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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Old Town Hall Commercial Historic District N 4000 Item number 4 Page 1

OWNER'S LIST:

- .01 JOHN BRAND FURNITURE COMPANY BUILDING  
M. Reynolds Dodd  
Self Service Storage  
401 North 21st Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130
- .02 CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK  
John and Concetta Farrace  
P.O. Box 9507  
Wilmington, DE 19809
- .03 ROBERT PORTER HOUSE  
Historical Society of Delaware  
505 North Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801
- .04 ARTISAN'S SAVINGS BANK  
Historical Society of Delaware  
505 North Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801
- .05-.08 WILLINGTOWN SQUARE  
Historical Society of Delaware  
505 North Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801
- .09 SECURITY TRUST AND SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY BUILDING  
Bank of Delaware  
517-519 North Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801
- .10 MULLIN'S BUILDING  
Historic Landmarks for Living  
30 South Front Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106
- .11 OLD TOWN HALL  
Historical Society of Delaware  
505 North Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801
- .12 F. W. WOOLWORTH BUILDING  
504 Market Street Associates  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19806
- .13 QUEEN THEATRE  
Thomas G. Hatzis  
1723 Gunning Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19803

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(Old Town Hall Commercial)

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DESCRIPTION:

The Old Town Hall Commercial Historic District consists of the 500 blocks of Market Street and Shipley Street. The District is significant because it contains an unusually diverse selection of 19th and early 20th century architecture, most of which was built during Wilmington's Urban Growth Phase (1880-1930). In the district there is a wide variety of commercial, residential, and governmental buildings, built and modified because of the intense developmental pressures on this block, which had been considered the business center of the city in the late 19th century.

Most of the buildings of the block are four stories tall in height and represent a wide range of uses: stores, banks, residences, and a government center. The buildings also represent a wide range of styles; including three examples of the Federal style, two Romanesque banks, three Commercial style buildings, and an Art Deco style store and a variety of materials; 56 percent of the buildings are faced with brownstone, 26 percent of the buildings are built with red brick, 15 percent of the buildings are of masonry construction with a terra-cotta facade, seven percent of the buildings are constructed of limestone, and seven percent of the buildings are of white brick.

The eastern side of the 500 block of Market Street has five buildings. On the corner of Fifth and Market Streets is the Queen Theatre Building, 500 North Market Street (N.4000.13), a large four-story, three-bay Commercial building with an ornate white terra-cotta facade. Next to the Queen Theatre is the F. W. Woolworth Building (N.4000.12), a two-story, six-bay Art Deco Commercial building with an orange and peach colored terra-cotta facade. The Old Town Hall, 510 North Market Street (N.4000.11), is adjacent to the Woolworth building. It is a two-story, five-bay brick Georgian style municipal building with a cupola on the roof. The building is almost the same height as the adjacent four-story building and is the only building on the block that is set back from the street. The Mullin's Building, 512 North Market Street (N.4000.10), is a four-story, white brick Commercial style building with a limestone Art Moderne facade.

The western side of the 500 block of Market Street has eight buildings, four of which are part of the Willingtown Square. On the corner of Fifth and Market Streets is the Central National Bank Building, 501 North Market Street (N.4000.02).

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It is a three-story, Romanesque Revival brick bank building, with rusticated brownstone on the first floor and slightly projecting cross gable bays. Next to the Central National Bank is the Robert Porter House, 503 North Market Street (N.4000.03). It is a three-story single-bay brick structure, with marble jack-arch lintels and belt course between the second and third floors. The Artisan's Savings Bank, 505 Market Street (N.4000.04), is a 50-foot tall, single-story Art Deco bank. It is made of limestone and has a large metal frame central window.

Next to the Artisan's Savings Bank is the Willingtown Square, a collection of four 18th and early 19th century houses placed along a stylized "village green" in 1976. The landscaping of Willingtown Square is a 20th century interpretation of an 18th century village green and is not representative of Wilmington town planning, which did not incorporate a public square until 1865. The buildings themselves, however, are significant examples of 18th century Wilmington domestic architecture. The Dr. John Simms' House (N.4000.08), whose facade faces north, is the closest of the houses to Market Street. It is a two-story, two-bay Federal style house of Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. Next to the Dr. Simms' House is the Jacob and Obadiah Dingee Houses (N.4000.07), a semi-detached two-story brick vernacular house. Next to the Dingee Houses is the Zachariah Ferris House (N.4000.06), the oldest house in Wilmington. It is a two-story, Flemish bond brick house with glazed headers. Perpendicular to the Ferris House at the rear of the square is the Thomas Coxe House (N.4000.05), a three-story brick semidetached house.

North of Willingtown Square is the Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company Building, 519 North Market Street (N.4000.09). It is a two-story brownstone Victorian Romanesque bank.

The eastern side of the 500 block of North Shipley Street consists of the rear facades of the buildings on Market Street. The western side of the block is mostly a parking lot. The only surviving building on the western side of this block is the John Brand Furniture Company Building, 501 North Shipley Street (N.4000.01). It is a three-story brick Commercial building, incorporating eclectic detailing such as finials on the parapet wall. The rest of the buildings on this side of the block have been demolished for a parking lot.

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A building inventory follows:

- .01      Property Name: John Brand Furniture Company Building  
          Location: 501 North Shipley Street  
          CRS Number: N.7587  
          Built: 1927  
          Contributing

Abstract: The John F. Brand Furniture Company Building was built in 1927, and is an example of an early- mid-20th century eclectic style commercial building.

Description: Three-story Commercial building. Rectangular plan. Steel framed construction with a red brick curtain wall. First-floor storefront has large display windows with stylized fluted pilasters with arrowhead caps between the windows. Arched transom windows. Canvas awnings above display window. Recessed entrance at corner of Fifth and Shipley Street with metal framed glass doors. The second-story windows are large plateglass picture windows with white panel over window and lug sill. Corner windows have pressed metal eclectic surrounds featuring a paneled lintel with finials. Windows along south facade on second level are 12 light metal framed casement windows. Third-story windows are nine light casement windows with segmented arched lintels and brick sills. Flat roof with parapet wall with finials. Raised pressed metal parapets with finials creating tower-like effect on northeast and southeast corners.

