

King Street (200 Block)
200-236 King Street
Wilmington
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-129

HABS
DEL,
2 WILM,
50-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
KING STREET, 200 BLOCK

HABS No. DE-129

- Location:** 200 through 236 King Street, Wilmington, Delaware, bounded on the North by Third Street, on the South by Second Street, on the West by King Street, on the East by the rear property lines of lots fronting French Street.
- Lower Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, listed 1980.
- Present Owner:** City of Wilmington, City/County Building, Seventh and French Streets, Wilmington, Delaware.
- Present Occupant:** Demolished 1984-85.
- Significance:** The 200 through 236 block of King Street reflected two centuries of urban architectural growth and change in a mid-atlantic region port city.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Development of the 200 block of King Street, Wilmington, Delaware, began in the first half of the 18th century. At this time the port of Wilmington was little more than a hamlet located downstream from Philadelphia on the Delaware River. By the last quarter of the 18th century though, the town plan had been fully gridded out and the first durable buildings erected on the block. Through the 19th century the architecture on the block was constantly improved and vacant lots were architecturally developed. Storefronts on existing buildings were replaced with modern one-story elevations in the mid-20th century. Original buildings, later additions and modern renovations date over two hundred years of urban occupation and architectural transformations.
2. Original and subsequent occupants: See tables following inventory.

B. Historical Context:

The development of the 200 block of King Street parallels that of early Wilmington as it stretched along the Christina River waterfront and ascended uphill along the central axis of Market Street. Founded as a port in the colonial period, Wilmington did not begin to develop in a significant way until the decade following the close of the American Revolution. By 1820 the waterfront blocks were fronted with brick, frame and log dwellings, shops, light manufactures, warehouses, wharves, churches, and public buildings.

In the first period of intensive urban settlement, the blocks away from the central business areas (defined by Front Street along the river and Market Street extending inland) tended toward the following pattern. Corner and mid-block lots were purchased and improved with two and three story, usually brick, buildings. Ground floor rooms fronting on the street were given over to commercial usages, back rooms were employed as dining and service areas, and upper story spaces set aside as parlors and living quarters. Along with these owner-occupied city dwellings, the streetscapes were filled in with lesser quality tenant housing. Behind the dwellings were an assortment of outbuildings and garden spaces.

By the 1830s the pattern of first occupation began to change in two key ways. First, the use of free-standing outbuildings began to diminish as attached service ells became more popular. As a consequence of this formal shift, support buildings were demolished, privies relocated, and wells abandoned resulting in extensive

archeological depositions dating through the mid 1800s. Second, the pattern of owner-occupied commercial dwellings began to erode as the more affluent members invested in houses located in neighborhoods separated from the work place. Three historically visible results of these actions are: (1) significantly increased architectural density, (2) location of industrial operations in formally residential/commercial areas, and (3) a movement toward an economically and socially segregated (as opposed to hierarchically stratified) urban environment.

Toward the close of the 19th century and on into the mid-20th, urban manufactures began to relocate. While the area remained dominated by commercial outlets, the population continued to decrease in terms of owner-occupied dwellings. Storefront improvements only postponed the commercial decline of the block and by the late 20th century only a handful of residents, a storefront church and a few small businesses remained. In 1985 the block was demolished. A more detailed account of the 200 block of King Street in terms of historical usage follows.

King Street begins at the Christiana River and runs north for about 17 blocks to the Brandywine Creek. In the late 19th century, the foot of King on the Christiana consisted of warehouses, freight companies, two coal yards, and the W & R Railroad Company office. The main P.W. & B. Railroad depot was one block east of King at French Street. The two hundred block of King Street was just a few blocks away from the railroad depot and the warehouses, shipping yards, and other activities along the Christiana River. This area of King Street was also close to the markets at Second Street and Third and Market streets. King Street also contained small businesses which provided goods and services for other Wilmington residents.

At the time of the first city street directory in 1814 the 200 block of King Street was already well developed as a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood. Included in the listing are a small millinery shop at 210, a store keeper at 212, a "revenue service" at 216 and another at 218, a shoemaker at 220, and a tobacco shop at 224. Number 226 served as a boarding house and was also occupied by a shoemaker and a wheelwright. Two buildings were occupied as residences by a merchant and a tanner.

Following a thirty year gap, street directories for Wilmington were resumed in the mid-19th century. At that time the 200 block of King Street (and especially the lower end) was comprised of milliners and related apparel services such as dressmaking, dry goods, laces, notions, and "variety" shops. Milliners, typically women, worked out of their homes, possibly on a part-time basis. Some milliners were the sole inhabitants of their buildings. Occasionally, several, often related women, lived and worked together. King Street milliners' husbands held jobs as clerks, gasfitters, plasterers, laborers, and

painters. By the turn of the century, the milliners' children were also working, and some families were able to reside away from their shops on King Street. Most of these businesses were known by the milliners' names, like "Rebecca Kirby", but, there was also a "New York Millinery House" and "The Benton".

Milliners' shops and closely related small businesses specialized in dry goods, notions, varieties, laces--trimmings on the 200 block of King Street. In 1860 there were three shops and this number increases steadily until 1900, when 14 millinery businesses were recorded. The number declined sharply in the early 20th century. The last five milliners are seen in 1920, and a single dry goods store was in operation in 1940.

During the second half of the 19th century a variety of goods and services could be procured in the 200 block of King Street. Shops sold meat and general grocery items. A candy store, a liquor store, a restaurant, and two saloons were also present as well as two shoe/boot stores and several jewelry shops. Some buildings contained more than one activity--such as a confectionery associated with a boot and shoe store, and a restaurant combined with a jewelry store. Other businesses on the block included a machine shop, and a "dyer & scourers" service. At 214, the gunsmith and locksmith business begun in 1860 would remain at that address for 50 years. The "Daily Republican", on the corner of Third and King, was another long-standing business with offices maintained at that location from 1870 until 1900.

After the turn of the century, some established businesses remained on the block, including the liquor stores, restaurants, and shoe stores, but others including the King Street millinery shops, began to disappear rapidly. From 1910 to 1940, King Street had three tailors, who with one corset dealer and the shoe stores, maintained clothing-related activity on the block. New businesses on King Street included two cigar dealers, two plumbers, and two picture frame shops. At the southern end of the block near Second Street was the Silver Tire Company and Diamond Chemical & Supply Company. A barber shop at 210 started shortly after the turn of the century closed its doors in 1985. The most conspicuous activity on King Street in the first half of the 20th century were the numerous furniture stores located toward the northern end of the block. The remaining businesses on the block consisted of a grocery store, a fruit store, and two wallpaper stores.

Some of King Street's 200 block continued in residential use. Although these were rental properties housing several families or unrelated persons, none were listed as boarding houses. Some of the resident's occupations were stenographer, musician, student, mechanic, laborer, clerk, carpenter, painter, teacher, blacksmith's helper, and watchman. King Street property owners were quite mobile

and those whose businesses were well established lived in other parts of Wilmington. Sometimes, the proprietors' families would help out during the day as clerks, salespersons, helpers, and bookkeepers.

During the early 19th century, the 200 block of King Street was mixed residential and business. By the end of the 19th century, King Street was characterized as a neighborhood of small millinery shops. At this time, milliners and a few of the other shopkeepers usually lived and worked in the same building. Other people also resided on King Street but went out of the immediate neighborhood to work. Towards the turn of the century, the block saw a greater variety of business enterprises. Fewer buildings were exclusively residential. In the early part of the 20th century, the buildings were very densely occupied, sometimes housing several unrelated families and a business. In the 1940s, retail businesses remained established on the block, many of which continued into the 1980s. A few of them--like the furniture stores at 228-230 and 232-234, took up two buildings. By 1985 however, a resident population was largely no longer present and most businesses had moved on to more commercially promising locations.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Architectural Information: Inventory

202 King Street
204 King Street
206 King Street and 208 King Street
210 King Street
212 King Street
214 King Street
216 King Street
218 King Street and 220 King Street
228 King Street and 230 King Street

232 King Street: George Stroehle,
saloon (1870-71 directory)

234 King Street: Robert Parry
tinsmith (1880-81 directory)

236 King Street: Republican
newspaper offices (1880-91 street
directory listing)

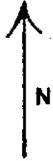
Danberg's Barber Shop
Garfinkel's Liquors

Feinberg Furniture (1930 to 1980);
prior to 1930 the two addresses were
separate businesses
Rigney & Stuart Dry Goods (1880-81);
Martha Stuart "trimmers" (1890);
Protigals Furniture (1930 to 1980)
Protigal Furniture Company 1940 to
present
C. Messick & Son Produce Dealers
(1880-81 street directory)

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

B. Architectural Information: Historical Occupancy Inventory (Page 8-16)

THIRD STREET



KING STREET

236	
234	Thomas Smith, Tanner
232	
230	
228	
226	David Harbison, Boarding; William Poole; Peter Springer
224	Charles Yeates, Tobacconist
222	
220	Thomas Crozier, Shoemaker
218	William Windell, Revenue Service
216	Duncan Stewart, Revenue Service
214	
212	Mary Savin, Storekeeper
210	Ann Bail, Milliner
208	
206	John Hodrick, Merchant
204	
202	
200	Edward Gilpin

1814

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET



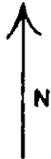
KING STREET

236	Mortimer Bye, Iron and Steel	1859
234	Hannah A. Simpson, Fancy Drygoods	
232		
230	William G. Lowe	
228	Edward A. McFarland, Grocer; John Green; Thomas Horn	
226		
224	A. Poulson, Conveyancer & C.; Wm. C. Poulson, Printer; Wm. Steaper, Seamanaker;	Robert Styles, Upholsterer
222		
220		
218	Letitia Harbison, Dressmaker; Sarah Armstrong, Housekeeper; Hannah Springer	
216	Charles Yates, Boarding; Solomon Barney, Shoemaker; James Barney, Shoemaker	
214		
212	Edward Curran, Laborer Mary Kelley, Milliner	
210	H. H. Ball	
208		
206	William Campbell, Gasfitter	
204		
202	Elizabeth Carey, Milliner	
200	Hannah A. Simpson, Fancy Drygoods	

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET

1860



KING STREET

236	The Delaware Republican
234	George Stroehle, Saloon; Andrew Agler, Clerk
232	George Stroehle, Saloon;
230	
228	Mary E. Riley, Ladies' Dress Trimnings and Varieties; Wm. Genn, Fishmonger
226	M. J. Mearns, Milliner; F. M. Chatham, Reverend
224	Atlantic Garden Restaurant; F. Herting, Gunsmith; August Abeck, Clerk
222	
220	Geo. W. Baker, Machinist
218	Charles Flanigan, Boots and Shoes; S. A. Christy, Confectioner
216	Charles Yates, Fishmonger; Hannah Herting, Saloon
214	F. W. Slovinski, Laborer; Gustavus Konitzer, Gunsmith
212	Mary Wentz, Milliner and Variety Store; Samuel Wentz, Clerk
210	Jenny Nicholas, Dyer
208	A. & E. Butler, Milliners
206	Hannah H. Ball, Milliner; James Ball, Carpenter; Samuel R. Ball
204	Young and O'Donnell, Milliners Hettie Dickinson, Milliner
202	Richard Kirby, Brakeman
200	W. A. Simpson, Meat and Provisions; Ashley Simpson, Butcher;

Wm. A. Simpson, Butcher

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET



KING STREET

1880

236	The Republican
234	Robert Parry, Jr., Tinsmith
232	Rigney and Stuart, Drygoods; E. A. Parry
230	Jacob Scheller, Ornamental Painter
228	Mary E. Riley, Variety Store
226	Mrs. W. W. Simpson, Milliner
224	Joseph H. Richards, Saloon
222	Adolph Kloberg, Jeweler and Watchmaker
220	Emma Boody, Confencioner; John Boody, Shoemaker
218	Kate Hayes, Milliner; Myers Hayes, Tinner
216	Mary Butler, Milliner; C. E. Butler, Milliner; John W. Butler, Butcher
214	Nathaniel Melchoir Jr., Gunsmith, Charles Melchoir, Brakeman;
212	Jennie Sooy, Trimmings; Joseph Sooy, Captain
210	Nicholas Jenny, Dyers and Scourers; Nicholas Jenny Jr., Trimmer
208	Mrs. M. E. Kelley, Milliner
206	Hannah H. Ball, Milliner; J. F. Ball, Lawyer
204	Mrs. S. E. Garton, Milliner; Charles Garton, Butcher
202	Mrs. R. S. Kirby, Milliner; Richard W. Kirby
200	J. K. Babcock, Boot and Shoemaker Dealer; William E. Babcock, Clerk

Henrietta Melchoir

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET

1890



KING STREET

236	The Republican Publishing Co. The Daily Republican
234	Michael Grady, Shoes
232	Martha J. Stuart, Trimmings; Wm. J. Stuart, Moulder; Wm. J. Stuart, Jr.;
230	Jacob Scheller, Painter
228	Edgar B. Riley, Trimmings
226	Kate Thompson, Milliner; Charles P. Kickerson, Furniture Dealer
224	Ruth & Myers, Liquors
222	Alex Chambers, Tinsmith
220	James W. Bridgman, Harnessmaker; Annie J. Bridgman, Milliner
218	K. Hayes, Milliner; Myers Hayes, Foreman; Alfred A. Hayes, Salesman
216	Mary A. Whitcraft, Milliner; John W. Butler, Butcher; Mary Butler
214	Edward Melchoir, Locksmith; Edward Melchoir, Jr., Clerk
212	Jennie Sooy, Trimmings; Joseph Sooy, Mariner
210	Nicholas Jenny, Dyer
208	Cora Quimbey, Milliner
206	Ellen O'Connor, Milliner; Dennis L. Willis, Jeweler; James L. Willis, Restaurant
204	Alice W. Hayes, Milliner; John J. Hayes, Carpenter
202	Sallie E. Garton, Milliner; John G. Tomlinson, Boilermaker
200	Rebecca S. Kirby, Milliner

Chas. B. Dougherty, Undertaker;
Annie Dougherty, Trimmings

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET

1900



KING STREET

236	The Republican Printing and Publishing Co.	
234	Joseph Pizer, Dry Goods; Kate Pizer	
232	Martha J. Dougherty, Dry Goods	
230	Edgar B. Riley, Dry Goods and Notions; Hattie E. Riley	
228	Edgar B. Riley, Dry Goods and Notions; Hattie E. Riley	
226	Harriet B. Pierce, Milliner	
224	Harry F. Schnepf, Liquors; Elvira C. Schnepf	
222	Morris K. Blumberg, Dry Goods; Gertrude Blumberg	222 Raymond Keech, Grocer
220	Wm. C. P. Wright, Jeweler	
218	Katherine Hayes, Milliner; Alfred A. Hayes, Salesman	
216	Coverdale, Fannie W., Milliner; John W. Coverdale;	Albert J. Coverdale, Telephone Operator; Mary Coverdale
214	Edward Melchoir, Gunsmith and Bicycles	
212	Jennie E. Sooy, Milliner; Jennie E. Sooy, Bookkeeper; Joseph Sooy, Marine Captain;	Martha S. Sooy, Music Teacher
210	Annie Jenny, Milliner; Leah Jenny, Milliner; Nicholas Jenny, Upholsterer;	Caroline K. Jenny
208	Cora Quimbey, Milliner	
206	Alice W. Hayes, Milliner	206 John D. Thompson, Butcher; Laura Thompson
204	Emanuel Riesman, Dry Goods; Minnie Riesman	
202	Sarah E. Garton, Milliner; Helen M. Garton, Milliner; George B. Rash	
200	Harriet Blest, Milliner	

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET



KING STREET

236	Edward F. Lewis, Florist	1910
234		
232	Klara Schwartz, Milliner; Max Schwartz	
230	J. M. Duncan and Co., Varieties	
228	Peter Feinberg, Furniture Sarah Feinberg	
226	Harry Saltzman, Milliner; Ralph Saltzman, student; <u>The Bon Ton Milliners</u>	
224	Schnepf, Harry C., Pattern Maker; <u>Harry Schnepf, Liqueurs</u>	
222	Morris Blumberg, Dry Goods; Gertrude Blumberg; <u>Solomon Blumberg, Clerk</u>	222 Oscar J. Thompson, Newsdealer
220	William C. R. Wright, Jeweler	
218	Abram Schagrin, Milliner, (New York Millinery House)	
216	John M. Floyd, Painter; Sarah Floyd	216
214	Edward Melchoir, Gunsmith and Sporting Goods; <u>Margarete Melchoir</u>	
212		
210		
208	Cora Quimbey, Milliner	
206		206 Katherine Carson, Dressmaker
204	Morris Slomanson, Pictures and Picture Frames; <u>Julian Slomanson, U.S. Army;</u> Sarah E. Garton, Milliner	Rosalie Slomanson; The White House Restaurant; Nathan and Ida Silver;
202		202
200	Harriet Blest, Milliner; Harry Blest, Bookkeeper	

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET



KING STREET

1918-19

236	Lippincotts Warehouse # 3, Lippincott & Co. Dept. Store	
234	Vassello Brothers Fruit Co.; Pusicilio Restaurant, Joseph Farino, Proprietor	
232	Jacob Protigal, Furniture	
230	Peter Feinberg, Furniture; Sarah Feinberg	
228	M. & Son Rosenbaum, House Furnishings; Sadie Rosenbaum	
226	Joeph Ray, Fruits; Sophia Ray	
224	Sam'l. Leviton, Star Wall Paper Co.; John Peters, Plumber;	Colma Serlots, Laborer; Charles Slutzky, Teacher; Charles Shipley, Laborer; Salvatore Caldmino, Laborer
222	Cora Milla	222 Harry Atlas, Grocer; Anna Atlas
220	Wolf Sugarman and Co., House Furnishings; Jennie Sugarman	
218	Russell Bunting, Driver; Daniel Meader, Laborer; Norman Marshall, Laborer	
216	Saul Seltzer, Leather & Shoes; Leah Seltzer; John Snyder, Bookkeeper;	Harry Lebo, Blacksmith's Helper; Frank Calio, Shoemaker
214	Joseph Platt, Shoes; Sarah Platt; Frances F. Platt, Student;	Freda Platt, Stenographer
212	Wm. W. Garfinkel, Paper; Carrie Garfinkel, Dorothy Garfinkel, Clerk;	Abraham Garfinkel, Clerk
210	Frank Danberg, Barber; Minnie Danberg; Irwin Danberg, Student	
208	Morris Kruger, Dry Goods; Anna Kruger	
206	Morris Kruger, Dry Goods	206 Carlton Tyre, Mechanic; Morris Blumenfield, Laborer
204	Morris Solmonson, Picture Frames	
202	Silver Tire Co. (Jos. Silver); Matson Silver; Jos. & Anna Fried	202 Louis Gudless, Tailor; Ida Gudless
200	Max Levin, Cigars; Saml. Levin; Horace Liedig;	Harris Liedig

SECOND STREET

THIRD STREET



KING STREET

1940

236	Union Furniture Co., Second Hand Furniture	
234	Jacob Protigal, Furniture	
232	Jacob Protigal, Furniture	
230	Peter Feinberg, Inc., Furniture Dealer	
228	Peter Feinberg, Inc., Furniture Dealer	
226	Philco Upholstering Furn. Co.; Charles Rutter, Watchman ; Florence Rutter;	Charles Rutter Jr., Helper; Edward Smallwood, Helper
224	The Star Wallpaper Co.; Jacob Walth, Painter	
222		222 Morris Rubin, Grocer, Jennie Rubin
220	Myer Plum, Dry Goods; Rebecca Plum; Edwd. Smallwood, Laborer;	Josephine Smallwood; George Merritt, Painter; Pearl Merritt
218	Morris Slomenson, Picture Frames; Katie Shipley	218 Clyde Smallwood, Carpenter, Matilda Smallwood
216	Samuel Seltzer, Shoe Findings; Leah Seltzer; Charles Ryan	216
214	Jos. Platt, Shoes; Sarah Platt; David Platt, Student	
212	Carrie Garfinkel, Liquors; Saml. Garfinkel, Clerk; Milton Garfinkel, Clerk	
210	Frank Danberg, Barber; Irwin Danberg, Musician; Florence Danberg, Stenographer.	
208	Morris Bronstein, Bronstein Wall Paper Co.; Lena Bronstein	
206	Fred DeCecco, Tailor; Concetta DeCecco	206 Neil A. Klein, Chipper; Edith Klein;
204	Morris Solamanson, Frames; Louis DeSeta, Show Repair; Mary DeSeta	Fred DeCeccio; Helen Weston; Mary Mathewson
202	Diamond Chemical & Supply Co.; Wm. Leary, Laborer; Keith Gray, Clerk;	202 Archie Jones, Furniture; Mary Jones
200	Max Levin, Cigars; Fannie Levin	Millard J. Lewis

SECOND STREET

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The 200 through 236 King Street, Wilmington, Delaware, architectural documentation was prepared under contract to the City of Wilmington Planning Department. Project personnel from the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware, included David L. Ames (photographer), Lauren Archibald (historian and field assistant), and Bernard L. Herman (project coordinator).