

King Street, 200 Block
234 King Street (Commercial Building)
234 King Street
Wilmington
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-129-B

HABS
DEL,
2 WILM,
50-B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS
DEL,
2-WILM,
50-B-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Delaware		COUNTY New Castle	TOWN OR VICINITY Wilmington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) King Street, 200 Block			HABS NO. DE-129-B
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE 234 King Street (Commercial Building)			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 234 King Street, Wilmington, Delaware			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) late 18th century: construction		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Built ca. 1780-1800 as a residence, the Parry House preserved several late 18th-century urban vernacular architectural features. These include elements of original stair trim and a 2-story kitchen leanto.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Federal urban vernacular			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick (King Str. elevation flemish bond, secondary walls common bond). Joined common rafter roof (cont.)			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 22'9" street elevation by ca. 40' deep. side-passage, double-pile plan			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Although the street level elevation was destroyed for a modern storefront in the mid 20th century, the upper floors exhibit several original features. These include joined window frames with half round sill nosings and quirked cove bed moldings, a cornice composed (cont.)			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Gutted for open storage in the mid 20th century. Plaster scars suggest an original plan of entry from the street into a single large room behind which was a smaller dining room and stair passage. An original kitchen ell was entered (cont.)			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Gutted mid 20th-century with a new plate glass showroom facade installed on the ground floor. Rear wing added before 1900 and courtyard filled in before 1940.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE One half of Protigal Furniture Store (232-234 King Street until ca. 1982; purchased, condemned and demolished by City of Wilmington, 1984)			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The Parry House was one of the last significant pre-1820 buildings to survive in the lower Market Street Historic District. Despite heavy alterations on the interior, the upper stories of the building still presented much the same appearance as built ca. 1790			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Lower Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware, Historic District; National Register of Historic Places, listed 1980. see attached bibliography.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard Herman, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware			DATE 10-31-84