

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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JAN 30 1985

Continuation sheet Inventory N.7588

Item number

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Property Name: Henry Townsend Building  
709 North Market Street

The Henry Townsend Building is a multi-use commercial/  
residential building built in 1913. The first floor  
storefront was refaced in 1982.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Quadrangle Name: Wilmington South  
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000  
UTM Coordinates: 18-452890-4399160

Description and Justification: The area nominated includes parcel  
26 035.40 008, which is .06 acres, and is described as follows:  
Beginning at a point 92.5 feet north of the northwest corner of North  
Market Street and West Seventh Street; thence westerly along property  
line 117.6 feet; thence northerly along North Shipley Street 20.3 feet;  
thence easterly along property line 117.6 feet; thence southerly along  
North Market Street 20.3 feet to beginning point.

Owner: Silver City L.P.  
P.O.Box 1967  
909 Delaware Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Description:

Location: 709 North Market Street  
CRS Number: N.7588/N.763  
Built: 1913

Four-story, five-bay commercial apartment building with rectangular  
plan built of bearing wall masonry construction. Market Street facade  
is covered with flat concrete panels with smoked glass display windows  
and recessed smoked glass doors. Second to fourth floors is a limestone  
Beaux-Arts facade featuring ornate panels between second and third, and  
third and fourth floors. One-over-one double hung recessed windows with  
three central windows grouped together and one window on either side  
of the central group. Fourth floor windows feature segmental arch lintel.  
Flat roof with ornate denticulated cornice, supported by four large  
brackets.

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Shipley Street facade is built of red brick. Tall doors with transom lights are on either side of large central wood frame window. Second through fourth floor windows on large octagonal copper bay supported by four large copper "beams". Double hung one-over-one windows with three windows grouped together on center part of bay, and windows on the sides of the bay. Pressed copper cornice with finials.

Statement of Significance:

The Henry Townsend Building, 709 North Market Street is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, because it is an attractive example of a Beaux-Arts Renaissance Revival commercial/residential building. Henry Townsend purchased the lot in 1912 and demolished the existing three-story commercial building facing Market Street and a smaller two-story shop on Shipley Street. In 1913, the present four-story, five bay building, which fills the entire lot, was built. It has a limestone facade featuring ornate denticulated cornice supported by four large brackets. The three center windows on the upper levels are grouped together in a shallow recess.

According to the 1916 City directory, the first floor was used by Jacob Rosen Ladies Wear Shop and the upper levels were used for apartments and offices. Between 1922 and 1964, the first floor was used as a W. T. Grant Department Store. It was also used as a furniture store and is presently used by a record store.

The Henry Townsend Building, along with the Frank Dure Building, 811 North Market Street (N. 7592), are significant, not only as examples of the Beaux-Arts Renaissance Revival style, but also as a mixed used commercial/residential buildings. It shows that even as late as the early 20th century, buildings intended for residential use were being built along Market Street, which had become primarily a commercial area.