

STATE COLLEGE HISTORIC SITE



Crabtree Building

In 1924, four years after watchmaker/engraver Samuel P. Crabtree expanded his Tyrone business into State College, he had local builder Dowse G. Lowe put up a structure on this then-vacant lot for Crabtree's Jewelers. In 1946, State College architect Clarence Bauschpiess added six feet—faced with Art Decor-inspired rarrcon granite—to the front of the building, for which William Whitehill made an aluminum sign (pictured above in 1947, flanked by McLanahan Drug Store, left, and Kalin's Men's Shop).

Prior to quartz watches, downtown State Collegians set their stopwatches by a chronograph in the window of Sam and sons' (Sam Jr. and Allen) store; Sam Sr. kept it synchronized with Greenwich Time, via

Western Union. In the 1920s, Sam Sr. sold eye glasses and watches repaired timepieces, and would hand engrave anything brought in—including coffin name plates. From Crabtree's, The Nittany Lion Inn bought china, and The Corner Room bought flatware. Crabtree's was one of the few Central Pennsylvania jewelry stores carrying complete patterns of distinguished china, sterling and crystal. Under Allen—from 1960 until doors closed in May of 1986—Crabtree's was still making home deliveries, usually by Allen's wife, Phyllis.

In 1994, master goldsmith John C. Mason opened Aurora Goldsmiths.



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