Washington, D.C., Architecture

Market Square

Selections from the Historic American Buildings Survey

Number 8
WASHINGTON, D. C., ARCHITECTURE - MARKET SQUARE

Historic American Buildings Survey Selections

Number 8

Issued Jointly By

THE URBAN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

and

THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
801 19th Street, N.W. - Washington, D. C. 20006

1969
Preface

The Historic American Buildings Survey is a long-range program to assemble a national archives of historic American architecture. Begun in 1933, the Survey is conducted by the National Park Service with the cooperation of the Library of Congress and the American Institute of Architects. To date documentation, consisting of measured drawings, photographs, and written architectural and historical data, has been collected for more than 13,000 structures in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Recording continues each year in all parts of the country in an effort to fulfill the Survey's goal of broad geographic and stylistic representation for all periods of American history.

Since its inception, it has been the policy of the Historic American Buildings Survey to give priority to the recording of buildings endangered by demolition. Probably no buildings are more subject to this threat than the ones in the center of an expanding city, where land is at a premium and outmoded structures are quickly replaced by new and more utilitarian buildings. In such an area the historical remains are often diverse as to types: public, institutional, commercial and residential. A wide range of historical periods may also characterize the central city, so that a truly perceptive selection will include buildings of later eras along with early ones. The Historic American Buildings Survey has thus considered it important, in recent years, to record
many nineteenth and early twentieth-century examples of merit, including commercial types among the others.

In 1969 a project was initiated in Washington, D.C., to document a number of important urban buildings located in the developing area north of Pennsylvania Avenue, between Sixth and Ninth Streets, N.W. This was done at the request and with the support of the non-profit Urban Design and Development Corporation, established by the American Institute of Architects. The Corporation, under contract to the Smithsonian Institution, wished to consider historic architecture along with other factors in preparing a study of the feasibility of locating the proposed Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars as a part of the future Market Square area proposed by the President's Temporary Commission on Pennsylvania Avenue. This book publishes written and pictorial information from HABS photo-data books dealing with this project, on deposit at the Library of Congress. The buildings represent an architectural cross-section of this area in downtown Washington, from the monumental early Post Office Department Building to the elegant Le Droit office building and stately Masonic Hall, not overlooking representative town houses, stores and banks.

The architectural and historical study for this project was done by Harley J. McKee, FAIA, Syracuse University, supervisor, and student architect Thomas Fauntleroy, Howard University, and the title research by architectural historian John T. M. Shumate, Trinity College. Documentary photographs were taken by Ronald Comedy; to these were added some earlier ones by George Eisenman and Jack E. Boucher, as
well as several historical prints and photographs from the collections in the Library of Congress. A set of HABS measured drawings by Andrew Craig Morrison was also included in these records.

This book is the eighth in the series "Selections from the Historic American Buildings Survey." These publications are designed to present in a convenient bound volume a representative selection of some of the most important buildings recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in recent projects. The text and illustrations used in this book are taken from the records deposited in the HABS permanent archives in the Library of Congress. Copies of any of these records may be obtained at the Library's stated prices by writing to the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. 20540.
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Jack E. Boucher for HABS
The area delimited by Pennsylvania Avenue, Sixth, G and Ninth Streets, N.W., is midway between two important nuclei established by L'Enfant's plan for the city of Washington: the Capitol and the President's house. The desire to be near one of these centers largely determined the location of residential neighborhoods, which grew up in C-shaped zones around both. Pennsylvania Avenue, which afforded a direct route between the two and which continued on to the well established settlement of Georgetown, was a logical location for commercial enterprises to serve transient and permanent residents. As hotels, stores and offices flourished along the Avenue, the adjoining area toward the north increasingly attracted residential development, which paid little attention to L'Enfant's designation of Eighth Street as an important transverse axis.

From Tiber Creek (also called Goose Creek), at the present vicinity of Constitution Avenue, the ground rose gently toward the north. The surface was rounded into a low ridge between Fifth and Ninth Streets, near which tributaries ran southward and emptied into the creek. This conformation remained substantially unaltered until 1871. Pennsylvania Avenue was poorly drained and at times was impassable, before 1830. By taking a high route along F Street one could avoid the swamps along the Avenue, when going from Capitol Hill to the President's house, as
members of Congress did in 1801 to attend President Adams' levee.

According to Benjamin O. Tayloe, a small frame building at the corner of Ninth Street, occupied by an apothecary shop, was the only structure on Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the Treasury in 1801. By about 1830 the whole avenue, "with the streets immediately adjacent, was lined with tenements--many of them with shops on the ground floor."

One of the earliest buildings in this area, perhaps the first, stand at the northeast corner of Eighth and E Streets, N.W. This was Blodgett's Hotel, begun in 1793. It was built of brick trimmed in stone, three stories high, 60 feet by 120 feet, and embellished with six Ionic pilasters and a pediment. It was designed by James Hoban, and unfinished in 1810 when purchased by the United States Government to accommodate the General Post Office and the Patent Office. Congress met there briefly in 1814, after the destruction of the Capitol. In 1828-1829 an extension was built but in 1836 the whole structure was destroyed by fire, and soon afterward replaced by the first portion of the Post-Office Department Building (now occupied by the United States Tariff Commission), designed by Robert Mills. A building for the Patent Office was erected north of F Street, between Seventh and Ninth Streets, N.W. From early


2. Ibid.


5. Constance McLaughlin Green, Washington. (Princeton, N.J.:
times these governmental buildings have been prominent elements in the architecture of this area, setting a high standard of design by their classical character and restrained monumentality, smaller in scale than the modern buildings of the nearby Federal Triangle. Although dominant, they were compatible with the early dwellings in the neighborhood, serving as an effective foil to the smaller structures and giving variety to the block texture.

Dwellings erected north of Pennsylvania Avenue were constructed of brick or stone, as in other areas of the city. At first, walls were required to be at least thirty feet high but during President Washington's administration regulations were modified to allow smaller and less costly buildings. Joseph Jackson has pointed out three probable sources of architectural inspiration for early houses in the city: Pennsylvania lintels, New York City basements, and "the general outward appearance of certain late eighteenth century London houses." Certainly, this was a type of town house well known in Alexandria, Georgetown, Baltimore, Philadelphia and other colonial cities, despite their minor local variations. Houses were placed close to the street, usually three bays in width and two or three stories high above elevated basements. Party


walls often extended above the gable roof, which was also interrupted by chimneys and dormer windows. The entrance was usually at one side, although some larger central-hall houses had their entrances located accordingly. There were also some detached houses.

The hotels and other commercial establishments on Pennsylvania Avenue, at the southern edge of this area, have been described elsewhere. By 1850 there were various businesses housed north of that avenue: insurance and real estate offices on Seventh Street between D and F Streets; boot and shoemakers on F, D, and Eighth Streets; blacksmiths on D Street between Seventh and Ninth Streets; a cabinetmaker at Seventh and D Streets; and a "cupper, leecher, electrician and chiropodist" on Sixth Street between C and D Streets.

During the half century before the Civil War a number of distinguished persons resided there. Among them were three architects whose works contributed significantly to the public architecture of Washington: George Hadfield, whose house stood at the southwest corner of F and Eighth Streets; Charles Bulfinch, on Sixth Street near D Street; and Thomas U. Walter, at 614 F Street. In addition to many members of Congress and governmental officials who stayed in hotels or boarding

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9. As shown by advertisements in Edward Waite's Washington Directory for 1850. It is reasonable to suppose that there were others in the area who did not advertise.

houses on Pennsylvania Avenue, the following lived on E Street between Sixth and Ninth Streets: Secretary of War and Vice President John C. Calhoun, Postmaster-General R. J. Meigs, Jr., Secretary of War James Barbour, Secretary of the Treasury Samuel D. Ingham, (then) Representative Millard Fillmore, Representative John Bell, (then) Representative Andrew Johnson and Senator John Slidell. Secretary of War George M. Crawford lived on F Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets, and William H. Seward had a house in the same block when he was a Senator. Senator Daniel Webster lived on D Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets, Senator Charles Sumner on Sixth Street between D and E Streets, and Senator James M. Mason on Indiana (then Louisiana) Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets. Speaker of the House John W. Davis and Postmaster-General Charles A. Wickliffe lived on Seventh Street between D and F Streets. In the 1860's Secretary of the Treasury and Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase occupied a house at Sixth and E Streets (NW corner); Attorney-General Edward Bates lived on F Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets. James Buchanan lived at 918 E Street before he became president, and Chief Justice Roger B. Taney lived near the corner of Seventh and D Streets. Presidents John Quincy Adams and Millard Fillmore attended the Unitarian Church at the northeast corner of Indiana (then Louisiana) Avenue and Sixth Street. The office of the National Era, which originally published Uncle Tom's Cabin, was at 427 Seventh Street. Another notable newspaper, 11. Selected from directory data given in The Pennsylvania Avenue District...
the National Intelligencer, was published at the northwest corner of Seventh and D Streets, and one of its early editors, Joseph Gales, Jr., lived in a house at Ninth and E Streets.

In the 1850's the area was almost completely built up: Boschke's 1857 map reveals only a few vacant lots. There were then a Methodist Protestant Chapel on Ninth Street between E and F Streets, the Fourth Presbyterian Church on Ninth Street just above G Street, Saint Patrick's R. C. Church on F Street west of Ninth Street, the Third Baptist Chapel on E Street just west of Sixth Street, the Unitarian Church at Sixth Street and (then) Louisiana Avenue, the Odd Fellows Hall on Seventh Street between D and E Streets, and the Masonic Hall at Ninth and D Streets. Some street surfaces in this area were graveled and footways were paved with brick or flagstones. In 1853, gas lamps were installed along the principal thoroughfares of the city and street signs were put up: every building was required to display a number. Surface water from the blocks west of Seventh Street between E and G Streets (among others) drained through sewers into the open branch of Tiber Creek which cut between Ninth and Tenth Streets.

The major work of street and sanitary improvement began in 1871, and with it the gradual transformation of Washington from a small town to one of the great cities of the nation. A comprehensive plan of altering street

levels and constructing adequate drains was carried out with vigor and
dispatch under the direction of Alexander ("Boss") Shepherd, Chairman of
the Board of Public Works and, later, Governor of the Territory.

Avenues were given uniform gradients, hills were lowered and hollows
filled; extensive paving was laid, water and gas mains were installed
and 3000 street lamps were erected. When Congress convened in December,
1863, most of this work had been completed. As part of this process,
E and F Streets, between Sixth and Ninth Streets, N.W., were lowered
about six feet, and the streets near Pennsylvania Avenue were elevated
somewhat. Since that time there have not been any significant changes in
the street levels of the area.

F Street from the Patent Office to the Treasury, in the 1860's was a
tree-lined thoroughfare bordered by three-story brick houses built to
party walls, with an occasional side-yard garden and a few four-story
buildings. As commercial activity increased larger "blocks" of buildings
began to appear toward the ends and eventually other stores and office
buildings filled in between them, displacing the older residences. Trans­
portation by street cars, at first horse drawn, then electrified, hastened
the trend and made this street Washington's fashionable shopping district.
By the 1920's the intersection of F and Ninth Streets was the busiest
transfer point on the city's trolley lines. The south side of F Street,

17. Harper's, loc. cit.
18. Conclusions reached after study of old photographs, real estate
atlases and examination of old buildings.
between Eighth and Ninth Streets, retains to this day a remarkable row of commercial structures illustrating the earlier phase of this development, and west of Ninth Street there are numerous buildings of the '80's and '90's among those of more recent date.

Seventh Street, which was another major street car and vehicular route, rapidly expanded its commercial activity, having larger stores near Pennsylvania Avenue and smaller retail establishments north of F Street, grading off into residential areas around Mt. Vernon Square. There are still a number of good buildings remaining from the post-Civil War period along the east side between D and G Streets, although their first-story fronts have been modernized.

Pennsylvania Avenue maintained a respectable commercial character after the 1860's but the construction of new hotels farther west and the opening of new stores on F Street ended its period of dominance. The Centre Market, however, on the site now occupied by the Archives Building, was considered a notable landmark and was patronized by all ranks of society until its demolition in 1931. Most of the buildings along the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, between Sixth and Ninth Streets, have been demolished or are now quasi vacant, but several good ones remain, facing Market Square, to indicate what the area was like in better days.

American commercial buildings of the second half of the nineteenth century, with the exception of those having cast-iron fronts or skeleton frames, have not yet received the attention they deserve from architectural historians. For this reason a brief description of common
types and designs will help to evaluate those which remain in the area under consideration.

Retail store buildings of small and medium size were usually three to five stories high, the upper stories often being devoted to storage of goods, because in those days stocks were replenished only once or twice a year. Sometimes upper stories contained rental offices, living apartments or public halls. The latter were given over, permanently or temporarily, to lectures, concerts, theatrical performances, exhibitions, banquets, dances and other entertainments; in the twentieth century our larger hotels accommodate similar social functions and specialized building types (theaters, auditoriums and convention halls) have taken the place of the old halls in other ways, partly because of increasing public concern over the reduction of fire and other safety hazards.

As a rule these buildings were eighteen to twenty-five feet wide between masonry bearing walls, wooden floor systems spanning across without interior supports. Larger buildings frequently were divided (from foundation to roof) by brick bearing partitions in order to retard the spread of fire from one compartment to the next; after about 1880 an ever increasing number of them employed iron or steel floor framing and used cast-iron columns to support them on the interior, thus doing away with the cumbersome masonry partitions which had hampered the flexible use of space.

20. Based upon the author's personal observations during the last thirty years.
The fronts of store and office buildings, above the first story, were mostly brick or stone, pierced by arched or linteled windows. After about 1870, there were many attempts to increase the glass area of the upper stories. This was accomplished in various ways: mullioned windows, wide relieving arches, and single- or multi-story arcading with spandrels at each intermediate floor. By about 1900, when skeleton-frame walls had become common, wide openings in rectangular bays became the customary solution.

One rarely encounters a store front which has not been altered beyond recognition, so the first story usually needs to be interpreted with the aid of old photographs, illustrations in early architectural magazines, and advertising cuts from old newspapers or city directories. Such sources cover only a small fraction of the buildings one might wish to study. After about 1850, cast-iron columns rapidly came into favor to support the wall above store windows; often they were rectangular in section, narrow, and paneled in front. Sometimes orthodox classical forms, especially Roman Corinthian fluted columns or pilasters, were used, but not commonly in the case of smaller buildings. Small round columns, generally unfluted, were given various kinds of capitals and bases, many being modified versions of Gothic prototypes. Display windows were framed with wood, muntins being widely spaced whenever large units of glass were obtainable. Above the windows there was usually a wide frieze or a whole entablature, which terminated at the side property lines against ornamental projecting elements. Sometimes a segmental arch (or arches) crowned the store front; these were generally formed about a cast-iron girder (which was concealed by its masonry
coverings). When large rolled wrought-iron and steel sections became common, they were increasingly used to support the wall above store fronts, but in many instances this is an indication that the front has been remodeled.

In the nineteenth century ornament was considered an indispensable element of architecture, whose omission except for the most compelling need to economize was equated with rudeness of manners. It was consistent with the laborious methods of skilled hand work and afforded ample evidence of the craftsman's skill. With increasingly mechanized mass production of ornamental elements they diminished in significance and quality, but most of the decline occurred after the end of the century. The period after the Civil War was marked by various tastes and by sudden changes in fashion. Eclectic designers made considerable use of conventional elements from several historical periods (notably the Middle Ages and Renaissance in Europe) and from contemporary European design. Some of them were highly inventive and original. The subject has not been sufficiently studied to identify more than a few of the sources and factors that need to be taken into account. In the design of commercial buildings, key architectural elements were made ornamental in form and often enriched with decorative details. Purely

21. One can hardly fail to be impressed by the complexity of the late nineteenth century, in scanning a book such as Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, Md.: Penguin Books, 1958). Hitchcock writes with greater knowledge and perception than most historians, but ornamental design is only one minor aspect of this book, and is treated with brevity.
ornamental features were sometimes added to vary and modulate wall surfaces or to accent important parts. By oversimplifying the case one might distinguish several representative manners of design:

1860-1880 Window openings relatively narrow in comparison to wall area, segmental- or semicircular-arched, with brick or ornamental cast-iron hoodmoulds (sometimes both) and sills; ornate bracketed cornices interrupted at the center by a pediment, sometimes semicircular, paneled friezes; incised conventional floral ornament or otherwise plain stone trim; display windows divided by thin wooden mullions; doors with arched panes of etched ornamental glass.

1870-1890 High pitched roofs with gables (perhaps dormers) and created ridges; brickwork laid in dark mortar, polychrome tile inserts, patternwork in some areas; two-centered (pointed) arched windows, often grouped; finials and mouldings resembling late medieval prototypes; doors with ornamental strap hinges, chevron patterns in the panels.

1880-1900 Rock-faced stone walls (or brick walls) with arcaded fenestration; corbeled cornices and string courses; textured spandrels; wide, low arched entrances; corbels and various dormers carved with low-relief foliations. The best known designs in this manner, partly derived from early medieval prototypes, are those of H. H. Richardson.

1890-1915 Use of orders whose details closely conform to particular Roman or Renaissance examples; rhythmic division of wall areas; panels; mouldings; balustrades; low-relief conventional ornament of Classic or Renaissance character; extensive use of terra cotta ornamental
parts in brick walls. The best known practitioners in this manner were McKim, Mead and White.

After about 1875 extensive development of residential neighborhoods in the area north of the White House made that part of the city the most fashionable. The F Street and Market Square area was still considered a desirable place to live until about the end of the century, despite its transformation into a predominantly business center. A substantial number of its historic houses were still standing in the 1920's. Most have been destroyed since then, leaving only scattered remains, most of them along Sixth Street. Many former residential sites are now parking lots. The small early shops and stores have nearly all disappeared. Seventh Street and its immediate vicinity retain many belonging to the last third of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, several of which possess considerable architectural interest. Ninth Street has some noteworthy examples in the 600 block, including Velati's candy store, long a favorite landmark among Washingtonians.

Probably the most attractive and coherent cluster in the area is found along the 800 block of F Street, whose visual quality is reinforced by two strong buildings standing at the western corners of Ninth Street. Their picturesque diversity enhances the classic formality of the old Patent Office and Post Office Buildings, across F and Eighth Streets, respectively, changes in scale being within readily acceptable limits.


These two governmental buildings rank among the best of their kind in the city, as do their counterparts in the neighboring Judiciary Square area.

South of F Street and west of Eighth Street the architectural interest is mostly on the fringes. At the corner of Ninth Street, facing Pennsylvania Avenue, there is a small group of three buildings from its period of commercial dominance. At the Seventh Street corners near the avenue there remain three others (hotel, bank and insurance buildings) which form another noteworthy center of attraction.

The Eighth Street axis has a strong termination in the old Patent Office at the north end and the newer Archives Building effectively closes the other end. The significance of particular buildings in the whole Market Square area can best be seen in their descriptions, which follow.
Patent Office

Seventh Street, north from F Street

Undated old photographs, Library of Congress

Seventh Street, north from Pennsylvania Ave.
General Post Office
(now Tariff Commission)
Ronald Comedy for HABS
General Post Office
(now Tariff Commission Building)

Location: E, Eighth, F and Seventh Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Latitude: 38° 53' 48" north.

Longitude: 77° 01' 22" west.

Present Owner: United States of America.


Brief Statement of Significance: A mid-nineteenth century federal office building with important historical associations and notable architectural character; a landmark of the national capital.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built by the United States Government, it has always remained under the same ownership.

2. Date of erection: Original portion, 1829-1844; addition, 1855-1866; minor later additions.


4. Builder or contractor, suppliers: Robert Mills supervised the construction of the original building, letting different parts of the work to separate contractors. [H. M. Pierce Gallagher, Robert Mills (New York: Columbia University Press, 1935), pp. 189-198].

Marble for the old part, 1839, came from West Chester, N.Y.: for the new part, 1855, came from Cockeysville, Md. [George P. Merrill, Stones for Building and Decoration (New York: Wiley, 1903, 3rd Ed.), p. 525].


5. Notes on original plan and construction of building:
The Post Office Building situated on E. Street North, and running from 7th to 8th Street, West [i.e., the Old Post Office]. The main front is on E. Street extending 204 feet with a wing at each end stretching 102 feet up 7th and 8th Streets. The whole rises three stories above the basement. The street facades are of white marble of the richest workmanship in the Corinthian style, the court or rear front with a beautiful specimen of light granite. The first story is faced with a channelled rustic over which rises the order of columns and pilasters with their rich capitals extending up two stories surmounted by their entablature and crowned by a panelled blocking course. The main entrance is from E. Street by a flight of marble steps into a recessed vestibule; to the right and left are spacious corridors leading to marble staircases conducting to the different stories. Each floor contains twenty-five rooms, seventy-five rooms in all. The whole is made thoroughly fireproof, and is heated by furnaces in the basement story. [Gallagher, Robert Mills, pp. 69-70, quoting from the Robert Mills Papers in the Library of Congress.]

An iron railing enclosed the site by 1848. There were four hot-air furnaces in 1848. The building was lighted by gas; this was at least the second, perhaps the first, public building in Washington to be lighted by gas. [Public Buildings, etc., Report No. 90, H. of Rep., 30th Congress, second session, (1848)]

In the closing years of the nineteenth century an electric plant in the basement served this building, the Patent Office, Pension Building, and other public buildings; this was one of the early central heating and lighting stations in the U. S. Government service. [Notes in files
of U. S. National Capital Planning Commission, compiled by Donald Lehman, G. S. A. Historian. Much of the material noted here is reproduced by courtesy of Mr. Lehman and the N. C. P. C.

