

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Delaware County National Bank

and/or common Wolf Building

2. Location

street & number 1 West Third Street N/A
not for publication

city, town Chester N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Delaware code 045

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name RDC Institute, Inc.

street & number 600 Upland Avenue

city, town Upland N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Delaware County Government Center

street & number Third and Olive Streets

city, town Media state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Delaware County National Bank Building is located on the southwest corner of 3rd Street and Avenue of the States (formerly Market Square) in Chester. Market Square was the commercial and civic heart of Chester from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. Shops once lined Market Square. During the past twenty years urban decay and renewal have removed many of these shops. However, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery, also known as Old Swedes Burial Ground, survives to the east of the Delaware County National Bank Building. The nominated property contains one contributing building, a parking lot, and wide sidewalks along both streets of this corner lot. The building is a rectangular, 2½ story brick and brownstone edifice built in 1882-1884 in the Renaissance Revival style. The building possesses good integrity.

The bank building rises from a heavily stipled brownstone masonry base, and is capped by a low hipped slate roof with metal cresting and five projecting decorated chimneys. The front facade has three bays with a central entrance pavilion that projects from the plane of the wall and rises a half story above the cornice and a classically detailed central dormer. The pediment dormer is detailed with molded cornice, dentils, and inset decorative floral carving. The pediment is supported on four Corinthian pilasters that frame small, side, Roman-arched windows, a central plaque that carries the date, 1882, and paired console brackets on each side of the dormer. Below the dormer is a multi-tiered, molded cornice which joins the masonry wall with modillion and triglyph courses and a rosette and bar decorated frieze and narrow plain architrave.

The first story of the facade is separated from the second story by a molded cornice and plain frieze. It is further differentiated by the stratified treatment of the wall, formed of mixed brick and brownstone, and by brick and brownstone flat arches over the paired, one-over-one sashes that flank the entranceway. Most impressive is the main entrance, where four steps, flanked by brownstone abutments rise to the arched, double-door entranceway. Flanking the door, two piers decorated with urns and foliage rise to the base of the double pilasters that carry a pediment broken by a smaller consoled pediment that forms the apex of the composition.

The second story of the facade is dominated by three great arches that control fenestration. The arches of the second story windows contain brilliant original stained glass in a caning with shield pattern. In the central pavilion the architect juxtaposed this double pilaster relationship with single, large pilasters that support not only the arch, but also half-story pilasters that run to the cornice. All the brownstone capitals and bases are intricately carved, with the capitals containing highly detailed and plastic carvings of various flora and daemon-like gargoyles. In addition, floriated decoration infills the spandrel panels of the central arch.

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The side and rear elevations continue motifs of the principal facade including stippled base, pronounced watertable, flat-arched first story windows and round-arched second story windows and decorative entablature. On each side elevation the bay nearest the front facade is slightly projected and repeats ornamentation of the main facade including striated first story, first story cornice, and paired second story pilasters. The east elevation (along the Avenue of the States/Market Square) is treated as a principal facade and more nearly follows the ornamentation of the front facade including striated first story, first story cornice and brownstone trim. The three bay rear elevation and rear three bays of the west elevation are secondary elevations. They reflect the organization and the design of the principal elevations but are less detailed. They do not have the striated first story, first story cornice and considerable brownstone trim which distinguish the principal elevations.

The interior of the building has been altered for current office use. Originally the interior was open from the ground floor to the roof. Semi-circular teller cages were located in the front portion of the building with a director's room to the rear of the ground floor. A decorative wrought iron balcony spanned the east and west walls half way up these wall. The ceiling displayed rich moldings and decoration with stained glass on the upper level windows. During alterations for current office use, the balconies were replaced with a second floor supported by its own interior bearing elements. A drop ceiling that conceals the original ceiling molding and decoration and the upper level stained glass windows was installed on the second floor. The teller cages and director's room have been removed on the ground floor. A large vault located in the basement and original tiling in the back stairwell remain.

Overall the bank building has good integrity. The exterior has survived with very few changes. Although the interior has been remodelled, much of the significant interior details have been retained. The ceiling decoration and stained glass windows still survive. The second floor was installed with little damage to the original structure or decorative elements. The teller cages which most obviously indicated the building's original function have been removed; however, the massive bank vault remains.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1882-1884 **Builder/Architect** Patrick A. Welsh, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Delaware County National Bank Building has both architectural and commercial significance. It is important in Chester as an outstanding example of High Victorian architecture, particularly the Renaissance Revival style. The building is also the only surviving commercial example of work by a locally prominent architect, Patrick A. Welsh, who designed many of Chester's most important late nineteenth century buildings. In addition, it has commercial significance as the headquarters of the Delaware County National Bank when this bank was expanding to become one of Delaware County's largest, most important banks.

