

Monroe County Courthouse Plans Advance

The Monroe County Commissioners, in conjunction with the Judiciary, are continuing to advance plans to renovate, modernize and build an addition to the County Courthouse. These improvements are a high priority for the County and the Courts and are the result of careful study that consistently demonstrated a need for both courthouse expansion and modernization. Located at Seventh and Monroe Streets in Stroudsburg, the Monroe County Courthouse was originally constructed in 1890 as a three-story, ashlar sandstone and limestone building in the Romanesque Revival style. An identically-sized addition was built in 1934 as a Public Works Administration project. The 1890 and 1934 portions of the Monroe County Courthouse were added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 18, 1979, the same year an addition to the Courthouse was constructed.

Virtual Public Meetings Scheduled

Officials of Monroe County and the Courts invite you to participate at meetings with representatives of the team leading this undertaking who will share information on project status, progress, accomplishments to date, and upcoming activities. A general web-based meeting open to all residents and business owners in Monroe County will be held to share information on:

- **7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M., Wednesday, May 20, 2020**

Specific meetings for residents and business owners in the immediate vicinity of the courthouse will also be scheduled; meeting invites for these will be sent directly to the residents and business owners.

Due to the National Emergency declared in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and to ensure the health and safety of all Monroe County citizens, the meetings will be held remotely using a virtual meeting service for interested citizens to use from their homes or other safe locations. To join the meeting, use your computer, tablet or smartphone and the link below:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/989205781>

You can also dial in using your phone.

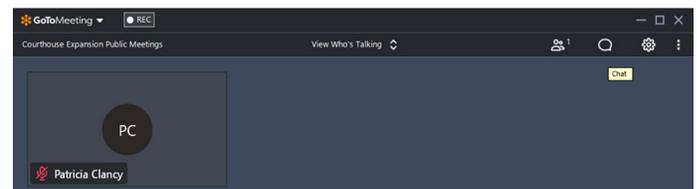
United States: +1 (872) 240-3212

Access Code: 989-205-781

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready to join the meeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/989205781>

To ask a question or make a comment during the virtual meeting, follow these instructions. In GoToMeeting, click on the "Chat" bubble, found in the upper right corner of the first screenshot shown below:



After doing so, a Chat window will pop up as shown in the screenshot to the right where you can enter your message in the area labeled "Enter your message". Just below that section is a droplist where it shows "Everyone". If you click the down arrow on the droplist, you will see a list of participants. If you choose to send a message to only one person, you may select them from this droplist. After typing your message and choosing the recipient, click SEND.



Monroe County and Court Officials Address HARB

In 2006, the Borough of Stroudsburg adopted an ordinance to protect historic properties within the borough's National Register Historic District. The Council then assigned the members of Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) the responsibility for reviewing plans for new construction and alterations to existing structures and making recommendations to Council whether to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness. Given that the new courthouse site is located within the Historic District, review of plans for the new courthouse will require review and comment by HARB.

With that, representatives of Monroe County and the Courts attended a meeting of HARB on May 4, 2020 to initiate a dialogue with members about the conceptual courthouse plan and for an informal review of the proposed plan. The representatives presented the current conceptual plan showing the location and configuration of the planned courthouse and its principal features including entrance location, placement of a new pedestrian plaza, entrance to secure parking, among other features. Also discussed were the options for building façade materials and colors under consideration. Additional meetings with HARB are planned as the courthouse design is further developed.