Historical Background: The John Brand Furniture Company building is a three-story, brick commercial building built in 1927. The combination of modernistic and eclectic stylistic elements create a building that is virtually unique to the City of Wilmington. The building's rectangular massing is given a vertical emphasis by its eclectic detailing, such as the first floor fluted pilasters with arrowhead caps. The second floor corner window surrounds featuring pressed metal paneled lintels with finials, and the finials along the parapet wall. In 1971, the building was sold to Mundy Brother's Furniture Store, which presently uses the building.

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.02      Property Name: Central National Bank  
Location: 501 North Market Street  
CRS Number: N.749  
Built: 1889  
Contributing

Abstract: The Central National Bank Building is a three-story Romanesque Revival building. In 1959, it was converted into a store by replacing the first floor facade with a new storefront display window. The display window was modified in 1984 by bricking in the south wall of display area and a new display window was added. Most of the exterior fabric remains unaltered.

Description: Three-story bank building. Rectangular plan. Wall bearing masonry construction. First floor: Rusticated brownstone windows along West Fifth Street. West Fifth Street window openings bricked over. Modern storefront on Market Street facade, removing original entrance, in process of renovation. Second and third floors: Red brick walls with brownstone detailing. Large second-story window, which is two stories in height, with brownstone arches and brownstone lug sills. Third-story windows are smaller windows with brick arches and rusticated brownstone lug sills. These windows are ranged in groups of three over the larger second-story windows. Large rusticated brownstone slightly projecting central bays with cross gables in center of Market Street and Fifth Street facade. Window surrounds, Corinthian brownstone pilasters supporting rusticated brownstone arch lintels on second and third floors. Brownstone pilasters on either side of central bay. Brownstone cross gable with single arched window in center. Slate mansard roof. Three-story rear section only as tall as ceiling of second story in front section. Brick with brownstone. Second-story windows, double-hung, one-over-one with continuous rusticated sills and lintels. The third-story windows with double-hung windows and rusticated continuous brownstone sill and arch lintels. Slate mansard roof.

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Historical Description: 501 Market Street was built in 1890 to house the Central National Bank, which had been operating out of the Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company building at 519 Market Street since 1885. The new building was a three-story, brick and brownstone Victorian Romanesque building. At the center of the Market Street and Fifth Street facades was a brownstone center bay with cross gable and heavy window arches supported by Tuscan pilasters. In 1894, it was described as, "probably the most pleasing in general effect, and also architectural appropriateness ..." of any of the buildings along Market Street (History of Wilmington, compiled by Every Evening, Wilmington: F. T. Smiley and Company, 1894, Page 51).

Although the building has often been attributed to architect Frank Furness, it was actually designed by the Philadelphia firm of Baker and Dallett. (James F. O'Gorman, The Architecture of Frank Furness, Philadelphia; Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1973, p. 211.)

The first floor of the bank was built of rusticated brownstone, and the entrance of the bank was through two post and lintel archways at the corner of the building, one facing Market Street and one facing Fifth Street. A window on the right side of the Market Street facade was covered with an ornate grill. An elaborate brownstone scroll, inscribed with the name of the bank, was located between the archway and the window.

In 1926, the adjacent lot was purchased by Artisan's Bank and was subdivided. The southern half was annexed by the Central National Bank. A three-story brick wing, attached to the north wall of the bank, was built on the rear portion of the lot. The eastern section of the lot on Market Street, along with the remaining half of the Robert Porter House, was sold in 1938. In 1951, 501 was sold to the Security Trust Company, who then sold it to Cohen Holding Company in 1956. The bank was converted into a store by replacing the first floor facade with a new storefront display window which extended 15 feet along the Fifth Street side of the building, which was subsequently filled in with brick in 1984. Harris Jewelers, co-owned by Seymour Cohen, used the building until 1983. The storefront is presently being rennovated to accommodate Levy's Loan Co., a pawnshop.

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.03      Property Name: Robert Porter House  
 Present Use: Wilmington Garden Center  
 Location: 503 North Market Street  
 CRS Number: N.2154  
 Built: circa 1816  
 Contributing

Abstract: The Robert Porter House was built circa 1816. It had been converted into a commercial building circa 1870. In 1930, the northern half of the building was demolished to make way for the new Artisian's Savings Bank Building at 505 North Market Street. It is the only remaining example of a residential building built in the district, before its evolution into the City's financial center in the late 19th century.

Description: Three-story single-bay half a Federal house. Rectangular plan. Bearing wall brick construction, Flemish bond brick. First-floor storefront (added in 1977) with 12-over-12, double-hung window offset to left of facade. Paneled door with plain surround and transom light on right side of facade. Second to third stories: 12-over-12, double-hung windows with plain surround joined by mortiss and tenon joints. Marble jack arch lintel with keystone and marble lug sill. Marble belt between second and third floors. Flat roof with box cornice with finial on left side.

Historical Background: The Robert Porter House has had a long and interesting history. The lot on which it was built was purchased in 1816 from Robert Hamilton. The deed, which describes the transaction, makes no mention of a house; however, when the land was sold in 1823, the deed mentions "a three-story brick messuage." (New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Volume 3, Book F, Page 480.) Robert Porter, who owned the house from 1816 to 1823, was the owner of a printer's shop, located at 409 North Market Street, which published the Delaware Journal, one of Wilmington's early weekly newspapers, and also the publishers of Wilmington's first city directory in 1814.

