

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED 26

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Harlan and Hollingsworth Office Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

~~Foot of West Street~~

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Wilmington

VICINITY OF

One

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Delaware

10

New Castle

002-3

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

X INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

X OTHER: Office Bldg

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Arthur J. Seiler

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1190

CITY, TOWN

Norristown

VICINITY OF

STATE

PA 19401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds Office. City/County Building

STREET & NUMBER

800 French Street

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

DEL 19801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey

N-3637

DATE

November, 1978

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

DEL 19901

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set in an industrial area along the Christiana River, at West Street, the Harlan and Hollingsworth Office Building is a three-story, detached, rectangular building with two small rear wings. The building is faced with brick, laid in flemish bond. The modillion cornice is made of molded copper-over wooden supports. The facade is stepped up to the center point where "Harlan and Hollingsworth" is inscribed in a granite block in the central parapet. Centered on the facade is the main entry with classical pediment and stone pillars. Two large, decorated copper-faced bay windows project from each face of the right corner of the second story. The other windows in the building are very large multi-paned casement windows with moveable panels. This great an expanse of glass on the facade is unusual for an industrial building in Wilmington.

Double doors with decorative iron grill work lead into the first-floor foyer; marble covers the bottom of the walls and the floor. The central reception hallway has marble chip flooring with black and white ceramic tile edges. The central grand staircase is iron with decorative balusters and a wooden handrail. The newel posts support large brass globes.

The first floor, presently laboratories for Gates Engineering Company, has been somewhat altered, mostly by painting over the fine dark wooden trim, and filling in most of the glass window panels of the office partitions. The first floor is divided into two sections by the front hall and stairway. The rear wing of the first floor contains three walls of ceiling-high wooden cabinets containing cubbyholes for drafting supplies. Several of the cabinets have four-panel doors, some of which have been removed from the hinges, but are still stored in the room. A wooden molded cornice runs along the ceiling at the top of the cabinets.

The second floor, presently used as offices for N.L. Industries, retains more of its original character than the first floor. The dark wood trim and doors, and some of the glass partition panels, still remain. A stained wooden chair rail and baseboard run through the hallway, and most of the offices. Window sills in the offices are shelf-width, at the same height as the chair rail. The northwest corner office, formerly the president's office, retains its parquet floor, wooden recessed-pannelled wainscoting, two large windows, wooden ceiling cornice, and built-in wall cabinet units. The original Harlan and Hollingsworth Corporation safe still remains in the wall of the rear wing.

The third floor is presently vacant, except for stored furniture, and in several places the roof leaks. It is a large, open-plan room with a small, glass-enclosed, wood-pannelled office in the front corner, and a lavatory in the rear corner. There are two triangular, north-facing skylights with covered glass running the length of the room. The flooring is wood, and the walls are plaster and lath. The original Harlan and Hollingsworth Corporation safe remains here, as on the second floor.

The building was once part of a large industrial complex, some structures of which still remain today, in a very altered state. With the change in industrial use, the original complex has been split up among many owners and most of the Harlan and Hollingsworth buildings are either gone or unrecognizable for what they were. The office building is the one remaining structure still retaining much of its original character and, as such, must be the sole representative of the once-great company.

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 type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest industrial company in Wilmington in the late-19th-century, Harlan and Hollingsworth was the oldest and one of the most significant shipbuilding firms in the United States. It was also very important as a national leader in the production of high-quality railway passenger cars during this period. Although the existing buildings give little evidence of the company's history, the early-20th-century office building survives as a fine example of Georgian-Revival architecture to represent the once-famous company.

In 1836, machinists Mahlon Betts, Samuel Pusey, Samuel Harlan and Elijah Hollingsworth started the first company in Wilmington to produce passenger railway cars. It was also the first company in Wilmington to build iron ships, beginning this endeavor in 1843. Becoming Harlan and Hollingsworth in 1849, the company was nationally-known by 1876 expanding over more than 40 acres along the Christina River. It included about 60 buildings which produced high-quality railway cars, iron-hauled steamers, steam engines, and boilers.

