

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

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

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received DEC 19 1984

date entered JAN 30 1985

Continuation sheet Inventory N. 4097 Item number Page 1

Property Name: Reynold's Candy Company Building
703 North Market Street
N.4097

The Reynold's Candy Company Building was built as a restaurant and candy factory in 1929.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Quadrangle Name: Wilmington South
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Coordinate: 18-4528700-4399140

Description and Justification: The area nominated includes parcel 26 035.40 006, which is .06 acres, and is described as follows: Beginning at a point 20 feet north of the northwestern corner of North Market Street and West Seventh Street; thence westerly along the property line 117.6 feet; thence northerly along North Shipley Street 21.7 feet; thence easterly along property line 117.6 feet; thence southerly along North Market Street 21.5 feet to beginning point.

Owner: Thomas and Nicholas Hatzis
1723 Gunning Drive
Forest Hills
Wilmington, DE 19803

Description:

Location: 703 North Market Street
CRS No.: N.4097
Built: 1929

Three-story, three-bay commercial building with a rectangular plan. Bearing wall brick construction. On the first floor of the Market Street Facade are polished wood frame display windows with recessed central doorway, having twin wood-frame glass doors. A curved cast metal canopy over front doors is supported by four tie-rods. On the second and third floors is an ornate white terra-cotta facade incorporating the Italian Renaissance detailing. A denticulated terra-cotta cornice is over a sign of metal letters spelling "Reynold's Candy Company" and a transom window is between sign and canopy. On the facade are the three sets of double-hung, one-over-one windows, with center set having paired windows. Third floor central window has segmented arched lintel while remaining windows have flat lintels. Ornate terra-cotta panels with stylized vine pattern relief are between second and third floor windows. The building has a flat roof with ornate denticulated terra-cotta cornice.

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The Shipley Street Facade is built of red brick. There is a flush door to the basement. Tall multi-pane windows are on the first level and three double-hung, eight-over-eight windows are on the second and third floors. A metal fire escape is on the second and third floors.

The interior features a high ceiling and pilasters along side walls supporting beams with ornate decorative plaster brackets between pilaster and beam. There is wainscoting along the side walls. A narrow balcony with wood railing and turned balusters is over the entrance. A mezzanine is in the rear of the room. The stairway to the mezzanine with wood railing and the majority of the woodwork, doors and interior detailing is substantially intact.

Statement of Significance:

The Reynold's Candy Company building, 703 North Market Street, is eligible to be included in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as a prime example of an ornately decorated 1920's commercial building/restaurant. It is a three-story masonry building displaying a highly detailed Beaux-Art Italian Renaissance terra-cotta facade. A gracefully curved cast metal canopy is mounted over the first-floor storefront. The first floor, which has always been used as a restaurant, retains its original curved interior woodwork, pilasters, and high ceiling. It has a narrow front balcony (now used as a bandstand) and rear balcony, used as a dining room.

The Reynold's Candy Company, originally located in York, Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was purchased by Elwood Griffenberg prior to the First World War. In 1923, the Pennsylvania factories were closed and the company moved to 703 North Market Street. The present building was erected in 1928. The first floor was used as a tea room/candy shop, and the candy factory, which employed 50 people at its height, operated out of the second and third floors. In 1961, the Reynold's Candy Company stopped making candy, but the restaurant's candy shop remained in business until 1971. The building is presently being used by Oscar's Restaurant.

Unlike many of the buildings along Market Street, the Reynold's Candy Company building remains in its original condition. The Market Street facade remains completely intact, and the interior detailing has not been substantially altered. The building is a pristine example of an early 20th century commercial building built in an ornate Beaux-Art Italian Renaissance style.