

Wilson Building

118 E. Commonwealth Avenue

1927

Brick Commercial

Status: Significant Property



This one-story brick building is typical of the commercial buildings constructed during the 1920s, of which many were an imitation of the wood-framed structure that they replaced. The characteristic features are evident in this example: a compact rectangular shape, an unpretentious storefront design topped with transom windows, and a flat roof with decorative parapet. The 3,200-sq.-ft. building virtually covers the 25-ft.-wide lot.

The building was constructed for Charles Wilson and his wife, Harryette in 1927, apparently as a real estate investment; the first tenant was a furniture store, occupying the building in 1928. The property remained in the Wilson family until the early 1990s.

The front façade of the building has not been altered except for the painting of its brick wall, and the 1993 improvements for seismic safety requirements are inconspicuous. Several commercial businesses have occupied this building throughout its 90-year history, and the building is presently used as a restaurant.