

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

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

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Item number

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PROPERTY NAME: The Charles Gray Printing Shop
11 East Eighth Street

The Charles Gray Printing Shop is a commercial/professional office building built in 1874.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Quadrangle Name: Wilmington South
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Coordinate: 18-452990-4399180

Description and Justification: The area nominated includes parcel 26 034.40 028, which is .03 acres and is described as follows: Beginning at a point 34.3 feet from the northwest corner of North King Street and East Eighth Street; thence westerly along East Eighth Street 23.5 feet; thence northerly along property line 62 feet; thence easterly along property line 23.8 feet; thence southerly along property line 20 feet; thence westerly along property line 1.2 feet; thence southerly along property line 42 feet to beginning point.

Owner: (11) Stanley Golden and Wife
11 East Eighth Street

Description:

Location: 11 East Eighth Street
CRS Number: N. 2031
Built: 1874

The Charles Gray Printing Shop is a three-story commercial/office building with a rectangular plan built of wall bearing brick construction. The first floor has twin wood-frame glass doors with plain surround on right side of facade and a transom light with stilted segmented arch lintels. Half-octagonal display window with luxfer glass transom windows with cast iron posts and a molded cornice is on the left side of the facade. Second and third stories are built of red stretcher bond brick. One-over-one double-hung windows have limestone lugsills and stilted segmented arch lintels. The two second-story windows over octagonal bay are fulllength window openings with bottom portion of window opening being paneled. The cornice is supported by modillion blocks and a wood interlocking hoop pattern between modillion blocks. The building has a flat roof.

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Statement of Significance:

The Charles Gray Printing Shop, 11 East Eighth Street, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of the Italianate style and also as an example of the small shops and professional office buildings which were built on the side streets off of Market Street in the late 19th century.

The lot on which this building was erected, along with 9 East Eighth Street, was purchased by George Gordon in 1871. As 11 East Eighth Street was being built in 1874, it was sold to another law firm, Bates and Harrington, to be used for offices. It was described in the deed as "... the building now being erected on this lot..." (New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Volume 10, Book O, Page 20). The new building, which was designed to be compatible with Nine East Eighth Street, is a three-story, three-bay building. The cornice, supported by modillion blocks and the stilted arch lintels are similar to its mate, 9 East Eighth Street.

11 East Eighth Street was used as a law office until 1893, when the building was purchased by Evelyn Wilson, who rented out the store to Charles Gray, a printer. In 1899, the third floor was rented by noted artist and illustrator, Frank E. Schoonover, who had just received his first commission to do book illustrations. He remained here until 1905, when he moved into his newly-built studio at 1616 North Rodney Street. In 1902, the store was purchased by Gray and has been used by his printing shop ever since then. The display window with luxfer glass transom was added around the turn of the century.