

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
APR 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
South Side of the 800 Block of F Street, N.W.

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 800-812 F Street and 814 F Street, 816 F Street, 818 F Street, 527 9th Street, NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE: 11

COUNTY: District of Columbia

CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

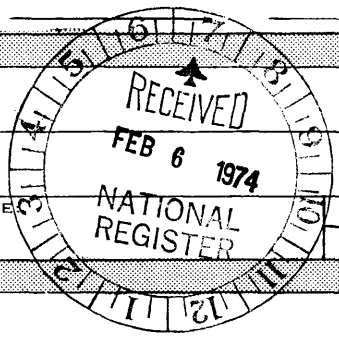
OWNER'S NAME: See continuation sheet form 10-300a

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: 6th & 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 Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968; revised 1973 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:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: APR 2 1974

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The south side of the 800 block of F St. N.W. includes 5 commercial buildings of related design, built during the last quarter of the 19th century. These flat-roofed, party-walled brick buildings were erected directly on the property line, forming a continuous street facade with rhythmic variations in height, proportion and spacing of individual facades. Bays are largely defined by structural divisions and opened up with tripartite groupings of windows. One/one- light sash predominate. There is much use of rich, shadow-forming detail executed in applied wood and/or cast iron or in decorative brick work integral with the fabric of the facades. Interconnecting arches of various combinations are a unifying theme as is the occurrence of substantial crowning cornices. Horizontals are stressed by these cornices and by street level shops and shop signs.

The Le Droit Building (1875), 800-812 F St., N.W., on the S.W. corner of 8th and F Sts. is a basically L-shaped building fronting 100' on F St. and 75' on 8th St. It is four stories high with seven bays on F St. and five bays on 8th St. Construction is brick masonry with brick partition walls extending the full height of the building.

There is a flat roof. Composition of the facades is symmetrical. Entrances occur in the second and sixth bays on the F St. front and in the third bay on 8th St. Bays above entrances each contain a single window; all other bays contain groups of three windows. A triangular pediment, broken out from the crowning cornice, emphasizes the fourth or central bay on the F St. front. All entrance bays are emphasized by smaller segmental pediments.

The central pediment is panelled and bears in relief the inscriptions "Le Droit Building" and above this "1875". The boldly projecting cornice is supported by brackets occurring in pairs at the ends of all pediments and the corners of the building. Laterally, the first two stories are treated as a base; the lower of these is partially below grade. Taking advantage of the short spans between interior partition walls, the glass area on these floors has been maximized. On the second floor, 1/1 light floor to ceiling flat-arched sash occur between piers whose apparent mass has been reduced through use of panelling, moulding and brackets, achieving an open, colonnaded effect. Originally this was carried down into the floor below. The "colonnade" supports what amounts to a full entablature between the second and third stories with abbreviated architrave, plain frieze, full cornice, pediments over entrances and anthemion acroteria at points of emphasis. Two-story entrances with large flat-arched glazed areas above double entrance doors at the mid-point of the first story were originally reached by balustraded stairs. Cast iron columns with Corinthian capitals rise from the first story piers, supporting the triangular broken-bed pediments. The third and fourth stories are of brick. Each bay contains a tall window with 2/2 light sash, round-arched on the third floor and segmentally arched on the fourth floor. In tripartite bays these are flanked on either side with short, narrow, segmentally arched windows. Stilted arch hood moulds of corbelled brick follow the conformation of these arches. In tripartite bays the arches interconnect. The facades have been painted gray with white trim.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1875-1892

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>Local History</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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the entire South side of the 800 block of F St., N.W. a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. This group of related 19th Century commercial buildings (1875-92) were built after completion of the large-scale municipal improvements undertaken by the Board of Public Works in 1871-74. It is representative of the earliest development of F St. as the commercial core of the city.

The neighborhood in which these buildings stand is distinguished by the presence of the old Patent Office (now the National Portrait Gallery and National Collection of Fine Arts of the Smithsonian Institution) and the old Post Office (now the U.S. Tariff Commission). The Patent Office--designed and built by William P. Elliott, Robert Mills, T.U. Walter and Edward Clark in 1836-67--and the Post Office--designed and built by Robert Mills and T.U. Walter in 1839-66--are two of the finest Greek Revival buildings in this country. The former is a Category I Landmark; the latter, a Category II Landmark. In addition, the area is of axial importance to the L'Enfant plan for the city of Washington, a Category I Landmark.

F St. between 7th and 9th Sts., N.W. is indented slightly to the south, accomodating the huge mass of the old Patent Office Building. The potentially very special area thus created is emphasized at 9th St. by commercial buildings of exceptional architectural strength and diversity. The old Masonic Temple (1867-69) at the N.W. corner of 9th and F Sts., now the JuliusLansburgh Furniture Co., was designed in a modified French Renaissance style by Cluss and Kammerhueber. The Washington Loan and Trust Co. (1891) at the S.W. corner of 9th and F Sts., was designed by James G. Hill after the manner of Henry Hobson Richardson's great 1885 Marshall Field Warehouse.

The 800 block of F St. relates both architecturally and historically to its prestigious neighbors. Its varied facade introduces a congenial human scale which enhances the monumental qualities of these buildings and of the L'Enfant plan itself.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Henry E. "Ninth and F Streets and Thereabout". Records of the Columbia Historical Society". Vol. 5. Washington: published by the Society, 1902.

Martin Luther King Public Library. Washingtoniana Collection. City directories, atlases, newspaper clipping files.

McGill, James H. Architectural Advertiser. Washington D.C.: A.L. Barber, Co. 1879.

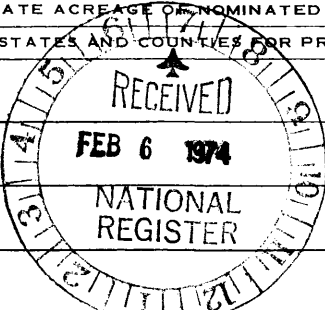
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		38° 53' 49"	77° 01' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 19,694 sq. ft. .452+ acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Tanya Beauchamp, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: 12/12/ 73

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

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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]
Assistant to the Mayor for
Title: Housing Programs

Date: FEB 4 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/2/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.1.74

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4. Ownership - Continuation

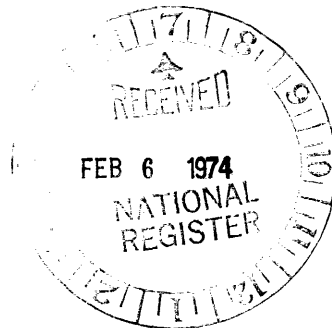
802-10 F St., N.W.
Mr. Joseph B. Stein
c/o Mr. Orren F. Stein and Mr. Ralph Stein
2206 Brinkley Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20021

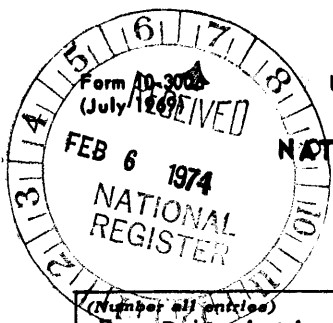
812 F St., N.W.
George's Radio & Television Co., Inc.
2850 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

814-16 F St., N.W.
Mr. R.M. Sutton and Mr. F.L. Johnson
c/o American Security and Trust Co.
730 15th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

818 F St., N.W.
Mr. Orren F. Stein and Mr. Ralph Stein
2206 Brinkley Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20021

527 9th St., N.W.
Atlas Investment Corporation
c/o Mr. Orren F. Stein and Mr. Ralph Stein
2206 Brinkley Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20021





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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7. Description - Continued

814 F St. (c.1875) is rectangular in shape, 15' 6" x 75'. Of brick masonry construction, the building is three stories high, two bays wide, with a flat roof. The first story, now completely altered, has presumably always been occupied by a shop. The two upper stories are identically treated, each bay consisting of a long narrow window with 1/1 light sash, outset brick sill, and boldly modeled cast iron hood mould. The heads of the sash themselves, as well as those of the window openings, are segmentally arched. The hood moulds follow this conformation. A substantial pedimented crowning cornice, built well out from the front and supported by brackets, dominates the facade. Overscaled brackets, their surfaces ornamentally elaborated, occur at the ends of the cornice and pediment. Between these brackets is a plain panelled frieze. The entire press brick facade has been painted an uneven brown color.

The Adams Building (1878), at 816 F St., N.W., is rectangular in shape, 34' 8" x 70'. Two stories high and two bays wide with a flat roof, the building is of brick masonry construction. The first story, now completely altered, always contained shop windows of some design. The facade above is organized in a composition of bold linear conception. Each bay, consisting of a group of tall, very narrow windows with 1/1 light sash, is defined by interconnecting corbelled brick hood moulds with pointed extrados and segmental intrados springing from a belt course occurring at about 3/4 of the height of the windows. The windows themselves rest upon a narrow brick string course. A broad, simply moulded architrave of corbelled bricks occurs directly above the second story hood moulds. The fascia of the crowning cornice, panelled and exaggerated in size, originally carried in relief the inscription "Adams Building". It is supported by brackets with finely ornamented, large-scaled brackets and corbel blocks occurring at either end. A vestigial central pediment with inset moulded pentagonal panel bore in relief the inscription "1878". The sloping sides of this pediment as well as the inscription are now missing. String course, belt course and hood moulds, and architrave were originally painted or plastered and painted white in contrast to the dark red press bricks of the facade. Remaining cornice elements, of wood and cast iron, were painted a light color, probably white, with panels behind the inscriptions painted a dark color. The entire facade has since been painted a muddy yellow color.

818 F St., N.W. (1881) is rectangular in shape, originally 16' 6" wide by 53' 6" (now 75') deep, three stories high, of brick masonry construction with brick foundations and solid party walls. The roof is flat and was originally covered with tin. A three bay cast iron front, elaborately detailed and designed for maximum fenestration, has been covered over with squares of a pale blue metallic material. The cornice of this front, including a vestigial pitched roof supported by brackets above a triply panelled frieze, projects beyond the covering, as do its vertical end members. An 1890 photograph shows the front designed with strong horizontal emphasis. The vertical members framing the 1/1 light sash are minimized by attenuated

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

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(Continuation Sheet)

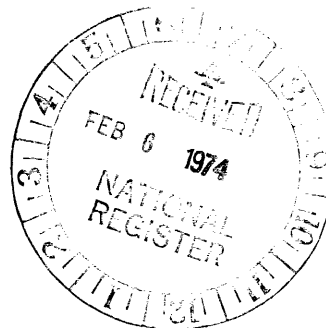
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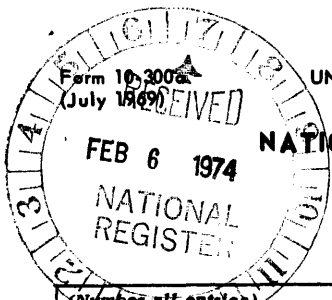
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7. Description - Continued

attached colonettes. Vertical end members are broken out where horizontals occur. Between the first and second floors this is extended into a shallow roof projection over the entrance. The entrance, in the central bay, was originally flanked by splayed plate glass display windows. These have now been completely remodeled. The cast iron front was originally painted white; the entrance story framing, a dark color. All detail and ornament is relatively small in scale.

The Warder Building (1892), known now as the Atlas Building, faces west at the S.E. corner of 9th and F Sts., N.W. It is rectangular in shape, fronting 33' 4" on F St. and 120' 4" on 9th St. There is a long narrow rear ell at the south end. Construction is brick masonry with foundation walls of brick and stone. A series of flat roofs, originally covered with tin, are concealed by a parapet. The building is six stories high with two bays on F St. and twelve on 9th St. The composition of the facades is lateral with repetitive bays given a rhythmically horizontal emphasis. The first two stories of the building are treated as a continuous arcade. Piers are elaborated with capitals of offset purpose-moulded bricks laid in a simple but effective design of verticals and horizontals. On the 9th St. side, round-headed arches are corbelled outward in five stages, producing rich shadow mouldings. Double 1/1 light sash windows fill the arches from just below the level of the capitals. On the F St. side, bays are wider, occasioning segmental arches with groupings of three windows. Spandrels are of pebble-textured brick. The street level, originally designed to accommodate five stories, has been completely remodeled. The main entrance is incident to the sixth bay of the 9th St. facade. The four upper stories, proportionately shorter, are separated by belt courses of offset purpose-moulded brick. On the 9th St. side bays consist of two 1/1 light sash windows in plain rectangular apertures, grouped above each arch. On the F St. side there are three windows in each arch. Continuous lintels and sills, flush with the wall, are of stone. A wide band of headers offset in a diamond pattern forms a frieze below a simply moulded cornice. A plain parapet rises above this.





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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8. Significance - Continued

In 1902 an old resident of the 9th and F St. neighborhood observed "...what spot in the city more truly typifies the growth of Washington from the mud-village days of ante-bellum sentiments and modes of life and business to the broad liberal and advanced views, enterprises and conditions which characterize our city today?" The area first developed as a convenient, then a fashionable residential section containing some shops, offices, theatres and clubs. The Patent Office, housed initially in Blodgetts's Hotel, then in the original Post Office building, was early an integral part of the neighborhood. The construction of Wm. P. Elliott's design for its permanent home was a source of great civic pride.

