

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03000240

Date Listed: 4/17/2003

Property Name: Delaware Academy of Medicine

County: New Castle State: DE

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews

4/17/2003

for

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR makes a technical correction to section 8 of the form. The building is nominated under National Register Criterion A and C, but Architecture is not listed as an area of significance in section 8 of the form. The form is amended to add Architecture as an area of significance.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**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 Delaware Academy of Medicine

other names/site number Bank of Delaware; National Bank of Delaware; CRS # N00159

2. Location

street & number 1925 Lovering Avenue not for publication
city or town Wilmington vicinity _____
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003
zip code 19806-2157

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.)

David G. ... February 28, 2003
Signature of certifying official Date

Division of Historical & 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):

Patrick Andrews 4/17/2003

for Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade
Education

Sub: Organizational
Library

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade
Education

Sub: Organizational
Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Stone
roof Metal
walls Brick, Stone, Concrete

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.

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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine

Social History

Period of Significance 1931 - 1952

Significant Dates 1931

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Reconstruction Architect; Charles O. Cornelius, Architect, Holden McLaughlin & Associates

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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: Delaware Academy of Medicine archives, Historical Society of Delaware, Hagley Museum Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	451900	4401319	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Lori Salganicoff, Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date February 18, 2003

street & number 780 North 26 Street telephone (215) 236-5070

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19130

editing by:

Robin Bodo, National Register Coordinator
 Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
 15 The Green
 Dover, DE 19901
 (302) 739-5685

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 Gordon, Fournaris and Mammarella

street & number 1220 N. Market Street, Suite 700 telephone 302 652- 2900

city or town Wilmington state DE zip code 19899-1355

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
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Delaware Academy of Medicine
name of property

New Castle County, Delaware
county and State

=====

Agency Certification

In my opinion, the Delaware Academy of Medicine meets / does not meet
the National Register Criteria.

James M. Baker
James M. Baker
Mayor
City of Wilmington, Delaware

01-08-03
Date

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7. Narrative Description

The Delaware Academy of Medicine building at 1925 Lovering Avenue in Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware is comprised of two sections – the original section, constructed in 1931-32 at this location, and a 1958 addition. Both contain two stories and a basement and are built of brick, with stone stringcourses and windows featuring a stone cornice, lintels and sills. The 1932 portion was built in the Adamesque¹ style of a slightly variegated dark salmon Flemish bond (north², east and west facades; the south is common bond) brick, while the addition is of a lighter Flemish bond (north façade) and running bond brick construction. The original main entrance to the historic building, a recessed semi-circular loggia with slender Ionic columns below a Palladian (Wyatt) window, faces the foot of Kentmere Parkway. The property is bounded on the east by Park Road, the entrance to Brandywine Park. Kentmere Parkway crosses Union Street to become Lovering Avenue, which runs along the west side of the building, past a parking lot serving the Academy and into a residential neighborhood. This pastoral setting provided the environment of dignified, quiet study sought for the Delaware Academy of Medicine when it was originally placed on the site.

The earlier section of the building was originally constructed in 1815-16 for the Bank of Delaware, with c. 1888 and 1907 alterations³; the building was carefully taken apart, moved from its original 6th and Market streets location and re-erected at this site in 1931-32. It had originally been designed to serve as both a Banking House and a cashier's residence, all beneath one metal hipped roof pierced by two chimneys⁴ and finished with a marble cornice that was also part of the original building. The Banking House section of the historic building has a 35' w x 40' d footprint, with the cashier's residence adding 23' to the depth. The addition steps back 3' from the historic main entrance façade, and contains windows on the north (front) and south façades that were salvaged from the original building's east (side) facade at the time of the addition. The 60'x60' addition has a flat roof with a white stone cornice and a stone stringcourse that widens above a door at the midsection of its north facade.

The wrought-iron fence that had bordered the building since its original construction in 1815 was also carefully disassembled and re-erected on a new base. It now borders the Lovering Avenue (west façade) entrance which now serves as the building's main entrance. A decorative wrought-iron arch was added at the walkway leading to this entrance door.

¹ Call it what you will -- the style of the building has also been referred to as Colonial (Charles O. Cornelius), post-Colonial (newspapers describing the move in 1931), Federal and Regency (Eberlein and Hubbard).

² Actually, this façade faces northwest, but the facades are referred to as the simple north, south, east and west here for the sake of simplicity.

³ These alterations and their dates are known based on historical images, included below, the records of the Bank of Delaware, and the alteration work described by John Rossell in his *History of the Bank of Delaware* of 1933.

⁴ The chimneys are in their original locations, but were built of new brick in 1931-32 as specified by Charles O. Cornelius, the architect for the move.

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The interior of the building reflects its use as both a public and private facility for the Delaware Academy of Medicine, with many details carefully preserved and re-placed during the 1931-32 reconstruction. These include windows, trim and fireplace mantels, which reflect the simple, yet dignified character of the building as a whole. The interior contains large public meeting and library facilities, located in the more decorative historic portion of the building, and smaller private offices and office amenities in the addition.

Description of the Exterior

The three bay-façade of the former bank building faces north onto Kentmere Parkway. The unusual curved entrance has 4-panel double leaf doors and narrow 6-pane fixed sidelights curved to follow the semi-circular recess⁵, has at its front two slender smooth-shafted white marble Ionic columns. The plain white marble blind arch above the entrance, terminating at rectilinear marble pilasters, is notable for its simplicity. The first and third bays of both floors originally contained window-shaped brick reveals with marble sills, but 1907 alterations to the Banking House interior also resulted in the insertion of 6/9 double-hung windows and a marble lintel in the first floor, leaving alone the second floor and the arched top of the first floor reveals.

The white marble string course that encircled the original building's street facades may have always had "Bank of Delaware" carved into the widened block above the main entrance, but the dates "1795" and "1865" at the first and third bay were probably carved into the widened blocks between the windows/reveals as part of the 1907 alterations.⁶ The second floor Palladian window appears much as it has since the building's original construction, with an 8/12 double-hung sash flanked by 2/3 double hung sidelights, a marble sill, and a marble lintel with bullseye detailing at its corners. The second floor window-shaped brick reveals at the first and third bays, also apparently present since the building's construction, features the same details – white marble sills and white marble lintels with a recessed circle at its corners – as can be found on the windows of the west and south façades.

The windows of the west façade evidence the building's originally dual use as Banking House and residence, as well as the building campaign that added two windows to the first floor Banking House between 1883 and 1893⁷. This dual purpose also explains the side entrance,

⁵ The doors were constructed in 1931-32 according to Cornelius' specifications: "Provide new doors, transom bars, transoms, glass in side lights both inside and outside for main front entrance. All in accordance with the architect's detail. ...these doors shall be built on a curve and shall be panel doors, 2 1/2" thick."

⁶ The "Bank of Delaware" carving is present on all images found of the building. The dates are not present in the 1883 painting of the building by John Brill McCoy (Image Two) or the photograph by Parrish (Image Three), but do appear in the 1931 rendering of the building that appeared in newspapers just before the building was moved.

⁷ Compare Image Two with Image Three below.

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originally the Cashier's entrance to his residence and now used by the Delaware Academy of Medicine for its main entrance. The second floor 8/12 double-hung wood sash windows contain the same thin muntins and simple large semi-circular molding profile as the 12/16 windows of the first floor. The southernmost window, which sported shutters when it was the Cashier's residence, remains a more modest 8/12 panes. The original (pre-1883) windows are also accented by the enlarged blocks within the white marble stringcourse. Five marble stairs lead to the wood-panel entrance door, which features the same type of wood framing as the windows as well as a semi-circular fanlight with S-curve muntins. The semi-circular brick stretcher-lock arch over the fanlight contains a plain marble keystone and square marble padstones with the same recessed circle found at lintels.

