

Duvall Foundry
1050 30th Street, N.W., at C & O Canal
Washington (Georgetown)
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-154
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

DUVALL FOUNDRY

Location: 1050 30th Street (formerly Washington St.), N.W.,
Washington, D.C. West side of street just south of
C. & O. Canal.

Present Owner: Washington Gas Light Co.

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Offices and storage.

Statement of Significance: A good example of mid 19th century commercial building.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following information is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which this structure was built. The site is in Square 1191, lot 822 (formerly, Square 22, lot 27 and part of the north edge of "Wapping".) The references are all to the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia.

1795 Deed April 23, 1795 recorded May 2, 1795 in
Liber BZA folio 283
Thomas Beall et ux Nancy
To
Samuel Williams
Lot 27 - beginning for said lot at boundary #50 and
running Northerly with Washington (30th) St, 48 ft -
westerly 120 feet to outline of Georgetown - with
said outline Southerly to boundary #52 of this addition,
with straight line to beginning.

1805 Deed June 29, 1805. recorded August 13, 1805 in
Liber N folio 128
William Williams, son of Samuel
To
Isaac Owings.
Lot 27 in Thomas Beall's first addition to Georgetown
(\$535).

1836 Deed October 25, 1836 recorded November 12, 1836 in
Liber WB62 folio 176
James S. Owens et ux Eliza A.
Joseph Owens et ux Mary
Rebecca Owens (widow of Isaac Owens)

To
William S. Nicholls
Lot 27 and other land.

1843 Deed in Trust, March 31, 1843 recorded June 17, 1843 in
Liber WB 101 folio 308

William S. Nicholls

To
John Marbury

Among other pieces, "lot 27 in Beall's addition"
fronting on the West side of Washington Street south
of the Canal. To secure debt to Thomas Fowler.

1847 Deed and release June 17, 1847 recorded July 2, 1847 in
Liber WB 132 folio 258

John Marbury, trustee

William S. Nicholls et ux Margaret

To
Albert P. Waugh

1853 Deed March 24, 1854 recorded March 27, 1854 in
Liber JAS 73 folio 310

Albert P. Waugh and wife Rachel

To
William M. Boyce et ux Mary M.

Lots 26 and 27 in Thomas Beall's Addition. #2130.
"Also the following described premises, being all
that piece of ground which fronts on the West side
of Washington Street and bounded as follows: beginning
for the same at the Southwest corner of said lot 27,
and run thence Easterly and at right angles with
Washington St. to the West line of said street,
then Northerly and with the line of said Street to
its intersection with the Southern boundary line of
lot 27 aforesaid, then by and with said together,
boundary line of said lot at the place of beginning."
i.e. part of Wapping to square off lot 27.

1854 Deed July 14, 1854 recorded July 17, 1854 in
Liber JAS 81, folio 27

William M. Boyce et ux Mary M.

To
William T. Duvall
Lots 26 and 27 and part of Wapping, as above.

1856 Deed in Trust July 3, 1854 recorded March 26, 1856 in
Liber JAS 113, folio 241

William T. Duvall

To
Hugh Caperton
Lots 26, 27 and Wapping strip; to secure \$2,200.

