

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and sub categories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Marcouse Building
other names/site number ONJH Inv. # 080344

2. Location

street & number 231 Market Street not for publication
city/town Camden vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ 034 county Camden code 007 ZIP CODE 08101

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Bank, Insurance, and Legal buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938
Number of contributing resources previously in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Allen O'Scush
Signature of certifying official

1/11/90
Date

Acting Commissioner, DEP/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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

Patrick Anders

8/24/90
Date

other. (explain:)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Artist's Studio

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance

SUMMARY

The Marcouse Building at the northwest corner of Third and Market Streets in Camden is a moderate sized, three story brick commercial building dating from 1924. The narrow end of this rectangular, flat-roofed building faces Market Street, and the main office entrance is in the principal facade on Third Street. Although the architect is unknown, the builder was William Wrifford. Very simple Neo-Classical Revival elements are the only trim on this multi-office building which housed insurance agencies and other tenants. The building fits within property type #4, Multi-Office Buildings that are strongly associated with the insurance business and/or legal profession. There is now only one tenant in the building; it is in excellent physical condition and retains the majority of its original fabric.



The three-story Marcouse Building stands at the northwest corner of the intersection of Market and Third streets in the commercial center of Camden. The east and south walls of the building rise directly from the sidewalk and there is no landscaping on these busy streets. The Third Street side of the building faces the former New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company building, one of the city's major architectural landmarks. Otherwise, there are some vacant lots and a mix of commercial buildings near the Marcouse Building which is only a short distance from City, Hall, R.C.A., and the city's major banks.

The three bay wide end of the building faces Market Street. The main facade is seven bays wide and faces Third Street. A low brick parapet rises above the building's flat roof. A pressed metal cornice projects below the parapet. Dentils line a brick course above the first floor. Light tan bricks laid in plain bond cover the exterior of the Marcouse Building. A border of stretchers surrounds the upper floor windows in each bay; the

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance

1924-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect unknown
Wifford, William, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

The Marcouse Building at 231 Market Street (or 101 North Third Street) is significant for its association with the expansion of financial, insurance, and legal activities in Camden during the 1920s. It is one of only a few multi-office buildings in central Camden which were primarily associated with the insurance business and the legal profession. It was built in 1924 and The Tucker Corporation, a Camden-based real estate firm owned and managed the building. Its major tenants were insurance agencies. The building's architect is unknown at present, but it is one of Camden's few well-maintained moderate sized Neo-Classical Revival commercial buildings. The building has only one tenant at present, but it retains most of its exterior original fabric and a large number of original interior elements. The building fits within property type #4, Multi-Office Buildings that are strongly associated with the insurance business and legal profession.

In the mid-1920s, when industry and commerce were expanding in Camden, at the same time as in other sections of the country, some investors began to see the need for modern multi-office buildings. As the county seat and the financial center of south Jersey, Camden attracted attorneys, insurance companies, and the businesses that provided services for them. The Marcouse Building, built in 1924, is a modest-sized multi-office building in which insurance agents rented major space.

The Tucker Corporation, a real estate firm with its headquarters on

9. Major Biographical References

see main bibliography

Previous documentation on file NPS: N/A

- 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# _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Specific repository _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

USGS quad Camden

UTM References

A 18 9380 4421610
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Marcouse Building stands at the northwest corner of the intersection of Third and Market Streets in The City of Camden, Camden County and occupies the property described legally as Block 74, Lot 18.

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Marcouse building occupies nearly all of lot 18 in block 74, the property that has historically been associated with the building.

see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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Marcouse Building, 231 Market St.

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slightly recessed panel between the second and third floor windows is in a contrasting bonding pattern which forms a diamond in the center of each panel.

There is a single one-over-one double-hung window, now covered with an aluminium storm window, in each of the three bays on Market Street. At the street level on this side, there is a door in the central bay on either side of which there is a four light show window. On the Third Street side the entrance door in the central bay has glass in the upper half. A segmentally arched transom above the door is topped by a cast concrete lintel that is in the same shape as the transom.

There is a large show window in each of the three bays on either side of the Third Street entrance. Although temporary modern boarding and paint now covers these windows, most have one large light topped by a row of three small lights. The three bays on the north side also contain a now-boarded entrance door. The central bay contains a narrow one-over-one double-hung window on the second floor and on the third floor; the other bays all contain a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows.

The interior of the building is completely open on the first floor. However, the original floors, window trim, and commercial windows are still intact. Behind the boards which guard the glass of these windows the word "Insurance" is painted. The main staircase is iron with marble treads, running in a dog-leg perpendicular to the Third Street side of the building. There are iron newel posts and thin iron balusters to match.

A side hall has entrances to offices on the Third Street side of the building, and in the front. There is an artist using several of these offices for studio space at the present time. Office doors on the second floor have opaque glass in the upper half, panels on the bottom half, and brass deadbolt locks. Transoms over each door still have their working hardware and there is a brass letter slot in most of the doors. The plaster walls are in good condition. The wooden floors constructed of narrow tongue and groove lumber are under commercial carpet. The baseboards are about six inches high with plain moulded cap. The staircase, which continues up to the third floor, has a wooden handrail on the second and third floors.

The Marcouse building is of a type and style that served a utilitarian purpose in many American cities during the 1920s. This appears to be the only one of its type in Camden which is still in good physical condition and also retains most of its original fabric. The

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building meets all the registration requirements for Property Type #4 in the multiple property nomination.

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Market Street in Camden and branches in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Miami, and Ocean City, owned the Marcouse Building. Two insurance agencies, Furey Ellis Insurance and Frederick Holman Insurance had offices in the Marcouse building when it opened. These agencies represented a number of insurance companies, selling, life, health and other types of insurance. Automobile insurance was among their offerings and The Motor Vehicle Department of New Jersey also had an office in the building.

The main entrance to the Marcouse Building on Third Street faces the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building, which was a major Camden bank for many years. The Marcouse building was also conveniently close to city and county offices, legal offices, and other insurance agencies.

Unfortunately the name of the architect who designed the building is unknown at present. Subdued use of Neo-Classical Revival elements in this commercial building give it what its owners must have considered to be a dignified appearance. However, it was also unmistakably modern in the 1920s, adaptable to offices of different types, and totally lacking in the massive proportions of the nearby banks of the period. It was a practical office building in the 1920s and remains so today. It is one of the few buildings of its type in Camden that has not undergone radical alterations in the name of modernization.

The Marcouse Building is a well-preserved example of early twentieth century commercial architecture in downtown Camden. A 1987 survey of banks, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden identified the building. The survey followed federal guidelines and the results are on file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage. The Preservation Planner for the City of Camden and the Office of New Jersey Heritage have evaluated the building and determined that the Marcouse Building is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination of the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.

