

DATA SHEET

PH0698571

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 5 1979

RECEIVED

APR 20 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Frank E. Schoonover Studios

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1616 Rodney Street

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

-- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
one

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002 3

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERICAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
X OTHER: art studios**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds Office, City/County Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

800 French Street

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware 19801

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey

N-4042

DATE

October, 1978

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE  
Delaware 19901

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Frank E. Schoonover Studios are located on the southeast corner of Shallcross Avenue and Rodney Street in a residential area of Wilmington, Delaware.

The rectangular building rests on a stone foundation and has a partial basement. It contains four equally-sized, contiguous studios with individual front entrances. The frame building is faced with pebble-dash stucco encased in decorative-framing members which give the appearance of medieval half-timber construction.

A slate-shingle roof of a main gable and four cross gables surmounts the one-story structure. A box cornice at the base of the roofline continues up the inclines of both the gable ends and the cross gables. Triple, double-hung, 25-over-6 windows are located on the sides and rear of the building; the side windows feature centrally-arched openings.

One enters each studio through a transom-lit doorway which leads into an enclosed pavillion illuminated by skylights and double, double-hung, 6-over-6 windows. The studios themselves are lit by skylights. A painted, vertical-board, beaded wainscot half the height of the plaster walls, surrounds each studio and pavillion. There is a small portion of Studio One where the wainscot is unpainted; perhaps this is an indication that the entire studio building once contained stained-wood paneling. The window architraves consist of bolection molding; a bull's-eye motif is placed at the top corners. Each studio contains a brick fireplace with a simple wooden mantel and a corbelled-brick chimney breast. Covered pavillions links Studios One and Two and also, Three and Four.

Set perpendicular to Rodney Street, the Schoonover Studios rest on an elevation of Brandywine blue granite. A stepped gravel path leads up through the landscaped lot to the studios and a small parking area.

In the studio formerly used by Schoonover abounds a wide array of memorabilia associated with his life and works. The studio houses some of his original artwork and a collection of books and magazines featuring his paintings and illustrations. In addition, there remains an assortment of historic objects which served as props and provided information for his works.

# 8 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**Captain E. L. Rice, Jr.**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1905 by the Wilmington philanthropist, Samuel Bancroft, Jr., the Schoonover Studios are significant as the studio of the "Dean of Delaware artists, Frank E. Schoonover, and other artists associated with the Golden Age of American Illustration, which produced visual art for books and magazines from 1880 to 1930. The studio building, itself, is significant as one of the few remaining examples of a building designed by the noted Wilmington architect, Captain E. L. Rice, Jr.

Persuaded by the ideas of Frank Schoonover, Samuel Bancroft, Jr., the well-known art collector, funded the construction of artist studios to house four of the most successful students of America's foremost illustrator of the time, Howard Pyle. These were: Frank Schoonover, N. C. Wyether, Harvey Dunn, and Clifford Ashley. Of these, Schoonover was the only one to occupy a studio for the remainder of his career. N. C. Wyeth occupied his studio only 1½ years before he moved to Chadds Ford, Pa.; Harvey Dunn kept his studio for about 6 years before leaving for Tenafly, New Jersey; and Clifford Ashley left his studio after 10 years to move to New York City.

For 63 years Frank Schoonover worked in Studio One. Here, he created about 2,000 illustrations for over 100 books and many popular American magazines, such as Saturday Evening Post, Harpers, Scribners, and Ladies Home Journal; painted over 300 paintings of the Brandywine and Delaware River Valleys; designed stained-glass windows, and produced several maps and murals.

During the 1930's the studios were owned jointly by the Wilmington Society of Fine Arts and Frank Schoonover. In 1942, Schoonover began his own art school in the building. He taught artists which are now locally recognized: Eugenia Rhoads, Charles Columbo, Edward Grant, and Ellen du Pont Wheelwright. Soon after Schoonover purchased the other half of the property his grandson, John, took over a studio as curator of the building and to conduct a small art business. When Schoonover died in 1972, the property was purchased by John Schoonover, Mr. and Mrs. Cypen Lubitsh, Mrs. Ellen Kennelly and Richard Chalfant.

Captain E. L. Rice, Jr., designed the studios. As president of E. L. Rice, Jr., Company, his firm provided plans for many public buildings in Delaware, the homes of leading citizens, and many schools. For many years he served as consulting architect for the Wilmington Board of Education. Although most of Mr. Rice's buildings are no longer standing, the one he is best remembered for is Delaware's State Building at the 1876 Centennial in Philadelphia.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Morning News, January 17, 1974.

Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Inc. Wilmington 1876 (Wilm., De., 1976)

Evening Journal, January 30, 1933.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY App. 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Wilmington North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 4520150 | 44100650

B  |  |

C  |  |

D  |  |

E  |  |

F  |  |

G  |  |

H  |  |

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies a city lot which measures approximately 125 feet by 125 feet.