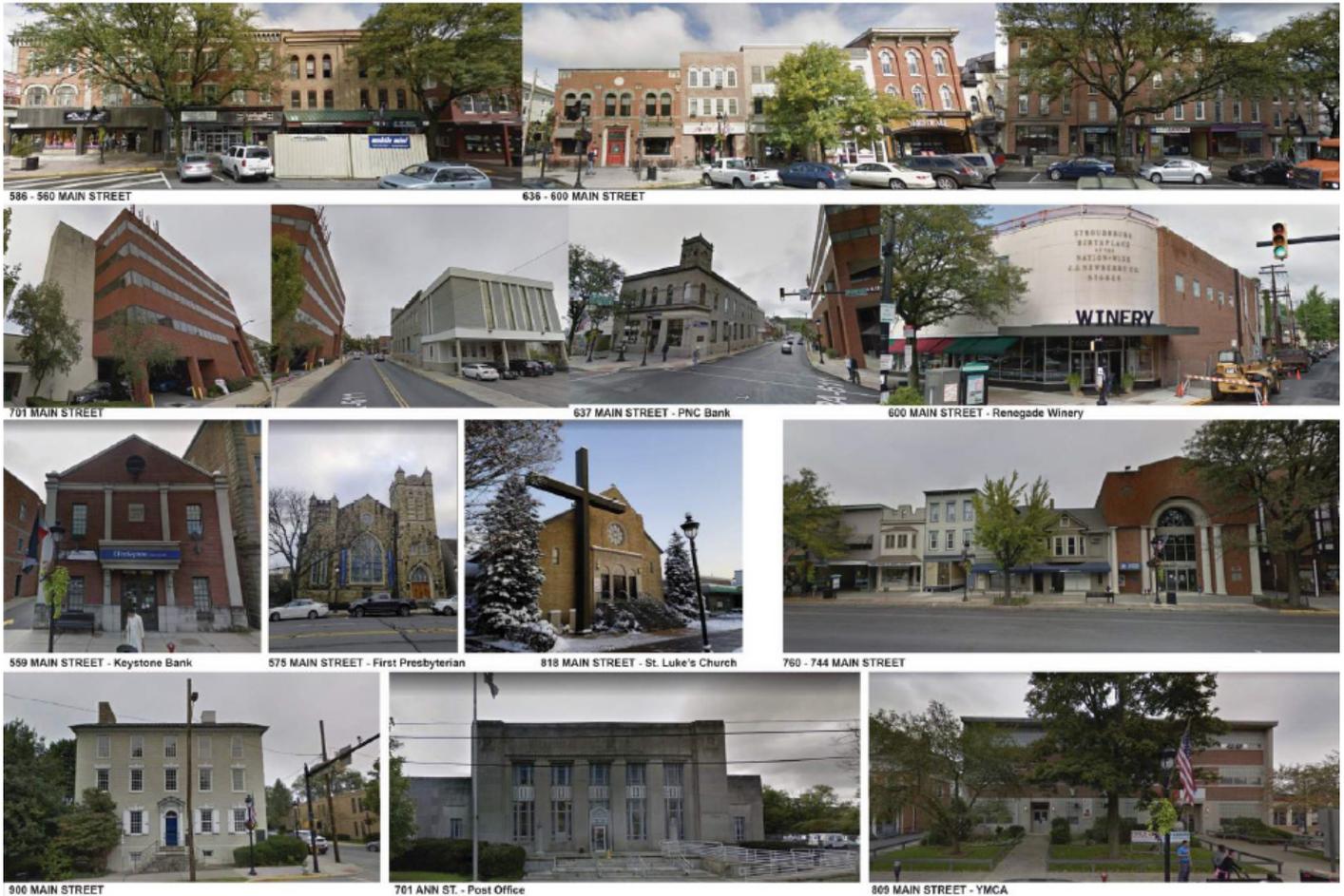
Courthouse Context

Courthouses represent important features of the urban environment, often geographically placed in prominent locations in many cities and towns. They benefit from close proximity to services, amenities and other civic functions such as municipal and county government operations. New courthouse developments, done well, enhance the urban experience with building architecture and landscape elements contributing to the quality of the surrounding physical landscape and pedestrian experience.

The Monroe County Courthouse consists of the two aforementioned structures within an approximately 120,000-square foot lot. However, the Courthouse exists within a larger context of structures lining Sarah Street, Monroe Street, Sixth Street and Seventh Street in addition to those found in the nearby downtown business district as shown in the images. The Courthouse is also located within the virtual center of the Academy Hill National Register Historic District with largely commercial uses found to the east, west and south, and residential uses found to the north. Recognizing and appreciating the nature of adjoining and nearby land uses, and the character and design features of the buildings that comprise that area, plays an important role in planning for Courthouse expansion.



Characteristics of land uses and structures surrounding Monroe County Courthouse



Land uses and structures in and around downtown Stroudsburg

Courthouse Development Options Explored

The historic Courthouse and Annex do not meet modern courthouse space standards and there is a lack of available space to accommodate current and future court operations. To address long-term requirements, various options have been developed and evaluated in order to identify the best solution to meet current and long-term facility needs.

The new courthouse is proposed as a three-story structure comprising approximately 66,000 gross square feet with secure parking for 14 vehicles. The new structure will be located within the large property adjoining the Annex requiring the relocation of the bank branch and parking lot which occupies a portion of the site. The new courthouse would include six courtrooms and judicial chambers for judges and their support staff. The lower level would be devoted to secure parking for judges, prisoner holding and transportation security gate, and sheriff court security operations. The new courthouse would also include an accessible public entrance and lobby off a redesigned plaza area with security screening space for the entire courts complex. Once construction of the new courthouse

is completed, efforts would turn to renovating the historic Courthouse and Annex for clerical and similar judicial offices for use by court administration, probation, custody conciliation, sheriff, prothonotary, clerk of courts, domestic relations, district attorney, and public defender.

