

## DEDICATION

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE POST OFFICE

MARCH 27, 1937



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN First Postmaster General Named by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia July 26, 1775

# PROGRAM

OF THE

### DEDICATION EXERCISES

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FLAG RAISING—"Star Spangled Banne	r" Fast Escoass' Boso
JAMES J. CAHILL	Hesser Charmen
PAUL S. WIRT	General Chairman
INVOCATION	Most Rev. Emerso J. FittMacusco
SELECTIONS	BOOLE CORPS, DELASCARE FORT NO. 1
ADDRESS OF WELCOME	. Host, Walter W. Bacos, Mayer
SELECTIONS	P. S. DePost Ham School Gue Cura
ADDRESS	Host Joses G. Townsen
ADDRESS .	Hos, Joses F. Houses
SELECTION	Westercron Has Science Boon
ADDRESS	Hos. Ricesso C. McMissuss
SELECTION—"Hail To The Chief"	Fact Excessed Base
ADDRESS	How home A. Farin
BENEDICTION	Rr. Rev. Pour Cook
SELECTION	Fast Escenso Baso

MS9021



WILMINGTON
POST OFFICE
1855-1897

S. E. Corner Sixth and King Sts.

WILMINGTON
POST OFFICE
1897-1937

S. W. Corner Ninth and Shipley Sts.



# PROGRAM

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### DEDICATION EXERCISES

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JAMES J. CAHILL	Housey Chairman
PAUL S. WIRT	General Charman
INVOCATION	Most Rev. Enseine J. Ferzblacesco.
SELECTIONS	BOULE CORPS, DELAWARE POST NO. 2
ADDRESS OF WELCOME	HOS. WALTER W. BADON, MIDST
SELECTIONS	P. S. DePoser Hose Source Guir Cres
ADDRESS	Host, Joses G. Toscosso
ADDRESS	Hos. Joses F. Houses
SELECTION	WILMOSTON HOR SCHOOL BARD
ADDRESS	Hox. Recuse C. McMeurs
SELECTION—"Hail To The Chief"	FREET ESCAPERANT BANKS
ADDRESS	Hox Joses A. Forcer
BENEDICTION	Rr. Rr. Dans Cook
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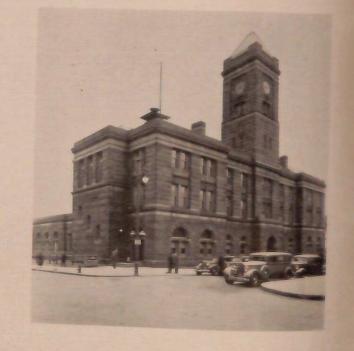


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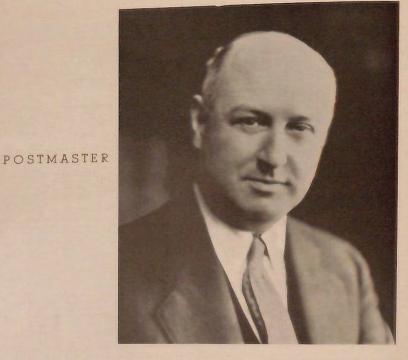


### WILMINGTON POSTMASTERS

1790 - 1937

JOSEPH BRINGHURST 1790 to 1823	WILLIAM SWIDGETT 1882 to 1886
Nicholas Williamson 1823 to 1841	ROBERT TAXLOR
JACOB ALDRICH 1841 to 1843	DANIEL STEWART 1890 to 1894
JOHN McClung 1843 to 1844	ENOCH MOORE
WILLIAM SELLERS 1844 to 1849	Huge Brown
HENRY NAFF	WILLIAM HEALD
Henry Askew 1852 to 1861	HENRY CONRAD
A. H. Grimshaw 1861 to 1865	Howard Jester 1909 to 1913
JOSEPH M. BARR 1865 to 1869	JAMES ENGLISH
James Lewis	LEBOY HICKMAN 1923 TO 1925
WILLIAM PYLE	ALEXANDER R. ABRAHAMS
JAMES J. CAHILL	. Present Postmaster

## HON. JAMES A. FARLEY



GENERAL

### FROM WILDERNESS TRAIL TO AIR MAIL

ONE of the most important acts of the first Continental Congress was the appointment of a committee on Postal service, May 29, 1775. On July 20th of the same year, this committee made its report, and at once Congress created the Post Office Establishment, naming Benjamin Franklin as Postmaster General.

Previous to this appointment, the Colonies had what was known as the Royal Mail, with all income accruing from the same reverting to an agent of the King. Service was poor, delivery of the mails being largely a matter of chance. Postal privacy as it now exists, was then unheard of, the Crown claiming right to read all communications in order to discover and punish malcontents.

Private citizens of that day felt that if the Crown enjoyed this privilege, so should they. An early writer in the Virginia Gazette, describing the arrival of a box of letters from England, wrote . . . "of a sudden, a person snatches a letter and reads the address, Egad! says he, I must know the contents of this; and makes off."

However, in 1792 Congress passed the Long Act, which subjected anyone to a fine of \$100.00 for obstructing passage of the mails, and for robbing the mails or one of a carriers, the penalty was death.

The first railway mail car made its appearance on Mar 10, 1838, and ran between Philadelphia and Washington. No agreement having been made with the Government the railroad charged what it pleased. When the charges reached \$500.00 per mile, the Postmaster General hit upon the novel scheme of having the carriers buy regular passenger tickets and check their trunks (filled with mazil in the baggage car. When the railroad learned of this practice, "lost" and "mislaid" trunks of carriers became a frequent occurence. Finally however, Congress passed laws that regulated rates.

Many heroic figures in American history have been associated with the Postal Service. Paul Revere was a dispatch rider, Wm. (Buffalo Bill) Cody was a member of the famed Pony Express. At a more recent date Colonel Chas. A. Lindbergh pioneered in present Air Mail Service.

### HON. JAMES J. CAHILL



POSTMASTED

### POSTAL PROGRESS IN WILMINGTON

THE Wilmington Post Office is one of the original 75 established in 1700 during President Washington's first administration. It was located in a small room adjoining a drug store on Market Street below Third. The city's population at that time did not exceed 2500 and but little mail was handled. Weather permitting mail arrived daily from Philadelphia and Baltimore by means of post coaches.

WILMINGTON

The Wilmington post office remained in the vicinity of Third and Marker Streets until 1855, when the first local Federal Building was erected at Sixth and King Streets, on the size previously occupied by Moore's Carriage Works. In 1897 another Federal building was built at Ninth and Shipley Streets, where the Hotel Lafayette once stood.

The present Federal Building, a monument to modern architecture, stands on the site of the former Winchester estate at Eleventh and Market Streets.

There are but meager reports concerning receipts of the Wilmington post office in earlier years. However, it is known that in true they were but slightly make then two hundred dollars. In vigo they went better than from thousand dollars, in sayle Wilmington exceeds the electron dollar receipt class for the first size. One delivery service, by carriers, began on july 1, 18th, unds not men. Military Barlow and Jacob Foolks. Previous to that time, a company known as Roche's City Disputch offered a strong and for a small fee, delivered letters. Benny Biochieves, popularly exferred to as Wilmington's fine letter carrier, probably was engaged by this first. In those date, but four men were employed in the local office.

In addition to the delivery of stall, the post office has frequently been called upon to perform other duties, to set delivery of N. R. A. forms, delivery and payment of the Bosons Bonds and the turness saide survey relative to the establishment of the Second Seconds Act.

The accuracy and disputch with which these added duties were performed, is further evidence of the traditional service which has been identified with the Wilmengton post office and its employees.



THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE & WILMINGTON, DELAWARE DEDICATED MARCH 27, 1937



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## CARRIERS & WILMINGTON POSTOFFICE

Front Row, Left to Right—Cornelius Robinson, John J. Cummings, Harry L. Knox, Martin J. Dugan, George O'B. McGovern, Lindle H. Thorp, John E. Coleman, Francis A. Calhoun, Martin F. Alvarez, Howard M. Hurst, West A. Trotter, Ass't. Sup't. of Mails, James J. Boyle, Foreman of Carriers, William M. Ford, John L. Hubert, Edward A. Boyle, Stephen DiCecco, George Wm. Grandel, Ralph S. Fisher, John D. Lynch, Samuel H. Reed.

Second Row—James J. Duffy, Frank R. Coston, Herman F. Armstrong, Alonzo W. Mitchell, David I. Roberts, Harry C. Bierman, George C. Davis, Harry C. Joyce, G. Donahoo.

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Third Row—James N. Smedley, George N. Hyatt, Clarence M. Raymond, Charles J. Paulman, William G. Ainsworth, John J. O'Connor, William J. Cunningham, John R. Brown, William C. Healey, Carroll A. Truitt, William F. Anderson, David M. Reed, Lawrence W. Perzenowski, William A. Hague, Jr., Patrick J. Hazzard,

Fourth Row—Arthur Austin, Joseph P. Healy, Maynard B. Yeatman, Frank E. Wahl, Henry H. Seltzer, Edward F. Maloney, Ira C. Salfner, George F. Benson, Raymond W. Wooten, Ernest A. Ackerman, Frank F. Moderackt, John E. Scott, Alfred A. Walsh, Clarence L. Morris, Cecil J. Calhoun, John J. Farley, Edward W. Farren, Joseph F. Hayes.





### CLERKS & WILMINGTON POSTOFFICE

Milano, Delaware S, Lynam, Joseph A, Koyne, Lancy L, Boyce, Francis A, Quigley, John J, A. Giammatteo, Brank H, Henry, Sherman L, Horchinson, Esther C, Shakespeare, Lewis A, Bell, Sup'r, Madla, Wm. J. McBlain, Sup'r, Finance, ast. Postmisster, Joseph C, Hedlicks, William G, McIntyre, Mary E, Cavilleer, Albert J, Rossiter, Africd B, Moore, James King, John J, Dougherty, John W, Croney, Richard Kandle, John Danby. Rou, Left to Right Bartholomes C re, Thomas V. Crawford, Teresa R. nce A. Reed, S. Austin McCann, A.

McCracken, Frank M. White, Edward J. Carney, Francis X. Duffy, Airhut J. Lawson, Edward G. Nowak, Robert F. Duva et B. Hammond, Harry V. Fairlands, Gerege H. Ward, Harry Mongomery, Jr., John McCarter, Edgar F. Bothum, Franci is, Harvey S. Hoffecker, Everett P. Short, George W. Phimiline, Guorge R. Camperson, John F. Lynch, George W. McGrott

Short, Occupe W. Findman.

Alexander R. Colegrove, Jr., J. Cleland Russe, Samuel C. Olick, Ernest C. Watrington, der, Raymond H. Malian, Francis M. Lally, Woodve J. Wheatley, Joseph W. Reybold, der, Raymond H. Malian, Prancis M. Lally, Woodve J. William I. Fetters, James P. Levy, amperson, Jr., John J. Mulvens, Anthony J. Laubacher, William I. Fetters, James C. Whiteraft, Daymey, Thomas J. Sullivan, James C. Whiteraft.



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### MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE & SPECIAL DELIVERY MESSENGERS

Left to Right—Lawrence C. Murray, John P. Buckingham, Willard T. Blackiston, Willard F. Ford, Eugene F. Kelly, Calver G. Sharpley, George Poole, Clarence P. Lind, William Currinder, John F. Smith, George W. Duncan, Sup't. M. V. S.

Special Delivery Messengers, Left to Right—George Johnson, John F. Newell, Paul A. Craig, George E. Davidson, Alfred C. Husbands, John J. Alexander, James W. Davis.

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> ME Hos. How. How. Mr. J. E SENTMAN ME ME. Maj. CLINTON W. BALL COL C. L. HALL Hox. JOHN J. MORRIS JAMES J. KERLEY GLEEN E. HWY WM. B. FRANCISCO WILLIAM H. HEALT EDWARD J. GAINOR A. RATMOND RAIS ALEXANDER HAMIL VICTOR B. WOOL JAMES M. MEAD JOHN P. NIELDS JOHN BIGGS, Ja. ROBERT RAMSTEO WILLIAM F. ALLEN JAMES H. HUGHES JOHN G. TOWNSEN

Mit Ma DAND R RUTTO Ma LE Wices Mr. J. Gotsuco Water S. DeBounc Rosee E WILLIAM MARTIN G. Mossas Warness JOHN C. SAILOR A. BOLLON STANS Auguston D. bean CHARLES J. SERRO E. RAY PROLLEY W. E. Moone Спинент В Ниции Ascessas O. Leo

CLINTON B. ELEMBO HARLLEE BRANCH WILLIAM W. JAMES A. SMITH W. PURDUM Howas

KILDROY P. ALDRICH

How.

CHARLES L TERM. EDWARD W. COOCH RICHARD C. McMCLLD

MOST REV. EDWIND & FITTAGE

H. Asso

Michael F. Freedom

WALTER W. BACON

Mr. EDWARD A MICHO

FRANK L MAJECHER

GROSCE B. SHELDON

Gaovas Huceas

JOSEPH H. MARCO Tistocour G. Jose Plus Office Str.

Mr. WHILLIAM R. Museus Mr. LEROY W. HICKAR

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BART C. MILANO, Secretary

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CHARLES A. BUCKALEW, Historian

FRANK H. MOORE

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Mr. WM. B. FRANCISCO	Mr. F. Ray Penates
MR. GILBERT E. HYATT	Mr. CHARLES J. RIBBAN
Mr. J. E. Sentman	Mr. G. Mosses Warrence
Mr. EDWARD J. GAINOR	Mr. Atmaster D. Irees
MR. ALEXANDER HAMILE	Mr. Ascessado O. Leontos
Mr. James J. Keeley	Mr. E. WILLIAM MARTIN
MR. WILLIAM H. HEALD	Ms. R. DeBooso Rosseson
Mr. Leroy W. HICKMAN	Mu. A. Burton Standort
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Mr. WILLIAM R. MANNEND

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I. CLELAND REESE, Treasurer

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MRS. FRANK E. WAHL

### BANQUET PROGRAM

WILLIAMON'S COMMUNICATION INTRODUCTIONS Chairman Page S. Weer INVOCATION Rr. Rev. Deuty Cook ADDRESS OF WELCOME Prominer lases 1. Cases.

#### DINNER

#### ADDRESSES BY THE POLLOWING-

MR. GILBERT E. HYATT. Legislative Representative, National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

MR. EDWARD J. GATNOR. President, National Association of Loner Corniers.

MR. JAMES J. KEELEY.

National Representative, National Federation of Motor Vehicle Employer.

ADDRESS HON. WHA E. ADDRESS Member of Congress from Delaware ADDRESS How lease Make Chairman, House Committee on Post Offices and Post Reads ADDRESS HOS. ROSSY RAMSSES. Chairman, House Committee on Civil Service ADDRESS HOSE SANTE W. PERCENT Fourth Assistant Postmaner General 

ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING ... UNTIL I A. M.



NEITHER SNOW NOR RAIN NOR HEAT

NOR GLOOM OF NIGHT STAYS THESE COURIERS

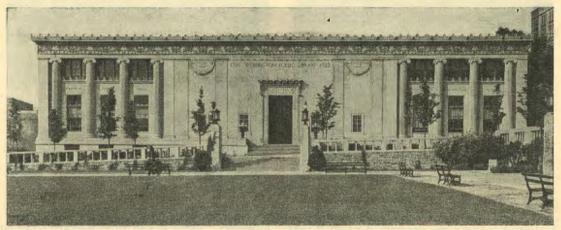
FROM THE

SWIFT COMPLETION OF THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS

by purchase, gift or otherwise, during the year: the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of books loaned out, and the general character of such books; with such other statistics, information and suggestions, as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of said report as relate to the receipt and expenditure of money, as well as the number of books on hand, books lost or missing and books purchased shall be verified by affidavit.—Connecticut: General Statutes, 1918, v. 1, pp. 371, 376, 377, 378, 379.

