

Nicholas Hedges House  
1069 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.  
Washington (Georgetown)  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-160

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
93-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

NICHOLAS HEDGES HOUSE  
(Federal House)

Location: 1069 Thomas Jefferson St., N.W. (Georgetown), Washington, D.C. East side of street, about halfway between M St. and the C. & O. Canal.

Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs. John K. Mansfield

Present Occupant: Same.

Present Use: Private residence.

Statement of Significance: An attractive early 19th century residence with fine interior details; formerly with a shop on the first floor, living rooms above.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which this house was built. The site is Square 1197, lot 805 (old Square 27, old lot 60 and 61, parts of old sub-lots Nos. 6 and 7). The references are to the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia. N.B.: Variant measurements and overlappings occur because the platted area was not originally measured accurately.

1797 Right of Way January 8, 1797 recorded January 8, 1797 in Liber B folio 619

Robert Peter

To

Corporation of Georgetown

"Beginning at the south side of Bridge Street [M] at the end of 239' 6" in easterly direction from northwest corner of Bridge Street and Fishing Lane and running southerly parallel with Fishing Lane until it intersects the north side of Causeway [K Street] easterly with north side of causeway for the length of 60', northerly parallel with first line to Bridge Street; thence to beginning." Peter conveys as much of the above ground as is included in his lot 60 for a public highway (Thomas Jefferson Street).

1798 Deed August 3, 1798 recorded August 4, 1798 in Liber D folio 22

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
93-

John Howes  
To  
John Thompson  
Conveys lot 61 in Georgetown, commonly called the  
"Spring Lot".

1799 Deed January 30, 1799 recorded May 25, 1799 in  
Liber D folio 269  
John Thompson  
To  
James Thompson  
Lot 61.

1799 Deed May 14, 1799 recorded May 25, 1799 in  
Liber D folio 272  
James Thompson  
To  
Robert Peter  
Lot 61.

1799 Partition May 20, 1799 recorded May 25, 1799 in  
Liber D folio 267  
Robert Peter  
James Thompson  
John M. Gantt  
A division of lot 61 and part of lot 60. "It is  
mutually agreed that said lot 61 and part of lot 60  
shall be divided into 12 lots, as numbered on the  
within map that the lots 12, 11, 7, 6, 1 and 3  
shall be conveyed to Robert Peter...." "Lot 7  
begins at the end of the first line of lot #6,  
[194' from the corner] running thence south with  
Jefferson Street 34 feet, thence east 105 feet to  
Beall's Addition, thence north 34 feet, thence  
west 105 feet to the beginning."

1812 Will of Robert Peter (Jr.) dated June 23, 1809  
Gives his real estate and personal property to his  
brothers Thomas Peter, David Peter and George Peter.  
Letters testamentary issued February 13, 1811.

1812 Partition dated June 17, 1812 recorded October 14, 1812 in  
Liber AD folio 319  
Thomas Peter  
David Peter  
George Peter  
Margaret Dick  
Lots 6, 7, 11 and 12 (of lots 60 and 61) on east side  
of Jefferson Street to George Peter.

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
93-

- 1813 Deed April 2, 1813 recorded September 7, 1813 in  
Liber AF folio 227  
George Peter et ux Ann  
To  
Nicholas Hedges  
183'8" from northeast corner of Bridge and Jefferson  
Streets and southerly from the said corner with east  
side of Jefferson Street. 22'8" easterly parallel  
to Bridge [M] Street, 105' to extremity of the old  
town, northerly with line of old town 22'8" and  
westerly parallel to Bridge St. 105' to Jefferson  
St., and place of beginning." Consideration, \$453.34.
- 1820 Deed of Trust August 16, 1820 recorded August 17, 1820 in  
Liber AZ folio 69  
Trueman Beck  
To  
William Morgan  
Same lot as above; to secure Thomas L. McKenney,  
Superintendent of Indian trade in the sum of \$1326  
for goods and merchandise. This deed also mentions  
the house (on this lot) in which Mr. Beck was living  
and would continue to live although the property was  
being held in trust. Deeds of 1806-1820, however,  
show no transfer of this property to Trueman Beck.
- 1821 Deed November 18, 1820 recorded February 7, 1821 in  
Liber WB1 folio 214  
Nicholas Hedges  
To  
Union Bank of Georgetown  
Consideration, \$1,000 (same lot as above).
- 1828 Deed November 19, 1828 recorded November 21, 1821 in  
Liber WB 23 folio 465  
Tench Ringgold, Marshal  
To  
Union Bank of Georgetown  
Seized and sold by virtue of "fieri facias" in re  
Union Bank of Georgetown vs Trueman Beck (in sum of  
\$2200) (same lot as above).
- 1858 Deed December 3, 1857 recorded December 22, 1858 in  
Liber JAS 166 folio 184  
John Marbury  
Robert Read  
Richard Cruikshank  
To  
Morris Adler

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
93-

183'8" from northeast corner Bridge and Jefferson Streets. First parties execute as trustees of property and effects of late Union Bank of Georgetown.