The original and addition sections of the building's south façade are located in the same plane. The historic section had served as the rear façade since its original construction, and as such was constructed with common bond brick, with an alternating header-course every eighth row, and has no marble stringcourse. The historic portion contains three original double-hung wood windows – two 4/6's at the first floor with the same type of white marble lintels and sills present on the other facades, and one centrally located 6/6 at the second floor – and two windows added in 1958. The second floor window opening added in 1958 now holds a window salvaged from around the corner when the east façade made way for the addition. The addition's lighter salmon brick is toothed into the darker original wall which required that each row of new brick and mortar match the thickness of the original.

The south façade of the addition contains windows clearly located for their interior purpose, as no regularity is evident. A stair tower door provides a rear exit from the building's mid-section, and demonstrates the downward slope of the site from northwest to southeast. The addition's east façade features a more regular window pattern, ostensibly owing to its presence on Park Drive, with three stories visible from ground to roofline. The north façade of the addition contains the wood windows and window frames salvaged from the original building's east façade at its first floor, with smaller windows above them serving second floor offices. Lintels and sills of all north façade addition windows are of masonry, the lintels containing recessed circle detailing like their historic counterparts. A door at this façade features a floating fanlight with a rowlock arch and S-curve muntins, recalling the Academy's main entrance. A rather awkward brick and concrete carries the walkway leading to this door, and hides a utility door at ground level.

Description of the Interior

With the exception of the Executive Director's office on the second floor, the building's interior is comprised of public spaces with more detailed finishes and plainer private offices and support facilities. Again with the exception of the Executive Director's office, the offices, stack areas and

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kitchen are located in the addition section of the building, and feature little detail. The basement is similarly simple and relatively modern in detail, featuring no historic finishes. Interestingly, the 1958 floor plans produced by the architectural firm of Pope and Kruse shows the basement to have a bedroom, bathroom and living room. 1958 directions for finishing this space dictated that: "all interior masonry walls in living area of present building strip and plaster."

The public spaces offer an intriguing collection of same and similar finishes – intriguing because like Charles O. Cornelius, the architect of the 1931 demolition and re-erection, architect Albert Kruse copied details in his 1958 addition from prior building campaigns in such a way that some are an exact match and some are similar.

The building is currently entered on the west façade, through the doorway that originally led into the Cashier's Residence.⁸ The plain 6-panel door leads to a 14'x22' entrance lobby with two windows at the west and south walls and a door on the north side that leads to the large meeting room. Each wall of the lobby contained brass plaques memorializing notable Delaware physicians, including one section within decorative overmantel above the wood fireplace mantle. A large arch with decorative keystone and springers dates from the 1958 alteration. It leads to a space that had served as the building's stair hall before its removal in 1958; the arch having replaced a smaller original opening. The elegant rectilinear plaster cornice, constructed in 1931, as generally specified by Cornelius,⁹ runs without interruption at the lobby ceiling. The base molding of painted wood continues a profile begun at the base of the mantelpiece.

The wood-paneled cheeks of the windows and entrance door splay open, creating trapezoidal sills that sit 38" from the floor. An apron below the wooden window sills features four deeply projecting beads that run parallel to the sill. This feature is present on original elements throughout the building, and is shown on 2nd floor window sill aprons in a lithograph of the building's interior when it sat at 6th and Market Streets (see Image Six).

Some doubt exists about the date of the overmantel molding holding the memorial plaques. Judging from its style, including a broken-pediment with a keystone and unusually long and thin dentils, the molding was probably added by Kruse. Although it was not mentioned on the 1958 drawings found at the Academy,¹⁰ no mention is made by Cornelius of such a molding, either.

⁸ The swing of this door was reversed in the 1958 building campaign.

⁹ "In the main room on the first floor run plaster cornice as shown in ¾" detail following full size drawings which the architect will supply. There will be no plaster in the attic but soffit and jobs of the stairway shall be plaster from cellar to attic." Cornelius, Charles O., "Re-Erection Specifications," July 9th, 1931.

¹⁰ No drawings were found describing Kruse's alterations to the original building, although physical evidence suggest changes to some finishes.

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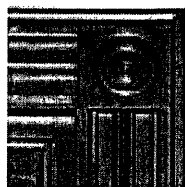
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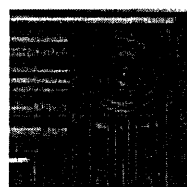
However, the specifications written by Cornelius also omit widening the fireplace – a feature for which he was likely responsible.¹¹

There is also some confusion about the date of the base molding. Similarly not specifically mentioned by Cornelius,¹² it matches the profile of the mantelpiece base as well as base moldings in other historic and relatively untouched sections of the building. Yet the molding is also exactly copied within the addition. Given its simplicity, and Kruse's apparent penchant for copying details, it may be deduced that the base molding in the historic lobby and along the meeting room wall of the corridor were placed there in the 1931 campaign and copied very well by Kruse in later sections.

There are two types of door/window trim to be found in the historic portion of the Delaware Academy of Medicine building, and in the public sections of the 1958 addition. Their similarities render them virtually indistinguishable at first glance, but their differences are worth noting as these two types may offer information about construction dates.



Trim Type A



Trim Type B

Both trim types include projecting running beads, bulls-eye corner blocks, and a convex projecting edge molding as their predominant features. The bulls-eye corner block in Type A possesses a projecting button at its center, much like those found on the original exterior marble lintel of the Palladian window. Lintels and jamb posts of Trim Type A include one central running bead sitting atop quarter-round molding flanked by a flat recess, and one ogee-curved molding leading to the edge molding. The central portion of Trim Type B's bulls-eye corner block is concave, and its lintels and jamb posts feature a simpler double running bead without ogee.

¹¹ The left side of the window jamb at this fireplace wall was cut off, covered by the projecting fireplace with a side closet. The fireplace and closet are shown in plan in the 1958 Kruse floor plans as already existing at that time.

¹² In his re-erection specifications, Cornelius simply states: "Reset old trim, same shall be patched and restored to its original condition." *continued below...*

... However, in the demolition specifications, he noted: "All interior trim, including beams, sash, door and window trim shall be removed using great care not to crack or damage same." Did he omit the base molding and consider it included or did it not exist?

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With the exception of the 1958 arch, the window and door jambs of the building's lobby are framed with Trim Type A. The arch features the bulls-eye and running bead pattern consistent with Trim Type B, the type that is typically found on window and door openings at the addition.

Through the arch, the former stair hall corridor was widened with the 1958 removal of the stair and features ceiling and base molding added by Kruse to match that in the lobby. The corridor now, as previously, offers a second door into the meeting room, however this door jamb features Trim Type B. The corridor, which narrows to a hallway where the addition section begins, provides access to the coatroom, elevator, fire stair, restrooms and offices of the addition. The fire stair door features Trim Type B, and the elevator is trimmed with a very simple painted metal molding. All trim disappears shortly after the hallway entrance into the private office section of the addition.

Entering the historic portion of the meeting room, one might notice that all windows and trim feature Trim Type B. This is odd since the exterior trim of the curved double doors at the original main entrance features Trim Type A, and considering that Type B has typically been placed on altered and added sections. The windows and doors within the meeting room addition are also of Type B. *Did Kruse change all of these finishes to match those he had created for the addition?* Possible, but would he not have also changed out the trim of the lobby? Furthermore, the chair-rail that Cornelius specified be created in this room to mimic the profile of the lobby window sill apron is cut to wrap the trim. *Were they instead created by Cornelius?* Also possible – but money was very tight on this project, and if some had been damaged in the move, Cornelius surely would not have replaced all of the trim with a different style as he had specified care and repair of existing. Perhaps the Bank for some reason chose to slightly alter the finishes in the publicly visible Banking House from those in the Cashier's residence and the upstairs offices. It is also possible that the finishes in Banking House were changed when the side windows were added by the Bank.

