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ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Once one of the handsomest eighteenth-century houses in Wilmington, the Louis McLane House has suffered the fate of so many urban structures in the process of being converted to suit commercial needs. Very little of the original fabric remains, apart from the exterior brick work. Even this has seen alterations on the first two floors of the facade.

A twentieth-century storefront completely obliterates the first floor of the three-and-a-half-story, three-bay structure. Formerly an arched and keystoned doorway marked the right bay of this story. On the second floor there is evidence of three windows, each having a semi-circular arched top with radiating voussoirs. A nineteenthcentury photograph shows only rectangular shuttered windows where the bricked-in arches and picture window now are. The windows of the third floor remain relatively unchanged, while the single, gableroofed dormer is now flanked by two more of a slightly smaller size $lacksymbol{\lambda}$ These dormers admit light into the attic story, of which some of the original fabric is still visible although in rather poor condition. The third-floor interior is completely hidden by a tar paper covering over the floor and walls. The first and second floor have been All that is left to be reminiscent of its former completely gutted. elegance and eighteenth-century craftsmanship is the finely detailed, denticulated cornice and the Flemish bond brick coursing which has been painted white in this century.



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This town house on the east side of Market Street in Wilmington was built by a well-to-do merchant and industrialist, Rumford Dawes, during the middle years of the eighteenth century It was occupied by Judge Gunning Bedford, Jr. before he moved to his country seat, Lombardy, in 1792. Bedford was a member of the Continental Congress in 1783 and Attorney General of Delaware in 1784. He also served as a member of the Delaware General Assembly. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, he threatened that Delaware might ally itself with a foreign power unless the small states received equal representation. However, the most famous owner of the house at 606 Market was Louis McLane.

Louis McLane was born at Smyrna in 1784, the son of Allen McLane, a famous Revolutionary War officer. He was, however, to surpass his father's fame in the political field. As a rising young attorney McLane moyed into the house on Market Street in 1815, the year in which he became president of the Wilmington branch of the Farmers Bank. In 1817, he became a member of the United States House of Representatives, where he served until 1827. Although a Federalist in a Republican Congress, he was from 1823 to 1827 chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. From 1827 to 1829, he was United States Senator. He resigned when President Jackson appointed him minister to England and it was perhaps in this position that he best served his country, creating there a great feeling of good will and high esteem for the United States. He returned to serve as Secretary of the Treasury from 1831-3 and Secretary of State in 1833-4. His great desire to become a judge was never fulfilled, for he retired from public life in 1834 because of political pressure in Washington.

After his resignation from Jackson's Cabinet in 1834, McLane moved from Delaware to become president of the Morris Canal and Banking Company in New Jersey. He was President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from 1837 to 1848, except for 1845-1846, when he took leave to return to England to serve as minister and to negotiate the Cession of Oregon. He died at Baltimore in 1857.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Delaware			
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	COUNTY New Castle			
		FOR NPS USE ON	LY		
	(Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		
	(continuation Sheet)	APR 2 4 19/3			
(Number all entri	ies)				

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued) ----

Martin Van Buren, Stephen Van Rensellaer, and other public figures of the period, visited here frequently. The McLane children born here included Robert McLane, congressman, Governor of Maryland and U.S. Minister to China and France; Louis McLane, Jr., President of Wells Fargo Express Company and one of the originators of the Pony Express; Allan McLane, later President of the Panama Pacific steamship line; and Lydia McLane, later the wife of General Joseph Eggleston Johnston, C.S.A.