#### FLORIDA

Section 1881. The library board shall, on or before the second Monday in June in each year make a report to the city or town council of the condition of their trust; on the first day of June in such year, showing all moneys received and expended; the number of books and periodicals on hand; newspapers and current literature subscribed for or donated to the reading room department; the number of books and periodicals ordered by purchase, gift or obtained during the year, and the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of and character of books loaned or issued, with such statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest, or as the city or town council may require, which report shall be verified by affidavit of the proper officers of said board.—Florida: Revised General Statutes, 1920, v. 1, p. 1029.



THE MAIN FACADE OF THE WILMINGTON INSTITUTE FREE LIBRARY. E. L. TILTON AND A. M. GITHENS ARCHITECTS

## Wilmington's New Library Building

The new library building in Wilmington is on Tenth Street and extends from Market to King Streets, facing Rodney Square, a beautiful park in the heart of the business district. On the west side of Rodney Square is the large Du Pont Building. On the east side is the combined City and County Building of classic design. The library is two stories high on Market Street and three stories on King Street, and is one hundred and eighty-five feet long by eighty feet wide. Messrs. E. L. Tilton and A. M. Githens, of New York, were the architects of the Library and the duPont Engineering Company, of Wilmington, the general contractors.

The building is in the Roman Classic style and is built of gray-white limestone. The double entrance doors are heavy, paneled black walnut, each valve eighteen feet high by four feet wide, visible only when the library is closed. Visitors pass thru swinging glass doors just inside the large front doors and find themselves in a beautiful hall in Pompeiian decoration, design and color being copied directly from the Bosco Reale rooms in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. Broad stairways lead from each end of this hall to the second, floor.

The entrance hall is separated from the library proper by a glass screen about ten feet high, just inside of which will be found the main delivery desk in the center of a large space seventy feet long by thirty-five feet wide, open to the roof and lighted by a large skylight. The limits of this central Atrium are defined by polished black columns. A corridor extends around the Atrium on the second floor, and the roof is supported by buff columns. The frieze above the lower columns is an ivory-toned cast of the Panthenaic procession from the Parthenon. All the color decoration of the building has been concentrated in the hallway and in the central Atrium.

The main floor is without corridors and with few partitions, one room giving direct access to another and all supervised in a general way from the delivery desk at the entrance. There is an unusually large proportion of useful floor space, and a sense of openness and soft light. Back of the delivery desk are free-standing wooden cases with wooden cases around the walls, shelving fiction and other much-used books.

On the east end of this floor is the main reading and reference room, seventy-five feet long



THE DELIVERY DESK FROM REFERENCE DEPARTMENT



THE ENTRANCE HALL

by forty-five feet wide, one-half of which is used for readers and one-half for the shelving of about fifty thousand volumes open to the public. Above the shelving is a mezzanine floor open to readers upon request.

On the west end is the magazine reading room about forty-five feet square, on each side of which are administrative offices.

On the east end of the building underneath the main reading and reference room is the children's room, with a separate entrance from King Street. The children's room is exceedingly attractive, enhanced by the thirteen large paintings above the low bookcases, the originals of N. C. Wyeth's illustrations for "Robinson Crusoe." There is an entrance from this room directly to the stacks and another to the stairway which leads to the main floor.

Underneath the main floor are two tiers of Snead stacks providing shelving for three hundred thousand volumes.

With the exception of three small rooms given over to members of the staff, the second floor is not at present used for library purposes. On the west end of the building is a small lecture hall; on the east end a large room, with overhead lighting which will be leased to the Wilmington Society of Fine Arts for the permanent exhibit of the collection of Howard Pyle Pictures.

Both of these rooms can be taken over for library purposes whenever such a course is

necessary. There is also an unassigned room on this floor.

The building is equipped with an electric elevator, electric booklift for the reference department, and other mechanical equipment usual in a modern building.

ARTHUR L. BAILEY, Librarian.

### Books for European Libraries

MOST important result . . . has been to A render it almost impossible to keep up the flow of learned periodicals and journals from France, England and America into the libraries [of Central European universities] and to obtain the equipment necessary for the conduct of laboratories. Professors in the greatest of these institutions continually complain that they are month by month falling behind in a conspectus of world events in research and scholarship. . . And the present position of monetary exchange makes it impossible either to fill the gaps in their libraries caused by the dead years of the War or to establish unbroken connections with post-war publication. . . . No task the learned societies and educational associations of England and America could undertake could compare in social value with the effort to fill out the broken files in the libraries of Central Europe and to supply the materials of experiment to their laboratories .- Thomas H. Dickinson, in "The New Old-World." Dutton, 1923. p. 105.



VIEW OF SNEAD STANDARD TYPE A STACK, WILMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, WILMINGTON, DEL.

The Wilmington Public Library was designed by Edward L. Tilton and Alfred Morton Githens. Associated Architects. Mr. A. L. Bailey is the Librarian.

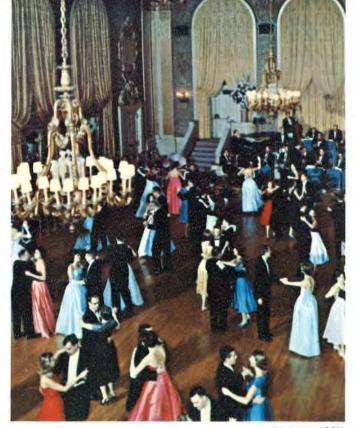
The Stack Room is located below the main floor. The stack is a "dark stack" 2 tiers high and supports the Reading Room floor immediately above. The short stack stairways are located close to the delivery desk, giving quick access to the Reading Room.

We invite Librarians to write us about their Storage problems. Our Planning and Sales Departments will gladly furnish you with tentative layouts and estimates of cost.

### SNEAD & COMPANY

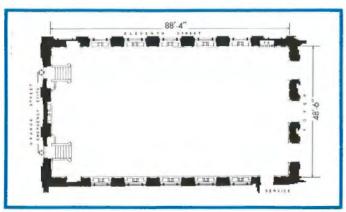
Founded 1849

92 PINE STREET, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY
Canadian Branch: 250 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ontario

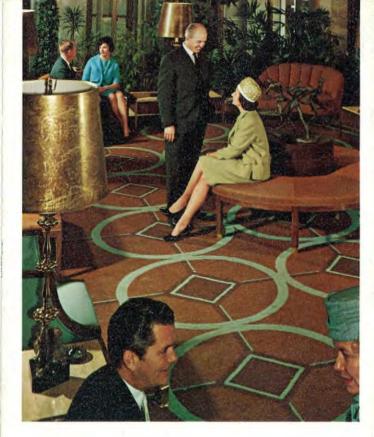


GOLD BALLROOM

Both the elegance and the versatility of the Hotel du Pont are typified by the Gold Ballroom, a spacious, beautiful room with a seating capacity at dinner of 500 persons. This gracious room may serve as a site for a business session in the afternoon and, after an hour's reception in the DuBarry Room above it, may assume a new face as the scene of a dinner dance. This and other facilities of the Hotel du Pont make up a centrally-located "city", halfway between New York and Washington, 30 minutes from Philadelphia, served by Wilmington and Philadelphia airports and the Pennsylvania Railroad, and located on direct routes to Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland turnpikes for easy access by automobile.



GOLD BALLROOM



## HOTEL DUPONT

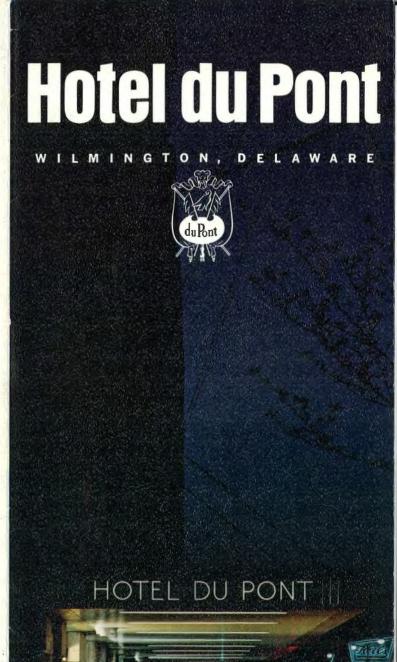
11TH STREET AT MARKET / WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

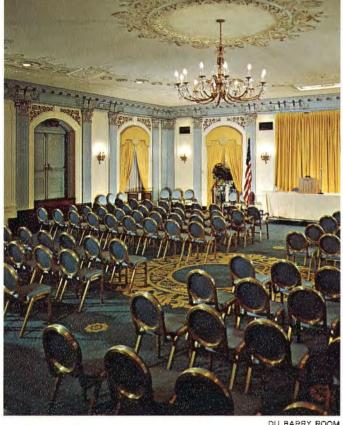
MEMBER OF AMERICAN HOTEL AND MOTEL ASSOCIATION
AAA-RECOMMENDED / DELAWARE TRAVEL COUNCIL
DELAWARE HOTEL-MOTEL ASSOCIATION

### HOTEL DU PONT'S MEETING AND PRIVATE DINING ROOMS

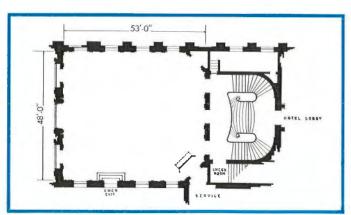
	ROOM	SIZE	MEETINGS	BANQUET
LOWER LEVEL	GRILL-CAFETERIA	45' x 62'	250	250
	GOLD BALLROOM	48' x 88'	500	470
LOBBY	GOLD BALLROOM FOYER	33' x 48'	150	150
LEVEL	DU BARRY	48' x 53'	210	190
	CHRISTINA ROOM	24' x 49'	100	100
	FLAMINGO SUITE	14' x 22'	20	16
	TERRACE ROOM	11' x 23'	30	20
SECOND FLOOR	GARDEN ROOM	11' x 17'	18	12
PLOOR	HUNT ROOM	17' x 34'	50	45
	SUSSEX ROOM	23' x 23'	25	36
ELEVENTH FLOOR	GEORGIAN SUITE	12' x 49'	60	50

FOR RESERVATIONS, PHONE AREA CODE 302 • OLympia 6-8121 TELETYPE 302-762-3435





The Hotel du Pont is a city . . . a city of travelers whose population exceeds 500 persons . . . a convention city on weekends when companies and organizations hold conventions, conferences and sales meetings . . . a tourist center with weekend tours to historic points . . . a social center with dances. wedding receptions and dinners . . . a cultural city with a continuing program of public and private functions . . . a sports center with two area race tracks offering thoroughbred and harness racing four months a year. Like any modern, attractive city, the Hotel du Pont has many interesting facets.



DU BARRY ROOM



The convention facilities of the Hotel are designed with taste and practicality. Three hundred and twenty-five guest rooms many in suite combinations—are available. Each is air conditioned and equipped with a private bath, radio, television and 24-hour telephone service. Bellman service is available if desired. Self-service ice makers are on every floor. Free parking is provided overnight guests.

The Hotel maintains an extensive array of materials for group meetings such as projection equipment, special lighting arrangements, display materials, stages, lecterns, and public



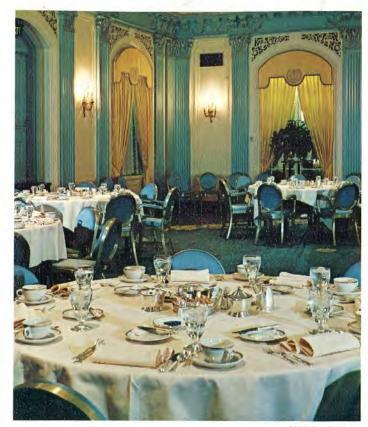
address systems. Equally important is the Hotel's trained staff of 300 persons. Public dining and cocktail facilities, illustrated on the pages that follow, add variety and convenience unequalled in the state. Located on the premises are a barber shop, beauty shop, jewelry store, real estate and insurance offices, drug store, gift shop, opticians, newsstands, bank, stock brokerage offices, men's and women's clothing stores, theatre with Broadway plays, and other facilities for complete, enjoyable living. Near the Hotel in center city is a variety of theatres, stores, library and sightseeing attractions.



CHRISTINA ROOM

Like any city, the face of the Hotel is changing . . . in a way that will meet your approval. One such change is the renovation of the aristocratic Christina Room above, with its carved paneling and Wyeth masterpieces, a delightful setting for a reception, private dinner or business luncheon. The Green Room has a grandeur that, like the delicious breakfasts, luncheons, dinners and buffets served there, is unexcelled. Not illustrated is the Hotel's Grill-Cafeteria, a tastefully-decorated dining facility on the lower level, open Monday through Friday.





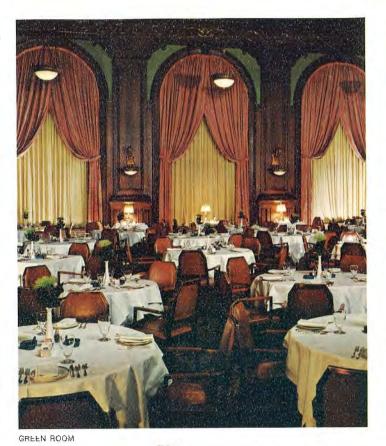
CREEN ROOM





The photograph in the upper right illustrates a room you've seen before, but in different attire. The DuBarry Room, in this scene, has been transformed into a striking dining facility.

The rendering which is shown above is the Hotel's popular Brandywine Room, a lounge finished in the pleasing decor of an early American inn for cocktails and leisurely late supper.









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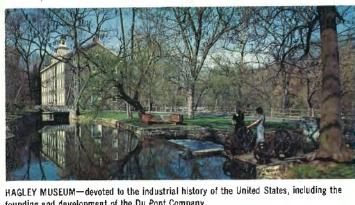
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HISTORIC NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE-more than 300 years old with many original buildings.



WINTERTHUR MUSEUM —— largest and richest collection of early American antiques, especially furniture, and a spring garden.



founding and development of the Du Pont Company.





A feature which the Hotel du Pont is in a unique position to provide is a series of guided tours of culturally-rich Delaware Valley. Clubs, organizations and convention groups of 30 or more are given guest room accommodations, meals and tour guides at attractive weekend rates. Transportation may be arranged by the tour groups or by the Hotel. The photographs on this panel show a sampling of accessible points of interest.



LONGWOOD GARDENS -- world famous horticultural display gardens.



King Rail and Virginia Rail



MUSHROOM CENTER The small town of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, located just thirteen miles west of Wilmington, is one of the country's most important mushroom growing centers.

LONGWOOD GARDENS The gardens and conservatories at Longwood have been described as the nation's finest privately owned horticultural collection. Fountain displays, a pipe organ and open air theatre adjoin the gardens that are open to the public all year around.

ROCKFORD TOWER Inside this old water tower is a long, winding stairway which leads to an observatory at the top. A panoramic view of Wilmington, the Delaware River and surrounding area, may be seen from the Tower's observatory.

COOCH'S BRIDGE It was at Cooch's Bridge in September 1777 that the American flag, made by Betsy Ross, was first unfurled in battle. This historic bridge also marks the site of the onty Revolutionary engagement fought on Delaware soil. DELAWARE PARK Located at Stanton, Delaware, eight miles southwest of Wilmington, the park features thoroughbred horse racing every year from the end of May to the Fourth of

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE in 1833 a legislative enactment established "Nawark College" in Newark, Delaware. Now called the University of Delaware, old "Nawark College" has. . . in the past century grown, in both the number of buildings and the number of students, to became a full-fledged university.