B. Historical events and persons associated with structure:
From c. 1842 this building was occupied by the Post Office Department, until 1897; from 1897 to 1917 by the General Land Office; the Selective Service in 1917; the Tariff Commission since 1932. General John J. Pershing occupied offices in this building, where he prepared his final reports as Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces. [Sidney Morgan, Secretary, U. S. Tariff Commission, The Tariff Commission Building, Typewritten, 1940.]

C. Sources of information:

"General Post Office," wood engraving from Harper's, 1859.
"General Post Office," Stereo Photograph.
[the above prints are in the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division]

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: An important early building for the United States Government, designed by two of the most noted nineteenth-century American architects, largely in its original state, of refined and restrained monumentality. The original portion illustrates the best characteristics of Robert Mills' maturity: his versatility, inventiveness, directness, sense of structure and function, mastery of classical elements and ability to use them creatively. The addition shows Thomas U. Walters' respect for an existing masterpiece and the ability to harmonize with it, while making full use of newer materials and methods.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is generally in good condition and is well maintained. Some exterior stone decoration has been damaged by weathering to a moderate degree. As in any old building some interior woodwork has been affected by exposure to humidity and by repeated coats of paint: this is most noticeable with respect to interior shutters on the window openings. Some major iron or steel supports in the basement under the court appear to have deteriorated sufficiently to cause grave concern about their load-carrying ability. Bricks at the top of the large chimney appear to be loose.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Original building was 102' X 204'; after enlargement it is 250' X 204'; originally 7 by 19 bays, now 19 by 19 bays; three stories above the basement; originally U-shaped, now rectangular, with an enclosed court partly occupied by a wing on axis.

2. Structural systems, framing:

   a. The original building has load-bearing walls of stone and brick masonry and a brick-vaulted floor system employing semicircular, segmental and groined compartments, with a timber-framed roof. Some small areas are ceiled with marble slabs. Joints are filled with hydraulic cement mortar.

   b. The addition has masonry load-bearing walls and fire-resistant floors of brick-arched panels supported on rolled wrought-iron joists. The roof is supported on arcaded brick walls which carry iron rafters. Foundations below grade are random stonework, units being 4" to 1'2" high, 8" ashlar courses on the inside above grade.

3. Exterior composition:

   a. General: The original building was three stories in height and its principal facade was at the south, facing E Street. The lower floor was treated with rusticated pilaster strips; the two upper stories were treated with a colossal Corinthian order of pilasters, accented by shallow projecting pavilions at the center of each front, using engaged columns. When the building was extended the same ordonnance was applied to the exterior of the new portion.
Since 1873, due to lowered street levels, about six feet of the basement wall, which is plain, show above grade.

b. Order: Columns are fluted, approximately ten diameters high, and taper somewhat more than Roman or Greek prototypes. Capitals are of normal proportion but there is only one row of acanthus leaves (five on the engaged columns, three on the pilasters); as a consequence, the caulicoli are unusually conspicuous. The axial volutes intertwine, as on the Temple of Castor and Pollux in Rome. Pilasters are unfluted. Bases are of the Attic type, set on a high plinth block treated with a plain horizontal panel, doubly recessed. Pilaster and column shafts are each made of four pieces of stone.

The entablature is of normal height and largely follows Roman precedent. The architrave is composed of three fascias and its crowning mouldings are enriched. The frieze is plain. The cornice consists of a cyma reversa bed moulding, a plain fascia (not denticulated), above that an enriched ovolo, a modillion course, corona, small cavetto, fillet, cyma recta and fillet. Modillions are block in form, the ends being ornamented by a circular panel containing a rosette of four leaves. Many of these have considerably weathered. Between modillions, in the soffit, there is an enriched coffer. Above the cornice there is a low parapet.

c. South facade (originally the principal front): This is nineteen bays wide, the central three bays projecting slightly and, with the bay adjoining on each side, forming a central pavilion. The pilaster strips of the first story, which is treated as a podium, are channelled along the horizontal joints. The marble ashlar of this facade is otherwise tooled smoothly, drafted margins being faintly visible. The marble surface has weathered unevenly, leaving shallow "pock marks" and spalled places at the edges of individual stones and at projecting corners. In a few places small stones have been inlaid to patch the wall. In general the wall is in good condition.

As to the fenestration, there is one rectangular window in each basement bay. In each first-story bay there is a window in the smooth recessed area between pilaster strips, framed by architrave trim.
Each sill is moulded and continues across the entire recess.

The first story is crowned by a two-piece entablature, whose slightly-projecting cornice consists of a small echinus bed moulding, soffit with plain drip mould, corona, narrow fillet, echinus and wider fillet.

A tall window in each bay of the second story is framed with architrave trim, a plain frieze and delicate triangular pediment. The window sill rests on the first-story cornice. At the third story the windows are square and have an architrave on all four sides; the upper edge of this architrave is level with the top of the pilaster shafts.

Window sash are probably not original. They are double hung, two lights over two lights, except on the third story, which are casements.

The central second-story window is triply divided and carries a segmental pediment. The window above it is, likewise, triple.

d. South entrance: This entrance, originally the principal one, is centered on the first story above a straight flight of stairs. There are seventeen plain granite steps from the sidewalk to the first floor; only the upper third of them being original. They are flanked by marble blocks (treated as pedestals) in three tiers, the lower two tiers having been added after the street was lowered c. 1873. The moulded coping takes the form of a cornice: a filleted corona above a cyma reversa bed mould, below which is a neck or frieze having a fillet and bevel at the lower edge. The lowest tier abuts granite fence posts.

The central bay is filled by a recessed entrance porch. A pair of fluted Greek Doric columns stand "in antis", slightly recessed behind the outer face of the rusticated piers, and carry a three-piece entablature. The architrave is plain except for a row of guttae at the lower edge of the taenia. The frieze, which corresponds to that of the first-story entablature, contains a row of five wreaths. The cornice is a continuation, without break, of that on the first-story entablature.
Inside the porch, the architrave and frieze continue, but here the frieze is unornamented. The ceiling consists of three pieces of stone in the form of three moulded panels, the central one being largest. At each side of the porch there is a semicircular niche with architrave trim. The door opening is flanked by antae and sidelights glazed in a geometrical pattern. Double doors and glazed transom are modern. The floor is marble.

e. Original western facade: This consists of seven bays at the southern end of the west wall. The central bay is wider than the others and projects slightly, being treated with coupled Corinthian columns to form a pavilion. Windows of the three central bays, above the basement, are triply divided, those of the second story having segmental pediments. In the third bay from the south end there is a plain entrance to the basement, reached by descending a short flight of granite steps. Trim consists of wooden mouldings; there is a glazed transom. The doors are not original.

f. Original eastern facade: This is similar to that on the west except that the basement entrance is farther below the present sidewalk level, and there is no transom. The double doors each have two panels, the lower one square and the upper one tall; they may be old but are probably not original.

g. Northern facade: As to composition, this front is thirteen bays in width, having a projecting five-bay pavilion at the center, which, with its recessed portion on the upper stories, is the dominant element. Flanking the central element there are connecting links of a single bay and three-bay end pavilions. At present a wide flight of steps leads up to the central seven bays, although originally the sidewalk level was near that of the first floor.

Central pavilion: There are five round-arched openings at the first story, only the central one now being used as a doorway; the others are filled with windows, and stone below their sills. Horizontal stone joints are channelled and there are triple keystones above the arches. This story has a high base consisting of two plinth courses, and there is a slender cornice at the second floor level.

The recessed portico is the full height of the second and third stories, employing coupled fluted Corinthian
columns. At each end the order consists of coupled plain pilasters. Each pair of columns rests on a single paneled plinth. The capitals differ slightly from those of the south facade, in that their central intertwining volutes are larger. All of the column capitals have lost their outer corner volutes but pilaster capitals are complete. On the inner wall of the porch there are pilaster responds.

Inside the portico a conventional architrave extends around above the capitals. Above this there is a plain frieze, corresponding to marble beams which span from wall to columns; this is crowned by an enriched cyma reversa. In each of the five major ceiling compartments there is a deeply recessed panel with an enriched ovolo at the top.

The portico floor consists of large marble slabs pitched to drain outward; they have raised caulked joints. There is no railing. Second-story windows reach nearly to the floor, making access possible, but apparently the portico was not intended for use.

End pavilions: Each is distinguished by a pilaster and slight projection in front of the face of the connecting links. The central bay is the widest and has a double projection marked by a pair of pilasters; its central windows are triple. On the first story the windows are rectangular and the walls are channelled.

Miscellaneous details: Windows are similar to those of the south facade. The entrance steps are granite, abutting blocks in the form of Classic pedestals at each end. There are seven risers at the east end and ten at the west end, because of a sloping sidewalk. There is a secondary entrance under the center of the west pavilion: a double door at the basement level reached by nine granite steps descending in a straight flight along the west wall, inside the fence which encloses the site. The main entrance, in the central bay, is entirely modern.

h. Eastern facade: This is nineteen bays long, the southern seven being original and the remainder an early addition. It is symmetrical, the center being accented by a three-bay pavilion of slight projection, which is marked by freestanding Corinthian columns, those at the ends being coupled. The one-bay pavilion (fourth bay from the south end) on the original part
of the building is duplicated by one placed symmetrically on the north half of the facade.

In the central bay at the first story there is an entrance, which was the principal one for the building when the addition was completed. It is now closed, and has been for many years. A pair of Doric antae set within the piers carry a plain architrave with a row of guttae under the taenia. Within the opening there is a wooden double door with a fan-shaped semicircular glazed transom. The doors, having a square moulded panel below and a tall panel (now glazed) above it, may be original (i.e., dating from the addition). Nine marble steps with moulded nosing lead from the sidewalk to the first floor: the upper four are the original ones, of yellow marble, the lower five probably having been added c. 1873.

i. Western facade: This resembles the eastern front except for its central entrance. This is a semi-circular-arched opening extending down to grade, which admits vehicles to the courtyard. It is closed only by a metal gate. The opening has an archivolt (without impost) whose mouldings extend down to a high plinth (three stone courses above grade). On the projecting keystone there is a head carved in high relief. Somewhat resembling Athena, it is said to symbolize fidelity. In each spandrel corner there is a winged figure carved in high relief. The one on the right, with bat-like wings, holds a locomotive, said to symbolize steam-powered transportation. The one on the left, with bird-like wings, holds a scroll; although said to symbolize electricity, it appears to this observer to depict written communication.

Inside this entrance there is a carriage vestibule extending through the wing of the building into the courtyard, through a simpler arched opening at the inner end. The walls are grey granite ashlar. The ceiling is cast iron, having nine beams in the form of an architrave, paneled on the soffit, spanning the width of the vestibule, each crowned by an enriched bead and an enriched ovolo. In each compartment between beams there are five square coffers, separated from each other by an enriched bead. Each coffer contains an acanthus-leaf band bordering its field, which is otherwise unornamented.
Doorways, centered on the north and south walls of this carriage vestibule, connect with the central hallway of this wing of the building. Each is set within a deep recess which connects with the vestibule through an arched opening, with an archivolt and moulded keystone having a large enriched bead along its axis. Within the recess, nine granite steps lead up to the doorway. The door opening is rectangular, framed with cast-iron mullion and transom bars; it has glazed sidelights and transom light. Double doors each have three panels, the upper and lower ones square and the middle one tall; these panels are triply recessed, not moulded, and have raised fields. These doorways date from the time of the addition (i.e., 1855-1866).

j. Courtyard walls: These walls are faced in gray granite ashlar. At the second floor level there is a simple entablature; another plain entablature and parapet terminate the walls. There is a slight difference in color at the junction of the original building and the addition, the older granite being slightly lighter and warmer. Individual stones are 4'6" long and 1'8" high, on the first story, and are laid with 3/16" joints. Windows have architrave trim and plain sills; those on the third story have an architrave on all four sides.

On the north side of the court the central portion, five bays wide, projects into the court three bays, leaving a bay with triple windows between it and the side walls of the court. It is full height; beyond it projects a one-story granite wing three bays wide, which is continued by a clumsy brick addition one bay square.

Basement windows of the original portion are semicircular. They contain an ornamental cast-iron grille, which has a lyre-like central motif flanked on each side by an anthemion-like pair of leaves. Basement windows of the addition are low and rectangular. A few of them contain grilles of similar design, adapted to the rectangular shape.

4. Chimneys: In the original building chimneys were located to serve a fireplace in each office; four appear above the south facade and three along the southern portion of the east and west facades. Above the roof they are marble, designed in the manner of a Classical pedestal. They are no longer used.
A large brick freestanding chimney occupies a location near the center of the east side of the court; this is a much later addition.

5. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: A hip roof of low pitch, its ridge over the axis of each wing of the building, is covered with sheet metal. That over the original building is copper, recently installed. That over the addition is corrugated sheet iron, thought to be original; it is painted. It rests on T-sections of iron, which span between rafters.

b. Cornice, eaves: The entablature of the Corinthian order forms the cornice for the building. Above it is a low parapet having block pedestals above each pilaster or column. On the pedestal face there is a plain panel, doubly recessed, unmoulded. Above each wall pavilion the parapet rises at a slight pitch to a central apex. At the central parapet of the south facade there is a flag pole, apparently a relatively modern one, braced by three guy wires.

c. Cupolas: Above the stairs of the original building, and above the center of the south wing, there are cupolas. Those over the stairs contain skylights; the central one apparently did originally but it has been replaced by a penthouse of no architectural interest.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The plan of the original building is a wide U, in which a central corridor in each wing gives access to offices at both sides; at the interior angles stairs are located. Offices are nearly square in plan. The basement, first and second floors are similar; the third floor is similar except that the center of the south wing is occupied by a large hall.

The addition extends the side wings and places a large room in the open end of the U. which connects with the wings through a shallow corridor. A later addition extended this north wing farther into the courtyard, and provided space for mechanical equipment in a basement and sub-basement, which extends under a substantial portion of the court.
General Post Office
(now Tariff Commission)
Ronald Comedy for HABS
At present the entire building is occupied by the Tariff Commission, except for the main body of the north wing on the first story, which serves as a branch post office. Basement areas formerly housing mechanical equipment are now vacant.

2. Stairways: The southwest stair extends from the basement to the third floor. It is in a U-shaped masonry compartment with an open well; at the top this compartment becomes circular and is lighted from above. The steps are formed individually, each from a block of marble, and supported at both ends on curving masonry walls below the first floor. Above the first floor the steps are supported on the outside wall and by arch action. There is an open string.

At the basement there is a wide curtail step, on which rests an octagonal cast-iron newel painted to match the color of varnished mahogany; it has a plinth, base mouldings, shaft with modified Ionic pilasters on the four main faces, a two-part entablature and a pyramidal moulded cap. From this a moulded varnished mahogany handrail curves upward in a helix to the third floor without interruption. An ornamental cast-iron railing is composed of repetitive units spaced one per tread. Each unit has a circular motif at mid height about which the upper and lower parts are symmetrical: a Greek palmette growing from a U-shaped acanthus-leafed base, from which also spring two buds.

At the third story the opening from the stair compartment to the hall is framed by a short tapered fluted pilaster of modified Roman character. The wall of the stair compartment, between the third floor and the neck of this order, is divided into six plaster panels around the circumference. These panels have a border consisting of an anthemion band in relief. Above them is a frieze in relief, which recalls the capitals of the pilasters, alternating acanthus leaves and caulicoli. Above this level, on a surface which begins to assume the form of a dome, are six similar panels (warped into curving trapezoids). Above this is the lower rim of the cupola, which is bordered by an acanthus-leaf band and a bead enriched with rope moulding. In the drum of the cupola there is an architrave consisting of two fascias, a relief anthemion band in the frieze, and above that a wave band with foliations between the scrolls. A rather heavy moulding forms the cornice, above which is a skylight. The work just described is plaster.
The southeast stair was similar but it has been altered somewhat by the installation of a modern elevator in the well, which it fills.

The northeast stair, in the addition, is of the open well type, with two landings. It has marble steps with moulded nosing, an open string, moulded wooden handrail, and an ornamental cast-iron railing whose units are similar to those of the original building, except that the decorative units adjoin each other without any intervening space. The cast-iron newel is octagonal; it has a plinth, torus, scotia, acanthus leaves on the lower part of the shaft, twisted fluting on the upper part of the shaft, and a small moulded cap on which rests a wooden finial against which the handrail terminates.

The northwest stair is similar except that a modern elevator has been installed in the well. Between the first floor and the basement both of these stairs are plain, having granite steps.

Risers in the original buildings average 6 3/4"; in the addition from 7 1/4" to 7 5/8".

3. Flooring: The floor of the main south hallway in the basement is of marble tiles 11 1/4" square, laid in a diagonal pattern, black and white alternating. It is interrupted by steel-plate covering over duct tunnels. Other basement corridors are covered with concrete of uncertain date.

The main south hallway of the first floor is covered with large (1'7") marble squares laid diagonally in a checkerboard pattern. Gray alternates with very light figured gray but the tones vary considerably, so the pattern is not uniform. There is a narrow plain border. Thresholds of doors opening from this hallway are light gray marble. The west corridor is similarly floored but the units are smaller. This kind of flooring is typical throughout the corridors of the upper stories.

4. Ceiling finish, (typical): Most ceilings are finished by plastering directly on the structural elements. In the original part of the building these are:

a. First story, south hallway: A barrel vault, elliptical in section, interrupted by groined compartments at the center, opposite the stairs, and at the intersections with the east and west corridors.
At the center and at the stairs, these bays are ornamented with a plaster centerpiece: an eight-pointed star of smooth leaves in the center, four palmette motifs (resembling the head of a Greek stele) on the principal axes; on the diagonals there is a foliated plant, continued along the groin corners by a small rope moulding. The soffit of the transverse arches which outline the groined bays contains moulded panels, the arches carrying arch-volt mouldings on their vertical faces.

b. The second-story south hallway is similar; the one in the basement is similar in form but unornamented.

c. The east and west corridors in the basement are covered with segmental barrel vaults. On the first and upper floors these corridors have semicircular barrel vaults. On the first floor they have been lowered to an elliptical section at a later date to afford duct space.

d. The vaults described above terminate at the spring line against a plaster impost, whose mouldings resemble those of a Greek Doric anta capital.

e. Most basement rooms are barrel vaulted (in a direction perpendicular to the corridor) with semi-elliptical sections. A few are covered with groined vaults. Offices of the three main floors are groined vaulted, above corner piers and imposts.

Under the ramp of the carriage entrance, iron joists have a 5" wide lower flange and are spaced 2'4" on centers. Between them there are segmental-arched brick panels.

In the addition generally, ceilings are plastered onto the bottom of the floor construction (i.e., brick arches between joists). The corridors have coved compartmented ceilings, the units being oblong in plan, bordered by mouldings, above a moulded plaster cornice.

The original color(s) of ceilings is not apparent now.

5. Wall finish, (typical): Walls are plastered over the masonry. In the original building halls, a low plain plaster base is painted to simulate marble; this may be original painting. Halls in the addition have a dark marble base. An archway marks the point of transition between the old and new parts.
6. Doorways and doors, (typical): In the original building, door trim is a plain projecting plaster band 7" wide. Doors have moulded panels with raised fields: one large low panel below and two vertical rows of panels, the middle one being tall and the upper and lower ones horizontal. Many doors have had glazing installed in the upper panels. Openings to the offices also have partial doors containing two rows of louvers.

In the addition, door openings are taller and include a glazed transom. Frames are iron, cast in a single piece (including transom bar and trim), in the form of a shouldered architrave with chamfered corners and an enriched cyma reversa. Doors have recessed panels with raised fields: a pair of square panels below and tall panels above. In a number of doors the upper panels have been altered.

Throughout the building, window trim corresponds to that of the doors.

7. Rooms of special design:

a. Central third-story room of the south wing: This area is three bays deep (extending through the wing). Each bay is groined vaulted except the one in the center, which carries a dome on pendentives. These vaults are carried on wall piers and on four central fluted Greek Doric columns; the wall piers flanking the axis at the east and west ends are formed as 3/4 Doric columns. All finish is plaster. The floor covering is modern.

The vault groins are marked by thin ribs. The four arches of the central bay are enriched with a fret band and rope moulding. Pendentives are paneled and have an anthemion-band border; in each there is a caduceus (this would seem to refer to an early symbol of the Post Office Department, rather than a medical reference). Above the pendentives there is a soffit consisting of a fret band in relief and a rope moulding. In the drum the surface is divided into twelve panels in the form of coffers; their mouldings are enriched. The cupola is now flat on top, having been altered.

At the east and west end of this room there is a single axial bay, at the end of which there is a double doorway, having a moulded transom bar, sidelights and fanlight. The glazing is leaded in a geometrical design. These doors give access to the compartment adjoining the stairs.
b. South first-floor vestibule (on E Street): This vestibule occupies a square bay just inside the recessed porch described among exterior elements. It opens on the north side through a screen of two plain Greek Doric columns in antis, the anta capitals continuing as an impost along the other walls. An architrave carried on these columns forms a transom bar, above which there is a semi-elliptical opening.

There is a groined vault over this bay, with an ornamental centerpiece similar to that in the adjoining hallway.

c. East first-floor vestibule (on Seventh Street): This was designed, as part of the addition, to be the principal entrance to the building; its exterior aspect has been described above. It has a rectangular shape in plan, with a free-standing fluted Greek Doric column in each corner supporting an architrave which is plain except for a band of guttae below the taenia. Above this there is a paneled ceiling: a large rectangular panel and two narrow ones (near the outer doors and the hall doors, respectively). These panels have borders of enriched moulding.

On the axis of each side wall there is a semicircular niche. The floor is marble: 10" white squares with clipped corners admitting 3" black squares (diagonal). Double doors open to the hallway, each having three moulded panels (the one in the middle tall, the others square).