During its history, Harlan and Hollingsworth was the first company to produce many different types of ships. Among them, perhaps the most famous are the Bangor, America's first ocean-going, steam-propelled iron vessel launched in 1844, and Mischief, the first iron-hull sailboat to win the America's Cup in 1881.

In the last years of the 19th century, the company was vexted by workers' strikes, accelerated steel prices, Navy contract difficulties, and restraints placed on the company to build ships only in proportion to the Christina River. By August 1902, Harlan and Hollingsworth was sold to the United States Shipbuilding Company, and then to Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company on December 10, 1904. Charles M. Schwab, the famous steel magnate, organized the U.S. Shipbuilding Company and then he headed the Bethlehem Steel Company. He established the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company as an affiliated, yet independent, part of the parent company. The new company continued the Harlan and Hollingsworth tradition of manufacturing railway cars and ships. Following World War I, the shipyards were closed due to the lack of necessity for war vessels, and the production of railway cars ceased in 1939 when alternative methods of transportation became increasingly popular. Defense contracts during World War II prevented the company from collapsing but, by 1950, financial difficulties caused Harlan and Hollingsworth to end its operations after producing steel barrels from about 1945 to 1949.

Although most of the major buildings of Harlan and Hollingsworth are still standing, they have been severely altered. The most outstanding structure is the office building which once housed the office of Charles Schwab.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Historic American Engineering Record of the National Park Service. Delaware Survey 1975.
 "Harlan and Hollingsworth Company."
 Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Inc. Wilmington 1876 (Wilmington, Del., 1976).
 McKelvey, Frank J. and Seely, Bruce E. "Industrial Archaeology of Wilmington, Delaware and Vicinity" April, 1977. Society for Industrial Archaeology.
 HAER and Eleutherian Mill-Hagley Foundation. "Delaware - An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites."

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Wilmington South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 4523210 439185700
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary is defined by the foundation lines of the office building.

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

Jean Athan, Historic Preservation Intern/Sara Ramsey, Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

City of Wilmington, Dept. of Planning & Development

DATE

November, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

800 French Street

TELEPHONE

1-302-571-4147

CITY OR TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware 19801

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

David R. Griffith

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4.26.79

ATTEST: William H. Braubach

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

4.20.79

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 26 1979

Harlan and Hollingsworth

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

During the depression, the office building became a dormitory for transient persons. Called the U.S. Transient Bureau, it served as a shelter for people wandering from city to city seeking work.

Today, the structure once again serves as an office building. Although the interior of the building has been altered, the exterior remains intact. It is like no other office building in Wilmington. The large expanses of multi-paned glass windows, the Tuscan portico, the 2nd-story bay windows on the northwest corner, and the copper modillion cornice are quite unusual to the architecture of Wilmington's office buildings.

The demise of Harlan and Hollingsworth ended an important era in Wilmington's industrial development; however, the office building remains the best representative of this period in Wilmington's history.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Harlan and Hollingsworth

