

Brown's Marble Hotel (Indian Queen Hotel;
Metropolitan Hotel; Barney's Restaurant)
621 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-322

HABS
DC,
WASH,
326-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL NAD DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
DC
WASH
326-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
District of Columbia		Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO.
Brown's Marble Hotel		DC-322
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
Indian Queen Hotel; Metropolitan Hotel; Barney's Restaurant		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
621 Pennsylvania Avenue		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
See page 2		
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
Only remaining fragment of popular early Washington hotel, in which Tyler was sworn in as President.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)		
Second floor has marble facing		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
Present fragment is 2-story, 2-bay portion of southwest corner of original building		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
Tall windows with flanking pilasters, entablature, cornice and antefix. First floor commercial front.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
Became only remaining fragment when rest of building was demolished in 1932.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
Schwartz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u> Goode, James. <u>Capital Losses.</u> 1979.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE	
Druscilla J. Null, HABS	7/7/83	

Date of Construction

First hotel built on site ca. 1804. By 1832, site occupied by a 4½-story gabled structure with lower symmetrical wings. Marble front added probably ca. 1851 by second owner, Jesse Brown, who made the building a 5-story, approximately 21-bay structure with balustraded flat roof.

Addendum
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Barney's Restaurant, occupying the last remaining fragment of the pre-Civil War Indian Queen Hotel, is situated at 621 Pennsylvania Avenue. The building is perpendicular to both Pennsylvania Avenue and C Street, and like most lots in this square, forms an obtuse "L" in plan. The site measures 22 feet along Pennsylvania Avenue and 26.5 feet along C Street. The structure is two stories high and has a flat roof. To the east, its neighbor is the Waffle Shop Restaurant, an Art Moderne building of similar size and scale. To the west is an empty lot which separates it from the Fraternal Order of Police Building, a four-story Renaissance Revival Structure.

Faced in white marble, the upper half of the southern facade exhibits a Neo-Classical treatment; it consists of two Greet Revival window bays. An aluminum and glass storefront has been inserted in the first floor. The storefront consists of a glass door to the west with two large plate glass windows. A corrugated aluminum spandrel panel which extends from above the show windows to the sill line of the second story windows and divides the first and second floors. On the second floor, the windows are flanked by slightly projecting piers with Ionic capitals supporting a stone lintel. Above the lintel there is a stone hood with an acroterion centered over it. The original window sash has been replaced with metal sash awning windows over four courses of glass block infill.

The north, or C Street, facade is constructed of brick laid in running bond, above a trabeated stone storefront. On the second floor, this facade has three window bays offset to the west. The street level has a five bay storefront, five stone piers resting on a granite base support stone lintels. The original granite base is visible beneath the boarded up storefront. The central bay has a boarded-up door which at one time provided access to the service entrance. This building was originally part of a much larger structure which has since been replaced with a more modest sized building. Evidence of this change can be seen in the toothing of the brickwork on the second floor and the replacement of the easternmost or sixth stone pier with one of built brick.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The building, originally a fragment of the Indian Queen Hotel, was built long before the Civil War. The original architect of the structure is unknown; however, the architect John Haviland of Philadelphia was responsible for the major alterations and addi-

tions to the structure. In 1850, the building's proprietor at the time, Jesse Brown, hired Haviland to enlarge the structure to a full five stories and to face the entire new front in white marble. In 1851 the hotel was reopened under the name of Brown's Marble Hotel. In 1865 it was renamed the Metropolitan Hotel. The structure remained under this name until the majority of the complex was razed in 1935. The only surviving portion of the original five story, twenty bay Brown's Hotel complex are the first two stories of the two bays at the western end of the building. Thus, this building's architectural significance lies in the early storefront on its C Street facade and the remains of the Haviland facade on Pennsylvania Avenue.