brackets, two original wood staircases, and an original Otis elevator. The upper levels of building still have some original office partitions, interior translucent windows, transoms, and doors. Several bathrooms survive with original stalls, toilets, and sinks.

B. DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR:

- 1. Overall Dimensions:** The two story base of the six story, eight bay FNBB measures 66'-0" x 166'-0". The basement, not included the story count above, is also 66'-0" x 166'-0". The overall dimensions of the four story ell-shaped office block which rises from the base, are 66'-0" x 119'-0". This ell is flush with the north and west elevations of the base. The height of the building to the cornice line is 76'-0". There is a one story elevator tower at the rear of the office block which measures 10'-9" x 9'-9". The ell-shaped mezzanine at the rear of the first floor measures 66'-0" x 15'-0", coming forward 8'-0" x 31'-0" along the west elevation.
- 2. Foundations:** The 24" thick foundation is built of common bond red brick.
- 3. Walls:** The structural brick walls of the building are faced with stretcher bond brick on the facade, west elevation, and south elevation of the two story base. The highest degree of decoration is concentrated on the facade and the northern most bay of the west elevation where the brick walls are partially clad in marble, sandstone, and

copper. The facade is vertically split into two asymmetrical portions by a column of horizontal marble panels. The same marble panels are used as quoins at the corners of the building and another column provides the terminus to the bay of the west elevation. Between the second and third floors a Greek key motif belt course extends around the facade and one-bay portion of the west elevation.

Second floor facade openings have a deeply profiled Greek key surround with tripartite keystones. Both portions of the facade have arched sandstone portals topped with a cartouche and swags extending from the third to fifth floor. (Photograph #7) Each of the openings in the portal has a wrought copper panel between floors. Both portals are flanked by single openings, the third and fourth floor openings have simple sandstone surrounds and tripartite keystones. The fifth floor openings have the same Greek key sandstone surrounds with tripartite keystones as those of the second floor. Sixth floor openings are identical in spacing and surrounds to those of the second floor. All the openings on the second and third floors of the facade have decorative metal railings extending one-third of the way up from the sill. Running bond brick serves as infill between all the above mentioned facade details. The northernmost west elevation bay follows the same organization and decorative pattern as the facade; having sandstone surrounds on a field of alternating marble and running bond brick.

The six story portion of the west elevation of the building is clad in running bond brick punctuated by seven pairs of irregularly spaced openings per floor on the second through sixth floors. This portion of the elevation is capped by a simple corbelled brick cornice. There are brick quoins on the southeast and southwest corners of the south elevation of the building with a brick column extending from the ground to the cornice between the western and center portion openings. Each opening has a sandstone sill and lintel with an tripartite keystone. Only the mezzanine openings in the two story base have sandstone sills and tripartite keystones. The eastern elevation of the two story portion of the building is exposed for seven feet at the southeast corner of the building. The remainder of the elevation is obscured by the neighboring one and two story buildings at 123 West Crawford Avenue. The mezzanine openings on the two story base to the south have lintels and sills similar to the mezzanine windows of the west elevation. The third through the sixth floors of the east and south elevations (those floors extending above the two story base of the building) are of common bond brick with no cornice. The considerably less elaborate openings have simple jack arches and sandstone sills. The faint remains of an original advertisement for the FNB is painted onto the brick of the top portion of the northern most east elevation.

4. **Structural Systems, framing:** The FNBB has exterior load bearing walls of common bond brick. These walls are 24" thick at the basement floor, 20" thick at the first

floor, 16" thick at the second through the third floors, and 12" thick at the fourth through sixth floors. The building is divided into three structural bays from east to west. The support members are a combination of a 24" thick brick wall extending vertically through the building (dividing the original banking hall from the original retail space on the first floor) and 8" square-section cast iron columns spaced from 16'-0" to 20'-0" apart along the north-south axis. On-site exploration revealed that, at least in the first floor retail space, these columns were painted with a wood grain pattern, indicating that they were originally exposed. The columns support a metal frame that in turn supports a vaulted terra cotta flooring system between the basement and first floor and wood joists on all floors above.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: none

- 6. Chimneys:** There is one 3'-2" x 4'-8" chimney which rises from the basement, travels along the exterior of the east elevation near the freight elevator, and ends approximately 15'-0" above the parapet of the sixth floor. It has a flue which is connected to the furnace in the basement.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The three primary entrances to building were replaced with modern double glass doors with aluminum frames in the 1954 renovation. The department store entrance remains in its approximate original location, while aluminum frame storefront windows were installed. The entrance to the offices is in the same location with double aluminum entry doors. The former bank entrance was reconfigured from a side entry to one with a central double entry flanked by display windows similar to the store windows to the east. Both on the south end of the west elevation and the east end of the south elevation, are modern metal doors with no decorative surrounds.

b. Windows and shutters: Windows in the building are typically one-over-one double-hung wood sash. All the windows on the facade of the building are original, only the sixth floor western most window and fifth floor eastern-most window are missing. Each portion of the second floor facade has four windows, the center two windows being coupled. Each arched portal has a tripartite window at each floor. Both portals are flanked by single openings.

