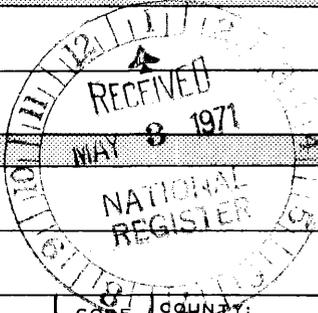


PH0021920

STATE: <u>District of Columbia</u>	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <u>715110011</u>	DATE <u>5/27/71</u>

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
Eastern Market

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
7th and C Streets, SE

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Public Market</u>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
District of Columbia

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

715110011 5/27/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eastern Market, typical of the commercial buildings of the 1870's, is a rectangular structure located in Southeast Washington bounded by North Carolina Avenue on the north, 7th Street on the east and C Street on the south. The original brick masonry structure was completed in 1873; an addition extending the building to the north was completed in 1908. A "Farmers' Line" or covered shed (which runs the length of the building) is located outside the market on the 7th Street side.

Eastern Market is approximately 300 feet long and 50 feet wide and contains about 16,500 square feet. The original market, which fronts on 7th Street, is one story high, twenty bays long (180') and five bays wide (50'). The addition which continues the 7th Street facade northward and fronts on North Carolina Avenue contains a two-story connecting section three bays wide, plus a nine bay rectangular section which is five bays wide. The addition is also constructed of common-bond red brick. Its grey slate hipped roof with galvanized iron cresting is similar to that of the original.

The original market has alternating windows and doors with each bay (wide for windows and narrow for doors) defined by brick pilasters and enclosed by decorative corbeled brick trim. The double-hung windows have nine lights plus fan light under round-headed brick keystone arches. The doors are framed by round-headed brick arches above which are found round bull's eye windows, which in most cases are painted over. Many of the doors have been blocked to prevent entrance. The main market entrance, originally centrally located on the 7th St. side, projects one bay from the facade and contains a large central arched doorway flanked on either side by a round-arched double-hung window. Above the entrance is a triangular pediment carried on a molded cornice supported by brackets. The C St. and western sides of the building contain alternating bays similar to those found on the 7th St. side except that the center bay on the south end contains two windows.

The northern addition contains two parts: a small connecting section two stories high which was used as a fish market; and a long rectangular section similar to the original market space. The fish market is three bays wide on the second story and on the first story contains an elliptical arch with keystone originally containing an entrance of open grillwork and a white oak gate with grillwork panels. This has now been altered to accommodate a restaurant. The remainder of the fish market is now used for storage space and restrooms. From the interior, the fish market opened into the north market section through a double door with large fanlight flanked by two round arched windows, all of which are now bricked in. Although the articulation of the facade of the northern addition is varied from the original, it harmonizes quite well through the use of similar materials and the continuation of round arched windows. The 7th Street side of the addition contains eight windows with an entrance in the center. The round arched windows are double-hung with twelve lights and are separated by brick pilasters with stone capitals supporting a molded cornice of galvanized iron. The fenestration is similar on both the north and east facades.

The interior of each market section contains one large unbroken open space for stalls under a ceiling of exposed iron trusses. The ceiling is a vital element of the market and contributes to the sense of openness and spaciousness within. The large open area allows for flexible arrangement of

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

NATIONAL REGISTER
 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **original market 1873; addition 1908**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Public Market</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Eastern Market a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. One of the few public markets left in Washington, Eastern Market has served as a convenient and charming neighborhood market for nearly a century. The Market, completed in 1873, was designed by Adolph Cluss, a prominent local architect who designed Franklin School as well as many other post-Civil War buildings in the District. An addition to the north part of the Market was built in 1908. A functional building, typical of the commercial architecture of the period, Eastern Market has long been an important element in the Capitol Hill community providing not only a specialized neighborhood market, but a gathering place for residents.

Eastern Market was an outgrowth of the Eastern Branch Market which opened in 1806 at 6th and 7th Streets, K and L Streets, S.E.. In 1872, the Legislative Assembly voted \$90,000.00 for the purchase of the present site and construction of the Market at 7th St. and North Carolina Avenue, S.E. For many decades, the Market provided a variety of stalls offering flowers, meats, seafood, poultry, pastries, herbs and vegetables. Initially there were 85 stalls which rented for \$3.75 a month each. It is said that during the Spanish-American War, the basement was used as a rifle range. In later years, the addition was closed, and the space used for storage by the D.C. Department of Highways and Traffic.

By 1960 the Market's business was declining and only two tenants--Southern Maryland Seafood Company and Union Meat Company--were providing retail services. In 1963, occupancy of the market changed markedly when fifteen merchants forced to relocate from Center City Fish Market at Fifth and K Sts. N.W. formed the Cen-East Cooperative and moved en masse to Eastern Market. Since this move, nearly all available space has been leased in the market with the exception of about 2,000 sq.ft. which is used for storage purposes. A small restaurant occupies the north end of the present market. The "Farmers' Line," an open shed for merchants, is found running the length of the exterior of the 7th St. side. Over the decades, these stalls with their changing tenants have given a festive appearance to the market on week-ends. In recent years, the market has served as a focal point in the revitalization of the Capitol Hill area. Its specialized and gourmet food lines attract shoppers from the entire city, as well as the immediate neighborhood.

The building, which is in a deteriorating condition, is scheduled for renovation by the District Government in fiscal 1972. A Federal matching

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

map, with, photos

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gladstone, Robert Associates. "Analysis of Economic and Development Factors, Eastern Market, Washington. DC." Washington, D.C., December 1965.

Information from Mr. Charles Glasgow, Manager, Eastern Market.

McGregor, Wallace. "Grandeur Returns to Eastern Market." Capitol Hill News, March, 1963.

Webb, William B. Centennial History of Washington. Dayton, Ohio. H.W. Crew, 1892.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		76° 59' 48"	38° 53' 12"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **31,000 sq. ft. ± 1 acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Suzanne Ganschietz, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission** DATE: **5 March 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1325 G Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **11**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *[Signature]*

Title: Deputy-Mayor Commissioner

Date: APR 30 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 27 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 12 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
715-11-0011	5/27/71

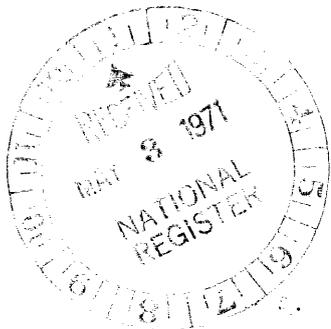
(Number all entries)

7. Description - Eastern Market

stalls and circulation within the market. The basement is located under the old section of the market and contains a double row of brick arches which run parallel to the length of the building and support a ceiling of low semi-circular brick vaults with cast-iron supports capable of sustaining a large amount of stress. The basement is now used for storage, but provides an area that could be more imaginatively utilized. Although structurally sound, the building is in a deteriorating condition and should be renovated in the near future. Exterior elements in need of repair include brick and woodwork, gutters and roof. The interior should be refurbished and some of the facilities modernized.

8. Significance - Eastern Market

grant-in-aid will be sought for this project. The Joint Committee on Landmarks has expressed particular concern that renovation of the market should not alter the functional character of the original building. Following renovation, the north end of the building, which is now partially used for storage by the D.C. Department of Highways and Traffic should be converted to a use more appropriate to a historic landmark and to the general character of the neighborhood. This space could be used for additional produce stalls. If there is no demand for expanded market facilities, however, consideration might be given to using this space as a community center in conjunction with the Natatorium and Hines Junior High School recreation facilities.



61B NPS 10-900-113
RECEIVED 413

MAR 3 1995

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting ~~determinations for individual~~ properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Eastern Market

other names/site number _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 7th & C Streets, S.E. not for publication N/A
city or town Washington vicinity X
state District of Columbia code DC county N/A code N/A
zip code 20003

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert L. Mallett 11/14/94
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
(See continuation sheet).
 determined eligible for the
National Register
(See continuation sheet).
 determined not eligible for the
National Register
 removed from the National Register

other (explain): Additional
documentation accepted

Gray M. Dapley 3/24/95
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: _____
GOVERNMENT _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: _____
GOVERNMENT _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE & CONCRETE
roof STONE/Slate
walls BRICK
STONE/Sandstone
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1871-1908

Significant Dates 1871
1908

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Adolph Cluss
Snowden Ashford

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # DC-291

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre (0.587 acres)

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>326820</u>	<u>4305860</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen Callcott, Architectural Historian
organization DC-SHPO date August 1, 1994
street & number 614 H Street, N.W. Suite 305 telephone (202) 727-7360
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

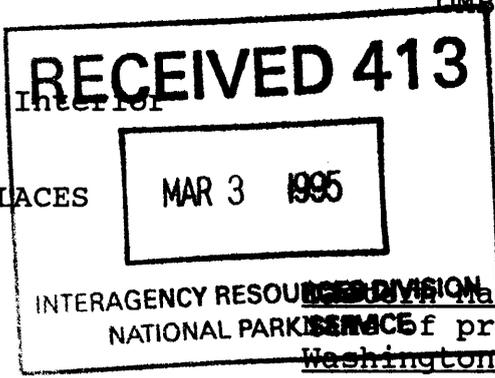
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Government of the District of Columbia
street & number 441 4th Street, N.W. telephone _____
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20001

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

INTERAGENCY RESOURCE DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington, DC
County and State

Eastern Market extends along the west side of Seventh Street S.E., between C Street and North Carolina Avenue in Washington, D.C. The building consists of two large open market halls, the **South Hall** and the **North Hall**, joined by a two-story **Center Hall** connector. The South Hall was designed by Adolph Cluss and built in 1871; the Center Hall and North Hall additions were designed by Snowden Ashford and built in 1908. The complex forms a handsome and cohesive unit. A simple shed with a corrugated metal roof, running the length of the Market between the east facade and the curb, was installed in 1931 to shelter the weekend farmers' line.

South Hall Exterior

The South Hall is a one-story rectangular building, measuring approximately 53' x 206'. The walls are of red pressed brick with narrow mortar joints accented with sandstone trim. The combination of brick and sandstone creates a palette common to many residential and commercial buildings of the 1870s. Although generally Italianate in appearance, the restrained use of ornament and the configuration of the window panes within their arched Italianate surrounds, give the building a somewhat more classical appearance than was typical of the time.

The long east and west facades are divided into ten recessed bays (approximately 11'-13' wide) containing windows, which alternate with nine narrower bays (approximately 8' wide) containing doors. All bays are defined at the top by brick corbelling. A pilaster effect is created by the placement of sandstone bases on either side of the doorway bays and at the corners. There is a three-bay projecting entrance pavilion centered on the east facade. The south facade (and originally the north facade as well) has a slightly different configuration. There are five bays, the larger central bay containing two windows. Entrances are in the second and fourth bays. The approach to these entrances bridges a fenced areaway which contains steps descending to the basement.