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The house was purchased in 1823 by Thomas Warrington, a carpenter. In 1834, John Sabol, a cabinet maker, purchased the house, which was sold to James Culbert in 1844. The house was used as a residence by James Culbert and his brother, Samuel, until the late 1860s. According to the 1870 City Directory, the first floor had been converted into a store for Thomas Culbert's hat store, and the upper levels were occupied by Samuel Culbert. By 1880, the first floor had been leased to Celia Rossiter, a proprietor of a men's clothing store, and the second and third floors were still occupied by Samuel Culbert and Martha Culbert, widow of James Culbert. By 1884, the building was used solely as a commercial building.

After Martha Culbert died, the house was left to Samuel Wisdom of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, who continued to use it as a commercial building. The 1900 City Directory shows that it was leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad as a freight office. A 1916 postcard shows the building as a three-story, three-bay brick building with a molded cornice and a gabled roof.

In 1926, Artisan's Savings Bank (505 Market Street) purchased the house from Samuel Wisdom and sold half of the land and the house to Central National Bank (501 Market Street). Each bank planned to use their half of the lot to expand, and in 1930, Artisan's Savings Bank demolished their half of 503, along with the old Union National Bank building, and built the present bank building now used as a library by the Historical Society of Delaware. The half owned by the Central National Bank, now a three-story, single-bay store with a flat roof, was never demolished and in 1938, it was sold to Mabel Harris for use as a commercial building. It is presently owned by the Historical Society of Delaware and is being used as an office by the Wilmington Garden Center.

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.04 Property Name: Artisan's Savings Bank  
 Present Use: Historical Society of Delaware Library  
 Location: 505 North Market Street  
 CRS Number: N.2155  
 Built: 1930  
 Contributing

Abstract: The Artisian's Savings Bank building was built in 1930. In 1972, the Historical Society of Delaware purchased the building and converted it into a library. A single-story wing was added to the building in 1984, connecting it to the Jacob and Obadiah Dingee Houses (N.4000.07) and the Zachariah Ferris House (N.4000.06).

Description: Fifty-foot tall single-story with mezzanine bank. Rectangular plan. Wall bearing smooth ashlar limestone construction. Market Street facade: Polished brick granite foundation with limestone facade. Large multi-paned metal frame central window. Four metal frame glass doors in center of facade. Stepped limestone window surround with beveled lintel engraved with Art Deco motifs. Engraved sign with Artisan's Savings Bank logo and slogan has been covered by panel of concrete. Flat roof with stepped parapet wall.

Interior details: High ceiling with skylight. Pilasters along sidewalls with depressed octagonal panel featuring Art Deco lotus flower motif. Marble wainscoating and marble counter with teller windows with bond frame on three sides and curvilinear top. Building retains original division of office space with large plateglass windows.

Office section has rich oak wainscoating. Ornamental metal balustrade up to and on mezzanine, which has more offices, separated by partitions, capped with windows with curvilinear tops.

Historical Background: The Artisan's Savings Bank, 505 North Market Street, was built in 1930, replacing the older Union National Bank building which had been used by the Artisan's Savings Company since 1909. In 1972, the company decided to move to a newer, larger office building on the northeast corner of Ninth and Tatnall Streets. 505 Market Street was then sold to the Historical Society of Delaware, which, with minimal modifications to the interior, primarily to reduce teller's counter space, adopted the building to library use.

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.05      Property Name: Thomas Coxe House  
           Location: Willingtown Square  
           Original Location: 107-109 East Sixth Street  
           CRS Number: N.179  
           Built: 1801  
           Contributing

Abstract: The Thomas Coxe House, originally located at 107-109 East Sixth Street, was built in 1801. In 1976, it was moved to Willingtown Square to prevent its demolition.

Description: Three-story, semidetached house. Rectangular plan. Wall bearing brick construction, Flemish bond brick. Paneled door with plain surround on left side of each unit's facade. Double-hung, six-over-six windows with plain surrounds. Belt course marking second and third floors. Medium pitched gable roof with box cornice. Arched alleyway between units. Interior details: Interior woodwork, molding, doors, cupboards, and mantles survive substantially intact. Winding stairways.

Historical Background: Thomas Coxe, an owner of a large brickyard, built the houses in 1801 for his two daughters. It is three-story brick, semidetached vernacular style house. Much of the interior remains unaltered with many of the original cupboards, doors, partitions, trim and mantel still intact. The house was built on land granted to the family by the Duke of York and was occupied by descendants of the Coxe family until 1957.

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.06 Property Name: Zachariah Ferris House  
Location: Willingtown Square  
Original Location: 414 West Second Street  
CRS Number: N.337  
Built: 1718  
Listed in National Register of Historic Places: 1970  
Contributing

Abstract: The Zachariah Ferris House, originally located at 414 West Second Street, was built in 1718. In 1976, it was moved to Willingtown Square to prevent its demolition. A single-story wing was added to the rear of the building in 1984, connecting it to the Jacob and Obadiah Dingee Houses (N.4000.07) and the Artisian's Savings Bank Building (N.4000.04).

Description: Two-story, three-bay house. Rectangular plan. Wall bearing brick construction, Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. Paneled door with plain surrounds and transom window in center of facade. Double-hung, six-over-nine windows on first floor and six-over-six windows on second floor. Plain surround with lug sills and lug lintels. Glazed headers arranged to spell initials of original builder (O.M.) and date of construction (1718). Interior details remain nearly intact. Especially notable are the corner fireplaces.

