

443 Seventh St., NW
(D.C. Space)
Washington
District of Columbia

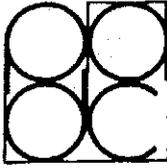
HABS No. DC-600

HABS
DC,
WASH,
340-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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



**PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**
425 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

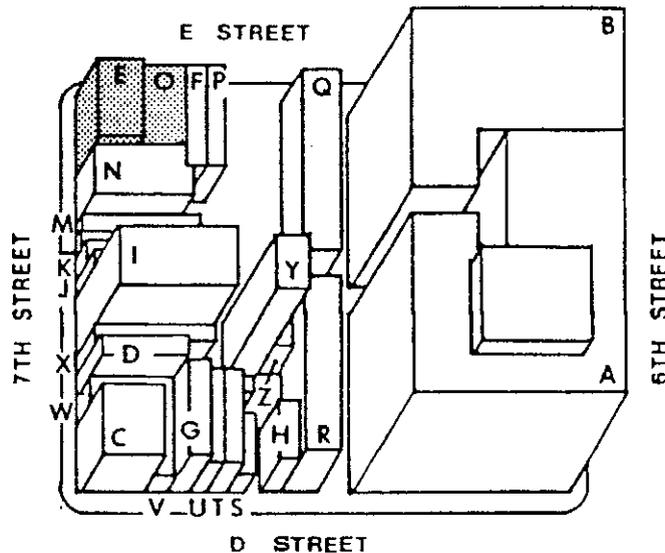
GENERAL CONSULTANTS
ANDERSON NOTTER/MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
DEVROUX & PURNELL
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID MCLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS
DC,
WASH,
340-

D. C. Space
443 Seventh Street, NW
Lot 826



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 457, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 457, see HABS No. DC-597.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This mid-Nineteenth Century brick commercial building features many of the architectural characteristics common in structures of its period. It completely fills its lot at the northwest corner of Square 457, measuring seventy-seven feet along E Street, and twenty-seven feet along Seventh Street. The building features a projecting denticulated entablature above the first floor level. The north (E Street) facade is divided into two sections, each with four bays marked by the bracketed cornice. The west section is four-stories high; its western-most bay is blind. The eastern four-bay section is three-stories high. Here, six windows per floor, which do not correspond to the cornice's four-bay division, are set significantly closer together than in the west bays on the same facade. Two chimneys rise from the four-story section of the building and are visible only from E Street. The only noteworthy projection is that of the show windows at the pedestrian level. There are recesses for each of the three entrances, one of which is located on E Street and the other two of which are located on Seventh Street. The entrance on E Street is located on the eastern-most bay. One of the entrances on Seventh Street is approximately centered. The other one is set to the extreme right (south) and leads to the upper floors.

The predominant material used in the exterior construction is pressed red brick. The trabeated windows have stone sills, wooden sashes and one-over-one glazing. They are reduced in height with each additional floor. The mansard storefront has metal shingles. The show windows are constructed of metal frames that rest on top of a ceramic tile veneer base. The cornice is wooden.

The interior plan divides the space at each level into different configurations of three rooms. Among the interesting interior details are the high ceilings and geometric frieze with egg-and-dart molding on the first floors. Both first and second floors have pressed tin ceilings. The third floor has three Tuscan columns while the attic has a gabled skylight.

The building primarily serves the small collective of artisans in the downtown area as a restaurant on the lower level and studios on the upper levels. There is a wine bar (formerly a barber shop) on the first floor fronting E Street.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The architects of 443 Seventh Street are unknown, but building department date reveals that the structure was standing before 1877. The building is of note primarily for its relative antiquity and its fine bracketed cornice. The facades of its western portion in particular are handsomely proportioned with plain brick surfaces and windows that are reduced in height on upper floors. Generally, the building utilizes the straight-forward construction and composition techniques typical for unpretentious buildings of its time.

The building acts as an important visual anchor for the adjacent rows of small buildings on E Street and Seventh Street.