Both windows and doors have semi-circular arched heads. Above each door is a round window. All windows were originally operable, and were an important part of a passive ventilation system. The bull's-eye windows pivoted from the middle. Door and window trim consist of raised brick hoods. On the arched windows and doors, these hoods end in simple shield-shaped sandstone drops with pointed bottoms and raised central panels. The arched and round windows have sandstone keystones as well; the arched windows have sandstone sills, some of which were replaced in a 1970s exterior restoration. All windows are divided into multiple panes by thin muntins. The tops of the arched windows have four splayed panes around a central arched pane. The round windows have eight splayed panes surrounding a round pane. These windows have a more delicate and classical appearance than is usually found on buildings of this period. There are large semi-circular arched fanlights above the main entrance in the east pavilion and the entrance directly opposite it on the west facade. The central configuration of panes is a typical Italianate motif of two round arches topped by a circle. This is surrounded by two rows of splayed panes with offset muntins. The two-leaf panelled wooden entry doors have large glazed panels and glazed transoms. The doors were replicated and replaced in the 1970s renovation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Eastern Market
Name of property
Washington, DC
County and State

Eastern Market has a subdued denticulated cornice of galvanized metal. The hipped roof was originally covered with slate and had a raised ventilating monitor along the ridge. The entrance pavilion which projects one bay from the east facade also has a hipped roof which intersects a gabled pediment above the main door. Originally there were eight round galvanized metal ventilators along the top of the monitor. There were also tall square ventilators at each corner of the building and flanking the central pediment. The original slate and decking were removed in the 1970s restoration and replaced with artificial slate. The eight domed ventilators also date from this restoration.

The entrance pavilion has large decorative brackets beneath the cornice flanking the corners and supporting the projecting central pediment. These and the arched windows with brick hoods are the features most responsible for the Italianate flavor of the exterior. There were also originally acroteria-like projections above the cornice at the corners of the entrance pavilion. These, and the original ventilators at the ridge and corners, appear in photographs taken in 1914, but were probably removed when a new roof was installed in 1915. A brick chimney on the south side of the ridge of the entrance pavilion appears to occupy the same position as one of the square ventilators seen in old photos. Restoration drawings from the 1970s show that openings in the four corners of the building, which correspond to the location of the square metal ventilators seen in old photos, were filled in at that time. There is a tall brick chimney stack on the west facade at the south end of the building. It was added in 1944 when the present heating system was installed.

An areaway just to the south of the main entrance door on the west facade also gives access to the basement. In the brick sidewalk around the perimeter of the building are narrow grilled openings outlined with sandstone. These protect areaways which once served to bring light and air into the large below-grade basement windows.

South Hall Interior

The interior of the South Hall is a single unobstructed expanse 203' x 48', rising to 37' at the center ridge. It fulfills Cluss' requirement that a market be a "lofty one-story building", and it provides maximum space for the activities on the market floor. The most important interior architectural feature of the South Hall, apparent as soon as one enters the building, is the sense of great openness and spaciousness which characterizes this huge room.

This sense of openness is made possible by the exposed Fink trusses which support the roof, providing the high-ceilinged spaces necessary for ventilation and uninterrupted space on the market floor below. Both the South hall, and the later North Hall, use the truss system developed by Alfred Fink in c. 1852. The Fink truss was particularly well suited for spans of 40 to 60 feet because the web compression members were short, the connections were simple, and the calculations necessary to design the trusses were straightforward. This truss system remained in use through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and continues to be used today.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Eastern Market
Name of property
Washington, DC
County and State

=====

The trusses in the South Hall were designed by Cluss, who was trained as both an architect and engineer. He designed several buildings which used exposed truss systems, among them the Centre Market, Army Medical Museum, and Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building. Cluss was working at a time when metal framing members represented a rapidly developing technology which was far from standardized. It appears from photographs of his buildings, that he designed his truss systems specifically for each building based on the space to be spanned.

In the South Hall of Eastern Market, the trusses are a combination of wrought and cast iron members. The lower chord is composed of wrought iron rods; the upper chord, rolled double angles. The shorter web members are unusual in design and take advantage of the theory of uniform strength for columns. They are composed of four flanges at right angles which are broader in the center where the stress is greatest. The upper and lower chords are joined at the side walls by an efficiently designed cast iron connector which clamps over and secures the ends of both chords and transfers the roof loads to the bearing walls by means of a bearing plate which forms the lower element of the connection. The design of this connector/bearing plate can be clearly seen through the hatch in the ceiling of the old Market Master's Office.

The roof system of the South Hall consists of a number of closely placed purlins, running perpendicular to the plane of the trusses. On these are placed the wooden decking to which is secured the exterior roofing material. The framing near the roof ridge is different from that of the main roof and indicates where the low monitor seen in early photographs of the building was framed in.

Since cast iron was too brittle to be used for tensile members of a truss system, extensive use of metal trusses for architectural and engineering purposes had to await the development of the rolling mill which would make wrought iron members readily available. The wrought iron industry was in its infancy before the Civil War, but grew to supply the needs of that conflict. After the War, wrought iron was more widely available, and Cluss took full advantage of the products of this burgeoning industry. While the South Hall trusses do not represent the cutting edge of wrought iron truss construction, which took place before the Civil War, they are excellent representatives of the full flowering of that technology in the private sector after the War and exhibit some interesting and unique features. Their significance is increased by the fact that few other major truss systems of this period are so easily seen by the public.

The walls of the interior of the South Hall are purposefully simple. Smooth plaster walls, devoid of ornament, avoided dust-catching elements and contributed to sanitary conditions in the Market. There are early references to a wooden wainscoting which was eventually replaced in favor of totally smooth and easily cleaned wall surfaces. The floor, which was probably originally wood, was also covered with cement for greater sanitation.

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The smooth walls of the South Hall are punctuated by the Market's many doors and windows. The round-arched windows are contained in segmental openings on the interior. The simple geometry of arches and circles of the fenestration, the repetition of light and shadow which they create, and the sense of height and openness provided by the trusses are the architectural features which make the interior of the South Hall such a pleasing space.

The two-aisle arrangement of stalls which originally existed in the South Hall has largely been abandoned, however the present lighting fixtures show where these aisles would have been. The two-aisle arrangement can still be seen at either side of the stall at the north end of the market floor. Much of the north end of the Market is now taken up by large walk-in meat coolers. In the southern half of the market floor, there are now wooden stalls located on either side of a single central aisle. This arrangement probably dates from the 1960s when a group of merchants moved to the underused Eastern Market from a market at 5th and K Streets N.W.

Fans were hung from the trusses of the South Hall to aid air circulation sometime after electricity was installed in 1908. Overhead pipes to supply the hanging heating units were added when central heat was installed in 1944. The present suspended fluorescent light fixtures were installed in 1945. Electrical wiring was upgraded in 1951.

The only two-story portion of the South Hall is in the projecting entrance pavilion. Here the architect created a second floor office for the market master overlooking the interior and exterior of the Market. Two doors flank the central hall which runs through the pavilion. That on the south opens to a small room which appears from documentary evidence to have been the actual office of the market master through much of the Market's history.

Of more interest is the space originally designed to serve this function on the second floor of the pavilion. It is reached through the door on the north side of the hall which gives access to two narrow, curving stairs. The stairway on the east goes up to a suite of two rooms with windows overlooking the market floor. The rooms are inserted in the second floor of the pavilion so as to have minimum impact on the exterior appearance of the building. Light comes from the upper portion of the large exterior windows. The partition dividing the two rooms is held back from the central window and the floors of the rooms bisect the windows exactly at the meeting rail, giving no clue on the exterior that the pavilion has an additional story.

The northern room where the stair enters appears to have originally had a low wall open to the stair which was later filled in. Both rooms have remaining gas ceiling fixtures and gas lines running down the walls that probably served space heaters. The larger southern room has a small mantel on the east wall. There is a flue in the wall directly above it which probably connects with the chimney on the roof above. On the partition wall are substantial remnants of wallpaper which dates from approximately the 1890's.

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A hatch in the ceiling gave access to the roof and from it can now be seen the bearing plates and connectors for the trusses. The windows in both rooms have been painted over, but the arrangement of panes is identical to that in the main market windows. Views from the windows provide an elevated vantage point for overseeing not only the market hall, but the farmers' line along the front of the building.

It is not known how long these rooms served as the market master's office. In 1890, they were vacant, and it was suggested that they be refurbished as a residence for the market custodian. This apparently did not work out, and within a year or so, the rooms were put to use as a cafe. They continued in that use until the addition to the Market was built in 1908. The wall paper fragments probably date from the period when the rooms were a cafe.

South Hall Basement

There is a full basement beneath the South Hall, reached from the interior by the other small stair off the main hall. It can also be reached from the two exterior areaways previously described. The market floor is supported on two arcaded brick walls which run parallel to the long sides of the Market. Running perpendicular to these walls are shallow brick vaults which spring from iron I-beams. There would originally have been a non-flammable fill between the vaults and the sleepers which supported the floor of the market hall. This represents the best available fire-proof construction of the day for supporting heavy loads. The modern columns which now fill the basement were inserted to support the weight of a temporary roof installed during the 1970s renovation.

In the vaulted ceiling along the walls can be seen the remnants of wooden hatch doors which once provided for movement of air, people, goods, refuse, and ice between the basement and the first floor stalls. These doors, which follow the curve of the vaults, are visible in the basement, but have been covered with cement in the South Hall floor.

Brick and wooden partition walls have been added in various places in the basement. The most interesting room is located on the west side of the basement near the center and appears to have been the ice room for the Market. It has thick brick walls and door. The floor is grooved to allow drainage.

The basement walls are of coursed rubble with large windows which once opened into narrow areaways. These windows would have provided some light and ventilation for the basement, but are now almost all closed up.

The south end of the basement appears to have had a more public function than the rest of the basement which was used for storage. The two sets of stairs in the areaway at the south end of the building provide access to this space. It has been excavated to provide greater ceiling height. The large room in the southeast corner once had plaster walls above wooden wainscoting, remnants of which remain. The arcaded supporting wall is replaced in this room by two decorative cast iron

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columns supporting an iron beam. On the south wall is a toilet room which was identified on drawings as a men's toilet when it was modernized in 1905. In the southwest corner of the basement is the room containing the furnace. Eastern Market had no central heat until the present system of hanging steam heaters was installed in 1944. In pre-refrigeration days, heat was deemed to promote spoilage and markets were designed without central heating systems. Just to the north of the furnace room is a small room which was converted to a coal storage area in 1944. A door on the east wall was bricked up, and a coal chute was inserted in the window.

North Hall Exterior

In response to the growth of the neighborhood, and after many years of lobbying by the market master, a new market hall was added to the north of the original building and was joined to it by a two-story, T-shaped connecting section in 1908. Snowden Ashford, who held the title of Inspector of Buildings of the District of Columbia, was responsible for the design of the addition. Its style and materials are similar and complimentary to those of the South Hall. Ashford's original drawings of the North and Center Halls survive to give accurate evidence of its original layout, appearance, and function. The original construction proposal also exists, providing even more detailed information on original construction techniques and materials.