Historical Background: The Zachariah Ferris House is believed to have been built by Olaf Mansson in 1718, and is the oldest known house in Wilmington. It is unusual because its floor plan with corner fireplaces reflect a Swedish influence. The walls are made of Flemish bond brick with glazed headers, and the glazed headers on the second story form the initials of the builder (O.M.) and date of construction. Zachariah Ferris purchased the house in 1767. His tannery business was one of the first in the City, and its success encouraged others, helping making leather tanning a major industry in Wilmington. Later tenants have included skilled workmen, such as a car builder, a cabinet maker, butcher, and a carpenter. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

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.07 Property Name: Jacob and Obadiah Dingee Houses  
Location: Willingtown Square  
Original Location: 105-107 East Seventh Street  
CRS Numbers: N.335, N.336  
Built: 1771/1773  
Listed in National Register of Historic Places: 1970  
Contributing

Abstract: The Jacob Dingee House, originally located at 105 East Seventh Street, was built in 1771, and the Obadiah Dingee House, 107 East Seventh Street, was built in 1773. In 1976, the buildings were moved to Willingtown Square to prevent their demolition due to the Urban Renewal projects occurring in the area. A single-story wing was added to the rear of the building in 1984, connecting it to the Zachariah Ferris House (N.4000.06) and the Artisian's Savings Bank Building (N.4000.04).

Description: Two-story, semidetached house. Rectangular plan. Wall bearing brick construction, Flemish bond brick. The first-floor paneled wood doors offset to left side of facade of each unit. Plain surround with transom light. Double-hung, six-over-nine windows on first floor and six-over-six on the second floor. Belt course between first and second floors. Medium pitched gable roof with box cornice and shed roof dormers. Interior detailing of the western unit is nearly intact including molding, chair railing, door and window surrounds. The eastern unit retains original panel walls and chair railing on second floor.

Historical Background: Jacob Dingee, a carpenter and a joiner, built his house in 1771, and his brother, Obadiah Dingee, also a carpenter, built the connecting house two years later. The houses are an example of an urban vernacular type house in a late colonial era. The general arrangements of the houses are different, but the use of continuous cornice and second-story belt course unify the design. The Jacob Dingee House had also been occupied by Jeremiah Woolston, a bricklayer and iron monger, and Elisha Huxley, a contractor and a builder. Huxley, while a City Councilman, initiated the use of the Brandywine River for a public water supply and had also served as a director of the Wilmington Whaling Company and the Farmers Bank. Both houses were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

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.08 Property Name: Dr. John Simms' House  
Location: Willingtown Square  
Original Location: 101 East Fourth Street  
CRS Number: N.178  
Built: circa 1778-1813  
Contributing

Abstract: The Dr. John Simms' House was built on the corner of East Fourth and King Streets, between 1778 and 1813. In 1976, the building was moved to Willingtown Square to prevent its demolition due to the Urban Renewal Project occurring in the area.

Description: Two-story, two-bay Federal style house. Square plan. Wall bearing brick construction. Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. Paneled door with plain surround to left of facade. Nine-over-nine double-hung windows with wood lug sills and lug lintels. Medium pitched gable roof with box cornice.

Historical Background: The Dr. John Simms' House, built between 1778 and 1813 by William Cook, is a prime example of a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style. It is a two-story house laid in Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. In 1840, the house was purchased by Dr. John Simms and his son, John Henry Simms. The Simms were doctors who specialized in herbal medicines, and they prepared their own medicines in the house, making it one of the two pharmacy shops specializing in herbal medicines in Wilmington. Despite his father's sympathy for the Confederacy during the Civil War, John Henry Simms was elected the mayor of Wilmington in 1872.

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.09 Property Name: Security Trust and Safe Deposit  
Company Building  
Present Use: Bank of Delaware  
Location: 521 North Market Street  
CRS Number: N.2156  
Built: 1885  
Contributing

Abstract: The Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company Building, built in 1885, was originally a three-bay brownstone bank that was 25-feet wide. In 1908, a 35-foot wing was added to the north side of the building. The facade was extensively renovated, but maintained the original Victorian Romanesque style and detailing. The rear wing was added to the bank in 1927.

Description: Three-story, six-bay bank. Rectangular plan. Steel framed construction with wood roof. Market Street facade: Rusticated brownstone foundation with beveled water table. Band of brownstone with a vine and flower pattern above water table. Recessed entryway in center of facade, with modern metal framed glass door. Wrought metal grill in front of doors. Two pairs of windows bricked over and stuccoed to look like brownstone panels on either side of doorway. Above brownstone band is a smooth ashlar brownstone wall. Two tall windows with arched lintels and cross gables on either side of entryway. Large, single rectangular window on either side of tall windows. Brownstone diaper work pattern on either side of tall windows above rectangular windows. Mansard roof with fishscale shingles.

West Sixth Street facade: Eastern half of facade is similar to Market Street facade. Rusticated brownstone foundation. Arcade of four, tall arched windows similar to those of facade. Two cross gables over outermost tall windows. Western half of facade, built in 1927, is smooth brownstone with rectangular windows. Flat roof with parapet wall. Shipley Street facade: Red brick, with rectangular windows. Parapet wall.

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Historical Background: The Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company building is a two-story, Victorian Romanesque bank. When it was completed in 1885, it was a three-bay, brownstone structure with a mansard roof and a cross gable at the center. It was 25 feet wide and 120 feet deep. In 1903, the adjacent lot was purchased, and the bank was expanded in 1908. Instead of demolishing the old building and building an entirely new structure, a 35' x 65' wing was added to the right side of the building, giving it a 60-foot facade along Market Street. The facade was extensively renovated, but keeping with the original Victorian Romanesque style, which by this time was no longer fashionable. The new facade was six bays wide and had two cross gables. A new wider entrance, slightly to the right of the old one, was located in the center of the facade.

In 1912, the bank bought the lot of land on the corner of Sixth and Shipley Streets, and the building was completed to its present configuration in 1927. In 1952, the bank merged with the Equitable Trust Company, which became the Bank of Delaware. The interior was renovated in 1981.

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.10 Property Name: Mullin's Building  
 Location: 512 North Market Street  
 CRS Number: N.3871  
 Built: 1860  
 Determined Eligible: 1984 (Part 1, Tax Application)  
 Contributing

Abstract: The Mullin's Building was built in 1860 as a four-story Italianate commercial building with a cast iron facade. A large four-story Commercial style wing was added to the rear of the building in 1917. In 1940, the side walls in the front section were renovated to match the rear wing and a late-style Art Moderne limestone facade was added.

