

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received NOV 20 1985
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

DEC 19 1985

1. Name

historic Braunstein's Building - Amendment to Historic Resources of Market Street.

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 704 - 706 North Market Street not for publication

city, town Wilmington vicinity of

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle County code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Harry Braunstein Inc.

street & number 704 N. Market Street

city, town Wilmington vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 800 N. French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey in CRS#s N.10055 and N.10056
Wilmington, Delaware has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Doyer Old State House, The Green state Delaware

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Braunstein's building, 704-706 North Market Street^{*}, consists of two commercial buildings both built circa 1900, which were merged into a single unit to be used as a clothing store in 1924 by the addition of a common storefront. The 1924 storefront is still the most distinctive element of both structures today. Made of pressed metal, accents of raised bands, panels with basket weave design, and stained glass combine to make this a handsome display window and entrance. The storefront has two symmetrical recessed entrances, the three large display windows, one at either end of the facade, and a large freestanding display window in the center. The center display window is capped with an ornate pressed metal and five finials. The side display windows each have three stained glass transom windows. A large pressed metal elliptical arch with a band and bull's-eye design passes over the center display window linking the end display windows. Above this middle arch is a polished metal sign band.

Above the storefront, the distinct and separate facades of the original buildings remain. 704, the southern half of the building, is a four-story, two bay, brick commercial building. It has symmetrical fenestration with one-over-one, double-hung windows with lug sills and decorative panel shutters. It has a flat roof and a pressed metal cornice with brick dentils.

706, the northern half of the building, is a four-story, three bay, brick building. The fenestration is one-over-one, double-hung windows. The second and third floor windows are on an ornate Beaux-Art central bay with a stylized chain link relief along the sides of the bay and a box cornice supported by small ornate brackets. On the fourth floor of the building are two windows joined by a continuous sill. The building has a flat roof and a heavy cornice supported by six large modillion blocks.

Though the upper facades on both units have been painted white in an effort to minimize the visual diversity existing above the first floor, the elements which define the different styles of the once separate buildings still communicate the independent histories. The added entryway unifies the two buildings at eye level and dates the beginning of a new phase in the combined history and function of both.

* Cultural Resource Survey numbers are N.10055 and N.10056 respectively.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics: government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1900/alt. 1924 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Braunstein's building, 704-706 North Market Street, is being presented as an amendment to the Historic Resources of Market Street. As were the buildings in the original nomination, 704-706 North Market Street is being nominated under Criterion C, as an example of commercial interpretations of various architectural styles and its architectural reflection of a dynamic period in Wilmington's commercial history. The pressed metal storefront added as a unit in 1924, serves to record the adaptation process of a commercial building by combining two separate structures into a common form and function. This adaptation process was a vital trend during Wilmington's Urban Growth Phase (1880-1930). It is the architectural evidence of that important part of Wilmington's commercial history that is the basis of the original nomination, and so, this amendment to it.

704 North Market Street is a four-story, two bay, brick building with a molded cornice and brick dentils. According to the 1914 City Directory, it was used by Frank O'Donnell's Mens Clothing Store. 706, the more elaborate of the two units, is a four-story, three bay, brick building with an ornate Beaux-Art central bay on the second and third floors and a heavy cornice supported by six large modillion blocks. The 1914 City Directory shows that the building was used by Thomas O'Connell, a taylor; the Hitchens Collection Agency; and the National Protective Agency. Braunstein's clothing store occupied both buildings in 1924. It was in that year that the storefront unit was added.

Similar adaptations had taken place elsewhere on Market Street. Nine years earlier, in 1913, the Clayton House Hotel was converted into the Queen Theatre; the Mullins building, in 1917, added a large rear wing almost doubling its size; in 1920 the Crosby and Hill building at 604 North Market Street had its Second Empire facade replaced with an austere interpretation of the commercial style. These three examples and the Braunstein's building are only four contributions to the Historic Resources of Market Street, which is, in effect, a canvas upon which the dynamic process of change has been captured.

The Braunstein's building, with its added storefront effectively unifying two structures, architecturally reflects a dynamic period when the structures of business grew and underwent metamorphosis in an effort to stay afloat in the commercial current that served a public fickle in its allegiance to a particular style or image.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Braunstein's to Close", Evening Journal, December 6, 1983.
 City of Wilmington, Department of Licenses and Inspection, Building Permits.
 "Mall Gets More Elegance", Evening Journal, May 28, 1978
 Wilmington, Delaware City Directory (as cited).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .10 acres

Quadrangle name Wilmington South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The area nominated includes parcels 26 035.40 040 and 26 035.40 041, these being the properties upon which stand 704 and 706 North Market Street respectively. (see continuation sheet)

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 Alan Hawk and Susan Eggert
Historic Preservation Interns

organization Office of Planning
City of Wilmington

date January 3, 1985

street & number 800 French Street

telephone (302) 571-4126

city or town Wilmington

state Delaware

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

title John T. Kern *Director of Historical Cultural Affairs*

date 11/5/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Marion Byan
 Keeper of the National Register

date 12-19-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration