

Nordlinger Building
3128 M Street, N.W.
Georgetown
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-116

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DC
GEO
75 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

NORDLINGER BUILDING

HABS
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75-

Location: 3128 M Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. Note that M Street was known as Bridge Street in 1877 and previous to that time.

Present Owner: William Brodofsky, 3128 M Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Present Occupant: Peoples Store (William Brodofsky)

Present Use: Clothing store with living quarters above.

Statement of Significance: This building is an unusually elaborate representative of Georgetown commercial architecture with living quarters over the store area.

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 the structure was built. The site is in Square 1199, Lot 812, Lot 9 of Old Georgetown. The reference for this information is the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia.

1812 Deed of partition June 17, 1812, recorded October 14, 1812 in Liber AD, folio 319.

Robert Peter

To

David Peter

1816 Sarah Peter

George Peter

Leonard H. Johns

All executors of David Peter June 11, 1816.

1822 Deed in trust recorded June 4, 1822 in Liber WB 61, folio 82.

Edward Davis

To

Meade Fitzhugh

1837 Deed April 14, 1837 recorded April 27, 1837 in Liber WB 62, folio 520.

James B. Beverly et ux

To

John Marbury

"James Beverly and wife Jane et al. being the surviving heirs at law and devisees of David Peter and of William Peter, both deceased, William being in his life one of heirs at law of David Peter by their certain deed of conveyance bearing the date March 10, 1836."

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- 1844 Deed November 9, 1843, recorded January 19, 1844
in Liber WB 104, folio 463.
John Marbury
To
John Ratcliffe
"Sale of real estate of the heirs of David
Peter made by John Marbury by deed of trust on
15 April 1836."
- 1853 Deed in trust, November 3, 1853, recorded December
3, 1853 in Liber WB 104, folio 463.
Joseph Ratcliffe
To
Albert F. Yerby
Adonis L. Yerby
- 1870 Deed May 7, 1870, recorded May 11, 1870 in
Liber 616, folio 127.
Albert F. Yerby
Adonis L. Yerby
Mary S. Yerby
To
Wolf Nordlinger
Same deed is recorded November 6, 1871 in
Liber 662, folio 425.
Deed
Jacob W. Nordlinger
To
Isaac B. Nordlinger
Through the will of Sarah Nordlinger
- 1920 Deed recorded November 9, 1920 in
Liber 4400, folio 333.
Benoit Baer, Jr.
To
William Brodofsky and wife.

2. Date of erection: Probably late 19th Century.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations: At the District Building Permit
Office only one permit is on record:
217634 Dated October 1938: "repair stairs in back
of building."
However, there seem to have been many alterations,
especially on the interior.
6. Important old views: None.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Washington directories provide the following tenant information:

- 1906-1919 Baer Clothing Store
(Under various names during this period.)
- 1920-1922 Gurowitz Dry Goods Store
- 1923 Vacant
- 1924-1966 Peopla Store (William Brodofsky) Clothing.

Prepared by Dr. James Philip Noffsinger
Architect
National Park Service
August 15, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: One of the most elaborate of the M Street commercial structures, the Nordlinger Building's Roman revival facade is intact above the street floor. The facade's articulation and embellishment make an elevation of considerable vitality and character, marred only by alterations to the shop front.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair; upper facade is in generally good condition.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 20'-6" (four bays) x approximately 75'; three-and-one-half stories in height.
2. Foundations: Field stone.
3. Wall construction: Common bond and molded-brick facade is articulated by pilasters and arcades. Upper facade is divided just below third-floor windows by dentil course and belt-course stone sill. At second floor, four triple-offset round arches, with outer faces ornamented by two sets of hemispherical bosses, spring from geometrically abstract capitals. Molded-brick flattened segmental arches of third-floor windows have similar bosses. Upper pilasters project into fourth floor and support arches similar to those below. Upper arches spring above stamped tin composite capitals to enframe low windows set at approximately floor-level.

South elevation is of common bond with headers every six courses.

4. Chimneys: Because of high roof and surrounding structures, chimneys are difficult to record. There is apparently at least one--of brick, 1'-8" square -- over the west wall and two, of the same approximate dimensions, over the east wall.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Main doorway is set well back within altered store front; large transom above extends to ceiling. Ancillary door to west is set within extremely high enframements, opens into stair hall.
 - b. Windows and shutters: One-over-one-light double-hung wooden sash, upper second-floor sash round-arched. Third-floor windows rectangular, wooden infill under segmental arches. Single-paned fourth-floor windows set within stilted arches. Rear windows have two-over-two-light double-hung wooden sash.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Roof slopes slightly to south; covering unknown.
 - b. Framing: Unknown.
 - c. Cornice, eaves: Elaborate modillioned cornice with terminal consoles projects over single-paneled tympanum and rinceau frieze. Entire element is made of stamped tin.
 - d. Dormers: None.
- C. Technical Description of Interior: Side-hall plan.
- D. Site:
 1. General setting and orientation: The Nordlinger Building faces north onto M Street, N.W. just east of the intersection of that street with Wisconsin Avenue, one block north of the C & O Canal.
 2. Enclosures: Nona.
 3. Outbuildings: Nona.

4. Walks: Fronts on concrete public sidewalk to the north.

Prepared by Thomas R. Martinson
Student Assistant Architect
National Park Service
September 2, 1966

ADDENDUM TO:
NORDLINGER BUILDING
3128 M Street Northwest
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS DC-116
HABS DC, GEO, 75-

COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001