- 1856 Deed in Trust March 18, 1856 recorded March 26, 1856 in
Liber JAS 113 folio 244
William T. Duvall et ux Sarah Ann
To
John Marberry (sic)
Same as above.
- 1866 Deed in Trust December 30, 1865 recorded March 15, 1866 in
Liber RMH 15 folio 109
William J. (sic) Duvall et ux Jane
To
J. Carter Marbury
Lots 26, 27 and Wapping stip, to secure \$3,141.02
- 1867 Deed in Trust February 26, 1867 recorded February 26, 1867 in
Liber RMH 30 folio 169
William T. Duvall et ux Jane
To
Charles M. Matthews
To secure \$2,261.22, same lots as above.
- 1874 Deed January 21, 1874 recorded January 29, 1874 in
Liber 743 folio 19
District of Columbia
To
Edwin Knowles
Lots 26, 27 and Wapping strip: "158 feet West side
of Washington Street and 120 feet South side of
Canal, improved."
- 1879 Quit Claim Deed August 12, 1875 recorded June 25, 1879 in
Liber 915 folio 320
Edwin Knowles et ux Clarissa
To
Mary M. Boyce
Charles A. Buckey
John Marbury Jr.
firm of Buckey and Marbury
A. Ross Ray
Albert Ray
firm of A. Ross Ray & Bro.
Lots 26, 27 and strip.
- 1879 Deed May 27, 1879 recorded in
Liber 915 folio 321
Charles A. Buckey
John Marbury Jr.
comprising the firm of "Buckey and Marbury"
A. Ross Ray
Albert Ray
comprising the firm of "A. Ross Ray & Bro."

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GEO
91-

To
Mary M. Boyce
(Lots 26, 27 and strip)

1882 Deed January 2, 1882 recorded February 23, 1882 in
Liber 993 folio 312
Elizabeth Boyce Judson et vir Oliver A.
William Boyce
(Eliz. Boyce Judson & William Boyce sole heirs of
Mary M. Boyce)
To
George E. Noyes
Lots 26, 27 and strips; Consideration \$7500.

1891 Deed April 21, 1891 recorded May 26, 1891 in
Liber 1569 folio 286
George E. Noyes et ux Susannah
To
Lyman A. Littlefield
Lots 26, 27 and strip.

1892 Deed September 24, 1892 recorded October 3, 1892 in
Liber 1732 folio 208
Lyman A. Littlefield et ux Alice
To
Samuel C. Raub, unmarried
Lots 26, 27 and strip, and other land.

1897 Deed in Trust August 6, 1897 recorded in
Liber 2233 folio 421
John D. Coughlan
Harry P. Gilbert
trustees of Samuel C. Raub
To
Cuno H. Rudolph
Max M. Rich
T. Percy Myers
Lots 26, 27 and strip.

1897 Deed in Trust August 6, 1897 recorded September 14, 1897 in
Liber 2233 folio 426
Cuno H. Rudolph
Max M. Rich
T. Percy Myers
trustees
To
G. Thomas Dunlop
William J. Miller
Lots 26 and 27 and strip, and other property, to
secure Coughlan and Gilbert \$2,733.33.

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91-

- 1920 Deed January 9, 1920 recorded March 4, 1920 in
Liber 4345 folio 24
Cuno H. Rudolph
Max M. Rich
T. Percy Myers
trustees
To
John O. Rabbitt
All of Square 1191 for \$20,605.20.
- 1920 Release March 20, 1920 recorded March 24, 1920 in
Liber 4352 folio 36
Charles P. Williams
Walter R. Wilcox
To
John O. Rabbitt
Lot 27 and part of lot 26, Square 1191, also strip
south of lot 27 known as part of Wapping.
Release of trust from Lyman A. Littlefield and wife
Alice, May 25 1891, recorded in Liber 1569 folio 292.
- 1927 Deed in Trust July 29, 1927 recorded July 30, 1927 in
Liber 5921 folio 245
John O. Rabbitt et ux Agnes C.
To
Paul Rea, trustee
Lot 822, which includes lots 26, 27 and Wapping strip.
In trust for sole use and benefit of James H. Caton,
his heir, etc.
- 1943 Deed March 25, 1943 recorded March 26, 1943 in
Liber 7843 folio 277
Paul Rea, trustee
To
V. Stuart Davis
C. Wendel Shoemaker
trustees of the estate of James H. Caton, deceased.
Lot 822.
- 1947 Deed June 27, 1947 recorded July 1, 1947 in
Liber 8522 folio 273
V. Stuart Davis
C. Wendel Shoemaker
trustees
To
Washington Gas Light Co., a D.C. corporation
Lot 822. \$93.50 stamps = \$85,000 consideration.