As stated earlier, the six story west elevation of the building is punctuated by seven pairs of irregularly spaced windows per floor. At the south end of the six story portion of the elevation is a series of larger single windows between floors

indicating the interior stair landings. The rear, two story portion of the elevation has two windows at the street level (basement). Six windows at the mezzanine level are spaced in two groups of three. These mezzanine windows are covered with window guards. Above, at the second floor, are three paired windows; each pair consisting of a full length window to the south and a quarter-sized window to the north. The full length windows were removed while the quarter windows, or hoppers, are still in place.

The Church Place, or south, elevation has three windows at the basement level. The eastern most window is in a light well which was subsequently filled and paved. The center window is enclosed with currently only a portion of its lintel visible above ground and, the western most window is still a functional window. The mezzanine has three sets of three windows, the eastern most is a set of three windows. The center window is two-thirds the length of the other windows and is wider to accommodate a double receiving door to the first floor below. The flanking windows are full length and of similar size to the windows on the two story portion of the west elevation. The other two sets of windows consist of three evenly spaced windows. All these windows have window guards. The second floor windows consist of six quarter-sized windows similar to those found on the second story of the west elevation.

The third through the sixth floors of the east and south elevations (those floors extending above the two story base of the building) have had nearly all the windows removed.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The large L-shaped roof above the second floor portion of the building is a standard built-up roof of gravel surrounded by a short parapet capped with sandstone. Circa 1954 air handling units were added at the northwest and southeast corners of the roof. The roof originally had five skylights to the department store which were removed at some point in the mid-twentieth century. The roof is fair to poor condition with water penetration, especially where the two story and six story portions of the building meet. The L-shaped roof of the six story portion is accessible by a ladder in the stair tower at the rear of the sixth floor. It has a built-up roof similar to the second floor roof. A sandstone cap surmounts the low brick parapet wall.

b. Cornice, eaves: The building is capped by a full copper entablature which extends along the facade and wraps around to the northernmost Meadow Lane bay and approximately two feet around to the east elevation. The

frieze of the entablature has paired brackets and wrought copper panels between these brackets with detailing similar to the panels in the arched openings of the facade below. Also in the frieze are exaggerated dentils with a small band of dentils beneath. Lion heads emphasize each of the brackets at the corona of the cornice. The cornice originally had a series of acroteria extending above it, further emphasizing the brackets below. The roof of the building originally had two flag poles set back from the facade where they were visible from the street.

The roof of the six story section of the building is drained by means of a scupper and downspout system onto the second floor roof. The two story section of the building is drained by means of a roof drain and internal downspout system which empties into the storm sewer at the front of the building.

c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: The freight elevator tower extends above the roof line at the back of the six story portion. The freight elevator and corresponding stair tower was added when the original freight elevator was replaced in 1954. Blocked windows at the rear of the third through the sixth floors of the elevator tower suggest a different original elevator configuration. The original elevator penthouse for the passenger elevator, a severely dilapidated shed on the sixth floor roof, is still intact.

C. DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR:

1. **Floor Plans:** The first floor of the building was originally divided into a central vestibule and office lobby, flanked by a banking hall to the west, and the department store to the east. At the rear of the lobby is an original Otis passenger elevator connecting the first through the sixth floors. To the rear of the banking hall is a freight elevator and metal stair both dating to 1954.

At the rear of the first floor of the department store is a stock area with conveyor belt and a mezzanine with offices above. A stair from the rear of the store leads to a vestibule in the mezzanine. To the east of the vestibule is the former customer service area, office, and a storage area. There are two offices to the west as well. The southernmost of these has a narrow single flight closed stair in the southwest corner connecting the mezzanine to the second floor.

The second floor of the FNBB is similar in plan to the first floor with a central office lobby, stair, passenger elevator, and originally intercommunicating offices which subsequently became retail spaces as early as 1913.

The original plan of the third through the sixth floors consisted of a single loaded hall running north to south with offices opening to the west. The freight elevator and stair tower were located to the south. A double-loaded east/west hall intersects the single-loaded hall forming an L-shaped circulation pattern. The double-loaded hall is one room deep to the south and two rooms deep to the north. The intact office floors each have intercommunicating doors, and doors to the hall.

The third floor, originally offices, was gutted in 1954 and used for retail and storage by the department store and subsequently a section of it became a beauty salon. On the fourth floor the layout is the least modified, including the bathroom, with extant marble wainscoting, urinals, and toilets. The fifth floor is similar to the fourth floor, however the northeast portion was reconfigured into an office suite with interior circulation.

Based on physical evidence, men's bathrooms were originally located at the end of the east/west hall and hand sinks were located in each office or office suite on the third through fifth floors.

The sixth floor is largely intact with minor partition wall modifications. It was planned with an east/west hall, accessible by the central passenger elevator and stair. Unlike the other floors, the sixth floor has a large hall on the west side with a coved ceiling. The northern section of this floor had an office layout similar to that of the floors below.

The sixth floor has two original bathrooms at the northeast corner of the large room. As on the third through the fifth floors, each office or office suite had its own hand sink, some of which are still present.