## 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

John R. Schoonover, curator and Jean Athan, Historic Preservation Intern

ORGANIZATION

City of Wilmington, Department of Planning October, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

800 French Street

TELEPHONE

(302) 571-4147

CITY OR TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware 19801

# 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

*Denise R. Sheffield*

TITLE Acting Director/Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

1/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

9.20.77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

4.20.79

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Owner of Property

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

Mr. John Schoonover /  
1405 Gilpin Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

Mr. and Mrs. Cypen Lubitsh /  
1123 N. Bancroft Parkway  
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

Mrs. Ellen Lee Kennelly /  
Box 3883  
Greenville, Delaware 19807

Mr. Richard Chalfant /  
Hamilton House  
1403 Shallcross Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

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The architecture of the Schoonover Studios is attributed to the earliest phase of the Queen Anne style, or what Henry Russell Hitchcock has termed "Shavian Manorial" for its originator Richard Norman Shaw, the late-nineteenth-century English architect. Although the Queen Anne style is prevalent in Wilmington, the simplified version of this style as applied to the Schoonover Studio building is uncommon. Its simulated half-timber construction, multi-gabled roofline, and its multi-paned windows make it a fine tribute to this style of architecture.

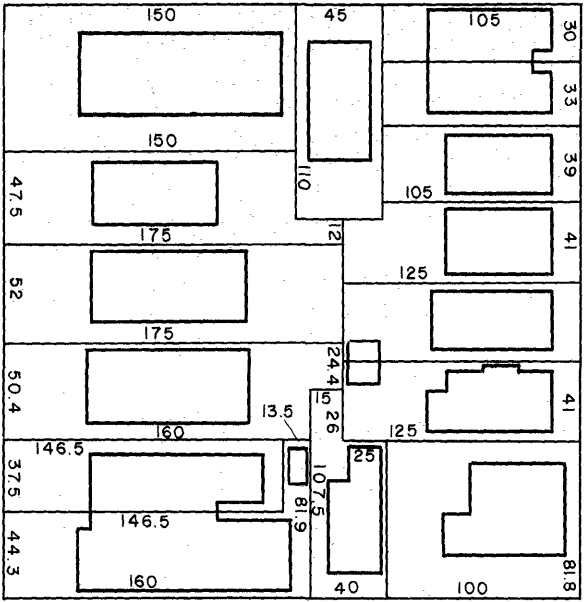
As conceived by Samuel Bancroft, Jr., the Schoonover Studios have contributed significantly to the artistic heritage of America under the name of Delaware's most famous artist, Frank E. Schoonover, and today continue to serve the pursuit of the arts as studios for artists.

DELAWARE

AVE

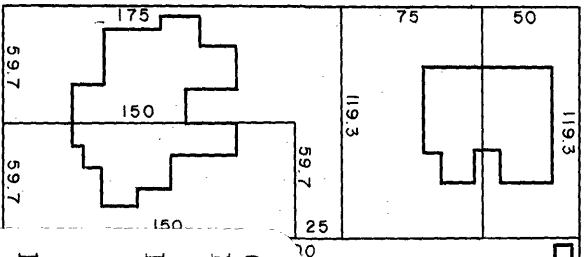
60

RODNEY



60

BROOM



FILE

DRAWN BY

JCA

DATE

9/78

SCALE

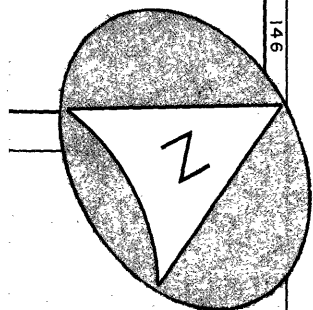
1"=100'

CITY OF WILMINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

FEB 5 1979

TITLE

Sketch Map



300

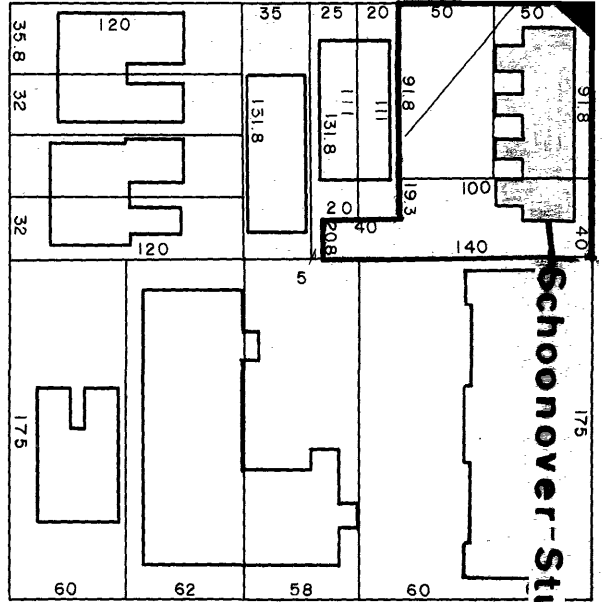
300

ST

60

GILPIN

AVE

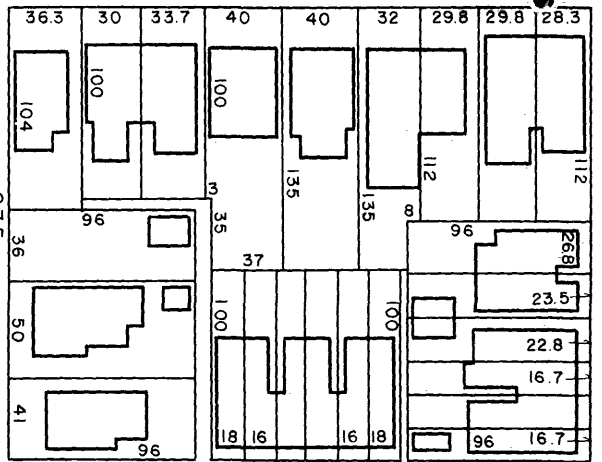


ST

HANCOCK

49.3

235



70

SHALLCROSS

AVE

306.8