

**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. 2159

Item number

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Property Name: Charles Schagrin Building  
608 North Market Street

The Charles Schagrin Building was built during the first quarter of the 19th century. A new facade was added in 1918, and it was modified again in 1948. The building retains detailing of both renovations.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Quadrangle Name: Wilmington South  
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000  
UTM Coordinate: 18-452880-4399060

Description and Justification: The area nominated includes parcel 26 035, 40 058, which is .05 acres, and is described as follows: Beginning at a point on Market Street 83' from the southeast corner of East Sixth Street and North Market Street; thence easterly along property line 110.5'; thence northerly along property line 21'; thence westerly along property line 110.5'; thence southerly along Market Street 21' to beginning point.

Owner: 608 Market Street Associates  
608 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Description:

Location: 608 North Market Street  
CRS Number: N.2159  
Built: First quarter of 19th century

A three-story, single-bay commercial building, the Charles Schagrin Building is a rectangular plan constructed of Flemish bond brick with mock glazed headers. The storefront is a recessed display window with an aluminum frame. Vertical black granite strips decorate both sides of the building up to the base of the second-story window. A stuccoed sign framed by horizontal copper bands runs between the first and second story. A large single-light central window is found on the second and third floors with a stepped concrete window frame. Vertical bands of downward pointing chevrons flank the central window. A pressed metal cornice supported by two large modillions and concrete wall caps in the shape of battlements hide the buildings flat roof.

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Statement of Significance:

The Charles Schagrin Building, 608 North Market Street, is eligible to be included in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a rather late interpretation of the Art Deco Style. Research indicates it was probably built in the first quarter of the 19th century and a new facade was added in 1918. In 1948, it was renovated into its present form.

The building was originally a three-story Federal Style town house. It has been converted into a commercial building circa 1869. The Delaware Fire Insurance Company, founded in 1825 as the first property insurance company in Wilmington, used the building from 1869 to 1884, the year the company disbanded. According to the 1890 City Directory, the building was used by Gilpin and Company, insurance brokers, and the upper levels were used as an office and an apartment. In 1908, Charles Schagrin purchased the building. According to the 1909 City Directory, the store was used by the owner's millinery store from 1909 to 1921.

According to the Department of Licenses and Inspection records, a new facade was added in 1918. The building was made taller and the flat roof replaced the original gable roof. Since there is no known photograph of the building between 1918 and 1948, it is not exactly clear what the facade looked like. However, the pressed copper cornice supported by two modillion blocks appears to date from 1918. The store was used by various women's clothing stores until 1947.

In 1948, the building was renovated to its present Art Deco Style, long after the style ceased to be popular. A large recessed window with a stepped concrete surround was added to the facade and a vertical band of concrete chevrons were added to either side of the window. It was used as a store by the Singer Sewing Machine Company until 1972. The building stood vacant for several years and was then used as a fast food restaurant. It is now vacant.