GOVERNOR BACON HEALTH CENTER The Health Center, named after a former governor of Delaware, is located in nearby Delaware City on the original site of Fort duPont. Opened in 1948, the Center consists of seventeen buildings and has room for over five hundred netherly.

NEW CASTLE COURTHOUSE New Costle, Delaware was the first permanent Dutch settlement in America and is one of the oldest towns in the country. The old Courthouse in New Castle served as the Colonial capital until the Revolutionary War.

THE ROCKS Here, in 1638, the Swedes landed and made the first permanent settlement in Delaware, calling it Fort Christinia. A black, granite monument, dedicated by the Crown Prince of Sweden, commemorates this famous landing.

OLD SWEDES CHURCH Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, built in 1698, is believed to be one of the oldest Protestant Churches in North America. Weekly services are still held in Old Swedes Church. OLD TOWN HALL Built in 1798, Wilmington's Old Town Holl now serves as the museum for the Historical Saciety of Delaware. It is open to the public on weekdays except during the month of August.

BRANDYWINE PARK Wilmington's beautifully landscaped park which extends approximately three miles along the famous Brandywine Creek. The park features a small zoo, fountain displays, and playgrounds for children.

DELAWARE ART CENTER The Art Center is the home of public art collections in Delaware. Of porticular interest are the paintings of the late Howard Pyle, and the Bancroft collection of pre-Raphaelite paintings.

FIRST DU PONT POWDER MILL The manufacture of powder was started by the duPont family in 1802 in this small building located on the Brandywine Creek near Wilmington.

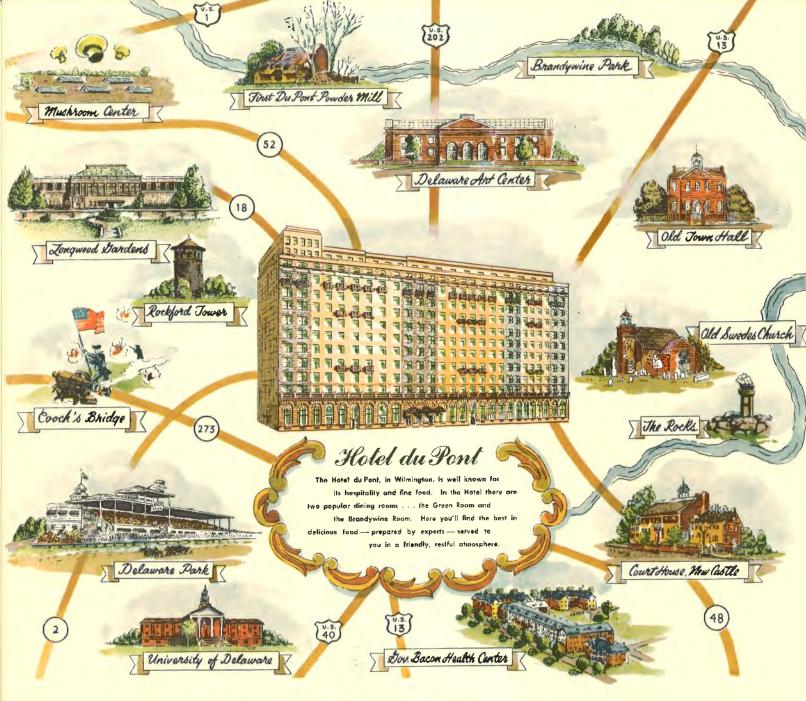
Souvenir Menu

Message

NAME		
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CITY	STATE	



Ruddy Duck



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Souvenir Menu

Mossage

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CITY	STATE



Buffle-head



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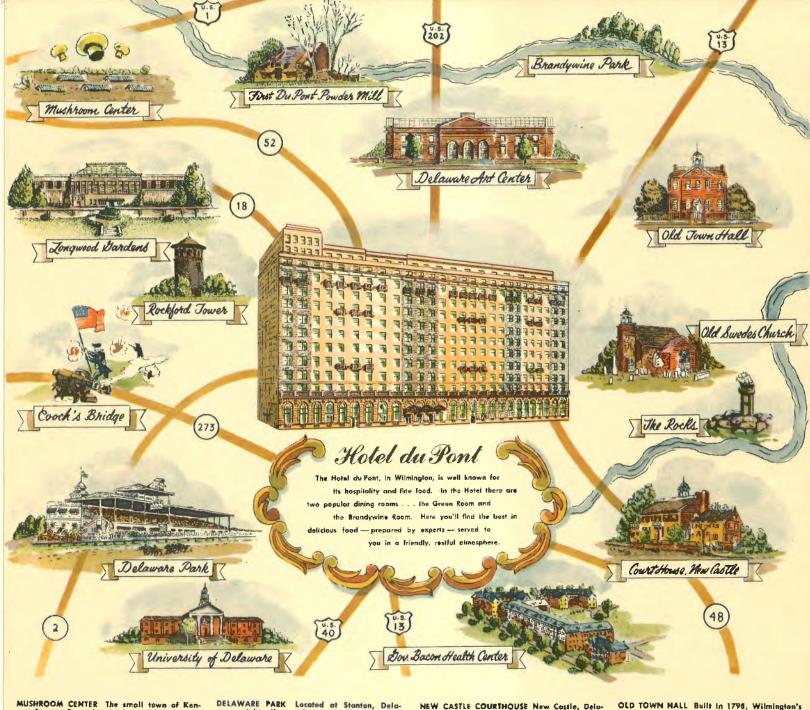
Souvenir Menu You write it . . . We'll mail it

Message

NAME	
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CITY	STATE



Western Grebe



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Souvenir	Manage
Junvenni	Nerm
Vou annita it	Wa'll mail it

	You write it We'll mail it Message The Cole
NAME	In Dore last survey, to
ADDRESS	Thought you might like there. hears
CITYSTATE	Palm Sunday.

### CAESAR RODNEY, 1728-1784

Hotes based mainly on William F. Frank's Caesar Rodney, patriot, c1975.

Preface: C.R. named "De's hero for all times and all seasons" "De's patriot first, last, and for all time to come"

Had De had a poet of the stature of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Rodney's ride might have been eulogized as was Paul Revere's ride in Mass., April, 1775.

Movie and the play, "1776", made C.R. known to the nation, Equestrian statue in Rodney Square, Wilmington, gives honor C.R. was not a scholar and was handicapped by a facial cancer and severe asthma. His life of only 55 years ended soon after the War for Independence was won,

### A - Ancestors and Early Life

- 1. William Rodney m. Alice Caesar, daughter of Sir Thomas and Susanna Caesar, who can be traced to an Italian Doctor, who moved to England in 1550 from Treviso, Italy. English spelling would have been "Rodeney."
- 2. Wm. migrated to America 1681 or 1682 to eastern shore, Md. Moved to Phila, and then to Sussex Co., then to St. Jones Neck, East Dover Co. in Kent Co. He married twice, had 9 children, Was active in the government of all 3 De counties.
- 3. Caesar, youngest son, b.1707 m. Elizabeth Crawford, daughter of Christ Church clergyman. 8 children. Eldest was C.R. b. Oct. 7, 1728 on his father's farm at St. Jones Neck
- 4. C.R. was sent to Latin School in Phila. when a teenager of 14 yrs.
- 5. C. R.'s father died when C. R. was 17 yrs. Nicholas Ridgely was named as his guardian.

### B - Political Life

- 1. C. R. at age 27 became high sheriff of Kent Co, and for the following 29 years served honorably in public office
- 2. At age 28 Register of wills
- 3. 1766-1776 Deputy recorder of deeds, then Recorder of deeds.
- 4. Clerk of Orphans Court in Kent 5. " the Peace
- 6. Justice of peace
- 7. 1765 Elected to the Stamp Congress
- 8.1769 as Speaker of the House he tried to get passed a law prohibiting importation of slaves into De
- 9. 1776 Named to De Supreme Court while a member of General Assembl
- 10. June, 1776 Was Speaker of De Assembly when it declared independence of 3 counties from British Crown
- 11. Served as Brigadier General and later Major General in De's militia during the Revolution
- 12. Served as Judge of De's Admiralty Court
- 13. With Thomas McKean C. R. was commissioned to codify De's laws - the first such code.
- 14. Served as delegate to 1st and 2d Continential Congress while continuing as speaker of De 's Amsembly
- 15. Was President of De, 1776-1778
- Note C. R. held more public offices than any other Delawarean before or since his time.

- C Appearance and Personality
  - 1. We have no authentic portrait of this energetic, but oddappearing man. He wore a green scarf in public to hide facial cancer.

أراب ليواري والروايقات أرابيها والانتجاء فالمراض مواجرتها والمجا

2. His statues portray him as tall, well-built with a very square-shaped face. The Rodney Square equestrian figure - dedicated July 4, 1923, was sculpted by James E. Kelly. Shows C. R. riding to Phila. and arriving July 4. (It is believed he arrived July 2.) In Rotunda of Capitol in Wash. D. C. the marble statue by Bryant Baker - June 26, 1934 - C. R. stands proudly erect, hat in one hand and the Declaration of Independence in other hand, with his sword reclining against his cloak.

3. C. R. was a man of great patience and foebearance - not a flaming militant. He respected conservative views and had tremendous
faith in the future of De and his country. In face of many indignities by his foes, C. R. carried on his duties for the best
interests of his nation and state.

4. Severe health problems, expressed in letter to his brother, Thomas June 7, 1768. Thomas urged C. R. not to worry about medical expenses and to consider going to England for treatment. Instead Dr. Thomas Bond of Phila, operated.

### D - Personal Life.

- 1.C. R. never married, Left few letters.
  Tenderest letter to his Molly (Mary Vinning), either May 27,1761 or 1764. He expressed disappointment that Mary went to Phils. with the Chew family, when she had promised to go with him. The Riggely family is presumed to have a letter written to Mary, professing his love for her.
  Letters also reveal his great concern for his plantation on St. Jones Neck and for personal business affairs, Occasional references to his newphews.
- 2. C. R.'s Molly married the Rev. Charles Inglis, rector of Christ Church in 1764 and died within a year. (Inglis, a Loyalist, became the first Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia.)
- 3. C. R. never forgot the Vinings and had a fatherly interest in Mary Vining, the beautiful niece of his Molly. She became his hostess in 1777 in Wilmington, where she enchanted French and American officers, including General "Mad Anthony" Wayne of Fa.

### E - The soldier

- 1. At age 28 Member of De's militia. No record of involvement in battle during the French and Indian Wars.
- 2. Revolutionary War Brigadier General and Major General
  - a. Handled problems of feeding and clothing militia also paying militia and the Continental troops from De
  - b. C. R. led troops into strongholds of Tory and Loyalist dissenters.
  - c. C. R. left the state Jan. 1777 to head De troops stationed at Trenton, N. J. under Geo. Washington. His chief function was to forward troops to Morristown, N. J. He was never happy in this situation. A letter from Geo. Washington, Feb. 18, 1777 eased his feelings.
  - d. C. R. later became Major General of De militia Mamed by acting predident, Thomas McKean, He continued until elected President of De State in 1778.

- F The Ride to Phila. -(C. R. left no written records.)

  "Through agonizing summer heat, storms and rain, mud and rickety bridges the lone rider headed for Phila. July, 1776 to vote for a document that well might put a noose around his neck. Thus a soldier, politician, chief executive and delegate to the Second Continental Congress, captured the popular imagination of history and virtually canonized C. R. as the greatest Delawarean during the Revolutionaly Era"
  - 1. June 7, 1776 Richard Henry Lee of Va. "resolved that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states." McKean and Rodney favored immediate independence. Read opposed.
    - 2. C. R. called a meeting of Fe Assembly in the old State House, New Castle. June 15, 1776 the Assembly authorized 3 delegates to vote as they pleased, declared the 3 counties to be independent, a "birthdate" of freedom. A provisional revolutionary government was set up with C. R. Chief executive. All claims of John Penn were wiped out.
    - 3. Also June 15, 1776 counter revolutionary troubles developed in Sussex Co. aroused by Tories and Loyalists. C. R. returned home from Phila. before June 30th.
  - 4. July 1 Lee's resolution hung in balance.
  - 5. July 2 A decisive vote was scheduled. McKean sent a messenger to Dover, 80 miles away. Thomas R. dney reported to C. R. that 2/3 of his light infantry soldiers voted for independence, thus influencing his brother to return to Phila.
  - 6. C. R. was 48 yrs. old and the ride strenuous. He called for his carriage, but may have changed to horseback. His route St. Jones Neck to Dover, along King's HWy to Duck Creek Cross-roads to Cantwell's Bridge (Odessa) to Black bird, St. Georges and on to Red Lion, Tybout's Corner to New Castle, to Wilmington and the ferry across the Chtistina River (now 3d St. Bridge), over the Brandywine, Naamans' Marcus Hook, Upland to Gray's Ferry and the post route to Independence Hall. There is no record of stopping to sleep. He must have changed hosses and had some food and dring.
  - 7. C. R.'s vote for independence brought a unamimous vote by all delegates, excepting N. Y. delegates who abstained from voting for 10 days.
- G The Sarah Rowland Myth (Greatest damage to C. R. image)

  1.Geo. Alfred Townsend and Katherine Pyle told story that C. R.
  was with a Tory woman in Lewes when he should have been in
  Phila.(Towsend's poem was orated in Georgetown, July 5, 1880.
  Miss Pyle accepted it and wove the story into her child's history, Once upon a time in Delaware, published 1911.)
  In Townsend'a poem a Mistress Rowland was depicted as a Sussex
  Co. Delilah, feeding C. R. terrapin and wine, and not delivering
  messages to him. Her maid upset the Rowland plot by throwing a
  packet of McKean letters into Rodney's lap. C. R. was horrified

and shocked! He immediately rushed to Fhila.

- Many Sussiex Countians still believe this story as true.
  2. 1911 Samuel Bancroft, Jr. checked authenticity of this tale.
- (He had financed the publication of Townsend's poems.)

  3. Townsend confessed, but claimed he did have authority for C. R. starting his ride from Lewes. C. R.'s brother, Thomas however wrote in his diary that the "staft" was from C. R.'s farm near Dover.

### Page 4 - Caesar Rodney

- 4. 1889 At the monument unveiling at Christ Church Thomas F. Bayard, Sr. U. S. Senator from De, U. S. Sec. of State and Ambassador to Great Britain didn't dignify the story and made no reference to it.
  - 5. 1940's Autograph collectors among Sam Bancroft's letters found Townsend's letter of confession.

### H - Final Years of C. R.

1. By 1780's C. R. was weakening 2. 1783 - C. R. nevertheless was elected speaker of upper house (Today, Lieutenant Governor)

3. 1784 - The State General Assembly met at C. R.'s home. This

was really a courtesy call.

- 4. C.R.'s funeral June 28, 1784. Buried on his home farm of Poplar Grove, Grave was unmarked for over 100 years until Chief Justice Comegys placed a small slab by grave.
- 5. 1887 Rodney club organized to move remains to Christ Church.

5. 1889 - Monument placed in Christ Church graveyard.

### I - C. R. Memorial at Christ Church

1. Concern whether or not C. R.'s bones rest there, because of

deterioration at family plot.

2. March, 1978 - James B. Jackson of Dover (the Rodney collateral descendent)discovered the forgotten cemetery on the old Byfield tract (Historian Harold Hancock feels strongly that Byfield and Poplar Grove were the same) He concluded that it must be the family burial ground which is known to have been in use as early as 1708, when the emigrant William Rodney was buried there. The site from which C. R.'s remains were said to have been moved for transfer to Dover was on the "Burton's Delight" addition which Rodney himself had bought in 1763.

