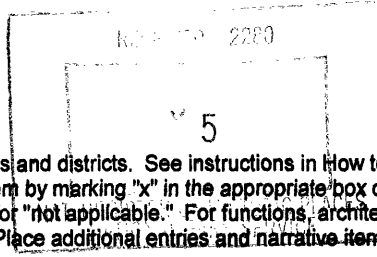


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Delaware Trust Building

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 900-912 N. Market Street not for publication

city or town Wilmington vicinity

state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003

zip code 19801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date February 11, 2003

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

[Signature: Edson B. Beall]

Date of Action

4/18/03

5. Classification

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|--|-----------|----------|---------------|--|-------|----------|---------------|--|------------|----------|---------------|--|---------|----------|---------------|--|-------|
| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | Category of Property (Check only one box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> </tr> </table> | Contributing | Noncontributing | <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | | buildings | <u>0</u> | <u> </u> | | sites | <u>0</u> | <u> </u> | | structures | <u>0</u> | <u> </u> | | objects | <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | | Total |
| Contributing | Noncontributing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | structures | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | objects | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

roof synthetic

walls brick

limestone

other _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

- Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)
- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
 - B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
 - C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
 - D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1921 - 1930

Significant Dates
1921
1930

- Criteria Considerations**
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
 - B removed from its original location.
 - C a birthplace or a grave.
 - D a cemetery.
 - E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 - F a commemorative property.
 - G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Dennison & Hirons
Converse, Bernard and Harris, Philip T.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
See continuation Sheet.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Wilmington Public Library, Wilmington, DE
Free Library of Philadelphia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property < 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 <u>18</u> Zone | <u>453080</u> Easting | <u>4399156</u> Northing | 2 <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |
| 3 <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing | 4 <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sheryl Jaslow

organization Powers & Co., Inc. date October 6, 2002

street & number 211 N. 13th Street, 5th Floor telephone 215-636-0192

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 3 Page 1

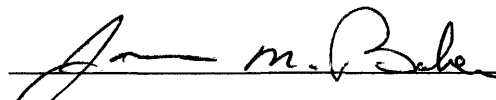
Delaware Trust Building
name of property

New Castle County, Delaware
county and State

=====

Agency Certification

In my opinion, the Delaware Trust Building meets / does not meet the
National Register Criteria.



James M. Baker
Mayor
City of Wilmington, Delaware

01-09-03

Date

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number 7 Page 1

The Delaware Trust Building, a Classical Revival style commercial/office tower, stands prominently at the northeast corner of E. 9th and N. Market Streets. The main block of the building rises 13 stories in a U-shape with a 22-story modern office tower in its center. The building originally housed a banking hall at the southwest corner, commercial tenants on the ground floor of the southeast corner and office space on the upper floors. This multi-purpose configuration continued throughout its history with minor changes. Following the fire on the 14th floor of the building in 1997, contaminants identified in the building required the removal of many of the original finishes.

The primary elevations of the Delaware Trust Building are the west elevation located on N. Market Street, the south elevation on E. 9th Street and east elevation overlooking N. King Street (Photographs #1, 2, 4, 5, 6). The Delaware Trust Building's footprint is nearly a perfect square and extends fifteen registers along N. Market Street, fifteen registers on E. 9th Street and fourteen registers on N. King Street. The north elevation, separated from the nearby Wilmington Public Library by a 15 foot alley, consists of two 13-story three register sections flanking the 22-story multi-light tower addition (Photographs #7, 8).

The building's three primary elevations follow a base-pillar-capital format that is typical of the Classical Revival style buildings of the period. Above a watertable of gray granite, the limestone-clad two-story plus mezzanine base is surmounted by a shaft of buff colored brick. Limestone further embellishes the building as a dentilled cornice above the 2nd story, as window surrounds and a belt course at the 3rd story, as a belt course above the 11th story, and the cornice crowning the building on the west, south and east facades. The top story of the building contains a series of arched window openings with a tri-partite window arrangement throughout.

The Market Street façade, the most elaborate of all of the elevations, is adorned with many Classical Revival style details. The limestone base is rusticated in the middle of the elevation, interrupted by smooth limestone pilasters and fields of smooth ashlar limestone at the ends. The central five bays at the 2nd story cornice are adorned with carved limestone festoons, a Classical Revival motif. The Market Street elevation contains three monumental-scaled arched entrance openings reminiscent of ancient Roman buildings (Photograph #3). The entrances at the north and south ends both contain recessed doors with bronze glazed leaves, bronze multi-light transom windows and bronze tanlights. The inside faces of the recessed arcways feature classically-inspired carvings, including Greek key patterns, urns and wreaths of fruit (Photograph #11). The center entrance varies slightly from the end entrances: the doors are not as deeply recessed, consisting of a double-leaf glazed door flanked by single-leaf, bronze glazed doors. A 2nd story balcony railing and multi-light full-glazed bronze doors are

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Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number 7 Page 2

located above the entrance. Bronze lanterns further adorn the center entrance (Photograph #9).

The storefronts at the ground level on E. 9th Street and N. King Street sides contain multi-light aluminum windows dating from the late 1950s, as evident in Photograph #5. Entrances at the southeast corner of the building to the retail space consist of glazed double-leaf aluminum doors with multi-light transoms and sidelights.

The fenestration is regular and consistent throughout, provided by only a few window types. The majority of the windows, with the exception of the arched entrance windows, are modern aluminum 1/1 windows that were installed in the late 20th century. These windows are found throughout all of the elevations. Iron paneled spandrels appear between the first and mezzanine story windows along the entire east elevation and wrap around to the south elevation. Multi-light rolled steel windows that date to the original 1921 construction (and corresponding to the banking hall) can be found on the west elevation on the first and mezzanine floors at the southern three bays and the western seven bays of the south elevation (Photograph #2). The windows at the top two stories of the building on the east, west and south elevations are arranged in a tripartite plan with a central aluminum 1/1 window flanked by narrow aluminum 1/1 windows.

Three formal entrance lobbies are located the Market Street (west) side of the building. Each vestibule contains terrazzo flooring and glazed aluminum interior doors. In these spaces, much of the wall and ceiling materials have been removed, but the dentilled plaster cornices remain intact.

The southernmost arched entrance on the west elevation leads to the main banking hall, a grand two-story space that is furnished with warm gray Tennessee marble flooring, gray Travernelle Clair marble wainscoting, a decoratively molded plaster ceiling, plaster-sheathed columns with ornamental plaster capitals, and a curved wood staircase to the mezzanine level (Photographs #12, 13, 14, 15, 16). A round bronze medallion dedicated to the Delaware Trust Company embellishes the floor near the entrance. The curved stair at the rear of the space leads to a mezzanine balcony; both were installed in 1949.¹ The painted paneled wood teller desks line the south and north ends of the space and appear to date from the 1970s.² The antechambers to the banking hall at the west end of the space contain paneled wood walls and doors: the floor and ceiling have been removed (Photograph #17). A flight of marble steps at the east end of the banking hall

¹ Charles A. Silliman, *The Biography of Delaware Trust Company, 1899-1965* (Wilmington, DE: Kaumagraph Company, 1965), 92.

² A photograph from 1952 documenting the banking hall shows new teller desks that are different than those that appear in the space presently. As seen in Charles A. Silliman's *The Biography of Delaware Trust Company, 1899-1965* (Wilmington, DE: Kaumagraph Company, 1965), 128.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number 7 Page 3

leads to a secondary lower banking area that contains marble floors, plaster columns and wood teller desks.