The basement areas roughly correspond to the spaces on the first floor. Under the long narrow banking hall space is a similar space divided into two rooms, a stock room and a mechanical room. The space under the department store is L-shaped, wrapping back around the portion of the building with the freight elevator and stair. On the east wall of the stock room are two doors opening into the machine room of the passenger elevator. Across from the closed banking hall stair, on the west wall, is the intact machinery for the sprinkler system. The mechanical room to the south of the stock room houses the furnace for the building.

The portion of the basement under the department store was used as retail space with two original bathrooms for employees at the north end of the space that extends beyond the perimeter of the building underneath the sidewalk of Crawford Avenue. Storage and receiving areas ring the south end of the space which extends around to

the freight elevator and metal stair.

2. Stairways: At the south end of the first floor office lobby is an original wood staircase to the second floor. The open string stair with wall stringer, wood wainscoting, and molded handrail rises an initial flight of thirteen steps to a landing and turns to continue in a second flight of equal length. Each tread of the stair has two turned balusters with square heads and bases. The main newel post and the landing newel posts have square heads, bases, and simple cylindrical caps. To the south of the passenger elevator is another stair connecting the second through sixth floors of the building. This stair is stained quarter sawn oak with a chair rail, deep baseboards, and newel posts with pendants.

The original department store stair to the basement, located on the east wall of the department store, had similar detailing to the main stair with turned balusters, molded handrail, and turned newel posts. In 1906 a stair from the first floor to the second floor was built over the stair from the first floor to the basement. This additional stair was built to access the newly added rear portion of the second floor of the department store. This open-string stair was similar to the other stairs in the building with wood balusters, molded handrail, and turned newel posts. The original configuration of the stair was slightly altered in 1954 with the addition of a square landing at the bottom and two steps down to the floor of the retail space. From the landing, the stair turns south with an initial flight of risers to a second landing. On-site exploration revealed that from this landing the stair originally turned west in a second shorter flight to the second floor. This portion of the stair was enclosed in 1954. The stair now continues south in a second flight to the second floor. The balusters of both the basement stair and 1906 stair were completely encased with wood during the 1954 store renovation. A metal hand rail was added to the basement stair when the balusters were encased.

A simple single flight closed stair at the south end of the retail space leads to the L-shaped office mezzanine. In the southwest corner of the mezzanine is another simple stair with bead board detailing and simple metal hand rail connecting the mezzanine to the rear of the second floor retail space.

In 1954, a metal and concrete fire stair connecting the first through sixth floors was built at the south end of the former banking hall, replacing an earlier wood stair.

- 3. Flooring:** Floors in the building are generally tongue and groove wood placed over wood joists. The first floor vestibule and office lobby retain original white 1" square mosaic floor tiles with decorative borders. The ramped vestibule to the department store portion of the first floor has small, square beige-colored tiles dating from 1954.

According to the June 8, 1900 edition of The Daily Courier the floor of the banking was to be marble. On-site investigation revealed a double floor. The lower of the two floors had a hexagonal white marble tile pattern in one area and plank subflooring in another area. Wood joists provide support for the second floor, which is tongue and groove wood flooring covered with beige square vinyl composition tiles. The stair tower, to the south of the banking hall, has a concrete floor. The remaining areas of the department store and mezzanine have tongue and groove wood floors covered with carpet and square composition tiles. Some original wood floors are located in the receiving and stock areas, however most of this floor is concrete.

The second through sixth floors of the building have tongue and groove wood floors. Many of these floors are covered with carpet, asphalt tile, linoleum sheeting, and floor cloths.

The retail portion of the basement has a wood floor on joists which has subsequently been covered with square asphalt/asbestos tiles. Under the former banking hall is a large rectangular section of white hexagonal marble tile bordered by 1" square mosaic tiles defining the space of the foreign office of the bank. The rear portions of the basement have modern concrete floors while a portion of the receiving area in the southwest corner of the basement has a tongue and groove wood floor. In the employee bathrooms the floors are wood covered with composition tiles.

4. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The first through sixth floors have horse hair plaster walls over metal lathe. The most predominant plaster paint colors are white and green. In some of retail spaces on the first, second, and third floors as well as the office suites on the four, fifth, and sixth floors are subsequent walls finishes such as plywood paneling and pegged wall board.

On the first floor the vestibule and office lobby have white marble wainscoting with green marble chair rails, baseboards and painted plaster above. Between the banking hall and the metal stair is a concrete block wall which continues to the sixth floor. Stock areas in the rear of the first floor have exposed stud walls. The plaster walls of the first and second floors are obscured from view by birch plywood display racks.

Based on physical evidence, all of the bathrooms in building had bead board wainscoting with painted plaster above.

In the basement of the FNBB are exposed brick walls in the spaces under the banking hall and elevator shaft, painted horse hair plaster over metal lathe in the retail spaces, and concrete block walls in portions of the receiving areas to the rear of the basement.

Ceilings on the first through sixth floors are also painted horse hair plaster over metal lathe. Ceiling heights in the building are generally between thirteen and sixteen feet. In some of the office suites on the fourth, fifth, and sixth floors are modern ceiling tiles and some suspended ceilings with acoustical tiles over the plaster.