All surfaces in this vestibule are marble, now rather dirty, except the ceiling panels, which resemble scagliola.

d. Central first-floor room on the north (F Street): This room, now used as a post office, is entirely modernized.

e. Central north room on the upper floors: This is five bays wide and four bays deep, with windows on all four sides. Originally this was the dead letter office, two stories in height, containing a gallery. In modern times a floor has been inserted to divide the space into rooms at the second and third floors, respectively. The former is now used as a library. The latter, which retains a number of original elements, is used as a hearing chamber by the Tariff Commission.
There is a skylight with two major divisions, each containing four groups of lights: a square area with nine panes. Between the major divisions there is an enriched panel and the border around the whole ceiling is similarly enriched. It contains a band of oak leaves, apparently metal, standing free from the background. A similar band forms the upper edge of the room cornice, below which are an enriched ovolo and an enriched bead.

8. Miscellaneous interior finish: All windows in the original building are equipped with interior shutters; most are now inoperative because they have been "painted shut."

9. Mechanical equipment: Fireplaces in the original building have all been closed. Other original equipment throughout the building has been replaced with more modern types.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General Setting: This building fills the block bounded by E Street, Eighth Street, F Street and Seventh Street, N.W. The site slopes gently toward the south and the west; formerly it was more nearly level. These streets extend in the cardinal directions. When this building was erected the area was largely residential; now it is predominantly commercial.

2. Historic Landscape Design: An area about ten feet wide surrounds the building, except where entrance stairs interrupt it; this is enclosed by a fence which is old but not original, having replaced an earlier fence some time after c. 1873. The present fence rests on a gray granite base whose height varies somewhat according to the grade of the sidewalk. At intervals there are granite posts in the form of classic pedestals. Cast-iron posts are spaced at ten-foot intervals; in design they resemble modified Doric colonnettes, with moulded base, cap and finial. Square iron or steel bars are spaced five inches on centers; they are set diagonally in plan, in a cast-iron base in the form of four upright acanthus leaves. There is a top rail of rectangular section. At the top of each vertical bar there is a cast-iron finial ornamented with simple foliations and terminating in a point.
Generally, where the basement window sills are below sidewalk level, there is a depressed area paved with marble. Where these sills are above grade the area between the wall and the fence is planted to grass.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee, FAIA
Professor Emeritus of Architecture
Syracuse University
Architect, National Park Service
June 21, July 11, and July 12, 1969
CONJECTURAL RESTORATION, SOUTH SIDE OF THE 800 BLOCK, F STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.
LE DROIT BUILDING AT LEFT. HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, MARKET SQUARE PROJECT, 1969. HARLEY J. MCKEE, F.A.I.A., DELINICATOR
THE LE DROIT BUILDING

Location: 800-812 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Joseph B and Goldie Stein, et al.
527 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.


Present Use: Retail stores and services; largely vacant.

Brief Statement of Significance:
A commercial building illustrating the earliest phase of F Street's great age of development as the leading shopping and business street in Washington, with great architectural interest.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Leased to Andrew Langdon on Feb. 19, 1873 by Maria A. Elliot, Mary E. Elliot, Annie L. Elliot, and Cecilia M. Elliot, parts of original lots #10 and #11 of sq. 406. (Begin at the NE corner of lot #11, thence west 100', south 75', east 100', and north 75'). Lease for 10 years, beginning March 1, 1873 at $5,000 per year. If Langdon erects a building, that building becomes the property of the owners upon termination of the lease. Langdon has the option to purchase the property, during the term of the lease, for $60,000. [729-138 rec. Aug. 30, 1873]

Building was constructed in 1875.

[782-119 rec. Apr. 10, 1875] Cecilia M. Elliot and Andrew Langdon to Paula Rocca in a quit claim deed. (Begin at the NW corner of original lot #10, thence east 4 1/2" to center line of wall, south 75', west 4 1/2", & north 75'--for use only as party wall.)
Assignment of lease [803-135 rec. Oct. 13, 1875] on Sept. 7, 1875 by Andrew Langdon to Andrew Langdon, Amzi L. Barber and J. Joseph Albright, under the firm name of "A. L. Barber and Co."

The lease was again assigned on March 28, 1875 [909-425 rec. May 29, 1879] by Andrew Langdon & A. L. Barber to J. Joseph Albright.


According to Deed 5265-198 rec. May 20, 1924 Rose Keeling Hutchins, et al., on May 16, 1924, deeded to Thomas Morton Gittings, et al. (Rose K. Hutchins is the widow of Stilson Hutchins. Wm. J. Dante held title in secret trust for Stilson Hutchins.)


Deed 5446-472 rec. April 25, 1925, shows that Jacob E. and Hattie Slosberg deeded to Joseph B., Annie, & Goldie Stein. (4/6 undivided interest to Joseph B., 1/6 undivided interest to Annie, and 1/6 undivided interest to Goldie.)

Records [Deed 7426-480 rec. Dec. 28, 1939] show that on Dec. 11, 1939 Hattie Slosberg & Lillian S. Steinberg deeded to Goldie Stein. (Hattie Slosberg & Lillian S. Steinberg are two of four children of the deceased Annie Stein. Each conveys her 1/24 undivided interest to Goldie Stein, with oral understanding that it be held for them in trust.)


Hattie Slosberg had her 1/24 undivided interest reconveyed to her from Deed 7426-480 by Goldie Stein on Jan. 16, 1962 [11842-421 rec. July 30, 1962].

2. Date of erection: 1875.

B. Sources of information:

Primary and unpublished sources: District of Columbia records.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A post Civil War store and office building, picturesque and attractive in character, with rhythmic fenestration and well-developed display windows, mostly in its original state.

2. Condition of fabric: Fabric is in somewhat shoddy condition; the interior is not well maintained and much of it is in its original state. Exterior ornamentation is deteriorating.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 100' X 75' (approx.); 7 bays X 5 bays; 4 stories; wide U-shaped.


3. Wall construction and finish: Masonry bearing walls. The exterior of the wall is constructed of brick (American bond), painted gray and trimmed in very light gray. This is probably not the original color. The south side of the building is plain brick wall on the east and west wings. The central portion is seven bays wide with the first bay on the right indented.

4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There are five shops on the front of the Le Droit Building with concrete stoops that are apparently the result of modernizing the shops. In addition, at the second and sixth bays of the building are two stoops leading up to the second floor entrances. The stoops are made of concrete having four 8" risers (with 10" treads) from street level to door landing. From this level to the second floor level, there are 8 risers (identical dimensions).

5. Chimneys: There are two chimneys on the south wall of the east wing. These chimneys have brick facing
and each has a brick cap projecting over approximately 1/2" on all sides. On the south wall of the central portion of the building are three chimneys. These are accompanied by a metal cylindrical furnace chimney with suspended conical cap; this chimney runs down the exterior of the south wall. Another chimney rests at the intersection of the west wing and the south wall of the central section of the building.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The first story doorway entrances are 3' wide and 7' high. The doors are modern with one large glass panel. The doors are trimmed in wood moulding.

The second floor entrance doors are larger wood doors, about 7'2" tall (typical). There are double doors at the opening which open to the exterior. The entrance is approx. 5' wide and trimmed in wood moulding. The doors have a glass panel which covers about 1/3 of the door.

b. Windows: The entire first story has been modernized and is complete with glass window fronts and modern doorways and signs.

The second story of the north side of the building has 3 double-hung windows in nearly all of the seven bays. The panes are large, (1/1), and are trimmed in simple wood moulding. This is typical for the first, third, fourth, fifth and seventh bays. In the second and sixth bays, however, the windows over the entrances to the second floor have a slight difference. These are wider and are not double-hung. There is only one window in the bay instead of three, and the window is divided into two panels. The top panel is divided into 4 lights, the lower one fourth of this panel having 2 square lights on either side of a central rectangular light. The bottom panel of the window bears the address number, "802". All windows are trimmed in simple wood moulding.

In the third story, the second and sixth bays consist of a double-hung window (2/2) with the top semi-circular in shape. Framing the top of the window is a projected brick hood mould assuming the shape of the top of the window and flanking about halfway down the window on either side. The base of the
window is tapered to fit flush on top of the triangular pediment.

The other bays are larger and consist of three windows, one larger double-hung window (2/2) with the top having a semicircular shape and two smaller double-hung windows (1/1) on either side. The tops of these smaller windows are segmental arches. Above these windows are brick hood moulds which conform to the window shapes and which are joined to form one pattern of brickwork over each trio of windows. The hood moulds flank each window in the bay. The bases of the third story windows rest at the top of the second story entablature.

Similarly, at the fourth story, the second and sixth bays have a single double-hung window (2/2) which has segmental arch at top. Above the window is a hood mould which flanks about half the window on either side. The bays consist of trios of windows similar to those of the third story except all windows of the fourth story have segmental arches at the top with corresponding hood moulds.

The windows on the rear wall of the central section are simple double-hung windows (4/4), trimmed in simple wood moulding and having segmental brickwork at top and brick sills at base.

On the east wall of the west wing are pairs of small swinging windows with brick sills.

7. Roof:
   a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat with slight slope running north to south.
   b. Cornice: At the top of the second story windows, just at third floor level, is a strip of entablature, which is continuous around onto the east wall of the building. In the first bay of the north wall, the window mullions are simple rectangular column-like pilasters. There are four of these pilasters equidistant in the bay, two of which are in relief to resemble columns at the ends of the bay (typical). Above the window is a plain soffit and architrave with a course of small simple brackets that form the frieze above that.
Above the second and sixth bays is a triangular pediment with returning corners. Supporting this pediment are two Corinthian columns which flank either side of the bay and entrance (typical). A simple moulded course lies at the top of the cornice. Intermittently, there are larger ornamental brackets (in pairs) supporting the cornice. They appear at the ends of the wall and on either side of the fourth bay. Above each pair of brackets on the wash of the cornice is a spade-shaped motif. A simple belt runs along behind the motif. All of the entablature appears to be wood painted over.

The upper cornice has simple moulding and is supported by a course of small brackets. Directly above the second and sixth bays is a segmental pediment supported by the small brackets and a pair of larger more ornamental brackets at each end. These pediments have simple mouldings with an indented segmental panel in its center. Directly above the central bay is a triangular pediment supported by small brackets and by a pair of the previously mentioned larger brackets at each end. This pediment has simple mouldings and bears the name of the building and the year that it was built. [1875; Le Droit Building]

The east side of the building follows the pattern of the north.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The floor plans of the Le Droit Building indicate (second floor--typical) that the entrances on either end of the building lead into a central U-shaped joining hall. On the inside of this hall are two commercial shops while on the outside of the hall are presently unoccupied offices, etc., which are directly accessible from the hall.

At either end of the building are stairways, one in its own compartment entered from the hall, the other directly accessible to the hall.

2. Stairways: The stairway is single flight and 20 risers from floor to floor with 12" treads made of wood. Steps are probably original and have 1" nosing. Railing is wood moulding. Stairway has open string. Round metal pipe for railing on entrance stairs.

3. Flooring: Floor is wood framed and has 2" wide boards (hall); composition tile in shops.

5. Doorways and doors: Doorways 3' wide with wood moulded trim, about 7'6" high. Wooden doors with moulded panels (1/1) and single glass panel (full length of door).

6. Special decorative features: Railing of stairs spiraling and continuous from second floor to fourth floor.


D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting: Building sits on SW corner of Eighth and F Streets, N.W., facing north with building adjacent on west side.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
July 1969
Le Droit Building
Ronald Comedy for HABS

Masonic Temple
Ronald Comedy for HABS
COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Location: 814 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: George's Radio and Television Co., Inc.
2850 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: George's Radio and Television Co., Inc.

Present Use: Retail store.

Brief Statement of Significance: A post Civil War building illustrating the early commercial development of F Street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Robert P. Wade, et al., heirs at law of Sophia Peckham, deeded [763-442 rec. Dec. 22, 1874] to Paula Rocca at the cost of $5,500, part of lot #9, (the east 12'2" front by full depth of lot, with right of way over alley next to west line from front to rear).

In Deed 778-181 rec. Feb. 25, 1875, Thomas W. Johnson, et al. deeded to Paula Rocca on Feb. 3, 1875, part of lot #9 for $1387.50. (Begin at point 34'8" east of NW corner of lot, thence east 3'2"; south 100', west 3'2", north 100', with right to sewer use of property to west).

Cecilia M. Elliot and Andrew Langdon [782-119--quit claim deed--rec. April 7, 1875] deeded to Paula Rocca at the cost of $700 for party wall use only, property which begins at NW corner of west wall of the brick building standing partly on the west half of lot 10; thence east 4 1/2" to center line of wall, south 75', west 4 1/2', north 75'.

Building presumed constructed 1875 or 1876 upon property of 3 deeds to Paula Rocca.

In Deed 7495-382 rec. July 10, 1940 Cromelin & Artis, trs. (for heirs of Paula Rocca, deceased Sept. 4, 1907), deeded to George Wasserman on June 18, 1940.
On November 13, 1946 [8379-495 rec. Nov. 27, 1946]  
George Wasserman deeded to Wasserman Properties, Inc.

Wasserman Properties, Inc. deeded to Geo. Wasserman.

The property was deeded to George's Radio & Television  

2. Date of erection: Probably 1875 or 1876.

B. Sources of information:

Primary and unpublished sources: District of Columbia  
records.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A representative  
commercial building of the 1870's, with interesting  
details.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is in fair condition  
with portions of its cornice deteriorating. The  
majority of its exterior is in its original state.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 15'6" X 75'; 2 bays' 3 stories;  
rectangular in shape.

2. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls are  
masonry bearing, the east and west are party walls,  
shared by the respective adjacent buildings. The north  
wall (front) is made of brick which is dirty brownish  
yellow in color. In the center of the wall at the  
second story level is a circular imprint, probably  
where an emblem or motif of some kind once rested. In  
this circular spot, the brick is faded reddish in color  
which could very possibly have been the original color  
of the building.

The south wall (rear) is made of brick.

3. Structural systems, framing: Large piers support the  
upper stories. These piers are in a wood jacket,  
covered with canvas and painted white.
4. Openings:
   a. Doorways and doors: There is no front entrance to this building, due to the fact that the business occupying this building also occupies the adjacent building to the west of it. In this adjacent building is the entrance.
   
b. Windows: The first floor front is completely modernized and has an all glass front. The front being two bays wide, a simple double-hung window (1/1) rests in each bay at the second and third stories. The top of the window is segmental and is sheltered by what appears to be cast iron hood mouldings, also segmental in shape and supported by a bracket on either side. The windows are trimmed in wood moulding.

Windows on the south wall are simple, double hung, trimmed with simple wooden mouldings.

5. Roof:
   a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat with slight slope running north to south.
   
b. Cornice: Across the front of the building at the roof line is the cornice. In the center of the cornice is a pediment supported by two large brackets--one at each end. The pediment, appearing to be made of cast iron, is moulded and has a surface which is stepped inward.

The cornice is relatively plain and extends out at each end to identical brackets which are metal moulded, but which support metal corner blocks. These corner blocks, like the rest of the entablature, are evidently original and are now deteriorating with portions of the block on the right (west) side of the front having rotted away. These blocks terminate the run of the cornice. The cornice on either side of the pediment is supported in the center by a much smaller but similar bracket. In addition, the pediment is supported centrally by three of these smaller brackets.

Below this course of smaller brackets, but coming between the larger brackets which extend down much further, is a moulded band. This band has a rectangular panel with moulded trim between each pair of adjacent brackets.
C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: In plan, this building is simple. It is rectangular in shape and all interior partitions have been removed to create an entirely open space. Moreover, an opening has been cut in the party wall to allow circulation from the adjacent building. The entire first and second floors have been modernized. Basement is not accessible.

2. Stairways: The stairway is made of wood with fourteen 7" risers and treads approximately 10" deep. The hand rail is moulded wood and because of its worn condition, the stairway is probably original. It is wood brown in color. There are no stairways leading to the second floor from the first floor. Because this building was combined with its adjacent partner to the west, the first floor stairway was probably taken out to allow more space, while access to the second floor was obtained in the adjacent building.

3. Flooring: On the first level, the floor has been elevated and is covered with composition tile (9" squares). Type of construction cannot be positively detected. The second story floor is also covered with composition tile, but in addition is carpeted partially. There is a slight slope down to floor of adjacent building.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The first floor ceiling is hung and made of cork tile. It is approximately 8'6" high and painted white. This is obviously modern and in no way depicts the original architectural character of the interior of this building. This is not true of the second floor, however. The ceiling is of sheet metal painted white and approx. 15' in height.

The first floor walls are plaster and are covered in places with wood paneling. The second floor walls are plaster and painted black. There is a 7" wood moulded baseboard on all walls.

5. Doorways and doors: The doors are approximately 2'8" wide and made of wood with two vertical moulded panels. Standing approximately 7' high, the doors are trimmed in wood moulding painted green with corner blocks in some cases. Doors are probably not original.
An opening on the second floor has wood moulding trim, is 6'6" tall and approximately 15' wide with folding wooden doors. The soffit of all openings is plain and painted green.

6. Mechanical equipment: The building has modern lighting and heating and cooling ducts are visible throughout the first and second stories. Electrical wiring and modern outlets are also visible.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting: The building faces north (F Street) with adjacent buildings to the east and west.

[Note: The adjacent building to the west of this building combines with it to house a single business. Consequently, the interior re-decorating is similar in each building]

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
June 1969
Location: 816 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: R. M. Sutton & F. L. Johnson

Present Occupant: George's Radio and Television Co., Inc.

Present Use: Retail store.

Brief Statement of Significance: A building illustrating the commercial development of F Street during the 1870's, of interesting architectural character.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: On April 1, 1878 Thomas W. Johnson and Robert M. Sutton leased to J. Bradley Adams [889-30 rec. May 22, 1878] new lot #15 of sq. 406, part of original lot #9 (begin at NW corner of lot #9, thence east 34'8", south 100', west 34'8", & north 100'). Ten year lease--$900 per year rent. Conditions: Adams is expected to purchase property 6 months before end of lease, at market value, to be determined by arbitrators. Adams will erect a "neat and substantial building" soon after the execution and delivery of the lease.


2. Date of erection: 1878.

B. Sources of information:

Primary and unpublished sources: District of Columbia records.
PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A commercial building of the post Civil-War period whose second story fenestration offers an interesting example of development toward larger glass areas.

2. Condition of fabric: The exterior fabric is in good condition and is original. Much of interior is new.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 34'8" X 70'; two bays wide; two stories and base; rectangular in shape.


3. Wall construction, finish and color: The first story front of this building has been modernized with large metal framed glass and a large neon sign which extends across the front of the building and onto the front of the adjacent building to the east. The wall is made of brick, yellow in color and laid in running bond.


5. Chimneys: Near the front of the building, just right of the center is a brick chimney.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The doors are modern. The entrance is wide (approx. 6') and made of glass with metal framing. The entrance has double doors which open into the building and are approx. 7' tall.

b. Windows: The entire first floor front of the building is glass. The second story has three vertical double-hung windows (1/1), rectangular in shape, in each bay. Over each window is a brick hood moulding. These hood moldings are joined together, and form a pointed arch at the top with brick headers about 1 1/2" outlining this form. The hood moulding is segmented in shape just above the window, with the space between the window and the hood moulding...
ornamented with moulded designs probably made of cast iron. The window, which is trimmed in wood moulding, is flanked about 1/5 of its height on either side by the hood moulding. About one quarter of the way down the window is a brick belt which continues across the face of the building and appears between each window in the bays.

There are two skylights with a light gable-like metal frame on the second floor. The lights in them are glazed and painted black. A third skylight rests over the stairway to the second floor. This skylight is in the roof which forms about a 30° slope angle. The glass is reinforced with mesh wire and is translucent. The skylight itself is trimmed in wood moulding and painted. These skylights are evidently original.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat with a very small slope running north to south.

b. Cornice: At each end of the wall of the building are decorative vertical corbel blocks, which are rectangular in shape. In the center of this block is an embellished panel with moulded trim. Above these blocks is a wood motif which is moulded round and which slants into the corbel block. Below the corbel block is a larger supporting rounded bracket decorated with a band of horizontal reeding down its center. Below that is a vertical ribbon, tapered and circular in shape at its end with a dome-like projection in its center and a flower-like design projecting up from it. The vertical ribbons lie on a flat brick surface which projects from the wall and which terminates a course of zig-zag brickwork. Above this brickwork is a plain string course above which lies a wider band, plain with moulded trim.

Just above this band is a course of similar but smaller, rounded brackets which support a simple cornice. This cornice projects boldly from the surface of the wall and has a long horizontal moulded panel. On this panel are the imprints of two words, "Adams Building," which probably once stood out in relief and which were centered horizontally across the front. At the top of the cornice is a bold strip of moulding. In the center of the cornice is a raised panel, around which the cornice moulding is carried up its sides and along its gable.
In its center is a moulded panel with imprints of the number, "187," with the last digit of this number being either an "8" or a "6".

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: In plan, this building appears to have been remodeled, causing great changes to its interior. The entire first floor is completely open. There is a central stairway leading to the basement and a stairway off the west wall leading to the second floor. An opening has been cut into the east party wall which leads into the adjacent building which has been combined with this building to house a single business.

2. Stairways: The first floor stairway which leads to the basement is completely remodeled with the treads carpeted. The rise is 7" and the tread is 11" with 1" nosing.

The stairway leading to the second floor has a landing approx. 5' from the floor with the tread covered with linoleum. The soffit of the stairway is covered with sheet metal. The hand railing is moulded iron.