September 1979



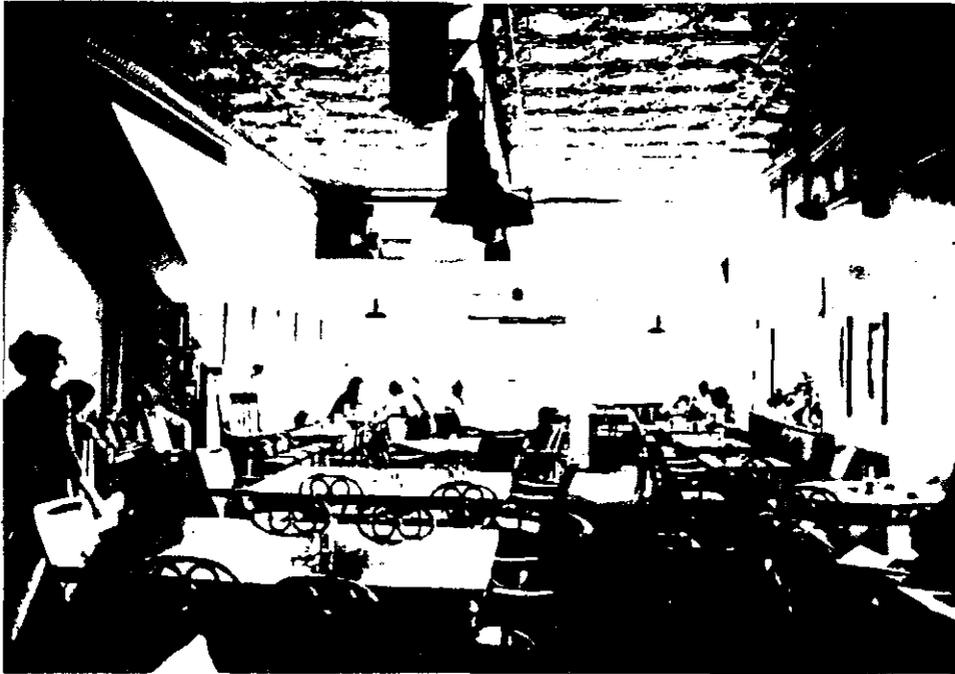
SEVENTH STREET (WEST)
FACADE



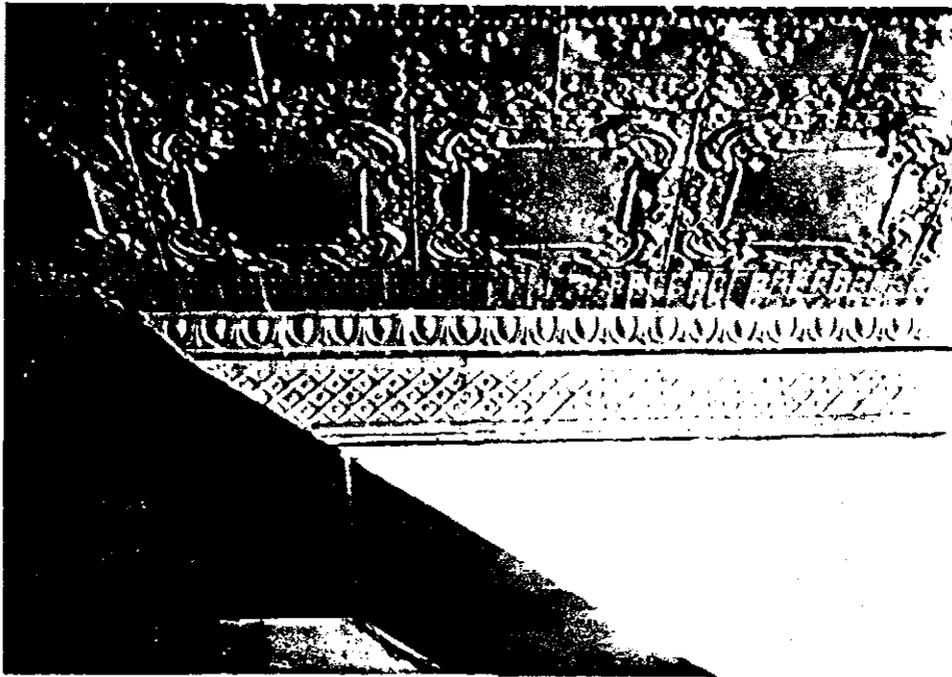
E STREET (NORTH) FACADE



WEST FACADE: DETAIL
OF CORNICE AT
NORTHWEST CORNER



WESTWARD VIEW OF GROUND FLOOR RESTAURANT



GROUND FLOOR RESTAURANT: DETAIL OF CEILING



ROOM ON SECOND FLOOR



WINE BAR (FORMER BARBER SHOP) AT 628 E STREET

Lot 14 (Sublots 825, 826)
437, 439, 441, 443 Seventh Street, NW

Lot 14 is situated at the northwest corner of Square 457, on the corner of Seventh Street and E Streets, N. W. The lot measures 75 feet along Seventh Street and close to 80 feet along its E Street side. Sometime between 1887 and 1903 the lot was subdivided into two sublots designated 825 and 826. The southern subplot, or Sublot 825 measured 50 feet along its Seventh Street side and 80 feet deep. This lot was further subdivided into three sublots identified as 437, 439, and 441 Seventh Street. Sublot 825 now houses the Boyce & Lewis Shoe store built in 1877. The northern subplot, or Sublot 826 is identified as 443 Seventh Street and measures 27 feet along its seventh Street side. The D. C. Space Building now occupies Sublot 826, and was also built in ca. 1877.

1819.....Lot 14 was assessed in the name of John R. Plater according to the District of Columbia Tax Records.

1829/33..Lot 14 was assessed \$2248.00 for the ground and \$3500.00 for the improvements to the property, in the name of Jimmy Pickering.

1844.....Lot 14 was assessed in the name of Rapheal Simmes for \$2249.00.

Lot 14 (Sublot 826)
443-445 Seventh Street

The northern section of Lot 14, or Sublot 826, is situated at the northwest corner of Square 457. It measures seventy-seven feet along E Street and twenty-seven feet along Seventh Street. The D. C. Space building completely fills Lot 826 today.

1855

to

1867.....The claim agent John Johnson was listed as the occupant of 443 Seventh Street according to the City Directories.

1862

to

1873.....The clothing company of Bar and Brother was listed in the City Directories as the tenant of the building.

