

Pendleton & Robinson Law Offices
306 Sixth st.
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-513

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DC
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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

306 Sixth Street NW is a small, two story (plus basement) structure with an attic under the gabled roof. To the rear or west, there is a one story addition consisting of several rooms with shed and flat roofs. A small courtyard occurs at the northwest corner of the lot.

The original portion of the building is rectangular in plan and spans the full width of the lot. The foundation walls along the property lines are brick. An additional foundation wall supporting the stair that leads to the basement is of stone. Wood framed floors rest on brick bearing walls which are continuous from the basement to the gables. The roof has been altered by the addition of one dormer on the east and two on the west.

The brick facade has retained its original simplicity. On the ground floor the main doorway presents a "colonial style" wooden surround which is a fairly recent addition. The main entry is flanked on each side by jack-arched window openings whose sills are at floor level. On the north end an arched opening gives access to the stairway to the upper floors. The second floor has three unevenly spaced windows, which are also jack-arched. The gabled dormer on the roof contains twin windows divided by a wooden mullion. All second-story sash are six-over-six double hung wooden units. On the ground level, window sash are fixed and consist of a large light with a transom above.

The original interior layout of the building and thus, the finishes have been thoroughly altered to accommodate the current office needs. On the ground floor, all original partitions have been removed to create a single open space with additional offices housed in the rear additions. The second floor is reached by an enclosed on the front or east. The open stair to the attic is located at rear center and has a dog-leg lay-out.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

There are no building permits available to record alterations to the building. Nevertheless, it is readily apparent that drastic changes to this old structure have resulted in the removal of most of the original interiors. This Federal building appears to date from the first half of the Nineteenth Century. It is an excellent example of very early development in downtown Washington.

The evolution of the surrounding areas has removed this structure from its original context, reducing it to an urban curiosity.