On the exterior, the North Hall has a decidedly more Georgian appearance than its southern predecessor. It continues the use of red brick with contrasting brownstone trim and features semi-circular arched windows of similar size and proportion to those of the South Hall. The eight arched windows of the east facade are centered in bays flanked by slightly projecting brick pilasters with brownstone trim at base and capital. The pilasters support a plain galvanized iron frieze that runs across the three facades of the North Hall. The windows are defined at the top by a flush brick stretcher arch with brownstone keystone and flush stone blocks at the spring line. They also have a stone sill. The twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash is separated by a prominent transom bar from the arched stationary transom which has splayed panes similar to those on the South Hall. A large bay in the center of the east facade contains a single entrance door. Each leaf of the double door has six recessed wooden panels and two large glazed panels. The door is topped by a large arched glazed transom with two rows of radiating mullions which echoes, but does not imitate those at the main entrances of the South Hall. The opening has a stone keystone and impost trim and two stone roundels in the spandrels. There is a similar large central entrance flanked by four window bays on the north facade.

The west, or rear, facade is the least decorative. Here the brownstone caps on the pilasters are replaced by galvanized iron. The decorative stone trim around the windows is eliminated and the pilaster bases are all brick, lacking the stone cap found on the other two facades. There is a large central entrance similar in shape to those on the other two facades, but again lacking the decorative details. There is also a smaller door with an arched, glazed transom in the second bay from

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the north. Another symmetrically placed door in the eighth bay led from the North Hall onto a porch which gave access to the fish market at the rear of the central connector. That porch has been bricked up. A small semicircular window identical to the stationary transoms of the other windows is in the wall above this door.

A galvanized iron cornice, similar in profile to that on the South Hall, but lacking the dentils, runs around three sides of the North Hall. The hipped roof is still covered with the original slates and has three round ventilators at the ridge.

North Hall Interior

The interior of the North Hall is an open space 87' x 49', rising 38' at the center. Like the South Hall, it features exposed metal trusses and an open plan, but the squarer proportions, slightly higher roof, and different purlin and rafter configuration give it a more vertical and soaring quality. Drawings show the original layout of the wooden stalls and the proposed design for the stall fixtures. Before the addition was finished, some stalls were modified to incorporate ice refrigeration units. The original contract called for hanging gas lights and sconces in the North Hall. Electrical connections were to be installed in the building, but no electrical fixtures were specified, reflecting concern for the reliability of this new form of energy. Before the North Hall was completed, however, the gas lights were removed and replaced with combination gas/electric fixtures. The North Hall is built on concrete piers and has no basement.

The interior of the North Hall, like that of the South Hall, is purposefully not ornamented. Its floor is cement, and the walls plaster with hard plaster below the projecting brick dado at the sill line. These materials were deemed to be a more sanitary than wood. The emphasis on using cement, tile, and other easily cleaned surfaces was even stronger in 1908 than when the South Hall was built 37 years earlier. As with the South Hall, it is the immense quality of the enclosed space and the rhythmic repetition of arched fenestration which characterize the interior of this hall. The south wall features four recessed blind arches flanking a large central arch. The lower part of this arch is now bricked up, but originally contained a double-acting door which opened into the passageway between the two market halls. This arrangement mirrors the window and door arrangement on the opposite north wall. There is also a small rectangular window high on the east side of the south wall which provided a view from the new market master's office over the interior of the North Hall.

As in the South Hall, the exposed trusses are the defining characteristic of the interior space in the North Hall, but here the materials and configuration are somewhat different. In 1885, rolled steel was introduced into building construction. Despite questions about steel's durability which persisted into the twentieth century, the lower price and easy availability of steel quickly made it the preferred product for large building construction. By the time the addition to Eastern Market was constructed in 1908, steel produced by the open hearth method was the material specified for the exposed trusses of the North Hall. In

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this hall, the Fink truss configuration was repeated using the newer material. The upper and lower chords and all the web members are composed of rolled steel angles, instead of the combination of rods and angles of wrought iron seen in the South Hall. The trusses were stabilized with a double line of cross-tie bracing.

The roofing system in the North Hall is visually quite different from that in the South Hall. Here a few widely spaced purlins support closely spaced wooden rafters which run parallel to the plane of the trusses. They contribute to the sense of verticality which characterizes the North Hall. Wooden decking is attached to the rafters with its joint lines running in the opposite direction of those in the South Hall.

Although the roof system in the North Hall was fairly standard construction for the time, it is quite handsome when exposed and is particularly interesting in juxtaposition with the earlier trusses in the South Hall. In the two halls, students of technology can easily see changes in materials which occurred at the end of the nineteenth century when readily available and inexpensive steel components prepared the way for the advent of the skyscraper. Although the trusses in both halls are interesting in their own right and are the most prominent visual elements of the handsome spaces which they span, their importance is greatly enhanced by their juxtaposition. The change in materials and shape of members illustrates the important technological transition which had taken place in the 37 years between the erection of the two halls.

The North Hall served as a market for 21 years. After 1929 it was used for storage, first by the adjacent fire house, and then by the Department of Transportation. The stalls were removed, the connection to the South Hall bricked up, and the door at the southwest corner closed, but few other alterations have been made. As the result of its use in recent years as a community arts facility, a stage has been added in the south third of the hall and theatrical lights hung from the trusses. Original lighting fixtures have been removed. Since the hall was not in active use when central heating was added to the South Hall, it does not have a heating system.

Center Hall

The two one-story market halls are joined by a narrow two-story, T-shaped, flat-roofed connection, known as the Center Hall. The east facade of the Center Hall served as the transition between the two market halls and was given a distinct architectural expression. On the first floor was a large exterior market stall which had no interior connection to any other market space. Research indicates that this was the most expensive rental space in the market. The large arched entrance to this stall, referred to on the original drawings as the loggia, provided the most decorative architectural feature of the 1908 addition. The arched opening is set off by a three rowlock brick arch with projecting archivolt and is ornamented with a brownstone keystone and impost blocks. The opening was originally closed by a low brick wall topped by ornamental wrought iron fencing which reached the height of the impost blocks. Above that the arch was open. Two

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panelled oak doors with inset metal grilles occupied the center of the space and gave access to the interior of the loggia. The interior walls were plastered and the floor graded to provide drainage. This area has been enclosed as the kitchen for the present Market Lunch. The arched opening is closed with wood and nothing remains of the original fence and doors.

On the second floor above the loggia is a grouping of three flat-arched windows with continuous brownstone sills and lintels. The central double-hung window has six-over-six light sash, the flanking windows are four-over-four. On the interior, a room, corresponding to the loggia below, provided a well-situated new office for the market master. Windows in the north and south walls gave a view of each market hall, and the three windows on the east facade looked out over the farmers line. Like the other second floor rooms, this one was originally heated by a gas radiator, and then with steam. In later years, it was used as a lounge.

To the west of the loggia and market master's office is the stair hall and passageway between the two market halls. The simple wooden stair ascends in three runs along the north, east, and south walls. These stairs provided public access to the services on the second floor. On the west side of the passageway was originally a large stall with sink which was built as a flower vending stall. Portions of the Market Lunch kitchen on the east and a large fish storage cooler on the west now intrude into the passageway and stair hall.

The T-shaped central connection protrudes from the west facade of the Market. The T-shaped room on the first floor was built to accommodate a self-contained fish market. The fish market was entered through two doors sheltered under decorative porches on either side of the T. This arrangement kept the odorous fish stalls separate from the rest of the Market. The porches originally had sloping tin roofs supported on rounded brick piers. On the north, the porches were enclosed by low brick walls. Decorative wooden brackets supported the roof which featured exposed, shaped rafter ends. The porch on the north has been bricked in; the porch on the south no longer has its supporting piers.

On the second floor of the Center Hall, opening off the stair landing, are two public bathrooms flanking a central door opening into two rooms beyond. The bathrooms, stair landing and the easternmost room are lit by glass and steel frame skylights. The two rooms at one time served as a cafe, and today house a potter's studio. A curved cast iron stair descends to an exterior door on the rear of the building.

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Eastern Market, constructed in 1871-3, with additions in 1907-8, was once part of a larger, city-wide public market system which was developed to provide an orderly supply of goods to urban residents. While dating back to the founding of the city, the public market system reached its full maturity only in the Boss Shephard era of public works in the 1870s. As one of the only remaining public market buildings from this period, and the only one retaining its original function, Eastern Market is a still-working example of this once common building type. Eastern Market is also an important work by master Washington architect Adolph Cluss, and municipal architect Snowden Ashford.

The Beginnings of the Washington Public Market System

In the mid-eighteenth century, public markets in Piscataway, Bladensburg, and Georgetown, Maryland, and in Alexandria, Virginia, served both shoppers and vendors in the area of what was to become the District of Columbia. No markets stood within the boundaries of the Federal City when it was laid out in 1790. Markets were, however, such an integral part of urban life that Thomas Jefferson included a market house in his list of necessities to be included in the creation of the new Capital City. Pierre L'Enfant, in his June 22, 1791, report to George Washington, described a system of canals which would enable foodstuffs to be supplied by boat to the city's markets.² Six years later, in 1797, the President himself designated reservations to be set aside for three public markets, Center Market, Western Market, and Eastern Branch Market. These market sites were population-specific; that is, the markets' locations reflected the early trends in the city's population density.³

During the city's first decade, regular market days were held on the President's Square, almost opposite the White House. However, Washington contained no real market house until the Centre Market was built in 1801. Centre Market's location on Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., now the site of the National Archives, from at least 1801 forward, has been a location of prominence. At the outset, Centre Market consisted of a series of wooden sheds with shingled roofs, certainly not a promising beginning to a monumental city and certainly not the equal of the brick market hall in Alexandria.⁴ Even at that, as late as 1813 the *National Intelligencer* newspaper reported that Centre Market was the best in the city.⁵

In 1802, a year after Centre Market was first occupied, construction of Western Market was completed. Western Market, located near Washington Circle, N.W., served the city's population between the President's Mansion and the city's western boundary, Rock Creek. A little-known and presumably short-lived market named the New Jersey Avenue Market opened in 1803; the Eastern Branch Market followed in 1806; and a market on East Capitol Street, known as the Capitol Hill Market, was built in 1813. The Eastern Branch Market is of special importance to present-day Eastern Market, as it is Eastern Market's direct predecessor.⁶

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The Development of Markets on Capitol Hill

The community known as Capitol Hill was conceived as an integral part of the 1790-91 plans from which the Federal City was surveyed and laid out. Like the rest of the city, it was superimposed on farm land that had been in use for at least a century. The community grew slowly and sporadically and its earliest population concentrated near work sites: the Capitol, the wharves along the Eastern Branch or Anacostia River, and the Washington Navy Yard. These nodules of population formed an irregularly shaped crescent from just north and east of the Capitol, south along South Capitol Street and New Jersey Avenue, and eastward past the area known as Navy Yard Hill.