2. Date of erection: about 1856. The Deed in Trust in Liber
JAS 113, folio 241 to secure \$2,200 suggests that the building

was begun at this time. Duvall had acquired the land in 1854, and as directory listings (see below) indicate that he was a machinist, already living in Washington, it would appear that he set up his own shop at this time. It was standing by 1865, for the Georgetown Assessment records of 1865-70 (National Archives Microcopy 605, group 351, roll 12) records the following for William T. Duvall (p. 574):
lot 26, 27, and west part of Wapping lot: 158 feet
Washington St., 120 feet S. line of canal: \$3000
Improvements: foundry buildings "brick" \$6000

3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc: None known.
5. Alterations and additions: The interior has been substantially changed several times. Tie rods were added some time before about 1914. Some time after 1914 the north lower door was changed to three windows, the west door on the north side was changed to a window and a door. The northern most window on the west side was also bricked over. The building has been painted aluminum.
6. Important old views: The foundry is seen at the right side of a photograph taken about 1914 of lock No. 3 by William L. Vetter. The sign on the building reads "Veterinary Hospital". (See photo copy with this data book.)

B. Historical events connected with structure:

1. Washington directories provide the following information about William T. Duvall:

1850 No entry.
1853 William T. Duvall, machinist, S side 2nd, Petits new house, Georgetown
1855 W. T. Duvall, machinist, 57 2nd St, Georgetown (p. 4 of Georgetown section of Ten Eyck's Washington and Georgetown Directory).
1858, 1864 No entries.
1865 William T. Duvall, machine shop, Washington corner Canal, house, 130 Congress St. (p. 381, Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directory).
1867 Duvall & Co., (William T. Duvall and William L. Dawson) Canal corner Washington, Georgetown. Founders and machinists.
2. On Sanborn's Insurance map of 1903 the building is labeled "veterinary."

3. Washington directories provide the following tenant information:

1915 no listing 1050 30th St.
1916 Philip F. Gormley, stables
1917 Charles Mitchell
1919 Charles Mitchell
1921 J. O. Rabbitt Supply Co.
1923-1929 J. O. Rabbitt Supply Co., coal & feed
1931 Maryland Truck Equipment Co.
1933 Washington Iron & Metal Co. Junk (at 1048)
(all following are at 1048-50)
1935 Harry Steinbraker, junk
1937 Capitol Chemical Co. Inc.
1050, also Kilgore Development Corp.
1939 Capitol Chemical Co; Kilgore Chemical Corp.,
and Kil-In-Sec Co., insecticide mfg.
1943 1048-50: Capitol Chemical Co.
Kilgore Development Corp. (mfg. chemists)
1050: Jesse S. Baggett, stone cutter
Fred Drew Construction Co.
1948 1048-50: Capitol Chemical Co.
Kilgore Chemical Corp.
1050: Foundry Rubber Inc. (paint mfgs.)
Fred Drew Construction Co.
1954 Washington Gas Light Co., training school
1956 same
1960 same
1962 Washington Gas Light Co., storage; rear, welding.
1965 same; storage
1967 same; storage, welding shop.

4. Biographical note on the Beall family:

The name of "Thomas Beall of George" occurs many times in deeds of Georgetown property in the very first years of the 19th century, for he was the third generation of one of the most important land owning families of the town. In this area of Georgetown we find that he owned in 1795 the land that 1050 30th St. is now on, opened up lower Potomac Street in 1798 through land on which Bomford's Mill was later built, and in 1801 owned the land on which 1068 30th Street was built.

His grandfather Ninian Beall was one of the first to settle in the region of Georgetown in the early 18th century, and owned vast tracts of land. He had been born in Scotland in 1625, was captured by Cromwell and Monk at the Battle of Dunbar (1650), and as a prisoner, taken to Maryland about 1655-1658. "In 1703 he received a grant from Lord Baltimore which included much of the ground on which the town stands.

