

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL BUILDING

AND/OR COMMON

Scranton Public Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North Washington Avenue at Vine Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Scranton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Lackawanna

CODE

069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Scranton

STREET & NUMBER

North Washington Avenue at Linden Street

CITY, TOWN

Scranton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 18501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lackawanna County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Scranton

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

10/5/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building as constructed was planned with the idea of giving the principal view of the exterior from the intersection of two streets; while the elevations, in their conventional lines, were modeled on the French chateau style of the early renaissance which prevailed in the 15th and 16th centuries, the best period of French architecture. Its exterior material is of Indiana limestone in a warm gray color, above a base of brown Medina stone; all laid in coursed ashlar.

The main portion of the building, 36 x 132 feet, runs parallel with Vine Street and is full two stories in height, with basement. A wing at right angles, 30 x 52 feet, of similar construction but slightly less in height, contains three stack-room floors and a commodious room above. High roofs of steep pitch and having twelve dormer gables, are covered with black Spanish tiles. In the panels of the dormers, as on other parts of the building, symbols of notable book makers are elaborately carved in the stonework. The window sash are of iron, English casement style, having the glass leaded in various patterns; and the transoms contain leaded medallions showing marks and devices used by the early printers. Certain large colored glass windows, in prominent portions of the building of past centuries.

Interior finish, including the first story ceilings, is chiefly in quartered oak, with other woods stained to correspond. Partitions dividing the rooms of the first floor are formed of plate glass, giving view through the entire length of the rooms in all directions. The entrance hallway laid in marble mosaic, and three fireplaces of varied design constructed in imported marbles, form striking features of their kind.

Division and area of rooms in the main building are as follows: 1st floor—entrance hall, 15 x 30 feet, delivery room, 16 x 38; open-shelf room, 32 x 48, with gallery over it and a wellhole opinion above a high, barrel-vaulted, ceiling; young people's library room 32 x 32; and two toilet rooms, 8 x 14 each. The 2nd floor has a staircase hall, 14 x 20 class room 15 x 19; reference and reading room, 32 x 46; cloak room in tower, 8 x 8; gallery and well-hold over open-shelf room, 32 x 62.

The exterior of the library remains completely intact since its original construction. Interior renovations include 1970: The conversion of the entrance hall into a book check out area and the removal of one set of glass doors. 1973: Renovations to the building done by Burns and Lowe Architects enclosed the reading room gallery to provide additional floor space for the reference department. At the same time the unfinished basement area was remodeled to serve as office areas.

18 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Library
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Green & Wicks Buffalo, NY**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Library, in its inception and successful establishment, resulted from the acts of a few energetic and far-seeing persons aided by timely and notable individual generosity on the part of a principal donor, and other contributors. Its history may be justly said to date from November, 1880, when a special committee of the Scranton Board of Trade (a business men's association) reported "that they considered the starting of a free public library in Scranton as feasible, provided the sum of at least \$35,000 could be raised by subscription; and that the chance of being able to do so was sufficiently good to warrant the effort."

About the same time, as it happened, Mr. John Joseph Albright, a former resident of Scranton and now of Buffalo, N. Y., was contemplating some public gift to the City of Scranton as a memorial to his parents, Joseph J. and Elizabeth Albright. The action of the Board of Trade, as above, coming to his attention, Mr. Albright decided to let his gift take the form of a library structure, to be erected on the very centrally located and valuable site of the Albright homestead, at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Vine Street.

In designing this building the architects, Green and Wicks of Buffalo, N.Y., endeavored to make it complete, substantial, and a model of its kind. The firm of Edward B. Green and William Sydney Wicks was formed in Buffalo in 1880 and designed and built for thirty years. Among their most successful works were the Albright Art Gallery (1905), the Buffalo Savings Bank, the Fidelity Building, the new City Hospital, South Park School, D. S. Morgan Building the Marine Bank Building and the Chamber of Commerce, all in Buffalo.

In its 84 years of existance the Scranton Public Library has played a leading role in the artistic, commercial and educational life of the city.

It marks the entrance into "downtown" for anyone entering the city on North Washington Avenue. One of the few public buildings which create a public space (by virtue of its right angle construction) in the city, the library also stands a monument to the all too rare philanthropy of a private citizen.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Withey, Henry F. and E. R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc. Los Angeles, 1970, p. 656.

Bulletin of the Scranton Public Library. Series 2, Number 18, March 1907, Scranton Pa. PP. 216-17.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .34

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dorothy Reddington

ORGANIZATION

Scranton Public Library

DATE

9/10/77

STREET & NUMBER

North Washington & Vine Street

TELEPHONE

717-961-2451

CITY OR TOWN

Scranton

STATE

Pennsylvania 18503

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

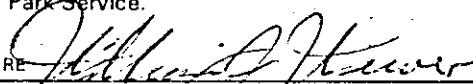
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

1-16-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Scranton Pa. N4122.5-W7537.5/7,5
1947 Photorevised 1969

SCRANTON QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA-LACKAWANNA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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