By 1800, merchants who offered at least a few groceries as part of their merchandise had set up shops in each of the clusters of housing: the 100 block of East Capitol Street, in almost every block of New Jersey Avenue, S.E. -- from the Capitol to the Eastern Branch, and along M, L, and Eighth Streets, S.E. near the Navy Yard. In 1805, Peter Healy & Co. opened a new enterprise, "a Grocery Store near the Capitol." Advertisements in local newspapers hawked a variety of goods, available when a shipload of merchandise or seasonal produce and foodstuff arrived from Europe, England, the northern US, and the Caribbean islands. Through a network of intracoastal and transatlantic shippers, residents of Capitol Hill could purchase limes, lemons, and oranges from the Caribbean islands, salt and pork from Liverpool, and in 1802, after it had been popularized by Thomas Jefferson, American-made vermicelli. Peter Healy & Co. offered capers and anchovies in bottles, almonds, spices, salt herrings in barrels, teas, molasses, starch, and, like most stores in Washington, a wide assortment of liquor.

Affordable food, however, was often a problem. Supply, demand, and money were mismatched on numerous occasions. At first, city officials literally tore down fences in an effort to stop farming near the center of the city. In spite of the government, many families kept a cow or two for milking, a few pigs for slaughter, and some chickens. As the years passed and the city's population did not swell to expectation, small scale farmers bought land north and east of the crescent and created vegetable and fruit gardens.

Laborers, craftsmen, merchants, and professionals frequently declared themselves insolvent, even bankrupt, citing in part the high cost of living, including food, in the infant city.¹⁰ In 1796 the lack of fresh meat was so serious that craftsmen and artisans employed on the construction of the Capitol petitioned the government for relief. In particular they wanted the DC Commissioners to establish a "Flesh and Fowl" market for those living east of the Capitol.¹¹ Shopping at the nearest public market in those early days meant a long round trip between Capitol Hill and the market sheds close to the President's House. With no public transportation system available, most shoppers would have made the trek on foot, a lengthy but necessary process to keep meat from spoiling in an era when no refrigeration was available.

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The Hill residents' pleas fell on deaf ears until October 1805, when three prominent citizens, ferry owner and entrepreneur Adam Lindsay, builder and designer Robert Alexander, and merchant William Prout, wrote for permission to erect a market house. The trio requested that it be built on the space designated as the "square west of Square 881, which is designated on the original plan of the City a Market Square." President Thomas Jefferson, to whom the petition was addressed, responded quickly and favorably. On October 28, 1805, he signed a proclamation that in part reads:

being bounded on the north by K street south, on the south by L street south, on the west by Sixth street East and on the East by an Alley sixty feet wide which bounds square numbered Eight hundred and eighty one, be and the same hereby is appropriated as an [?] for the site of a public market

Alexander, Lindsay, and Prout, each of whom lived within four blocks of the market site, were prosperous as well as influential. They seized the moment, followed through on Jefferson's response, and saw to it that the market was completed in less than a year. With the exception of a brief period during the Civil War, the Eastern Branch Market remained in the same location from 1806 until 1872.

No description has been found of the market, but it apparently was open for business on the same days as Centre Market. By 1826, its patronage had increased enough to justify the construction of an addition to the original building. In 1853, John Sessford wrote in his annual update on improvements made in and around Washington that use of the city's markets had increased greatly the previous year. He then urged that they should be improved. The next year, Sessford reported that a large and substantial ice and meat house had been built of stone near the Eastern Branch Market.

At the same time the ice and meat house was built, the East Capitol Street Market closed. Built in 1813, it was located on the north side of East Capitol Street in the 100 block. In contrast to the year-round community that sprang up by the Navy Yard and the wharves, the neighborhood nearest the Capitol tended to be more like a resort. Its housing was filled to the bursting point and merchants did a booming business when Congress and the Supreme Court were in session, but all facilities were under-utilized during "off seasons." Perhaps for these, as well as other reasons, the market got off to a rocky start. A disgruntled resident wrote to the editors of the *Daily National Intelligencer* in June 1813 that the market house had been built, at considerable expense, in an advantageous location. He added that from "local jealousy or other cause," its success didn't measure up to expectations. The writer then suggested that if the market house had different market days from those of the market near the Navy Yard, it would be more successful. A letter of rebuttal appeared two days later. Its author stressed that one strong market was better than several weak ones and that competition with Centre Market, not the Eastern Branch Market, was the real issue. Whatever the issue, as late as the 1850s Centre Market generated 90 percent of the city's market system revenue.

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The Capitol Hill Market's closure in 1853 coincides with the expansion of the US Capitol, and its closing may relate to the increased traffic that was generated by construction activity a block away. The forty-year-old market building must have been substantial as it was enclosed and put to new use to serve as a primary school for neighborhood children.¹⁴

The Design and Construction of Eastern Market

The Civil War focused world attention on the village-like quality, complete with live pigs in dirt streets, that persisted in the nation's Capital. By war's end the men who controlled Washington, D.C. were determined to turn it into a city. A major part of this effort was a massive public works program. It set the scene for a new centrally located Eastern Market that would serve all of Capitol Hill.

While Washington's territorial government is credited with the civic improvements that occurred in Washington during the 1870s, Mayor Sayles J. Bowen and the last City Council prior to the formation of the Territory of the District of Columbia were the first to initiate major street-paving and water and sewer efforts in the city. Early in 1871, Clarence Barton, Ward 6 Republican member of the Common Council, introduced a bill in the first Territorial Legislature for the repair and maintenance of the old market by the Navy Yard. The Legislature did not pass this bill. Later that spring, he introduced a bill to form a committee to select the site for the construction of a new Eastern Market. Unlike the first bill, the latter one passed.

By June 1871 the committee had selected a site that lay inside the crescent and within the confines of the public reservation that is now Marion Park. The choice of this site was consistent with the need to serve the old population crescent, but it was also consistent with the centuries' old practice of grouping municipal services in or near the market house. Since 1851, the area's one-story wooden police station had stood near the corner of Fifth and E Streets, S.E.¹⁵ Although the site had been settled on, the 1871 legislative session of the Territorial Government ended without passage of a bill to build a new market near the police station.

Once the Legislature reconvened, the press picked up the cry and urged the passage of the Eastern Market bill. On July 24, 1871, the *Daily Patriot* called attention to the bill lying dormant in the Council. The newspaper referred to the Hill's increasing population, then stated that the market at the Navy Yard was out of the way and in a very dilapidated condition.¹⁶ The idea that the Navy Yard was out of the way was somewhat ludicrous, given the sizeable population that surrounded it. On the other hand, it was out of the way for the elected representatives and affluent residents nearer the Capitol who had lost their market in 1853.

Finally, on August 18, 1871, the Legislative Assembly passed legislation which authorized the Governor of the Territory of the District of Columbia to purchase a site for the new market and to spend the money to build it. This time the site was the eastern portion of Square 872, a site that was two blocks north of the old crescent's inner arc.

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The legislation included the legal description of the 75,105 square feet of property to be purchased, and stipulated that no more than forty cents per foot could be paid for the land. It also authorized the Board of Public Works to have plans and specifications prepared for the market house which was to be built there.

Design issues apparently were not considered to be within the purview of the Legislature. The bill allowed the Board to build the market house of "such materials and dimensions as may be deemed most advisable [sic] for that locality" It also required the Board to advertise for proposals for all necessary work and materials and to open the proposals on a day that was to be named in the advertisement. The contract was to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder or bidders upon their giving good and sufficient security for the faithful performance of the contract. To insure that work not accomplished would not be recompensed, the legislation required that no payment was to be made in excess of eight percent of the amount of work actually done, until the entire project was completed and accepted. Finally, the Board was authorized to spend \$60,000 or less for the construction of the market.

Records of the Territorial Legislature reveal that this bill was introduced on August 15, 1871. It was approved on August 23, 1871, the date of the Legislature's *sine die* adjournment, and was one of the last three bills approved that night.¹⁷

On October 2, 1871, Germond and Susanah A. Crandell sold the property to the District of Columbia for the sum of \$30,042.¹⁸, or eighteen cents more per acre than the Legislature authorized. The property was undeveloped and had remained empty from the time it ceased being part of Jonathan Slater's farm in 1790.¹⁹ Since the site was located north of the inner rim of the old crescent of development, neighboring streets had not been improved and utilities were not installed. In fact, the same issue of the *Daily Patriot* that reported the passage of the bill authorizing the market also reported that the Board of Public Works had authorized "street work" to begin on North Carolina Avenue between Fourth Street, S.E. and Boundary Street, N.E. [now Florida Avenue].²⁰

The new Eastern Market was to be located at about the center point of the nodes of development that were within approximate walking distance of the site in 1871. If a circle is drawn to surround all the shoppers within possible walking distance of the new market it includes the old crescent, Philadelphia Row in the 100 block of Eleventh Street, S.E., a cluster of black families who had just moved to Eighteenth and East Capitol Streets, N.E., a predominantly German neighborhood that had begun along the 700 to 1100 blocks of C and D Streets, N.E., and then along Maryland Avenue, back to the Capitol. The new market acted as both an anchor to keep residents from leaving Capitol Hill for a neighborhood with better civic services and as a magnet that would drew new people to it.

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Eastern Market was also a symbol of the much-desired urbanization of Washington, and as such, it was designed to look the part. At the end of the Civil War, the city was under tremendous pressure to shape up or have the Federal Government removed from it. The industrialized north which had wrested control of the city wanted to erase all evidence of what it considered the Capital's sleepy southern village aspect. Thus, the public works program had to accomplish more than merely providing services and the buildings to house them. It had to make a visible statement that would contradict old ideas. Old ideas about the city's markets could not be erased merely by the construction of a new Centre Market in the central business district. In fact, since Centre Market had been turned over to private ownership, it was the neighborhood markets that had to express the city's intent to reshape its image.

Eastern Market was destined to benefit from the economic forces behind Centre Market. Because it was a private sector enterprise, effort was expended on Centre Market's design that might not have been put into a market funded solely by the city. The owners of Centre Market engaged architect and engineer Adolph Cluss to design their new building. Cluss immediately made an inspection tour of city markets located outside of the District of Columbia. In the spring of 1871, Cluss and N.G. Ordway, a Capitol Hill resident and clerk of the House of Representatives, traveled to Philadelphia, Newark, and New York City. They visited at least six markets in New York City alone, including one built in 1870. Most of Cluss and Ordway's report to the owners of Centre Market focused on market interiors. The reporter who covered Ordway and Cluss's presentation of their findings provided a detailed description of state-of-the-art market design in 1871:

The model of the modern American markets, where unencumbered by outside considerations, presents a lofty, high-pitched, one-story building, imposing from without and within, having ample supply of water, drainage, and sewerage, abundance of light, admitted through windows of ground glass, which intercept the rays of the sun, and a free circulation of air. It has a trussed double roof, with a high ventilating skylight throughout. No heat is to be supplied in winter, since it interferes with the business of the butcher, but coal-pans may be used where brick or stone floors exist. Wide and commodious passages and neat, clean fixtures, inducing ladies and gentlemen of means to frequent the market, promote the prosperity of the dealers. A market with systematically arranged and well-filled stalls and stands of moderate dimensions is highly preferable to one with only partially filled or unnecessarily large stalls. Arrangements should be made so that ice can be used in abundance. All the aisles should be arranged for butchers or hamcutters on one side, and dealers on the opposite side.²¹ The office of superintendent to be located on a gallery.