The basement level contains approximately five vaults dating to c. 1930. This space includes wrought iron gates, painted paneled wood wainscot, decoratively textured plaster walls, Classical Revival style plaster column capitals and cornice, and wood door trim (Photographs #19, 20, 21). The floor and ceiling were removed following the fire of 1997.

The 2nd Floor Boardroom and its related spaces contain paneled wood wainscot in the Boardroom, a plaster denticulated cornice, and remnants of the original marble fireplace (Photograph #23). The ceiling and floors have been removed. The boardroom annex retains its original marble floors, wood baseboard trim and chair rail.

The building is serviced by two elevator lobbies: one is located on the west end of the building with two elevator bays on either side of a lobby space; the other is located on the east end of the building and consists of four bays on one side of the lobby. On the first floor, the main elevator lobby at the west end of the building contains terrazzo flooring and contemporary chrome elevator doors. An ornate bronze mailbox receptacle is located in this elevator lobby (Photograph #18). On a few upper floors, the eastern elevator bank retains some of the original finishes. The 2nd Floor elevator lobby, east end, has its original marble wall cladding, paneled metal doors and wood trim around the doors (Photograph #22). On several floors, the original marble elevator door trim and base are intact (Photograph #25). The 5th Floor, in particular, retains nearly full-height marble cladding on the walls and terrazzo flooring in the elevator lobby, but the elevator doors are modern chrome.

The building contains four stair towers: two box-shaped stairs with corner landings and open centers at the southwest and southeast corners, and two standard staircases with landings at the northeast and northwest corners. The standard staircases on the upper floors contain a metal balustrade and newels (Photograph #27). The staircase from the 1st floor of the banking hall to the 2nd floor contains slate steps and a bronze railing.

The upper floors are generally open in plan, with the original flooring, ceiling and column cladding materials removed. On several floors, portions of the original terrazzo hallway flooring remains intact (Photographs #24, 28).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number 8 _____ Page 1 _____

The Delaware Trust Building, a U-shaped, 13-story building with a modern 22-story center tower, stands prominently in downtown Wilmington, Delaware at 900 N. Market Street, at the corner of E. 9th and N. Market Streets. Completed in phases beginning in 1921, and also 1930, 1938 and 1960, this recognizable edifice served as the company headquarters for the Delaware Trust Company, the main office of the Delaware Trust Bank and the offices for the Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies and other downtown Wilmington firms. The building is significant under National Register criterion "C" in the area of architecture for its outstanding example of the Classical Revival style with Renaissance elements in the local context, and as a major work by the architecture firm of Dennison and Hiron, with later large additions modeled after the original design. The period of significance begins in 1921 with the completion of the construction of the Delaware Trust Building and ends in 1930 with the construction of the wings that completed the U-shaped plan.

Chronological History of the Building

In 1921, the Delaware Trust Building was completed at a cost of \$1,224,000. The building in its original configuration was a rectangular footprint located on the northeast corner of N. Market Street between E. 9th Street. The New York City architecture firm Dennison & Hiron was selected by owners A.I. and William du Pont to design the building. The construction began in 1919 and was continued through 1921. When the building was completed on July 22, 1921, it was hailed as a "notable addition to the business section of its community and one in which state and city alike may take solid satisfaction."¹

The building was expanded in 1930 with the construction of two 13-story brick, steel and concrete extensions for \$1.2 million dollars. The two wings were built on Market Street (west) and King Street (east) to the north side of the building, creating a U-shaped building with a courtyard in the center for parking. The wings accommodated offices for the Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies and additional retail space.² Philadelphians Bernard T. Converse, an engineer and president of the building corporation, and Phillip T. Harris, architect, worked together to provide the engineering and architectural design for the addition.

A third unit (non-extant) was added to the courtyard of the building, a 6-story office/retail wing, in 1938 for a construction fee of \$225,000.³ This addition faced the library and was connected to the Market Street wing of the original portion of the building. The addition was constructed over an existing garage and tearoom. Converse and Harris provided the design of the 1938 garage addition, with assistance of general contractors Ward and Company of Philadelphia. One hundred new office spaces were leased out by the Delaware Trust Company to outside

¹ "Delaware Trust Building Marvel of Completeness," *Every Evening*, 21 July 1921.

² "13-story Building will rise On Site of First-Central," *Every Evening*, 8 February 1929.

³ "New Delaware Trust Modern to Smallest Detail," *Every Evening*, 30 October 1938.

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Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number 8 Page 2

businesses in Wilmington, a progressive concept at the time. Two new elevator shafts were installed in the building to service the penthouse on the 14th floor.

A large 22-story addition in the Delaware Trust Building known as the Hercules Tower was constructed by the Hercules Powder Company in 1958 and completed in 1960 in the former courtyard space of the original building. The tower was designed by local architect W. Ellis Preston of Wilmington, with engineering by Everett B. Smith of Hercules. The Hercules Company, producers of chemicals, provided space for each department of its corporation. The 6-story infill of 1938 was demolished for the new tower.⁴ At the time of construction, the new Hercules Tower was the tallest building in Wilmington.

In 1987, the Meridian Bancorp of Reading, PA purchased Delaware Trust of Wilmington, and in so doing became the first bank in Pennsylvania to cross state lines into Delaware. The merger came in anticipation of a new interstate banking law initiated by Delaware that allowed certain states to buy banks in the state of Delaware. The Delaware Trust at the time of acquisition was the third largest bank in the state of Delaware in 1987 with assets of \$1.1 billion.⁵

The building suffered a major fire in 1997 on the 14th floor. At the time of the fire, the building housed 700 workers for CoreStates Bank, two law offices, and several other businesses.⁶ As a result of the fire, parts of the building were destroyed and extensive environmental problems arose forcing the closure of the building. The Buccini/Pollin Group entered in an agreement to purchase the building in May 2002 with plans to convert the building into housing.

Throughout most of the building's history, three major tenants occupied the building: the Delaware Trust Company, the Hercules Powder Company and the Atlas Powder Company.

Significance in Architecture

The Delaware Trust Company is a significant example of the Classical Revival style applied to a commercial tower designed during the height in popularity for that style. The original portion of the building, located at the corner of E. 9th and N. Market Streets, is an excellent representation of the work by the prominent New York City architectural firm of Dennison & Hiron. This firm, practicing in New York City from 1910 to 1929, was known to the design community for their formal designs of commercial bank office towers and civic buildings. The firm competed for several large projects against such major architecture firms as McKim, Mead and White and

⁴ "New Hercules Tower Opens", *Journal Every Evening*, 1 August 1960.

⁵ As a comparison, Meridian at the time was the fifth largest bank in Pennsylvania with assets of \$6.8 billion and 13 branch banks. "PA's Meridian Bank to Buy Delaware Trust," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 22 May 1987.

⁶ "Arson Cited in High-Rise Fire in Wilmington," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 9 April 1997.