Description: Four-story commercial building. L-shaped plan. Bearing wall brick construction with oak floor supported by fluted cast iron columns in front section and reinforced concrete floors in rear section.

Market Street facade: Three-bay limestone Art Moderne facade. First-floor storefront: Granite-face foundation. Large metal frame display windows with transom windows. Recessed central doorway with twin double-leaf and sash doors. Flat copper hood over doorway. Second through fourth floors: Three sets of windows, triple-hung windows on second floor and double-hung windows on third and fourth floors. Unadorned pilasters delineate bay openings. Horizontal band between second and third floors engraved with store's name in center, the date of its founding (1862) on the left, and the date of last renovation (1940) on the right. Flagpole projecting from band between third and fourth stories. Flat roof with parapet wall. Recessed panels creating a balustrade-like effect above fourth-floor windows.

East Sixth Street and King Street facades: White brick masonry wall. Large plateglass display windows along first floor on East Sixth Street and on basement level on King Street. Rear entrance on corner of King and Sixth Streets with twin metal frame glass doors. Large glass metal frame sidelights and transom light. Standing metal seam glass canopy over entrance. Triple triple-hung windows on second floor and triple double-hung windows on third and fourth floors. Denticulated belt course between third and fourth floors. Denticulated brick cornice and parapet wall.

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Interior details: Fluted cast iron columns and oak floors in front section of building. Rear entrance marble stairway leading to basement store (used as Mullin's bargain basement) and to main levels. Inset in travertine marble floor is a mosaic tile panel, inscribed with the name of the store. Design of the interior is basically an open field with interior partitions and detailing suited to clothing retailing. The plan's openness creates an interior with few distinctive details.

Historical Background: The Mullin's Building, originally called the Saville building, is a four-story, brick and limestone commercial structure on the south side of East Sixth Street, between Market Street and King Street. It was built in 1860 by Alexander Saville, who sold coffee; tea; wine; and liquor, as a brick building, 34 feet wide and 82 feet long, with oak floors and a cast iron facade based on the Renaissance era Italian Palazzi buildings. Although it was used primarily as a commercial structure, some of the space was leased to other commercial and non-commercial organizations. In 1872, the building was used by Eliot and Johnson Company, a brokerage firm; the second floor was a billiards hall; and the third and fourth floors were occupied by two day schools--Professor Reynold's Classical Academy and the Hopkins Academy. Between 1875 and 1881, the third floor of the building was leased to the Wilmington Academy, which in 1881 employed six teachers and enrolled 160 students. In 1881, some of the space was leased to the Shield's Library Association, to house their collection of 650 books. In 1882, James T. Mullin's Men's Clothing Store moved to the Saville building. The first floor was used for retail space and the second floor was used for manufacturing and tailoring clothing. Mullin expanded his business, gradually filling the Saville building and forcing the other tenants out.

Alexander Saville ran into financial difficulties, and on July 8, 1888, the building was sold to James T. Mullin in a Sheriff's sale. The building was extensively renovated two years later, a new storefront was added on the first floor and an elevator was installed. In 1917, James T. Mullin was able to enlarge his store when the City government moved to a new building on King Street. Mullin purchased the old Town Hall and the City office buildings on the southeast corner of East Sixth Street and King Street. The

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Old Town Hall was quickly resold and the office buildings were demolished. In August, construction started on a four-story rear wing, which was designed by the Wilmington architectural firm of Brown and Whiteside in the Commercial style. The new wing was 123 feet long and 53 feet wide at the King Street facade, completing the building to its present configuration. In 1940, the old section of the building was renovated in the same style as the rear wing, and the Market Street facade was replaced with the present late style Art Moderne facade. The Mullin's Men's Clothing Store moved out of the building in 1971. It is presently being rennovated for apartments.

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.11 Property Name: Old Town Hall  
Location: 510 North Market Street  
CRS Number: N.180  
Built: 1789  
Listed in National Register of Historic Places: 1974  
Contributing

Abstract: The Old Town Hall is a two-story Georgian Style municipal building built in 1789. In 1875, two rear wings were added to the building and a larger fire watchtower replaced the original cupola. In 1916, the building was purchased by the Historical Society of Delaware and was restored to its original configuration in 1926.

Description: Two-story, five-bay Georgian municipal building. Rectangular plan. Wall bearing brick construction. Market Street facade: Marble-faced foundation. Red brick facade. First and second stories separated by a marble belt course. Three-bay projecting central bay with cross gable. Twin paneled door in the center of bay with fanlight and marble arched lintel with keystone supported by square Tuscan pilasters. First-floor windows are 24-over-12, double-hung windows with fanlight on top half of window. Brick arch lintel with marble keystone and skewbacks. Marble lug lintels. Second-story windows: 12-over-12, double-hung windows. Jack-arch lintels with marble keystones. Marble lug sill. Denticulated cornice that forms pediment out of the cross gable. Clock in center of cross gable. Flat top gable roof. Twin chimneys on gable end and the balustrade along the length of the roof. Octagonal wood cupola with open belfry; wood columns and arched lintels with keystones. Adamesque swag and denticulated cornice above arches. Convex curved roof with weather vane. Rear facade has single-story octagonal brick bay.

Historical Background: The Old Town Hall, built in 1798, housed the Wilmington Borough and City Government until 1916. Aside from its importance as the seat of government, it served as a focal point of many public events in Wilmington. Public meetings were held in the Town Hall, and virtually every important Delawarean, as well as important visiting national figures such as Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster and the Marquis de Lafayette, visited and spoke in the assembly room of the building. That room was also used as a

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ballroom, a meeting room for the U.S. District Court, and such organizations as the Philosophical Society, the Abolition Society, and the Society of Free Masons.