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Apparently the only controversial part of Ordway and Cluss' findings was the idea to arrange butchers on one side and dealers on the other. That created so much furor that in August the market dealers set off on their own junket and added Boston to their itinerary. The next month, members of the Territorial Legislature's Committee on Markets, who had passed the legislation authorizing a new Eastern Market, went on a junket of their own. George Gulick, a Capitol Hill resident, was a member of the Territorial House of Delegates' market committee. The committee member with perhaps the most intimate knowledge of how the marketing of foodstuffs worked was a black man from east of the Anacostia River. His name was Adolphus Hall and he was a miller by profession.

Centre Market was still under construction in the fall of 1871. On October 20, 1871, the city advertised for "PROPOSALS FOR THE ERECTION OF A NEW MARKET-HOUSE ON CAPITOL HILL." The ad stated that "modified plans and specifications" were available to be seen and explained at Cluss' office. The ad implies that more than one plan had been prepared, and the timing of the ad is such that the legislators may have had a voice in the modifications. No plans, modified or otherwise, have been found. The city awarded the contract on October 28, 1871, and excavation of the basement was underway by November 22, concurrent with the construction of Center Market. Thus, Eastern Market became the first of the "local markets," and the first city-owned market, to be built under the public works program of the 1870s. It cost \$80,000 to build rather than the \$60,000 authorized by the Legislature.²²

Public works improvements continued to be made in the area, sometimes on a block-by-block basis. The first to be constructed after the market was a fire house for Engine Company No. 8. Built in 1888, it shared the land the city purchased from the Crandells, a location that was consistent with the tradition of grouping municipal services in or near the market house. The fire house was located west of the market, at 637 North Carolina Avenue, S.E., and was built of machine-made, pressed brick, in an exuberant Queen Anne style.²³ Towers Elementary School and Eastern High School followed in short order and by 1893, Seventh Street, between Pennsylvania and North Carolina Avenues, S.E. could be considered the town center of Capitol Hill. Other more diminutive improvements enhanced the complex. Among them were cyclical street improvements carried out by the Board of Public Works, and in 1899, the stringing of telephone wires along Seventh Street, between Independence Avenue and D Street, S.E. by the C & P Telephone Company.²⁴

Eastern Market as an Example of a Building Type

By the mid-nineteenth century, the public market house had evolved into a specialized, utilitarian structure. Its antecedents reached back to the Middle Ages when structures were built in central market squares to house the market master and city scales. Because of their central location, these market houses were often designed to serve other municipal functions as well, such as providing meeting rooms, armory, a location for the fire bell, and storage for fire fighting equipment. Eastern Market had none of these accessory functions, but it was part of a complex of municipal services which existed along Seventh Street between Pennsylvania and North Carolina Avenues and included the city's first modern

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school, Wallach School (1862), the original Eastern High School (1892), and Fire House Engine Company No. 8 (1888-89).

Although Eastern Market was designed as a neighborhood market, it was the product of a sophisticated architect, Adolf Cluss, who had carefully researched the building type in preparation for his design of the massive Centre Market at Seventh and Pennsylvania Avenues, N.W. He designed Eastern Market in the fall of 1871 while construction was beginning on the Centre Market at 7th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Accordingly, Eastern Market fully benefitted from the research and debate that accompanied the erection of the city's primary public market. As a result, Eastern Market exhibits in a modest way many of the prevailing ideas for market design and architectural style. Among them:

1. Lofty One-story Space with Open Plan. The exposed Fink trusses of Eastern Market support the roof with no intermediate columns and allow maximum flexibility in the interior arrangement of the market floor.
2. Stall Arrangement. Cluss stated his belief that numerous small stalls offered a market the best chance of success. The selling floor of Eastern Market was divided into a number of small wooden stalls arranged on either side of two aisles which ran the length of the building. This arrangement persisted well into the twentieth century as can be seen in a 1940s electrical plan which shows 40 stalls arranged along the side walls and between the aisles. The fluorescent lights now in the building show where the two aisles were, and a remnant of the two-aisle plan still exists at the north end of the South Hall.
3. Ample Natural Light. Numerous large windows were a hallmark of market buildings. They provided the light which was necessary for the seller to display his goods to best advantage and for the consumer to see and judge his purchases. Eastern Market did not have the central clerestory which Cluss employed at Centre Market and recommended in his "Model for the modern American market," but it did have amply operable windows which also aided in ventilating the market interior.
4. Easy Access and Egress. Nineteenth century markets were usually free-standing buildings which provided access to the interior from all sides. the South Hall of Eastern Market was designed with a pattern of doors alternating with window bays along all its facades.
5. Ventilation. The high single-story space with exposed trusses was common in market buildings of the second half of the nineteenth century. The combination of ample fenestration and high ceilings open to clerestories and roof ventilators provided ventilation needed to combat the heat and odors which could build up in a market. For this reason, Cluss fought a proposal to increase market area by adding a second story to the Centre Market.

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- 6. Architectural Style. The South Hall exhibits Italianate stylistic motifs, including arched fenestration and decorative brackets at the corners of the entrance pavilion. The Italianate was the prevailing architectural style of the time and was used for a number of contemporary markets, including Centre Market. The arcading characteristic of the style was useful for handling the many windows and doors typically found in market buildings.
- 7. Market Master's Office on a Gallery. An elevated office for the market master allowed for an overview of the entire market hall and the farmers' line. At Eastern Market, Cluss inserted a second story in the main entrance pavilion for this purpose.
- 8. Lack of Heat. Cluss recommended that central heat not be used in market buildings to protect highly perishable items like meat. Eastern Market continued without central heat until 1944, well after perishables could be protected by electrical refrigeration.

Adolph Cluss: Architect of the South Hall

The South Hall of Eastern Market was designed by Adolph Cluss, the most active local architect of the "Boss" Shepherd era. Cluss was born in Germany in 1825. He was the son of an architect, and was educated as an architect and engineer. He worked in railroad construction in Germany and also became involved in radical politics, becoming a close friend of both Marx and Engles. He emigrated to the United States during the political upheavals which swept Germany in 1848.

Cluss worked for four years for the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Ammi B. Young. Much of the rest of his first 15 years in this country were spent working in ordnance design and research at the Washington Navy Yard. In 1862, he and his partner Joseph Kammerhueber, after research in this country and Europe, produced the winning design for Wallach School, the first modern school building in Washington (demolished, formerly located one block south of Eastern Market). This was the first of many municipal commissions Cluss would undertake in the next 25 years. His public works, for both the city and Federal governments, and his private commissions made him one of the most influential local architects of the post-Civil War period. As the engineering member of the Board of Public Works under the Territorial Government, he contributed a professional voice to the public policy debates which brought about sweeping changes in the District under the leadership of Alexander Shepherd.

The research that preceded his school designs typifies the way Cluss approached the problem of designing buildings with special functional requirements. He was known for his combination of architectural and engineering skills in producing designs for such specialized buildings as schools, markets, exhibition buildings, churches, apartment buildings and an opera house. Among the Cluss buildings still

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standing are six D.C. landmarks: The Old Masonic Hall at 9th and F, N.W.; Calvary Baptist Church at 8th and H Streets, N.W.; the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building; Franklin and Sumner Schools; and Eastern Market. Among those demolished were the Old Agriculture Building and the Army Medical Museum on the Mall; Washington's first luxury apartment, the Portland; magnificent residences, such as Stewart's Castle on Dupont Circle and Franklin Terrace on K Street; and the city's huge principal market, Centre Market.

In addition to his architectural work, Cluss is also known for developing the first comprehensive building code in the city, dealing with such matters as structural safety, fireproofing, and sanitation, when he was serving as the engineering member of the Board of Public Works in 1872. He set up and first occupied the position of building inspector in the city to enforce this code.

The Administration of Public Markets in the 19th Century

Public markets played a critical role in the creation and growth of the District of Columbia and other American cities. Through the markets local government could assure its citizens of an adequate supply of wholesome food at reasonable prices. The city provided low-cost space to the sellers, which freed them from high overhead and assured them of a volume of business from the number of people attracted to the market because of the variety of stands. This provided the opportunity for entrepreneurs to start small businesses. In the process, the public markets put pressure, through competition, on private shopkeepers to keep their prices down.

The early market managers were known as "clerks," but as time passed and the size of public markets and the complexity of managing them grew, the title was changed to "market master." The Washington City Directory of 1822 lists the terms of employment and responsibilities of the clerks of the four city markets at the time: the Western, Centre, Capitol Hill, and Eastern Branch markets. Clerks were appointed annually, to be present during market hours, and paid 75 cents for every market day they attended. They were to inspect articles for sale, settle arguments between buyers and sellers, seize underweight articles, enforce market regulations, and ensure that the market was swept daily after closing.²⁵ Fifty years later, in 1873, the salaries for masters at the Eastern, Western, and Northern Markets were \$500 per year while the master for the Georgetown Market got \$800 per year.²⁶ By comparison, an official District physician to the poor made \$600 per year.

Whether regulation attire was required of the early clerks and masters is not known, but by 1907 the District Commissioners were requiring the masters of the Eastern, Western, and Georgetown Markets to wear, while on duty, dark blue coats, vests, trousers, and caps with plain brass buttons marked with "DC."

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The Administration of Market Master Benjamin Graham

City directories indicate that William Hughes, the former Clerk of the Eastern Branch Market, became the first Market Master at Eastern Market, but nothing more has yet been learned of his tenure. One of his most noted successors was Benjamin Graham who served as Market Master for seventeen years, from 1892 to 1911, a period of great activity, including the construction of the Market's additions.²⁷

Graham introduced a number of innovations, among them the introduction of a cafe on the second floor of the Market. His 1895 report states that he rented the two rooms above the office for a cafe for \$6 per month. The rooms were originally to provide lodging for the market laborer, but were found inadequate for that purpose.²⁸

In 1900 Graham pointed out in his annual report that, unlike other markets, the Eastern Market was open every day and the "constantly increasing business of the market demands more room." He suggested an addition to the north end of the Market. In his next annual report, Graham again emphasized the need for an addition because the Market was inadequate for the needs of the area. He argued that he could easily rent the additional stalls, and that the people had been demanding an addition for some time, and were supported by the East Washington Citizens' Association.²⁹

Eastern Market's Expansion

Eastern Market's interior stalls sufficed until the first years of the twentieth century. Capitol Hill's population density spread north and east and reached new highs as the work force of the expanding federal government grew. The pressure for an addition to Eastern Market continued until 1907, when the President of the DC Board of Commissioners, wrote Congress at the urging of Market Master Benjamin Graham, stating: "The present market...is...not only occupied to its full capacity, but inadequate to meet the demands for market accommodations in the northeast and southeast sections of the city of Washington... The new structure would accommodate sixty new market stands. These would bring an annual rental of about \$3,600, which would pay good interest on the cost..." Later that year, the 57th Congress responded by appropriating \$30,000 for an addition.³⁰

The city's Office of Public Works, under the leadership of architect Snowden Ashford, designed the addition which contained the Center and North Halls. By the time it was completed in 1908, more than 50% of the buildings along Seventh Street S.E. from North Carolina Avenue to South Carolina Avenue were used for business purposes. On February 5, 1909, the city ordered that both sides of Seventh Street, S.E. from North Carolina Avenue to South Carolina Avenue be designated a business street. This early effort to implement on Capitol Hill the city's 1897

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building regulations that distinguished between residential and business streets can be construed as recognition of the "town center" role that had accrued to Eastern Market and its neighbors. Not everyone was pleased by the new designation. Several neighbors on North Carolina Avenue and across Seventh Street from Eastern Market hired an attorney to protest to the city on their behalf. His efforts met with failure.