3. Flooring: Floor is covered with composition tile and carpet. This is evidently not original state of floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plaster with 7" wood moulded baseboard, painted green which is apparently new. The ceiling is partially of plaster painted white (redecorated), and of sheet metal which is probably original. The first floor ceiling height is approx. 8' while on the second floor, the ceiling height is approx. 12'. Portions of the first floor ceiling are also covered with cork tile and dropped approximately 12".

5. Doorways and doors: On the second floor is an archway approximately 8' tall and 4'6" wide, trimmed in wood moulding, painted green. The doors are probably original, standing 7' with two vertical moulded panels. Thresholds are of moulded wood.

6. Mechanical equipment: The building is equipped with modern lighting and fixtures with heating and cooling ducts visible. Also, there is addition of modern plumbing and toilet fixtures.
D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting: Building faces north and buildings adjacent on east and west.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy  
Student Architect  
National Park Service  
June 1969
814 F Street

Adams Building

Ronald Comedy for HABS
Location: 818 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Orren F & Ralph Stein
527 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: Marans

Present Use: Stationery and printing store.

Brief Statement of Significance: A commercial building of the early days when F Street was becoming an important shopping district.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: On March 19, 1962 Orren F. Stein became owner of this property the title to which was deeded to him by Margaretha A. S. Wimbles, et al.: parties of the second part are descended heirs of original owner, J. B. Adams. [Deed 11787-460 rec. April 23, 1962]

In Quit Claim Deed 11787-468 rec. April 23, 1962, Orren F. Stein deeded to Ralph Stein on April 18, 1962, an undivided half interest.

2. Date of erection: Probably the late 1870's.

B. Sources of information:

Primary and unpublished sources: District of Columbia records.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A building which forms part of a picturesque commercial group, now largely covered with modern facing, with some original details remaining.

2. Condition of fabric: Basically this entire building has been remodeled. Its condition is fair with portions of its detailing rotting. Cornice is original.
B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 16.7' X 75'; front (2 bays); 3 stories and basement; rectangular in shape.


3. Wall construction, finish and color: Masonry bearing walls. East and west exterior walls are party walls. The entire first floor has been modernized with large glass windows and wall, composed of chipped marble embedded in concrete. In addition, all of the upper front of the building is new except for the cornice, which is original. The second and third story windows of the two-bay wide front have been covered with a metallic facing, pale blue in color and made up of an assembly of squares approximately 1'6" X 1'6". The facing has an aluminum strip extending vertically up its center from the second floor level to nearly the base of the cornice. This strip projects out from the surface of the facing and has a design which resembles the plan of four gable roofs joined longitudinally in a line.

Near the upper left corner of the front is the imprint or outline of where a triangle with rounded corners once was. In the lower right corner of the front is the outline of a vertical rectangle; also along the left side of the front are holes. All of these markings indicate that there were attachments to the facing of some kind.

The south (rear) wall of the building is made of red brick (American bonding) and is two bays wide.

4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Entrance walkway has been paved. There are no stoops or porches, but there is a slight slope up to entrance.

5. Chimneys: No visible chimneys.

6. Openings:
   b. Windows: Large glass windows with metal frame on front. Rear wall has simple double-hung windows trimmed in wood moulding (4/4).
7. **Roof:**

   a. **Shape, covering:** Mostly flat, with small slope running north to south.

   b. **Cornice:** Just above the metal facing of the building is a simple architrave, divided into three indented panels trimmed in simple moulding. Above this architrave is the frieze of the entablature. The frieze is composed of a course of five evenly spaced brackets with inwardly curved, vertical, indented panels down their fronts. These brackets support a slanted metal cornice with metal framing outlining horizontal rectangles.

   The cornice imitates a roof and is terminated at each end by large ornamental brackets with horizontal moulded strips intermittently placed down its front. The top of the bracket slants to conform to the cornice. The brackets are continued down flush with the surface of the wall about halfway where they project out again to indicate a clear extension of the top bracket. Below this portion of the ornamentation, on both sides of the building, are fragments which show that this detailing continued down still further to the second floor level.

   C. **Description of Interior:**

   1. **Floor plans:** In plan, this building appears all open with a small storage room and stairway to the second floor in the rear. The upper floors were not made accessible for viewing. However, it was said by the proprietor that the entire building had been remodeled in the fashion of the first floor.

   2. **Flooring:** There is a modern floor of composition tile.

   3. **Wall and ceiling finish:** The ceiling is made of plaster with some portions of it hung. The wall is finished with brown cork tile and wood paneling. There are also large perforated cork panels painted white over portions of the wall. The ceiling height is approximately 14'.

   4. **Doorways and doors:** A rear doorway is 4' wide with wood paneling and trim and is 6'8" high.

   5. **Mechanical equipment:** The light fixtures are modern and hung approximately 2' from ceiling. Heating and cooling ducts are visible.
D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting: The building faces north on F Street. Buildings lie adjacent to east and west.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
June 1969
THE WARDER BUILDING (now ATLAS BUILDING)

Location: 527 Ninth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Atlas Investment Company
Room 205
527 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: Several commercial tenants; largely vacant.

Present Use: Store and office building.

Brief Statement of Significance: A late nineteenth century commercial building of interesting architectural character.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: George Bogus deeded [1150-491 rec. December 18, 1885] to Benjamin H. Warder part of lot #7 of sq. 406, (begin at a point 100' south of the northwest corner of sq. 406, thence east 100', south 20'3", west 100', and north 20'3").

In Deed 1155-471 rec. December 10, 1885, Adrianne Wood, et al. deeded to Benjamin H. Warder parts of lots 7 & 8 of sq. 406 (begin at the northwest corner of sq. 406, thence east 33'4", south 53'1", east 16'4", south 46'11", west 49'8", and north 100').

The "Warder Building" was constructed on the two adjoining plots circa 1890. [Note: Building is known not to have been present in 1880]

In Deed 2902-354 rec. April 18, 1905, American Security & Trust Co., trs. of estate of Benj. H. Warder, deceased, deeded to James E. Evans on April 1, 1905.

In Deed 2902-361 rec. April 18, 1905, James F. Evans deeded to Henry M. Baker on April 1, 1905.


In Deed 3302-436 rec. March 7, 1910, Stilson Hutchins, et ux. deeded to Wm. J. Dante, Tr.
In Deed 8017-437 rec. Sept. 27, 1944 Gittings, Robeson and Graham, appointed trustees of Walter Stilson Hutchins, heir of Stilson Hutchins deeded to Atlas Investment Corp. on Sept. 14, 1944.

2. Date of erection: circa 1890.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A representative commercial building of the late nineteenth century, having simple, well-proportioned exterior elevations of moderate height. Except for alterations to the first story store fronts, it is largely in the original state.

2. Condition of fabric: Fairly good except that interior finishes are not being maintained as well as usual in well-tenanted office buildings. There are some cracks in the brick east wall of the south wing. The upper floors are sparsely occupied; the first floor contains several stores.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 33'5" X 120'4" frontages; two bays; six stories; L-shaped; main front facing west, main end facing north.

2. Foundations: Granite foundations one step above sidewalk level are stepped down to follow the gentle slope north to south, along the west front.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are brick, painted gray on the north and west sides; the natural red color is seen on the other sides. American bond was used on the south and east walls, one course of headers alternating with seven courses of stretchers. On the west and north sides, where uninterrupted wall areas are small, only stretchers are visible. There are ornamental brick string courses at the third and higher floors, just below window sills, on these facades.

4. Structural systems, framing: Exterior walls are load bearing. Round cast-iron columns on the interior support a girder (or girders); the remainder of the floor system is concealed.
5. **Chimneys:** Several brick chimneys extend above the roof: one near the west wall near the north end, one on the east wall just north of the elevator penthouse, two on the east wall south of the elevator which appear to be modern additions, and on at the northeast corner of the south wing.

6. **Openings:**
   a. **Doorways and doors:** The main entrance is located near the center of the west elevation; it is a large rectangle with modern marble trim and modern glazed doors. This is the public access to the upper floors. Each store on the first story has its individual entrance from the sidewalk; all have been modernized.
   b. **Windows:** First and second stories of the street facades are comprised within an arcaded treatment. There are twelve bays on the west front, having semicircular arches; above the arcade windows are rectangular, a pair to each bay. There are two wider bays on the north end, having semi-elliptical arches; above these there are three windows in each bay. Sash are of wood, double hung, one light over one light. Second-story windows fill the arches, and are divided by wooden mullions. Windows on the east wall are segmental-arched and have two lights over two lights. There is only one window on each story, on the south wall. On the west side, there are four pairs of semicircular-arched windows at the sixth story, in the 3rd, 4th, 9th, and 10th bays. Above each are three semicircular louvered vents. The wall of the central four bays is slightly higher than the rest, containing small rectangular ventilating openings grouped in threes.

7. **Roof:**
   a. **Shape:** The roof is of the flat type.
   b. **Cornice:** There is a simple, rather heavy, moulded cornice, above which is a brick parapet with a moulded coping. Below the cornice is a wide frieze of patterned brick work; alternating flush and recessed headers form a sort of checkerboard. The whole frieze projects slightly, as do the string courses mentioned above.
c. Penthouse: The elevator penthouse extends above the roof near the center of the east wall.

8. Miscellaneous: A fire escape of light metal construction has been added at an uncertain date to the central two bays of the west elevation. It is somewhat ornamental, as to the railings and brackets. Another fire escape on the north wall of the south wing is plain except for the brackets.

Street fronts of the first story have been remodeled in recent years without regard to the original design.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

   a. First floor: The first floor contains the entrance, stair and elevator lobby near the middle of the west wall; north of this are two stores and south of it are three stores, their depths varying with that of the building.

   b. Second floor: The plan of the second floor, which is typical, consists of a narrow portion at the north end of the building, which is accessible from a stair and elevator lobby. South of this lobby the building is deeper (from east to west), containing office areas on either side of a central longitudinal corridor. This corridor continues (in an L-shape) eastward along the south wall of the building, giving access to office spaces on its north side, in the south wing (which is the deepest portion of the building from east to west).

2. Stairways: Just inside the main entrance a straight flight of 20 risers gives access to the second floor. It continues in a narrow open well to the upper floors. Newels are square, the string is closed, and a moulded wooden handrail is supported on wooden balusters having turned and square portions. Treads are wooden, with moulded nosing; at some indeterminate date iron or steel treads have been placed over them.

The railing around the stair well continues the design of the stair rail.

This appears to be the only stairway in the building.
3. **Elevator:** Adjoining the stair hall on the north, there is a large elevator, with ornamental grilled doors. It appears to take both passengers and freight. The doors appear to be original.

4. **Flooring:** Floors are covered with modern composition tiles on the upper floors. The entrance lobby and stores also have modern finishes.

5. **Wall and ceiling finish:** Much of the first-story ceiling retains original ornamental sheet metal, painted, of paneled pattern with borders. The stair hall ceilings and stair soffits are also sheet metal; the cornice of the stair hall is an egg-and-dart band. The corridor of the office floors has a high plaster wainscot now painted brown, with a simple moulded wooden base and dado rail. The upper part of the wall and ceiling are painted a light neutral yellow; there is no cornice.

6. **Doorways and doors:** Doors to the offices are rectangular and have a glazed transom (translucent patterned glass). The upper part of each door consists of a single glazed panel, a horizontal panel below it, and at the bottom two low vertical panels. Trim of door and window openings is similar: wood, symmetrically moulded, with corner blocks containing circular moulded panels. There are plinth blocks.

7. **Hardware:** Some office doors retain old brass knobs and escutcheon plates of simple design.

8. **Lighting:** Modern electric fixtures.

D. **Site and Surroundings:**

**General setting:** This area, across F Street from the old U. S. Patent Office, is predominantly commercial. This building occupies a corner site southeast of the intersection of Ninth and F Streets, N.W. It is built directly on the sidewalk line. There is no remaining evidence of landscaping or accessory structures. The street level appears to be substantially unchanged since the construction of this building.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee, FAIA  
Professor Emeritus of Architecture  
Syracuse University  
June 17, 1969
818 F Street (L) and Warder Building (R)

Warder Building

Ronald Comedy for HABS

C Street, east from Seventh Street

65
Masonic Temple and F Street: 
Undated old photograph 
Library of Congress

F Street: 1907 photograph, Library of Congress

Washington Loan and Trust Company 
Ronald Comedy for HABS
Location: F and Ninth Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Riggs National Bank
1530 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: Riggs National Bank

Present Use: Branch bank

Brief Statement of Significance: This late nineteenth-century commercial building, of highly attractive architectural design, occupies a commanding position on F Street, N.W., a major historic thoroughfare devoted to business purposes, and is a major landmark which significantly contributes to the visual interest and character of the area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:


Building constructed in 1891 on this site with James G. Hill, architect.

In Deed 4772-8 rec. July 19, 1922, William Force Stead, et ux., et al. deeded to Washington Loan & Trust Co. on July 7, 1922 parts of lots 19, 20, & 21 of sq. 377 (begin at point 52'8" west of the NE corner of sq. 377, thence west 47'7", south 86', east 47'7", & north 86').

According to Deed 4772-10 rec. July 19, 1922, on July 18, 1922 Manning Force Stead deeded to Washington Loan & Trust Co. part of lot 19 (begin 100'3" west of NE corner of sq. 377, thence west 23'4", south 86', east 23'4", & north 86').
Upon the two new adjoining plots an addition was made to the original building of 1891, having equal height and identical facade.

2. Date of erection: 1891.

3. Architect: James G. Hill

4. Alterations and additions: The banking room was remodeled in 1912.

   The western addition was built in 1926; Arthur Heaton was the architect.

Walls of the original building have been cleaned twice with an acid solution.

B. Historical events and persons associated with structure:
Before the building was erected, John Jay Edson tested a sample of the granite in his back yard for some time by wetting it daily, to determine whether it contained any iron.

C. Sources of Information:
Secondary and Published Sources: Telephone interview with Alfred H. Lawson, retired vice-chairman of the board, Riggs National Bank, who had been an officer in the Washington Loan & Trust Company, and was in the building beginning with 1923. Date of interview: 7/9/69.


PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A late nineteenth-century commercial building of distinguished proportions and fenestration, employing modified details of the kind popularized by H. H. Richardson. James G. Hill was the architect. The building was enlarged, following the same exterior design and materials, and largely altered on the interior, which contains a lofty banking room based upon Roman and Italian Renaissance motifs.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent throughout; at present some interior alterations are being made on the fifth floor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 116'0" X 122'2"; nine bays (Ninth St.) by ten bays (F St.); [originally there were four bays on F St.]; nine stories; the original plan was L-shaped, it is now U-shaped.

2. Foundations: There is a low granite foundation, whose upper course is smooth.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: The street facades are of brick, faced with rock-faced granite ashlar, gray in color with a slight yellowish tinge. Wider and narrower courses alternate. The other walls are brick, dull red in color.

4. Composition of walls:
   a. General: The lower two stories are treated as a basement. They are crowned by a plain frieze and cornice, which consists of a dentil course, echinus and fascia. The next four stories are combined in an arcaded treatment; they are crowned by a cornice which consists of a checkered billet moulding and a fascia. The next two stories form another design unit, with a cornice having simple brackets supporting a cyma recta. A single story constitutes the topmost portion. It is crowned by a full entablature, made up of a plain architrave supported on a billet, a frieze containing plain S-curved brackets, and a cornice consisting of a narrow cavetto and a wide cyma recta.
   b. East facade (on Ninth Street): The first story consists of eight semicircular-arched openings, the bay at the south end, being a plain wall containing two tiers of rectangular windows, each having a plain granite mullion in the center. The arches consist of rock-faced voussoirs and an archivolt moulding. Imposts of the piers are carved with an acanthus-leaf motive comparable to Byzantine prototypes. Within each arched opening is a window, probably not original; the portion below the transom bar is triply divided, the central glass being wider than the other parts. This division is carried around the semicircular lunette above the transom. The lower third of each opening is protected by an ornamental metal grille, perhaps of the same date as the glazing.
The second story contains a rectangular window in each of the nine bays, each divided by a rough-faced granite transom bar and a single smooth granite mullion.

The next four stories (third through sixth) are comprised within a motive of nine arcaded bays, having colonnettes at the corners of each pier. Impost capitals are larger than those of the first story but comparable in style. Within each bay, rectangular windows are divided by smooth granite central mullions. Sills and lintels are smooth, the remainder of the spandrels being rock faced.

The seventh and eighth stories are treated in rectangular bays, with two-story piers. Each pier has a colonnette on the corners, the colonnettes having an individual capital. Mullions and spandrels are entirely rock faced.

At the ninth story the arcading consists of eighteen semicircular-arched openings. Voussoirs are rock faced and the extrados is marked by a narrow rock-faced archivolt band. Each pier consists of a pair of stubby colonnettes, having a capital of Byzantine type (cubical, rounded below, carved with acanthus leaves, bearing very small volutes).

North facade (on F Street): Originally this wall was four bays in width and the entrance was in the westernmost bay. An addition consisting of six bays extends this facade to the west. It follows the design of the original building in most particulars but each bay is slightly narrower than the original ones, the difference being in the piers; this is not apparent to a casual observer.

The present entrance is located in the fifth bay (counting from the east corner), one bay west of the location of the original entrance. Its arched opening is wider (and consequently higher at the crown) than the others of the first story. It has an arch of three orders, the inner two rounded in section, supported on colonnettes. The outermost order has rock-faced voussoirs and an archivolt moulding. The entrance has inner and outer doors (four each) with a glazed transom above. Over this is a glazed lunette enriched with a bronze grille of radiating design.
The granite of the addition is gray, without any yellowish tinge. This may be due to difference in weathering, or cleaning of the older walls, since the materials are similar in all other respects.

5. **Structural systems, framing:** Exterior walls are load-bearing masonry, those facing the street being of brick, veneered with granite 7 or 8 inches thick. Bonding varies, every third to fifth course of veneering extending into the back-up.

Floors are framed with steel girders, closely spaced, between which are hollow tile arches. Originally wooden floors were laid on wooden sleepers, with cinder fill; now most floors are covered with modern finish.

Interior supports are of round cast-iron columns; it is uncertain whether they were fireproofed originally, but they are now.

The original floor system was designed to carry heavy loads, and it still serves that purpose effectively.

6. **Openings:** Windows: Windows are double hung in general, the sash being modern. Second-story windows are casements. Openings have deep reveals, as seen from the outside. In the foundation there are several small grilled windows.

7. **Roof:** This is flat, surfaced with a modern built-up roof covering.

**C. Description of Interior:**

1. **Floor plans of the original portion:**

   a. **First floor:** The main wing consists of a single area: a high banking room. The western fourth of this space is partly occupied by a pair of elevators. At the rear (south) a narrow wing extends westward.

   b. **Typical upper floor:** A row of offices two bays in depth extends along the east side and north side; these are served by a U-shaped corridor which extends around a core of two elevators and a stair. The rear wing contains a corridor along its northern side and offices along its southern side.

2. **Floor plans at present:** To the original plan was added a wing on the west side of the north front. This contains banking space on the first floor and offices on
the upper floors. The present entrance, one bay west of the original one, is near the center of the north side; a lobby on the first story extends directly back from the doorway and is flanked by a pair of elevators on each side.

3. **Stairway**: The original stair remains at the upper stories, having been enclosed in modern times to reduce fire hazards. A typical unit is a straight flight, eleven risers to a short landing, then eight more risers. It is of iron with a closed string and marble treads. The railing is ornamental, having successive S-curved iron bars whose ends curl into volutes, between vertical bars; these form groups of three between each major vertical bar. There is a moulded wooden handrail. The newel is in the form of a colonnette with twisted shaft. Its capital consists of an echinus carrying an octagonal abacus. Above this is a block resembling a small pedestal (which receives the handrail): it is square with chamfered corners. The base of the colonnette consists of an inverted echinus resting on a square plinth with chamfered corners.

4. **Flooring**: upper stories: Originally the office floors were wood but they now have modern coverings. The original floor of the elevator lobby remains at the upper floors; it is a mosaic of marble pieces varying from 3/4” to 1” squares. The colors vary somewhat but the total effect is light gray. A border about one foot wide is made up of plain narrow bands of black, deep red, gray and orange, and a wide band of purple. In this lobby there is a base of dark marble.

5. **Wall and ceiling finish**: upper stories: Walls and ceilings are plastered and have recently been painted. There is a moulded wooden dado rail above a plaster wainscot and moulded wooden base.

6. **Doorways and doors**: upper stories: Typical original trim is wooden: symmetrically moulded above a plinth, and corner blocks with round moulded panels. The doors are recent replacements. Above the doors there are glazed transoms; in addition there are borrowed-light windows between the corridor and the offices, above eye level, with trim similar to that of the doors.

7. **Description of first-floor banking room**: [This dates mainly from 1912] a. Plan: This room is rectangular, four bays wide and nine bays long (north to south). The columns are
not regularly placed. The eastern row has two columns at the center, the central row three at the north and three at the south (a space intervening), and the western row two at the north and three at the south (elevators intervening).