In 1875, two wings were added to the rear of the building, and the old cupola was replaced with a larger, more elaborate fire watchtower.

As Wilmington's City government expanded, former residences along East Sixth Street behind the Saville building (now Mullin's building) were converted into offices. "The City of Wilmington has maintained (the Town Hall) in almost its original form ... and the deficiencies presented by the old building have been, as far as possible, met by erecting buildings about it for use by City departments. While this arrangement is not without its inconveniences and disadvantages, it has a compensating quality of maintaining intact the venerable edifice within which much of Wilmington's municipal business has been transacted for the past century." (George A. Wolfe, Industrial Wilmington, published by author, 1898, Page 22.)

However, by 1916, the City decided to relocate to a larger and more "modern" building on the 1000 block of King Street, rather than enlarge the office buildings. The old Town Hall, along with the office buildings, were purchased by James T. Mullin, and the offices were demolished to make way for a new rear wing of his store. The Old Town Hall was sold to the Historical Society of Delaware for use as a museum. It was restored in 1926, and a replica of the original cupola replaced the large 1875 tower. In 1974, the old Town Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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.12 Property Name: F. W. Woolworth Company Building  
Location: 506 North Market Street  
CRS Number: N.2153  
Built: 1940  
Determined Eligible: 1984 (Part 1, Tax Act  
Application)  
Contributing

Abstract: The F. W. Woolworth Building was designed in 1939 and built in 1940. It is a rare example of an Art Deco commercial building in the City of Wilmington.

Description: Two-story, six-bay Art Deco Commercial building. Rectangular plan. Steel frame construction with curtain walls. Market Street facade: Maroon first floor facade with black metal frame smoked glass window. Doorway offset to left side of facade. Horizontal polished metal fluted band running whole length of store over display window. Terra cotta tile work from second floor to parapet. Horizontal orange terra-cotta band with saw-toothed and sunburst designs over horizontal metal band. Seven vertical pylons of cream-colored tiles on either side of six peach-colored tile recesses. Metal frame casement windows in recesses below peach-colored tiles. Flat roof with parapet walls.

King Street Facade: Basement level opens to King Street. Tan stretcher-bond tapestry brick. Storefront, non-structural metal frame display windows at center of facade with recessed doorway with metal frame glass doors and transom window. Black granite at base of display window and on either side. Metal frame casement windows on two levels. Elevator towers on corners of facade.

Historical Background: The F. W. Woolworth Company Building, 506 Market Street, was built in 1940, the larger of the two stores built by the company in Wilmington that year. Declining business forced the store to close in 1972, and it was purchased by the Ogden Howard Furniture Company, who used the store until 1980. The store is presently being renovated into an office building.

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.13 Property Name: Queen Theatre  
Location: 500 - 504 North Market Street  
CRS Number: N.2152  
Built: 1873  
Contributing

Abstract: The Queen Theatre Building, originally the Clayton House Hotel, was built in 1873. It was a five-story Second Empire style building. In 1915, it was converted into a movie theatre by removing the fifth story mansard roof, bricking over the side window opening, and adding a new terra-cotta facade.

Description: Four-story Commercial building. Rectangular plan. Bearing wall brick construction. Market Street facade: First-floor storefront subdivided into three stores with modern aluminum frame windows and doors. First-floor facade covered with perma-stone. Second through fourth floors: Three-bay white terra-cotta facade incorporating classical detailing. Horizontal bands on third and fourth floors with panels. Slightly projecting central bay on second floor with large arched window opening. Ornate terra-cotta detailing around arch and balustrade in front of center third-story window. Windows on second, third, and fourth stories are wood frame triple windows with transoms. Fourth-floor corner windows have arch transoms. Flat roof has pressed metal cornice.

Fifth and King Street Facade: Red stretcher bond brick painted white. Basement level stores opening on King Street have cast iron display window surrounds with iron lintels and provision for columns (removed). Large display windows. First through fourth floor window openings with limestone stilted segmented arch lintels and limestone lug sills, window openings bricked over. Metal fire escape with corrugated metal hood on second and third floors along Fifth Street and King Street facade. Parapet wall.

Historical Background: The Queen Theatre is located on the north side of East Fifth Street, between Market Street and King Street. When it was built in 1873 by the Banking House Corporation, it was a large, brick, five-story, Second Empire style hotel, 64 feet wide and 210 feet long, making it the second largest building in Wilmington. The Clayton House, named in honor of John M. Clayton, a former U.S. Senator and Secretary of State, was a more austere

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interpretation of the Second Empire style than the Grand Opera House built two years earlier. There were 105 guest rooms, each with steamed heat and a wash stand, and several large sitting rooms and parlors. It was the largest and most luxurious hotel in Wilmington.

In 1878, the Clayton House became the first hotel in Delaware to have a passenger elevator. It was a hydraulic elevator which ran off the water main, and it had a two-story cab, one floor used for baggage, the other carried passengers. The elevator became a tourist attraction and hundreds of people flocked to the hotel just to ride the elevator.

The first floor on Market Street was used by the two banks which had formed the Banking House Corporation, Artisan's Savings Bank and the First National Bank of Wilmington. The hotel entrance was between the two banks. The lower level, which opened to King Street, was leased to a pharmacy and two shoe stores. The iron storefront facing King Street still remains.

The decline of Wilmington's car and shipbuilding industries in the first decade of the 20th century forced the Clayton House to close. In 1915, the hotel was sold to the Wilmington Amusement Company, which used the building as a cinema and renamed it the Queen Theatre. The following year, the building was converted into a four-story commercial style building by removing the fifth-story mansard roof and replacing the old Market Street facade with a new ornate, terra-cotta front. The heavy bracketed cornice was replaced by smaller, plainer press metal cornice on the front part of the building. On February 16, 1916, the theatre opened with a full-length feature, "Between Men," starring William Hart. The Queen was praised by the local newspapers as the most handsome theatre in the country. Vaudeville shows were regularly performed at the Queen after 1932.

