



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Howard Pyle Studios, in New Castle County, Delaware, reference number 78000911, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 3/8/1978, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol.44, No. 26 (Book 2), page 7444. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/2/2008  
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Howard Pyle Studios

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1305 and 1307 North Franklin Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

VICINITY OF  
CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Art
			<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Studio Group, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

1305 North Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET & NUMBER

10th and King Streets

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Supplementary list of Heritage Buildings

DATE

1962

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Greater Wilmington Development Council

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

(Please see Continuation Sheet)

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO CAMP.

16-7500a  
Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1 of 1

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, N-2671

1976

State Survey

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
Hall of Records  
Dover, Delaware 19901

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

# 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 Howard Pyle Studios consist of two buildings. They are located on North Franklin Street in the densely populated area between Delaware Avenue and Brandywine Park.

Howard Pyle reflected his intense interest in English history, when, in 1883, he built his studio in the tudor cottage style. The building was constructed mainly of brick, and was set back eighty feet from the street. The roof of the building is steeply pitched extending to the first floor level. One of the gable ends forms the main facade of the studio. Heavy brackets support the half-timbered gable which projects somewhat over the first floor level. Beneath it is a large triple casement window and an entry porch. An engaged chimney stack protrudes from the roofline. The roof was originally slate with skylights. In 1969, asphalt shingles of similar color replaced the slate and the original north skylights were reset in copper.

Inside are an entrance hall, Pyle's own large studio and a smaller one, each with a fireplace. They appear today much as they did originally.

A second rectangular brick studio-school building built in 1900 along the south side of the property and fronting on the street is included. The gable end facade was quite similar to the earlier studio. Large windows and skylights are found on the north side of the building.

Presently, the original studio is used by the Studio Group for member classes and individual member use. The school building is rented to two artists, each of whom use it for a residence as well as a studio.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OAHIP.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1883, 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Howard Pyle

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Around the turn of the century, Wilmington, Delaware was a center of American illustration with forty professional artists living here. The attraction was Howard Pyle (1853-1911), recognized in 1890 not only as the foremost illustrator in the United States, but also as a man unusually generous in his desire to help other illustrators, both emerging and established.

Between 1876 and 1911, Pyle wrote 34 books, some of which he illustrated, made illustrations for 160 volumes written by others, created 2200 drawings and paintings reproduced in periodicals, and painted murals for several public buildings.

Dissatisfied with formal art schools, in 1895 Pyle taught his first class at the new Drexel Institute. In 1900, he built three studios next to his own for the most gifted young people in the nation. Twelve were chosen from 500 applicants in the first year; 75 attended during the ten years of operation. In 1907, he changed his Monday night classes to Saturday afternoon to allow professionals from Philadelphia and New York to attend the classes. Pyle charged no fees for his Wilmington instruction.

From Pyle's school, N.C. Wyeth, Frank Schoonover, Harvey Dunn, Stanley Arthurs, and George Harding are still recognized in the field of illustration in art schools.

After Pyle's death, the two buildings continued as studios under Stanley Arthur's ownership (1912-1950), and then under Ellen duPont Wheelwright's (1950-1964). Since 1964, the Studio Group has operated the studios and has invested over \$25,000 in their preservation.

The architecture of the Howard Pyle Studios is important for its design quality, belonging to the first phase of the Queen Anne style in America. This was a style that Henry Russell Hitchcock referred to as "Shavian Manorial", because of its direct association with its originator, the mid-19th century English architect, Richard Norman Shaw.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Corse, S. and Gertrude Brinkle  
 1921 Howard Pyle, A Record of his Illustrations and Writings.  
 Abbott, Charles D.  
 1925 Howard Pyle, A Chronicle.  
 Pitz, Henry C.  
 1969 The Brandywine Tradition. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

**10** GEOGRAPHICAL DATA <sup>1/4</sup>

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	4 5 2 3 2 0	4 4 0 0 5 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The city plot fronts 50 feet on the west side of North Franklin Street. The south boundary at right angles extends 140 feet with a 3 story apartment building as neighbor. The rear boundary of 90 feet adjoins garden area; the north boundary in a straight line backs on the rear gardens of a diagonal street.

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

Vera M. Austin, Secretary

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OAHM

ORGANIZATION

Studio Group, Inc.