The most ornate original ceiling is in the former banking hall. It is elaborately coffered and has pilasters on the west wall. These pilasters are partially concealed by a false wall. At the top of each pilaster has a scrolled bracket of acanthus leaves. Each bracket supports one of the large rectangular coffered ceiling panels. The highly detailed surrounds of the panels consist of a band of beaded molding at the top, with bands of acanthus leaves, egg and dart molding, and a row of dentils below. The other notable original ceiling is the 17'-0" high coved plaster ceiling in the large sixth floor hall. The ceiling in the basement is vaulted terra cotta. The terra cotta has a plaster finish in the retail and foreign office areas.

5. Openings:

- a. **Doorways and doors:** The majority of the doors and doorways on the first third floors of the building have either been replaced or altered. One original four paneled door on the second floor under the stairwell is intact with 4" wide trim around the opening. The fourth through sixth floors still retain many of the original three paneled doors to each office with large translucent panels and molded 4" wide molded trim around the opening. The interconnecting office doors have three solid wood panels and similar molded trim to the doors to the offices.

The first floor entry to the department store and former bank have glass doors with aluminum cladding. Wood swinging doors with glass panels are located between the office lobby, vestibule, and the department store. Some original 4" wide trim is still intact around these doorways. Steel doors with wire vision glass separate the metal stair and freight elevator from the main spaces of the building on the first through sixth floors. In the southeast corner of the mezzanine is an original board and batten door with simple wood trim. The second and third floors have primarily modern doors with glass panels and simple molded trim. Most of the original doors of the basement have been removed. The present single and double doors have simple trim and molding. Several of the doors in the retail space have glass panels.

- b. **Windows:** The windows vary in size throughout the building, however they

all have 4" molded trim around the opening with aprons below. The first floor has metal frame display windows at the front of the former banking hall and department store. These windows do not have any wood trim. A series of paired and tripartite windows on the west wall of the former banking hall were enclosed, the original molded mahogany trim for the windows openings remains encased behind the current birch plywood display cases.

The mezzanine window openings have roughly 4" wide molded trim and aprons. The majority of the window trim for both the interior office windows and the exterior windows is 4" wide oak with simple molding. Nearly all the windows have molded aprons which match the trim. Some of the trim retains its original finish, while some of it has been painted. Four-light translucent glass interior office windows flank each office door and have a transom above. This configuration provided natural light to the offices.

Two of the fifth floor facade windows appear from the exterior to be arched, however inside it is evident that this a decorative exterior feature created by the sandstone arched portals. The windows themselves are not arched.

The basement window openings in the storage and receiving areas to the rear have no trim.

6. **Decorative features and trim:** Typical detailing in the intact offices of the upper floors of the building included deep molded baseboard, chair rail, and picture molding all finished with a dark stain. The baseboards in the first floor office lobby are green marble. Aside from the decorative features already described, this building has little decorative trim worth further mention.
7. **Hardware:** The original Otis elevator, serving the six floors of the building, retains its brass button plates at each of the six floors of the building. The few original wood doors have simple ball-bearing hinges and round knobs with rectangular plates. The doors to the offices had brass mail slots, butt hinges, round knobs, rectangular plates, and a long rod to operate the transom. Exterior window hardware consisted of simple locks between the sashes. Several of the bathrooms with original stalls still had the original door latches, reading "occupied."

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating:

The FNBB was originally heated with a coal furnace located in the basement. Asbestos insulated pipes fed steam radiators, located under exterior windows throughout the building. Most of the original radiators are still in the building. On the west wall of the basement a covered vertical opening to the street indicates the original coal chute. The chute was covered in the mid twentieth century when a gas furnace replaced the original coal furnace. Since the building has been vacant, many of the radiators have been removed from the piping system and some are missing. The radiators at the department store entry were added during the 1954 renovation.

b. Lighting:

The main electrical line serving the First National Bank Building enters from the southwest corner of the building. The 8 June 1900 edition of The Daily Courier states that the building was to be fitted with both gas and electric fixtures. On-site exploration revealed some extant combination electric/gas fixtures in the service areas of the basement, however, the rest of the building appears to have been rewired with fluorescent fixtures on the retail floors and incandescent lighting on the office floors. Based on physical evidence, most of the electrical wiring and panels date from the 1940s through the 1970s with much of the work dating to the 1954 renovation.

c. Plumbing:

The FNBB has indoor plumbing and had hot water supplied by an original water heater located in the basement next to the furnace. Near the heater is an asbestos insulated hot water storage tank. Cast iron water pipes served all the plumbing fixtures in the building. Waste was carried down through the building and to the basement by large cast iron pipes which connect to the sewer line running under Crawford Avenue.

Intact Fixtures: The basement bathrooms extending under Crawford Avenue, while badly deteriorated, have original toilets and pedestal sinks. There is a relocated bathroom with original fixtures located at the southeast corner of the second floor with two intact wood stalls, two original toilets, and one original pedestal sink. The third floor bathroom has ca 1960 finishes. On the fourth and fifth floors each bathroom had three stalls, three urinals, and a maintenance closet with slop sink. There were no hand sinks in these bathrooms, as each office had its own. Currently only the

fourth floor still has the original configuration, although most of the sinks are missing. On the sixth floor the women's bathroom originally had two stalls and one pedestal sink, of these one toilet and the sink remain. The men's bathroom had one toilet, one sink, and a slop sink, all still extant.

d. Elevators:

There are two elevators located in the FNBB, an original Otis passenger elevator located near the front of the building, and a 1954 freight elevator located at the rear of the six story portion of the building.