Conceptual site plans have been developed along with building massing options and interior space allocations and configurations to determine pros and cons in terms of meeting the requirements of building function and program needs, circulation and secure access control, functional space adjacencies, constructability, and associated standards and preferences. Development of various planning options included consideration of building construction alternatives for new construction, renovation, and/or repurposing of existing space. The resulting concepts represent the feasible placements of the courthouse structure, vehicular and pedestrian access points, connectivity between the new courthouse and existing buildings, and placement of secure parking.



View from Monroe Street of Historic Courthouse, Annex and new courthouse.



Aerial view showing courthouse adjacent to Annex with new pedestrian-friendly plaza fronting on Monroe Street. A single common entrance to courts complex would be from the plaza into the new building.



Ground level view of Courthouse from Seventh Street showing new plaza and single common entrance to courts complex from plaza.

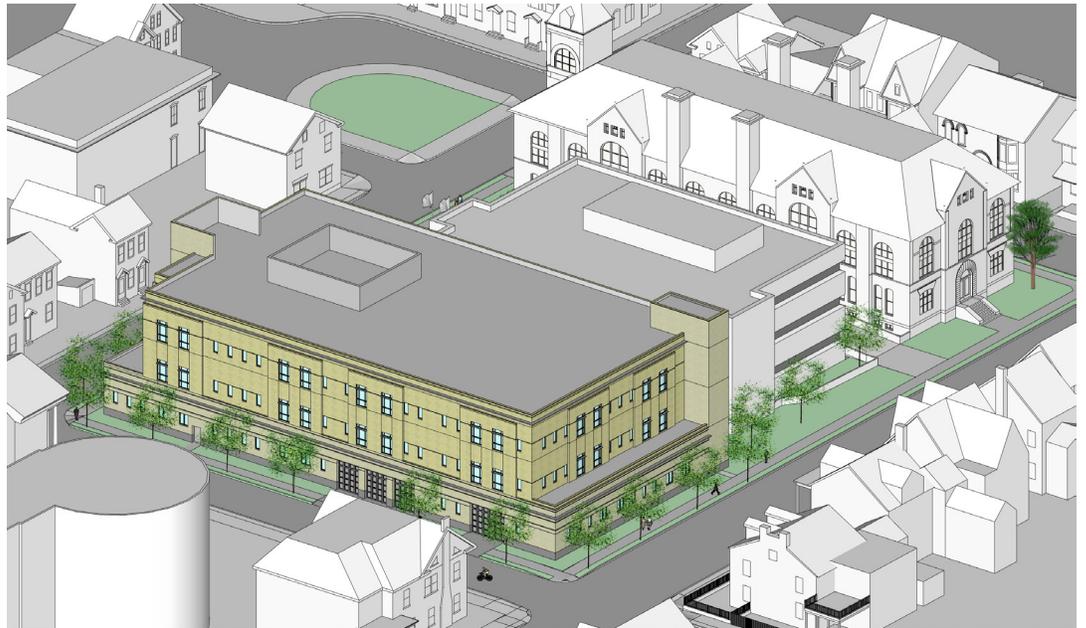




View of new courthouse showing relationship to Annex and historic Courthouse and existing structures lining Sixth and Monroe Streets.



Aerial view of new courthouse from Sarah and Sixth Streets. Shows façade setbacks above ground floor with access to enclosed parking from Sixth Street.



Ground view eastward from Sarah Street showing Annex and new courthouse.



Ground level view of rear of new courthouse from Sarah Street.

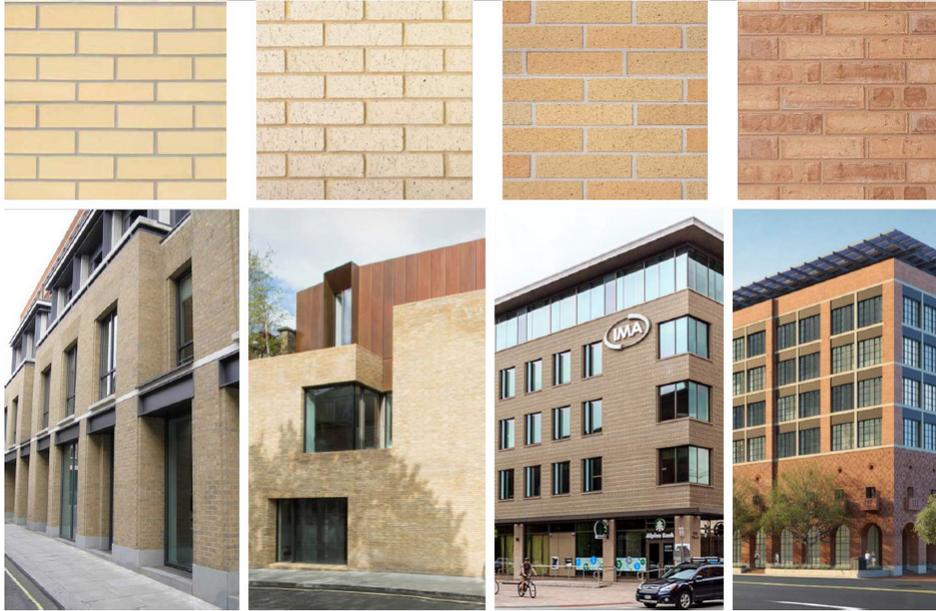
Aerial view of new Courthouse showing relationship to Annex and historic courthouse and existing structures lining Seventh and Sarah Streets.