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Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number 8 Page 3

Carrere and Hastings.⁷ Prominent works by the firm include the Erie Trust Company Building, a 14-story Renaissance Revival style building in Erie, PA (1925), the late Beaux-Arts style building for the Liberty Title and Trust Company (a.k.a. Philadelphia Life Insurance Company Building), standing 21-stories at 1335 Arch Street in Philadelphia (1924-1925)⁸, and the Art Deco style Rockland County Court House in New City, NY (1926-1927).⁹

Ethan Allen Dennison (1881-1954), born in New Jersey, studied architecture at the Godfrey Architectural Preparatory School and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He began his career in the office of Trowbridge & Livingston in New York in 1905, joining with Frederic Hirons to form the partnership of Dennison & Hirons in 1910. Dennison won the Medal of Honor of the Society of Diploma Architects of France and was a member of the Beaux Arts Society of New York, as well as the American Society of the French Legion of Honor. After the dissolution of the firm of Dennison & Hirons, Dennison continued to practice architecture in New York as the head of Ethan A. Dennison & Associates.¹⁰

Frederick Charles Hirons (1883-1942), was born in England and immigrated to the United States as a youth.¹¹ Hirons graduated from M.I.T. in 1903 and later received education at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1904 to 1909.¹² Hirons was a founder and 1937-39 president of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design. After the partnership with Dennison dissolved, Hirons formed a partnership with F.W. Mellor from Philadelphia for two years, and then practiced under his own name until 1940. He served as the lead architect for the monumental Classical Revival style Davidson County Courthouse in Tennessee, 1936-1937.¹³

⁷ Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Database, entry for Dennison & Hirons at <http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/>.

⁸ Pennsylvania Historic Resource Form for Philadelphia life Insurance Company noted building permit #14907, 12-4-1924.

⁹ Other building by the firm include: Delaware Title & Insurance Company, Wilmington, Delaware; the Federal Trust Company Building, Newark, New Jersey, the City National Bank, Bridgeport, Connecticut; the Home Savings Bank, Albany, New York; the State Bank & Trust Company, New York, NY, (on 43rd Street and 8th Ave.); Beaux Arts Institute of Design, New York, NY (304 East 44th Street, *NYC Landmark); and the Suffolk Title and Guarantee Company Building, Queens, New York (90-04 161st Street, *NYC Landmark as of January 2001). Landmarks Preservation Commission's Designation Report (3/6/2001) on the Suffolk Title and Guarantee Company Building, prepared by Virginia Kurshan.

¹⁰ Web site for the "Childs Restaurant, 21st Street and the Boardwalk, Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY, Dennison & Hirons, Architects, 1925," www.preserve.org/foto/infochildr.htm. * Some of this information on the firm comes from the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Designation Report (3/6/2001) on the Suffolk Title and Guarantee Company Building, prepared by Virginia Kurshan.

¹¹ Society of Architectural Historians, American Architects' Biographies, entry for Frederick Charles Hirons located at website <http://www.sah.org/aame/bioint.html>.

¹² HABS record TN-168, Davidson County Courthouse and Public Building.

¹³ HABS record TN-168, Davidson County Courthouse and Public Building.

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Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number 8 Page 4

The Classical Revival style has its roots in the influential 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where the simple, clean lines of the classical style was introduced as an alternative to the fussy Victorian buildings that filled the crowded cities of the period. By the early 20th century, the City Beautiful movement was sweeping through many urban centers, including Wilmington. Another influential source for the Classical Revival style became the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, a popular school for American architects after finishing their domestic training.

The Delaware Trust Company's shape, a tower, was a logical form for a new office building, as it was an economical solution to urban density. The reinforced concrete and steel frame technology perfected in the first decades of the 20th century lent itself well for high rise buildings. Tall office buildings, banks, hotels and apartment buildings transformed the skylines of many cities in the 1920s. Just 29 miles away from Wilmington in Philadelphia, a good example of an early tall office building is the Land Title and Trust Company Building at 100-118 S. Broad Street. Designed by D.H. Burnham & Co., Chicago and constructed in phases (in 1898, a fifteen story section and in 1902, a twenty-two story addition), this high rise building exemplifies the classically inspired Commercial Style popular in Chicago at the time with the base-pillar-capital configuration.

In the 1920s, many trust companies throughout the country were building office towers reflecting the popular aesthetic tastes of the period. Many of the earlier 1920s buildings were constructed in the Classical and Renaissance Revival styles, while the towers of the late 1920s and early 1930s display aspects of the Art Deco movement.¹⁴ The Liberty Title & Trust Company Building at 1335 Arch Street (a.k.a. 101-109 N. Broad Street), Philadelphia (1924-1925), and the Erie Trust Company Building, a 14-story Beaux-Arts style building (1925) are two examples of tall office towers built in the classical styles by Dennison and Hiron. The Liberty Title & Trust Company Building provides an excellent comparison in size, scale and composition to the Delaware Trust Building. Like the Delaware Trust Building, the Liberty Title Building is constructed of buff brick and limestone, and contains arcades at the ground floor and at the top of the building, with an intermediate shaft section that is relatively unadorned.

When the Delaware Trust Company building at 900 N. Market Street opened in July 1921, it was the recipient of much fanfare. The daily newspaper, *Every Evening*, wrote a two-page article announcing all of the grand details of the building, the interior banking hall and the craftsmen involved in the construction. The exterior was described in the newspaper as having "the simple lines, graceful proportions and refined details of the design, largely inspired by the best of Old World buildings, give the structure a dignity altogether in keeping with the purpose which it is to serve."¹⁵

¹⁴ Illustrations found in the *International Banking Directory* from 1920 show a proliferation of Classical Revival style office towers containing the trust company banks and related offices throughout the country.

¹⁵ *Every Evening*, 21 July 1921.

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The ornamental plaster ceiling and bronze medallions on the floor of the main banking hall were designed by Dennison and Hirons and executed by sculptor and architectural model maker Maxfield H. Keck, as was stated in the newspaper article when the building was opened: "Maxfield Keck, the sculptor, has interpreted their designs skillfully and sympathetically."¹⁶ Keck (1883-1943), whose work can also be found at the Cincinnati Union Terminal (1933), was born in New York City and trained at Columbia University Architectural School. Keck's other projects include the exterior sculpture for the State of New York building in Albany, the Riverside Church in New York City, and the Atkins Museum of Fine Arts Kansas City, Missouri.¹⁷ Keck worked with Dennison & Hirons on other projects in his career, including the design of the terra cotta rondels at the Art Deco-style Childs Restaurant in Coney Island, completed in 1923.¹⁸

The 1930 addition to the building adding two large wings to the original building more than doubled the size of the original construction. This addition, creating a U-shaped footprint, was based on the original Dennison & Hirons design and copied the materials of the initial construction. The 1930 addition was co-designed by Philadelphia-based architect Phillip T. Harris and architect/engineer Bernard Converse. A notable feature of the 1930 addition was the automobile garage and ramp for the on-site parking levels in the courtyard space of the building.

Phillip Thomas Harris was a member of the Philadelphia chapter of the AIA, and had his office on 7511 Boyer Street in Mt. Airy.¹⁹ Harris did work on another commission for the Delaware Trust Company: the façade renovations of the Dover branch, converting it from a late Italianate style building to the Colonial Revival style in 1949-1950, the first one of this style in the Dover business district.²⁰ Bernard A. Converse, an architect and engineer, is relatively unknown. His only other project that has been documented is a barn for a Ms. Rebecca L. Austin in Newtown, PA. Harris and Converse also designed the 1938 addition to the Delaware Trust Building, a six story office extension located in the courtyard space. This six-story addition was later torn down to build the modern glass-clad 22-story office tower in 1960 in the same location.