The ceiling is high, about twenty feet or more.

b. Flooring: The floor is covered with marble, one large panel in each bay, each corner being elaborated with a re-entrant angle. Panels are separated by a wide cream-colored band. Each panel has a plain gray-green border and a pink field, whose basic unit is a square consisting of two rectangular pieces. The joists of adjacent squares are perpendicular to each other, giving a subtle checkerboard effect. Floors behind the counters are carpeted.

c. Columns: Columns are of a Roman Corinthian Order, with unfluted light green scagliola shafts. The principal leaves of the capital are smooth but those supporting the volutes are orthodox conventional acanthus leaves. Column bases are green, darker than the shafts; they rest on octagonal plinths of warm gray marble. Capitals are painted a warm gray color.

d. Ceiling: The ceiling is of plaster, painted gray, divided into coffers, between girders. Most girders extend east and west and there are three rows of square coffers between them. In some places there are girders extending north and south; in the square ceiling areas thus formed there are nine coffers. The apparent girders are of plaster; above the fascia are an enriched cyma reversa and an enriched ovolo. This constitutes the entire entablature carried by the columns. A typical coffer contains a plain flat field, an enriched cyma reversa, enriched bead and fillet. In the soffit between coffers there is a wave motive in low relief.

e. Walls and fenestration: Each window is in a Renaissance-type semicircular-arched opening having a normal archivolt, key in form of a console, and impost in form of a cornice (bed mould of Greek cyma reversa enriched with a leaf-and-tongue band, corona, enriched bead and cyma recta).

There is a wainscot which matches the counters.

The wall which encloses the elevators is faced with wood veneering (or imitation) of light natural color;
this is of later date than the rest of the banking room. The remainder of the west wall, and the south wall, are papered with a large-scale pattern whose gray-green and yellow colors harmonize with the general room colors; the date of this work is uncertain, probably recent.

f. Special trim: An employees' area one bay in depth along the east and north walls is divided from the central public area by marble counters along the east and by a balustrade of the same height along the north, the balusters being of the double type. This is light yellowish gray in color. Along the west wall are counters and benches for public use, of compatible design.

8. Description of entrance and elevator lobby: [This dates from 1926-1927] The space is one bay in width, extending south from the entrance. The first bay inside the doors has a ceiling in the form of a barrel vault. The second bay is of groined-vault form; from this space high-arched door openings give access to the old banking room (on the east) and the new banking area (to the west). Beyond this is the barrel-vaulted elevator lobby with octagonal coffers in the ceiling.

In the doorways to the banking spaces there are sliding gates below a brass transom bar treated with mouldings, on which is mounted, at the center, a brass eagle with wreath and ribbons completing the motif. A modern chandelier hangs from the center of the groined ceiling.

9. Mechanical equipment! Heating and lighting systems have been renovated from time to time to keep them up to date. A boiler room in the basement is largely unchanged in form but the equipment is modern.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General Setting: This building occupies a site at the southwest corner of Ninth Street, N.W., a commercial street, and F Street, N.W., long one of the busiest shopping, banking and office-building thoroughfares of the city. It fills the lot. Service access at the rear is obtained through an alley.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
June 20, 1969
MASONIC TEMPLE
(also called MASONIC HALL)

Location: F and Ninth Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Arron and Lillie Straus
3002 Druid Park Drive
Baltimore, Maryland

Present Occupant: Julius Lansburgh Furniture Co., Inc.

Present Use: Retail furniture store.

Brief Statement of Significance: A post-Civil War fraternal and commercial building whose cornerstone-laying was honored by the presence of the President of the United States. This structure ranks among the most distinguished works of architecture in Washington and is an important visual landmark.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Deed RMH No. 5-27 rec. Oct. 28, 1865 shows that on May 15, 1865 Gonzaga College deeded to the Masonic Hall Association lots #1 and #2 in sq. 376.

Building constructed 1868-1870.

Lease and agreement [4536-494 rec. July 29, 1921] made by the Masonic Hall Association with Julius Lansburgh Furniture Co., Inc. 5 year lease with option to extend 5 years and option to purchase during first 5 years.

The Masonic Hall Association deeded to Julius Lansburgh Furniture Co., Inc. on July 15, 1926 [rec. July 16, 1926 5800-239].

The property was deeded in Deed 10397-199 rec. April 1, 1955 on March 31, 1955 to Arron Straus & Lillie Straus Foundation, Inc. by the Lansburgh Realty Corp.
2. Date of erection: 1868-1870; dedicated May 20, 1870.


4. Original plan and construction of building: The cost was about $200,000. A wood engraving published in 1884 [Joseph West Moore, Picturesque Washington (Providence: J. A. and R. A. Reid, 1884), p. 183] shows the south and east fronts of this building to be substantially unchanged except on the ground floor, where there were two entrances on the south, in the second bay from each end. Each had a semicircular-arched opening between engaged columns which carried a small portion of an entablature. In each bay flanking these entrances there was a triply-divided store window with transom. A similar window occupied the two-bay area at the center of the south facade, flanked by rustication. Pilaster strips at the corners were similarly rusticated. The east facade contained similar store windows at the end bays and a rusticated pier at the central bay.

According to an atlas [Sanborn's Atlas (New York: Sanborn, 1888)] the Masonic lodge rooms were on the third and fourth floors. The entrance and stairway were at the sixth and seventh bays from the east end, on F Street. The ground floor was occupied by stores.

It is to be inferred that the second floor was occupied in large part by a public hall; the ceiling height was appropriate and such halls were common at the time. William Forsyth's Map of Washington, 1870, gives the name as "Masonic Hall." (This is the space now taken up by the second and third stories, an additional floor having been inserted later.)

5. Alterations and additions: The present third floor was inserted and other alterations made c. 1921, to convert the building into a large retail store.

B. Historical events and persons associated with structure:
C. Sources of Information:

Primary and unpublished sources: Photograph in the Brady Handy Collection of the Library of Congress; Ninth and F Streets looking west. This shows much of the F-Street facade, in pre-automobile days, in its relation to other buildings on F Street.

Photograph, Panorama of Washington viewed from the tower of the Smithsonian Institution in 1875, in the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. The upper stories of the F-Street front can be seen in relation to the whole area.

Files of National Capital Planning Commission.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A post-Civil War fraternal and commercial building, large in scale, dignified and restrained in character, its composition and details following palatial models of the Italian Renaissance and seventeenth century; this structure, despite virtually complete remodeling on the interior and re-facing of the first story on the exterior, continues to be among the best pieces of architecture in the city--not excepting the United States Government buildings--and a notable example of cast-iron incrustation.

2. Condition of fabric: Good, except for some deterioration of paint on the exterior, which has not apparently caused any damage to the facing material.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 131'5" X 51'6" plus rear wing 31'5" X 41'4"; main building, three by eight bays, four stories; shape--rectangular plus a rear ell.

2. Foundations: None visible on the exterior; some rubble and brick foundation walls appear inside the basement.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are brick, those on the street fronts faced with cast-iron units in imitation of regular coursed stone. The iron surface, where visible, appears to have been coated with zinc or a similar metal of a light color (probably before
being installed). The paint is white or light gray in color, somewhat weathered but without any rust stains. The brick of the rear walls is now painted black.

4. Structural systems, framing: Exterior walls are load-bearing masonry: these are original. A small section of the first-floor framing is visible near the southwest corner; it contains wooden joists 3" X 15" and 4" X 15" spaced about 1'5" on centers; this appears original.

Interior supports vary. At the first story a row of seven columns supporting a girder, is located somewhat north of mid-span; this is joined by three more columns on axis with the ell. Two columns in a line parallel to the main row are located south of mid-span at the fifth bay from the east end.

At the second story there is a row of seven columns along the center of the main area joined by three columns on the axis of the ell; they support a floor which is not original, having been inserted to divide a high story into two stories. Girders span from the north to south walls, one above each column, two being above the sixth column from the east; there is a girder on axis of the ell.

At the third story there are three columns; two on axis of the main area at the west end, and one just north of them on the axis of the ell. There are no other interior supports, the floor above being carried by girders spanning from wall to wall. Framing at the fourth story is similar. At the fifth story there are but two columns, located on axis of the main area at the west end, which carry a girder two bays in length. It is possible that the columns on these upper stories represent an original framing system.

5. Design of Facades: The street fronts conform to a four-story astylar palace design, each story being marked by horizontal bands and the whole having a prominent cornice. The ground story (now covered by recent store windows and frieze) was treated as a basement. Corners are marked by pilaster strips and the central two bays of the south front form a pavilion of very slight projection. The corner pilasters once had capitals at the top story, but only an abacus remains. Above the second-story windows there is a wide paneled band; a comparable band is located just below the heads of the third-story windows, being interrupted by the openings. There is a moulded string course at the sill of the second-story windows, and a plain string course at the window sills of the top story.
6. Openings:

Windows: Openings, which are now closed up, are rectangular and have architrave trim. Architraves of the second-story windows are paneled and once carried rosettes at intervals; only the holes where they were attached remain. Openings are crowned by pediments supported on consoles, segmental and triangular pediments alternating at the second story. Those of the third story are all segmental and those of the fourth story triangular, modified somewhat from the orthodox Renaissance type. An apron connects the fourth-story windows with the pediments of those on the third story.

At the head of each second-story window there is a frieze, containing at the center a female head in high relief, formerly flanked at each side by a garland, of which only traces remain. The same form is repeated without variation. The pediments of the upper stories once carried central finials, now lost.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The roof appears to be of very low pitch.

b. Cornice: A three-part entablature crowns the street fronts, returning at the corners of the rear and side walls. The architrave consists of a fascia crowned by an ovolo and fillet. The frieze is wide and contains coupled console-brackets and panels of alternating design: (1) rectangular with narrow mouldings at the edge, containing a garland in high relief, and (2) shouldered at each corner, with a smaller inside panel rounded at both ends. Between the brackets forming each pair there is a narrow vertical moulded panel. At the top of the frieze there is a dentil course. The cornice, which appears to be wooden, projects substantially.

Above a narrow corona there are a small moulding and a cyma recta.

At the top of the north wall there is a projecting brick surface, corresponding to the width of the frieze on the street facades, carried on brick corbels; this also extends along the east wall of the ell.
8. **Other ornamental work:** At the center of the south facade on the fourth story, there is a rectangular moulded panel, which contains fragmentary symbolic ornament: a wide console bearing a cross, with traces of diagonally crossed motifs, apparently a sword or swords. From the console hangs a trowel.

C. **Description of Interior:**

1. **Floor plans:** Each floor is now undivided, consisting of a L-shaped area with an elevator and stair at the north end of the smaller wing. A basement extends beneath the western part of the building and beneath the eastern half of the main area. Approximate ceiling heights: basement, 8 feet; first floor, 16 feet; second floor, 11 feet; third floor, 12 feet; fourth floor, 16 feet; fifth floor, 14 feet.

2. **Stairways:** The present stair is of iron or steel construction; it has a closed string and ornamental railing. The location or design of original stairs are not now evident.

3. **Wall and ceiling finish:** Interior changes and renovations have left little or no trace of original finish. Wall surfaces are largely of painted plaster. All ceilings above the first story are covered with ornamental sheet metal, which is old but probably not original, of standard designs common toward the end of the nineteenth century. An egg-and-dart cornice on the second story stops at the window openings.

4. **Mechanical equipment:** The modern equipment does not indicate what systems or fixtures served earlier state of the building.

D. **Site and surroundings:**

**General Setting:** This building is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of F and Ninth Streets, N.W., across Ninth Street from the old U. S. Patent Office, in a predominantly commercial area. The site is level or nearly so. The building extends to the sidewalk, with no landscape treatment or accessory structures. Other buildings adjoin it toward the west. The area adjoining on the north side is an automobile parking lot.

**Prepared by:** Harley J. McKee, FAIA
Architect
National Park Service
June 18, 1969
Location:  809 E Street, N.W.
           Washington, D.C.

Present Owner:  Michael L. & S. M. Gatti
                2070 Foxhall Road, N.W.
                Washington, D.C.

Present Use:  Rooming house.

Brief Statement: A town house representing the immediate post-
                 of Significance: Civil War era.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Constructed by Frederick B. Culver (Zephaniah Jones, builder) in 1868 or 1869 on east half of orig. lot #2 of sq. 406. Building costs: $16,568.91.

   Trust Deed 658-397 rec. Oct. 14, 1871 shows that on Oct. 12, 1871 Frederick B. Culver deeded to Hyde & Thom, trs. (Culver owed William W. Corcoran $12,000--upon default Corcoran could order sale at auction.)

   Culver defaulted & property was sold at auction to William W. Corcoran on August 29, 1878 for $15,000. [Deed 895-156 rec. Oct. 3, 1878]

   On Sept. 30, 1878 Corcoran deeded to Trs. of Corcoran Gallery of Art for $15,000. [895-151 rec. Oct. 3, 1878]

   The Trs. of Corcoran Gallery of Art deeded to Louis P. Gatti on May 1, 1911 [3423-335 rec. May 4, 1911].


PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A mid-nineteenth century house of traditional type, consisting of front and back buildings, illustrating the neighborhood character at the close of the Civil War.


B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 26'4" front x 100' deep; 3-bay-wide front; 4 1/2 stories; L-shaped.


3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are brick, which are now painted white. The lower level of the building has stucco facing.


5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is a cast-iron stairway leading up one half story to the main entrance. This stairway is approx. 5'6" wide with eight 8" risers. The treads are 11" deep with 1" of nosing. The handrailing is cast iron with some ornamentation. The entire stairway is painted black.

6. Chimneys: There are two chimneys on either side of the central portion, three chimneys on the north wing of building. All chimneys are made of brick.

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance opening is in the left bay and is 4'1" x 7'7", trimmed in wood moulding. The opening has double doors with two wood moulded vertical panels. The top panel is
of glass and the doors appear to be the original doors. The main entrance is elevated a half story and has a transom light above the door. Above the opening is a horizontal wood entablature supported by an embellished wood bracket at each end with a course of smaller wood brackets between them. The entire opening has wood moulded trim painted white.

There is another opening directly below the main entrance just below ground level. This entrance is similar to the main entrance and measures 1' X 6'8". It too has double wood moulded doors having three vertical panels. These doors are probably original. On the same level is the entrance to a now abandoned commercial shop. This entrance is somewhat modernized and measures 4' X 6'8". It has wood moulded trim and a moulded door with a glass panel. This is a later alteration.

There is a 3' X 7' opening on the east wall of the north wing with double wooden doors. These doors have vertical wood moulded panels and are probably original.

b. Windows and shutters: The three bay wide wall has one simple double-hung window (2/2) per bay. The windows are wood moulded with a simple sill and a moulded cap. The window on the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th stories are identical. The first story windows are slightly wider and have greater indentation. Below the first story is a glass storefront having one double-hung wood moulded window (2/2).

The north wall of the central portion of the building has simple double-hung windows (6/6) with smaller square windows in the 2nd and 3rd bays at the fourth story.

The east wall of the north wing has simple double-hung windows (6/6) with wood moulded trim and brick detailing at the top. The north wall of the north wing also has double-hung windows.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The central portion of the building has a gabled roof with the ridge running east to west. The north wing has a shed roof with small slope to the east.

b. Cornice: Simple moulded cornice made of wood and supported by a course of small ornamental brackets.
C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: One enters from the south into a side hall into which three rooms lead. There is a stair leading to the second floor where a north wing extends and which has a longitudinal hall with six adjacent rooms on the east side of the wall.

2. Stairways: A stairway leading to the second floor is wood constructed and has nineteen 7" risers. The treads are 11" deep and are covered with a rubber mat. There is a wood moulded handrail painted brown and yellow. The stairway is 3'5" wide and has an open well.

3. Flooring: The floors are wood constructed and covered with linoleum. There are 9" wood thresholds at doorways.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered and are covered with wallpaper. A wood moulded dado board 3'9" from floor is visible along with a 9" wood moulded baseboard. There is a 10' plaster ceiling also covered with wallpaper and painted white.

   A portion of the wall under the stairway is covered with wood paneling and also has a baseboard.

5. Doorways and doors: All interior doorways and doors are typical. The doorway is approximately 8'4" high and is trimmed in wood moulding having no corner blocks.

   The door measures 3' x 7' and has four moulded panels. There is a 1' panel above the door which was probably a glass light but now is wood.

6. Mechanical equipment: There are old heating fixtures visible with some modern fixtures. Most of the plumbing and lighting is quite old.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General Setting: The building faces south onto E Street N.W. An adjacent building stands to the west and the empty site of a once adjacent building lies to the east.
2. **Outbuildings:** There is an old brick one-story shed at the north end of the building. It is now abandoned but probably served as a storage area.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy  
Student Architect  
National Park Service  
July 1969
Location: Sixth and G Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Latitude: 38° 53' 53" north.

Longitude: 77° 01' 12" west.


Present Occupancy: Vacant.

Brief Statement: The first synagogue built in the District of Columbia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the old Adas Israel Synagogue a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual history of the District of Columbia. The building was the first synagogue erected in the District of Columbia. This significant link with Jewish beginnings in the Nation's Capital should be preserved.

The history of the Adas Israel Congregation dates back to the years immediately following the Civil War. When the first Hebrew Congregation organized in Washington instituted certain liturgical reforms, the more conservative members withdrew and established the Adas Israel Congregation in 1869.

During its early years, the Adas Israel Congregation, composed of thirty-five families, met and worshipped in the homes of its members or in rented quarters. On August 16, 1870, the congregation's trustees recorded in the deed as Manasses Oppenheimer, L. Abraham Nathan Gotthelf and Leopold Oppenheimer purchased the property at 6th and G Streets, N.W. Construction of the synagogue was begun in 1873. Max Kleinman was the draughtsman and J. William and Company, the contractor. The dedication ceremony on June 9, 1876,
was attended by President Ulysses S. Grant, Vice-President Ferry, and other federal and civic officials.

The building was in continual use as a synagogue until 1907 when Adas Israel moved to larger quarters at 6th and I Streets, N.W. The property was sold to Steven Gatti in 1905 and remained in the Gatti family until 1968. After Adas Israel moved out, the building was used as the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Sophia (now on Massachusetts Avenue) and then by the evangelical Church of God. From 1946 until recently, a carry-out shop, market and barbershop have occupied the ground floor of the building, while the synagogue area on the second floor has served primarily as a storeroom.

The building, now owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, is threatened by the proposed subway line and must be moved if it is to be preserved. A joint Committee of the Adas Israel Congregation (now at Connecticut and Porter Streets, N.W.) and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington has been working with Federal and District government agencies in an effort to move the building to a new site and restore it as a museum and headquarters for the Society. A tentative relocation site at the N. E. corner of 3rd and G Streets, N.W. has been selected and awaits final approval from the Federal Bureau of Public Roads which originally provided 90% of the purchase price of the land under the Federal Highway Act.*

2. Date of erection: 1873-1876.

B. Sources of information:


The Washington Post, August 8, 1903.


PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

*reproduced through the courtesy of Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian, National Capital Planning Commission.
A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: The District of Columbia has made this building a national landmark. It is a simple structure of great historical interest.

2. Condition of fabric: This building is in poor condition with most of the second floor in its original state. However, the first floor has been modernized greatly.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 25'0" X 62'4"; 3 bays by 4 bays; 2 stories; rectangular in shape.

2. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls are masonry bearing and made of brick. They are painted red with light green trim. The first story of the west wall is painted bluish green, which is not the original color.

The east (rear) wall has in its center a cantilevered semi-cylindrical apse, made of wood (painted green) which extends from ceiling level of first story to the top of the window level. The apse has a semi-conical roof covered with what appears to be sheet metal painted black.

The south wall is partially covered with stucco facing, indicating where an adjoining building was once located.

In the center of the west wall above the window is a semicircular stone panel trimmed in brick headers with inscriptions in Hebrew and English. The English inscription reads: "ERECTED 5636."

3. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: The entrance has a cast-iron stairway leading up one half story. There are five 8" risers; the treads are 11" deep with 1" nosing. The stairway is approx. 4' wide with an iron railing.

4. Chimneys: There is a chimney one quarter of the way on the south wall that is brick with stucco facing above the roof line. A chimney rests on the north wall and is inversely opposite the south wall chimney.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance to the building is on the west wall and is raised one half story. The opening measures 4'0" X 7'5" and has wood moulded trim.
There are wood double doors measuring 2' X 7'5" and having two vertical wood moulded panels. Above the door moulding is detailed brickwork forming a segmental arch. The doors and entrance definitely appear to be original.

There is another entrance at ground level on the west wall. The door measures 3'0" X 7'4" and is trimmed in wood moulding. This doorway is part of the modern store front and is probably recent. On the north wall is an entrance of the same dimensions and which also leads into the modern first story.

On the east wall of the building at the first story is a doorway which is now boarded up. This doorway measures 3'4" X 7'5" and has segmented brickwork at the top.

b. Windows and shutters: The first floor was once occupied by a commercial business and now shows the still remaining modern glass front.

The three bay wide west wall has a tall, narrow, double-hung window in each bay. Each window has four tiers of lights, is trimmed in wood moulding, and has a wooden sill at its base. The top of the window is semicircular in shape, resembling a wooden fan. The center window is slightly wider than the other two with four lights in its top half and three lights in its bottom half.

Above each window are brick hood moulds which flank down one quarter of the window on either side.

On the south wall, there are four unevenly spaced double-hung windows (typical of north wall). The windows (4/4) are identical, save the window on the far left which is narrower (2/2) than the others.

The east wall has two rectangular windows at the first story level which are boarded up. These windows have segmented brickwork at the top. In addition, there are two narrow windows identical to those on the west wall and located in the left and right bays, flanking the apse, previously mentioned.
Above the apse is a small square window in the center of the wall. This window has brick trim which is segmented at the top.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The roof is gabled with returning corners on the west wall. It is covered with sheet metal and its ridge runs east to west.

b. Cornice: There is a simple wood moulded cornice, painted green. Under the return of the roof on the west wall is a simple brick entablature composed of a projecting brick course which is supported by a course of closely spaced brick headers.

c. Cupola: On the roof is a metal, cylindrical-shaped cupola with a conical roof. This cupola has a rectangular vent on four sides.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: After entering from the right bay of the west wall, one finds steps, spiraling to the left, leading to the second floor where there is an entrance foyer. North of this foyer is an office, while the main area of worship is east of the foyer. Steps continue up from the foyer to the balcony which is suspended over the main area of worship. The stairway to the balcony is at its south end and is enclosed with walls. A room on the north end of the balcony corresponds to the stairway. There is an elevated platform at the east end of the building. In the southeast corner of this main area is a wood constructed lavatory with a 6'6" ceiling with a flat wooden roof. Embellished double doors in the center of the east wall open into an apse. Also, there is a trap-door in the southwest corner of the area which leads to the first floor.

