

Stohlman's Confectionary
1254 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Georgetown
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-104

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PHOTOGRAPHY
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

STOHLMAN'S CONFECTIONARY

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Location: 1254 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
(Note: Also listed as: 1254 32nd Street and
75 High Street).

Present Owner: Coiffeur Incorporated.

Present Occupant: Coiffaur Incorporated.

Present Use: Beauty Salon, unoccupied apartments above.

Statement of
Significance: Stohlman's Confectionary has an ornate facade
and a rare survival, the original late 19th
century shop fittings (now in the Smithsonian
Institution). It served many very prominent
people for a century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in Square 1218 lot 99 (also referred to as part of lot 87 and lot 88). Only two deeds referring to this property were found:

1858 Deed January 16, 1858 recorded January 18, 1858 in
Liber JAS 148 folio 74
Robert L. Martin et ux Mary E.
and John Collins
To
Augustus Brown

1862 Deed March 7, 1862 recorded July 23, 1862 in
Liber JAS 222 folios 114-116
Augustus Brown et ux
To
Ann Griselda Anderson

Frederick Stohlman apparently acquired the property in 1866. It remained in the Stohlman family until 1957.

2. Date of erection: Probably 1880's (based on stylistic characteristics).
3. Architect: Not known.

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: No information located.
6. Important old views: None.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

In 1820 Arnold's Bakery was located at this address. The following listings are from Washington directories located in the Washingtoniana Room of the Central Branch of the District of Columbia Library.

1830 John Whita, baker
1834 Frederick Pascal, baker
1853 Philip May, baker
1866 Frederick Stohlman, baker and confectioner

Note: Philip May is listed through the 1865 directory. Mrs. May was the aunt of Frederick Stohlman. The baking business, was evidently sold to Mr. and Mrs. May in 1845 and then resold to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stohlman in 1865. Frederick Stohlman transferred the business to J. William Stohlman the father of the last owner, William Stohlman.

The confectionary was a very popular store in Georgetown for almost a century. When the business ceased on July 14, 1957 it was suggested that the unaltered surviving interior of this ice cream parlor be preserved by donation to a museum. This was accomplished, and a section of the interior of the building is on permanent display in the Hall of Everyday Life in the American Past, Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Prepared by Dr. James Philip Noffsinger
Architect
National Park Service
August 18, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

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A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Sited on an irregular lot, this example of Georgetown commercial architecture combined a typically ornate facade with a noteworthy unaltered 19th century shop interior (now removed to the Smithsonian Institution).
2. Condition of fabric: Exterior fabric is in generally good condition. The ground floor interior (of Stohlman's Confectionery) has been added to the Smithsonian Institution collections. Second floor areas in generally fair condition; upper floor gutted.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 29'-7" (four bays) x 97'-2" (including later additions); three stories.
2. Foundations: Sandstone.
3. Wall construction: Red smooth-finish face brick of common bond with headers every 9 courses. Although facade has been relatively unaltered, some repair work has been done on sides and rear.
4. Chimneys: Brick chimney (approximately 2' x 3') atop original building; brick chimney of same size on addition; five more (approximately 2' square) on addition.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two double door openings (main: 4'-7" wooden opening; south: 3'-9" wooden opening). Main doors date from c. 1880. South door is glazed, transom above filled recently with sheet metal. Round-arched north (main) door has larger glazing, transom above, granite step below; paneled reveal. Simple wooden door at third floor level on south elevation once received materials via hoist.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Two-over-two-light double-hung wooden sash, no evidence of exterior shutters. Two central second-floor windows lengthened to floor level below lower sliding sash. Window openings incorporate segmental arch with incised wooden-paneled infilling, molded brick lintels

(egg and dart) and five-course molded brick belt course. Dependency windows six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash, wooden sills, flat arch lintels; spacing on south elevation is irregular.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Flat roof of undetermined covering.
- b. Framing: Wood.
- c. Cornice, eaves: Pressed metal cavetto cornice ornamented by incised palmettes "supported" by five projecting incised brackets; capping cornice decorated with square faceted bosses, curves to embrace false tympanum on which is painted "Established 1819" - "Keystone" at top of arched element.
- d. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Shop area floor is elevated the height of one riser approximately half way to rear wall; at this point, retail area is separated vertically from fountain parlor. On second floor, space over retail area has side hall plan with two large rooms separated by sliding doors. Area behind this and all areas on third floor are partitioned off. Condition of partitions, particularly on third floor, indicates numerous later remodelings in original building as well as in attached dependencies.
2. Stairways: Single run wooden stairway at south entrance curves inward (north) at second floor landing. Stairway to third floor continues in line in straight run (south to north) turning (east) at third floor landing. A third stairway, also connecting second and third floors begins on the north wall under third floor landing (of second stair) and rises along wall (east to west).
3. Flooring: Random width oak flooring; great number of cuts and repairs in flooring indicates much alteration and multiplicity of uses.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered wall and ceiling include plaster cornice, no chair rail.

5. Doorways and doors: Typical interior door is simple, woodpaneled. Wooden sliding doors separate two eastern rooms on second floor.
6. Trim: Wooden casings are similar in design to plaster cornice. Single strip molding runs approximately 18" below ceiling. Inner panels of two-paneled hinged interior shutters on upper floor are louvered.
7. Hardware: Plain iron box latches (doors on second and third floors) appear to be original.
8. Lighting: Modern; gas fixture remains in northeast room of second floor.
9. Heating: Fireplace of strongly veined black stone, slate hearth, centrally placed on north wall of northeast room on second floor. Modern central heating is used throughout building.

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D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located on a roughly triangular lot on the "bend" of Wisconsin Avenue. Stohlman's Confectionary faces eastward on that street, holding a commanding position near the center of Georgetown's flourishing commercial district.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: At least two dependencies have been added in subsequent additions to the original structure. Constructed of brick, three stories in height, they extend westward to the alley. Of special interest is a doorway at the third floor level on the south elevation of second (west) addition.
4. Walks: Fronts on concrete public sidewalk to the east.
5. Landscaping: None.

Prepared by Thomas R. Martinson
Student Assistant Architect
National Park Service
August 16, 1966