Several other important buildings exhibiting the Renaissance and Classical Revival styles also survive in the immediate area: the Du Pont Building, the City/County Building and the Wilmington Savings Fund Society Building. These three buildings provide a context for which

¹⁶ *Every Evening*, 21 July 1921.

¹⁷ HABS record OH-705; Society of Architectural Historians database, entry for Maxfield Keck at website <http://www.sah.org/aame/bioint.html>.

¹⁸ Web site for the "Childs Restaurant, 21st Street and the Boardwalk, Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY, Dennison & Hirons, Architects, 1923," www.preserve.org/fotc/infochilds.htm.

¹⁹ Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Database listing for Philip Thomas Harris, as noted in the 1931 edition of the AIA/T-Square Yearbook as noted from website <http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/>.

²⁰ Silliman, 124.

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the Delaware Trust Building was designed and were constructed about the same time with a similar architectural intent.

The Du Pont Building complex, comprised of the Du Pont Building, the Hotel du Pont and the Playhouse on Market and Orange Streets between 10th, 11th Streets, is an example of a revival architectural style that is related to the Classical Revival style: the Renaissance Revival style. The Du Pont Building complex is comparable to the Delaware Trust Building in size and scale. Originally constructed as an office building and bank by du Pont brothers Pierre, Alfred I. and T. Coleman in 1906-1907, this grand 12-story multi-use building presently occupies 13.5 acres and was expanded in several phases.²¹ The Du Pont Building complex is clad with gray Indiana limestone and blue stone trim. The exterior has been altered over the years with the removal of the original Renaissance-inspired heavy cornice above the ground floor at the roofline, but the building complex retains the rustication of the stone cladding at the end bays and keystone accented window openings that work to define the Renaissance Revival style. Architects Frederick Godley, J. Andre Fouilhoux and Joel Barber designed the large Hotel du Pont addition to the building in 1911-1913, with major spaces inside the hotel designed by internationally acclaimed architect Raymond M. Hood.²² The Du Pont Building has the distinction of setting a precedent for high rise construction in this newer part of the downtown, north of the 19th century downtown development further south on Market Street. Architect Charles A. Rich of New York City designed The Playhouse addition in 1913.

Another significant Classical Revival style building near to the Delaware Trust Building is the New Castle County Court House and Wilmington City Hall (a.k.a. City/County Building). Located at 10th and 11th and N. King and French Streets (1000 N. King Street, the City/County Building was constructed in 1915-1917 at the western edge of future Rodney Square, itself a manifestation of the City Beautiful improvement. The City/County Building created an important presence in the downtown area and helped to establish the recognizable formal Classical Revival style grouping of civic buildings. The Classical Revival style of this multi-functional building, constructed 1915-1917, was selected by the design consultant to the project, Warren P. Laird, a professor of architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.²³ Laird preferred a Classical Revival style for the building, a style that had been popular since the Columbian Exposition of 1893 and was a dignified style that suited a building dedicated to civic use.²⁴

²¹ The original use was offices for the Du Pont Company, with the Du Pont-owned Wilmington Trust Company (1903) installed on the ground floor. When it opened, the Du Pont Building served 2,500 employees. The Du Pont Building was further expanded and doubled in size in 1913 with the addition of the Hotel du Pont, with 150 bedrooms, and the Playhouse with 1,256 seats. Two more sections were then added in 1916 on 10th Street, and another section in 1919 on N. 11th and Orange Streets. The entire complex, completed in six phases, has a total square footage of more a half-million. McNinch, 145

²² Harry V. Ayres, *Hotel du Pont Story* (Wilmington, DE: Serendipity Press, 1981), 169.

²³ McNinch, 146.

²⁴ McNinch, 147.

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Pierre S. du Pont also was influential in the outcome of the design. The winning design was awarded to the New York firm of Pahner, Hornbostel and Jones. The resulting 3-story granite-clad building is a formal expression of the Classical style, with two pedimented entrances separated by a colonnade of monumental-scaled fluted Corinthian columns. Although the use and scale are different than the Delaware Trust Building, the architectural details and rigid symmetry are reflected in the design of the Delaware Trust Building.

The Wilmington Savings and Fund Society Building, on the southeast corner of 9th and Market Streets (across the street from the Delaware Trust Building), is another notable example of the Classical Revival style. Constructed in 1920, this monumental 3-story bank resembles a Greek temple and is very similar in size and detailing to the first three stories of the Delaware Trust Building. The exterior is clad with smooth gray limestone, accented by a series of colossal two-story fluted pilasters on three of the four elevations. A limestone denticulated cornice and stone balustrade concealing the attic completes the top of the building. Although different in size and use, the WSFS Building shows the same architectural intent and sense of establishment and security as the Delaware Trust Building. The WSFS Building was designed by Hoggson Brothers, a New York architectural firm that designed bank buildings throughout the east coast.²⁵

The Wilmington Free Library, 1922, constructed in the Beaux Arts style, is also worth mentioning as an additional resource constructed in a formal architectural style. The library is located across the narrow 15-foot alley to the north of the Delaware Trust Building. This limestone-clad building, fronting the south end of Rodney Square, has a granite base and stands two stories in height. The building is accented with two-story fluted pilasters and a stylized polychrome frieze of griffins at the attic. The scale of the building corresponds to the first two stories of the Delaware Trust Building. Charles Klauder, Edward Tilton and A.M. Githens served as the architects of the building, selected by architect Warren Laird and Pierre S. du Pont and Frank M. Day on the design committee.

The Delaware Trust Company History

The Delaware Trust Company, with its banking and office headquarters based in the first floor of the Delaware Trust Building, was one of the leading corporate banking establishments in the state of Delaware during the period of significance (1921 through 1930) for the Delaware Trust Building.

Corporate banking in the United States began with the Bank of North America's creation in 1784 by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The City of Wilmington, Delaware has a long history of banking. The first bank in both Wilmington and the state of Delaware was the Bank of

²⁵ National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form for Wilmington Savings Fund Society Building, New Castle County, DE, 1/20/1985.

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Delaware, formed in 1795. In the 19th century, a series of national banks opened in Wilmington scattered along Market Street, the retail corridor of the city. The first trust company of Wilmington was the Security Trust Company, chartered in 1885 as an experiment to offer trust services for corporations, and function as "an artificial person created by the Legislature—with power to act as Executor, Administrator, Guardian and Trustee."²⁶ The Security Trust Company opened for business in a newly constructed 3-story Late Victorian style building at 519 Market Street in 1908. The Equitable Trust Company was the largest bank in the city in the late 19th century, with its new headquarters in Wilmington's first skyscraper, a 6-story building at northwest corner of 9th and Market Streets constructed in 1892.²⁷ Two more stories were added to the Equitable building in 1902.²⁸ In the 19th century only two banks in downtown Wilmington serviced private citizens as savings deposit banks: the Wilmington Savings Fund Society (1831) at the southeast corner of 9th and Market Streets and the Artisan Savings Bank (1861).