2. Stairways: The interior entrance stairway leading to the second floor has ten 8" risers painted brown. This stairway is 4'0" wide and has 11" treads with 1" nosing.

The balcony stairway has sixteen risers and is 4'4" wide. The soffit of this stairway is plain and covered with black wallpaper. The railing is wood moulded and is closed with yellow wood panels. There is a 9" wood moulded baseboard painted brown which trims the steps.
There is also a 2'3" wide stairway leading to the first floor through a trap door. This stairway has twelve 9" risers and the treads are 11". There is a wood moulded handrail painted green.

The balcony railing is wood construction, has a wood moulded cap, and stands 2' tall from the balcony floor.

3. **Flooring:** The floor is of wood construction and was once covered with linoleum. There are wood moulded thresholds. At the east end of the building, the floor is raised 8" to form a pulpit or platform.

The floor of the balcony is wood construction also and is supported by two 4" X 4" wood moulded piers.

4. **Wall and ceiling finish:** The walls are plaster and covered with brown paper with white flower-like trim at the ceiling. This may be original wallpaper. There is no baseboard but a wood moulded dado board rests 4' from the floor and has wood paneling painted white. This is probably original.

The ceiling is plaster and is also covered with wallpaper, painted white. The second story ceiling is approx. 21' high, but approx. 10' from the floor of the balcony. The balcony soffit is approx. 3'2" deep. In the center of the ceiling is a large circular disk approx. 6' in diameter and projecting about 1" from the ceiling.

The first floor ceiling is covered with sheet metal which is obviously the original ceiling.

5. **Doorways and doors:** All interior doorways are trimmed in wood moulding. The chapel entrance doorway is 5' X 8' and has wood moulded double doors measuring 2'6" X 8'.

There is an office doorway 5' X 8' which is now open, but, because of hinges present, evidently bore double doors. This office has another smaller doorway 2'5" X 6'8" which is equipped with a moulded panel door.

The balcony doorway is 6'9" X 2'10". In addition, there is a doorway with double sliding doors that open into the apse. This is 4'4" X 8' and each door is approximately 2'2" X 8'. These doors and trim are painted white.
6. Special decorative features: In the interior of the building, on the east wall of the second floor, a doorway has embellished trim consisting of a large wood pediment having plain wood moulding that rests over the doorway. This pediment is supported by two large brackets which rest against rectangular piers or columns in high relief against the wall. These columns flank the doorway, with the wall surface under the pediment made of wood paneling painted white.

There is a 9" wood stoop to this doorway. This stoop is painted brown with 1" nosing and 1'2" deep.

7. Notable hardware: There is a 6'11" wire fence with wood framing enclosing one third of the open area of the second floor. This is evidently where a shop-owner had utilized the second floor for storage.

8. Mechanical equipment: There is a modern ventilation duct visible as well as modern plumbing and heating, mostly on the first story. There is an old light fixture above the entrance that is obviously no longer used but which is probably original.

There are four original light fixtures hung approx. 8' from the ceiling in a straight line down the center. The fixtures, those that are remaining, resemble an inverted derby with a flower-like design on the dome. This light is made of glazed translucent glass.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General setting: This building sits on the southeast corner of 6th and G Streets, with its front facing west. All other buildings in the block have been torn down around it.

2. Outbuildings: There is a small one-story annex on either side of the front. These annexes are stuccoed and were probably used for additional space. They are adjoining the main building and have a flat roof.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
August 1969
Location: 821 Market Space, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Jane C. Carey
350 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Present Occupant: Hickory House and Old Antique House

Present Use: Restaurant and Retail Store

Brief Statement of Significance: A commercial building from the days when Pennsylvania Avenue was the principal fashionable shopping area of Washington.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: William B. Kibbey deeded to Augustus E. Perry and Thomas J. S. Perry on March 25, 1857 (J.A.S. No. 133-451 rec. April 29, 1857) the west half of lot #4 of square 408 and the south 18'-9" front of lot #5 of square 408 by 49'-11-1/2" depth "together with the two story brick building thereon" for $25,000.

On October 21, 1881 (985-291 rec. Oct. 21, 1881), Mary Jane Perry, widow of Augustus E. Perry, R. Ross Perry, Mary C. Perry, William P. Young, Ida Perry Young, Seaton Perry, Mary Starr Perry, Willie Perry, Walter S. Perry, and Charles Perry, deeded to Sarah A. E. Perry, Martha Jane Burr, and Amanda E. Perry, the same land as in (J.A.S. No. 133-451) improved by "Perry Building" for $60,000.

On May 23, 1902 (2684-202 rec. Oct. 9, 1902), Mary J. Welch leased to Parker Bridget & Co. the west half of lot #3 (old #317 Market Space) for 10 years with option of three year extension. Lessees promise to erect a substantial building to be at least 3 stories high with a cellar, in substantial conformity with the building next west and to be connected with premises now occupied by them on the west and north thereof. Upon leaving, lessees must provide separate entrance on Market Space and close connections. Building must cost $12,000 and must be built by Jan. 1, 1903. (Land is presently improved by a house)
On June 4, 1902 (2694-232 rec. Nov. 24, 1902), the National Safe Deposit Savings & Trust Co. leased to Parker Bridget & Co. the lot A of original lot #4 (Old 819 Market Space). The lessors are trustees of Adele Clagett, acting at her request. This was a five year lease with a five year renewal option. On February 25, 1896 (2103-143 rec. Feb. 25, 1896), the property was leased to Seaton Perry. The executors of Seaton Perry assigned it to Rosenthal & Rosenthal on April 7, 1898, who assigned it to Parker Bridget & Co. on May 16, 1898. Parker Bridget & Co. agreed to build an additional story from front to rear with the right to remove east wall of first story of old #819 Market Space in order to connect with old #817 Market Space and make connections on the second, third, and fourth stories. Will close connections at end of lease.

On August 28, 1902 (2684-197 rec. Oct. 9, 1902), Martha Jane Burretal leased to Parker Bridget & Co. the "Perry Building" (same property described as in JAS 133-451) for five years at $6,000/year. It was to be used for sale of drygoods and such parties of first party are: Martha Jane Burr, Amanda E. Perry, and Addie B. Clark.


On December 11, 1941 (7701-314 rec. Dec. 11, 1941), Addie Burr Clark deeded to Jane Perry Clark the "Perry Building."

2. Date of erection: Original portion was probably built circa 1860; addition was built 1902-1903.

B. Sources of Information

1. Primary and unpublished sources: The District of Columbia Records.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural merit and interest: A dignified and well proportioned commercial building, which, despite alterations, is a rare remaining example of the architecture on Pennsylvania Avenue in the mid-19th century.

2. Condition of fabric: This building is in fair condition with the first story modernized and commercialized.
B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 50' x 75'; 6 bays by 8 bays; four stories and basement; rectangular in shape.

2. Wall construction, finish and color: The west wall is brick painted gray. The south wall is covered with metal siding also painted gray. Just above the first story store window front is a horizontal panel of metal louvres which are probably for ventilation or cooling. The right side of the south wall is red brick with detailing.

3. Structural system, framing: The building has masonry bearing exterior walls.

4. Openings:
   a. Doorways and doors: On the west wall near the southwest corner of the building is a doorway which measures approx. 6'-0" x 18'-0" and is trimmed in painted limestone. There are 3'-0" x 7'-0" double doors which share an opening 6'-0" x 7'-0". These doors are modern and have three square glass panels on each. Above this is a large glass panel which has a semi-circular top. This is trimmed in wood moulding.

   On the south wall, in a diagonal position, are similar double doors but they do not have the tall segmented doorway. Above these is a horizontal glass panel with aluminum framing; in the center of this panel is the address number, "821". On the right half there is a modern metal framed glass entrance with double doors (5'-6" x 7'-0")

   On the north end of the building is another modern entrance. The doorway measures 7'-0" x 5'-4" with 2'-8" wide double doors. This doorway is trimmed with modern wood moulding and wood paneling. It is recessed back 2'-10" with a canopy overhead.

   On the very north end of the building is another simpler entrance leading to the second floor. This door measures 6'-10" x 3'-0" and has simple moulded trim. Above the door is 3'-0" x 2'-8" plywood panel. This modern door, also made of plywood, is plain and is painted black.

   b. Windows and shutters: The left half of the six-bay-wide south wall has one double-hung window (4/4) per bay, except for the first story store front which is all glass and completely modernized. The windows are painted gray with wood moulded trim. Each window
is segmented at the top and has a simple moulded sill.

The second story windows have segmented hood molds. One hood mold is above each window in the end bays and another larger hood mold is above the two center windows which are spaced closer. The third and fourth stories, however, have no hood molds. The fourth and second story windows, unlike the third story windows, have a moulded string which connects the sills.

The fourth story windows have larger sills. Moreover, the two center windows at all stories share a common sill. The sills at the third and fourth stories have small block-like brackets--two brackets supporting the end sills and three supporting the center sill.

The right half of this front (built 1902) also has one window per bay; the windows, however, have square tops. At the second and third stories, the center window has a rigid glass panel and the right and left windows are double-hung (1/1). On either side of the center window at the second floor is a simple Roman Doric column in high relief. These columns are squared off on the outside of the end windows and support a horizontal run of entablature.

At the third story the windows are very similar to those at the second story but are divided by Ionic columns. These columns also support a run of entablature. Each column rests on a moulded pedestal which has been connected to the other pedestals to form a run.

The fourth story has five double-hung windows (1/1) very closely spaced and divided by simple square Doric columns which act as mullions. These mullions rest on a simple moulded belt which coincides with the window sills of the left half of the front. All windows have wood moulded trim.

The west wall is similar to the left half of the south wall. It is eight bays wide with windows identical to those on the south front. At the second story on the south end, a window in the end bay has a simple segmental hood mold. This is the only window with a hood mold. In addition, the second story windows have a large horizontal block which serves a sill. Under these windows is a moulded band which runs along the entire wall. A similar band runs under the fourth story windows.
At the first story in the first four bays from the south end are windows with 21 rigid lights. These windows have been painted black and have a simple brick sill. The two end bays and the two center bays of the wall are projecting out approximately 2". Other than these differences, the wall follows the same pattern as the south wall.

5. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat with a slight slope to the north.

b. Cornice, eaves: There is a simple moulded cornice supported by a course of small ornamental brackets. Below this is a frieze of horizontal moulded panels which continue along both walls. Below these panels is a continuous moulded strip.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: This building shows two separate floor plans which have been incorporated to form one building. On the first story, there are still two separate places of business; however, the upper stories of the two halves of the building have been incorporated to function as one. The south (front) wall still reveals that these were once separate buildings.

The first story on the left side of the building is a single business. Its long, rectangular shape has two entrances: One double entrance is at the southwest corner of the building, and one entrance is on the west wall. The plan is all open with a small kitchen area in the rear.

The right half of the building is very similar to the left half except that there is a small office area in the rear and stairs leading to the second floor. The second floor affords the advantage of the entire building, but is bisected by a center wall. The entrance to this half of the building is on the south wall with an additional second floor entrance at the rear of the west wall.

2. Stairways: The stairway to the second floor is original and in very good condition. It is 3'-6" wide with a landing. There are ten 8" risers to the landing and twelve risers from the landing to the next floor. The stairs are wood constructed with a wood moulded handrail and 10" wood treads with 1" metal nosing.

The soffit of the stairs is covered with wood panels and with ornamental sheet metal.
3. **Flooring:** The floor is wood constructed with wood diagonal panels.

4. **Wall and ceiling finish:** The walls are plaster with a 7" baseboard painted gray. The ceiling is approximately 15'-6" high and covered with wood panels as well as ornamental sheet metal.

5. **Doorways and doors:** There is one interior doorway which is 3'-6" x 7'-0" and has no door or trim. This is the opening into the east adjacent building. The entire first floor is equipped with very modern wood doors measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8".

6. **Mechanical equipment:** This building is equipped with modern heating, lighting, plumbing, and cooling; and modern fixtures are visible throughout the building, both on the interior and exterior. There is a freight elevator 6'-0" x 6'-0" at the north end of the building.

D. **Site and Surroundings:**

1. **General setting:** The building sits on the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Ninth Street, N.W. There is an adjacent building to the north and to the east of this building.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy  
Student Architect  
National Park Service  
July 1969
Location: 809 Market Space, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Simon and M. Krupsaw
817 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: "Sleep Center".

Brief Statement of Significance: A rare remaining building illustrating the great period of Pennsylvania Avenue's commercial importance, with notable architectural features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Constructed in 1868 on east half of lot #2 of sq. 408 by Thomas L. Hume.

On Nov. 1, 1875, Thomas L. Hume deeded to William B. Kibbey [Deed 804-41 rec. Nov. 5, 1875].


2. Date of erection: 1868.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: This building is a prime specimen for depicting the commercial architectural style of the years after the Civil War, with cast-iron detailing.
2. Condition of fabric: Fabric is in fair condition. Front is original material.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 80' X 25'; three bays across front; four stories and basement; rectangular in shape.

2. Wall construction, finish and color: Masonry bearing walls. The three-bay wide front wall seems to be made of cast iron with a natural stone-gray color. Seventy-five per cent of the east wall is covered with cement stucco facing, with the top quarter of the building revealing red brick. There are imprints on this wall which outline where the once existing building lay against it. Steel rods have been inserted in this wall for reinforcement.

The rear one-third of this building is two stories high, also with a flat roof. This wall is three bays wide also and made of red brick with common bonding.

3. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Entrance is 5'4" wide with modern double doors that are 7' tall and made of glass with metal framing. These doors swing out.

b. Windows: The entire first story front has been modernized and has large display windows with metal framing.

The second story is three bays wide with a large double-hung window (2/2) per bay. On either side of each window is a Corinthian column which is in the round and rests at the surface of the wall. The tops of the windows are rounded at the corners. Framing the tops of the windows is a simple facing which is continuous across the front of the building and which is supported by the columns.

Just above this is a course of dentils which extends across the front. Above this is a simple moulded belt on which the third story columns rest. All of the upper stories are alike except the fourth story which has windows and columns that are approximately three-fifths the height of the others.
Between the second and third stories at each end of the wall is a large bracket-like motif which terminates the moulded belt (typical).

4. Roof:

a. **Shape, covering:** Roof is flat with slight slope running south to north.

b. **Cornice:** The cornice is moulded and has at its center a large semicircular motif which has moulded trim. The motif's center is recessed approx. 18" and on this recess surface is a circular panel with bold numbers in high relief: "1868". The trimming of this motif comes down to meet the cornice which is terminated at each end by a rectangular-prismatic object resembling a little two-story house with a barrel-vault roof. This detail is supported by a decorative bracket. There are two other similar brackets supporting each side of the center motif. Under the cornice is a course of large dentils similar to that mentioned earlier. Down each side of the wall to the top of the first story is a vertical strip. This strip is detailed with vertical geometric shapes in a symmetrical pattern. At the second and third story levels, the detailing resembles two long vertical hexagons spaced apart with a diamond shape between them. At the fourth story level, the detailing is similar except the outer ends of the hexagonal figures are inwardly circular.

The strip continues under the moulded bands mentioned previously with the pattern repeating between them.

A simple metal cornice runs along the top of the east wall to the rear where it meets a water leader and drain pipe.

C. **Description of Interior:**

1. **Floor plans:** The plan of the building is rectangular in shape. The entire interior area of the building is open for display, sales circulation, etc. The entire first floor has been modernized with portions of the second floor modernized. (The third and fourth floors were not accessible for inspection). The third and fourth floors were not being used.
2. **Stairways:** Stairway leading to basement was modernized with 1' runners and (14) 7" risers. Treads covered with composition tile.

Stairs to second floor had wood railing (moulded), wood treads 1' deep, 21 risers with 1" nosing.

3. **Flooring:** First floor material was composition tiles covered with carpeting. Upper floors of wood framing--uncovered. Basement was carpeted.

4. **Wall and ceiling finish:** Plaster on walls with sheet metal ceiling. Ceiling painted black (probably not original color). The walls are painted white. Ceiling is 8' (basement), second floor has brick walls (common bonding) painted white. First floor ceiling is 15' high.

5. **Doorways and doors:** Doorways were large openings with moulded wood trim with corner blocks. Doors are wood (original) with two vertical moulded panels and were 6'8".

6. **Mechanical equipment:** Air conditioning unit is present on rear roof of building. Heating and cooling ducts are visible on first and second floors. Electrical wiring and plumbing are visible. There were modern light fixtures and outlets.

**D. Site and surroundings:**

General setting: Front faces south; adjacent building on west wall; vacant lot on east side.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
June 1969
National Bank of Washington
Ronald Comedy for HABS
THE NATIONAL BANK OF WASHINGTON

Location: 301 Seventh Street, N.W., at Indiana Avenue and C Street, Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: National Bank of Washington
619 Fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: Washington Branch
National Bank of Washington

Present Use: Branch bank.

Brief Statement of Significance: A late nineteenth-century commercial building of highly attractive architectural character, typifying Washington when it was still a small city, which was erected by its oldest banking institution.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Constructed in 1889 on Lot #5 of sq. 459. Deed 4732-145 rec. May 27, 1922 reveals that on February 26, 1921 William Clarence Miller, et ux. deeded to the National Bank of Washington Lot #13 of sq. 459, adjoining Lot #5 to the east for an addition to the bank.

2. Date of erection: 1889

3. Original plans, construction: The original building forms the western eighty feet of the present structure, and is largely unchanged.

4. Alterations and additions: Addition to east side ca. 1922.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A late nineteenth-century bank building of eclectic design, largely in its original state, illustrating on a modest scale many of the best qualities of the so-called Richardsonian style.
The exterior is simple and bold; interiors are delicate and rich, containing notable ornamental plasterwork.


B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 108'9" along C Street, 39'1" along Seventh Street, 109'2" along Indiana Avenue; seven bays on C Street, three bays on Seventh Street, seven bays on Indiana Avenue; two stories plus mezzanine and attic; trapezoidal, with one short fifth wall at the rear.

2. Foundations: Rock-faced pink granite ashlar, varying in height between two and three courses, crowned by a beveled marble water table with tooled finish.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Rock-faced marble ashlar of light ochre color; the trim has tooled finish. On the first story there are smooth bands at the window sill, transom bar, and head. On the second story there are similar bands at the window sill and head. The east (rear) wall is brick, stuccoed on the outer face.

4. Structural systems, framing: Exterior walls are load bearing, brick faced with stone. The second floor consists of masonry arches carried on steel or wrought-iron joists, which rest on two girders, each supported by three interior round columns (probably cast iron). The mezzanine floor also has masonry arches carried on steel or iron joists. The roof is framed in wood; 2" X 10" joists spaced 1'6" on centers are carried on a purlin, which is supported on wooden columns 7 1/2" square, with bolster capitals. The roof timbers are partly white pine, partly yellow pine. Roof sheathing consists of wide boards. Rafters bear directly on the brick exterior walls, with brick filling between rafters to a height of three or four courses. The western end of the roof (the apex of the building) is framed with radiating rafters which converge on posts. The roof frame has been reinforced in a number of places, subsequent to the original construction.

5. Chimneys: Three brick chimneys appear above the south slope of the roof. They have ornamental caps of terracotta or special brick.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: The principal entrance is at
the center of the west side. It consists of a porch-like one-story projection (about three feet). Within an archway of smooth voussoirs bounded by a checkered billet moulding, is a narrower opening having three moulded orders of semicircular arches. A transom bar is plain except for its lower edge, which is rounded and enriched. There are impost blocks at the outer archway, their faces carved in low relief with acanthus leaves of Byzantine type. A string course consisting of two fascias and bevel (at the upper edge) continues around the sides of the porch. Above this, at each corner, is a cluster of narrow colonnettes, three colonnettes showing on each face. They are crowned by a group-capital-and-cornice band of Byzantine character, in which scrolls and acanthus leaves are combined. Above this there is a parapet with plain pedestals at the corners; it bears the name of the bank in bronze letters. These pedestals carry rounded pyramidal finials whose surfaces are carved with foliations. On the north wall about twenty feet from its east corner there is a secondary entrance. It is rectangular, covered by a lintel higher at the center than at the ends, supported on carved corbels; the doors are modern.

b. Fenestration, south wall:

(1) General: Beginning at the west end, there are four bays of double windows, then one bay centered on a pavilion which projects about one and a half feet; this marks the end of the original building. In the added portion there are two more similar bays.