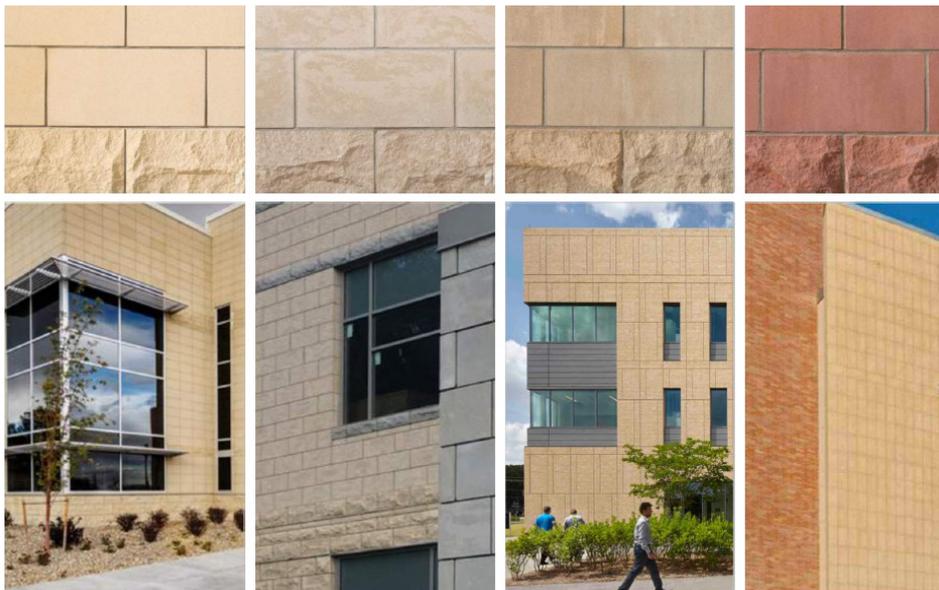
View from Sarah Street of new courthouse, Annex and Historic Courthouse.

Building Façade Material Options Under Consideration

Given its prominent location in Stroudsburg and proximity and relationship to the historic Courthouse, selection of an exterior building façade material (or combination of materials) is a key decision. At the present time, attention is focused on use of various brick and/or stone products as shown in the images below with durability, ease of construction, maintenance requirements, and cost important considerations in the selection of the exterior materials.



Examples of brick products showing a range of color choices in keeping with the color palette found at the historic courthouse. In the United States, bricks have been used for buildings and pavements with bricks commonly used in colonial era buildings and other notable structures around the country.



Cast stone materials are often used for construction given their strength, durability and resistance to weather conditions. Cast stone products are also available in a range of colors in keeping with the color palette found at the historic courthouse. The historic courthouse was constructed using stone as with other prominent structures constructed during that era.



Monroe County Courthouse, Stroudsburg, PA.

Upcoming Activities

The Monroe County Courthouse project is moving forward with these activities expected in the months ahead:

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|------------------------|--|
| <p>May 2020</p> | <p>Arrange and hold virtual public meeting to discuss the status and progress in the Courthouse planning process (May 20, 2020).</p> <p>Arrange future specific meetings for residents and business owners in immediate vicinity of courthouse.</p> <p>Continue evaluating design options for new Courthouse development.</p> <p>Attend meeting of the Historic Architectural Review Board (Borough of Stroudsburg) on May 4, 2020.</p> <p>Look to the Monroe County Courthouse website for information, announcements, and upcoming activities.</p> <p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 3.</p> |
| <p>Future</p> | <p>Complete schematic design of the new Courthouse.</p> <p>Continue engaging stakeholders and public in the Courthouse planning process.</p> <p>Look to the Monroe County Courthouse website for information, announcements, and upcoming activities.</p> |

Interested in Learning More?

For additional information visit www.monroecountypa.gov/Dept/CourthouseProject or contact:

Greg Christine, Chief Clerk

Monroe County Commissioner's Office

One Quaker Plaza, Room 201

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Email: CourthouseExpansion@MonroeCountyPA.gov