By the early 20th century, the city's commercial strip was concentrated on N. Market Street between Front (at the Christina River) and E. 8th Street while the financial district and lawyer offices could be found farther up Market Street above 8th Street. An affirmation of Wilmington's growing economic status came with the construction of the Du Pont Building by the family-owned Du Pont gunpowder company early in the 20th century.²⁹ In 1903-1906, this grand 12-story Renaissance Revival style building was constructed on Market Street between 10th and 11th Streets, with the Du Pont-owned Wilmington Trust Company (1903) installed on the ground floor. The Du Pont Building was further expanded in 1913 with the addition of the Hotel du Pont, with 150 bedrooms, and the Playhouse with 1,256 seats.³⁰

The Delaware Trust Company was first incorporated as the Delaware Trust on April 27, 1899 with three stockholders: Edward Canby (the vice-president of Seidel-Hastings Co., and the manager of Wilmington Savings Fund Society), Charles W. Smith and Howard K. Wood.³¹ It was not until 1910 that the Delaware Trust was reorganized and renamed 'Delaware Trust Company.' The founders created the Delaware Trust Company to offer services in the registration of corporations, provide maintenance of corporate interests, to serve as a registered agent in the state for foreign corporations, act as a transfer agent for stocks and bonds, and

²⁶ John S. Rossell, "Reminiscences," *Wilmington*, Vol. VI, No. 5, 8.

²⁷ Hoffecker, 35.

²⁸ Anna T. Lincoln, *Wilmington Under Four Flags* (Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1937), 370.

²⁹ Instead of moving the corporate headquarters to New York City, the firm opted to rebuild its headquarters close to the city's banks, the railroad and the hotels, while still being near the Brandywine River where the gunpowder was produced. Marjorie McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," *Delaware History* Spring-Summer 1985 Vol. XXI, No. 3, 142.

³⁰ McNinch, 145.

³¹ Charles A. Silliman, *The Biography of Delaware Trust Company, 1899-1965* (Wilmington, DE: Kaumagraph Company, 1965), 1-2.

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function as a registrar of stocks and a trustee of corporate mortgages.³² The Delaware Trust first met at 902 N. Market Street in a former boarding house, but in 1902 the company offices were moved to the Bayard Building at 900 N. Market Street, an Italianate mansion converted into offices in the early 20th century.³³

The Delaware Trust Company quickly branched out to other cities. The trust company set up an office in Philadelphia in 1900 and soon after closed an agreement with the Industrial Trust Company of Chicago for representation in Chicago, New York City and Boston. In April of 1910, the Delaware Trust merged with the Delaware Savings Bank creating the Delaware Trust Company, a firm that offered general banking and trust services. Although there were ten commercial banks and two savings banks in Wilmington at the time, this merger combining both private and corporate business was a forward move for the period.³⁴ A few months later, the Bayard Building was significantly remodeled by the Delaware Trust Company with a new Colonial Revival style exterior designed by Wilmington architect, William Draper Brinkle.

The first branch office to the Delaware Trust Company was added in 1917 with the purchase of the Laurel Savings Bank & Trust Company. This takeover was intended to provide services to the common working-class patron and lead the way in the state for the establishment of branch banks, a controversial move that prompted opposition from many small-town independently owned banks.³⁵ The next branch was in Dover that same year. By 1920, the Delaware Trust Company had four branch banks in Delaware.

In 1916, the Delaware Trust Company was purchased by two members of the successful du Pont family: Alfred I. du Pont and his first cousin William du Pont, Senior. Alfred Irene du Pont (1864-1935) was the eldest son of successful businessman E.I. du Pont. Upon graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1884, he worked for the family gunpowder business and eventually became a part owner and manager in 1902. At the time of the takeover, Alfred was in a bitter dispute with his cousin Pierre du Pont over the ownership of the Du Pont Company, a successful gunpowder producer. Alfred and William's chief motive for purchasing the Delaware Trust Company was to buy a successful bank based in Wilmington. Although Alfred previously banked with Wilmington Trust Company, his dispute with his family forced him to seek out another repository. The bank would serve to supply the readily available cash for Alfred's entry into politics against rival cousin Col. Henry A. du Pont.³⁶ Their next move was to create office space for the bank, private offices for Alfred I. and William du Pont, and the Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies in the city of Wilmington, of which Alfred I. and William

³² Silliman, 4.

³³ Silliman, 5-6.

³⁴ Silliman, 16.

³⁵ Silliman, 34.

³⁶ Silliman, 30.

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owned a large amount of stock.³⁷ The new building for the Delaware Trust Company was planned immediately, but with the interruption of World War 1, it was not under construction until 1919.

In comparison to the other trust companies in Wilmington in 1920, the Delaware Trust Company ranked second in size behind the Wilmington Trust Company. According to the yearly publication *International Banking Directory* (1920), the Delaware Trust Company had a capital stock worth \$773,000, surplus and profits of \$300,000 and deposits of \$4.7 million. The Wilmington Trust Company, established in 1912 by the Du Pont Company, was far more profitable, with a capital stock of \$1 million, surplus and profits of just over \$1 million and deposits of \$15 million.³⁸ By 1922, there were six trust companies in Wilmington, with Delaware Trust Company still placing second to the Wilmington Trust Company.

Although the Delaware Trust Company prospered in the 1920s, the corporation sold three of its branch offices in 1928 (Lewes, Georgetown and Seaford) in response to the difficulty in supervising the branch offices from Wilmington.³⁹ The Delaware Trust Company received a change in ownership in 1925 when Alfred I. du Pont needed to sell his stock to pay back his debts incurred during the 1916 law suit against Pierre du Pont. Alfred sold 2,242 shares of stock for \$125 per share to his cousin "Willie," and thus had three million dollars at his disposal.⁴⁰ Although Alfred had sold his shares, he still maintained private offices in the building, along with Archibald, E. Paul, Ernest and William du Pont.⁴¹

The Delaware Trust Company weathered well during the early years of the Depression. Although the company showed a loss in 1933, it earned a small profit in 1934 and an even larger profit in 1935. The FDIC awarded the Delaware Trust Company a membership certificate in 1934 after its inspection showed that it was in excellent condition.⁴² Indeed, by 1939, the deposits at the Delaware Trust were more than \$12 million. During the 1930s, the Delaware Trust Company instituted several improvements, including an accrual system for accounting and an auditing department.

For fiscal year 1935-1936, the *International Banking Directory* noted that there were still six trust companies in Wilmington, with the Wilmington Trust Company in the lead having capital stock

³⁷ Alfred and William's plan was modeled on the creation of the Wilmington Trust Company in 1903 by the Du Pont Company to finance and construct a building for its own use and the use of the powder corporation. Hoffecker, 40.

³⁸ Statistics from *International Banking Directory* (New York: Bankers Publishing Co, 1920), 79.

³⁹ Silliman, 80.

⁴⁰ Joseph Frazier Wall, *Alfred I. DuPont, The Man and His Family* (New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 1990), 433.

⁴¹ "13-story Building will rise One Site of First-Central," *Every Evening*, 8 February 1929.

⁴² Silliman, 101.

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worth \$4 million, surplus and profits of \$10.5 million and deposits of over \$41.6 million. In comparison to these figures, Delaware Trust Company's capital stock was \$1 million, with surplus and profits of just over \$.5 million and deposits of nearly \$7 million.⁴³ Close competition with the Equitable Trust Company (established in 1889) put the Delaware Trust Company in third place ranking.

The Delaware Trust Company continued to prosper through the late 1930s and during the war years of the 1940s. The Wages and Hours law of 1938 affected how the Delaware Trust Company and other banks in Delaware conducted business by restricting the number of hours an employee could work. This controversy was solved on a branch-by-branch basis until WWII, which dictated more hours to serve those workers in the war effort.

