

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

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

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Continuation sheet Inventory N.2163

Item number

Page 1

PROPERTY NAME: Crosby and Hill Building
605 North Market Street

The Crosby and Hill Building, originally the McClary Building, was built circa 1859. The present facade was added in 1920, and the corrugated storefront was added in 1959.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Quadrangle Name: Wilmington South
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Coordinates: 18-452840-4399080

Description and Justification: The area nominated includes parcel 26 035.30 395, which is .12 acres, and is described as follows: Beginning at a point 45.3 feet north of the northwest corner of North Market Street and West Sixth Street; thence westerly along property line 117.6 feet; thence northerly along North Shipley Street 45.6 feet; thence easterly along property line 117.6 feet; thence southerly along North Market Street 45.6 feet to beginning point.

OWNER: Thomas G. Hatzis
1723 Gunning Drive
Forrest Hills
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

DESCRIPTION:

Location: 605 North Market Street
CRS Number: N.2163
Built: Circa 1859

The Crosby and Hill Building is a four-story, three-bay commercial building, with a rectangular plan built of bearing wall brick construction. On the Market Street facade, is corrugated metal siding over the first floor post, foundation walls and sign area. Large plate glass display windows are on either side of entrance. Storefront treatment is considered reversible. Above the storefront are tan brick walls with brown brick panels and tan brick vertical piers, which have corbelled brick finial bases with pyramidal concrete caps. Fenestration on the second and third floors consists of three sets of triple windows with transoms. The fourth floor

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Continuation sheet Inventory N. 2163

Item number

Page 2

fenestration consists of three sets of multi-pane, factory-style windows with metal frame. It has a flat roof with parapet wall. The Shipley Street facade is three-stories tall built of red brick and has double-hung two-over-two windows, with segmental arch lintels on the third floor. It has a flat roof with molded wood cornice and brick corbelling.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Crosby and Hill Building, 605 North Market Street, is being nominated under Criterion C as an example of a late 19th century commercial building which had been "modernized" in the first quarter of the 20th century. It is an austere interpretation of the Commercial style, which was popular in Wilmington just after the First World War.

605-609 Market Street, originally known as the McClary Building, was a four-story structure built circa 1859. 605, which extended a full width of the lot, was used by Samuel and Thomas McClary as a cabinet-making shop and 609 was leased to A.H. Grinshaw, a pharmacist. In the 1865 City Directory, 607 was used by two pharmacists, Dr. C. Tuller and Otto Zahrzewski, both of whom lived in apartments above the store. A freight elevator was installed in 605 in the late 1860s. Between 1877 and 1880, the upper floors of the McClary Building were used by the Household of Faith Church, which had split from Asbury Methodist Church over a doctrinal dispute.

In 1887, the McClary Building was sold to William Crosby of Crosby and Hill Company, a wholesale and retail dealer of foreign and domestic dry goods. By 1889, they employed a staff of thirty, and it was the largest retailing establishment in the City. The upper floors were used by the Wilmington Board of Trade Builders Exchange until 1898. Between 1899 to 1901, the Diamond Silk Shirt and Waist Company used the upper floors for manufacturing shirts.

By 1901, the present three-story rear wing had been built and in 1920, the old Second Empire style facade was replaced with the present three-bay Commercial style facade built of yellow brick. The Crosby and Hill Company used the building until 1959, when it was sold to John's Bargain Basement Department Store Company, who had remodeled the storefront with corrugated aluminum siding. The department store folded in 1968, and the building has been unable to attract a permanent tenant since then.