Delaware County National Bank has long been a leading bank in Delaware County. It was chartered by the state government in 1814 as the county's first bank. In 1864 the institution was incorporated as a national bank. In 1882 the Board of Directors concluded that the bank has outgrown its original 1815 building and hired Patrick A. Welsh to design a new building. The older building was razed and the nominated building erected on the same site by 1884.

The nominated building was the headquarters of the Delaware County National Bank from 1884 to 1930 during which time the bank grew to become the largest and one of the most important banking institutions in Delaware County. In the late nineteenth century the Delaware County National Bank played an important role in financing Chester's industrial expansion. In the early twentieth century the bank gained influence outside Chester. In 1908 it became a depository for state funds and soon after was instrumental in establishing a Federal Reserve bank in Philadelphia. During the 1920's Delaware County National Bank became the county's largest bank through mergers and expansion. In 1925 it acquired the Merchants Trust Company, and in 1928 the Pennsylvania National Bank of Chester. By 1929 it was leading Delaware County banks in opening offices throughout the county. By the beginning of the Great Depression, Delaware County National Bank had four offices while its next largest competitors had at most two offices.

The nominated building ceased being the bank's headquarters in 1930. Even with the onset of the Great Depression the Board of Directors decided that the bank's expansion warranted a move to larger headquarters. In 1930, the bank sold the building to William J. Wolf, for whom the building was renamed at that time. Since then the building has served as offices for the Crozer Chester Medical Center, and functions now as offices for the United Way and the RDC Institute.

The Delaware County National Bank Building was designed by a prolific late nineteenth century architect who received commissions for some of Chester's most important late nineteenth century buildings. Welsh had a Philadelphia office

9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.13

Quadrangle name Bridgeport, PA-NJ

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1 8</u>	<u>4 6 9 2 5 0</u>	<u>4 4 1 0 6 1 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

see attached

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William C. Payne, Director of Planning/William Sisson

organization RDC, Inc./PHMC

date 1987

street & number 3rd & Avenue of the States/Penn Museum telephone (215) 874-5555/(717) 783-8946

city or town Chester/Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Brent D. Glass, State Historic Preservation Officer

title _____ date _____

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Area

Chief of Registration

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from 1881 to 1905. He resided in Chester from 1881 to 1896, and thereafter in Philadelphia. He executed eighty-six commissions for houses, business buildings, churches and civic buildings between 1882 and 1896. His commissions were primarily in southeastern Pennsylvania, but also included designs for several central Pennsylvania buildings. The majority of his work in Chester was for public, commercial and ecclesiastical institutions. In addition to the Delaware County National Bank Building, he executed designs for the Chester National Bank (1886), the Chester Daily Times buildings (1891), and the Chester Public Hospital (1892), which was the first and only hospital located in Chester. Of his non-residential designs in Chester, only the Delaware County National Bank Building survives to represent Welsh's important architectural contributions to Chester.

The nominated building also stands as one of Chester's best examples of High Victorian architecture. The urban decay and renewal that have claimed buildings on Market Square have also led to the deterioration or destruction of many other late nineteenth century buildings in Chester. The Delaware County National Bank Building is the only intact Chester building in the Renaissance Revival style. The nominated building remains a fine example of its style and era in local architecture.

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Continuation sheet

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received
Date entered

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- Sanborn Maps of Chester. Sanborn Map and Publishing Company. Chester: 1885.
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Beginning at the intersection of the south side of Market Square with the south east side of 3rd Street; thence by the said side of 3rd Street measure southwestwardly 9'2" to the lands now or late of the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company; thence measured southeastwardly by said lands 112'9 to the lands now or late of the preparative meeting of people called Quakers of Chester; thence by said lands measured northeastwardly 52' to the southwesterly side of Market Street., thence by the same measured northwestwardly 75'9- $\frac{1}{4}$ to the south side of Market Square; thence measured westwardly by the same 42'7- $\frac{5}{8}$ "; and thence by the said Market Square measured westwardly 38' to the point and place of beginning.