The original Otis passenger elevator served the first through the sixth floors of the building. On the roof of the building is a small frame penthouse serving as the location of the cog on which the elevator hangs. All elevator mechanical equipment is located in a basement room next to elevator shaft. A pair of large springs are located directly under the elevator at this level. The cab was manually operated and still has its operator's seat, as well as its original brass fittings.

The 1954 freight elevator served the basement through the sixth floors of the FNBB, replacing an original elevator in the same location. The brick penthouse shelters all the mechanical equipment. In the 1954 renovation the original elevator mechanical equipment was removed from the basement and the opening between the elevator shaft and the equipment room was sealed.

A third elevator was located at the southeast corner of the building on the 1954 renovation drawings. The date of installation for this elevator is unknown. The drawings indicate the elevator as existing, and that it was to be removed. It appears that it served as a freight elevator and was replaced by the conveyor belt described below.

e. Conveyor Belt:

The conveyor belt was installed along the south wall of the building between the first floor and basement during the 1954 renovation. This belt served to move merchandise from the first floor delivery entrance to the storage areas of the basement.

f. Sprinkler System:

Physical evidence indicates that a wet sprinkler system was installed in the early to mid twentieth century. The system has its major components in the basement along the west wall under the former banking hall, with the main water line coming in from under Meadow Lane. This line and an auxiliary line were used by the fire department to boost pressure, with both entering the basement through one of the original Meadow Lane light wells. From this main point, the cast iron pipes of the

system serve the entire building. This system included spooled fire hoses which can still be found on the second through the sixth floors, located near the passenger elevator and stair.

g. Pneumatic Tube System:

A pneumatic tube system was located in the department store portion of the First National Bank Building. The dates of the installation and removal, and the extent of this system are unknown. The system was a means to convey money between the mezzanine offices of the department store and the individual cashier stations. There were two tubes between the mezzanine and each cashier station, one for sending and one for receiving. The only portion of this system which still exists are some of the two inch brass piping and fittings running along the ceiling of the basement. These pipes run from the south wall of the building, where they came down from the mezzanine, and branch off in pairs at intervals to the first floor, however, no pipes actually penetrate the first floor. The mechanical system to operate this tube system is also missing. It is not known whether this system also served the basement, second or third floors.

9. Original Furnishings:

In the mezzanine is a safe belonging to the original department store, Wright-Metzler. The mezzanine also retains built-in wood cabinets in the customer service area.

D. SITE:

- 1. General setting and orientation:** The First National Bank Building is located at 125-129 West Crawford Avenue, in the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. It stands one block west of the intersection of the primary streets in the Connellsville business district, Crawford Avenue and Pittsburgh Street. Three blocks to the west is the Youghiogheny River. The building sits on a corner lot among two and three story smaller scale row buildings. It shares a wall with a two story structure to the east.
- 2. Historic landscape design:** There are no historic landscape designs associated with this structure. The front of the building is separated from West Crawford Avenue by the width of the sidewalk. The rear and side of the building both face paved alleys.
- 3. Outbuildings:** This building has no associated outbuildings

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

Microfilm copies of alteration drawings for the First National Bank Building (known on the drawings as Troutman's Department Store) used to complete the 1954 renovation are available from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Building Section, located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. These drawings are filed under 31-BL-3007.

B. Historic Views:

William Balsley of 410 East Cedar Avenue, Connellsville, Pennsylvania, has a private collection of historic materials on Connellsville which includes one undated photograph of Main Street (now Crawford Avenue) from ca. 1905. William Balsley also has a copy of The Daily News Supplement of January 1902, which contains text and historic rendering of the First National Bank Building. Mr. Balsley is a member of the Connellsville Historical Society.

The Connellsville Historical Society, located at the Carnegie Free Library, South Pittsburgh Street, Connellsville, Pennsylvania 15425 has two photographs of the FNBB and postcards depicting Crawford Avenue. Both photographs are undated. Based on information in the photographs, one them is pre-1914 and the other is ca. 1925.

The Uniontown Public Library located on Jefferson Street in Uniontown has a copy of The Artwork of Fayette County from 1905 which contains an image of Main Street (now Crawford Avenue).

C. Interviews:

Balsley, William. Member of Connellsville Historical Society. Interviewed by Clinton E. Piper, 20 February 1996.

Caller, Carmel. Member of Connellsville Historical Society. Interviewed by Steven D. Chaitow, 14 February 1996.

Fulmer, Albert. Former Manager and Employee of Troutman's Department Store. Interviewed by Clinton E. Piper, 20 February 1996.

Van Atta, Robert B. History Editor for the Tribune-Review. Interviewed by Clinton E. Piper, 20 February 1996.

Wagner, Scott. Employee of the City of Connellsville. Interviewed by Steven D. Chaitow, 21 August 1996.

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E. Likely sources not yet investigated:

None.