DATE

October 25, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

2327 West 18th Street

TELEPHONE

302-652-0166

CITY OR TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware 19806

**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.

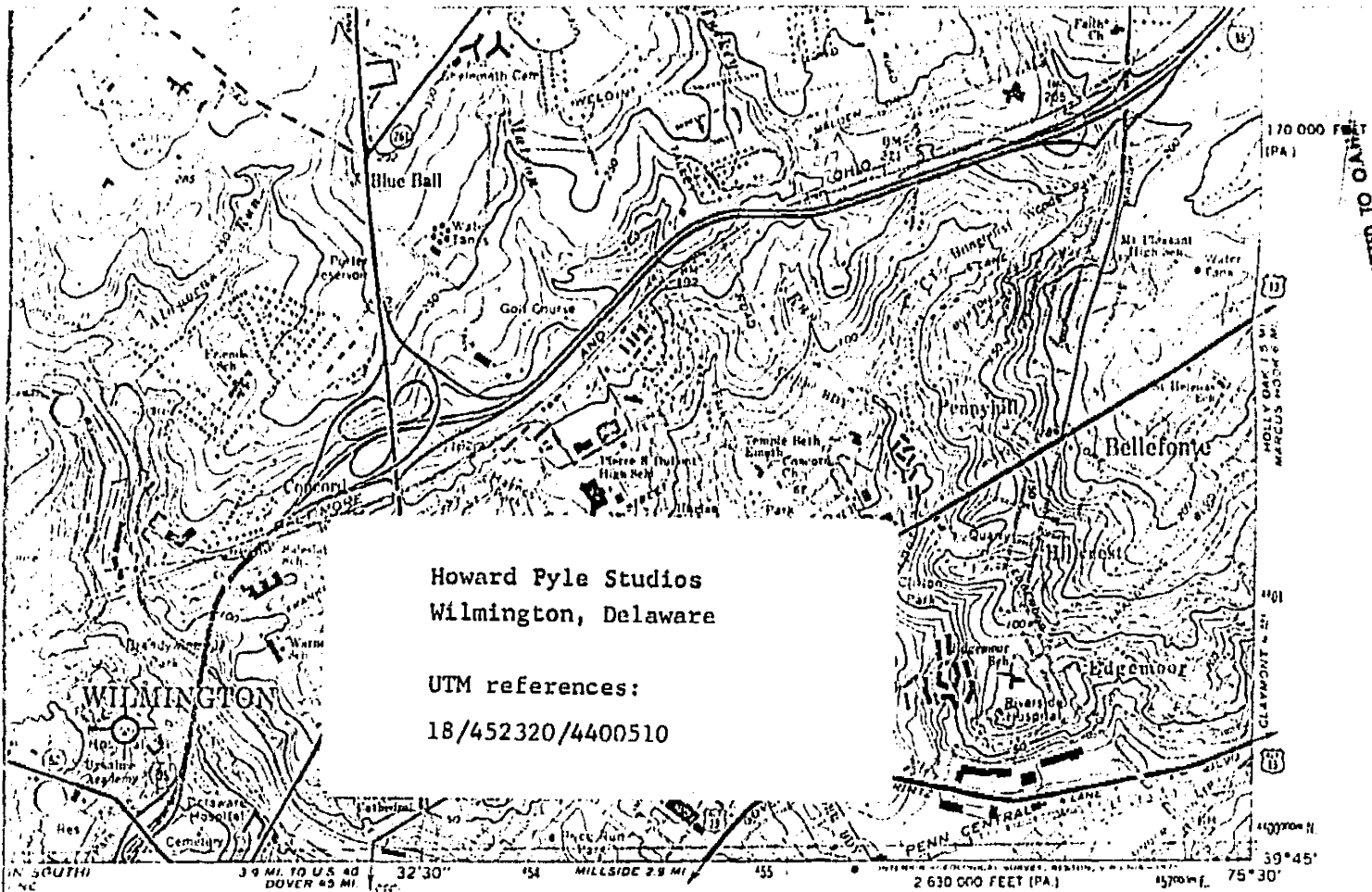
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Lauren C. Perry*

TITLE Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

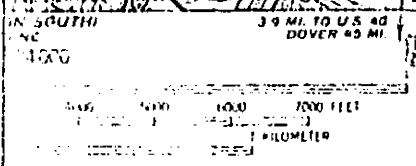
DATE 10/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	



Howard Pyle Studios  
Wilmington, Delaware

UTM references:  
18/452320/4400510



EQUIVAL 10 FEET  
TICAL DATUM OF 1929

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
NAD 83, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Remains shown in purple compiled in cooperation with  
State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs  
taken 1973. This information not been checked

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Heavy duty Light duty
  - Medium duty Unimproved dirt
  - Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