- 1873 Will of Morris Adler, dated February 14, 1867  
Will Book #12, page 541 (died, 1873)  
Maurice Julius Adler, son )  
William H. Dougal, son-in-law ) executors
- 1897 Will of John M. Adler, M.D. dated June 5, 1897  
Probated March 10, 1904, Equity No. 25497  
Leaves all his property including his "share and interest in the estate" of his father Morris Adler, to wife Harriet Adler.
- 1908 Deed in Trust March 23, 1908 recorded September 26, 1908 in Liber 3174 folio 224  
Maurice J. Adler et ux Gertrude H.  
Harriet B. Adler, widow of John Adler, dec.  
Minnie D. Wheatley et vir Walter T.  
Helen D. Herr et vir Charles  
William M. Dougal  
Virginia D. Leetch et vir William A.  
Grace G. Dougal  
Katherine A. Dougal  
To  
Maurice J. Adler  
William M. Dougal  
"All right, title and interest of first parties in and to all the estate real and personal and of which Morris Adler died seized and possessed."
- 1912 Will of Maurice J. Adler, dated April 16, 1908  
Will Book #78, page 278, (died, July 26, 1912)
- 1918 Deed November 18, 1918 recorded November 20, 1918 in Liber 4132 folio 171  
William M. Dougal  
survivor of the Deed of Trust of 1908 above  
To  
Henry Weaver  
Laura P. Weaver
- 1940 Deed January 8, 1940 recorded January 8, 1940 in Liber 7430 folio 550  
Louise S. Brown  
Lewis J. Brown  
devisees under will of Laura P. Weaver  
To  
Harriet Holther

1947 Deed June 26, 1947 recorded June 27, 1947 in  
Liber 8520 folio 169  
Harriet Holther  
To  
James Kimbel Vardaman Jr. et ux Beatrice Lane

1954 Deed July 9, 1954 recorded July 14, 1954 in  
Liber 10229 folio 567  
James Kimble Vardaman, Jr. et ux Beatrice Lane  
To  
Harold M. Curtiss Jr.

1961 Deed May 22, 1961 recorded June 2, 1961 in  
Liber 805 folio 487  
Harold M. Curtiss, Jr. (unmarried)  
To  
John Kenneth Mansfield  
Jane Shalley Mansfield  
"Begin from 183'8" southerly from south line of  
M St: south on east line of Thomas Jefferson Street  
22'8", thence easterly parallel to Bridge 105'  
to extremity of Old Town; thence northerly parallel  
to Thomas Jefferson 22'8" thence westerly in straight  
line to Jefferson St. and to beginning." Recorded  
as parts of lots 805, 833 and 854, Sq. 1197.

2. Date of erection: Between 1815 and 1819. The Georgetown Assessments of Real and Personal Property of 1813-1818, 1815 and 1818-1819 (National Archives Microcopy 605, Group 351, rolls 9, 10 and 11) provide the following data:
  - 1813: Nicholas Hedges, part lot 60 (22.8') Jefferson - vacant - \$500
  - 1815 Nicholas Hedges, part 60, Georgetown, 22.8 Jefferson - vacant - \$330
  - 1818-19 Trueman Beck, part lot 60 Oldtown, Jefferson 22.8, 3 story B. house \$3500

The chain of title seems to indicate that Hedges was the legitimate owner, and Beck may have been the builder of the house. Further research might straighten out the issue.

3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc: None known.
5. Alterations and additions: Extensive rebricking of the facade suggests that the shop door and widely spaced first

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
93-

floor windows may be later than the original construction. In 1941 Harriet Holter completely restored the interior of the house. At this time the front doorway between the two first story windows was bricked up (see photos taken by R. W. D. Jewett in August 1941 during the restoration; copy photos with this data book, originals in possession of Mr. & Mrs. Mansfield). The doorway between the front and rear ground floor rooms was enlarged, and a modern utilities wing was added to the rear to house modern kitchen, bath, laundry, etc. A rear porch was also added, and the brickwork of the house repointed. The facade is now painted to mask the rebricking.