(2) Windows of the first story:
These windows have a plain central mullion and a plain transom bar. Below the transom bar is a simple wrought-iron grille consisting of seven vertical bars whose upper ends terminate in narrow leaves, and whose lower ends terminate in a volute and an outcurving point. These are joined with horizontal bars at the middle, and near the top and bottom. These grilles, which appear to be original, are now painted a light cream color. Glazing above the transom bar admits light to the mezzanine. These openings are nearly square, and contain ornamental wrought-iron grilles with upper and lower rails, five vertical bars and foliated scrolls, now painted cream color. The windows of the pavilion and the addition are arranged in three distinct stories, but are largely similar to those described here, at their respective levels.
(3) Windows of the second story:
These openings have a central mullion whose face is rounded and terminated by a delicate carved capital.

c. Fenestration, west wall: This wall contains two windows on the first story; they are of single width, resembling a half of one on the south wall. On the second story there is a double window at the center; the two flanking windows are plain undivided openings. Sash are double hung, one light over one light.

d. Fenestration, north wall:
The northwest corner of the building is rounded into a small apse-like projection. It has triple windows on its north face, of a design similar to those on the south wall. East of this there are three bays of double windows, then two bays of single openings arranged in three distinct stories, the easternmost containing the secondary entrance on the ground floor. Beyond this, to the east, are the two bays of the addition, designed harmoniously in three stories.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The building is covered with slates on a hipped roof. The slate is purplish-red, that of the original part of the roof being darker than that on the addition. Crocket finials of green copper adorn the ridge at corners.

b. Cornice: Just above the lintels of the second-story windows, there are a narrow billet band, a plain frieze which projects slightly, a course of block corbels and a small cavetto moulding. Above this is a low plain parapet crowned by a moulded metal coping which completes the gutter (which is behind the parapet). There is one leader on each wall.

c. Dormers: There are two dormers: one centered on the west end, one crowning the pavilion on the south. The one on the west is of marble; it has rounded corner posts bearing finials. In the center of the gable there is a square louvered opening; below this are a band of three rectangular louvered openings with colonnettes (those in the center being double with a single capital of Byzantine type). The apex of the gable is carved with foliated and acrolled ornament in low relief; superposed on this are the letters AD. Below this, superposed on similar foliage, are the numbers 18 and 89, left and right, respectively, of the upper louvered opening.
The south dormer is also marble. At its center there is an opening composed of a pair of semicircular arches, across which there is, at the spring line, a plain rather heavy transom bar. Enframing them is a larger semicircular arch with an archivolt; the spandrel is carved with an eagle, its wings half spread, in a central medallion, and foliated scrolls of Byzantine type at each side. This ornament is space-filling in character. At each corner of the dormer there is a colonnette, whose capital is embellished with crockets crowned by a finial. The gable is high pitched, coped, and surmounted by a crocketed finial.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

   a. First floor: This is largely occupied by a large public banking room of trapezoidal shape, which is entered from its (short) western side. The eastern portion is occupied by work areas and functions having controlled access; much of this is in the addition to the original building.

   b. Mezzanine floor: This occupies the eastern part of the original building and extends into the addition. There are private offices at the south, reached by a narrow interior corridor, and a large general office which fills the remainder.

   c. Second floor: Along the south wall there are several offices reached from a hall on their north side. This hall does not extend completely to the west end, which is taken up by two offices. A wider hall extends the length of the east side of the original building.

2. Stairways: A small stair in the south part of the work area leads to the mezzanine. It has a narrow open well, open string, marble treads and ornamental iron railing. It appears modern but may be old in part. A stair at the northeast corner of the original building leads from the first floor to the attic; it has straight flights and is original. It is wooden, has an open string, moulded handrail and treads with moulded nosing. The newel is square, with fluted sides, chamfered corners and a delicate cornice; this is quite a common type at the end of the nineteenth century, sometimes spoken of as "neocolonial". Balusters are slender, turned, spaced three to the tread, and of the double type, up to the second story; above this they are spaced two to the tread and single in type.
3. Flooring: Floors have modern coverings, mostly vinyl tiles. The attic is covered with yellow pine boards 5" wide; this appears original.

4. Wall and ceiling finish, general, in the original building: At the mezzanine and second stories, walls are typically painted plaster with wooden dado rails and bases. Second-story ceilings are flat, of painted plaster. First and mezzanine-story ceilings reveal the arched structural form, refined by plaster and painting.

5. Doorways and doors, general, in the original building: Typical door and window trim is wooden: symmetrically-moulded frames with corner blocks (and no plinth). Doors have moulded panels with raised fields, those of greater pretention having a single horizontal panel at the top, a pair of vertical panels below it, and then two horizontal panels (in tiers) in the lower part of the door. Typically, each is hung on two butts.

Doors to offices on the mezzanine have two horizontal panels in the lower part and one large panel above them.

Doors to the second-story offices have a rectangular glazed transom above them. The doors themselves are of both patterns described above.

6. Interiors of special interest:

a. Banking room: Two rows of round columns, three in each, extend parallel to the south wall. Their capitals are Byzantine in character: cubical with the lower corners rounded, covered with acanthus foliation in low relief, emerging from which are two foliated volutes on each face. Below each capital is a neck adorned with a band of sixteen smooth leaves.

The girders carried by these columns have moulded panels in the soffit and their lower edges are treated with a roll moulding. On their vertical faces there is a frieze enriched with low-relief ornament, above which are a dentil course, head and cyma reversa.

Ceiling joists extend north and south; they have paneled soffits. Between them, the ceiling is arched.

The frieze and cornice of the girders also extend around the outer walls, and underneath it is an architrave consisting of two fascias, the upper one carrying a dentil course. At intervals recalling the columns, there are corbels along the outer walls.
supporting the architrave. The lower part of each corbel consists of a cartouche.

A doorway from this room into the eastern portion has wide wooden architrave trim resting on marble plinth blocks.

Around the banking room there is a high wainscot, paneled in cherry (now painted over): five tiers of small horizontal moulded panels with raised fields. The dado rail consists of a small cyma reversa, dentil course, small cyma recta and fillet.

Above the wainscot the walls and the column surfaces are treated with relief plaster ornament of an uncommon type. Immediately above the wainscot there is a band of naturalistic foliage; it is low in relief and largely by texture the leaves are indicated as if silhouetted. Above this there is a narrow plain band. The remainder of the wall is textured without a distinguishable formal pattern. This plasterwork is said to have been yellowish before it was given its present light warm gray paint.

b. Office off the northeast corner of the banking room, on the first floor: This is a room of unusual charm, refined opulence and delicacy: domestic in scale and character. In plan it is irregular, having two corners at right angles, one acute and the fourth obtuse. On the two shorter walls, which adjoin, are (west) a projecting chimney breast between two doors, and (south) a doorway. On the north wall there is a window.

The ceiling, which is the under side of the mezzanine floor, consists of three arched panels. The joists are cased in plaster and moulded to match the room cornice. Each ceiling panel is ornamented with floral motifs in low relief, neither conventional nor wholly naturalistic.

On the walls, a wide frieze of conventionalized foliage in low relief plaster extends to the level of the door trim. Below this the wall is patterned with naturalistic foliage.

The plaster is painted white.

The fireplace opening is faced with ceramic units smaller than bricks, but of their shape, framed with
painted wooden trim. A colonnette at each side has a capital repeating the design of those in the banking room at a smaller scale. Its shaft is vertically fluted for several inches below the neck, below which the fluting is twisted, then straight again; the lower third of the shaft is plain. The base consists of an inverted echinus moulding resting on a plinth whose upper corners are chamfered. The architrave is recessed between the colonnettes and carries ten enriched modillions. Above this is a plain frieze (not recessed). There is a mantel shelf of delicate classical form: ovolo bed moulding, dentil course, cyma reversa, enriched ovolo, narrow soffit, thin corona, enriched bead and crowning cyma recta. The hearth is composed of brown glazed tiles resembling small bricks.

Doors and door trim are as described above, being typical.

c. Office at the mezzanine level, on the south side of the building at the head of the small stair: This room is rectangular, having a fireplace on the west wall, on a projecting chimney breast, a window on the south wall and a door on the north wall near the west end. Along the remainder of the north wall are borrowed lights (into the access corridor) whose trim is similar to that of the doors but which continues across the bottom as well, thus having four corner blocks on each opening.

The ceiling consists of arched panels between joists, which are spaced about four feet on centers. These joists have moulded paneled soffits. The ceiling is all finished in plaster.

The fireplace trim is painted wood. At each side there is a pilaster strip having two reeded bands and chamfered corners, resting on a plinth whose upper edge is moulded. The mantel shelf is supported on a pair of S-curved brackets over each pilaster strip, the brackets being directly above the reeded bands. The shelf is simple. Beneath it the frieze is treated with upper and lower mouldings, between which are groups of five vertical flutes (each), alternating with a simple round motif.

The room has a moulded wooden base.

d. The former directors' room: This room occupies the southeast corner of the mezzanine story, only its
western end being in the original building. It has a large fireplace centered on the east wall, windows along the south wall, and is entered through the western end of the north wall.

The ceiling is flat, plastered.

There is a wainscot about five feet high, of varnished cherry, above a brown marble base. Its paneling resembles that of the banking room. The wall above is plastered. The wainscoting terminates several inches from the fireplace trim on each side, against a narrow reeded band having a curved capital, which consists of a single acanthus leaf at each corner, and an abacus.

At each side of the fireplace opening (now closed) there is a vertical row of panels between reeded bands, which at the top sweep out in an S-curve to form supporting brackets for the mantel shelf. Above these panels, in the frieze, there is an intricate pattern carved in low relief. It is composed of wave motives running both horizontally and vertically; in the curved four-pointed star-shaped areas thus formed, conventional leaves spring from each corner. This pattern generally resembles, and may have been derived from, pre-Hellenic carved patterns found at Mycenae, Tiryns and other places.

The frieze above the fireplace opening consists of vertical moulded reeding.

The mantel shelf is formed like a cornice (corona, enriched bead and crowning cyma recta); under it, in the bed mouldings, there is a dentil course.

The fireplace trim is executed in varnished cherry; its effect is very rich.

e. Fireplaces on the second story: Each office has a fireplace, which is generally comparable to that described above in section c. Their details vary, however. Some have a single bracket above a fluted Doric colonnette, at each side of the opening. Some still retain a metal lining in the opening, covered with a delicate floral pattern.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting: This bank building is located on a site generally peculiar to Washington, D.C., at the intersection of
streets (perpendicular to each other) with one of the diagonal avenues. The lot is thus triangular, the point at the west being on Seventh Street, the southern line being along C Street, and the northern line being along Indiana Avenue, which runs east-northeast. It is very close to Pennsylvania Avenue, probably the most noted thoroughfare in the capital city: the scene of processions celebrating the inauguration of presidents, the funerals of presidents and national heroes. Just north, Seventh Street is a busy commercial street.

This building occupies the entire lot, with the exception of the small point of the triangle. There is no landscaping on the site but there are landscaped public areas at the west which enhance the setting of the bank.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee, FAIA
Professor Emeritus of Architecture
Syracuse University
July 10-11, 1969
Location: 401, 403, 405, 407 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: The Seventh Street Limited Partnership
1101 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: Lawrence Savage, Schiffs.

Present Use: Retail stores (clothing, shoes).

Brief Statement of Significance: A post-Civil War commercial building of interesting architectural design, illustrating the character of Seventh Street in the early days of its commercial development.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:


   Charles S. Wallach, tr. deeded to William B. Kibbey [J. A. S. No. 92-281] part of lot #8 of sq. 457 (the south 25' front on 7th Street by 54' depth).


   Deed 670-416 rec. Feb. 15, 1872 records that on Feb. 10, 1871 Alexander Sharp deeded to Germond Crandell & Joseph S. Riley. (Marshall's sale--Shepherd failed in business and Riley and Crandell bought business and continued it--In July of 1873 Crandell bought Riley's interest.)

   On Oct. 28, 1963 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America deeded to Sherby Realty, Inc. [12096-467 rec. Oct. 30, 1963]. The Missionary Society was residuary beneficiary under the will and codicil of Bessie Juliet Kibbey, deceased (Lot #815 of sq.
457, south 25' front by 54' depth of lot #8.)

In a supplement to Deed 12096-467 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church deeded to Sherby Realty, Inc. on Jan. 30, 1964 [Deed 12159-70 rec. Feb. 24, 1964] lot #846 of sq. 457 (begin at a point 54' east of southwest corner of lot #8, thence east 5'10 1/2", north 25', west 5'10 1/2", south 25'.


The property was deeded on Oct. 14, 1966 to the Seventh Street Limited Partnership [12680-400 rec. Oct. 17, 1966]. (Lots #815, 846, and 853 of original lot #8, comprising the entirety of original lot #8.)

The previous listings are for 401 Seventh Street. The following is the record for 403-405 Seventh Street:

On July 20, 1875 Virginia D. Hellen, et al. leased to Christian Ruppert [792-361 rec. Aug. 4, 1875] the south 25' front by full depth of lot #853, in original lot #8. (Virginia Hellen is guardian of George Hellen, who is heir to the property under the will of Johnson Hellen.) Terms: 3 years; $1,700 per year; Ruppert agrees to spend $2,000 improving the front.

Henry B. F. MacFarland, et al., Commissioners of the District of Columbia, deeded to Charles H. Wiltsie on April 23, 1908 [3149-54 rec. April 20, 1908]. George Hellen owned it until it was taken for failure to pay taxes.


In Deed 4770-320 rec. Aug. 1, 1922 Charles H. Wiltsie, et ux. and Mary A. Wadhams, et vir. deeded to Gertman & Hynson. (Gertman & Hynson were appointed receivers by Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in Equity Cause No. 32, 733.) The date of this transaction is recorded as Dec. 28, 1920.
Quit Claim Deed 4770-322 rec. Aug. 1, 1922, shows that on June 19, 1922 Gertman & Hynson deeded to Emil West. West purchased property by proceedings of Equity Cause No. 32, 733.

Alvin Emil West deeded to Marshall W. Forrest, et ux., on Dec. 11, 1964, all of lot #853 in original lot #8. [12393-547 rec. April 14, 1965]


The lots #815, 846, & 853 of original lot #8 were deeded to the Seventh Street Limited Partnership by Angelo A. Puglisi, et al. on Oct. 14, 1966 [12680-400 rec. Oct. 17, 1966].

407 7th Street:

On June 1, 1875, Frank Hellen, et al. leased to Christian Ruppert the north 25' front by full depth of lot #853 in original lot #8. Terms of Lease 789-2: 8 years--$1,700 yearly rent--Ruppert will improve property by repairing store front. (Frank Hellen is heir to property under the will of Johnson Hellen.)

Clarence C. Hellen, et ux. deeded to Emil West on March 8, 1920. [Deed 4319-427 rec. Marcy 18, 1920.]

All of lot #853 in original lot #8 was deeded by Alvin Emil West on Dec. 11, 1964, to Marshall W. Forrest, et ux. [12393-547 rec. April 14, 1965].

The property was deeded on March 26, 1965 to Angelo A. Puglisi, et al. by Marshall W. Forrest, et ux. [Deed 12393-550 rec. April 14, 1965.]

The Seventh Street Limited Partnership became owners of lots #815, 846, & 853 of original lot #8, when it was deeded to them on Oct. 14, 1966 by Angelo A. Puglisi, et al. [12680-400 rec. Oct. 17, 1966]

2. Date of erection: 1877.

3. Architect: Germond Crandell. [Testimony in an Equity case concerning the ownership of lot #846 states that G. Crandell erected a building in the south part of lot #8 in 1877 on a plan prepared by himself, extending into lot #846, which was previously an alley.]
B. Sources of information: Records of the District of Columbia.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A store building of the late 1870's whose exterior design employs standard ornamental elements and rhythmic fenestration to obtain a rich effect.

2. Condition of fabric: Building is in poor condition. The basement and upper floors have been boarded up and are not being used presently.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 75' X 54'; 5 bays X 8 bays; 4 stories with basement; rectangular in shape.


3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls are of masonry with stucco finish. Up each side of the west wall is a row of horizontal blocks which are rectangular in shape and which have a moulded panel in the center. These blocks are stucco finished. The walls are painted cream white while the first story is painted gray. The east wall is red brick with American bonding. The bonding is one course of headers to seven courses of stretchers.

4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is a 1" concrete stoop at the south wall entrance.

5. Chimneys: In the center of the east wall is a brick chimney with a concrete cap.

6. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: On the west wall are two openings. One is 3' X 7'1" with wood moulded trim. The door has the same dimensions with a large glass panel trimmed in wood moulding. This door appears to be the original. The other door is 3'6" X 7'2". The door has two wood moulded panels and also appears to be the original.
b. Windows and shutters: There is one window per bay on the right 1/3 of the west wall. The second story windows are boarded up. Each window is double-hung (2/2) and is trimmed in wood moulding. The top is segmental with a bold moulding around its edges. At the top of the window in the center of the moulded trim is a simple moulded motif. Between each window is a rectangular column in high relief with a vertical, narrow, moulded panel down its center. The column, having a simple capital, rests on a simple block base and extends up to join the moulded trim at the top of the window. The window trim forms a continuous pattern across the front of the building.

At the base of the third and fourth story windows is a stuccoed belt which supports the columns in relief. Supporting this belt is a course of simple moulded brackets which lie directly below each column.

The south wall is eight bays long with one simple double-hung window (2/2) per bay. These windows, unlike the west wall window, have square tops with segmental stucco facing above. They do have, however, a motif at the center of their tops similar to the front (west) wall. The first and second story windows are boarded up completely with two windows on the third story, and one window on the fourth story boarded up. Each window has a simple sill projecting about 1". This pattern is repeated in the left 2/3 of the west front.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat with a slight pitch to the east.

b. Cornice: The right 1/3 of the west wall is typical of the remaining left portion of the front. Above the fourth story windows in the center is a large motif in the shape of the windows. This motif is trimmed in bold moulding which is so projected that it resembles a shallow barrel vault. This motif interrupts the cornice which continues on either side. The cornice is supported by four very large embellished brackets. Two brackets rest at the extremities of the cornice and two rest on either side of the motif.

Also supporting the cornice and resting between the larger brackets is a course of similar brackets.
Under these brackets is an embellished band which resembles a course of hanging ribbons. Under this band, on either side of the motif is a long horizontal panel with a center panel trimmed in wood moulding. This panel is interrupted at its center by a circular disk in the center of which is flower-like ornament. Under this panel is a moulded strip which continues across the entire wall.

The south wall is quite similar to the west wall, except that it has no large motif.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: In plan, this building is rectangular. The entire floor is open save a rear wall which encloses the rear storeroom and office. The front entrance is on the west wall with another side door on the south wall.

2. Flooring: The floor is covered with modern composition tile.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls have been modernized with antique wood paneling painted gray with no baseboard or dado board. The ceiling is covered with cork tile painted black with modern imitation beams installed for decorative purposes.

4. Doorways and doors: There is a 3'6" X 7'4" opening on the east wall of the first story which has been equipped with antique wood saloon doors which are double swinging and painted brown. These doors are not original but were chosen for decorative purposes.

5. Notable hardware: There is a cast-iron fire escape extending down the last two bays of the south wall. This is painted white and has a ladder extending to the roof.

6. Mechanical equipment: There is modern heating, cooling and ventilation. New light fixtures are visible as well as modern plumbing.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General Setting: The building faces west on the northeast corner of Seventh and D Streets. There is an adjacent
building to the east and to the north of the building.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
July 1969
415 Seventh Street

George Eisenman for HABS

Germond Crandell Building
Location: 415 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Elisabeth Drayton Rea
141 Gilpin Street
Denver, Colorado

Present Occupant: Union Clothing and Furniture Company

Present Use: Retail store on the first story; remainder is vacant.

Brief Statement of Significance: A late nineteenth century building on a historic commercial street, with attractive architectural features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: On July 16, 1868 (564-233 rec. July 18, 1868), Frederick W. Gieseking deeded to Samuel Heller part of original lot #9: beginning at N.W. corner of lot #9, thence S. 25'6"; E. 94'-9"; N. 25'-6"; W. to beginning. Heller holds as trust for Elizabeth Cullinan.

On June 25, 1883 (1046-249 rec. June 25, 1883), Samuel Heller et. al. deeded the property to James S. Edwards

On June 25, 1883 (1046-252 rec. June 25, 1883), James S. Edwards, Tr., deeded the property to Elizabeth Cullinan.

On October 22, 1924 (5393-43 rec. Oct. 24, 1924), Burr N. Edwards, Executor, deeded the property to Max Needle and Max Simon. Edwards is executor of will of Elizabeth Cullinan

On October 22, 1924 (5393-44 rec. Oct. 24, 1924), Max Needle, et. ux., et. al., deeded the property to Joseph E. Casey.


On June 29, 1938 (7243-556 rec. July 1, 1938), Maxwell Furniture Co. deeded the property to Irma E. Drayton.

The property was deeded to the Seventh Street Limited Partnership on Jan. 19, 1968 by Elizabeth Drayton, rea. [121850-212 rec. Feb. 8, 1968]

2. Date of erection: Circa 1883.

B. Sources of information:

Primary and unpublished sources: The District of Columbia records.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: A commercial building with an arcaded facade exceptionally rich in textural effects.

2. Condition of fabric: This building is in fair condition with only the first story being used.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 25'7" X 95'(deep); 3 bays wide; 4 stories with basement; rectangular in shape.


3. Wall construction, finish and color: West wall is brick, (yellow, probably original color) with the bonding having all stretchers.

South and north walls are red brick.

4. Chimneys: There is a brick chimney on the south wall near the front.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The entrance is modern having all glass door with steel framing. It is 3' X 7'.

b. Windows and shutters: The second and third story windows are identical. They are simple double-hung
windows (1/1) with semicircular tops and trimmed with wood mouldings. The window is framed above with stone trim, semicircular in shape. The soffit edge of the trim is zig-zag. The trim forms a pattern across the front wall with the other windows. On either side of the center window is a small Corinthianesque column made of polished granite with limestone capital and base. The columns, in high relief, rest on a stone block and support the arch of the window. On the outer edge of each end window is a rectangular column made of brick and also in high relief. This column has a simple moulded capital and base and also supports the window trim which is outlined with brick headers.

The fourth story windows are similar to the 2nd and 3rd story windows except that they are shorter and have segmented heads. There are columns identical to those on the 2nd and 3rd story which support the upper face of the wall. A stone band rests on the columns and is terminated at either end by a vertical band of brick which rests on stone mouldings. This moulding continues across the wall under which lies a course of zig-zag brick. (This is typical of the 3rd story also.)