Snowden Ashford: Architect of the Center and North Halls

In his position as Inspector of Buildings, Snowden Ashford served as the city's architect for public buildings at the time the addition to Eastern Market was built in 1908. Ashford was a Washington native, educated as an engineer. He worked for several years for Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Alfred B. Mullett, and also worked on the plans for the Library of Congress under John Smithmeyer.

He became the principal assistant in the office of the Inspector of Buildings of the District of Columbia in 1895, and was promoted to Inspector of Buildings in 1901. This position involved not only overseeing the application of building codes, but designing city buildings as well. He became Municipal Architect when, at Ashford's request, that position was created in 1909 and served in that capacity until 1921. In his various positions, Ashford was responsible for the design and construction of city buildings such as schools, fire houses, and police stations for 26 years.

He was most noted for his school buildings, designing 74 of which 11 remain. The most notable is Eastern High School erected in 1923, an enormous plant with many specialized areas and extensive grounds, which was highly praised in both local and national publications. He also designed the Dunbar High School, the most prominent black high school of its day, in 1916. For both buildings Ashford chose the Collegiate Gothic style which he favored as an appropriately scholastic style for school architecture.

As Municipal Architect, Ashford supervised a design staff and was well-known in the professional architectural circles of the city. Through his efforts, private architects were allowed to produce designs for public buildings after 1897, and many prominent local architects enriched the stock of city-owned buildings. In 1901 and again in 1908, Ashford undertook extensive revisions of the building code to include the concrete and fireproof construction which were becoming prevalent. As city architect and deviser of building codes, Ashford's position was in many ways analogous to Cluss' at an earlier time.

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Early 20th Century Occupants of Eastern Market

Little information has come to light on the number and kind of merchants who occupied Eastern Market during its first thirty years. However, city directories make it possible to determine the merchants who occupied the Market after its expansion in 1908. By 1914, there were 51 merchants in the market -- 37 in the South Hall and 14 in the Center and North Halls. Produce merchants were the most numerous, followed by butchers and then bakers (see figure one). There were three delicatessens, three merchants selling smoked meats, and other merchants selling flowers, butter, poultry, fruit, fish, etc. The figures on the chart represent the number of merchants, not stalls, as most merchants had more than one stall. For example, there was only one man selling fish, but he had four stalls.³²

The stalls were small, averaging about 8 x 10 feet. Their size was typical of those in markets built in that era, and merchants appear to have rented an average of two stalls each (see figure two for a graphic layout of the South Hall). The Center Market, for instance, had over 660 stalls, occupied by 250 merchants.³³

The prices for stalls increased significantly following the completion of the North Hall addition in 1908. These rates were established by order of the District Commissioners. There was a big jump in the rent for meat stalls, and an increase in the rent for the cafe, the new location of which was airy and much larger. The highest rent, \$40, was charged for the outdoor stall known as the loggia or the arch stall. It is believed that the exterior stall sold "exotic" fruits, such as bananas and oranges.

A Close-Knit Community of Merchants

City directories and census records indicate that during the period from 1914 to 1920 a majority of the Market merchants lived in the immediate Capitol Hill neighborhood. The accompanying map indicates the location of merchant's homes in relation to the Market (see figure three). Thirty-six merchants lived within a relatively short distance of the Market. Carl Graff, who sold pickles at stall number 5, lived across from the Market at 222 Seventh Street, S.E. At the same address was John Graff whose listed profession was saloon-keeper at home. Some of the merchants undoubtedly gathered across the street at the Graff house after the Market closed for a beer before walking home.³⁴ The building today serves as the neighborhood tavern known as Tunnicliff's.

Houses were sometimes passed on from one merchant to another. In 1900, George and Margaret Allen and their three grown children lived a few doors from the Graffs at 226 Seventh Street. George was a dealer in groceries. By 1910 George had died, and Margaret was listed as head of household and produce dealer. Four years later the family was gone and Samuel Miles, who had stalls 37-38 in the Market selling produce, was renting the house. The rental houses across the street from the Market were no doubt popular with the merchants.³⁵

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Some merchants came from families that were originally at the Eastern Branch Market at 5th and K Streets, S.E. They, and other multi-generation market families had worked and lived in the neighborhood and knew their customers as their friends and neighbors. Thus, an important aspect of the Market and its operations were the people who worked there. This included a variety of people. There were African-American as well as white merchants. While the majority of merchants were born in the District, Maryland, or Virginia, there were also immigrants from Germany and second-generation German-Americans as well as immigrants from Ireland, Holland, and Italy.³⁶

Among merchants in 1907 were the Weschlers, Adam and his younger brother Andrew, who sold butter and eggs. They had a second stand with Edward Castell, selling groceries. In an article about the Eastern Market in 1957, George Castell was quoted as saying, "My grandfather opened the first meat stand back in 1872." This was possibly Edward Castell's father. By 1914 the Weschlers had a larger stall and Adam, who was also listed as an auctioneer and storage provider at 920 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. had moved from home to 713 North Carolina, S.E. Adam Weschler went on to be the founder of Adam A. Wechsler and Son, auctioneers, which is today located at 905 E Street N.W., only two blocks above its original Pennsylvania Avenue location. Adam Weschler probably helped the Castell's son get a job, since in 1914 Joseph Castell, of the Castell's home address, was a bookkeeper at Weschlers.³⁷

The Eastern Market's cafe was operated by Charles Ruppert, who later ran the large upstairs cafe in the new Center Hall. Charles and his wife Pearl were both born in Germany and emigrated to the United States. They and their four children also lived very close to the Market, in the 900 block of C Street, S.E. Through the years a number of Rupperts have been in the restaurant business in Washington.³⁸

Research in city directories indicates that of the merchants who moved to Eastern Market between 1908 and 1914, when stalls were being established in the new Center and North Halls, at least three had been in other City markets. Others simply moved to the Market businesses they had established elsewhere in the area, but a number of newcomers were starting new enterprises.

Leonard Ehrmantrout who sold meat in the market by 1914 had been a grocer at 326 Eleventh Street in 1907. Ehrmantrout and his family lived at Fourteenth and Pennsylvania, S.E. Will Messink, who was born in Holland, moved his bakery from his home at 637 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. to the market. Henrietta Messink, his wife, was born in Germany. She was listed in 1907 as a confectioner at home. Henrietta undoubtedly continued to help him at the Market. Several grocers moved from Ten and Eleventh Streets, S.E. into the market by 1914 as did people from other professions, including a former janitor, a former shoe repairer, and a former carriage-maker.

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It took time for the new merchants to establish themselves, and not everyone made it. One of the apparent success stories was Susan Davis. In 1907 she was a laundress working in southwest Washington. In 1910 she was listed as a cook in northwest, but by 1914 she was selling produce at stalls 23-24 and living at Fifteenth and D Streets, S.E.

Research findings suggest that it may have been hard to make a success of the new four-stall fish market. Jacob Faunce, who had been selling fish on the Eleventh Street wharf in 1907, had fish stalls 106-110 in 1910. But, by 1914 Faunce was listed as a fisherman and the fish stalls were rented by Albert Taylor. Two years later, in 1916, Taylor was also gone, and John Pigott had taken over the stalls as the fish seller. Pigott also left after no more than two years, since by 1920 William Renshaw had stalls 106-110.

By tracing the changing ownership of the stalls one can see families growing, children moving or getting their own stalls, and women often taking over stalls after the death of their husbands. Marie Dietz took over her husband's smoked meat stall by 1914. Mrs. Castell took over the meat stand when her husband, who had been in business with the Weschlers, died. May Castell was still at the Market in 1924.

Virginia Ross, an African-American woman, took over stall 21 selling vegetables when her husband Richard died. She lived at 128 Tenth Street, S.E. in a house she owned free and clear. Her daughter, Henrietta Ross, who was a dressmaker, lived with her as did her grandniece, Ethel Tyler. David Atkins, also an African-American, had stall 27 and sold provisions. He and his wife Marion and their two children lived at 810 C Street, S.E. in a house he owned.

By 1914 there were several Italian merchants selling produce in Eastern Market. Angelo Vittori, Fellipo Chirico and Rocco Girocco were all new market merchants in 1914. Chirico had previously sold fruit on Seventh Street, N.E., and Girocco had been a shoemaker at Seventeenth and L Streets, N.W.

An example of the kind of cooperation that appeared to prevail among the merchants involves another Italian. Rocco Stellabotte, who sold fruit, had been at the Eastern Market in 1910, but by 1914 he had moved to the Northern Liberty Market and his fruit stall had been taken by Angelo Vittori. However, boarding at Stellabotte's house in 1914, was young Alfred Laude, who had taken over his father's stalls at Eastern Market. The Laude and Stellabotte stalls had been side by side, and it seems likely that Stellabotte was helping his fellow merchant's son, who was starting his own stand, probably after his father's death or retirement.

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The Howards were another neighborhood family with Eastern Market connections. The head of the family was Catherine Howard, a widow who had emigrated from Germany in 1853. Three of her eight grown children and a daughter-in-law lived at the family home at 825 B (Independence) Street, S.E. Two sons, William Henry and Bernard Howard had stalls 17-18 and 19-20 side by side in the Market. William, who was in the Market by at least 1907, sold smoked and luncheon meats, while his brother, Bernard, was a butcher. William also sold delicatessen foods including ham and potato salad, which the family made at home on B Street and carried to the Market. Until development intensified in the years that followed the Civil War, the family grew much of what they sold on the land which surrounded the house that had been in the Howard family for several generations. According to oral tradition, the Howards still did their slaughtering there in the early 1900s.

A niece of the Howards remembers being sent to the Market in the 1914-18 period pulling her red wagon. One of her favorite stops was Raymond "Shorty" Krahling's bakery at stall 39. Krahling had wonderful baked goods and sweets. She also remembers buying coconut patties from John Doerr's³⁹ corner delicatessen stall where he sold not only coconut but pickles and olives.