The meeting room is clearly divided into two sections, the 36'wx32'd historic section and the 34'wx39'd addition, the division also demarcating where the building's east facade had originally been. This wall now holds movable doors to divide the room when necessary. The chair rail that runs around both sections of the room is modeled after the window sill apron of the lobby, and runs underneath sills here as well. The base molding has been simplified to a filleted panel at the window and entrance walls, with a molding of more refined appearance at the projecting section at the room's south wall and around the addition's walls. The cornice on the historic section's ceiling appears similar to that in the lobby, with the addition of a dentilated panel and frieze. The frieze also features shallow recessed panels above each door and window opening, but not at the entrance or on the wall where the east facade would have been. Their absence from the east wall, where windows previously sat but which now provides the connection between original and added meeting rooms, suggests that the frieze and possibly the dentils were placed here in the 1958 campaign.

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The dramatically large 12/16 double hung windows dominate the west wall and the addition's north wall. These windows feature black marble sills approximately 10" from the floor, trapezoidally-shaped in the original bank section and rectangular in the addition owing to respectively splayed and straight wood panel cheeks. The ceiling cove of the meeting room addition runs parallel to the length of the room, terminating with a very simple, shallow cornice. The east side of the addition contains audio-visual equipment and a small 5'x16' wood platform.

The original section of the second floor is comprised of a library, Executive Director's office, toilet room and a second small office, all of which were present prior to the 1958 building campaign. The window and door trim of all of these offices are of Trim Type A, and the windows feature the same splayed, wood-panel cheeks. Window sills, located 40" from the floor, are of painted wood, and include the sill apron found in the lobby. The corridor around which these rooms sit was created by the removal of the stair hall in 1958. Ceiling cornices and base molding, their profiles like those in the lobby, are located in each of the spaces in the historic section. The Executive Director's office features a wood mantel similar to that of the lobby, without the overmantel panel.

The library is as big as the historic section of the meeting room below, but a lithograph of the interior from 1865-1888 (Image 6, below) describes a "Director's Room" within the Bank with a wall directly to the right of the Palladian window and a door leading to the other room that this wall created. This wall was likely removed prior to the 1931 move, as all accounts describe that little happened here at the time of the move. The existing grey marble fireplace mantle is shown in the lithograph; however its opening is tiled over and contains a furnace pipe. This tile is shown throughout the room as wainscoting. The removal of the tile and alteration to the other finishes were probably part of the 1907 interior remodeling.

This lithograph also shows full-height bookcases that are not present. Instead, shorter bookcases surround the library walls. These bookcases are decorated with woodwork much like Trim Type A, and the cases flanking the Palladian window feature a decorative applied keystone that is similar to but not the same as the keystones introduced by Kruse into the lobby in 1958. 5' wide double doors at the east wall lead into the addition to the private stacks of the Academy, and further on to private offices and amenities. These doors feature a Trim Type A that is indistinguishable from that surrounding the Palladian window and the other original openings; however this trim could not have been original since the 5' double door replaced the 4½' window opening at this formerly exterior wall.

Like the first floor, the spaces of the addition are for private offices and amenities, and are treated with no decorative ornament.

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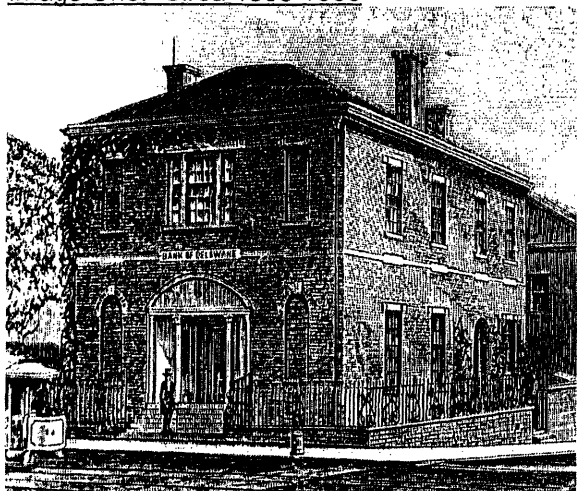
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SUPPLEMENT 1: HISTORICAL BUILDING IMAGES

Image One: Circa 1865-1888



"Bank of Delaware"
From Lithograph produced between 1865
(noted on litho as date of re-charter) and
1888 (when trolley became electrified)
Courtesy of Delaware Academy of Medicine

Image Two: 1883



"Bank of Delaware – The original building
Market and Hanover Streets, September 15, 1883"
Reproduction of a painting by John Brill McCoy
1883
Courtesy of Historical Society of Delaware

Image Three: Circa 1883-1893



"Bank of Delaware and New Castle Co. Mutual
Ins. Co. Buildings"
W. H. Parrish, *Art Work in Wilmington*
Photograph taken between 1883 and 1893
(pre-1888 – trolley lines?)

Image Five: 1931

Image Four: 1929



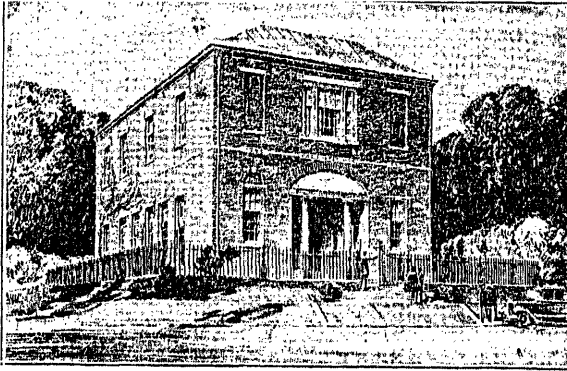
"Bank of Delaware just before it was moved,
brick by brick, to Lovering Avenue"
Charles Silliman, *A Time to Remember, 1920-1960*
Photograph by Sanborn, 1929, Courtesy of
Historical Society of Delaware

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"Medical Home to Overlook Park Property," *Evening Journal*
Reproduction of Architect's Drawing
September 3, 1931

Image Six: Circa 1865-1888



"Director's Room"
From Lithograph produced between 1865 (noted on litho as date of re-charter) and 1888
(when trolley became electrified)
Courtesy of Historical Society of Delaware

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SUPPLEMENT TWO: RE-ERECTION SPECIFICATIONS

*TRANSCRIBED BY DELAWARE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, JULY 31, 2002
(with original misspellings)*

RE-ERECTION SPECIFICATIONS

Bank of Delaware
Wilmington, Del.

Prepared By
Charles Over Cornelius,
Holden McLaughlin & Associates,
670 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.

July 9th, 1931

GENERAL:

THE CONTRACT: The General Conditions of the Contract of the Standard Form of the American Institute of Architects shall be used with all contracts and shall be considered as part of this specification. Copies of the General Conditions may be had upon application to the Architect.

INSURANCE: The Contractor shall provide workmen's compensation insurance as provided by law. He shall also provide Liability and Accident Insurance so that the Owner shall be free from responsibility during the progress of the work. (See general Conditions in regard to Insurance.)

SUB-CONTRACTORS: Before the sub-contractors are let the Contractor shall notify the architect of all sub-contractors. If the architect believes a sub-contractor incapable of carrying out the plans and specifications he shall have the right to reject this sub-contractor. If during the course of the work the architect believes a sub-contractor incapable of completing his work satisfactorily, the Architect shall then have the right to serve written notice on this contractor to dismiss the sub-contractor.

FOREMAN: The contractor must have at the building from start to finish a responsible foreman, who shall not be changed without the consent of the foreman.

PROTECTION: The contractor shall erect wooden guards around all trees on the site which are liable to be damaged by the work. He shall also provide adequate protection for all finished parts of the structure as the job progresses to prevent damage from workmen.