He patented 795 acres of land, which he called Rock of Dumbarton.... He died in 1717 in his ninety-third year." (Cordelia Jackson, "People and Places in Old Georgetown," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, v. 33-34, 1932, p. 135.)

George Beall, (1695-1780) inherited the Rock of Dumbarton tract from his father, and was one of the major landholders when the Maryland Commissioners (authorized May 15, 1751) set about to lay out George-Town. George Beall, and George Gordon (another early settler who ran the Tobacco Inspection House so important for the trade of the area) refused at first to sell the land chosen by the Commissioners, who therefore took it anyway and awarded them 280 pounds, and a right to select two lots each in the new town. Both accepted, but George Beall, on March 7, 1752, objected strenuously: "But I do hereby protest and declare that my acceptance of the said lots, which is by force; shall not debar me from future redress from the Commissioners...." (Richard P. Jackson, The Chronicles of Georgetown, D.C., 1751-1878, Washington, D.C., R. O. Polkinhorn, 1878, p. 5.). It was George Beall who built Dumbarton House (2715 Q Street, N.W.) about 1748.

Although George Beall had two sons, George Beall (jr.) (1730-1807) and Thomas Beall ("of George," as he always styled himself), it was the latter who received his father's Georgetown property, through an agreement with his older brother. On September 26, 1773 he married Ann Orme, daughter of innkeeper John Orme and Lucy Beall. Their daughter Elizabeth married a nephew of George Washington. Just as his father had been important in laying out George-Town, so Thomas Beall of George (1742-1819) was connected with the planning of the District of Columbia. He, along with Robert Peter, William Deakins Jr., and his father George Beall, signed the letter of October 13, 1790 offering George Washington the lands in the area of the proposed Capital at an equitable price, and setting forth the appropriateness of the setting.

From an early time it is clear that Thomas Beall was an important figure in Georgetown civic activity. In 1788, together with Robert Peter and William Deakins Jr., he was chosen as a Commissioner for the construction of a bridge across Rock Creek at the east end of Bridge (M) Street, and advertised for bids at that time. On January 3, 1791 he was elected the second Mayor of Georgetown, and served a one year term. During the planning for the Federal City, when George Washington was in Georgetown, he took part in the discussions, and was later appointed (with John M. Gantt, another Georgetownner) one of the "City Trustees" for the Federal City.

In a letter to these two gentlemen, in 1796, Washington requests them to convey "all lands in the Towns of Carrolsburgh and Hamburgh" to Gustavus Scott, William Thornton, and Alexander White who had been appointed city Commissioners by Congress. ("The Writings of George Washington Relating to the National Capital," CHS, v. 17, pp. 170-171.)

Thomas Beall held large tracts of land in Georgetown, and three of the most important, above the waterfront district, were Dumbarton House (which he sold in 1796), the land which he sold in 1794 to the wealthy shipping merchant Francis Lowndes, and on which Tudor Place was later built, and the land which he sold in 1800 on which Dumbarton Oaks now stands.

Georgetown assessment records of 1800-07 (National Archives Microcopy 605, group 351, roll 7) provides us the following list of his property:

1 lot No. 72 on Water St. [K] and Cherry Alley with improvements	7000
part of lot 79 on the water side with an old house	400
1 lot No. 63 and brick house where Col Plater [?] lives	3000
37 lots in T. Bealls addition	3000
	<u>\$13,400</u>

A subsequent entry in the same assessment book lists "lot on Gay [36th] Street - \$3000" which may be the lot 63 above.

5. Biographical note on John Marbury:

A great number of Georgetown buildings list John Marbury in their chains of title, for he often acted as a trustee. In 1833 he was appointed by the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia to sell 1068 30th Street; in 1843-47 he held in trust 1050 30th Street; in 1849 he held also 1052-54 Potomac; and in 1858, with two other trustees for the defunct Union Bank of Georgetown, disposed of 1069 Jefferson Street, which had been taken over by the Bank in 1828.