3. Other evidence to support Jackson's discovery-

a. Of 14 graves at the site, only one is a brick vault. It contains the skeletal remains of a middle-aged man. C. R.'s estate record notes a small expenditure to purchase "bricks" for C, Rodney's grave, No other brick vaults have been found.

b.C.R.'s will directs his brother Thomas to erect a brick wall around the family burial ground and evidently a foundation trench for such a wall was built, However, C.R.'s estate was so depleted there was not enough money to build a wall. His lands were finally sold at a sheriff's sale, on the 4th of July

c. The De Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs conducted an examination of the area. There could be a possibility that C. R.'s remains be moved to Christ Church.

4. For time being we should refer to the Christ Church grave site as a "Memorial" to C. R.

Note - Highly recommended for further study : Ryden, George H editor, Letters to and from Caesars Published by Eistorical Society, 1933

### **County Council**

Meets: Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. (except August) in Council Chambers, first floor, Louis L. Redding City/County Building, 800 French St., Wilmington. Clerk of Council, Shirley A. Agnor, 571-7524.

Council: Council President Theodore W. "Toby" Ryan, Democrat, represents entire county, 571-7808

J. Robert Woods, Democrat, 1st District (Stanton, Elsmere, Newport, part of New Castle), 571-7529

Richard C. Cecil, Republican, 2nd District (Brandywine Hundred), 571-7536

Joseph E. Miro, Republican, 3rd District (Greenville, Hockessin, Pike Creek Valley), 571-7534

Penrose Hollins, Democrat, 4th District (Wilmington), 571-7525

Karen G. Venezky, Democrat, 5th District (Newark, south to U.S. 40), 571-7537

J. Christopher Roberts, Democrat, 6th District (south of Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, Glasgow, Dele aware City and part of New Castle), 571-7526

### County executive

Dennis E. Greenhouse, a Democrat and top elected administrator. 571-7500

Frequently called

# CAESAR RODNEY

It's been a long, strange trip for the statue in the center of the square.

By EDWARD L. KENNEY Staff reporter

WILMINGTON - When it comes to statues, few have gotten more bang for the buck than the horse and rider on Rodney Square.

The bronze statue in downtown Wilmington celebrates Caesar Rodney's 1776 journey from Dover to Philadelphia to vote for independence. This six tons of molded metal had a momentous ride of its own - with a

head-on collision — 215 years later. On Jan. 31, 1991, a flatbed truck hauled the statue away for structural and aesthetic repair work at a foundry in Mercerville, N.J. On the way, the driver tried to clear a low overpass. He didn't quite make it. The abutment gouged a small piece out of Rodney's tricorn hat and crunched the horse's rear legs, already weakened by age.

foundry in Providence, R.I. That brought the statue full circle. Foundry the artisan who originally cast the severe case of asthma. statue in the 1920s, at the Gorham

up in 1915 even before there was a colonies. The Declaration of Indepen-Rodney Square. In the 1800s the area dence was formally adopted by the now bounded by King, 10th, 11th, Congress two days later.

Market and King streets was a reservoir and then the site of Wilmington's courthouse.

Major Gen. James Harrison Wilson, a Civil War hero, pushed for the statue. He picked sculptor James Edward Kelly to create it. The finished work was dedicated on July 4, 1923.

After the repairs several years ago, a trucker returned the statue to the square - without incident - on June 10, 1992. The repair bill to the city was about \$105,000 - \$75,000 more than the statue originally cost. Additional damage caused by the overpass tacked on another \$350,000, which was covered by insurance.

Two plaques on the base of the statue were also redone recently. They cited the wrong date - July 4 - for Rodney's ride.

A delegate to the Continental Congress, Rodney rode to Philadelphia on July 1 and 2. No one today is sure The legs had to be recast at a whether he traveled on horseback or by carriage. But he endured rutty roads and a thunderstorm, suffering owner Paul Cavanaugh is grandson of all the while from facial cancer and a

By casting his vote, Rodney broke Manufacturing Co. in Providence. the tie in the Delaware delegation and Plans to create a statue first came made the vote unanimous among the



The News Journal/BOB HERBERT

The statue marks Caesar Rodney's 1776 ride to Philadelphia.

James B. Jackson, Rodney Square July 1, 1992 7/1/92

THANKS DICK. MAYOR FRAWLEY, GOVERNOR CASTLE, GOVERNOR TRIBBITT, GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

103 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK THE HON. THOMAS F. BAYARD CAME TO DOVER AND GAVE THE MOST MEMORABLE SPEECH EVER MADE ABOUT CAESAR RODNEY.

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM I THOUGHT
THAT PERHAPS THE TIME HAD COME TO RECREATE THAT SPEECH FOR THE
GOOD PEOPLE OF WILMINGTON, BUT AFTER READING IT AGAIN I REALIZED
THAT THAT WASN'T SUCH 3 GREAT IDEA.

FIRST, I DIDN'T HAVE THE REQUIRED ORATORICAL TALENT OR THE VOCAL ENDURANCE TO DO IT JUSTICE. SECOND, IT DIDN'T QUITE FIT THE TIME FRAME OF THIS PROGRAM ---- IT LASTED FOR ALMOST THREE HOURS, AND THIRD, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAESAR DROPPING OFF TO SLEEP, FALLING OFF HIS HORSE, AND HAVING TO BE RETURNED TO THE FOUNDRY FOR SURGERY AFTER JUST GETTING BACK HOME IN SUCH BEAUTIFUL SHAPE.

INSTEAD, I'D LIKE TO TAKE JUST A FEW MINUTES TO TALK ABOUT HOW HE GOT TO PHILADELPHIA, NOT PHYSICALLY, BUT PHILOSOPHICALLY AND POLITICALLY. THAT'S AN ASPECT OF HIS CAREER THAT HASN'T GOTTEN MUCH SERIOUS ATTENTION BY HIS BIOGRAPHERS ... MAINLY BECAUSE, UNLIKE MANY OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES, INCLUDING HIS BROTHER THOMAS, HE DID NOT HAVE A LARGE EGO THAT IMPELLED HIM TO ENLARGE UPON HIS OWN MOTIVATIONS AND ACTIONS ... AS WITNESS HIS VERY LOW KEY LETTER OF JULY 4, 1776.

IN SPITE OF HIS MODESTY THERE IS ONE VERY INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE LETTER WRITTEN JUST TWO YEARS BEFORE HE DIED THAT STATES VERY CLEARLY THE GENESIS AND EVOLUTION OF HIS THINKING AND ACTIONS AS A PATRIOT LEADER. IT WAS IN REPLY TO AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO HAD WRITTEN TO COMMEND HIM FOR THIS LEADERSHIP AND TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIS DECLINING HEALTH. IN IT HE STATES:

"I am much oblidged to you for your good opinion, and honestly confess that few things afford me more real satisfaction than that my conduct especially in the public walks of life should meet the approbation of Good men - When the contest between Great Britain and American first commenced, I stept forth among others in order to obtain a redress of Greivances. This and no other was my aim until absolutely refused. The Question then was Independence or

the Bayonet, I was at no loss in determining which to chuse. Independence then necessarily become the American Cause, to this Cause I have Strictly adhered, and hope it will ere long be established."

THIS WAS NOT AN EASY CHOICE FOR RODNEY. HE WAS NOT A HOT-HEADED ZEALOT WITH A PERSONAL AXE TO GRIND, AND HE HELD NO PERSONAL ANTIPATHY TOWARD THE KING. HE WAS, INSTEAD, A COOL AND REASONABLE MAN OF PROPERTY AND SUBSTANCE, WITH EVERYTHING TO LOSE IF THE REBEL CAUSE FAILED --- AND HE TOOK HIS STAND WITHOUT HESITATION WHEN HE WAS FACED WITH NO HONORABLE ALTERNATIVE.

THIS SAME LETTER ALSO REVEALS HIS PERSONAL COURAGE AND STOICISM IN DEALING WITH THE ADVANCED STAGE OF THE FACIAL CANCER THAT WAS TO SOON TO END HIS LIFE. HE STATES VERY CANDIDLY THAT: "I am determined to persevere, it is a matter of the first consequence to me in this world, no less than Life or Death. The issue is Joined and must now be Tryed. The Doctor must conquer the Cancer, or the Cancer will conquer me."

IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT WE CAN ALL BE VERY THANKFUL THAT, WITH ALL THE THUNDER AND RAIN, BAD ROADS, AND TREACHEROUS WATER CROSSINGS HE ENCOUNTERED ON HIS WAY TO PHILADELPHIA, FORTUNATELY, HIS ROUTE WAS NOT OBSTRUCTED BY A LOW OVERPASS. IF IT HAD BEEN, THE COURSE OF HISTORY JUST MIGHT HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

J.B. Jackson



The News Journal/CHUCK McGOWEN

The Caesar Rodney statue, a downtown Wilmington fixture for 68 years, heads north for repairs Wednesday.

## irm raises costs of statue repair

By CRIS BARRISH

Staff reporter

WILMINGTON — The statue of Caesar Rodney on horseback rode majestically up the highway

Wednesday on a flatbed truck, off for major repairs.

But those repairs — to the bronze statue's hind legs and the concrete base overlooking Rodney Square - may cost taxpayers more than the \$100,000 city officials estimated Tuesday.

Officials had said the cost of fixing the statue would be about \$66,000, with another \$30,000 to \$35,000 to repair the concrete base.

But James Wermuth, whose company will oversee the project, said Wednesday that replacing the statue's rear legs would cost about \$100,000, including \$23,000 in fees to his firm, Conservation Technology Group. Work will be done at foundries in Mercerville, N.J., and Providence, R.I.

Wermuth predicted it would cost much more than \$30,000 to fix the concrete base. He said that when the statue was removed, he discovered the base needed more work than originally suspected. The

city has hired another firm to repair the base. City Parks and Recreation Director Donald J. Bowman said the \$23,000 fee to Wermuth's firm was inadvertently left off estimates released by the city. And he disagreed with Wermuth about the base. "He's way off base," Bowman said. "The whole project should come in between \$100,000 and \$120,000." Bowman said \$80,000 is budgeted, and extra costs would come from discretionary funds.

The work should be completed by early June. Wermuth said Paul Cavanaugh, owner of the Providence foundry, is the grandson of the founder who originally cast the statue in Gorham, R.I.

# Rodney Square's \$1.9 million face-lift to begin

#### By CRIS BARRISH Staff reporter

WILMINGTON — The famous bronze horse and rider are back on their pedestal in Rodney Square after an 18-month absence. Now it's time for the park's restoration to begin.

City officials and Garden Club of Wilmington members will break ground at 2 p.m. today on a \$1.9 million face-lift for the park, the city's symbolic centerpiece.

The square, at 11th and Market Streets, faces the Hotel Du Pont, Wilmington Trust Co. headquarters, the courthouse and Wilmington Library. It's a popular lunchtime gathering place and a focal point for visitors. Community activities, including the annual summer jazz festival, are held there.

But heavy use has put the square in need of repair. The garden club will oversee the work.

Phase I, which begins Wednesday, includes the repair of two inoperable water fountains.

renovating the giant stairway leading to the statue of Delaware patriot Caesar Rodney, redesign of the grass panel and walkway, and planting new gardens. The square's light fixtures will be cleaned and repaired.

In Phase II, the health of trees lining the outer walkway will be evaluated and some

might be replaced.

The Frawley administration has committed \$500,000 toward the project. The non-profit garden club is raising the rest of the money.

#### About the Statue

This statue of Caesar Rodney was the work of New York sculptor James E. Kelly, and was dedicated on July 4, 1923. Depicting a horse in full gallop with support resting on the two hind legs poses an awesome challenge to any sculptor but Kelly, like Bernini, met it with grace and beauty. Kelly's work as a sculptor was first introduced in Wilmington in 1906 when he did a relief plaque honoring President William McKinley, which is located on the corner of West Street and Park Drive along the Brandywine.

In 1991 the City of Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation recognized that the statue needed treatment. In traveling to the Johnson Atelier foundry in Mercerville, New Jersey, the statue was further injured and compressed while going under a low bridge. The estimated repair time of six months became a year and a half proposition. The hind legs were sent up to the Paul King Foundry in Connecticut for recasting.

The color of most statues in the early 1920s was a dark brown and this will be the color Delawareans will see. The repatination, done with special chemicals, is the work of Marge Carhart, highly skilled in this field.

A new plaque contributed by the Delaware Heritage Commission making date corrections for the sake of authenticity, will also be unveiled. It bears the following inscription.

"This statue was dedicated in 1923 to commemorate Caesar Rodney's ride to Philadelphia July 1-2, 1776. Despite ill health, Rodney rode through thunder and rain to cast the deciding vote in the Delaware delegation for independence."





# Wilmington Welcomes Caesar Rodney Home



"—I Arrived in Congress (tho detained by thunder and rain) time enough to give my voice in the matter of independence."

Illustration by A.N. Wyeth

Caesar Rodney, Patriot by William P. Frank

Wednesday, July 1, 1992 at 12:00 noon

Cosponsored by The City of Wilmington and the Delaware Heritage Commission

#### Caesar Rodney - "a Hero of the American Revolution"

In the words of the late William P. Frank, journalist and author, "Caesar Rodney rode through American History as the patron saint of his native state and was Delaware's principal hero of the American Revolution."

Kent County's Caesar Rodney was a member of the Rodney family who came to Kent County from England in 1681, the year before William Penn acquired the lower counties. He was Speaker of the Assembly in the Lower Counties and helped organize meetings in all three counties to protest certain British laws. Along with Thomas McKean and George Read, he was chosen to represent the Three Lower Counties at the Continental Congress.

On June 14, 1776, Thomas McKean delivered to the Assembly of the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex Upon Delaware a resolution of the Congress which recommended that each colony adopt such government as would best serve the people of the colony and of America. On June 15 the Assembly adopted a resolution instructing all officers to report to the Assembly and not to the King. The lower counties thus freed themselves from the King and the Penn Family. We call the day SEPARATION DAY.

It was logical then that when Caesar Rodney, who had returned to Dover, received word from McKean on July 1 that George Read would not vote yes on the Resolution for Independence (introduced by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia)-thus leaving the Delaware territory without a vote-he would leave Dover and hurry to Philadelphia in order to vote for Independence.

On July 2, Rodney and McKean voted for independence, and on July 4 voted again for the Declaration of Independence, which includes the Lee Resolution. On August 2 Rodney and Read signed that document. McKean signed in 1781.

Rodney served his county and his state with brilliance and was Speaker of the upper house of the Delaware General Assembly when he died in 1784.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Italo-Americans United has reprinted, at its expense and with the assistance of the Delaware Heritage Commission, Caesar Rodney Patriot, the 1975 booklet by William P. Frank, illustrated by A.N. Wyeth.

An exhibit, sponsored by the Delaware Heritage Commission, concerning the Statue and the celebration in 1923, may be visited in the front entrance of the Wilmington Public Library at Rodney Square through July 1st. It has been there for the month of June.

July 1, 1776 - July 1, 1992

### Wilmington Welcomes Caesar Rodney Home

July 1, 1992, at Noon **Rodney Square** 

The Program

Welcome:

Dr. Howard E. Row, Acting Chairman

Delaware Heritage Commission

The Honorable Daniel S. Frawley Greetings:

Mayor of Wilmington

Recognition of Platform Guests: Howard E. Row

The Hon. Sherman W. Tribbitt, Former Governor of Delaware Dr. Barbara Benson, Executive Director, Historical Society of Delaware Donald J. Bowman, Director, Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation Jeanne Shields, President, The Garden Club of Wilmington Carmen M. Paolino, President, Italo Americans United

Introduction of Speaker: Richard Rodney Cooch

James B. Jackson, Historian Speaker:

Rededication of Statue: Miss Eliza Rodney Wolcott

Conclusion: Musical selections by the

Newark Fife and Drum Corps

Caesar Rodney (portrayed by Sgt. Michael DiEleuterio of the Wilmington Police Department) will be arriving during the program. He will be preceded by the Newark Fife and Drum Corps.