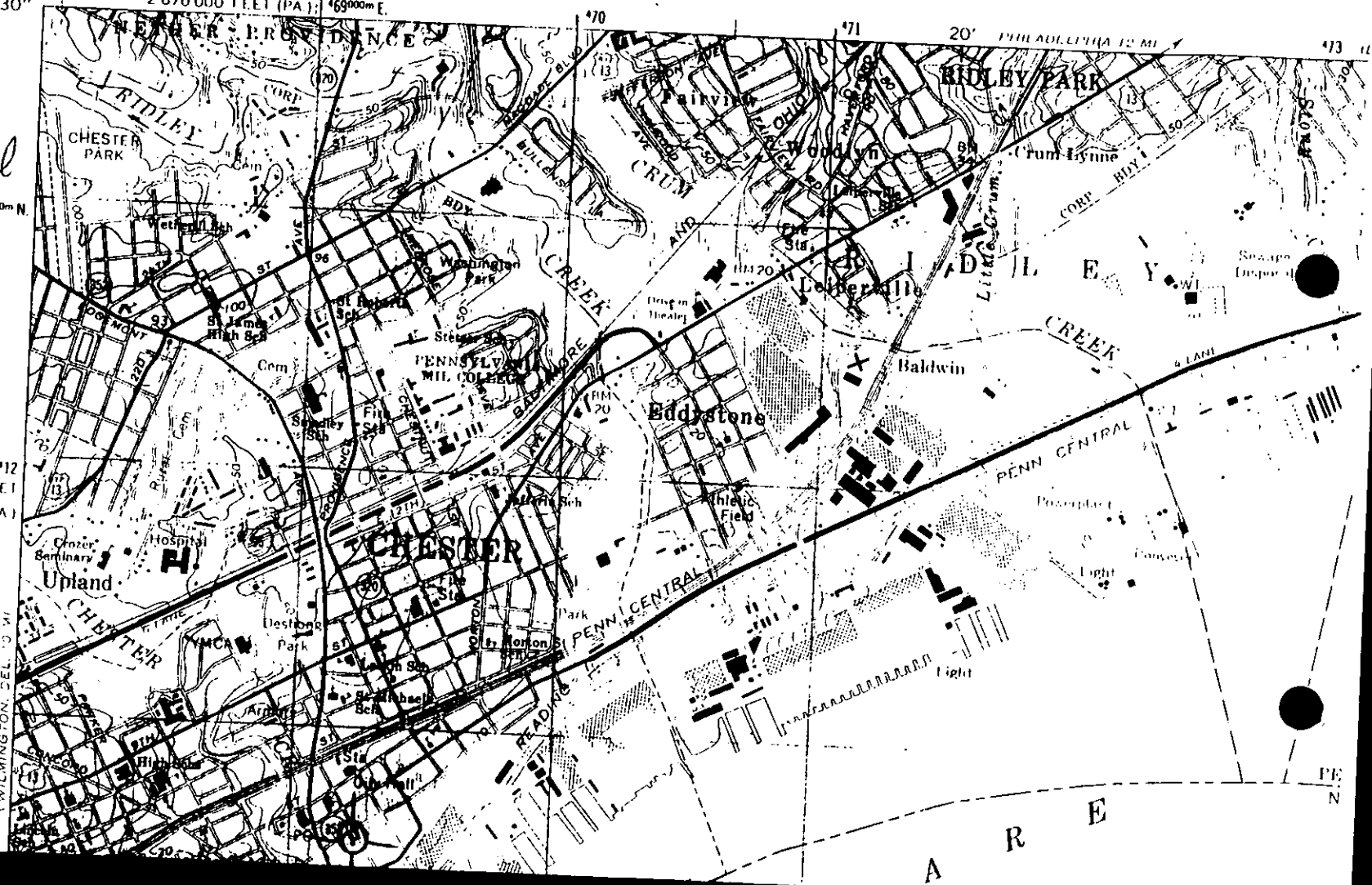
The boundary contains the nominated building and all historically associated land.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5963 IN NW
(MEDIAL)

75° 22' 30"
39° 52' 30"

2 670 000 FEET (PA) 469000m E.



Delaware
County National
Bank Building

Bridgeport
Quadrangle

Delaware
County
zone to

200 000 FEET
(PA)

WILMINGTON, DEL. 13 21

A R E
P E N