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FIREWOOD: Waste wood, not used in the operation, but suitable for firewood, shall in such quantity as may be approved by the architect be neatly piled and stored in the cellar. This shall not include cutting of wood.

RUBBISH: Remove all rubbish from time to time at the completion of the contract thoroughly clean up and remove from the building and premises all rubbish and refuse left from work done under this contract. The interior of the building must be left broom clean and all glass shall be washed and cleaned of paint, etc.

TEMPORARY SERVICES: The contractor shall provide such temporary services as are required. This shall include temporary electricity, telephone, and water closer for workmen. The contractor is to provide pumping equipment if required for building water.

PERMITS: The contractor shall obtain and pay for all permits required by the work.

GUARANTEES: The contractor shall be responsible for and shall make good and defects due to faults in labor or material which may arise or be discovered within one (1) year after the completion of the work and its acceptance by the architect.

LAYING OUT BUILDING: The contractor shall employ a competent surveyor who shall lay out the building on the site, shall establish a bench mark and set the grades.

WATCHMAN: At such time as the building is closed in or when trim is delivered to the job contractor shall provide and pay for a watchman so that the premises are protected at night and on those days when no work is in progress. Such service is to continue until the owners accept the job.

EXCAVATIONS: Excavate for foundations, footings, piers, boiler room, trenches for fence, heating system and trenches for sewer, water, electric service. The excavations for these services shall be in accordance with the usual practices and in cooperation with the various public service rules and regulations governing these connections. Electrician and plumber shall be responsible for coordinating the excavation for these items.

Note: cellar is excavated for depth boiler room only.

BACK FILL; Upon completion of foundation and the laying of pipes back fill all trenched and around foundations to a rough grade.

Finish grade, side walks, roadway, etc. will be in a subsequent contract.

Submit cost per cubic yard for removing earth from site in addition to that involved in plans which is to be included in fig.

MASONRY: Construct concrete footings and build cellar foundations of stone, using old stone from existing cellar wall. Build stone or concrete piers to support steel beams. Build in boiler room walls as shown on plans and lay 6" of cinders, 4" of stone concrete and 1" granolithic cement floor, in boiler room.

Build in vault doors, salvaged from old record vault with masonry walls. Cement floor inside of vault. Provide vent for vault. Allow to build one area way as shown in the drawings of concrete and stone.

BRICK WALLS: Erect brick walls, using old brick, back up brick may be new if that is cheaper than cleaning old back up brick.

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The weathered face of the face brick must show and the bond must be identical with existing as per sample saved by wrecking contractor. Mortar is to be 1 part cement, 15% lime, 3 parts clean sand. Use Atlas White Cement. Same to be colored with mortar colors as directed by the architect, to produce weathered joint.

All stone work shall be set exactly as existing. Before the stone work is set it shall receive a back up water proofing of Elaterite compound and it shall be set with Atlas stainless white cement mortar. At finish clean brick and stone work.

CORNICE: Stone cornice on the north and east side shall be cut to conform with the cornice on the west and south. Submit this item as a separate estimate.

CHIMNEY: Re-build only one chimney, using terra cotta flue linings and build chimney according to architect's detail. Two fire places are to be rebuilt. These are to have covert dampers and have the back hearth built of fire brick. The front hearth and the facings shall be of marble salvaged from the old building. Two other fireplaces are to be restored without flue, but with fire back, facing and hearths only.

In re-building the chimney and in finishing the cornice the mason shall prepare for cornice and gutter construction in accordance with the architect's details.

FLOOR SLABS: After the steel man has placed the steel beams the mason shall lay 4" reinforced stone concrete slab floor as shown on the details continuously over the entire floor areas of the building.

FRONT DOOR STEP: Step at the front door just before the boor way is now squared off. This shall be re-cut to follow the general curve of the door entrance.

FENCE: Build 6" concrete footings in general 2'-6" below grade and carry up brick wall for fence as shown in drawings using old coping.

STEEL: steel man shall erect steel beams taken from old building, provide proper headers around stair way and replace missing beams where vault was removed. He shall provide bearing plates and call connections – rivets, bolts, etc. to replace this steel and shall supply reinforcement mesh for the slab according to architect's detail.

2nd and 3rd TIER OF BEAMS: This tier beams shall consist of a system of two girders which shall be 18" Bethlehem girder beams, 92 lbs., which will divide the space between the wall and the intermediate bearing wall into thirds.

Between these girders frame with 8", 17.5 lbs. I beams spaces 4'-6" on centers.

From the intermediate bearing partitions to the rear well from with 12", 28.5 lbs. I beams, spaced 5' on centers.

Supply bearing plates, rivets, bolts, angles and all connections and reinforcement mesh for 2nd and 3rd floors. Also complete throughout clops to hold sleepers. Also rods for hung ceilings.

This steel shall be erected according to the best practice and one shop coat of paint and one in the field shall be supplied.

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IRON FENCE: The iron man shall set old iron fence in stone coping according to architect's detail. Same shall be erected and repaired using new bolts and rivets where necessary.

Note: Iron grilles on old structure are not to be used except in area away from cellar.

LATH AND PLASTER: Side walls and ceilings shall be lathed with 3/8" rib lath weighing 3.4 lbs. This lath shall be clipped with approved clips to the ceiling rods and applied to wood luring with galvanized nails. All lath shall be painted with black asphalt paint both sides.

CORNER BEADS: No metal corner beads are to be used, but where in the old work corner beads of wood existed. Same are to be salvaged and re-erected in the new plaster.

PLASTER: Plaster throughout shall be 3-coat work, final smooth brush, white finish.

In the main room on the first floor run plaster cornice as shown in 3/4" detail following full size drawings which the architect will supply. There will be no plaster in the attic but soffit and jobs of the stairway shall be plaster from cellar to attic.

MARBLE SETTING: In main room on first floor re-set black marble base salvaged from old work, continue same around all sides of room.

In toilet room lay marble floor in squares 12 x 12, made from old white marble salvaged from old building.

FIRE PLACES: Facings and front hearth shall be of marble, salvaged from old building.

CARPENTRY WORK: Carpenter shall erect forms for concrete and provide such scaffolding, ladders and other equipment as are not specifically supplied by the other trades.

SLEEPERS: Carpenter shall install sleepers on the first, second and third floors. These should be held by clips supplied by the steel man. Sleepers should be 2 x 2.

ROUGH FLOOR: Carpenter shall lay a rough floor on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor. On the first floor these shall be of 3" x 7/8" T & G boards, laid diagonally.

On the second and third floors under floor shall consist of 1-1/2" T & G fur, 3" x 7/8", laid on right angles to the sleepers over which a finished floor of Pantasote board and linoleum shall be laid, which shall be a separate contract.

ROOF TRUSSES: Carpenter shall repair and place in original position, restoring missing members, roof trusses. He shall reset the existing purlins and place the rafters. On top of the rafters he shall lay 1" Celotex board and over that 7" x 7/8" roofers.

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He shall form the crown on the top deck, build in the gutter and cornice detail, build curbs for three sky lights, size 3 x 5. He shall repair the roof ladder.

Note: Existing dormers shall be omitted in new roof.

PARTITIONS: Carpenter shall erect partitions as shown on the plans and shall fur out the masonry walls as indicated. New 2 x 4's or 2 x 6's shall be used for this purpose.

FRAMES: Carpenter shall inspect all frames and see that same are repaired and in good condition and reset in the masonry openings. Frames shall be caulked with elastic caulking compound and all pulleys and sash cords shall be placed in a satisfactory working condition.

SASH: The sash shall be repaired and as indicated on the place all sash shall be restored where the muntins have been removed. Where this involved re-glazing glass shall be an antique glass with blemishes, but this glass must be selected and approved by the architect before it is placed in the sash.