The Boy Scouts of America Troop 88, sponsored by St. Anthony of Padua Church, will assist in the celebration.

James Bice Jackson is a descendant of Daniel Rodney, brother of Caesar.

GOOD AFTERNOON. WELCOME TO THIS VERY SPECIAL HISTORIC PROGRAM.

MY NAME IS HOWARD ROW. I LIVE IN DOVER. IAM APPEARING HERE AS THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION IS A STATE COMMISSION THE MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. ONE OF OUR ASSIGNMENTS IS TO PLAN AND CONDUCT PROGRAMS LIKE THIS ONE.

TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN YEARS AGO TODAY CAESAR RODNEY, OF KENT COUNTY, A DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, BEGAN A TRIP FROM HIS HOME NEAR DOVER, TO PHILADELPHIA, IN ORDER TO VOTE ON JULY SECOND FOR A RESOLUTION DECLARING THESE COLONIES TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES. OUR OTHER TWO DELEGATES WERE SPLIT ON THE MATTER OF INDEPENDENCE. RODNEY BROKE THE TIE WITH A YES VOTE AND THE DELAWARE COLONY VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 2 1776. ON JULY 4 OUR DELEGATION VOTED FOR THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

REPAIRED AND REFURBISHED TODAY WE REDEDICATE THE EQUESTRIAN STATUE, PLACED HERE IN 1923, THAT COMMEMORATES THAT IMPORTANT TRIP BY RODNEY.

DGAM BORS NOT LIST CUP GOV. THE PROGRAM WAS PLAN AS A WINT EFFORT OF THE DELAWARE

HERITAGE COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF WILMINGTON.

MAYOR KING SOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE HONORABLE DANIEL S. FRAWLEY MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON.

James Bfla Jo lity f. Vses

PAGE 2
RODNEY SQUARE WILMINGTON, JULY !, 1, 1992
INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM GUESTS

THERE ARE SEVERAL PEOPLE ON THIS PLATFORM THAT YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE. AS I NAME EACH ONE, HE OR SHE WILL RISE, YOU WILL NOT APPLAUD, AND THE PERSON WILL REMAIN STANDING UNTIL ALL HAVE BEEN PRESENTED.

DURING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, IN 1976, THE GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE ACQUIRED AN APPROPIATE COLONIAL COSTUME AND THEN MADE HIMSELF AVAILABE TO ASSIST IN THE CELEBRATION, AS REQUESTED. HE WAS AN OUTSTANDING BICENTENNIAL GOVERNOR. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE, THE HONORABLE SHERMEN W. TRIBBITT.

YOU HAVE ALREADY MET MAYOR FRAWLEY.

• DR. BARBARABENSON IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE. THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES OF THAT SOCIETY

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PERSONS WHO WISH TO SEARCH FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING CAESAR RODNEY.

- THIS PARK, THIS STATUE, ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON.

  THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION WORRIED OVER THE STATUE

  DURING ITS RECENT TRIP TO AND FROM THE FOUNDARY FOR REPAIR.

  DONALD J. BOWMAN IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT

  OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THIS CITY.
- THE GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON HAS A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE APPEARANCE OF THE PARKS OF THIS CITY. JEANNE SHEELDS IS PRESIDENT OF THE GARDEN CLUB.

A Representation

- UNITED. DID YOU KNOW THAT CAESAR RODNEY HAD SOME ITALIAN

  ANCESTORS? ITALO-AMERICANS UNITED ARE AWARE OF THAT HERITAGE.

  THE ASSOCIATION HAS RECENTLY REPRINTED THE BOOK, CAESAR RODNEY

  PATRIOT, WRITTEN IN 1975 BY THE LATE WILLIAM PENN FRANK. THE

  REPRINTED EDITION INCLUDES A CHART SHOWING THE ITALIAN CONNECTION.

  ( THE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE AT A TABLE ON THE MARKET STREET

  SIDE OF THE STATUE AT THE CLOSE OF THIS PROGRAM )
- MISS ELIZA WALCOTT, MR. JAMES JACKSON OF DOVER AND MR.

  RICHARD COOCH WILL BE INTRODUCED IN MORE DETAIL AND PLAY

  IMPORTANT ROLES IN THIS PROGRAM IN A FEW MINUTES.

YOU MAY NOW GREET THESE PEOPLE WITH YOUR APPLAUSE.

Starts

274 Laky Trations—Oct The Draw

88 St. Antonna

321 St. trations Matthem

21 St. trations Matthem

\*\* Not on stage that because thay are

busy out thorne in the Square are

Thee people or spusionable for planning

Today's event Alolando Santiago affair

Today's event from the Lity trafficular affair

Tota Riem from the Lity trafficular affair

Or. Dolor & Holling, Exec Dion D A C

FIFE...RODNEY...COOCH

A FEW MINUTES BEFORE NOON SOME OF YOU FOLLOWED THE NEWARK

FIFE AND DRUM CORPS INTO THE SQUARE. THE CORPS WILL NOW

ENTERTAIN US AND SIGNAL IN ANOTHER GUEST.



- TODAY SGT. MICHAEL DIELEUTERIO ( DE LEW TEREO ) OF THE WILMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, THINKS THAT HE IS CAESAR RODNEY. WELCOME TO OUR PLATFORM CAESAR.
- THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DELAWARE FAMILIES THAT TRACE ANCESTRY

  TO THE RODNEYS OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD. ONE OF THOSE IS THE

  COOCH FAMILY. THEIR LINE EXTENDS TO THE GRANDFATHER OF CAESAR

  RODNEY THE SIGNER. RICHARD COOCH IS A MEMBER OF THE DELAWARE

  HERITAGE COMMISSION. HE WILL INTRODUCE MR. JACKSON AND MISS

  WOLCOTT.

OPTIONAL. LATE YESTERDAY, DURING THE CLOSING HOURS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DELAWARE, THE SENATE CONFIRMED TWO DELAWARE ATTORNEYS AS JUDGES IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE. ONE OF THOSE CONFIRMED WAS RICHARD COOCH.

THANK YOU MISS WALCOTT. THANK YOU MR. JACKSON. THIS HAS BEEN
A MEMORABLE DAY. YOU HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE CAMERAS WATCHING
THIS PROGRAM TODAY. ONE OF THOSE CAMERAS IS FROM STORER CABLE
COMMUNICATIONS IN DOVER. THE TAPE OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE BROADCAST
NEXT TUESDAY EVENING OVER CHANNEL 4 DOVER. BY THAT MEANS THE
PEOPLE OF CAESAR RODNEYS HOME COUNTY WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THIS
EVENT. THE TAPE WILL EVENTUALLY BE PLACED IN THE ARCHIVES OF
THE STATE OF DELAWARE. ELIZA, YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR
GRANDMOTHERS PARTICIPATION IN THE DEDICATION OF THIS STATUE IN
1923. SIXTY NINE YEARS FROM NOW PERHAPS YOUR GRAND CHILDREN
WILL BE ABLE TO VIEW ATHIRTY MINUTE VIDEO OF YOUR PARTICIPATION
TODAY.

TEXTUSE CARSON

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT HISTORY DOESN'T CHANGE. TRUE, THE FACTS OF EVENTS DO NOT CHANGE BUT OUR UNDERSTANDING MAY NOT ALWAYS BE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT. IN 1923 A COMMITTEE OF DISTINGUISHED DELAWAREANS PLANNED FOR AND SAW TO THE PRODUCTION OF THIS STATUE. THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM PLACED THE TIME OF THE FAMOUS RIDE ON JULY 3 RD and 4 TH. THOSE DATES ARE CAST IN THE BRONZE AND CARVED IN THE STONE HERE. WE NOW KNOW THAT THE DATES OF THE RIDE WERE JULY 1AND2,1776, AND THAT THE IMPORTANT VOTE WAS ON THE RESOLUTION THAT DECLARED INDEPENDENCE AND THUS SET THE STAGE FOR THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. THE DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION HAS ADDED A NEW PLAGUE ON THE TENTH STREET FACE OF THE PEDIMENT UPON WHICH THE STATUE STANDS. THAT PLAQUE SHOWS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIME WHEN THE RIDE OCCURED.

THE FIFE AND DRUM CORPS WILL PLAY US OFF. GOOD AFTERNOON



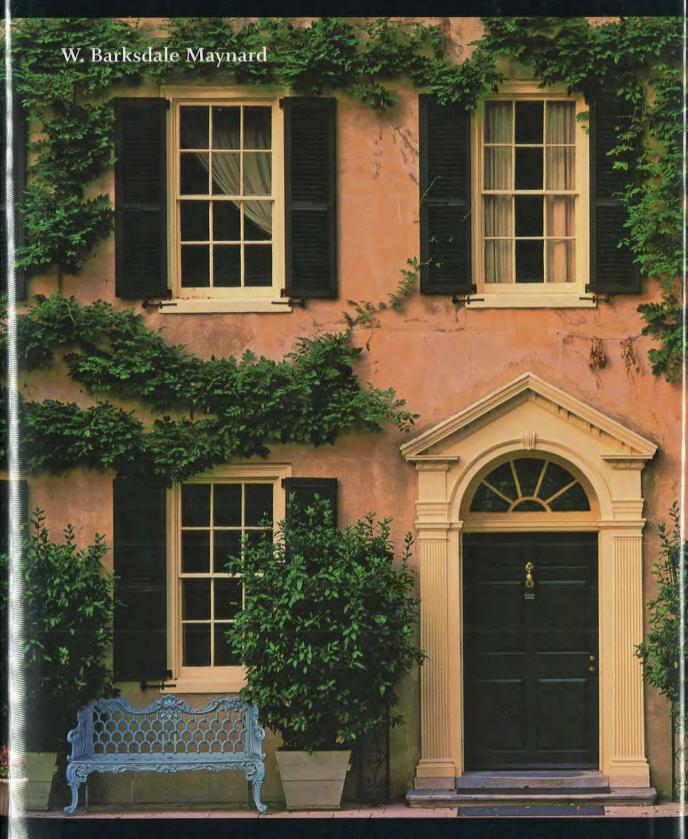
#### CAESAR RODNEY'S HOMECOMING

- 11:30 a.m. Boy Scouts, Newark Fife & Drum Corps, & "Caesar" Assemble at 4th & Market Street
- 11:50 A.M. Boy Scouts, Newark Fife & Drum Corps, & "Caesar" Begin procession up Market Street to Rodney Square
- 11:59 a.m. Boy Scouts lead Newark Fife & Drum Corps into Square "Caesar" waits just outside the Square
- NOON Welcome Howard Row, Delaware Heritage Commission
- Daniel Si 12:02 p.m. - Mayor Frawley
- 12:05 p.m. Recognitions of Platform Guests Howard Row
- 12:08 p.m. Fife & Drum Corps performs a tune, which signals "Caesar's" entry into Square "Caesar" will remain at attention next to the Band Wagon
- 12:10 p.m. Introduction of Speaker Richard Rodney Cooch
- 12:12 p.m. James B. Jackson
- 12:20 p.m. Wreath Ceremony Eliza Rodney Wolcott Commentary - Howard Row Plagge
- 12:22 p.m. Conclusion Fife & Drum Corps performs
- 12:25 p.m. Platform cleared Public encouraged to see "Caesar" and his horse and enjoy the Fife & Drums Corps, which will continue to play until approximately 1 p.m. at the Square

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Det Flag. Storm-Markard V+ Grobe - 1632

# BUILDINGS OF Delaware





WL2B WILMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY (WILMINGTON INSTITUTE LIBRARY), side view

Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott. 10th and Market sts.

The library as an institution was already 134 years old when the cornerstone of its new building was laid in 1922. Its previous home, the Wilmington Institute at 8th and Market streets (1860), had been deemed ugly and potentially combustible. In his first major expression of philanthropy, Pierre S. du Pont bought land on Rodney Square (WL29) in 1915 from First Presbyterian Church. A cemetery had to be moved to make way for the new building. The New York City architects, known for their Carnegie libraries, drew up designs in 1916 in which the Rodney Square facade had a dozen engaged columns and a projecting portico. This was later simplified by the omission of the portico and reduction of engaged columns to eight, resulting in the unusual final design in which the center of the composition is flat and relatively unadorned. Sculpted owls of wisdom perch on second-story window sills. The continuous frieze of colored terra-cotta derives from the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina in Rome (141 AD), with the addition of modern symbolism, including swastikas. Githens spoke of this emblem as "originating far beyond the beginning of history and common to most of the primitive races of the world, its meaning not always the same, but always beneficent."

Inside, the central reading room was a two-

story, skylit atrium. Black Greek Doric columns with painted capitals supported a plaster copy of the Parthenon frieze in Athens. Yellow Ionic columns graced the second floor. Nearly all the books were stored in the basement, the architects having created what they called an interior "of openness and of light, strong, flooding, brilliant light." Githens was proud of the open plan for libraries as developed here. The building won an AIA prize in 1925 and pointed the way to the firm's much larger Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore (1929-1933). In a ruthless remodeling first outlined in 1965, an extra floor was inserted between the first and second all around the reading room; the upper part of the atrium was destroyed, the cailing lowered, and the Parthenon frieze cut into pieces and remounted between the Doric columns. In its elimination of oldfashioned bombast and formality, this campaign was considered highly progressive, making the interior, according to the architects, "decidedly more inviting, more refreshing and more human"-questionable to our eyes today.

#### WL29 Rodney Square

1917–1921, Zantzinger, Borie and Medary. East side of Market St., between 10th and 11th sts.

Occupying the hilltop at the center of downtown, the park called Rodney Square was in-



WL29 RODNEY SQUARE, photo 1941; DUPONT BUILDING (WL32) at left, POST OFFICE (WL31) at center, PUBLIC BUILDING (WL30) at right

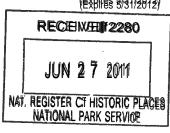
tended to take the adjoining Public Building, the DuPont Building, and a planned library and "unify them into a single scheme of civic adornment." A million-gallon water reservoir (1827-1877) originally occupied this site, which was replaced by the New Castle County Courthouse (1880, Theophilus P. Chandler; demolished 1919-1920). The subsequent courthouse would have stood here, too, except that John J. Raskob of the DuPont Company wisely suggested placing it farther east in order to create a square. With funds from Irénée du Pont, a Center Square competition was held in 1916-1917 by the Park Commission, conducted by University of Pennsylvania professor Warren P. Laird, who was assisted by a board of experts, including architects William M. Kendall, Charles A. Platt, and John Russell Pope. This kind of professional, nonpolitical jury was typical of the reformist City Beautiful movement of the early twentieth century. Of the five plans submitted (including one by Carrère and Hastings), that of the Zantzinger firm of Philadelphia bad, according to the judges, "the requisite simplicity and dignity." The winners worked with the Onondaga Litholite Company of Syracuse, New York, suppliers of the cut cast stone. Bronze lanterns on pylons were illuminated by electric lights. From the time of its completion, the square has been a favorite gathering place, and 30,000 people assembled here to cheer pro-business Republican presidential candidate Wendell Wilkie in October 1940. Rodney Square had its pavements redesigned in the 1970s and again in 1996—1997 (Rodney Robinson).