The vertical band has cast-iron ornamentation centered on its front at the 3rd story level. This band, interrupted by the 3rd story moulding, continues down on either side of the wall to the 2nd story level. There are two stone string courses and a brick string course evenly spaced down its front. Above the top string course, which is brick, are four rectangular indentations. (This is typical of the 3rd story.) The 4th story vertical band has four long vertical rectangular indentations above which a horizontal indented strip runs across the wall.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Roof is flat with slight slope running west to east.

b. Cornice: Above the 4th story windows is a wide horizontal band with brick ornamentation across its front. This ornamentation consists of alternating projections and indentations with several
steps. There is a simple moulded cornice supported by a course of small moulded brackets between which is brick detailing.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The building is all open with small office area at the east end of the building. The entrance is on the west wall and opens into the first floor which is the only part of the building that is presently being used.

2. Stairways: Not available for examination.

3. Flooring: Modern floor; covered with composition tile.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wall covered with wall board (painted yellow, original) with cork tile ceiling.

5. Doorways and doors: There is a 7' opening leading to rear trimmed in wood panel. No interior doors.

6. Special decorative features: The entire first floor has been modernized with modern cabinets and shelving.

7. Mechanical equipment: Modern heating and cooling; modern ducts are visible. Modern lighting and fixtures.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General Setting: The building faces west with adjacent building to the north and south.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
July 1969
Location: 513 Sixth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Vinard L. and Ollie Paris
3111 Grove Street
Arlington, Virginia

Present Occupant: Tenants.

Present Use: Dwelling apartments and office for sightseeing tours.

Brief Statement of Significance: One of the few older town houses remaining in the area, illustrating its architectural character before the Civil War.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:


On Nov. 27, 1885 [1153-203 rec. Nov. 28, 1885] George H. Phelps, et ux. deeded to Henry Ruppert. $11,200--south 26' front and depth of lot #5--begin at SW corner of lot; thence north 26', east to alley 10' wide (i.e. east 88'4"), south with west line of alley 26', west to beginning.

In Court Trustees Deed 2872-116 rec. June 22, 1905 Tooney and Ruppert, trs. deeded to Ferdinand Ruppert on June 8, 1905 (Henry Ruppert died Apr. 4, 1893). Equity No. 25225--decree land be sold--James A. Tooney & John H. Ruppert, court appointed trs., sold it to Ferdinand for $8,500.


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According to Deed 4188-413 rec. May 29, 1919, on that date John H. Ruppert, et ux. deeded to Emmet W. Beach.

The property was deeded to Nathan Shapiro, et ux. by Emmet W. Beach, et ux. on April 7, 1923 [4941-366 rec. April 26, 1923].

Julia Shapiro, on Sept. 24, 1946, deeded to Ave Y. Yeghenian [8342-595 rec. Sept. 25, 1946].


2. Date of erection: Perhaps circa 1840.

3. Alterations and additions: The upper two stories were added, perhaps circa 1860.

The building was divided into apartments at an undetermined date.

B. Sources of information:


PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: This house is an interesting example of the architectural type of the mid-nineteenth century, which is still evident despite the modern changes the building has undergone.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is in fair condition with a great portion redecorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: (Approx.) 26'0" X 42'5"; front, 3 bays wide; 3 1/2 stories with basement and 1/2 story on roof; rectangular in shape.

2. Foundations: Brick, high.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The west (front) wall is three bays wide and constructed of brick, laid in Flemish bond and American bond with one course of headers to every five courses of stretchers. This wall is painted cream white with solid white trim.

The north wall, once a party wall, is also constructed of brick with American bonding, but is not painted. It reveals the imprints of the former adjacent building and clearly shows the outline of the gable roof of this building.

The east (rear) wall is also constructed of unpainted brick (American bonding) and is three bays wide. There is a one story wing, projected east from the rear wall. This wing is only one bay wide and is constructed of brick. Over this wing is an intermediate two story section which is covered with a combination of wood and shingle siding and is painted white. These rear portions are not original.

At the south is a party wall of masonry, shared by the adjacent building.


5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is a straight flight of exterior stairs leading to the main entrance. This stairway has had more steps added to it, because of the change of grade that has taken place since the building was constructed. The upper portion of the stairway, being the original, has a cast-iron handrail painted black which spirals around the lower end post. The steps are marble with six 8" risers and 10" treads. The extensions of the stairway are concrete also with six risers and 9" treads. The handrail is plain but also painted black.

6. Chimneys: There is a chimney on the north wall near the rear of the building, and traces of two original chimneys appear on the north wall.

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: The entrance to the building stands in the left bay of the three-bay-wide wall. It has a 3' opening which is approximately 7' high. This opening is flanked on either side by a one
foot panel which is the height of the opening. The upper half of this panel is glass, having two vertical lights and trimmed in wood moulding. The lower half of the panel has a vertical wood moulded panel.

The opening is also flanked on either side by two simple colonnettes, wood moulded and standing between the opening and the flanking panels. They support a simple projecting entablature which spans the top of the opening. This moulded entablature extends past the panels on either side and out onto the wall approximately one foot. Above the entablature is a semi-elliptical fan light with its area divided by four wood moulded strips, evenly spaced and radiating from a wooden semi-elliptical disk at the center of the base of the window. It is trimmed with a wood archivolt. At the center of the moulding, above the window, is a wood moulded motif. All of the trim is painted white.

At ground level on the west wall is a garage or carport opening which is approximately two bays wide and 7' high. On the east wall is a similar opening with approximately the same dimensions. This is a modern alteration.

On the east wall of the east wing is a smaller one-bay-wide garage opening which stands approximately 6' high.

b. Windows and shutters: At the first story, the center bay is occupied by two windows: one is narrow (one light wide) and double-hung (2/2), while the other is wider (two lights wide), but also double-hung (4/4). The right bay has a double-hung window (6/6) which is three lights wide and which is trimmed in wood moulding, as are all of the windows. Above the first story windows are imprints or tracings of where a cap, probably similar to those remaining, once lay.

The second story has three simple double-hung windows (6/6), one in each bay. There is a cap spanning above each window. This cap is made up of a flat horizontal panel with a projected moulding at its top. At the bottom of all windows is a flat wooden sill. The third story windows are identical to the second story windows.
On the second floor is a smaller hall into which four surrounding apartments open. This is typical of the upper floors.

The basement consists of a two bay wide garage and a one bay wide room which are not accessible from the first floor.

2. **Stairways**: There is a central interior stairway with an open well. The steps are wood now covered with composition tile. The 10" treads have 1" nosing of aluminum. There are twelve 7" risers leading to the landing. There are eight risers to the second floor and seven risers which lead to a split level apartment in the rear of the building.

The railing is simple wood moulded painted black with a simple moulded newel post at the base of the stairway.

3. **Flooring**: The floor is wood covered with composition tile. There are 4" thresholds at doorways.

4. **Wall and ceiling finish**: The ceiling is approx. 10' high and covered with plaster. The walls are plaster with recent paint and 6" wood moulded baseboard.

5. **Doorways and doors**: Doorways are 2'6" X 6'10" and trimmed in wood moulding. There are also wood moulded corner blocks; all trim is painted white. The doors are wood moulded, painted white and have three pairs of panels vertically aligned. The doors are probably original. A large archway is in the entrance hall. The arch is supported by a pair of moulded columns on either side which rest on wood moulded pedestals. The arch is trimmed in wood moulding with an original light fixture in the center of its plain soffit.

6. **Notable hardware**: There is an iron fire escape which is suspended along the west (front) wall and which extends up to the third story. This fire escape spans the left and center bay and is accessible from the ground.

7. **Mechanical equipment**: An old case-iron radiator stands in the entrance hall. Modern lighting and plumbing has been installed, and these fixtures are visible throughout the building.
D. Site and Surroundings:

General Setting: The building's front faces west onto 6th Street with adjacent building on south sharing party wall. There is a vacant lot to the north now used for parking. (Adjacent building once occupied this site.)

The ground contours slope west towards 6th Street.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
June 1969
Lansburgh's Department Store
Ronald Comedy for HABS

625 Indiana Avenue
George Eisenman for HABS

616 Ninth Street
Ronald Comedy for HABS

618 Ninth Street
The following material is from completed Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory forms, prepared as part of this project.

HOUSE

Location: 320 Eighth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: Pawnbrokers sales.

Date of erection: Probably before 1850.

This red brick, four-story town house typifies early structures in the area. It faces east along a 20-foot frontage and has a gable roof, its ridge parallel to the street. The first story has been remodeled; the upper stories are plain, with three bays of windows spanned by wooden lintels. Brick corbel courses support a simple wooden cornice. There is a chimney on the north wall near the street front.

The original building appears to have had an entrance and hall along the south, with front and rear rooms along the north. There are later flat-roofed additions at the rear.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

HOUSE

Location: 514 E Street, N.W.
(at Sixth Street)
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Georgetown University.
Present Use: Faculty offices and other services.

Date of erection: Probably circa 1840; minor later alterations.

This brick building, four stories above a high basement, is a reminder of the neighborhood character before the Civil War. It has a north frontage of 22 feet (three bays) and a depth of about 30 feet (two bays).

The entrance frontispiece of modified Roman Doric pilasters and mullioned entablature, with paneled door and transom light, is located in the right end bay. It is approached by a flight of ornamental cast-iron steps of a type commonly installed in the city during the 1870's wherever street grades were lowered.

The windows have applied sheet-metal lintels of simple design, typical of the decade following the Civil War. The wooden cornice, too, is later than the original construction. It is supported on four console-brackets along each facade, between which are modillions.

In plan, this house belongs to the side-hall type, having a stair at the rear corner.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 5, 1969

APARTMENT HOUSE

Location: 507 Sixth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: Dwelling apartments.

Date of erection: Probably circa 1870.

This building, of red pressed brick trimmed with limestone, is four stories high above the basement and covered with a flat roof. It faces west on a frontage of 42 feet, having a rich, highly developed facade of five bays.

Originally approached by four stone steps before the street grade was lowered, a central segmental-arched entrance is flanked
by ornamental iron railings and crowned by a decorated keystone and moulded brick cap. Windows are segmentally arched, with similar keystones and stone end blocks. A panel below those of the first story contains tiles with a geometrical motif in relief. The end bays of the second story are accented by ornamental cast-iron balconies.

The front is crowned with an elaborate corbeled brick cornice supported on brackets of moulded bricks, containing a geometrically patterned frieze of tiles matching the color of the brickwork, and accented at the center by a small segmental pediment.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 5, 1969

MERCHANTS AND MECHANICS SAVINGS BANK

Location: NW corner of Seventh and G Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Loeb Company.

Present Use: Women's wear store.

Date of erection: Circa 1865.

This brick building is typical of those erected for commercial use immediately after the Civil War. Three stories high plus a mansard roof, it faces east along a frontage of 20 feet (three bays), and south along 70 feet (seven bays). The first story has been completely remodeled.

Windows of the upper stories carry ornamental segmental cast-iron cornices with consoles. The building cornice consists of a wooden entablature containing a modillion course (probably cast iron).

From the roof of patterned slates, a large dormer projects on the east front; it contains a triple window. Seven dormers with rounded gables and two chimneys of ornamental design are located on the south side.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 5, 1969
Temperance Fountain
Central National Bank
George Eisenman for HABS

Firemen's Insurance Company Building
Ronald Comedy for HABS

Library of Congress
COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Location: 616 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: Book and magazine store, office.

Date of erection: Circa 1890.

This small store building is interesting for its composition and detail; it is of red brick with limestone trim, three stories high and one bay wide, facing east along a frontage of about 17 feet. The first story front has been completely remodeled.

At the second story there are stone courses at the window sill, mid height and lintel. A group of three windows, the openings separated by narrow brick piers, is enriched by a row of carved ballflowers in a cove at the bottom of the lintel. At the third story three window openings are framed under a segmental brick arch abutting stone end blocks, the spandrel being a large stone.

Shallow buttresses frame the upper half of the facade at the corners, resting on stone corbels with foliated crocketed ornaments and crowned with sheet-metal finial blocks. The gable is filled with brick pattern work in relief, and coped by a sheet-metal cove enriched with ballflowers. Behind the gable there is a flat roof.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 1969

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Location: 618 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: Store.

Date of erection: Circa 1890.

This red brick four-story building has a frontage of about 18 feet, facing east. Its first story is largely covered by remodeling but retains its original cast-iron piers and simple cornice. The
upper stories are divided in a complex way and are richly detailed in moulded brick and terra cotta, some features resembling those made fashionable by H. H. Richardson, and others apparently derived from late seventeenth-century English motifs best known through the works of R. Norman Shaw.

The second and third stories are treated as a single two-bay arcade, with paneled brick spandrels above stone lintels of the second-story windows. Stone pier capitals of Byzantine type are carved with foliations in shallow relief. The third-story windows fill semicircular arches whose keystones carry a large terra-cotta lion's head. Spandrels over the arches are ornamented with three large rosettes.

The fourth story windows are in three arcaded bays whose piers are reeded. The central opening is wider than the others and is divided by simple wooden tracery. Over them there is a cove cornice of green copper, above which is a parapet containing ornamental red tiles. A central round-gabled ventilating dormer with a green copper cornice and finial completes the facade. Except for this motif the roof is flat.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Location: 811 Market Space, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: Vacant.

Date of erection: Circa 1890.

Built of red pressed brick with dark mortar joints, this three-story building has a frontage of 25 feet facing south to Pennsylvania Avenue. It is simply composed and well proportioned. Above a completely remodeled first story are two others of similar design, marked by brownstone belt courses at floor levels. Each is divided into three bays of recessed panels which contain a semicircular-arched window.

At the top there is a slightly projecting frieze of brick patterning and terra-cotta inserts. The center is accented by a round-headed brick panel which projects above the rest of the wall.
A sheet-metal cyma recta serves as the cornice. The roof is flat.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee  
August 6, 1969

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

Location: Pennsylvania Avenue, C and Seventh Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: Ground floor occupied by a liquor store, upper stories untenanted.

Date of erection: 1888.

Architect: Alfred B. Mullet (1834-1890).

Standing at the western apex of a triangular block, this massive brownstone building with twin round towers capped by conical roofs is a picturesque landmark representing Pennsylvania Avenue near the end of the nineteenth century. It approximates a trapezoid in plan, being 40 feet on the "point" and about 50 feet on the two other facades.

The western facade is six stories high, between the corner towers, rather plain except for an arcaded top story and heavy piers with carved capitals and austere entablature at the ground floor. A rock-faced stone course marks each story at the window heads, contrasting with smooth-faced ashlar.

The southern facade, facing Pennsylvania Avenue, adjoins one tower and consists of five bays of round-arched windows in a rusticated wall. There is an entrance with double doors at the eastern end. This facade is terminated by a cornice of bold projection, constructed of wood and cast iron, whose most conspicuous elements are large brackets. Each consists of an upper enriched modillion and a lower upright console.

The northern facade, on C Street, contains six bays of rectangular windows at the upper stories, in a rusticated wall, and a similar cornice. The first story consists of five bays, the central one being a doorway. The others contain windows, one of them containing remains of colored leaded glass, and are protected by ornamental wrought-iron grilles.
Except for the first story the exterior has changed very little, except for painting and deterioration.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

FIREMEN'S INSURANCE COMPANY BUILDING

Location: 303 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Firemen's Insurance Company.

Present Use: Office building.

Date of erection: Before 1887.

This brick office building of picturesque massing and character reflects the interest of the 1880's in complex skylines and small-scale ornamental detail. It occupies an irregular lot at one corner of a triangular block and is five stories high plus a mansard roof. The frontage on Seventh Street is 60 feet, and on Indiana Avenue, 35 feet.

An octagonal tower, once covered with a dome, is located on the corner and a canted bay at the other end of the south facade recalls its form. The west facade is asymmetrical in composition and fenestration.

Adjoining this building to the east is a small contemporary one of similar character, the National Union Insurance Company. It is brick, four stories high, and has a number of ornamental details. The two form a coherent group.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Location: 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: Restaurant equipment store.

Date of erection: Probably between 1850 and 1860.
This small pre-Civil War store building, with a frontage of 23'4", has a brick and cast-iron facade of attractive character, now in deteriorating condition. The first story has two intermediate cast-iron piers between corner piers of brick. These are original but the glazing is modern. Above this are brick corner pilasters, paneled on the face, with cast-iron capitals of modified Corinthianesque character, whose acanthus leaves have an S-curved profile of pronounced curvature. On the left corner only a half pilaster remains.

There are three windows at the second story, the central one round-arched. It is glazed with four-light casements and transom. The others are segmental arched, with three-light casements and transom. The openings have ornamental cast-iron hood moulds and wood sills.

At the third story the windows are segmental arched and are provided with similar hood moulds. At the top is a bracketed cast-iron cornice. The roof is flat.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

BUILDING

Location: 625 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Original Use: Either a residence or a combined residence and shop.

Date of erection: Probably the 1870's, with later alterations.

This brick building with a painted sandstone front faces south and is about 20 feet wide. Its four-story facade is rather uncommon in composition. The first story has been remodeled, leaving only the topmost two courses of rustications visible; these show that there had been an entrance in the left bay of the three-bay elevation.

The second story is treated as a rusticated arcade of Italian Renaissance character, with plain impost. In each recess there is a pedimented window, its sides trimmed with a small guilloche band and the lintel with a wider guilloche. This story is terminated by a simple moulded band in which the moulded surfaces are inclined planes. Third-story window sills rest on this course.
The third and fourth stories are of smooth-faced ashlar, similar except that the third is somewhat taller. Rectangular window openings have rounded upper corners and the trim is a rope moulding. They are glazed with three-light double casements and a two-light transom above a thin bar.

The wide wooden cornice is much heavier in scale than the remainder of the facade and might be a replacement or early alteration. Six large console brackets support a corona and cymatium. These mouldings return against the wall near the end, each return being supported on a similar returned console. A panel in each frieze compartment was formed by a heavy applied moulding.

A dormer window on the front is probably recent. The ridge of a gable roof is parallel to the street.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Location: NW corner of Seventh and D Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Use: F and W Grand 5¢-$1.00 Store.

Date of erection: Early twentieth century.

This yellow brick and terra cotta six-story store and office building is a simple, well-proportioned example of the commercial development in this area about the time of the first World War. It faces east on Seventh Street with a frontage of 55 feet and extends 100 feet along D Street, five by eight bays. The east front has been modernized on the first floor but otherwise the exterior is in its original state.

The facades are designed according to the orthodox scheme of that time, having a greater proportion of solid wall at the corners and more openings toward the centers, where a three-story arced treatment unites the third, fourth and fifth floors (three bays on the east, four on the south). The lower two stories are expressed as a podium by recess brick courses at intervals, which simulate rustication. Moulded belt courses at the second, third and sixth floors mark the division of the walls into horizontal zones, and a refined cornice of sheet metal, with a course of modillions,
terminates the composition. The roof is flat. Ornamental cast-iron balconies at the corner bays of the fourth story relieve the over-all simplicity.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

COMMERCIAL BUILDING
(now LANSBURGH'S DEPARTMENT STORE)

Location: SE corner Eighth and E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Date of erection: Late 19th and early 20th century.

This building of interesting architectural character has a skeleton frame faced with terra cotta. It is six stories high and has a basement. There are large double-hung windows from the second floor up. There are three windows per bay with the sixth floor windows forming a segmental shape in the bay. The facing of the building is quite ornamental and has moulded rectangular panels under each story of windows. The first story has a modern glass front with intricate detailed trim. Above this trim is an ornamental belt which spans across the entire west wall and continues on the north wall. This portion of the building is about 120' X 275' and has a very decorative cornice which complements the embellished detailing of the facing.

There is an older brick portion of the building adjacent to the north wall. This portion is three bays wide with the central bay projecting. There is a variety of decorative string courses which alternate above and below the windows. Each bay has three windows, except the center bay which has two windows on its north face and one simple window on either of its diagonal faces. The windows have segmented and semicircular tops, and have wood moulded trim. All of the windows are double-hung.

The cornice of this building is corbeled and quite ornamental with a moulded pediment over the center bay.

The interior is decorative and modern with mostly open space.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
August 8, 1969
TEMPERANCE FOUNTAIN

Location: NE corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

This publicly owned ornamental fountain has survived a long winter of intolerant taste and can again be appreciated for what it is: a rather obvious and expressive symbolic monument to one aspect of social reform. Probably erected circa 1875, it is an open shelter about seven feet square in the form of a ciborium, constructed of large blocks of gray granite. Two plain steps form the base. Four Tuscan columns of polished granite on pedestals support a monolithic slab whose outer edges form a two-part entablature, while its soffit is hollowed into a saucer dome of moulded section. This slab, and another above it, constitute a pyramidal roof, at whose summit, atop a plain base, a bronze heron extends its neck to swallow (water). Alongside its slender legs stands a single reedy plant.

At the center of this shelter there is a plain cylindrical granite base, resembling a simple Classical altar, supporting a pair of bronze dolphins with their tails intertwined and their heads (at the bottom) facing east and west to spout water. The floor of the shelter is a cast-iron slotted grille, now filled up with concrete.

On the lower member of the entablature, in raised letters, appear the following words, one on each side: TEMPERANCE, FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY; on the west side of the base of the fountain is inscribed in letters standing out from an incised background, PRESENTED BY DR. HENRY D. COGSWELL OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

This monument is in good condition but it has not been operated as a fountain within recent memory.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
August 6, 1969

150
320 Eighth Street
Ronald Comedy for HABS

811 Market Space

NW. corner, Seventh and D Streets