Provide new sash and new sash frames in the lavatory as detailed.

Provide new door frame and entry door for the north side of entrance.

Provide new doors, transom bars, transoms, glass in side lights both inside and outside for main front entrance. All in accordance with the architect's detail.

For purpose of preliminary estimate before data on the exact original condition is available figure that these doors shall be built on a curve and shall be panel doors, 2-1/2" thick.

TRIM: Reset old trim, same shall be patched and restored to its original condition. Omit all picture moldings. In main room on first floor provide new chair rail. This shall be the same detail as apron under window sill on stair hall window.

Reset four mantles, two on practical fire places and two on false fire places.

FINISHED FLOORS: Main room on first floor – over heavy felt lay a solid oak plank floor, 13/16" thick, random width boards. This shall be screwed and blind nailed to under flooring.

The platform at east end of room shall be floored with oak similar to the main floor as well as the treads and steps up to platform.

The screw holes shall be covered with square plugs and the floor shall be antiqued and hand scraped as directed by the architect. After which it shall be given a complete stain and wax finish.

Second and third floor – All rooms on the first floor except the main room and all spaces on the 2nd and 3rd floors shall be covered with 1/2" pantasote board nailed to the under floor. Over this shall be cemented a layer of felt and to this shall be cemented linoleum. On the second floor submit an estimate for linoleum of the \$4.50 per yard grade, and for rooms at rear of first floor and stair halls and passages.

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On the attic floor the \$2.50 per yard grade.

Linoleum is to be submitted as a separate estimate with this figure.

Platform in main room shall be built of paneled front made of white pine with oak treads and floor supplied by the flooring contractor, all according to architect's detail.

HARDWARE: All existing hardware shall be re-used. Old locks shall be refitted with new keys and placed in good operating condition. One old lock on the second floor is missing. Similar modern lock shall be used to replace this.

New side entry door shall be equipped with solid brass butts and with mortise Yale cylinder lock door set.

The new front door restoring original doors shall be equipped with facsimile hardware. The contractor shall include an allowance of \$100 for this hardware.

DEAFENING: Where marble is called for carpenter shall provide suitable deafening on the second floor to receive same.

PLUMBING: The plumber shall install complete system consisting of connections to street sewer, house sewer, house drain, house trap, fresh air inlet and vent stack which shall be carried up and on the attic floor turned into a brick of chimney and carried to the top of the chimney inside the brick work. This shall all be of extra heavy cast iron and all joints shall be caulked and thoroughly leaded.

Plumber shall install water service connecting to the main in the street which shall be brought in according to the local rules.

1" copper tubing is suggested terminated with a shut off and valve inside the boiler room. From this point shall run 3/4" brass risers, to serve both hot and cold. All pipe and fittings shall be Bridgeport or Anaconda brass and all lines shall be provided with drain and shut off valves.

The plumber shall get fixtures salvaged from old building. The water closet shall be equipped with new white seat and cover and all exposed metal work in wash basins and water closets shall be newly chromium plated.

Plumber shall set in the cellar the old hot water tank and shall supply and install with all connections a O2 American Radiator hot water heater, coal fired. This item shall be given as a separate figure.

All runs of pipe that are exposed or in outside wall shall be covered with Asbestocal covering and canvas jacketed.

Plumber shall install with drain valve shut offs two hose bibs one on the front of the building and one on the rear. Hose bibs shall be of the removable key type.

Install lender shoes which shall in turn be connected by cast iron pipe into the sewer system.

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ROOF: Install a new 16 oz. copper raised ridge, locked joint roof with built in gutter and leader connections with cricket back of chimney and all flashings required.

Install on front leader heads taken from old building and leaders.

SKY LIGHTS: Build and erect according to the architect's detail three 16 oz. Copper sky lights, same shall be glazed with leak proof muntin bards and equipped with ventilator hoods at each end. Size of the sky lights is 3' x 5'.

Provide all necessary flashings for stone work detail on front.

HEATING: Reset boiler and vacuum system in the boiler room.

Make all connections, smoke pipe, water, inspect grates and report to architect if some are in perfect condition.

All pipes shall be new pipe connection.

Reset and connect as at present the indirect stack system to heat main room. Elsewhere throughout building reset existing radiation with new pipes.

Install all steam pipes and returns to boiler with asbestocal covering and with canvas jackets. Boiler shall be covered with 8" asbestos plaster.

ALTERNATE: The heating contractor shall submit an alternate of supplying new concealed radiation on first and second floor outside of main room. This shall be Rome brass radiators with all vacuum attachments and shut off valves and with enclosures of the type flush with plaster.

Grilles shall be of simple, square hole type and shall be selected by the architect.

Baffle walls shall be made of galvanized iron in accordance with architects detail.

ELECTRICITY: Electrician shall connect with service main in street and bring his service underground into boiler room where he shall provide and locate and install meter board and panel boards which shall be of the dead front, screw in, plug type as manufactured by Frank Adams.

Wire throughout shall be rigid conduit.

This contractor shall provide for a separate circuit for a motion picture machine in main room and for outlets and ceiling boxes as shown on plans. He shall provide other switches as are shown on the plans.

Convenience outlets shall be of the duplex type.

Hanging of fixtures shall be a separate contract.

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This contractor shall supply a door bell with mortise push button at service entry and equipped with bell ringing transformer.

He shall also provide for three telephone outlets and run concealed wire for same in cooperation with the Telephone Company.

PAINTING:

OUTSIDE WORK: The painter shall go over all frames, wash same carefully with cleaning compound, putty up nail holes, cracks and large defects, but shall not burn off or scrape old paint.

Outside frames, sash and doors shall receive three coats of lead and oil paint, color as selected by architect.

Where outside work is new there shall be an additional priming coat to that mentioned above.

Back painting: Before frames are reset the painting contractor shall back paint all frames.

Cooper: The painter shall apply one coat of Toch Brothers verde antique to all copper, roofing, flashings, leaders and gutters. This material shall be applied with a brush and rubbed off with a cloth to give the effect inspired by the architect.

All iron work including fence shall be thoroughly cleared of rust and scaling paint, to be given one coat of red lead paint and 3 coats of lead and oil paint.

INSIDE PAINTING: Painter shall wash with a strong cleaning powder all trim, shall putty up holes and obvious defects and shall sparkle in parts that are patched by the carpenter or mill man.

All trim shall be back painted before it is reinstalled. No paint is to be turned off or scraped off.

Ceilings: On first floor in main room 1 coat of primer and 2 coats of flat.

Ceilings elsewhere 1 coat flat and 1 coat Muresco kaisomine.

Side wall plaster shall be given one coat of primer and 3 coats of flat or egg shell finish. Colors as directed.

Wood-work: All new wood work shall receive one coat of primer and 4 coats of lead and oil paint.

Note: Floors under a separate contract.

All radiators shall be painted by the painting contractor 3 coats of heat resisting paint.

Hand rails: Hand rails on the stair shall be sand papered down to the natural wood and all given 4 coats of rubbed varnish.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Delaware Academy of Medicine building, now located at 1925 Lovering Avenue, began its existence in 1815-16 at the corner of 6th and Market streets in downtown Wilmington, Delaware, as the second home of the Bank of Delaware, Delaware's oldest and the nation's fourth oldest Banking institution.¹ The building was moved to its present location in 1931-32 and stands today because of the need for a library facility for the newly formed Delaware Academy of Medicine and because of the preservation efforts of notable civic leaders. The Delaware Academy of Medicine has followed its important mission for seventy-two years, a mission that might not have been realized had it not been for a drive to preserve a treasured early-19th century building. The building meets National Register criterion A for its association with the Delaware Academy of Medicine and criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of the Colonial Revival style as expressed in the re-creation and reuse of the older building. Although the National Register of Historic Places program usually prohibits the listing of moved buildings, this property achieved the significance for which it is being nominated after the move to its present location.