### **WL29.1** Caesar Rodney Equestrian Monument

1917–1922, James Edward Kelly, sculptor

Cast by Gorham Manufacturing Company and standing on a litholite base, the bronze sculpture commemorates a patriot's ride from Dover to Philadelphia to give the deciding vote in favor of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 (it should read "July 2"). Kelly was known for sculptures of Civil War heroes. It took so long for him to complete the bronze tablets at its base (until 1925, when he was seventy), that the art committee grew "tired, disgusted

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable:" For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a). Name of Property Rodney Square Historic District historie name other names/site number 2. Location Street & number Buildings fronting Rodney Square at 10th, 11th, Market and King Streets. not for publication Wilmington city or town vicinity 10 county New Castle code eade zip eede 19801 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  $\sqrt{}$  nomination\_\_\_request/fordetermination of edigibility meats the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_x/eets \_\_\_\_does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property in my opinion, the property \_x/eets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property\_meets \_\_does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of commenting official Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government Park Service Certification I hereby prertify that this property is: - determined eligible for the National Register -determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register anature of the Keeper

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;r.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Rodney Square Historic Distri Name of Property	<u>6t</u>	<u>New Castle County, DE</u> €ounty and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply:)	Category of Property (Gheck only one box.)	Number of (De net include	Resources within P previously listed resource	reperty s in the count.)
		_Contributi	ng Noncontribut	ing
x private	building(s)	5	0	buildings
public - Local	X district	1	0	sites
X public - State	site	0	0	structures
public = Federal	strueture	1	0	objects
	ebject		<u> </u>	Tetal
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a			sontributing resour National Register	ces previously
N/A		1 (U.S. Post	Office, Custom House	and Court House)
6. Function or Use				-
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions:)		<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions:)		
DOMESTIC: Hotel	C: Hotel DOMESTIC: Hotel			
COMMERCE/TRADE: Profess	sional	COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional		
GOVERNMENT: Post Office		EDUCATION: Library		
GOVERNMENT: Government	Office	LANDSCAP	E: Park	
GOVERNMENT: Courthouse				
EDUCATION: Library				
LANDSCAPE: Park	<del></del>			
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		Materials (Enter categorie	es from instructions.)	
(Enter categories from instructions:) LATE 19 <sup>TM</sup> AND 20 <sup>TM</sup> CENTUR	RY REVIVALS:	,	,	
Beaux Arts LATE 19 <sup>™</sup> AND 20 <sup>™</sup> CENTUR	RY REVIVALS:	foundation:	STONE: Granite, C	CONCRETE
Classical Revival		walls:	STONE: Limestone	e, BRICK
LATE 19 <sup>™</sup> AND 20 <sup>™</sup> CENTUF	RY REVIVALS:			
Italian Renaissance				
MODERN MOVEMENT: Mode	rne	roof:	ASPHALT	
		other:	Cast stone	

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rodney Square

Name of Preperty
New Castle County, Delaware
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number <u>3</u> Page <u>J1</u>				
In my opinion, the property <u>/</u> meetsdbass mottmasettithe National Register criteria.				
- m. Bile MAYOR	12-13=18			
Signature of Commenting Official/Title	Date			
Cuty of Wilmington Certified Local Government				
Certified Eoeth Government				

Comments (optional):

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rodney Square Historic District

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Redney Square Historic District Name of Preperty
New Castle County, DE County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Rodney Square Historic District (CRS number N-5263) is located on the north side of downtown Wilmington, approximately halfway between Interstate 95 and the Brandywine Creek. Within the proposed boundaries of the district are Rodney Square itself, the four buildings fronting the square – DuPont Building, Wilmington Institute Free Library, Wilmington Public Building and the United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House – as well as the Nemours Building, which is located to the west of and connected to the DuPont Building. The north, south and east and west boundaries correspond directly to the perimeter elevations of the aforementioned buildings. The site decreases in grade to the east and consists of fifteen-foot wide concrete sidewalks, street trees and scattered street lamps. The street surfaces are paved with asphalt.

The proposed district is located near the McVey Building at 800 N. Market Street (NR 1985), the Aldine Theater at 806-810 N. Market Street (NR 1985), the Frank Dure Building at 811 N. Market Street (NR 1985), the Masonic Hall and Grand Theater at 818 N. Market Street (NR 1972), the Wilmington Savings Fund Society at 838 N. Market Street (NR 1985), the F.W. Woolworth and Company Building at 839 N. Market Street (NR 1987), the Delaware Trust Building at 900-912 N. Market Street (NR 2003), the Wilmington Club at 1103 N. Market Street (NR 2006) and the Lower Market Street Historic District (NR 1980). The United States Post Office, Custom House and Court House, included in the proposed district, was also listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Of the five buildings, the square itself and the Caesar Rodney Statue, all date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and four of the five buildings, as well as the square, are designed in revivalist architectural styles – Italian Renaissance style. Classical Revival style. Beaux Arts style –, which are characteristic of the district's period of development and prosperity in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although the Nemours Building is designed in the Moderne style and therefore has a more streamlined aesthetic, both the masonry construction and the high-rise design are compatible with the remainder of the district.

Although a different architectural firm conceived of each component, stylistic unity is found both in the general and specific design elements. All of the buildings and the square have symmetrical elevations, formal access points, flat rooflines and masonry cladding. Many of the details are similarly consistent including rusticated bases, engaged columns, ornamented cornices and Classical moldings.

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Individual Building/Site/Object Descriptions

DuPont Building, 1905-1907, 1910-1911, 1911-1913, 1915-1916, 1917-1919, 1930-1931, 1937 1007 N. Market Street

Contributing

Photographs 7, 8, 13, 18, 20, 24

The DuPont Building is a 14-story structure designed in the Italian Renaissance style and constructed in seven phases. The building has a rusticated Indiana limestone base that is punctuated by double-height arched windows. Floors 3 through 14 are clad in alternating smooth and clad buff brick with window bays that are at regularly set intervals and are articulated with limestone detailing. There is a decorative limestone stringcourse between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> floors and a simple stringcourse between floors 12 and 13, in place of a bracketed copper cornice that was removed in 1949. Because of the phased nature of the construction, the building has a large interior courtyard. The most ornate interior portions of the building are the theater, designed by Charles A. Rich, and the hotel, which was "said to have cost more, per room, than any other in the world." Designed by Frederick Godley, J. Andre Fouilhoux, Joel Barber, and Raymond M. Hood, the hotel featured Italian marble, Caen stone, mosaics, terrazzo, and oak paneling. The most notable rooms include the Ballroom Suite, designed by Hood, the du Barry Room, the Gold Ballroom, which was designed to evoke the 18<sup>th</sup> century in France and had twenty-nine foot ceilings, the Green Room, the Georgian Room and the Brandywine Room. The interior features of the building are largely intact.

Nemours Building, 1935-1937, 1939-1941, 1999-2001 1007 Orange Street Contributing Photographs 14-17

The Nemours Building is a 14-story building designed by Frederick A. Godley and Huber Sheldon Stees. The Moderne style building has an irregularly shaped footprint and is constructed of reinforced concrete with brick and limestone facing. The building also features setbacks to conform to city zoning regulations and an interior courtyard. In 1999, the building was renovated and much of the original interior fabric was removed. It was originally connected to the DuPont Building by an underground tunnel and an upper level bridge. The tunnel is no

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Williams Barksdale Maynard, Buildings of Delaware (Charlottesville, VA; University of Virginia Press, 2008): 106.

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longer operable and the bridge has been removed.

Rodney Square, 1917-1921 Bordered by Market, King, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets Contributing Photographs 3, 7, 8, 10, 11,21

Rodney Square is a sunken green space that is accessed by steps on the north, west and south elevations and by gates on the east elevations. Surrounding the grass is a paved walkway edged by landscaped borders, and cast stone walls and balustrades. This material was presumably chosen over granite because of the lesser cost and chips of Carborundum were even added to the stone to replicate the more expensive look. European Lindens were planted around the perimeter of the square in 1921 but were replaced in the 1950s, because they failed to grow quickly, as originally advertised. Flanking the steps on the west elevation are stone drinking fountains, which double as a memorial to William Poole (1853-1918), former head of the Wilmington Fountain Society. The fountains sit on a curved base in front of a balustraded.

stone wall. An engraving on the fountains reads, "This fountain is a gift of the Wilmington

Rodney Square Equestrian Statue of Caesar Rodney, 1915-1925
Market Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 1V<sup>th</sup> Streets
Contributing
Photograph 7

Fountain Society to the City of Wilmington, 1920."

Designed by James E. Kelley, the 14'1" high, 7,500 pound, bronze statue of Caesar Rodney sits on a litholite base in the center of the western border of Rodney Square. On either side of the base are bronze panels depicting Thomas McKean greeting Rodney on his arrival in Philadelphia and Rodney casting the deciding vote for independence. The panels were added to the base in 1925.<sup>A</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ellen H. Grosman, "This Is Wilmington." The Sunday Morning Star, 15 August 1948, 4.

Marjorie McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square." Delaware History 21 (Spring-Summer 1985): 157-158.

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United States Post Office, Court House, Custom House, 1933-1936, 1982-1983 1100 N. Market Street Contributing Photographs 1, 2, 19, 25

The United States Post Office, Court House, Custom House is 3-stories in height and clad in limestone and rusticated granite. The Beau Arts style building has engaged Ionic columns, symmetrical facades and a limestone cornice ornamented with dentils and acanthus leaves. In 1982, a 14-story addition was constructed to the north of the original building. On the Interior of the building, the most notable elements are three murals funded by the Works Progress Administration. Chemistry and Industry and Chemistry and Agriculture were painted by Herman H. Zimmerman and are located on either side of the lobby. Landing of the Swedes was painted by Albert Pels and is located in the primary courtroom.

Wilmington Institute Free Library, 1921-1923, 1969-1971 10 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street Contributing Photographs 9.12, 23

The Wilmington Institute Free Library is similar to the United States Post Office, Court House, Custom House with 3-stories, limestone cladding, engaged lonic columns, symmetrical facades and a limestone cornice ornamented with dentils and acanthus leaves. The Beaux Arts style building is unique in that it has a polychrome terra cotta frieze, sculpted limestone owls on the 2<sup>rd</sup> floor window sills and categories of learning, including philosophy, medicine and agriculture, inscribed in the spandrels between the 2<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. The interior of the building is even more exceptional with a large, centered double-height, skylit atrium and historicized plaster friezes. In the 1969, the interior was dramatically altered, including the insertion of a level between the 1<sup>gt</sup> and 2<sup>rd</sup> floors, the lowering of ceilings and the dismantling and partial reinstallation of the frieze.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

New Castle County, DE County and State

Rodney Square Historic District	
Name of Property	

8. S	late	ement of Significance	
(Mark	₹"¥"	able National Register Criteria in one of more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property all Register listing:)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions:)  ARCHITECTURE
	A B	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past:	COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
x	С	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction:	Period of Significance 1905-1941
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates N/A
	( <b>"%</b> "	a <b>Considerations</b> in all the boxes that apply:) by is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above:)
	A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes:	N/A
	В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
	C	a birthplace or grave:	
	Ð	a cemetery:	Architect/Builder
	E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Zantzinger, Borie and Medary
	F	a commemorative property.	James E. Kelly
(	G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	Associated Federal Architects Tilton and Githens Frederick A. Godley Palmer, Hornbostel and Jones

**Period of Significance (justification) See** attached.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A** 

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 16:900 OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Rodney Square Historic District

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**Narrative Description** 

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph See attached.

Narrative Description See attached.

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Wilmington Public Building, 1914-1916, 1960, 1980 1000 N. King Street Contributing Photographs 4-6, 22

The Wilmington Public Building was constructed in 1914 and has a U-shaped floor plan with two perpendicular additions on the east elevation, which date to 1980. The 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-story, Classical Revival style building is primarily clad in a combination of rusticated granite and granite block. The colonnaded primary, west elevation is flanked by pedimented entrance pavilions with Roman windows and the remainder of the elevations largely consist of regularly spaced rectangular windows. In both 1960 and 1980, the building underwent extensive interior renovations resulting in the retention of very little historic fabric. Fortunately the prominent marble stairways, the entry vestibules at the north and south ends of the west elevation and the octagonal, triple-height vestibules to the east of the entry vestibules all remain intact.

#### Imtegrity/

The Rodney Square Historic District possesses integrity. It retains its original location and continues to operate both as a civic, institutional and business center and as a local gathering place. Additionally, all buildings, as well as the square, have a similar use to that for which they were designed and the overall defining forms and architectural characteristics, as well as the mix of land uses, remain intact. Although many of the interiors have been altered to varying degrees, there are minimal changes to the exteriors, and none that directly abut Rodney Square. Moreover, all additions since 1979 were subject to the Section 106 Review process and therefore were reviewed by the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office. Of the five buildings, one site and one object, none were constructed outside of the period of significance and none are considered to be non-contributing. The quality, placement and condition of the construction materials and workmanship in the district are good and firmly define the district as an architecturally and programmatically cohesive city core.

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The Rodney Square Historic District is the civic and commercial core of downtown Wilmington, DE and contains a collection of historically, functionally and aesthetically cohesive elements. The district, which contains five buildings, one site and one object, merits listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development as a unique example of a collective public and private development venture that evolved out of the City Beautiful movement and under the guidance of the DuPont Company. It is also significant under Criterion C for Architecture as an important and unified collection of revivalist style architecture designed for primarily public use. Both the buildings and the square are essentially intact with no alterations that significantly compromise their integrity. The period of significance begins in 1905, with the purchase of the land for the oldest contributing building, and ends in 1941, with the final phase of original construction of the Nemours Building.

#### Brief History of the Development of Downtown Wilmington

Since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the city of Wilmington has been an industrial and shipping hub, providing materials including, gunpowder, iron ships, carriages and railroad cars. By the mid19<sup>th</sup> century, the city itself was more firmly established, with a central grid, tree-lined residential streets, a horse car line and a comprehensive park system. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the city center was located on Market Street between Front and Fifth Streets, as this neighborhood contained the main hotel, the main bank and "the city's major transportation and communication links." With the relocation of the DuPont Company to Market Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets and the extension of the city's two main transportation lines to 10<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets, Rodney Square became the new city center. As its creators had hoped, Rodney Square became the "symbolic centerplece of the city" and was the site of political railies, concerts, Vietnam War protests, dances, and Christmas displays. It was said that, "In Rodney Square, you eventually see everyone you know if you stay long enough" and that "for the generations between 1900 and 1940, Rodney Square was where the action was."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Marjorie McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square." Delaware History 21 (Spring-Summer 1985): 139

<sup>1985): 139.</sup>A Marjorie McNinch, "Rodney Square." (Draft. Wilmington Department of City Planning files): 9.

A Josephine Eccel, "City Sights: A History of Rodney Square." Wilmington (January, 2010): 19; McNinch, 139.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rodney Square Historic District

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The Commercial. Civic and Institutional Development of Rodney Square

The area encompassing the proposed Redney Square Historic District has been the civic and commercial center of Wilmington, DE since 1878, when a new county courthouse was constructed that was bordered by Market Street, King Street and 10th and 11th Streets? The Richardsonian Remanesque style courthouse, located on the site of an old reservoir, was designed by prominent Philadelphia architect Theophilus P. Chandler (1845-1928) and completed in 1881. Subsequent to the completion of the courthouse, the surrounding land had developed and contained a mixture of civic, commercial, and residential structures.