6. Important old views: An old photograph in the Library of Congress, Dept. of Prints and Photographs, shows the house with its shop-door at the extreme right of the photograph (Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture No. DC/Geo/6-1.)

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

1. Nicholas Hedges:

From 1813 to 1821 Nicholas Hedges owned 1069 Thomas Jefferson Street, and it was during this time, between 1815 and 1819 that the house was built, apparently by Trueman Beck. Mr. Hedges owned various property in Georgetown. In Richard Jackson's Chronicles of Georgetown, D.C., 1751-1878, (Washington, D.C., R.O. Polkinhorn, 1878) we find that he was a pew holder in the Presbyterian church on the 1805 to 1808 list (p. 155). The Assessments of 1800-07 (National Archives Microcopy 605, Group 351, roll 7) show that he held the following property:

1 lot on the Causway [sic]	400
1 improved lot on High St. [Wisc. Ave.]	1300
1 improved lot on Washington [30th] St.	900
1 cow	15
furniture	100
	<u>\$2715</u>

2. Tench Ringgold:

As Marshall of the District of Columbia, Tench Ringgold often appears in Georgetown deeds. Here, for example, we see that he transferred this property to the Union Bank of Georgetown in 1828 after it had been seized by the court from Trueman Beck. Mr. Ringgold seems to have been a man of some position, for he is mentioned several times in Mrs.

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
93-

William Thornton's diary for 1800. On February 23, 1800 he came to the Thorntons' house (in the Federal City) to look at an English Mare he wanted to buy (Records of the Columbia Historical Society, v. 10, p. 110). On April 23, "Mr. Tench Ringgold took the English Mare away." (p. 133). Mrs. Thornton notes that on October 28, 1800 "Mr. Tench Ringgold came to dinner." (p. 206). He also owned several "rope walks" where rope was made, one in the vicinity of Greenleaf point, and another (before 1812) on the Mall opposite the center Market, which he operated with a Mr. Heath. After the war of 1812 he assisted the rebuilding: "General Van Ness, Richard Bland Lee, and Tench Ringgold were appointed a commission by President Madison for the reconstruction of public buildings, March, 1815." (CHS, v. 22, p. 154.)

3. John Marbury: see HABS No. DC-154.
4. Morris Adler, who owned the house from 1857-1873 was Secretary of the Potomac Lodge No. 5 from 1855 to 1861, and from 1871 to 1873.
5. John Gantt:

John Gantt participated with Robert Peter and James Thompson in the partition of lots 60 and 61 in 1799 (Liber D folio 267). The assessment records for 1800 to 1807 give us a good idea of this gentleman's wealth and property holdings. (Microcopy 605, Group 351, roll 7)

2 lots in Beatty Addn	400
2 lots in Beatty Addn	800
1 lot near old warehouse	800
13 lots in Holmeads Addition	1300
1 negro man	140
2 negro women	200
1 girl and child	100
2 horses & Pheaton	300
1 cow	10
furniture	400
	<u>\$4450</u>

6. Mrs. Gertrude Ochs, 1074 Thomas Jefferson St., a long time resident of the area recalls that for "many years" the lower floor, with its separate entrance, was a shop in which cigars were made. Both lower rooms were used. (Interview, September 7, 1967.)

7. Washington directories provide the following tenant information:

1915-29 Henry J. Weaver  
1931-37 Mrs. Laura Weaver  
1939 Lilian M. Denton  
1941 vacant  
1943 Thomas Bancroft  
1948-54 James K. Vardaman, owner  
1956 Harold M. Curtiss, owner  
1960 David M. Bane  
1961-67 Mr. & Mrs. John K. Mansfield

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.  
National Archives Microcopy 605, Group 351, rolls 9, 10 and 11.
2. Secondary and published sources: Journal of the Columbia Historical Society.  
Richard P. Jackson, The Chronicles of Georgetown, D.C. 1751-1878, Washington, D.C., R. O. Polkinhorn, 1878.
3. Likely sources not yet investigated: Further search of information on Hedges and Beck.