In addition to being used as a theatre, the building was also used by social clubs and light industries. In the late 1920s, Community Service, a social service organization headed by Mrs. Coleman du Pont, had an office in the building. The Wilmington Boys Club, founded in the Queen in 1926, had an office in the building until 1932. The second and third floors were used by the Loyal Order of Moose as a meeting hall, for which the owner was required in 1943 to install the prominent fire escape that runs

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along the side of the Fifth Street and King Street facades. A meat market, and later a ten-cent store, was located on the King Street side of the building. In 1945, the fourth floor was renovated for use as an optical lens repair shop. Twelve years later, that floor was used as a dress factory employing 18 workers.

As the white middle-class left the City for the suburbs and television became more popular, the Queen Theatre had fewer and fewer customers. The theatre closed in 1959 and was sold in 1967.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Town Hall Commercial Historic District contains a wide range of buildings, representing 200 years of development and redevelopment along Market Street. Most of the buildings in the District were built during Wilmington's Urban Growth phase (1880-1830). The District includes the 500 block of Market Street and a portion of Shipley Street. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, because it contains examples of residential, commercial, and governmental buildings in a wide range of periods and styles; including Georgian, Federal, Victorian Romanesque, Commercial, and Art Deco. The significance of the buildings in the District lies not only in the different styles and periods of construction, but also in how the buildings were enlarged or reduced, or demolished and rebuilt, in order to take on a new and different form so that the businesses they housed could change, expand, or present a newer and more progressive image to the City. The district is also significant under Criterion A, because this area was considered the business center of the City in the late 19th century. It was the location of most of Wilmington's banks, three hotels including the Clayton House, Delaware's largest hotel, and City Hall.

The 500 block of Market Street represents a transition between the development covered by the Lower Market Street Historic District, whose character is defined by late 18th and mid-to-late 19th century architecture, and Market Street north of Sixth Street, which consists of architecture of the 1890's to the 1950's. The northward shift of the developmental pressures of Market Street was caused by the construction of office buildings; first governmental and law offices, then the tall corporate buildings, that were built between Ninth and Eleventh Streets from the 1880's to the 1930's. The District includes examples of late 19th century commercial buildings, built when the 500 block was considered the business center of the City, notably the Central National Bank Building, 501 Market Street (N.4000.02), built in 1889, and the Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company building, 521 Market Street (N.4000.09), built in 1885. However, the construction of the rear wing of the Mullin's Building, 521 Market Street (N.4000.10), in 1917, the John Brand Furniture Company Building, 501 Shipley Street, in 1927, the Artisan's Savings Bank Building, 505 Market Street, in 1930, and the F. W. Woolworth Company Building, 504 Market Street, in 1940, testify to the continued vitality of the area well into the 20th century.

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The block was originally developed during the last quarter of the 18th century and the first quarter of the 19th century. A copy of the 1736 Benjamin Ferris map of Wilmington shows the block laid out, but no buildings erected on the block and Fifth and Sixth Streets had not yet been named. When the 1814 City Directory was published, the block was sparsely populated. The Town Hall (N.4000.11), built in 1798, and the Indian Queen Hotel, built by 1789 on the north-east corner of Fifth and Market Streets, were the principal structures on the block. According to the 1814 City Directory, there were approximately seven buildings on the 500 block of Market Street. Many of these houses had commercial as well as residential use. On this block was a tailor shop, a grocery store, and a carpenter shop, in addition to the Indian Queen Hotel mentioned earlier.

In addition to the area's residential and commercial use, the block was chosen as a site for the Town Hall (N.4000.11), which was built in 1798 and was used by the City Government until 1917. The building is a transitional style, combining both Georgian and Federal features. It has the massing and general configuration of a Georgian municipal building, a five-bay structure with a pedimented cross gable over a slightly projecting central bay. On the roof is a cupola and a balustrade. The building's limited but delicate detailing, such as the Adamesque swags on the cupola are of the Federal style. The Robert Porter House, 503 North Market Street (N.4000.03), is the only surviving early-19th century house built on the 500 block of Market Street. The house was built between 1816 and 1823 as a three-story, three-bay brick Federal style house. Despite the changes undergone by the building, many of its Federal style features, such as the window frames constructed with mortise and tenon joints, a marble belt course between the second and third floors, and the marble jack-arch lintels with keystones, survive.

The 500 block of Market Street was densely built up by 1847, according to the Rea and Price Map of Wilmington. A perspective drawing of Wilmington, published in 1865, shows that the block consisted of small, two- and three-story gable roofed buildings and that the City Hall was the tallest building on the block. Only the Indian Queen Hotel, which had been enlarged to double its capacity in 1846, rivaled the City Hall in size. In 1839, the Union National Bank, 505 Market Street, became the first bank to locate on the block. According to the 1845 City Directory, the commercialization of the block was well underway with approximately 47% of the buildings on the block being used commercially. However, the block retained its predominately residential character, since the majority of the proprietors lived over their stores. The businesses on the block included a jewelry store, a dry goods store, a

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pharmacy, a shoe store, a barber shop, and a cabinet maker's shop.

By 1862, almost all of the buildings on the block were being used commercially, and in 42% of the buildings, the owners lived over their store. According to the 1862 City Directory, there were three groceries, two tailor shops, two hotels, a bank, a hardware store, a candy shop, a millinery store, a jewelry store, a tobacco store, a shoe store, a clothing store, a dry goods store, a "fancy goods" store, a stove dealer, and a boardinghouse on the block.

