

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wilson Eyre Home

AND/OR COMMON Wilson Eyre Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1003 Spruce Street

CITY, TOWN Philadelphia

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF
CODE 101

COUNTY Philadelphia

CODE 42

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: apartment bldg.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME James Tavern Inc.

STREET & NUMBER 266 South 10th Street

CITY, TOWN Philadelphia

VICINITY OF STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Department of Records

STREET & NUMBER City Hall

CITY, TOWN Philadelphia

STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(slight)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wilson Eyre home was constructed between the years 1830 and 1835. It is typical of the domestic architecture of the time and resembles other homes of the area.

The earliest description of the house available is an insurance survey of 1852. While alteration has affected the interior, the exterior remains virtually the same as described in the above-mentioned form.

It is a three story brick house with a three story back building. The two are connected by a piazza. The exterior facade is distinguished by a fan shape window above the main door and six sash windows, with shutters, two to each story. The front is brick, with smooth-dressed stone on the bottom. There are stairs leading from the ground to the main door, and a yard on the left side. This is enclosed by a gate which bears a plaque that once had Wilson Eyre's name, apparently hung when he moved to the house.

The house has a low to medium roof with a dormer in front. Eaves are enclosed by a cornice. The west side of the building is visible, saving for the back. There are eight sash windows on this side: two to the first story and three to the second and third stories. There is also a small window which leads to a garret, and a stabilizing beam extending from the roof.

The interior has been altered to serve as an apartment building. Originally, the first story contained a vestibule and two parlors. There was a stairway in the piazza which led to the back second story dining room. The second story flight of stairs was extended to the loft of the back building.

The second story had two rooms which were partitioned from each other. There were three closets in the center between the rooms. Rooms on the third story were divided similarly. There was an open stairway from this floor that led to the garret.

The garret had two rooms, a double pitched roof with collar beams and rafters, a trap door and one closet.

The first story of the back building had one room, the kitchen, and a wash house. The latter contained a large closet. The second story had parlor and a bathroom, along with a store closet. The third story had one room, a chamber, and again, a store closet.

The floors of the house were of Carolina Pine. The rooms were plainly finished, doors were of plank and had mortice locks. The interior was typical of the day.

In 1909, Wilson Eyre added a three story brick addition to the back of the house. This was the only major alteration to the exterior, so that the house looks today as it did, when occupied by Eyre. He also remodeled the interior, rebuilding partitions, changing window frames and stairs, and added new plumbing, heating, electrical wiring, etc.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- (major)	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Home of Phila. Architect Wilson Eyre

SPECIFIC DATES 1830-35 (minor) 1910-44 (major) (BUILDER/ARCHITECT) unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 1003 Spruce Street served as both home and office for the architect Wilson Eyre, Jr. (10/31/1858 - 10/21/1944).

Wilson Eyre was born in Florence, Italy. He attended school at Newport; Lenoxville, Canada; Woburn, Mass.; and finally, M.I.T. He began work as a draftsman in the firm of James P. Sims in 1878, and in 1881, took over the practice as Wilson Eyre, Jr., In 1912, he joined J. Gilbert McIlvaine in a partnership. Under the name of Eyre and McIlvaine, they won great recognition for residential work of distinct character. Samples of Eyre's domestic architecture can be found in suburbs of Philadelphia, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Maine and Rhode Island. His designs can also be seen in many public buildings, the majority of which are located in Philadelphia.

Eyre detested an overload of ornamentation. He had a feeling for proportion, and a tendency toward extended horizontal planes. His buildings had crisp lines and much expression, achieved by a careful blend of varying materials. His style is from the Medieval past; his homes are usually superficially Shavian, and half timbering appears commonly as decoration.

All of his designs have a whimsical quality which make them more a part of the world of the imagination than the early 20th century. Eyre gained fame in Philadelphia for his work on the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the T-Square Club.

Eyre purchased the house at 1003 Spruce in 1909. In 1910, he established his office there, and in 1912, it became his home, too. In 1913, the office began to be used for the Eyre-McIlvaine partnership. Eyre occupied this house until his death in 1944. At no time, however, did McIlvaine use this house as his home.

It is significant to note that the house bears no resemblance to an Eyre design. It is a very typical 19th century, Philadelphia, row house. Before making 1003 his home, Eyre remodeled the interior, changed window frames, partitions and stairs, added new plumbing, heating, electrical wiring and a three story brick addition to the back of the home. However, he did not alter the main facade's design. He did hang a plaque on the side gate which bore his name.



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Museum of Art

DELaware RIVER

PHILADELPHIA

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

PHILADELPHIA CO
CAMDEN CO

PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY

CAMDEN

4424

4423

57'30"

TO U.S. 130
TO CITY 62 MI.

Cooper Point

Tidia Flia

Victory Park

FEDERAL ST

Pier 5

Pier 34 S

Penn Central

Spruce Δ

BM 25

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76

611

291

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McMichael Sch

Hospital

Hospital

Drexel Institute of Technology

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Franklin Field Penn

Convention Hall

US Naval Home

Police Sch

St de Padua Sch

Playground

St Gabriel Sch

Stanger Park

St Francis Xavier Sch

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