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

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This simple Federal house has a fine interior, with four original mantels, various ceiling and base moldings, and other ornamented pieces. Though it has been slightly altered in recent years, the layout is essentially the same as when it was a combination shop and residence.
2. Condition of fabric: The west elevation has lost practically all of its original Flemish bond. Reinforcing devices have made the building structurally sound. The interior, and the ell containing the modern utilities are well maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Rectangular structure oriented east-west, measuring 21'2" by 34'4" with an addition projecting to the rear, which measures 21' 3" long. Three bay facade, 2 1/2 stories, with the basement exposed under the porch at the rear.
2. Foundations: Brick foundation walls are evident in the basement.
3. Wall construction: The remains of a fine Flemish bond red brick wall are apparent on the edges of the west elevation; the central area is in common bond (with headers every six rows) and the whole facade is painted red. This same common bond occurs on south elevation. The new addition on the east is common bond with headers every seven rows. The northern partition is a party wall.
4. Framing: Load bearing brick walls with wood joist system.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: The front entrance is two steps down a small brick entrance well. The entranceway is set in a 1' 2 3/8" wooden paneled reveal; 11 1/2" of the reveal is veneered with white wooden paneling (eight panels). Two white wooden porches have been added above the sunken brick patio adjacent to the east side of the house. The upper porch is awkwardly situated because the entrance to it is through a window.
6. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, now covered with concrete, are located against the north wall midway up the east and west slopes. Both are rectangular in shape, with courses stepped back as they approach the top. Both have projecting terracotta flues.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance, located near the south corner on the west facade, is a round arched opening. The deep wooden paneled reveal encloses a round arch transom with Gothic arch shaped lights separated by curved wooden muntins above a heavy six panel wooden door. In 1941 a doorway with a segmental arch was removed from between the two windows on the west elevation; this was the entrance to the ground floor shop.

- b. Windows and shutters: Six over six double hung wooden sash windows on the first and second floors are protected beneath metal frame storm windows containing two large panes of glass. The windows have steel lintels and are flanked by double panel fixed louver shutters (painted dark green) on the second floor, west elevation. The first floor windows, however, are under segmental arches and have shutters hinged only on one side. The windows have stone sills below. Shutter catches hold shutters on the first floor level on the west elevation.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The steep north-south gable roof is covered in metal and painted red.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A continuous wooden strip with metal flashing forms a sort of frieze, east and west eaves also have a curved metal gutter.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Two dormers with metal covered gable roofs are symmetrically placed on the west slope. Each has a four pane fanlight above a six over six double hung window enclosed by two simple small wooden pilasters and a simple open pediment with returned cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: East-west side hall with two rooms to the north on each floor. See measured plan of first floor.
2. Stairways: Stairs have simple, well designed newel posts and balusters, running dog stringer appliques, and pendant bosses at turns. The main stair is dog-leg with runs of 12 and 5; 7" risers and 10 3/4" treads; the wooden rectangular balusters are painted white. The circular handrail is flattened on the bottom side. From the landing are 4 steps to the bathroom in the second floor ell. Stairs to the third floor have a run of 11 and 6, with 3 winders going to the porch on the top of the ell. A straight stair goes to the basement.
3. Flooring: Wood planks about six inches wide.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls, usually with chair moldings, are plastered or papered; in one room, there is a three inch beaded wooden wainscoting. Ceilings are plaster.

5. Doorways and doors: Doorways have simple architraves. Most interior doors are wooden 5 panels with the top two panels smaller. There is a nicely handled 8 5/8" thick wooden hall arch.
6. Decorative features and trim: Three types of ceiling moldings are found: foliated cavetto molding with a cable base; simple cable molding; and repetitive half circles molding. Heavy, well carved chair and base moldings occur throughout.
7. Notable hardware: Lock boxes (3 7/8" x 7 1/4") with brass knobs.
8. Lighting, type fixtures: Modern ceiling and table incandescent lighting.
9. Heating: Fireplaces are still in use, though the house has gas furnace steam heat. Finely handled mantels exist throughout, three of which are of beautiful dark wood with an abundance of reeding and well-handled moldings. The side colonnettes vary, but all rest on squared plinths. Superimposed on these are well carved entablature shelves. In the second floor living room is a more ornate blond mantel with decorative compo motifs. Unlike the others which have simple reeded and carved friezes, this one is ornamented with applied swag-like foliated decor. The center panel contains a small bas-relief of Diana and her dog.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Facing west onto Thomas Jefferson between M Street and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, this late Federal house is located in an old residential group.
2. Enclosures: Modern wooden and brick fence around rear court.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: To the west it abuts a tree-lined red herringbone brick public walk.
5. Landscaping: A rear court of flat basket weave red brick is surrounded by ivy, roses, ferns, geraniums, magnolias, and apple trees.

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