The 800 block itself developed commercially from east to west. In 1875, A.L. Barber & Co., builders of suburban Le Droit Park, erected the Le Droit Building at the S.W. corner of 8th and F Sts. Designed by James H. McGill in the Italianate commercial style of its period, the Le Droit Building was intended exclusively for use as offices. Its first tenants included A.L. Barber & Co., architects James H. McGill and C.A. Didden, stationers J. Bradley Adams and William H. Boyd (publisher of Boyd's Directory), a barber, 2 auctioneers, various agents, twenty lawyers and others. 814 F St. was built on land belonging to Paula Rocca in 1875 or 1876. By 1877 J. Bradley Adams had moved his book and stationery business from the Le Droit Building to this address. In 1878, Adams, who also operated a stationery store at 527 7th St., N.W., erected the Adams Building at 816 F St. for his own use. Like the Le Droit Building 814 and 816 F St. were in the fashionable Italianate commercial style. In his architectural advertiser, in 1879, McGill listed J. Brad. Adams and J.B. Rocca among his clients. It is possible that he may have been the architect for 814 and 816 F St. as well as for the Le Droit Building. The St. Cloud Building, which stood at the S.W. corner of 9th and F Sts. until 1890, was of his design. McGill maintained an office in the Le Droit Building until 1880 when he moved to 1421 N.Y. Ave., N.W. McGill gave up architecture at this time, becoming a wholesale and retail dealer in architectural iron work and builder's supplies. In 1882 he moved to 908-914 G St., N.W. In 1891 he erected the McGill Building on this site with Paul J. Pelz as architect. In 1881 Adams built 818 F St. A building permit exists for this property but lists no architect. 818 F St., its cast-iron front designed in an Italianate manner more timid and refined than its neighbors to the east, had an estimated cost of \$4000. In 1892 B.H. Warder erected the Warder Building at the S.E. corner of 9th and F Sts. Designed by Washington architect Nicholas T. Haller in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, this was a large elevator building intended for use as offices, apartments and stores. Warder, a wealthy manufacturer of farm implements from Springfield, Ohio, moved to Washington in 1885. His house at 2633 16th St., N.W., built in that year, was designed by the firm of H.H. Richardson. Haller maintained an office in the Warder Building for many years.

As the commercial core of the city has moved to the west and northwest, the 800 block of the south side of F St. has become shabby and disused. The

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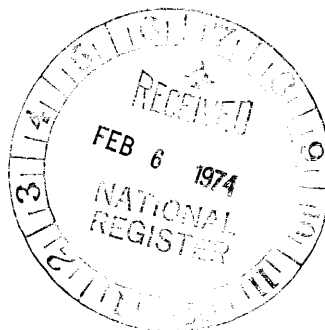
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8. Significance - Continued

Le Droit Building has in recent years been a haven for struggling artists. The Warder Building is all but empty. The entrance stories of these buildings are occupied by a number of undistinguished shops, ranging from an adult book store to a Pfaff sewing machine dealer. Through benign neglect, the original detail of these buildings has been preserved to a remarkable extent. Structurally, their solid masonry construction appears to be sound. The original appearance of their facades is well-documented.

The Le Droit Building is a significant example of early, non-elevator office building design, particularly interesting for its proximity to two of the great Greek Revival structures built to house the federal bureaucracy in the 1830's-1860's. Constructed at the end of the progressive Shepherd era it consciously emulates the program of these buildings. In scale and proportion it relates directly to the adjacent Post Office building. Like the Post Office its facade composition is symmetrical, arranged vertically in three parts and laterally with two stories over a two story base, the lower being partially below grade. Some use is made of tripartite fenestration. Particularly interesting in the Le Droit building is the free Italianate adaptation of classical detail. The colonnade theme is transposed from the upper to the lower stories and imaginatively used to admit large glazed areas. These are even more extensive and "modern" than those originally found in the street floor of the nearby old Masonic Temple. The somewhat delicate detail of the brackets of the crowning cornice evokes the Corinthian capitals and brackets of the Post Office cornice.

The Le Droit Building extends approximately half the length of the block. With its open, animated facades and lively detail it dominates the remaining buildings. These play a supportive transitional role, reinforcing the scale and design of the Le Droit Building and relating it to the Romanesque Washington Loan and Trust Co.



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9. Bibliography - Continued

McKee, Harley J. Washington D.C. Architecture--Market Square.
Washington, D.C.: HABS, 1969.

National Archives. Records of the District of Columbia. R.G. 351. Building Permits, #727 (Jan. 31, 1881), #271 (April 27, 1892), #206 (Aug. 9, 1898).

National Capital Planning Commission. Files.

DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia. Washington, D.C.: William H. Boyd, 1879, p.2. Perspective drawing, Le Droit Building.

Columbia Historical Society. John Clagett Proctor Collection.
Photograph of F St., 1890.



