

**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.2157

Item number

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LOCATION: The Delmarva Power and Light Building
600 North Market Street
N. 2157

The Delmarva Power and Light Building, built in 1932, was originally a four story office building. A fifth floor, which had been planned in the original design, was added in 1954.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Quadrangle Name: Wilmington South
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Coordinates: 18-452860-4399040

Description and Justification: The area nominated includes parcel 26 035.40 062, which is .22 acres, and is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the northeast corner of North Market Street and East Sixth Street; thence easterly along East Sixth Street 150.7 feet; thence northerly along property line 76 feet; thence westerly along property line 45 feet; thence southerly along property line 18.7 feet; thence westerly along property line 105.2 feet; thence southerly along North Market Street 58 feet to beginning point.

OWNER:

600 Market Street Associates
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

DESCRIPTION:

Location: 600 North Market Street
CRS Number: N.2157
Built: 1932

An "L" shaped plan characterizes the five-story, Art Deco office building, known as the DP&L Company Building. The first floor is made of Indiana limestone with a granite faced foundation. The Market Street facade exhibits a central doorway framed with vertical granite piers and surmounted by a transom with a lightning bolt motif. On either side of the doorway are two large display windows. Toward each corner of the building is a smaller window flanked by pilasters. Evenly-spaced pilaster-like bands along the Sixth Street facade compliment the large display windows between the bands. The second through fourth floors display five Indiana limestone triangular fluted pilasters with small floral designs near the top of the pilaster. This forms a recessed central bay on the Market Street facade. Light colored

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brick forms the remainder of the second through fourth floor, as well as the corner piers stylized with Art Deco limestone capitals. Fenestration includes four-over-four, double-hung, bronze windows. The fifth floor is a plain light-colored brick penthouse with triple double-hung windows. A flat roof and parapet wall with concrete cap finish the building. The entire building has recently been painted a deep cream color.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Delmarva Power and Light Company building, 600 North Market Street, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an example of an Art Deco office building. Art Deco motifs do occur on Market Street department stores, but the DP&L office building is the only Art Deco office building in the City, and one of the very few examples of this style existing in Wilmington.

In 1928, the Delmarva Power and Light Company was formed by merging Delaware Electric Company, the American Power Company, and the New Castle County Electric Company. Despite the Depression, the early 1930s saw considerable expansion of the company's service.

In 1931, it was decided that the expanding company needed a new office building. The new structure was designed by the Wilmington firm of Brown & Whiteside, and it was completed in 1932. It was an ornate four-story office building in the Art Deco style, featuring fluted triangular pilasters, and brick piers with Art Deco capitals. It was designed to accommodate a fifth floor envisioned for future expansion. The walls were made of light color bricks, with Indiana limestone pilasters, and dark granite around the foundation and entryways. The window and doorframes were made of bronze. The choice of the Art Deco style which was just beginning to become popular in Wilmington (Wilmington generally being conservative architecturally and waiting 5-10 years before executing styles already found by the rest of the design world) was to provide Delmarva Power with the image of a progressive and prosperous company.

The fifth floor envisioned by its designers was finally added in 1954. In 1972, Delmarva Power and Light Company moved to its present location at the Northeast corner of Eighth and King Streets.

After a ten year vacancy, 600 Market Street is presently occupied by Chase Manhattan Bank.