These brief profiles capture some of the texture of life in Washington and Capitol Hill in the early 20th century. They present only a glimpse of the life of and in the Market in that era, but they indicate that the Market formed the center of a close-knit interdependent community, and that it provided a livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities and for a broad cross section of the surrounding community.

Eastern Market's Decline

Even as Eastern Market was being expanded, significant social changes were underway. These changes almost destroyed Washington's entire market system. Concurrent changes at the beginning of the twentieth century included local demographic shifts with attendant changes in shopping patterns, and nation-wide technological and economic innovations that encouraged new methods of retailing food.

The first of the changes made an immediate impact. The old crescent of population expanded to virtually a full circle. Changing patterns in the way developers acquired land, organized their work, and produced their houses opened sizeable new areas far outside the old crescent. Their advertisements for the new houses north of Maryland Avenue and east of Fourth Street, N.E. attracted large numbers of new home buyers. The houses had a decidedly modern appearance by the beginning of World War I and contained all the "latest conveniences." The people who bought them turned their backs on the old, out-of-date portion of Capitol Hill, including Eastern Market. Instead, they chose to shop along the more modern H Street, N.E. corridor with its newer commercial buildings and its new ideas in marketing.⁴⁰

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Competition for Eastern Market also sprang up in the form of the "grocery store chain." Sanitary Grocery Company, which was the local forerunner of Safeway, began leasing commercial space in "mom and pop" stores all over Washington. Typically, the company identified an existing building, often with mixed use, and obtained a long term lease on it. A case in point is the building at 500 Fourth Street, S.E., which the company leased from 1920 through the mid-1930s. The company paid the owner rent, plus gas, water, and all repair bills for use of the store space. In addition, it installed motorized refrigeration equipment.

Gradually, the corporation found the system of small stores economically unattractive. It concentrated on larger stores such as the one it opened at 545 Eighth Street, S.E. in 1923. In that instance, the lease ran for ten years with monthly payments and a built-in increase after five years. It also required the owner to keep the property in good repair and to heat the premises to a temperature not lower than 65 F. Sanitary, on the other hand, could use the cellar as well as the street level space, and remove the backs of the show windows so long as it replaced them at the end of the lease. The company also had to pay for gas, electricity, and replacement costs of any broken plate glass windows. In all likelihood, this store, which was four blocks away, was Eastern Market's largest single competitor from 1923 until World War II.

About 1940 the Sanitary Grocery Company became part of the Safeway system, which by 1932 already owned 3,527 stores. When the Safeway logo replaced that of the Sanitary Grocery Company on the Eighth Street store in 1941, a nation-wide economic force became involved in the marketing of groceries on Capitol Hill. The Eighth Street store remained there until it closed in 1962. At least four other Safeways sprang up to serve the shopping needs of the population in the Eastern Market neighborhood before 1970. By the end of the 1980s there were only two, one on Thirteenth Street, S.E. and one at Hechinger Mall, N.E., both of which drew customers away from the market.

Another long-lasting competitor, but one which never gained national backing was the District Grocery Stores, Inc. Founded c. 1930, the incorporated co-operative that was popularly known as the "DGS" attracted some 400 independent grocers in the District of Columbia. Member stores sold kerosene, bundled wood, clothes, and penny candy in addition to groceries. DGS members obtained their stock in trade from the corporation's warehouse at Fourth and D Streets, S.W. Typically, a store owner went to the warehouse each morning at 5:00 am, and opened his store as soon as he returned to it. On Saturday, many of them stayed open until midnight and they maintained Sunday hours as well. Each store indicated its membership in the co-op by using the corporate orange and green logo as part of its sign.

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All member stores provided delivery service and each had some patrons who never set foot in the store. Albert Liff, the son of one of the charter DGS members, described the delivery system. The grocer's delivery person routinely would go out in a car or truck to "get the order" from the customer who was usually a house bound wife, go back to the store, package the order, and then deliver it. While out on a delivery, he would pick up another order, fill and deliver it, then repeat the process throughout the day, constantly giving individual attention to the customer.⁴²

By 1929, Eastern Market had lost too many customers to support the additional vendors who occupied the North Hall. Markets all over the city were suffering similar fall-offs and Centre Market, the system's anchor, originally was scheduled to be demolished that year. In an apparent effort to rid itself of the burden of bolstering the system, the city also attempted to close Western and Eastern Markets. However, the Depression had begun and the US Department of Agriculture decided to use Centre Market as an experimental model to demonstrate the viability of public farmers' markets. Nevertheless, in 1932, Centre Market was razed to make room for the National Archives Building. Thanks to the hue and cry from civic groups and individuals in the Eastern and Western Market neighborhoods, as well as the fact that the markets were not standing in the way of a major federal improvement project, Eastern and Western Markets lived on.⁴³

When the North Hall was closed, the city transferred use of the space to the adjacent fire house, Engine Company, No. 8. The fire house had become a major part of the city's fire fighting system. A tower had been constructed at its rear to teach firemen techniques associated with tall buildings. As a training facility, the fire house had more than the usual amount of equipment and the North Hall served as its storage facility. Ultimately, even the fire house was closed and the city transferred the storage rights to the Department of Transportation.

Centre Market's demolition in 1932, the transfer of its vendors to the old Northern Liberty Market and subsequent closing of that operation, the closing of the O Street and Georgetown Markets, and the demolition of the Western or K Street Market in the post-World II era left Eastern Market the only viable remnant of the working market house. With each closing, vendors made their decision to retire or move to another facility. As a result, by the 1950s, Eastern Market's South Hall contained vendors who had worked throughout the city's market system. Their collective experiences, however, did not prepare them for the downturn of Eastern Market that followed World War II. As a result, Eastern Market almost died.

In the mid-1950s, the D.C. Government was moving aggressively to close the several remaining public markets under its charge. When the Market tenants were informed of its intention to close Eastern Market, one of them, Charles Glasgow, Sr. suggested that instead he assume management responsibility for the market.

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The Eastern Market Corporation was formed, and has since leased the South and Center Halls. Plans for a much-needed renovation of the Market have been actively discussed ever since. A partial renovation, including repairs to the roof, in-kind replacement of windows and doors, and repointing of exterior masonry took place in the mid-1970s. Proposals by the D.C. Government in the 1980s for the building's renovation served to galvanize the community, and have helped to make Eastern Market once again a focal point, both politically and commercially, of the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

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1. Guy Castle. "Blue Plains and Bellevue: Two Early Plantations of the Washington Area," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, 1963-1965, p. 22; Mrs. Faithful. Tape interview. Privately held. Undated, but probably 1980. Mrs. Faithful's reminiscences confirm that residents of the Bellevue/Blue Plains/Congress Heights area of the District of Columbia persisted in going to Alexandria to market by water until after World War I.
2. H. Paul Caemmerer, *The Life of Pierre Charles L'Enfant*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1970, 152.
3. Wilhelmus Bogart Bryan, *A History of the National Capital, Volume 1, 1790-1814*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914, 327.
4. *Ibid.*, 420.; The Junior League of the City of Washington. *An Illustrated History The City of Washington*. New York: Alfred A. Knopff, 1985, 90. Note that this books erroneously locates Eastern Market at Seventh Street and South Carolina Avenue, S.E.
5. *Daily National Intelligencer* (Washington, DC), June 17, 1813, 2.
6. Bryan, *History of the National Capital*, 486-487.
7. Nodules platted by historian Ruthann Overbeck from 1819 tax information that reveal which building lots contained improvements. Given the city's slow growth rate, coupled with a spot check of lot ownership in deed records, the presumption is that most of the lots which showed no improvements in 1819 would not have contained previous improvements. DC Tax Books, 1822, NARA.
8. Information based on classified advertisements which ran in various issues of the *National Intelligencer*, 1800-1802. Some ads appeared only a few times, others ran for months. An ad from Peter Healy & Co. appears in the issue for February 11, 1805, 4.
9. *Daily National Intelligencer*, 1800 - 1820. Spot checks of classified advertisements revealed the wide-spread practice of keeping domestic animals in the city. Ads provided owners and finders' names and addresses and described the strayed and stolen animals which were sought or had been found.; A German immigrant named Laurence Hessler and Maryland-born African-American David Atkins typify the farmers at the inner edge of the crescent. During the late 1840s and early 1850s Hessler amassed more than 24,000 square feet of land in the square bounded by East Capitol, A, Fourth, and Fifth Streets SE. He gave his occupation as "gardener" and operated a produce stall at Centre Market. During the same time period, Atkins bought more than half of the square bounded by C, D, Eighth, and Ninth Streets SE. which he farmed. He also owned the hominy stand at Centre Market. In addition, long time Capitol Hill resident and entrepreneur Adam Lindsay established a vineyard near Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Information based on DC Deeds, Tax Records, City Directories, etc. and provided from the privately held files of historian Ruthann Overbeck.
10. Almost every edition of the early newspapers, the *Washington Gazette*, the *Centinel*, and the *Daily National Intelligencer*, contains one or more advertisement of relating to personal bankruptcy. See also Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Letters Sent, NARA.
11. *Ibid.*; See also Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Letters, Received, 1796, NARA.

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12. Contents of petition and quotation courtesy of Dr. Philip Ogilvie, Archivist of the District of Columbia. Note that this corrects the 1803-04 date in William Tindall, *Standard History of the City of Washington*. Knoxville: H. W. Crew & Co., 1914, 363.

13. "The Sessford Annals," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Volume 11*, 285, 360, 365. The placement of the item about the ice and meat house in Sessford's report may indicate that it was constructed with private, rather than public funds.

14. "The Sessford Annals," 360.

15. Ruth Ann Overbeck. 1D1 Substation, Historical Analysis. Unpublished report submitted by Capitol Hill Restoration Society to Mayor Marion S. Barry, 1981, 1.

16. *Daily Patriot*, Washington, DC, July 24, 1871, 4.

17. Minutes of the Territorial Legislature of the District of Columbia, National Archives, n.p. See Appendix I for full text.

18. District of Columbia Deed Liber 664, 242-4.

19. DC Tax Records, 1822-1871.

20. *Daily Patriot*, August 16, 1871, 4. Maps of the era show North Carolina Avenue in concept as extending past the boundary of the old Federal City and cutting across the southeastern portion of Isherwood and Rosedale.

21. *Daily Patriot*, May 18, 1871, p. 4.

22. *Daily Patriot*, August 16, November 12 and 22, 1871, 3. In fact, the newspaper reported that the Legislature amended the bill authorizing the market to read that costs would not exceed \$80,000, not \$60,000. Although the amended language was not inserted in the final manuscript version of the bill, it obviously prevailed.; Tindall, *Standard History of the City of Washington*, 384.

23. Washington Perspectives. Firehouse Building Survey, unpublished, 1986. DC Historic Preservation Division.

24. DC Engineering Department Records, DC Archives. For a comprehensive view of street work, see the index cards for Seventh Street and North Carolina Avenue SE. For the C & P Telephone Company project, see Engineering Department permit #20929.