Beginning in 1950, the congestion in downtown Wilmington constricted the ability of the bank's customers to reach the bank easily. As a result, the Delaware Trust Company constructed several branch banks in the suburbs. Despite the growth of the branch banks, the Delaware Trust Building banking hall still served as the headquarters, with improvements made to the interior of the banking hall for efficiency and productivity.

The Delaware Trust Company maintained the banking space in the building as its headquarters until 1987 when it was purchased by Meridian Bancorp. The banking hall and related spaces continued to serve in its original intention until the fire of 1997 forced the banking tenant to leave the building.

The History of the Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies

During the period of significance, the Delaware Trust Building played an important role as the headquarters for the offices of two of the nation's most productive gunpowder and chemical companies: the Hercules Powder Company and the Atlas Powder Company. From this building, the Hercules and Atlas companies were able to manage their many branch offices and plants nation-wide. Both companies diversified their businesses from explosives to paper, resins, and plastics beginning in the 1920s after moving to the Delaware Trust Building.

The gunpowder industry has a long history in the United States and in this region of Delaware near Wilmington. In 1802, French émigré E.I. du Pont de Nemours opened his first powder mill on the Brandywine River upstream from Wilmington, Delaware. This location allowed for the use of the river for power and the city's port for shipping. In addition to supplying the military with black gunpowder for weaponry, throughout the 19th century the explosives manufactured by the Du Pont Company were used for blasting iron ore in the steel industry, for mining coal and oil, for building roads, canals and to clear the way for the railroad.⁴⁴ In the late 19th and 20th

⁴³ Statistics from *International Banking Directory* (New York: Bankers Publishing Co, 1935-36), 73.

⁴⁴ Dyer and Silicia, 29.

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centuries, the Du Pont Company branched into related products including smokeless powder for sport shooting and military use, high explosives (TNT) and the manufacturing lacquers, textiles and paints.⁴⁵

The Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies were formed by the Du Pont Company in 1912 in response to the government's antitrust suit against the Du Pont Company. In order to break the gunpowder monopoly, the Du Pont Company was legally required to set up both companies with manufacturing facilities.⁴⁶ Hercules was given a total of 1,000 employees nation wide and \$1 million dollars by Du Pont.⁴⁷ Initially, both Atlas and Hercules Powder Companies rented space in the Du Pont Building at 11th and N. Market Streets and were dependent on Du Pont for raw materials and research and development. In the early years, these three gunpowder companies employed a total of 20,000 workers and controlled the lion's share of the gunpowder industry in the United States.⁴⁸

The years of World War I, from 1914 to 1919, brought much prosperity to Wilmington, Delaware. The gunpowder produced by Du Pont, Atlas and Hercules was in high demand by the government for the war effort and ultimately the Allied forces.⁴⁹ Like Du Pont, Hercules used its World War I profits to branch out into other areas.⁵⁰ Hercules purchased the Yaryan Rosin & Turpentine Company in 1919, the first diversification of the company into the production of turpentine and resin for serving the naval stores industry.

The Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies, free of the court-ordered dependency on Du Pont Company allocated by the anti-trust settlement, moved to the newly opened Delaware Trust Building in 1921. The Delaware Trust Building, home of the Delaware Trust Company, was conveniently located a block away from the Du Pont Building. Alfred I. and William du Pont both owned large amount of stocks in the Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies at the time.⁵¹ The Hercules Company began its expansion into the chemical industry at this time, with growth in its

⁴⁵ Historical information about the Du Pont Company from the Du Pont website, <http://heritage.dupont.com>.

⁴⁶ On July 31, 1907, an antitrust suite was filed against DuPont for restraint of trade in the explosives industry. A federal court ruled against DuPont in 1911 and on June 12, 1912, DuPont agreed to create two new Powder Companies, Hercules and Atlas, and turn over enough resources to ensure that they could produce 50% of the country's black powder and 42% of its dynamite. DuPont also agreed to share research and engineering facilities for five years. Information regarding the antitrust suit is noted at <http://heritage.dupont.com/touchpoints.com> and Hoffecker, 61.

⁴⁷ Davis Dyer and David B. Sicilia, *Labors of a Modern Hercules: The evolution of a chemical company* (Boston, Mass: Harvard Business School Press, 1990), 2.

⁴⁸ Hoffecker, 65, as noted from the *Sunday Star* 16 July 1916.

⁴⁹ Other Wilmington industries that benefited during WWI included the shipbuilding plants, foundries, the leather industry and the maintenance and building of railroad cars.

⁵⁰ "Deal Of The Day: Corporate Raider Lifts Hercules," from www.Forbes.com, 8/19/2002.

⁵¹ Silliman, 30.

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research and development departments, in cellulose production (nitrocellulose), and in turpentine and wood naval stores.⁵²

Both companies, however, still maintained their interests in the explosive industry. According to a period explosives journal from 1923, the Atlas Powder Company had branch offices in twenty cities throughout the nation, and specialized in a variety of explosives. Hercules Powder Company was larger than Atlas, with twenty-four branch offices coast to coast.⁵³ As a comparison to both companies, the E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (Du Pont) was a much larger operation, with twenty-one branch offices, as well as blasting powder plants in eleven cities, dynamite plants in seven places, explosives plants in five towns and a blasting accessories factory in New Jersey.⁵⁴

Following the completion of the large additions to the Delaware Trust Building in 1930, the Hercules Powder Company supported 430 employees and occupied the 10th through 13th floors of the new extensions. The Atlas Powder Company leased space on the 6th, 7th and a portion of the 8th floors in the new portion of the building, with 185 persons on staff.⁵⁵ By this time, Hercules had become a dominant producer of naval stores in the United States.⁵⁶ The Atlas Company, like its parent company Du Pont, was vertically integrated, and produced such items as chemicals, artificial leather, lacquer, varnishes and later plastics.⁵⁷

During the Depression years, Wilmington lost profits in many of its industries. However, the chemical and explosive companies, dominated by the Du Pont Company and the Hercules and Atlas Powder Companies "produced tertiary growth in banking, insurance and brokerage houses in the city."⁵⁸ In addition, the presence in Wilmington of two Du Pont-owned banks, the Wilmington Trust and the Delaware Trust, further promoted the success of the chemical industries. The number of Hercules Power Company employees at the corporate offices grew to 450 by 1937.⁵⁹ The company, faring well in the late 1930s, built its own country club in 1937.

⁵² Dyer and Sicilia, 181.

⁵³ *Engineering & Mining Journal Press*, 14 April 1923, as noted from the website www.carbidelamps.com.

⁵⁴ *Engineering & Mining Journal Press*, 14 April 1923, as noted from the website www.carbidelamps.com.

⁵⁵ *Wilmington*, Vol. 5, No. 3, July 1930, 15. Other companies occupying space in the building at the time included the Delaware Registration Trust Company, Equitable Life Assurance Society, the Hagley Corporation. The statistics for the building's occupancy in 1929 were found in "15-story Building will rise One Site of First Central," *Every Evening*, 8 February 1929

⁵⁶ Dyer and Sicilia, 10.

⁵⁷ Dyer and Sicilia, 120.

⁵⁸ Hoffecker, 88.

⁵⁹ Anna Lincoln, *Wilmington Delaware under Four Flags* (Kennikat Press, Port Washington, NY, 1937). 371.