F. Supplemental material:

None.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the decaying and dangerous state of the First National Bank Building, which has been vacant for more than ten years, the City of Connellsville, through the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority, plans to demolish the building with the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and contributes to a potential Connellsville Historic District. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority has consulted with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with those parties which requires that HABS/HEAR documentation of the First National Bank Building to be complete before demolition. This documentation was conducted in December 1995; January-February 1996; and August 1996.

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Title: Historic Preservation Consultants
Date: September 1996

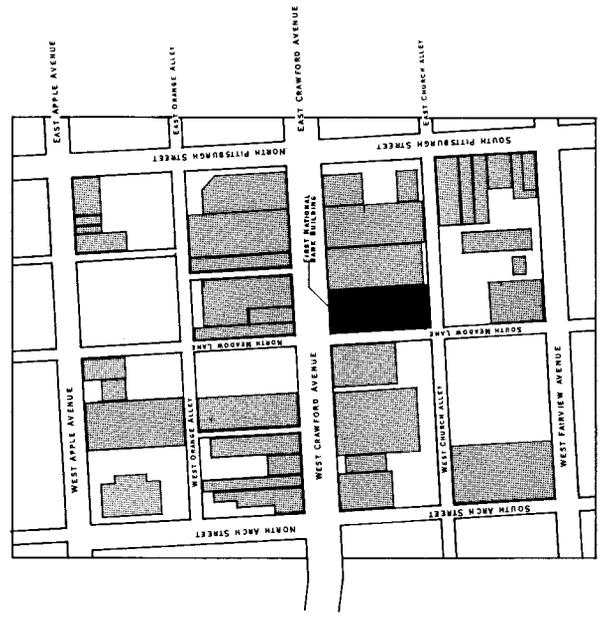
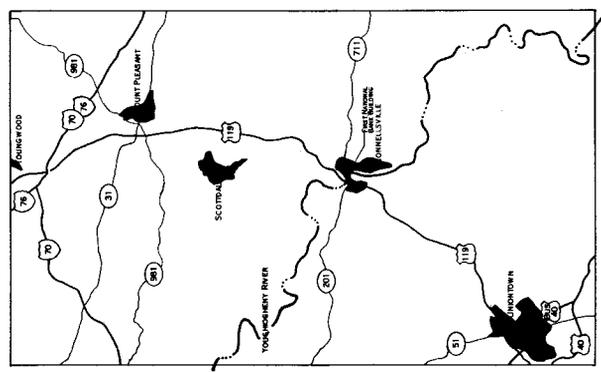
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
HABS No. PA-6208
(Page 31)

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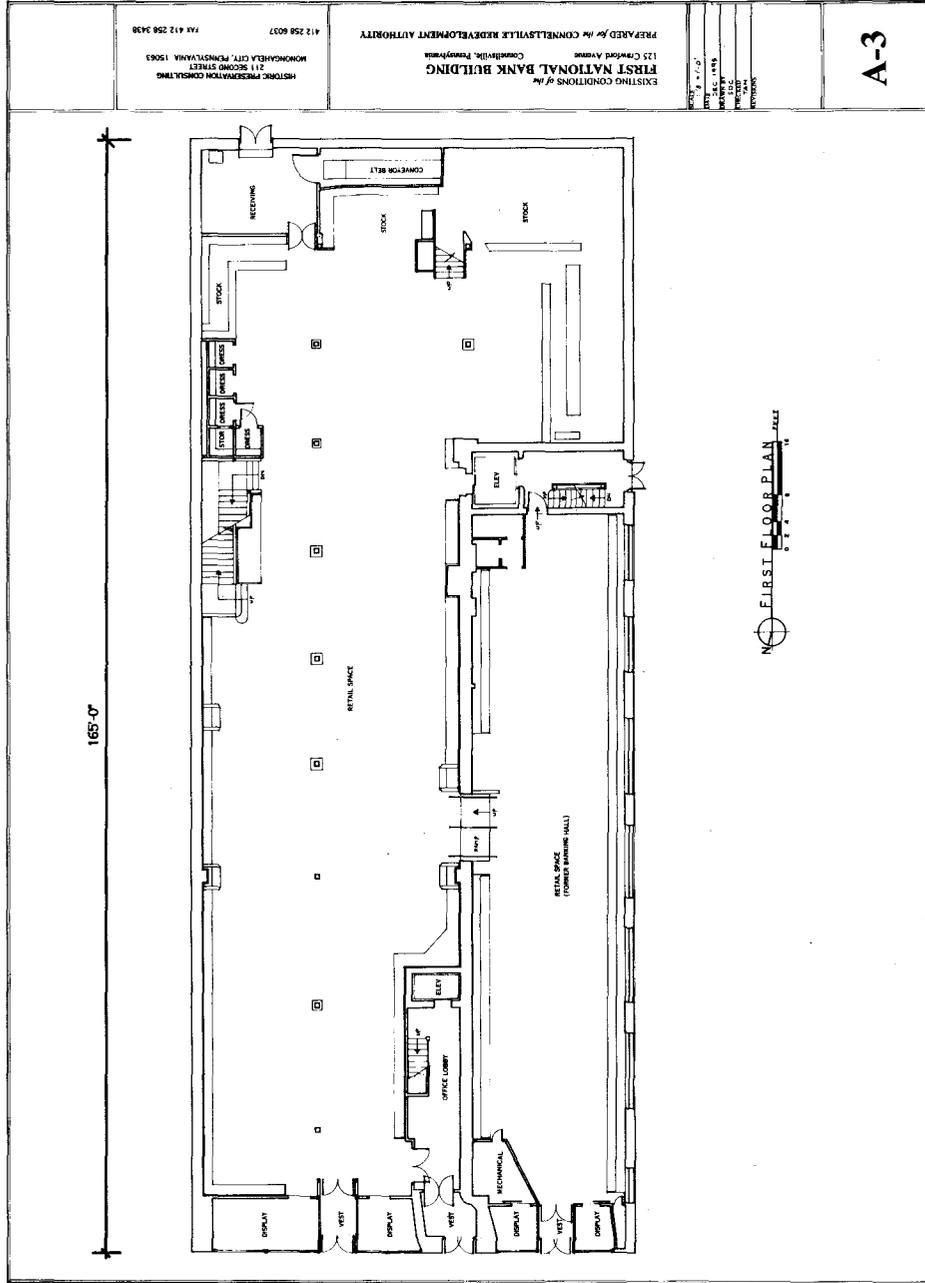
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING
211 SECOND STREET
MONROEVILLE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA 15063
412 258 6037
FAX 412 258 3438