1865

to

1874.....John McKenney, a real estate broker occupied space in the building situated at 443 Seventh Street.

1870.....The tax assessment records indicate that Lot 826 was assessed in conjunction with Lot 15 for \$10,000.00.

1877

to

1918.....The Eiseman and Brothers clothing company leased space in the building for a period of forty-two years according to the City Directories.

1878/79...The northern portion of Lot 14 was assessed \$10,008.00 in the name of Fred A. Tschiffley & T.G. Addison, trustees of S.G. Johnson.

1883/84...Fred A. Tschiffley was assessed \$9264.00 for the property.

1893/94...Fred A. Tschiffeley's assessment rose to \$11,201.00.

1899/

1900.....The assessment of the northern portion of Lot 14 remained at \$11,201.00; however, the improvements to the property were valued at \$6500.00 in the name of Fred A. Tschiffeley and T.G. Addison, trustees of S.G. Johnson.

1919

to

1923.....The Kleins, Inc. clothing store was situated at 443-445 Seventh Street according to the City Directories.

1924

to

1930.....Louis K. Liggett operated a drug store in this building for seven years.

1924

to

1948.....Sam Johnston operated a dental clinic at 443-445 Seventh Street.

1928

to

1942.....A dentist, Benjamin Leon occupied an office at 443-445 Seventh Street.

1931

to

1948.....The dentist L. K. Liggett leased space in the building.

1954

to

1967.....The American Dental Lab was listed as an occupant of the building, according to the City Directories.

1981.....The building currently serves the small collective of artists in the downtown area as a restaurant on the lower level and studios on the upper levels. There is a wine bar on the first floor fronting E Street.

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

Addendum To
443 Seventh Street, NW (Commercial Building)
(D.C. Space)
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-600

HABS
DC,
WASH,
340-

PHOTOGRAPHS

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