

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

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 35

29.(N-5606):

A. Property Name: Rhodes Pharmacy

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: Rhodes Pharmacy is located at 36 East Main Street on the north side of the street between North College Avenue and Center Street. This nomination includes the building and property on which it is situated. The lot has a frontage of 31 feet on East Main Street and a depth of 129 Feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, Map No. 29, Lot No. 17). (.09 Acre).

C. Owner: G & S Enterprises, Albert B. Grant, Jr., and J. Stant, 38 East Main Street, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

Rhodes Pharmacy is a two-story, brick commercial building with a concrete Gothic Revival facade. It is rectangular in plan, situated with one of its narrow ends toward the street. The square, whitewashed facade is divided into three bays by three-sided pilasters on molded bases. At the first-floor level, a heavily-molded pointed arch defines each of the three bays. The center arch contains a recessed doorway, while single-light storefront windows fill the two flanking arches. Above and below the three sets of rectangular second floor windows is an expanse of pointed trifoliated-arch galleries. The roofline consists of a parapet wall interrupted by extensions of the pilasters. A line of small, evenly-spaced rectangular moldings at the top edge of the parapet reveal the location of a row of battlements that have been removed. Highlighting the facade are two grotesque canine-like gargoyles guarding over the central doorway.

Several minor alterations that have occurred since the 1940's include the removal of four crenellated turrets atop the pilasters on the parapet wall, and the removal of the battlements, previously mentioned. The louvered windows on the second floor replace single-pane windows, and the trifoliated gallery below them were originally glazed. These changes are slight and have not marred the building's integrity.

E. Historical Background:

In 1912, George W. Rhodes, pharmacist, bought out Frazer's Drug Store, an established business on Main Street. As was common in Newark, the Frazer Store was located on one side of a dwelling. Rhodes continued to operate the store from this address for five years. In 1917 he had this Gothic commercial building, designed by Richard A. Whittingham, constructed on the lot immediately west of the old frame house. The building has continued to be run as Rhodes Pharmacy up to the present date.

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Item number 8

Page 36

F. Significance:

Rhodes Pharmacy is an important building to Newark in two respects - it illustrates the major change in form effected by commercial business during the early-twentieth century, and it marked the beginning of a trend for historical revival styles on Main Street. The Rhodes Pharmacy building fulfills National Register selection Criterion A as an important phase in the development of commercial buildings in Newark, and it fulfills Criterion C as an excellent example of an early-twentieth-century Gothic Revival-style building.

Traditionally, small businesses in Newark were operated out of the proprietor's home or in a building of domestic style and proportions. Most often these two-story, frame or brick, gable-roofed structures were characterized by a symmetrically-arranged facade, a front porch, and sometimes a storefront window. At its construction date Rhodes, Pharmacy made a significant departure from the past by creating a marked differentiation between commercial enterprises and the home. Its large square proportions and formal concrete facade were in no way similar to the majority of homes on Main Street.

The Gothic Revival facade of Rhodes Pharmacy was the first manifestation of formal historical revival styles to be used on early-twentieth-century commercial buildings in Newark. Two Gothic Revival churches were built in town in the middle of the nineteenth century. During that period the Gothic Revival style held a strong associative symbolism for ecclesiastical buildings. Rhodes Pharmacy, however, is the only commercial building that uses Gothic details for its decoration, and, here, the Gothic Revival is used in a decorative rather than in a large symbolic way. Rhodes Pharmacy was soon followed by the Colonial Revival-style Aetna Fire Station No. 2 in 1922, the neo-Classical style State Theatre in 1929, and several neo-Classical bank buildings.

G. Bibliography References:

1 Newark, Delaware. Mayor's Committee: Armed Forces - Civilian Relations. "Greetings", 14 page pamphlet, undated (circa early 1940's), See Photographs.

2 Newark Post, January 24, 1912, p. 8.

3 Susan Dosh Bacon, "Perceptions of Main Street; Newark, Delaware; 1900-1920", Unpublished Senior Thesis, Vassar College, 1980; Fig. XXVIII.

4 William D. Lewis, "University of Delaware: Ancestors, Friends, and Neighbors," Delaware Notes, 34th Series, 1961, p. 208.

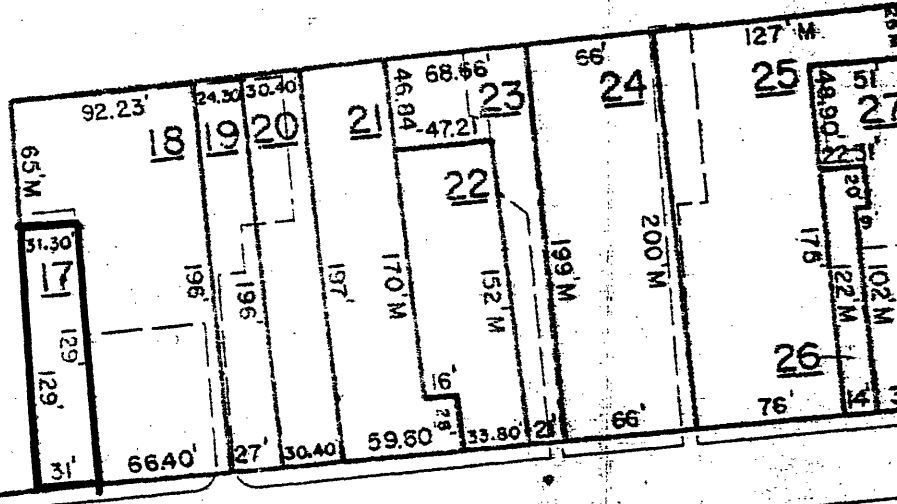
5 Sanborn Insurance Surveys, Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1915 and 1922 Editions.

N^o 5606
Rhodes Pharmacy

Property No. 2029
Lot no. 17

46
19.86AC.

UNIVERSITY
OF
DELAWARE



540 M

STREET

438 M

68
5.15AC^c

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