The building is located within the City of Wilmington's local Kentmere Parkway City Historic District, a district created to recognize the landscaped roadway built between 1891 and 1895 to link Brandywine and Rockford Parks, and the buildings that were placed along it.

Background

Despite the fact that the Medical Society of Delaware, founded in 1776, was the second oldest state medical society in the nation, they had no facilities and no medical library. For over 150 years, doctors seeking medical reference materials beyond their small personal collections were required to travel to Philadelphia, Baltimore or beyond. Dr. Lewis B. Flinn, a founder of the Academy, described the state of the medical profession in Delaware at the time of the Academy's organization: "in 1929 there were four hospitals in Wilmington, each of them scarcely on speaking terms with the others. There was very little professional contact with hospitals in the remainder of the State. There was very little professional cooperation between physicians and dentists."²

¹ Upon its re-charter as a national bank in 1865. John S. Rossell, Security Trust Company, *History of the Bank of Delaware* (1933): 36-40.

² Barbara McEwing, "Fiftieth Anniversary of the Delaware Academy of Medicine," 1980, 7.

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The founders³ first met in the office of Dr. Lewis B. Flinn on December 12, 1929 to consider the formation of the Academy, by coincidence the same month as the merger of the National Bank of Delaware with Security Trust Company. It was obvious to these gentlemen that there was an urgent need for a medical library in Delaware and for a place to share and discuss medical issues and advances. The Academy was incorporated on February 19, 1930, its membership composed originally of representatives from the four hospitals. The non-profit corporation stated as its mission a dedication to fostering "among its members interest in medical, scientific, literary, and educational conditions and to render service without recompense towards these ends in the State of Delaware."⁴ After the first meeting in Dr. Flinn's office, the group continued their meetings at a more neutral location, frequently the YMCA.⁵

Yet although the Academy's founders and their supporters recognized the urgent and longstanding need for a medical center and library in Delaware, the onset of the national economic depression in 1930 made finding and financing such a facility nearly impossible. Mrs. Thompson's bid to preserve the National Bank of Delaware building came at the perfect time.

THE BANK OF DELAWARE & THE BUILDING'S ORIGINS

The Bank of Delaware was the first Bank in the state, organized in June of 1795 and using as its first Banking House a property owned by stockholder James Lea. The Bank remained at this Market and High (4th) Streets location for twenty years.⁶ On May 23rd, 1815 the Board of Directors determined that these original quarters were no longer sufficient and created a Committee to search for and purchase another site.⁷ Ten days later the Committee voted to purchase the 6th (Hanover) and Market Streets site from William Warner for \$5,000.⁸ The Board met again on August 8th to discuss and resolve that "an addition be built to the Banking House for the accommodation of the Cashier." Although the August 8th minutes describe a Plan for the new building being exhibited to and approved by the Board of Directors, no architect or designer is mentioned.⁹

³ The Academy's founders were: Julian Adair, M.D.; Olin S. Allen, M.D.; Joseph M. Barsky, Sr., M.D.; W. Edwin Brid, M.D.; J. Draper Brown, D.D.S.; Lewis B. Flinn, M.D.; George W.K. Forrest, M.D.; William H. Kraemer, M.D.; W. Oscar LaMotte, Sr., M.D.; Emil R. Mayerberg, M.D.; John H. Mullin, M.D.; W. Morris Pierson, M.D.; James H. Spackman, M.D.; Albert J. Strikol, M.D.; Charles E. Wagner, M.D.; and Victor D. Washburn, M.D.

⁴ Delaware Academy of Medicine Certificate of Incorporation of February 19, 1930. McEwing, 11

⁵ McEwing, 7.

⁶ Rossell, 36-40.

⁷ "Minutes of Board of Directors, Bank of Delaware," May 23rd, 1815, Unpaginated.

⁸ "Minutes".

⁹ Pierre Bauduy is mentioned in several secondary sources as the architect for the building. The first instance found to mention this attribution is Eberlein and Hubbard's *Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware* of 1962. Without describing their own sources, Eberlein and Hubbard stated on page 214: "Only four men then working in this part of

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The building was first altered between 1883 and 1893, as evidenced by the changes in window pattern illustrated in a painting dated to 1883 and a photograph dated to 1893.¹⁰ The interior of the building was described by John Rossell, Chairman of Security Trust Bank, in his 1933 manuscript "History of the Bank of Delaware," the Bank possessed a well-ordered interior, with old-style wood-work, forming divisions into convenient Offices and working space prior to the 1907 renovation. Although it was "exceedingly attractive in its beauty and symmetry," the Board of Directors resolved that it must be enlarged and the interior modernized.¹¹ As with the original construction, no primary source has been found that mentions the designer or builder of these alterations.

The National Bank of Delaware merged with Security Trust Company in December 1929, having entered into voluntary liquidation the month before.¹² Shortly thereafter, the Bank of Delaware building and lot were sold to the Delaware Power and Light Company, which let it be known that it intended to demolish the historic building in order to build its new office building. With this announcement came the involvement of Mary Wilson Thompson and her friends. The Bank of Delaware building was viewed as "a perfect type of colonial architecture"¹³, and its threatened demolition drew a great deal of interest from some of Wilmington's more notable early preservationists. The Old Bank Association was formed by Mrs. Thompson to save it.¹⁴

America could have designed it, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Robert Mills, William Strickland or Pierre Bauduy. Pierre Bauduy it was, that same versatile Santo Domingo refugee who designed Wilmington's Old Town Hall and, for his daughter and son-in-law, Swanwyck. A capable master-carpenter or contractor, of course, put the building into material existence, but it was Bauduy's happy conception that he translated into bricks and stone and mortar."

The attribution of Old Town Hall to Pierre Bauduy has since been called into question by recent research done by the Historical Society of Delaware.

¹⁰The 1883 painting of the building by John Brill McCoy (Image Two above) shows the original window pattern. The photograph labeled "Bank of Delaware and New Castle Co. Mutual Ins. Co. Buildings," published in W. H. Parrish's 1893 *Art Work in Wilmington* (Image Three above) shows new side windows in place.

¹¹ Rossell, 510.

¹² Letter announcing proposed liquidation, 1929, located at Historical Society of Delaware.

¹³ Stated as such by Mr. Charles O. Cornelius, former Curator of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the person who supervised and managed the building's careful de-construction and re-construction. Mary Wilson Thompson, Letter to Dr. Lewis B. Flinn, December 1932.

¹⁴ According to the November 11, 1931 minutes of the Old Bank Association, the Building Committee consisted of Mr. Charles O. Cornelius, Mrs. M. W. Thompson, and Mr. F. G. Tallman; the Finance Committee consisted of Mr. S. D. Townsend, Mrs. Ernest du Pont, Mr. H. Rodney Sharp, and Dr. Kraemer; the Furnishing and Decorating Committee consisted of Mrs. Thomas W. Miller, Mrs. W. S. Bergland, Mrs. F. G. Tallman, Mrs. Ernest duPont, Dr. Mullin and Dr. Flynn (sic).

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SAVING THE BUILDING AND FORMING THE DELAWARE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

In letters written in December 1932 to Dr. William H. Kraemer and Dr. Lewis B. Flinn, two founders of the Delaware Academy of Medicine, Mrs. Thompson described her initial efforts to keep the building in its original location. These efforts included attempts to convince the City to purchase the property and convert it to a "model rest room," however the cost of this option was apparently too high for the City. As Delaware Power and Light required the lot for its new building, the Bank of Delaware Building had to be moved in order to be preserved. In her letters, Mrs. Thompson described her next tactic: "then, I inquired of some of our leading Physicians, if they would like it for a Medical Library. They were delighted and said it would be useful in many ways – that they had tried to put up such a building and found it too expensive."