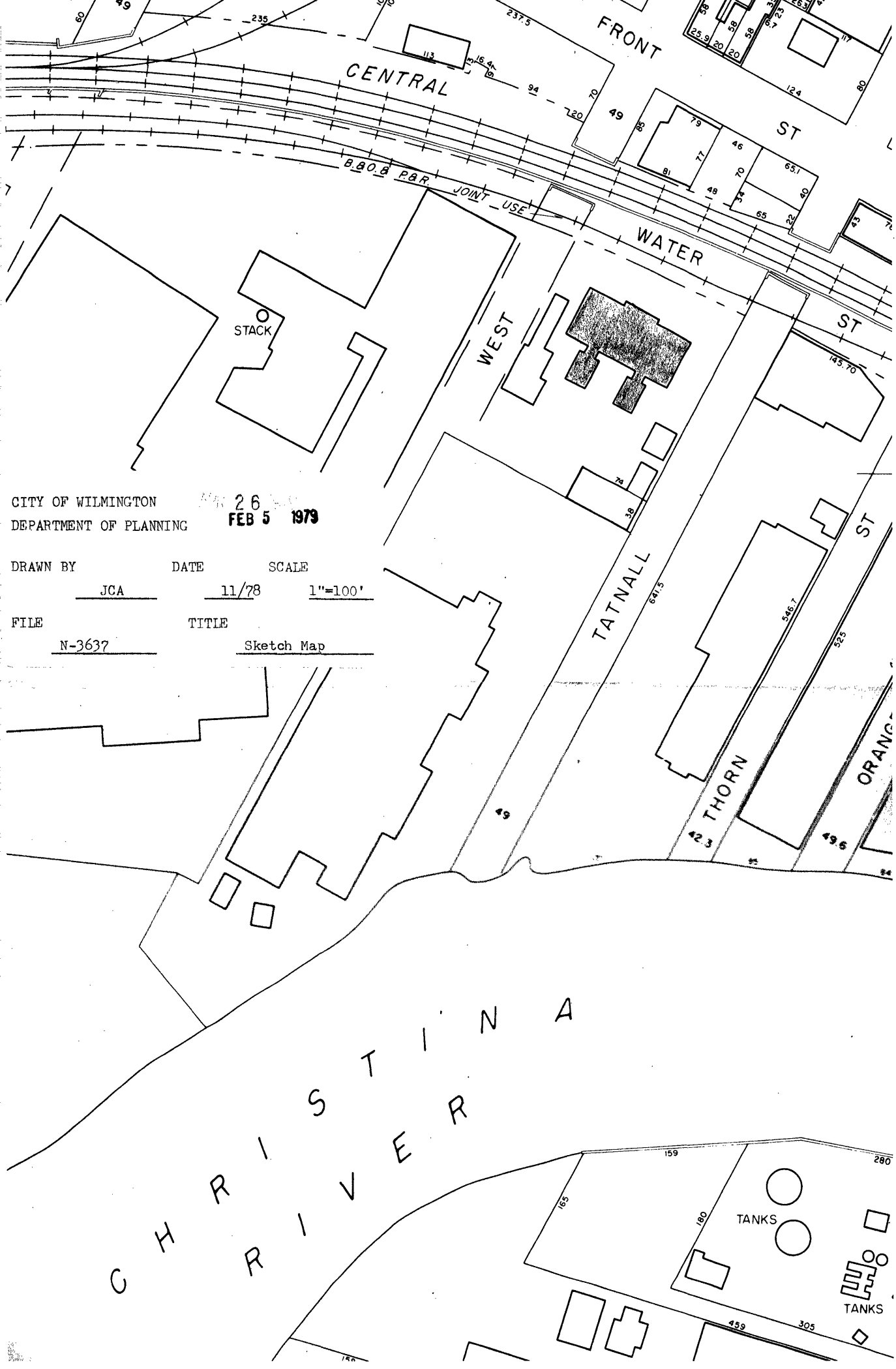
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 26 79

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

-
- Chapelle, Howard Irving, The History of American Sailing Ships (New York, 1935).
Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. Historical Transactions 1893-1943.
(New York, 1945).
- Holbrook, Stewart. Iron Brew, A Century of American Ore and Steel (New York, 1939).
The Evening Journal, June 10, 1968, p. 21.
- "The New Shipyard Chapter-Significance of the Harlan and Hollingsworth Corporation,"
Wilmington Board of Trade Journal, Vol. 10, No. 10 (January, 1905).



CITY OF WILMINGTON
 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

NOV 26 1978
 FEB 5 1979

DRAWN BY JCA DATE 11/78 SCALE 1"=100'
 FILE N-3637 TITLE Sketch Map