In 1902, the Du Pont Company relocated its headquarters to Market Street between 10th and 11th Streets, to the northwest of the courthouse, in order to consolidate and increase its office space. The site was not only chosen because of its central business location and prominent street frontage but also because it was ewned by the Manufactures Contracting Company, of which Pierre S. DuPont was vice president, and his brother, Irenee, was secretary-treasurer. As the dominant company in a company town, the presence of the DuPont Company firmly established the proposed Rodney Square Historic District as the center of civic and commercial life in downtown Willmiington®

Construction began on the DuPont Building in March 1906 and the building was to be 12-steries in the Italian Renaissance style with offices for the Wilmington Trust Company on the 18th and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors, tenant office space on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors and DuPont Company offices in the remainder. Wilmington's tallest building accommodated 2,500 employees, 550 of which were

Carol Hoffecker, Corporate Capital: Wilmington in the Twentieth Century (Philadelphia; Temple University Press, 1983); 40-41; McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 141. AMCNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 143-144.

<sup>\*</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 140. The draining of the reservoir, and the subsequent construction of the courthouse, occurred when Wilmington was named the new county seal. The company previously had space in fourteen buildings scattered around Wilmington. The reorganization of the company was led by cousins T. Coleman DuPont, Alfred I. DuPont and Pierre S. DuPont. T. Coleman DuPont was the grandson on Alfred Victor, the second president of the company, and great grandson of Eleuthere Irenee, the founder of the company. The buildings previously occupying the site included the Harkness Building, owned by the Manufacturers Contracting Company, a Y.M.C.A. and various businesses and residences. McNinch, "Rodney Square," 3.

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directly employed by the DuPont Company Although completed in 1907, the square footage of the building was nearly doubled in 1910 to accommodate the expanding businesses. A third addition to the building was completed in 1913, which primarily contained the Hotel DuPont with 150 rooms and the Playhouse, with 1,256 seatts® Three more additions were completed in 1916, 1919 and 1931. In 1937, 2-stories were added above the 12th floor. The floor plate of the building was eventually bordered by Market, Orange, 10th and 11th Streets and totaled nearly 662,000 square feet.

In 1915, the county courthouse on Market Street was scheduled for demolition and the proposed urban design of Rodney Square was first given serious consideration.\* As the site was adjacent to the primary elevation of arguably the most important building in Wilmington, the DuPont Company was naturally considerably invested in what was to be constructed. They felt that the best use for the location – and for themselves – would be to transform the 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre site and the surrounding area into the civic center of Wilmington, complete with governmental, commercial and institutional buildings.

The man selected to execute this vision was John Jacob Raskob (1879-1950), who had been hired in 1901 by Pierre S. DuPont as his personal assistant.44 Not only did Raskob wish to adhere to the aesthetic tenets of the City Beautiful movement, he also desired to create a "more impressive Wilmington [in keeping with] part of a much larger national effort aimed at improving urban life."12

McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 144.

<sup>8</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 145. The hotel opened on Pierre S. DuPont's

birthday.

The Delaware General Assembly formally voted on demolition of the courthouse in 1917. McNinch, "Rodney Square," 11.

Raskob later became vice-president of finance for both the DuPont Company and General Motors, as well as chairman of the Democratic National Committee and builder of the Empire State Building in New York City.

\*A Hoffecker, 41.

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Raskob initiated a juried competition for the design of the block bordered by 10<sup>th</sup>, 11, Market and King Streets, which was held in 1916 and 1917. The competition was primarily funded by Irrenee DuPont, under the guidance of the Park Commission, and chaired by Warren P. Laird (1861-1948), the first dean of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania. Laird, who acted "as a consultant in all phases of [Rodney Square's] development", was joined by a committee consisting of prominent architects and landscape architects, including William A. Kendall, Charles A. Platt, and John Russell Pope. All three men had distinguished themselves as experts in Classical Revival styles and leaders of the City Beautiful movement in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Five plans were submitted to the committee by Donn Barber, Boring and Tilton, and Carrere and Hastings, all of New York, Waddy B. Wood of Washington, D.C. and Zantzinger, Borie and Medary of Philadelphia. The design and programmatic objectives for the competition were as follows:

Center Square... is in effect the civic center of Wilmington because [it is] bordered by its most important buildings. Thus, while constituting one of the city's breathing spaces, it must also serve as a convenient thoroughfare between the buildings that face it and form a forefront or setting for these buildings which, by its treatment, shall as nearly as possible unify them into a single scheme of civic adornment. 18

In this way, the square was not only the literal center of the City, but the metaphorical one as well.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Warren Powers Laird, 1861-1948." *Philadelphia Architects and Buildlings*. <a href="http:///www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar display.cfm/21437">http:///www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar display.cfm/21437</a>. Accessed on September 9, 2010. Irrenee DuPont was the brother of Pierre and head of the Park Commission.

McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 146.
 McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 154.

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Only the design by Zantzinger, Borie and Medary (1910-1929) had the "requisite simplicity and dignity." according to the jury. 16 On July 1 1919, demolition began on the old courthouse and, shortly thereafter, construction commenced on the square: 2.1 In the spring of 1923, both the square and the library to the south were complete and "Rodney Square had taken on a definite shape and has established its role as the civic center of Wilmington."18

One of the earliest definite components in the design of the Square was the presence of a sculpture of Caesar Rodney on a horse by James E. Kelly. Rodney (1728-1783) was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the statue commemorates his ride from Dover to Philadelphia for that event. The design and designer for the statue were selected by the Caesar Rodney Equestrian Statue Association, which was a parallel committee to the Park Commission, and to which Irenee DuPont belonged. Begun in late 1915 and completed in 1925, the statue is cast in bronze with a litholite base. 18 At the time of its design, it was "considered by many sculptors to be one of the most beautiful equestrian statues in the world." The other sculptural component of the square are drinking fountains that flank the steps on the west elevation and serve as a memorial to William Poole (1853-1918) a descendant of an Early Wilmington Quaker family and former head of the Wilmington Fountain Society. 81 The Square also contained twelve bronze lanterns with electric lights that were 4 1/2 feet in height/02

Williams Barksdale Maynard, Buildings of Delaware (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press. 2008): 104.

Prior to its demolition, the courthouse was used in a military capacity for World War I. Eccel. 18.

<sup>18</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The image has since appeared on the Delaware state quarter in 1999.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Ellen H. Crosman, "This Is Wilmington" Rodney Square." The Sunday Morning Star (15 August 1948):

<sup>6.
21</sup> Jeanette Eckman, Anthony Higgs, William H. Connor, eds. Delaware: A Guide to the First State. Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Delaware (New York: The Viking Press, 1938): 284.

24 "Rodney Square To Be City's Brightest Spot." The Sunday Morning Star (28 August 1921): 7.

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The first civic building constructed on the east side of the future Rodney Square was the Wilmington Public Building, also known as the City-County Building. A Originally intended to be an addition to the existing courthouse, Raskob and Pierre S. DuPont convinced residents and city officials for a building jointly financed by the city and county to house both of their government offices. At The two uses, however, would be behind a single facade and although "domes and towers were not desired... the commissioners had 'no predilections as to architectural style." A competition was held, also chaired by Warren P. Laid, and juried by architects Paul Cret, William M. Kendall, and H. Van Buren Magonigle.26 The New York firm of Palmer, Hornbostel and Jones, in collaboration with Wilmington architect John Dockery Thompson, Jr., were selected as the architects. The building was dedicated on May 27, 1916 and housed City Hall offices, county government offices, and city and county records. The only exterior indication of the dual use was the carving of "City Hall" over the southern entrance and "Court House" over the northern entrance, The building received eastern additions in 1960. which was 90% clad in stone from the original building, and in 1980%

The next building to be completed was the Wilmington Institute Free Library on the south side of Rodney Squares: In 1915, DuPont purchased the land for the library for \$245,000 and accompanying his check was a note stating, "the style of the building will conform to the character of the new City-County Building and be an ornament to the City." This was the first indication that the new civic center was not only to have a cohesive vision, but was also to elevate the City of Wilmington through its conception. This idea extended to both the thematic. in its overall scope, and to the minute, in its implementation of fifteen-foot deep sidewalks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Prior to the construction of the building, the site house private residences, the Hilles School for girls, a Baptist Church and the Knights of Columbus. Eccel, 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 145.
<sup>25</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 146. Domes and towers were considered to be the most easily identifiable, and therefore least desirable, elements of the outdated Victorian style. Maynard, 105.

Eckman, 284.

Eckman, 284.

28 "City/County Building (Wilmington Public Building)" (Historic American Buildings Survey, 1980): 2.

29 The site was the former location of the graveyard of the Old First Presbyterian Church. The church subsequently moved to the northwest comer of 11® and Market Streets. Eckman, 286.

<sup>30</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 150.

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around the square's perimeter. All It also wholly integrated DuPont into the eventual design and construction of the building. AR

DuPont, along with Laird and Frank Miles Day, comprised a building committee that reviewed three sets of proposed designs by architects Edward Lippincott Tilton (1861-1933) and Alfred Morton Githens (1876-1973). The DuPont Company was selected as the engineers of At the time Tilton was considered to be "the foremost library architect in the country" and the pair had worked on numerous libraries for Andrew Camegie.34 The cornerstone for the 3-story building of Indiana limestone was laid on March 4, 1922 and the building was gened on May 5, 1923.75 The building was designed in the Beaux Arts style to compliment the architecture of the Wilmington Public Building. The design also repeated references to Greco-Roman architecture - motifs from Pompeli, the frieze from the Parthenon at the Acropolis, the Library at Alexandria. the frieze from the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina in Rome - in keeping with the revivalist tenets of the City Beautiful movement. It received the American Institute of Architects Exhibition Medal for first place in the Public Building Group in 1925, largely for its implementation of uninterrupted interior space. It could hold up to 400,000 volumes. In keeping with the comprehensive design of the square, the Library's entrance is directly opposite the entrance to Rodney Square: 198

By 1925, Rodney Square and the buildings to the west, south and east were entirely transformed, but the north side remained incomplete. \*\* However, the hope persisted that it would house a "public building that would preserve 'the dignity and beauty of the Public

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 149. 32 McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 148.

The DuPont Company was selected because they had the lowest bid, achieved by replacing the south

wall, originally specified as limestone, with brick.

"City's New Library Dedicated Yesterday with Brief Ceremony." The Sunday Morning Star (6 May

<sup>1923): 14.

\*\*</sup>McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 155.

\*\*Open Bids Aug. 15 for New Library at 10" and Market." The Sunday Morning Star (7 August 1921): 8. <sup>37</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 159. The only building on the north side of the square was the McComb-Winchester Mansion, "one of the last stately residences in [that] part of the city." Eccel, 19.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rodney Square Historic District

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Square." In 1932, the city received \$1,600,000 from the federal emergency relief fund for a new federal building. The new United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House would not only provide the requisite office space but also hundreds of local jobs. Pierre S. DuPont was still involved in the design and endorsed local architect Edward William Martin. By early 1933, Martin (design), along with two other local firms, Brown and Whiteside (specifications), and Robinson, Stanhope and Manning (working drawings), was selected and the three firms formed Associated Federal Architects: Once again, the design for the building "had to reflect architectural harmony" with the existing buildings surrounding the Square "with particular attention... devoted to the design of the library, directly opposite...." Construction began in September 1935 and was completed in February 1937. At its dedication, one reporter wrote, "Construction and occupancy of the new building rounds out the plans of many civic minded Wilmingtonians in the layout of Rodney Square. It was long the hope of many that the square would become the center of an imposing group of important public and private buildings. Construction of the post office building completes the four sides of the square."

The 3-story building was of limestone and rusticated granite with the post office located in the basement and on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The 2<sup>rd</sup> floor was occupied by the Federal court and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and U.S. Customs Office were on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The interior of the building had terrazzo floors and marble wainscoting, along with murals by Herman H. Zimmerman in the lobby and Albert Pels in the courtroom. In 1982, a large office tower addition was constructed to the north.

Beginning in 1935, the 14-story Nemours Building was constructed to the west of the DuPont Building by Frederick A. Godley of New York and Hubert Sheldon Stees for the DuPont Engineering Department. The Moderne style of the building matched that of the 1930 addition to the DuPont Building and it was originally connected to it by an underground tunnel and an upper level bridge. The reinforced concrete building was faced with brick and Ilmestone, was used as

McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 160.

McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 160; Maynard, 105.

<sup>40</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 161.

<sup>41</sup> McNinch, "The Changing Face of Rodney Square," 162.

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administrative space and was the largest office building ever to be air conditionord ਹੈ. A second addition was completed in 1941.

This group of buildings, and the square itself, are the "architectural and historic hallmarks of Wilmington during the first quarter of the century" and "one of the city's earliest attempts at the planning of public space." To this day, they provide a clear boundary to the center of Wilmington and continue to maintain its relevance as a city center.

#### Significance in Community Planning and Development, Criterion A

The proposed Rodney Square Historic District is significant under Criterion A, Community Planning and Development, as a unique example of a collective public and private development venture that evolved out of the City Beautiful movement. Initially established and anchored by the DuPont Company, Rodney Square maintained its prominence and relevance as the continual center of administrative, cultural and business life in Wilmington.

The extreme importance of the DuPont Company in the history of the development of Rodney Square is twofold: they were the preeminent company in a company town, thereby giving them a unique and relatively unchecked position of power. Additionally, by being involved with every aspect of the Square and the surrounding buildings, they were able to maintain a single aesthetic and programmatic vision, resulting in a unified city center.

#### The Role of the City Beautiful Movement at Rodney Square

This notion of constructing a cohesive urban center was quite typical of its time, in that it stemmed from the City Beautiful movement, which was extremely popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The City Beautiful movement had been made popular by Damiel Burntham and the World Columbian Exposition of 1893, and was characterized by formal and symmetrical, white buildings presented on a vast scale and usually in keeping with the

<sup>42</sup> Maymard, 107,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Patricia D. Wilson, et al. A Survey of Wilmington's City Halls (August 1981. Wilmington Department of City Planning files. Courtesy of the Wilmington Department of City Planning): 7; "City/County Building (Wilmington Public Building)", 1.

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Classical, Neoclassical or Beaux-Arts styles. This synthesis of architecture and landscape were designed to form an ideal city in which "architecture was recognized as the dominant process in this artistic collaboration and civic monuments were used as expressions of the city' governmental and cultural functions. Such elaborate arrangements were thought to conduce the individual citizen to embrace higher ideals through a new artistic environment." However, the movement was not solely beauty for beauty's sake. It's supporters also believed that this new approach to planning would prompt social change as it would inspire civic pride, promote culture and improve morality among urban populations.

One of the most fundamental aspects of the City Beautiful plan was the civic center, which was "intended to be a beautiful ensemble, an architectural triumph far more breathtaking than a single building, no matter how comely, could be. Grouping public buildings around a park, square or intersection of radial streets allows the visual delights of perspectives, open space, and the contrast between the buildings and their umbrageous setting." This tenet serves as a perfect descriptor of the proposed Rodney Square Historic District; an environment in which the whole is not only greater than the sum of its parts, but also one which served as the embodiment of the ideal function of the civic center of a prominent Delaware city.

The way in which the development of Rodney Square was realized is also in keeping with the City Beautiful movement. Typical of the movement's reformist attitudes of the City Beautiful movement, Raskob initiated juried competitions to allow for maximum transparency in the design selection process. Moreover, these juries were comprised of academics rather than politicians, reinforcing the notion that this was a center for the people, and not for an isolated

<sup>\*</sup>Burnham's sentiments about this movement were best summarized by his famous quote: "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> William H. Wilson. The City Beautiful Movement (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989):

<sup>116.</sup> <sup>46</sup> William H. Wilson, 92.

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elite. The designs for Rodney Square itself, the Wilmington Public Building and the Wilmington Institute Free Library were all selected by juried competitions. Although the designs for the DuPont Building and the United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House were not, both were the created by a collaborative effort resulting in a more populist design.

While it is possible that the role of such a large number of both academic jurors and professional architects might have resulted in a disparate overall design, the omnipresence of both Raskob and Pierre S. DuPont prevented that from happening. In each competition, the requirements were such that each element be reflective of and complimentary to that which had proceeded it. This consistent and unique approach to a civic center meant not only that the buildings were compositionally balanced within themselves, but also that they effectively conveyed a single aesthetic and programmatic unit. This singular approach provided for the uplifting urban experience that Raskob and DuPont were so intent on creating.

#### Significance in Architecture, Criterion C

Rodney Square in downtown Wilmington possesses significance under Criterion C for Architecture as an important and unified collection of revivalist style architecture designed for primarily public use. The proposed district contains five buildings, one site and one object that were designed between 1905 and 1941.

The pervasive use of revivalist architectural styles – Italian Renaissance, Classical Revival, Beaux Arts – was strongly in keeping with the City Beautiful movement. It was felt that by harkening back to the architectural styles of the founding civilizations, the current populace might be similarly inspired to great achievement. By maintaining a revivalist aesthetic among each design element, Rodney Square presented a visual cohesion and firmly asserted its principled message:

#### The Classical Revival Style

The Classical Revival style has its roots in the influential 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where the simple, clean lines of the classical style was introduced as an alternative to the ornate Victorian buildings that filled the crowded cities of the period. Another influential source for the

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Classical Revival style became the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, a popular school for American architects after finishing their domestic training.

In Rodney Square, the Classical Revival style is found both in the Wilmington Public Building and in the square itself. The Wilmington Public Building, with its colonnade of Ionic granite columns and pedimented entrances, is an archetypal example of Greek and Roman architecture adapted to a modern context. This style was particularly appropriate for a civic institution because it conveyed the power and stability of a government, which is both preparing for the future and anchored in the past. Rodney Square conveys a similar sense of formality, but not one designed solely to impose civic strength upon the citizens, rather one that intended to promote the strength of the citizens within themselves. The cast stone terraces and balustrade, the symmetrical layout and bronze statuary are all Classical Revival style elements that contribute to this notion.

#### The Italian Renaissance Style

The Italian Renaissance style also sprung from the revivalist aesthetic of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Based firmly in the architectural precepts of the Renaissance, the style particularly embraced the design of the Italian palazzo, those magnificent residences created for wealthy families.

The DuPont building is characteristic of the Italian Renaissance style in both design and intent. As in the time of the Renaissance, the DuPont Building was a modern version of an architectural focal point for a wealthy family. It was intended to display its power while asserting its lasting endurance. With its symmetrical elevations, distinctive base, rusticated upper floors and bracketed cornice, the effect was one of a palazzo fit for the 20th century.

#### Time Beaux Arts Style

The Beaux Arts style, perhaps the most widely adapted revivalist style, was the approach of designing monumental and historically based architecture, as taught by the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Although the formalist architecture was derived from French architecture of the 16th, in the and in the centuries, it was often modified to suit the particular needs of each client or project.

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Both the Wilmington Institute Free Library and the United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House were designed in the Beaux Arts style. Both buildings have symmetrical, masonry facades, grouped classical columns, and ornamented rooflines, which, as with the other revivalist styles, illustrate the formality and permanence of the civic center.

#### Associated Architects and Artists

Associated Federal Architects (1933-1937) were formed specifically for the design and construction of the United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House on Rodney Square. The group consisted of Edward William Martin, who designed the building. Brown and Whiteside, who provided the specifications, and Robinson, Stanhope and Manning, who produced the working drawings. After the Post Office was completed, the group disbanded to pursue individual projects.

Alfred Morton Githens (1876-1973) was born in Philadelphia and attended the University of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. After working for a number of firms, including Cope & Stewardson and Cass Gilbert, Githens established his own practice with Charles C. Haight in 1904. In 1917, he formed a partnership with Edward Lippincott Tilton, which dissolved in 1937, and thereafter he partnered with Francis Keally. Two of his more prominent projects are the Currier Gallery of Art in New Hampshire (1929, NR 1979), which he designed with Tilton, and the Holy Spirit Chapel (1923, NR 1995). Githens, along with Tilton, designed the Wilmington Institute Free Library.

Frederick A. Godley (1886-1951) studied at Yale University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris before becoming partners with Raymond M. Hood in New York City in 1924. He is best known for his projects in collaboration with Hood, including Radio City Music Hall (1932, NR 1978), the McGraw-Hill Building (1930, NR 1980) and the American Radiator Building (1924, NR 1980), all in New York City. Godley worked on portions of the additions to the DuPont Building and designed the Nemours Building.

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James Edward Kelly (1855-1933) was born in New York City and studied at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students' League. Kelly is best known as a sculptor of historical figures and scenes, particularly those associated with the Civil War. He designed the bronze statue of Caesar Rodney on his horse and the accompanying plaques on the west side of Rodney Square.

Palmer, Hornbostel and Jones (1917-?) was the last iteration of the long-term partnership between Henry Hornbostel and William Palmer. After studying at Columbia University and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, Hornbostel returned to New York and established a firm with William Palmer. Jones joined the firm in 1917. Some of their more significant projects include the Main Building, United States Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh, PA (1915, NR 1974), the New York State Department of Education Building in Albany, NY (1908, NR 1971) and the Oakland City Hall in Oakland, CA (1911, NR 1983). Palmer, Hornbostel and Jones designed the Wilmington Public Building.

Edward Lippincott Tilton (1861-1933) was born in New York City and worked at the firm of McKim, Mead and White before attending the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Upon his return, he formed a partnership with William A. Boring, which lasted until 1904. He continued to work independently until his death, at which time he was regarded as one of the foremost library architects in the county. His more significant projects include the Currier Gallery of Art in New Hampshire (1929, NR 1979), which he designed with Alfred Morton Githens, St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in New York City (1922, NR 2007), the Central Library in Somerville, MA (1914, NR 1989) and the Sioux City Free Public Library in Sioux City, IA (1912, NR 1997). Tilton, along with Githens, designed the Wilmington Institute Free Library.

Zantzinger, Borie & Medary (1910-1929) formed after Milton B. Medary joined the existing practice of Clarence C. Zantzinger and C.L. Borie. The firm was known for numerous large urban projects, including the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company Building (1926, NR 1973) and the Bell Telephone Company Building (1939, NR 2000), both in Philadelphia, Chanticleer (1912, NR 1984) in Delaware County, PA, the Detroit Museum of Art (1927), and the

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Imdianapolis Central Library (1916, NR 1975). Zantzinger, Borie & Medary unsuccessfully bid on the design of the Wilmington Public Building and successfully designed Rodney Square.

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### **Comprehensive Planning**

Zone:

if-

:

Urban

Time Period:

1880 - 1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization

Themes:

Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change

Architecture, Engineering, and Decorative Arts

Property Type:

hotel, library, government office, business office, public square

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 6MB No: 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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Rodney Square Historic District Name of Property	New Castle County, DE Gounty and State
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a sumapplicable criteria.) See attached.	•
Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one parag See attached.	raph for each area of significance.)

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate) See attached.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB NS: 1024-0018

Redney Square Historic District

(Expires 5/31/2012)

New Castle County, DE

Name of Broperty	County and State
11. Ferm Prepared By	
name/title Legan I. Ferguson	
erganization Pewers & Company, Inc.	date <u>September 30, 2010</u>
street & number 2111 N. 13th Street, Suite 500	telephone (215)636-0192
eity or town Philadelphia	state PA zip sode 19107
e-mail lesatt© powerses.net	
Additional Decumentation  Submit the following items with the completed form:	
<ul> <li>Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicated A Sketch map for historic districts and properties have photographs to this map.</li> <li>Continuation Sheets</li> <li>Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for the series) indicated and properties have photographs to this map.</li> </ul>	ring large acreage or numerous resources. Key all
Photographs:	
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each i or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.	mage must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per insh)
See attached.	
Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO:)	
name	
street & number	telephone
sity or town	
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amende Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estiminational, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing it this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Bept.	or applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a d (16 U.S. 6.480 et seq.). lated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing are form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of of the Interior, 1849 6. street, NW, Washington, D6.

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Redney Square Historic District Name of Property
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#### PHOTOGRAPH LIST

The following information pertains to every photograph:

Rodney Square Historic District 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, Market and King Streets New Castle County, Delaware Robert Powers
August 2010
Powers and Company, Inc.

Photograph #	Description of Photograph			
11.	United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, South elevation, view			
	north			
<b>2</b> .	United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, South and east			
	elevations, view northwest			
3.	Rodney Square, view southwest			
4.	Wilmington Public Building, West elevation, view southeast			
<b>5</b> .	Wilmington Public Building, North elevation, view southeast			
6.	Wilmington Public Building, East elevation, view southwest			
77.	Rodney Square, Caesar Rodney statue, DuPont Building, view west			
8.	Rodney Square, DuPont Building, view northwest			
9.	Wilmington Institute Free Library, East and north elevations, view southwest			
110.	Rodney Square, view north			
111.	Rodney Square, view northeast			
112.	Wilmington Institute Free Library, North and west elevations, view southeast			
113.	DuPont Building, East and south elevations, view northwest			
114.	Nemours Building, East and south elevations, view northwest			
115.	Nemours Building, South and west elevations, view northeast			
116.	Nemours Building, North and west elevations, view southeast			
117.	Nemours Building, North and east elevations, view southwest			
118.	DuPont Building, North and west elevations, view southeast			
1/9. United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, South and west				
	elevations, view northeast			
20.	DuPont Building, North and east elevations, view southwest			
21.	Rodney Square, view southeast			

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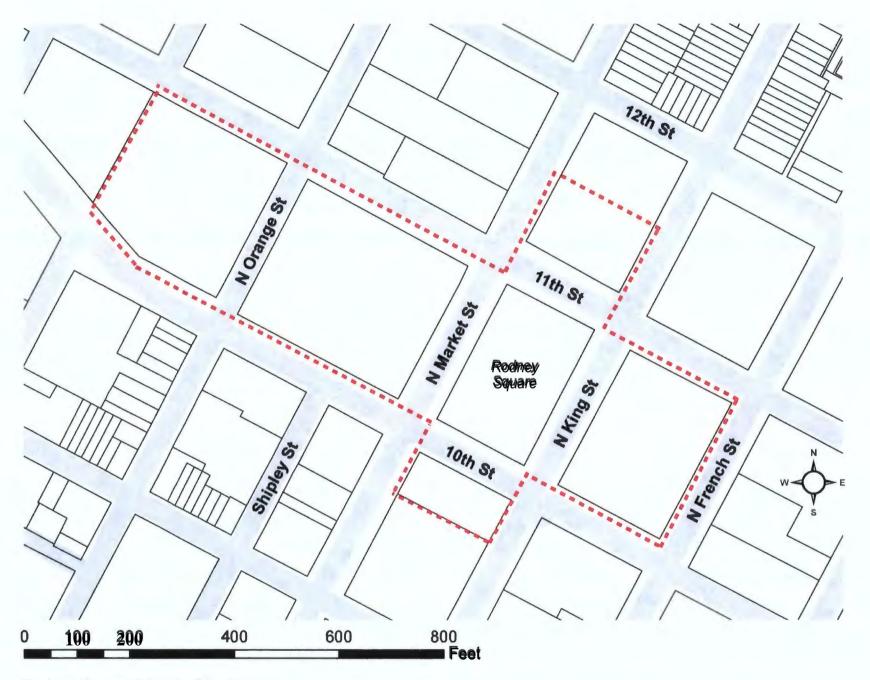
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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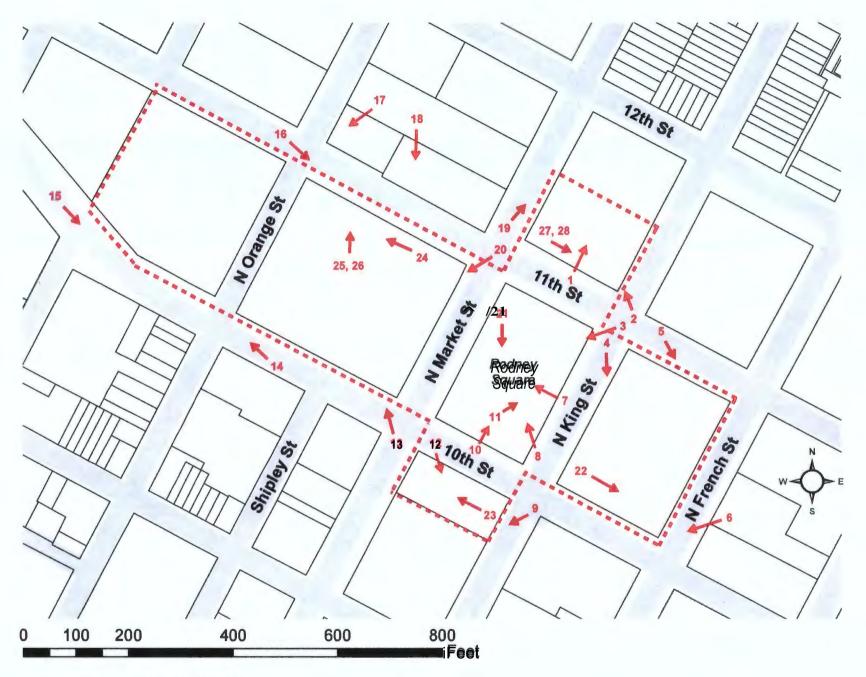
Photographs Page 2

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	Redney Square Historic District Name of Property
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22.	Wilmington Public Building, 18 floor, Stairway, view east
23.	Wilmington Institute Free Library, 16 floor, view west
24,	DuPont Building, Lobby, view west
25.	DuPont Building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Stainway, view northwest
26.	DuPont Building, 1®floor, Ballroom, view northwest
27.	United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, Lobby, view east
28.	United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, Lobby mural, view east



Rodney Square Historic District New Castle County, DE Proposed National Register Boundary Map September 2010



Rodney Square Historic District New Castle County, DE Boundary Map with Photograph Key September 2010

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION RETURN SHEET

DATE RECEIVED: DATE OF WEEKLY REFERENCE NUMBE				
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RECOM/CRITERIA				
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TELEPHONE TELEPHONE	BATE			
DOCUMENTATION see stached comme	he Y/N see attached SHR Y/N			
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPs.				



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle County, DE United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House 1 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle County, DE United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House Northwest View 2 of 28



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Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Wilmington Public Building, North Elevation view southeast 5 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Wilmington Public Building, East elevation view southwest 6 of 28



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Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Rodney Square, DuPont Building view northwest 8 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Wilmington Institute Free Library, East and North elevations, view southwest 9 of 28





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Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE DuPont Building, East and South elevations, view northwest 13 of 28



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Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Nemours Building, North and East elevations, view southwest 17 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE DuPont building, North and West elevations, view southeast 18 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, South and West elevations, view northeast 19 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE DuPont Building, North and East elevations, view southwest 20 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Rodney Square, view southeast 21 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Wilmington Public Building, 1st floor, Stairway, view east 22 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE Wilmington Institute Free Library, 1st floor, view west 23 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle,DE DuPont Building, Lobby, view west 24 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE DuPont Building, 2nd floor, Stairway, view northwest 25 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE DuPont Building, 1st floor, Ballroom, view northwest 26 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, Lobby, view east 27 of 28



Rodney Square Historic District - New Castle, DE United States Post Office, Court House and Custom House, Lobby mural, view east 28 of 28





## State of Delaware Historical and Cultural Affaits

21 The Green Dover, DE 19901-3611

Phone: (302) 736.7400



June 23, 2011

Carol Shull, Interim Keeper National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Rodney Square Historic District

Wilmington, Delaware

New Castle County

If there are any questions regarding these documents, please contact Madeline Dunn, Curator of Education-Historian for the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office at (302) 736-7417.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Slavin, Director

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

and State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures