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During World War II, the Hercules Company supplied explosives to the U.S. government primarily, with initial shipments to the British early in the war.⁶⁰ Following World War II, Hercules continued to focus on nonexplosives (cellulose, rosin and terpenes), which constituted 80 percent of the total business.⁶¹ World War II boosted sales of explosives for the Hercules and Atlas companies, creating huge profit margins for these firms through the 1940s. The Hercules Company began its production of solid fuel rockets in 1943, initiating its Hercules Aerospace division.⁶²

In 1955, the Atlas Powder Company became Atlas Chemical Industries and built a new corporate headquarters in downtown Wilmington. The company was purchased in 1971 by Imperial Chemical Industries of Great Britain and it is now part of ICI Americas, one of the leading chemical companies in the United States with its headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware.⁶³

By the early 1950s, the Hercules Company filled the Delaware Trust Building to capacity and needed more space. It was during this period that Hercules branched into petrochemicals. In response to this demand, a modern 22-story style tower was constructed by Shapdale, Inc, owners of the building, and the Hercules Powder Company in 1959-1960. The Hercules Company expanded into the 4th floor of the new high rise tower and filled the office space up to the 14th Floor, with plans to occupy and finish the upper floors as needed.⁶⁴ The office space in the Delaware Trust Building was also kept and used by the company. Hercules Company employed 1,355 in 1960 after the expansion. A new corporate office building was constructed at Hercules Plaza, located at 1313 N. Market Street, Wilmington, in 1983. Today, Hercules Inc. is the world's largest producer of papermaking chemicals, manufacturers of thickeners for paint and the manufacturer of fibers for hygienic and automotive textiles.⁶⁵

In summary, the Delaware Trust Building stands as an outstanding example of the Classical Revival style applied to the office building format, one that is unrivaled in Wilmington for its size, scale and detailing. Although the interior has had many alterations on the upper floors in the past years reflecting fire damage and changes in use, the exterior and key banking spaces have been little altered and still feature fine details and configuration of the Classical Revival style. Thus the Delaware Trust Building as a whole retains its architectural integrity and makes an important contribution to the city's architectural fabric.

⁶⁰ Dyer and Sicilia, 221.

⁶¹ Dyer and Sicilia, 252.

⁶² Dyer and Sicilia, 8.

⁶³ Dyer and Sicilia, 2.

⁶⁴ "Moving Plans for Hercules," *Journal Every Evening*, 18 August 1959 page 21.

⁶⁵ Seth Agulnick, "Best in the business: Chemicals," from www.delawareonline.com, 3/18/02; Hercules Inc. website, www.herc.com.

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State Plan Link

Zone: Urban
Period: 1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
Theme: Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts
Property Type: Classical Revival Banking Hall/Office Building

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Verbal Boundary Description

ALL that certain lot, piece, or parcel of land, known as 900-912 Market Street, situate in the City of Wilmington, New Castle County and State of Delaware, and being more particularly bounded and described in accordance with a recent ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey prepared by Landmark Engineering, Civil and Site Engineering Specialists, dated May 10, 2002, as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING at the point of intersection of the Southeasterly side of North Market Street with the Northeasterly side of East 9th Street, Southeasterly side of North Market Street, being Southeasterly 45.25 feet therefrom measured at right angles thereto, the monument line and former centerline of said North Market Street and the said Northeasterly side of East 9th Street being 24.5 feet therefrom measured at right angles thereto, the monument line and former centerline of said East 9th Street; thence from said point of Beginning, Northeasterly measured along the said Southeasterly side of North Market Street, 218.77 feet to a point; thence Southeasterly parallel with 10th Street and along the Southwesterly line of lands now or formerly of the Mayor & Council of the City of Wilmington, 198.39 feet to a point on the Northwesterly side of King Street (at 65.50 feet wide); thence Southwesterly along the said Northwesterly side of King Street, 218.52 feet to a point on the said Northeasterly side of East 9th Street; thence Northwesterly along the said Northeasterly side of East 9th Street, 198.49 feet to the point and of **BEGINNING**. Be the contents thereof what they may.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with this office building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

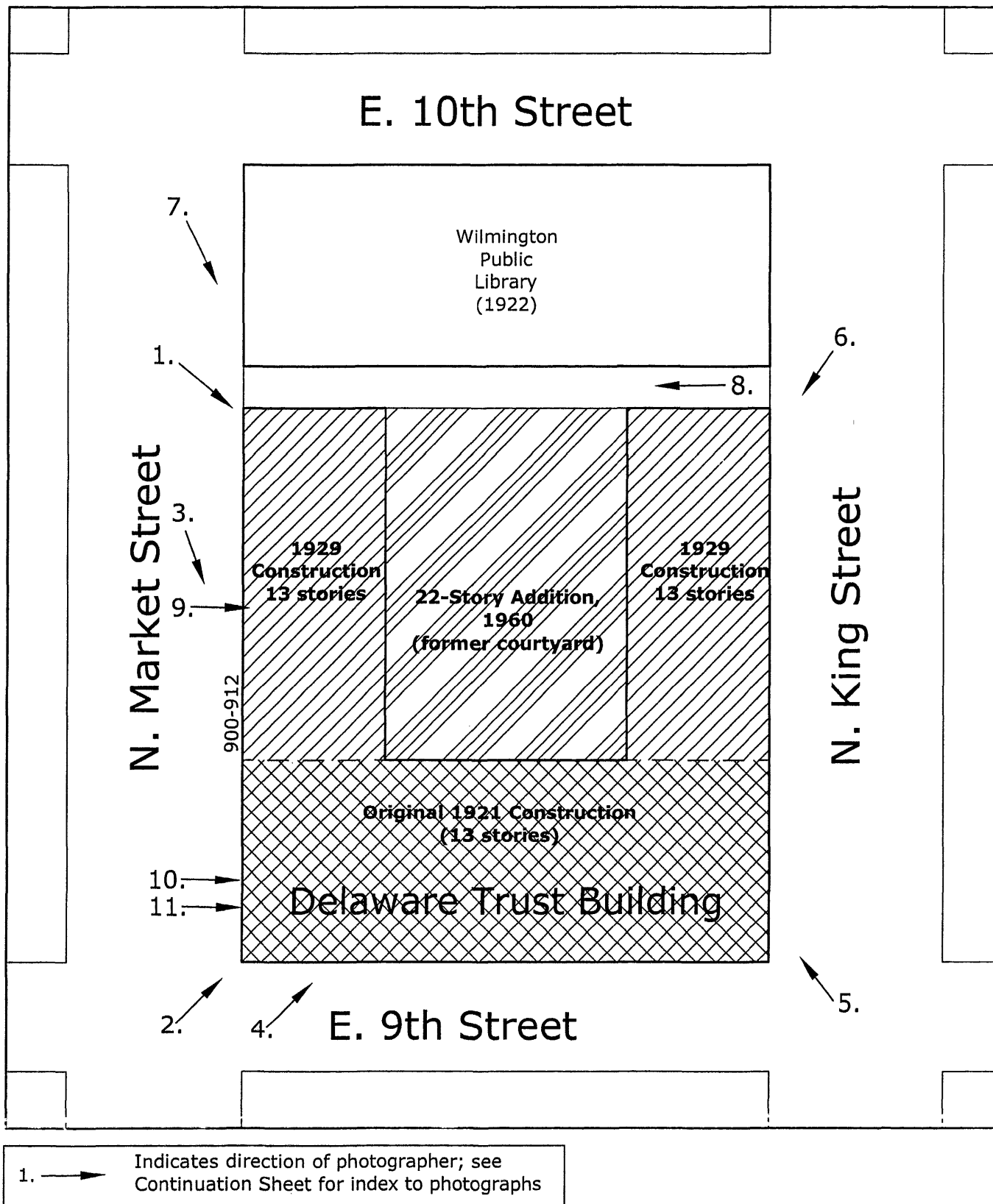
The Delaware Trust Building, New Castle County, Delaware

Section number Photographs Page 1

The following information applies to all of the below photographs:

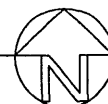
**The Delaware Trust Building
Wilmington, New Castle County, DE
Robert Powers
August 2002
Powers & Company, Inc.**

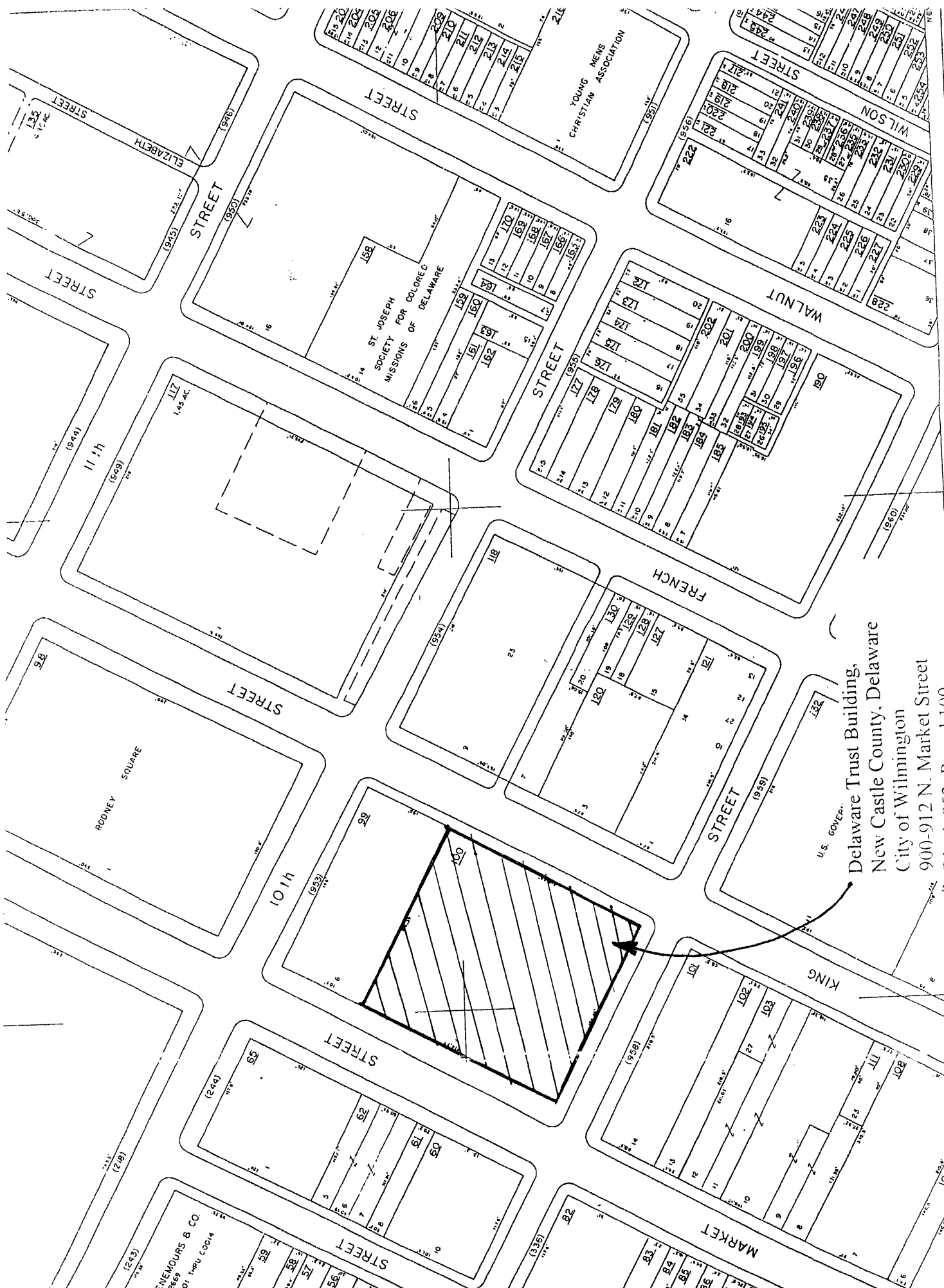
| <u>Photograph #</u> | <u>Description of View</u> |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Looking southeast at north and west elevations |
| 2 | Looking northeast at west elevation |
| 3 | Looking southeast at entrances on west elevation |
| 4 | Looking northeast at south elevation |
| 5 | Looking northwest at east elevation |
| 6 | Looking southwest at north and east elevations |
| 7 | Looking southeast at north elevation |
| 8 | Looking west at north elevation |
| 9 | Detail of bronze lantern, center entrance, west elevation |
| 10 | Detail of southern entrance, west elevation |
| 11 | Detail of carved stone arch, southern entrance, west elevation |
| 12 | Looking west in main banking hall, 1 st floor |
| 13 | Looking east in main banking hall, 1 st floor |
| 14 | Detail of bronze medallion in floor, main banking hall, 1 st floor |
| 15 | Detail of plaster ceiling, main banking hall, 1 st floor |
| 16 | Detail of staircase to mezzanine level, main banking hall, 1 st floor |
| 17 | Looking north in main banking hall antechamber, 1 st floor |
| 18 | Looking south in elevator lobby, 1 st floor |
| 19 | Detail of staircase to vaults in basement level |
| 20 | Detail of gate to vault in basement level |
| 21 | Detail of vault in basement level |
| 22 | Detail of elevator lobby at east end of building, 2 nd floor |
| 23 | Looking south in boardroom, 2 nd floor |
| 24 | Looking south on 4 th floor |
| 25 | Detail of elevator lobby, 11 th floor |
| 26 | Looking east on 13 th floor |
| 27 | Detail of staircase between 13 th floor and 14 th floor (penthouse) |
| 28 | Looking north on 14 th floor (penthouse) |



Delaware Trust Building, Wilmington, New Castle County, DE, showing phases of construction

not to scale

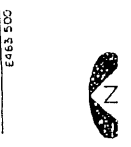




Delaware Trust Building,
 New Castle County, Delaware
 City of Wilmington
 900-912 N. Market Street
 Block 953, Parcel 100

PROPERTY MAP
 NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE
 CITY, WILMINGTON
 SCALE 1"=80'
 MA

| REVISIONS | DATE | BY |
|-----------|------|----|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |



U.S. GOVERNMENT
 Delaware Trust Building,
 New Castle County, Delaware
 City of Wilmington
 900-912 N. Market Street
 Block 953, Parcel 100

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 Delaware Trust Building,
 New Castle County, Delaware
 City of Wilmington
 900-912 N. Market Street
 Block 953, Parcel 100

LEGEND

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| | PARCEL OUTLINE |
| | INTERIOR PARCEL LINE |
| | PARCEL HOOK |
| | CEMETERY |
| | CHURCH |
| | SCHOOL |
| | INTERSTATE HIGHWAY |
| | STATE LINE |
| | COUNTY LINE |
| | U.S. HIGHWAY |
| | UTILITY LINE |