Jackson, in his Chronicles of Georgetown notes that among the "several other desirable residences on the heights" of Georgetown, Marbury's house was one of them. (p. 32) His other references to Mr. Marbury are all related to his activities in Christ Episcopal Church, of Georgetown. In 1820-1825 we find him "among the vestry, and active supporters of the church" (p. 195). About 1835 "we also find in the minutes of the vestry...the resignation of Mr. John Marbury, who had filled the laborious office of treasurer for so many years, and to whose energetic efforts the debt which

was contracted in building the Church, and which had hung as an incubus on its prosperity, was finally discharged." (p. 197.) References in 1841 and 1845 show that on Easter morning each year he was among the vestry. In 1847, "extensive repairs and changes were made in the church building under the supervision of Messrs. Lyons, W. R. Abbott, H. C. Matthews, and J. Marbury." (p. 198.) The church building was torn down in 1867.

Prepared by Daniel D. Reiff
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
September, 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: 1050 30th Street represents a typically functional commercial structure erected in the mid-nineteenth century.
2. Condition of fabric: Reinforcement, painting, and changes in openings have marred the exterior; alterations have destroyed the interior.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular structure, measuring 88'5" x about 26', four bays on the south end, three on north, and ten on each side. Two and 1/2 stories, with basement (partially exposed to the south).
2. Foundations: Random range ashlar masonry on the exterior of the foundation wall with rough rubble on the interior.
3. Wall construction: Exterior walls are common red brick with headers every six courses; now painted metallic silver. Voussoirs have been painted a darker shade. Ten recessed bays 5' 8" wide extend the length of the east and west walls, while three and four bays occur on the north and south. Pilaster strips 2' 10" wide merge into a projecting brick surface which continues around the building below the cornice. Five pointed star-shaped tie rod plates are found on the pilaster strips of the east and west walls. At the second floor level on the north and south ends the tie rods occur at the second and third floor levels and below the apexes.
4. Framing: Brick load bearing walls and wood flooring.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A coursed rubble retaining wall with slate coping forms an exterior well containing the straight stair leading to the basement on the east side: 9" treads and 9 1/2" risers.
6. Chimneys: Inside the second pilaster strip north of the south corner on the west wall is a brick chimney, painted red. A triple brick course runs one course below the top.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The recessed two floor bays contain a variety of openings: a flat brick arch over a one light transom above a one pane/two panel wooden door; a segmental arch over a one light/three panel door; a wooden lintel opening containing a single light transom above two single light doors; and a double opening framed by a WF steel lintel over a double wooden door (a pilaster strip stops above the WF lintel in corbeling). Above the single door on the second floor level (west side) is an old wooden lintel enclosed in brick.
 - b. Windows and shutters: An assortment (6/6, 2/2, 1/1) of double hung wood and metal windows occur in flat brick arched openings, some of which have recently been reinforced with steel and wooden lintels. The facade (north elevation) has three bays, the middle one double; in this there is a large three-centered arched opening which has been sealed up. Below this opening there are three 2/2 double hung windows under segmental arches. All other windows on the north facade are similar to the rest of the building except for one which has an arched opening and two which are small rectangular eight light windows.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: A shingle covered north-south gable roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The east and west elevations are crowned by cornices consisting of projected curved metal gutters atop three corbeled brick courses. Along the gable edges run a double projecting brick course.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Detailed Description of Interior:

Alterations and reinforcements, which have been taking place for

many years, have so changed the interior as to make it totally meaningless both architecturally and historically.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and 30th Street, running north and south. The warehouse was well situated for a commercial structure of the nineteenth century, with easy access to rail, canal, river and land transportation.
2. Enclosures: Modern fencing encloses the lot on all sides.
3. Outbuildings: One in poor condition.
4. Walks: A common bond red brick public walk abuts the warehouse on the east. The other sides have asphalt paving.

Prepared by William R. Gwin
Student Assistant Architect
National Park Service
September, 1967