

709 D Street (Commercial Building)
(Union Hardware Decorator Center)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-584

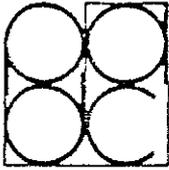
HABS
DC,
WASH,
298-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

HABS
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WASH,
298-



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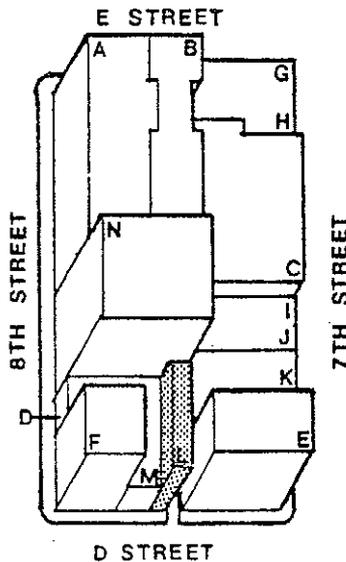
DEVROUAX & PURNELL
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COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

709 D Street, NW
(Union Hardware Decorator Center)
Lot 802



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 431, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 431, see HABS No. DC-574.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This four-story commercial-residential building was built in 1904. It is located on the north side of D Street on Square 431, adjacent to the mid-block alley. The building entirely covers lot 802, and measures eighteen by seventy feet. To the rear or north there is an adjacent, one-story storage shed that forms part of the neighboring row structure to the west.

The structural system is representative of this building type in Washington. It consists of brick bearing walls with wood-framed floors and a flat roof. The facade is organized into two bays and features simple Romanesque detailing. At sidewalk level there is a mid-twentieth century storefront.

The alley, or east elevation, is brick laid in common bond. It has nine window bays with segmentally arched openings. A tenth bay on the southern end is blind. A metal fire escape projects from the building over the alley at the midpoint of the elevation's length.

The interior spaces are also representative of this building type. On the retail level, the space is basically open with storage areas to the rear. On this level, there is communication with the adjacent building through openings on the party wall, as both buildings form part of the same retail establishment. The basement is also open in plan and used for storage. Although not accessible, the upper floors were described by the current commercial tenants as the original "one-room apartments" or tenements. Upper floors are accessible through a straight-run staircase that rises along the west wall.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

709 D Street was designed by I. Grenueller, architect, in 1903-1904 and built by W-F Basin, contractor (Building Permit #1192, 2/26/1904). The building's greatest significance lies in the retention of the originally intended functions of housing over retail, a building type that dominated the downtown area at the turn of the century. Original finishes may be extant on the upper floors. The restrained Romanesque and Italianate detailing give its facade a character robust enough to establish the building's individuality in a block that is dominated by taller corner buildings.

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Facade: The brick and stone south facade is symmetrically divided into two bays on the upper three floors. On the ground level, the

storefront arrangement is slightly offset to the east to permit an independent entrance to the upper floors. While the storefront is entirely modern, the paneled entrance door to the tenement seems to be original. Each bay on the upper levels features a single opening with a large rough-hewn stone lintel and a stone sill. Inside each opening there are paired double-hung wood windows separated by a wood mullion. Lights are one-over-one.

On the roof parapet there is a projecting modillioned metal cornice that returns inwards in a quarter-circle curve as it meets the large brick piers at each end of the facade. The piers rise from projecting carved stone blocks at fourth-floor lintel height and continue past the top of the parapet to be capped with metal ornaments. Below the cornice, a stone belt course spans the distance between the piers.



Main Facade



Detail of Cornice

Lot 3
709-713 D Street

Located in a southwest sector of the square, Lot 3 has a O Street frontage of 42', with a 100' depth. It was separated from Lot 2 by an alley in the late 1800's (Hopkins, 1892).

1819.....Thomas Law owned the southwest property, measuring 42' x 100'.

1824.....Lot 3 has three property owners: Owen McClue's heirs were assessed \$319.00; John Ersleine's heirs were assessed \$319.00, \$7500.00 for improvements; Thomas Law was assessed \$213.00.

1829/33...McGlue's ownership was transferred to Charles Bell, whose assessments were \$355.00 (lot) and \$800.00 (improvements). Erskine's property was now under Kennedy Donoho, who was assessed \$250.00 (lot) and \$700.00 (improvements). The final assessment was to Owen McGlue (heirs), \$3550.00 (lot) and \$3,000.00 (improvements).

1844.....The lot was not titled to Robert S. Wharton, \$878.00 for his land, and Charles Bell, \$383.00 also for the land.

1859.....Wharton was assessed \$3,656.00. Bell's assessment was \$1,594.00 (land).

1870.....Improvements on Lot 3 totalled \$2,480.00.

1872/73...Robert Wharton was the sole owner of Lot 3. His assessment was \$12,600.00.

1878/79...The lot value decreased to \$11,550.00. Thomas Dunn, a restaurant owner, was listed in the City Directories at 709 O Street.

1880
to

1885.....James L. Suman was established at 713 D Street, a plumber.

1883/84...Again, the assessment dropped to \$8,400.00. From 1881-1884 John B. Deters, restaurant owner, is listed as tenant at 709 O Street.

1886/99...709 O Street had intermittently accommodated various restaurant establishments. These were owned by Lucas G. Milovich, Nicholas Weyland,

Louis Oriani, James C. McGiir, Robert S. Snook.

1892.....The Hopkins Plat Map reveals a "T-shaped" partition wall. The eastern section included a rear partition, running east-west.

1893/94...The ownership was transferred to Charles Baum. The assessment was \$13,650.00 for the lot, \$5,000.00 for improvements.

1894

to

1900.....John W. Hurley, a plumber, was tenant of 715 D Street.

1903.....Adolph Stern and Samuel Ganss, commission merchants, and Aaron Goldman, a notions seller, occupied the building at 713 D Street in the early 1900's.

The western section's east-west wall was removed (Baists Plat Map).

1904.....A February 26 permit was issued to David H. Hazan. It granted the building of a four-story brick and stone dwelling at 709 D Street, to be used as a restaurant (first floor) and rooms. (Building Permit #1192. Cost: \$8,500.00.)

A Building Permit for 711-713 D Street was issued to David H. Hazan, owner, and R.M. Snook, occupant. Occupied as a store, the building underwent rear alterations (windows installed). (Building Permit #1961-1/2, 6/15/1904.)

1905.....A permit to David H. Hazan at 709 D Street was issued to cut one door opening 5' wide in the party wall. 6" steel beams were to be placed over the opening (Building Permit #1595, 2/17/1905).

1906

to

1913.....Establishments on 709 D Street included the Imperial Hotel and the Hotel Burdine.

1921

to

1925.....Mary Sweet Candy Company occupied the structure at 709 D Street. A 709 D Street permit to E. Herdenheimer granted permission to erect one

show window, 3' x 7'-6". (Building Permit #6316, 4/23/1921. Cost: \$500.00.)

1927.....Red Men's Hall was listed at 713 D Street at this date. It was joined in 1940 by the Sioux Tribe No. 18, Red Wing Tribe No. 20, Osage Tribe No. 6, Idaho Tribe No. 15, and the Greater Council Improved Order of Headsmen. All were tenants until 1942 (City Directories).

1942

to

1981.....The Union Hardware Company has occupied the 711 D Street building. Prior to 1954, the address was 709 D Street (City Directories).

1960

to

1964.....Irving's Camera Exchange was the tenant at 709 D Street.

1967

to

1981.....The building at 709 D Street has been occupied by Union Hardware Decorator Center.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map