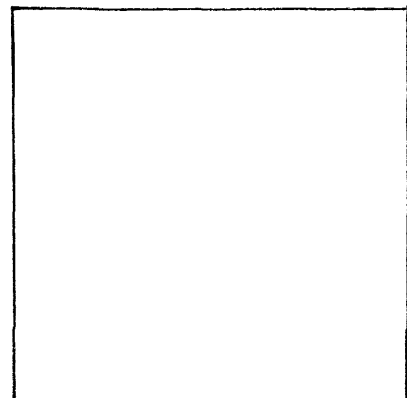
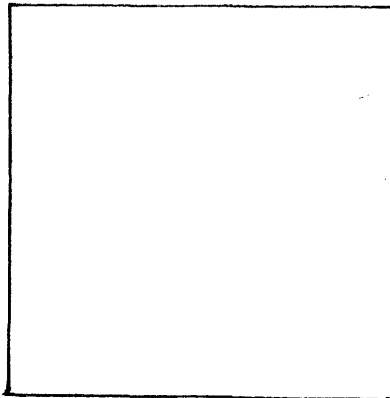
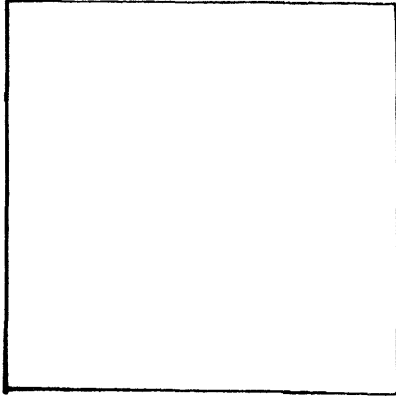
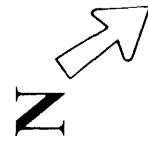
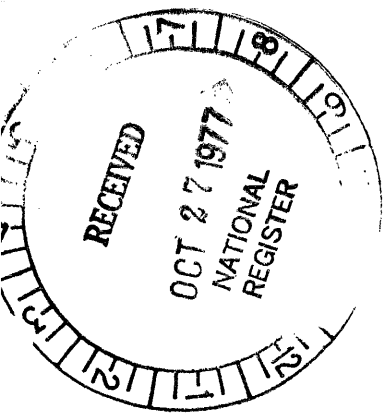
WILMINGTON NORTH, DEL. - PA.

N3945--W7530/7.5

1967  
PHOTO REVISIO 1973

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.T.

PENNINS GROVE  
5842 11 11 W



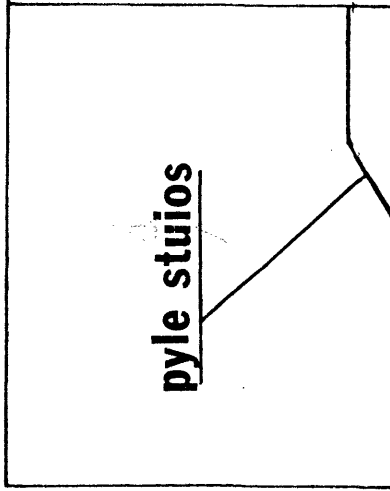
**FRANKLIN ST.**

DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DRAWN BY **JCA** DATE **9/77** SCALE **NONE**

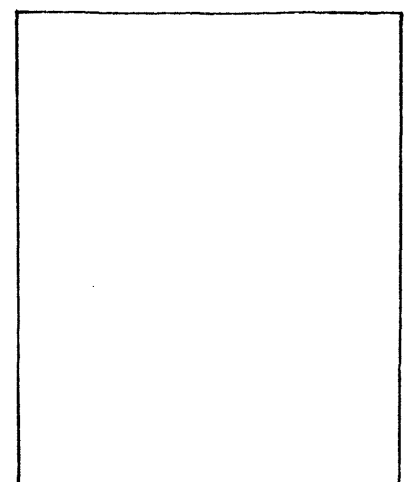
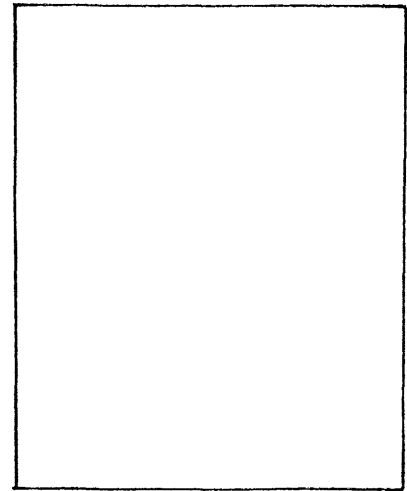
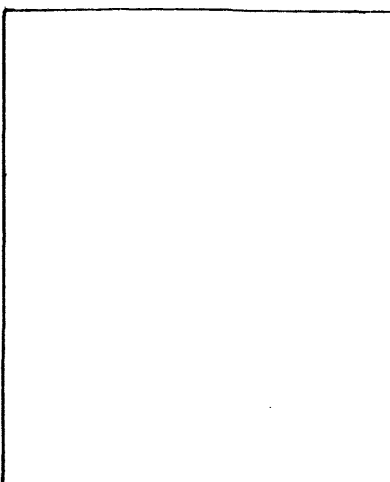
FILE **N-2671** TITLE **sketch map PYLE STUDIOS**

**GILPIN AVE.**



**SHALLCROSS AVE.**

**HARRISON ST.**





ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered MAR 8 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pyle, Howard, Studios :	Wilmington New Castle County
Melson House	Atlanta vicinity Sussex County

DIV. OF HISTORICAL  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
MAR 15 9 35 AM '78  
DIS - 157  
AR - 1185

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.  
Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
Hon. Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**