

1306 – 1308 Market Street



This commercial building has housed a number of businesses over the many years of its existence, often with two storefronts listed as 1306 and 1308 Market. The current façade shows the single address of 1306 Market.

City Directories show a series of jewelry stores in 1306 Market Street. Jacob W. Grubb, “dealer in watches, diamonds, fine jewelry, solid silver, and silver plated ware,” operated a store at this address from at least 1901 until his death in 1917¹. During that period, insurance and real estate businesses occupied the second floor, and it appears that apartments were located on the third floor. From 1917 until 1932, city directories show the address as that of Reichblum Jewelry Store, with real estate, insurance, and tailoring businesses

on the second floor and apartments on the third. The 1934 directory is the first to show Posins Jewelry at this address. Samuel Posin was the proprietor in the early years. His descendants then operated the business in the same location.

The first directory listing found for 1308 Market Street (1905-06) indicates that this storefront was occupied at that time by L.B. Kletzly – “books, stationary, engraving, office, and school supplies.” Second floor occupants show the broad spectrum of businesses that could be found in this part of town at the beginning of the last century. Tenants included George J. Mathison - real estate, insurance, and notary public; Consolidated Building, Loan, and Trust Company – “meets every Saturday evening;” and George W. Robinson – detective agency, pension and claim attorney, and notary. The first floor next housed a series of hat, clothing, and shoe stores - United Hat Stores, beginning around 1917, followed by Morley’s Clothing (1928), Lubow’s American Woolen Clothes (1930), Kaufman’s (1932), Herman’s Shoes (1934), Rivlin-Rinehart

¹ As a young man, Jacob Wilson Grubb (1850-1917) was known as one of the best all-around athletes in the area and had won national records as a bicycle rider on the old, high-wheel machines. He served as Wheeling’s mayor from 1885-1887 and survived a major scandal involving the police department during his first term in office. He and his wife, nee Elizabeth Delaplain, lived in a large house on Echo Point Circle. In addition to being a jeweler, he was a skilled optician who was said to have fitted more than 23,000 pairs of glasses. He also served as inspector of watches on all B&O railroad lines running through Wheeling. On August 8, 1917, Grubb, age 67, apparently distraught over business and health concerns, committed suicide in the back room of 1306 Market by swallowing potassium cyanide - used in cleaning jewelry.

(1936 and 1938), and Rivlin's Inc – men's furnishings – beginning around 1936. Directories indicate that Posins occupied the storefronts at both 1306 and 1308 beginning around 1941.

The building was acquired by First Commitment Corporation in April 2000. In 2009, Friends of Wheeling presented an award for "Outstanding Commercial Façade" to John Hazlett, president of First Commitment Corporation, for façade renovation work on 1306-08 Market Street.

The current owners, Natalie Hamilton and others, plan to return the first floor to commercial space and to make the second and third floors residential.

Prepared by Jeanne Finstein
Friends of Wheeling
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Sources:

- Grubb Obituary
- Interview with Larry Jones, May 1, 2009
- Ohio County Deed Records
- Wheeling City Directories
- WV Vital Records

Photo by Joanne Sullivan