The enthusiasm of Mrs. Thompson for the project was fueled by three objectives:

"First: To save the beautiful old building, one of the few ancient buildings left in Wilmington.

"Second: To make a suitable place for the Medical Library and a meeting place for the Physicians and Dentists throughout the State.

"Third: To provide work for the men who would otherwise have had no work during the Winter."¹⁵

The site on which the building now sits was purchased from Joseph Bancroft and Sons Company, conveyed on October 30th, 1931. This may have been accomplished through the influence of Mrs. Thompson's husband Henry, who formerly worked for Joseph Bancroft and Sons Company.¹⁶ Interestingly, the land might also have been owned by Timon Stidden¹⁷ in the 17th Century, one of the first two doctors in Delaware ("barber surgeons" hired at Amsterdam to accompany the first colonizing expedition from Sweden).¹⁸

Mrs. Thompson and the other members of the Old Delaware Bank Association¹⁹ were successful in raising most of the funds necessary to move the building, and in 1931 the work of carefully dismantling the building began. The move was orchestrated by architect Charles O. Cornelius, formerly the Curator of the American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Cornelius worked for the firm Holden McLaughlin & Associates of NY, which, according to the

¹⁵ Mary Wilson Thompson, Letters to Dr. Kraemer and Dr. Flinn, December 1932.

¹⁶ National Encyclopedia of American Biography *Henry Burling Thompson*, New York: J.T. White, 1937

¹⁷ Also spelled Tyman Stidham, he was described as having landed at Fort Cassimer (now New Castle) on May 21, 1654, later settling at Fort Christina, now known as "The Rocks," within the present limits of Wilmington. McEwing, 41.

¹⁸ H. Clay Reed, *Delaware. A History of the First State*, Volume II, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1947, 737.

¹⁹ In addition to Mrs. Thompson, members of the group included Mrs. Ernest duPont, H. Rodney Sharp, Dr. Lewis B. Flinn, Dr. John H. Mullin, Dr. Charles L. Reese, Dr. William H. Kraemer and S. D. Townsend (Treasurer).

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Arthur Cort Holden collection at Cornell University, also designed a property for Henry B. Thompson.

As Mrs. Thompson described in her letters to Academy founders Kraemer and Flinn, "each and every piece of wood [was] work marked and stored, all bricks cleaned and counted and piled on the lot in order." A July 8, 1931 memo from Charles O. Cornelius, the move's architect and supervisor, described specifications for the demolition of the Bank of Delaware detailing the care required in salvaging finishes, doors, windows, brick, the wrought iron fence surrounding the building – even the pegs joining the roof trusses were to be preserved.²⁰ The July 9, 1931 "Re-Erection Specifications" memo by Cornelius further confirms the "punctilious exactitude"²¹ employed with this move.

The cornerstone was laid on June 1, 1932 by Hon. Frank C. Sparks, Mayor of Wilmington, after the deed to the property had been presented by Mrs. Thompson to Dr. Flinn, then President of the Academy.²² The ceremony was presided over by Dr. William H. Kraemer. Speakers included Dr. Kraemer, Mrs. Thompson, Dr. Flinn, Dr. Peter W. Tomlinson and John S. Rossell – Chairman of Security Trust Company, the Bank that had acquired the Bank of Delaware two years earlier. Invocations and blessings were given by Charles W. Penniman, D. D. (Rector of Trinity Church) and by Very Rev. J. Francis Tucker D. D. (Pastor of St. Anthony's R. C.

²⁰ "Specifications for Demolition of Bank of Delaware," Charles O. Cornelius, July 8, 1931 – specs included:

"To erect necessary scaffolding and bridges and shall be responsible for careful removing of materials to be used in the reconstruction of this building.

"Existing roof, and gutters are to be destroyed. Leaders and leader heads only are to be preserved.

"Roof sheath down and moved to new site. When trusses are demolished care shall be taken to preserve the old pegs and in their ways preserve the old materials.

"All flooring and partitions, doors, hatchways, roof ladder, stairs to attic and attic floor shall be carefully saved. Dormer is not required.

"All interior trim, including beams, sash door and window trim shall be removed using great care not to crack or damage same.

"On the first floor all marble is to be saved as well as housing fixture lights.

"When brick is being taken down care shall be taken to keep face brick separate from back up brick around openings and corners.

"The stone cornice on the north and east side is to be piled in such a way that the moldings may be cut to conform with the new cornice on the front and should be, therefore, left in an accessible position on the new site.

"The iron fence is to be removed, cutting rivets and bolts only, and the coping stone also. This is to be taken to the new site and piled in a systematic way awaiting re-erection."

²¹ Harold Donaldson Eberlein et al., *Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware*, Dover, Public Archives Commission, 1962, 214.

²² Lewis B. Flinn M.D., "The Delaware Academy of Medicine, Past, Present and Future," *Delaware State Medical Journal*, May, 1953, 122.

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Church).²³ The library was organized in 1933 around a nucleus of approximately 2,000 volumes.²⁴ According to Mrs. Thompson in her 1932 letters to Drs. Kraemer and Flinn, a complete library of the latest books and medical magazines had been promised by the Jefferson Medical Library in Philadelphia.

Interested preservationists, most notably Mrs. Ernest du Pont and H. Rodney Sharp, had organized to raise \$33,000 for the project. Impressive as this fundraising effort was in the face of the Great Depression, it was nevertheless short of the relocation cost – \$12,000 was owed to the contractor and \$1,500 to Mr. Cornelius – and new furnishings and bookcases had yet to be purchased. The contractor was paid through a loan from the Security Trust Company that was underwritten by thirteen of the people who saved the building and founded the Academy.²⁵ Mr. Cornelius was paid with a private loan.²⁶

The use of the Academy facilities by medical, dental, and allied groups increased through the years, and in 1958 Albert Kruse, of the architectural firm Pope and Kruse, was hired to design an addition that doubled the size of the original building. Built on the east side of the building, the addition vastly increased the size of the auditorium, added offices and amenities to the park-view (basement), first and second floors, and replaced the original staircase with a fire stair and elevator. The formal dedication of the addition on October 14, 1958 was attended by the Presidents of the American Medical Association (Louis M. Orr, M.D.) and the American Dental Association (Paul H. Jeserich, D.D.S.), a measure of the regard held for the Academy by its peers.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, THE COLONIAL REVIVAL

The Delaware Academy of Medicine is also eligible under National Register Criterion C as an important example of the Colonial Revival approach to historic architecture practiced in Delaware in the 20th century. It is unclear from the level of study for this project precisely how much of the original fabric of the building on Market Street was reused in the Delaware Academy of Medicine, how much of that fabric was replicated from what existed at the original location, and how much was recreated from varying degrees of educated guesswork. The ambiguity and impression of the building as historically correct in all detail possible is a hallmark of the Colonial Revival in Delaware. From the creation of new buildings to resemble Virginia

²³ Rossell, 514-515.

²⁴ Charles A. Silliman, *A Time to Remember. 1920-1960*, Wilmington, DE, 1962, 99.

²⁵ These underwriters were Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Daniel F. Shields, Jr., Dr. Lewis B. Flinn, Mrs. Ernest duPont, Dr. Victor D. Washburn, Allen L. Lauritson Company, Mr. Thomas Donaldson, Dr. Charles P. White, Dr. Charles L. Reese, Dr. Frank L. Grier, Mr. John T. Chandler, Jr., & Dr. William H. Kraemer. Flinn, 122.

²⁶ Thompson, Letters.

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James River plantations²⁷ to the renewal of existing buildings from early in Delaware's past, the blurring of what actually was and what could have been delineates a boundary whose precise location is not always known with certainty, even to the trained eye.