25. *Washington City Directory*, 1822, pp. 91 and 103.

26. Report of the Board of Public Works of the District of Columbia, 1873, p. 236.

27. Report of Market Masters, Report of Commissioners of District of Columbia, 1895, p. 583, 1900, p. 504 and 1901, p. 593.; *Washington City Directories*, 1892-1911;

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28. Report of Market Masters, Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for Year ending June 30, 1895, p. 583.
 29. *Ibid.*, 1900, p. 504.
 30. The work was completed in December 1908, 35 years after the construction of the original building.
 31. DC Council Order, 76701. C.O. 252640, February 5, 1909.
 32. *Washington City Directory*, 1914.
 33. Architectural drawing of electrical fittings. DC Department of Public Works.
 34. *Washington City Directories*, 1914-1920.
 35. US Census; 1910.
 36. *Ibid.*, 1900, 1910.
 37. *The Post and Times Herald* (Washington), 24 May 1957.
 38. This and the biographical data which follows to the end of this section was derived from city directories and US Census records.
 39. Vivian Graff Martin, information discussion with Alice N. Norris, 1991.
 40. Melissa McLoud. *Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs: Builders in Late Nineteenth-Century Washington, D.C.* PhD thesis. The George Washington University, 1988, 90-120. See especially Chapter III for "From a Craft to a Business."; *Evening Star*, various. Real estate advertisements were sampled for the period 1912-1920. Those for large-scale projects covered as much as one-eighth of a page and listed mechanical features such as furnaces by brand name.; Oral history interviews conducted for and filed as part of the Capitol Hill Historic District Survey, 1973-1975.
 41. Ruth Ann Overbeck. *A House History: 500 Fourth Street, S.E.*, unpublished report, 1982, 13-14. Privately held.; Ruth Ann Overbeck, *Historical Summary: 541-545 Eighth Street, S.E.* Unpublished report, 1982, 5-6. Privately held.; A. Russell Griffith. *Statement on Behalf of Safeway Stores, Incorporated.* Unpublished statement, 1965, 2-3. Food Marketing Institute Archives. Safeway's origins can be traced to American Falls, Idaho where M. B. Skaggs opened a small grocery in 1915. Skaggs' slogan was "Distribution Without Waste." Safeway incorporated in 1926, under State of Maryland laws. During its earliest years, Safeway was a non-operating holding company, but later stopped marketing through subsidiary or affiliated companies. As of 1964 Safeway had retail operations in the US, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and Germany, with the foreign operations conducted through subsidiaries. [Note the Basics grocery chain which began in the 1980s is part of the Safeway group. Therefore, the corporation probably reinstated the policy of using subsidiary or affiliated companies in the US at some point after Griffith prepared his report.]
 42. Ruth Ann Overbeck, *The History of Congress Heights; Multi-Cultural Resources Survey of Congress Heights*; Liff. Oral History interview; both items filed with the DC Historic Preservation Division. Note that the order and delivery system implies that telephones in private residences were still the exception rather than the norm. It also was predicated on streets that were improved enough to facilitate rapid turn-around.
 43. *Evening Star*, (Washington, DC) February 21, 1928, p. 6; February 28, 1928, p. 2; and March 1, 1928, p. 4.

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FIGURE ONE: Merchants in Eastern Market, 1914
Including the South, North and Center Halls
Not Including the Farmers' Line

FISH:	1
FLORISTS:	1
NUTS:	1
FRUITS:	2
GROCERS:	2
POULTRY:	2
PROVISIONS:	2
BUTTER:	3
DELICATESSENS:	3
SMOKED MEATS:	3
BAKERS:	5
MEATS:	11
PRODUCE:	15

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51 Merchants

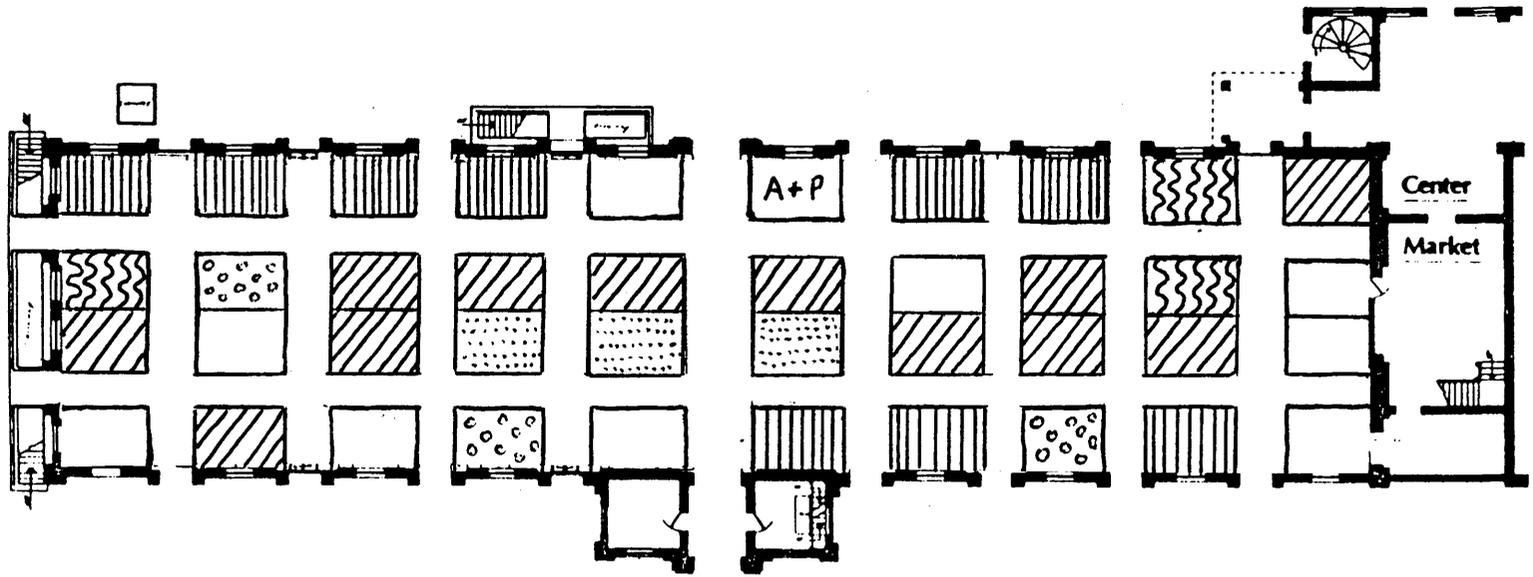
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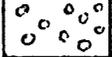
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FIGURE TWO: Stall Arrangement and Types of Merchants, South Hall, 1914



- PRODUCE 
- MEAT 
- BUTTER, EGGS, POULTRY 
- DELICATESSEN 
- BAKERY 

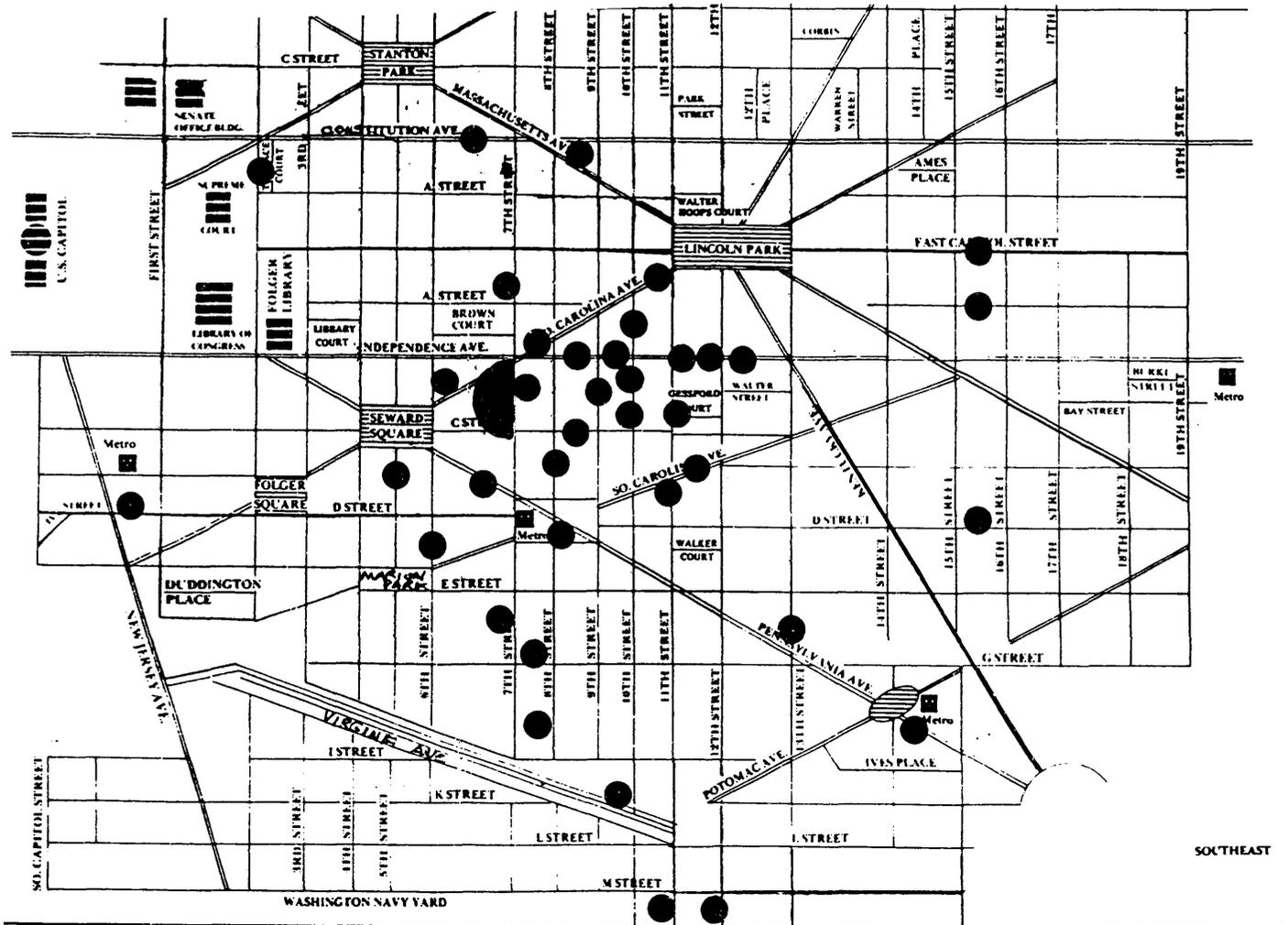
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FIGURE THREE: Location of Merchants' Residences
in Relation to Eastern Market, ca. 1914-1920



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Eastern Market is located on Lot 800 within Square 872 in Washington, D.C. The building occupies approximately 0.587 acres at the western end of the triangular city block. The front of the building is oriented west toward 7th Street, S.E., the south side fronts C Street, S.E., the north side fronts North Carolina Avenue, S.E. The rear of the building fronts a public alley.