According to the 1876 Hopkins' Atlas of Wilmington, many of the smaller two- and three-story buildings had been replaced by larger, taller buildings as the district evolved into the City's commercial and financial center. In 1860, the four-story Saville building (N.4000.10) was erected on the southeast corner of Sixth and Market Streets. In 1871, the Clayton House Hotel (the Queen Theatre) (N.4000.13), a large, five-story Second Empire building, was built on the site of the Indian Queen Hotel, the northeast corner of Fifth and Market Streets. By 1876, 14 of the 18 buildings on the 500 block of Market Street were four stories tall or taller, the largest such concentration of tall commercial buildings in the City. Even the Town Hall was made taller by replacing the old cupola with a larger and more substantial watchtower in 1875.

By the 1880's, the 500 block of Market Street was considered the business center of the City. Five banks were located on this block, which was the largest concentration of financial institutions in the City. Two of the bank buildings of that era survive, the Central National Bank Building at 501 Market Street (N.4000.02), built in 1890, and the Security Trust and Safety Deposit Company Building at 521 Market Street (N.4000.09) built in 1885. These massive and formal Romanesque buildings were meant to convey to the public an image of a secure, solid and stable institution.

By the turn of the century, the 500 block had changed little since 1890. However, around 1910, the block began to undergo some significant changes, and many of the buildings on the block were altered, changing their appearance, size or use. In 1908, the Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company building was enlarged, doubling its frontage on Market Street; Artisans Savings Bank moved from the Clayton House Hotel to 505 Market Street in 1909; the Clayton House closed its doors in 1915 and was converted into a movie theatre; the City government relocated to King Street in 1916; and the Mullin's building (originally Saville building) had a large rear wing added in 1917.

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As the 20th century began, new architectural styles and materials were introduced. Security Trust expanded their building at 521 North Market Street in a very conservative fashion in 1908 - they simply doubled the size of the Romanesque structure they had, creating a building symmetrical in appearance. The Clayton House at 501 North Market Street in 1914 became the Queen Theatre; accordingly, a new facade of white terra-cotta featuring large window openings and some Beaux Arts inspired detailing was added while the Second Empire details such as the mansard roof were deleted giving the building a new countenance on Market Street. The Mullins Building at 514 North Market Street shed a portion of its Italianate look in 1917 when a large rear addition was added on King St. The new addition was executed in the Commercial style using a light color brick; in 1940 the entire building was updated to match the 1917 addition so that large window openings marched down the 6th Street side and light colored materials (brick, limestone) covered the three major facades (King Street, Market Street, 6th Street).

The Robert Porter building at 503 North Market Street was a victim of 1920s banking expansion. The Artisan's Savings Bank chose to expand its Market Street location by constructing a simplified Art Deco structure in 1929; however, due to the selected size for the structure, the next door Robert Porter House was reduced by 2/3 its size. The simple bay width of the Porter house today remains as an early 19th century remnant between the Romanesque Central National bank at 501 North Market and the solemn Art Deco bank at 505 North Market Street.

Art Deco found a more fanciful interpretation on the eastern side of the 500 block of Market Street. F. W. Woolworth constructed one of their "signature" buildings at 504 North Market Street in 1939 - the signature style at that time being Art Deco featuring peach and cream terra-cotta panels over a horizontal light-orange terra-cotta band on the second floor facade.

The 500 block of Market Street is the only block in the City of Wilmington where two buildings were built in the Art Deco style - other blocks may have 2 examples, but those result from changes made to older structures.

Two other architectural examples exist within the district. Willingtown Square is a collection of four vernacular and early Federal houses that were moved from nearby sections of Wilmington to avoid Urban Renewal demolition. Two of the houses, the Zachariah Ferris house (brick, vernacular, 2 stories, 1718) and the Jacob and Obdiah Dingee houses (vernacular semi-

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detached building in 1771 and 1773) are already on the National Register of Historic Places. With the other two houses (Dr. John Sims house, 2 story Federal 1778-1813 and the Thomas Coxe house, 1801, 3 story vernacular semi-detached) these are placed around a stylized village green and add to the architectural diversity of the district.

Another structure in the district is the John Brand Furniture Company. The building is an eclectic structure with horizontal massing relieved by vertical details such as exterior pilaster rising from ground to second floor level with arrowhead caps. Finials along the parapet wall continue the vertical suggestion by drawing the eye upward. Copper window surrounds inserted at seemingly random windows accent the building's eclecticism. It does not make the same bold architectural statement as the Market Street banks or department stores but the architect was clearly striving for the same effect of creating a visually interesting and inviting building.

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OLD TOWN HALL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRS No.: N.4000

Verbal Boundary Description:

Acreage: Approximately four acres  
Quadrangle Name: Wilmington South  
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000  
UPM Coordinates: A. 18-452920-4399000  
B. 18-452880-4398900  
C. 18-452700-4399000  
D. 18-452790-4399060

Boundary Justification: The 500 blocks of Market Street and Shipley Street represent a transition between the architectural trends depicted by the 19th century commercial buildings of the Lower Market Street Historic District and the 20th-century commercial buildings contained in the historical resources of Market Street. The area nominated contains a wide range of architectural styles and periods of construction, ranging from Federal to Art Deco. Because it contains examples of early 20th century commercial buildings, it doesn't reflect a continuation of the architectural trends represented by the Lower Market Street Historic District. It is the only block in the area surveyed for the Historic Resources of Market Street which could justifiably be nominated as a district, since most of the buildings in this block retain high structural integrity.

Description: Beginning at the northwestern corner of East Fifth Street and North King Street;  
thence northerly along the curb line of North King Street 256 feet to a point on the southwestern corner of East Sixth Street and North King Street;  
thence westerly along curb line of Sixth Street 393.6 feet to the southeast corner of West Sixth Street and North Shipley Street;  
thence southerly along the curb line of North Shipley Street 204.1 feet;  
thence westerly along property line 138.4 feet;  
thence southerly along rear property line 51.9 feet to the curb line of West Fifth Street;  
thence easterly along the curb line of Fifth Street 532 feet to the beginning point.