The early history of Delaware as one of the 13 original colonies has been a source of pride which flourished during the Colonial Revival period. The state's moniker, "the First State," refers to it being the first state to ratify of the United States Constitution in 1787. This pride manifested itself in the early 20th century with efforts to preserve early period buildings from destruction. Early surviving examples of architecture were considered worthy of preservation and examples survived due to the diligence of early community leaders, either on their original sites, or moved when development threatened to destroy them. The Delaware Academy of Medicine building fits into a context of early preservation efforts.

Two of Delaware's early preservationists were involved in the Academy of Medicine project. Although the full extent of her involvement in preservation causes is yet to be fully researched, Mrs. Thompson was a strong proponent of the preservation of early Delaware architecture. In her memoir published in "Delaware History," Mrs. Thompson explained that because "Delaware is the first of the thirteen original states," it "should be a purely a colonial state as to architecture and memorials."²⁸ She was involved in many issues of the day, including education reform promoted by Pierre du Pont in the late 1910s and 1920s. As part of that effort, in 1919 she was involved in the reuse and expansion of the c.1830 Walnut Green School (NR 1994), a one room school on Owl's Nest Road near Greenville, Delaware. Other resources associated with the life of Mrs. Thompson have recently come to light so more information will be available about her in the near future.

H. Rodney Sharp, married to Pierre du Pont's sister, Isabelle Mattieu du Pont, purchased the historic core of the town of Odessa, Delaware to restore it to a colonial period village in the vein of John Rockefeller and Colonial Williamsburg beginning in the early 1930s.²⁹ His home, Gibraltar (NR 1999) was originally built c. 1850 in the Italianate style. When he and his new bride purchased the property in 1907, they immediately began changing the property to meet their needs, expanding the building and re-modeling the interior in the Colonial Revival style.

Also during second quarter of the 20th century, the collections of Henry Francis du Pont were beginning to be amassed at Winterthur, the renowned museum of decorative arts he founded in his family home in northern Delaware. His influence on friends and relations that traveled in his

²⁷ The prime example of this trend is Mount Cuba (NR Pending 2003), home of Lamot du Pont Copeland and Pamela Cunningham Copeland at Mt. Cuba in Northern Delaware.

²⁸ Higgins, Anthony, editor. "Mary Wilson Thompson Memoir, Part IV," Delaware History, Vol. 18, p. 264.

²⁹ The core of his efforts was the restoration of the Corbit-Sharp House which was subsequently designated a National Historic Landmark in 1967 as a superb example of Georgian style architecture.

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social milieu, like Mr. Sharp and Mrs. Thompson, cannot be understated. In her memoir, "Growing Up at Brookwood", Mrs. Thompson's daughter, Elinor Thompson Douglas, reminisced that her mother was advised on matters of decoration and renovation by Henry F. du Pont and his sister, Louise Crowninshield, of Hagley.³⁰

As more is learned about the history of preservation in Delaware, the better we will understand the approach to the work done at the Delaware Academy of Medicine and other projects completed during this era that the foresight of these individuals has preserved for our study and enjoyment.

³⁰ Douglas, Elinor Thompson, "Growing Up at Brookwood," Delaware History, Vol. 18, p.268.

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Comprehensive Planning Link:

Zone: Urban
Period: 1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
Themes: Occupational Organization
Architecture, Engineering, and Decorative Arts
Major Families, Individuals, and Events
Property Types: Medical Association and Medical Library
Colonial Revival
Mary Wilson Thompson, H. Rodney Sharp

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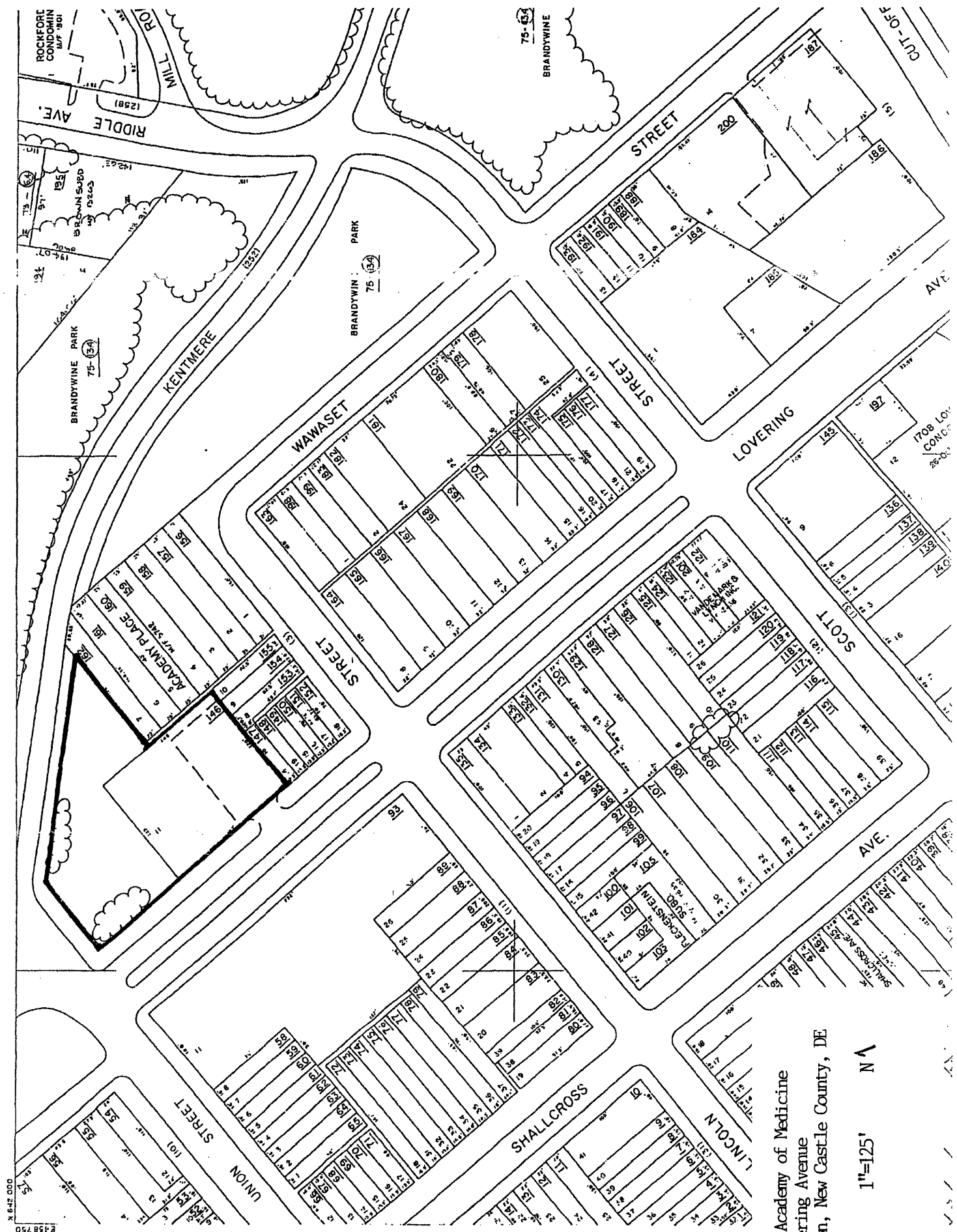
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel for the Delaware Academy of Medicine is bounded on the north by Kentmere Parkway, on west by Lovering Avenue, and on the east and south by adjacent property lines.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Delaware Academy of Medicine includes the building and its walkways and fence, its rear lot, and the triangular greenspace in front of the building that have historically been part of the Academy's setting since it was erected at this site. This is all the property historically associated with the Delaware Academy of Medicine.



Delaware Academy of Medicine
 1925 Lovering Avenue
 Wilmington, New Castle County, DE

Site Map 1"=125' N

E 458 750
 N 642 000