EXISTING CONDITIONS of the
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
125 Crawford Avenue
Connellsville, Pennsylvania
PREPARED for CONNELLSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DATE: 11/14/08
DRAWN BY: J. B. BROWN
SCALE: AS SHOWN
PROJECT NO.: 11-02



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
HABS No. PA-6208
(Page 33)



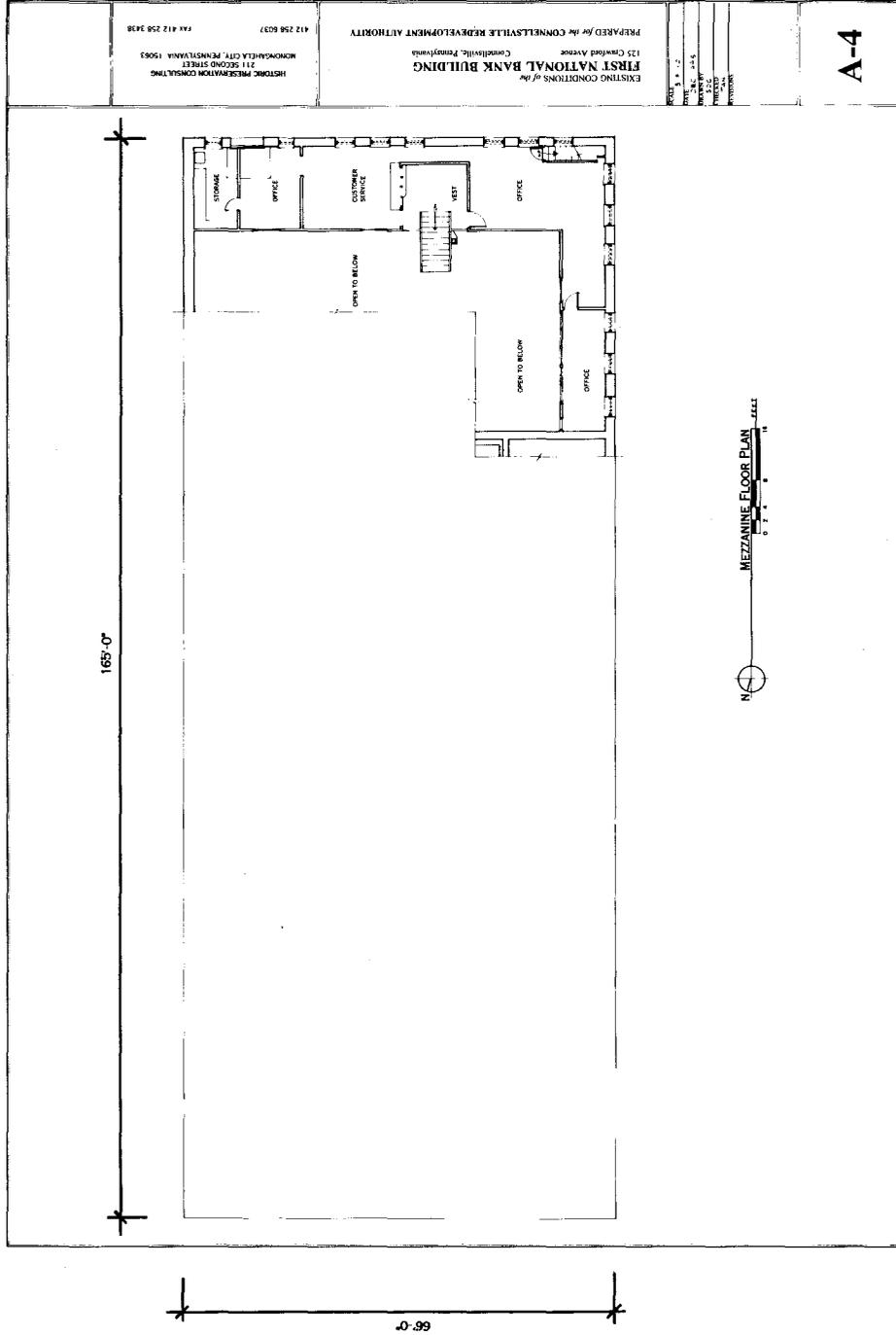
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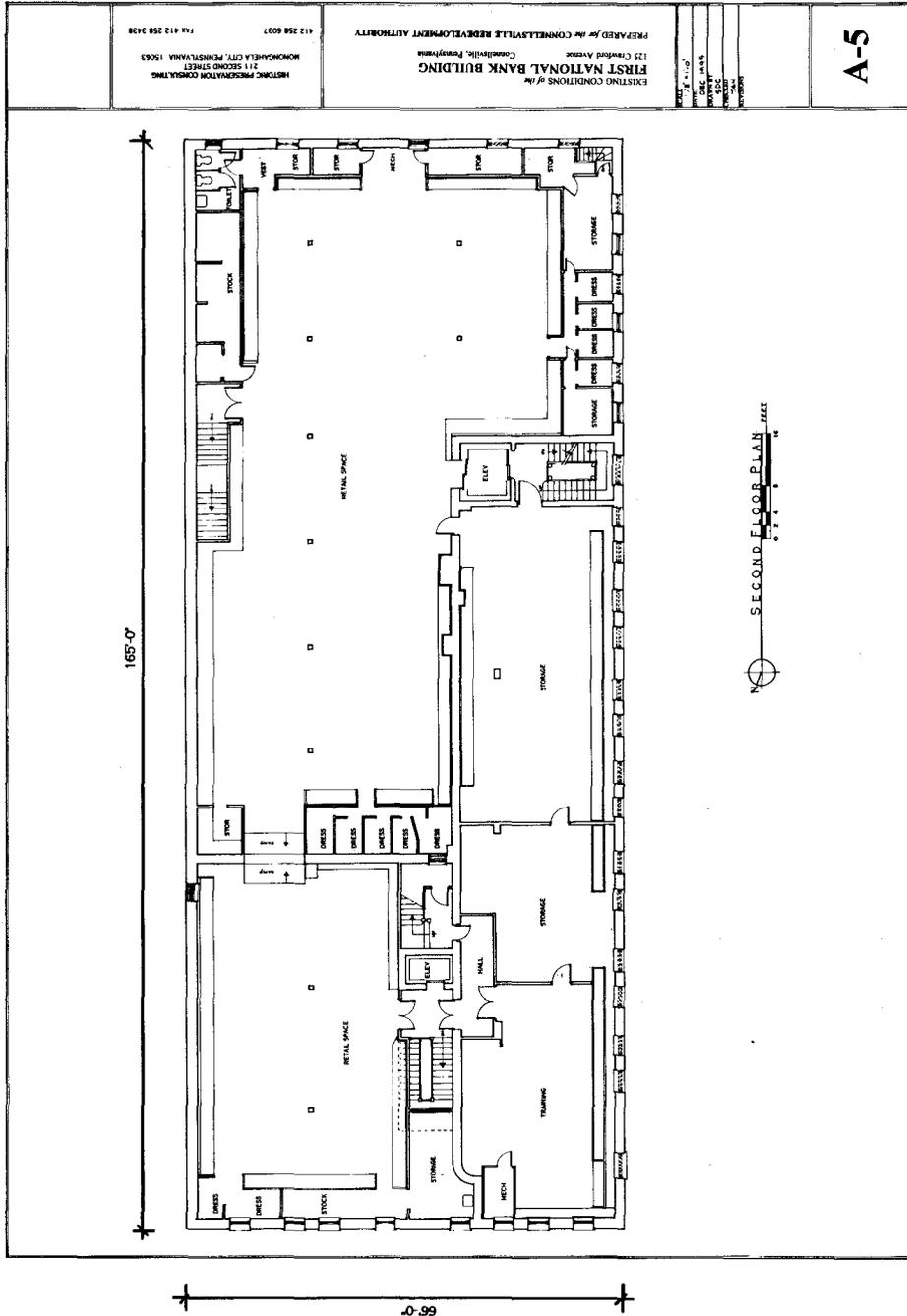
A-3

EXISTING CONDITIONS OF
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
 122 Crawford Avenue
 Conowingo, Maryland
 PREPARED FOR: MARYLAND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING
 211 MONROE STREET
 MONOWHETA CITY, PENNSYLVANIA 15063
 412 258 6037
 FAX 412 258 3430

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
HABS No. PA-6208
(Page 34)



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
HABS No. PA-6208
(Page 35)



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EXISTING CONDITIONS OF
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
Connellsville, Pennsylvania
125 Crawford Avenue
PREPARED FOR CONNELLSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING
311 CEDAR STREET
MONACAHELE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA 15063
412.258.8037
FAX 412.258.3438

DATE: 11/11/09
DRAWN: J. H. HARRIS
CHECKED: J. H. HARRIS
SCALE: AS SHOWN
PROJECT NO.: 09-001

