

44

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination 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 O Street Market

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1400 7th Street, NW not for publication N/A  
city or town Washington vicinity X  
state District of Columbia code DC zip code 20001 county N/A code N/A

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.)

*Arthur Cross*  
Signature of certifying official

3/14/95  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property     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): \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrus 4/28/95

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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: marketplace  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: marketplace  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====

**7. Description**

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Victorian  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
roof METAL: Tin  
STONE: Slate  
walls BRICK  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

=====  
**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** 1881-1945  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** 1881  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

=====  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
=====

**Bibliography**

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- 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

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>324860</u>	<u>4308375</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 Eve Barsoum / Architectural Historian  
organization D.C. Historic Preservation Division date March 11, 1995  
street & number 614 H Street, N.W. telephone (202) 727-7360  
city or town Washington state D.C. 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)

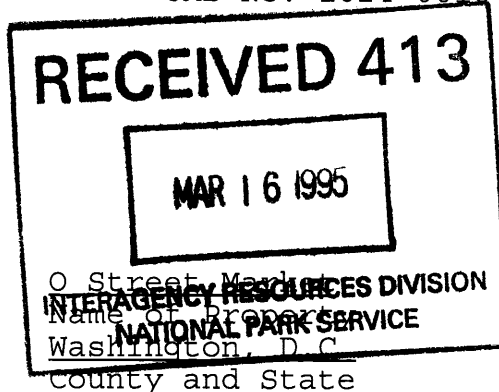
=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)  
name Adkins Limited Partnership  
street & number 707 O Street, NW telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Washington state D.C. 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

=====

The O Street Market is a large, rectangular, one-story, brick building. It is located at the corner of 7th and O Streets in the Shaw neighborhood of Northwest Washington, D.C. It is a good example of Victorian commercial architecture. The building has a gable roof, covered with standing seam tin, with a monitor which extends the length of the roof. The building is dominated by a square tower, located at the street corner, which is surmounted by a tall, pyramidal roof with dormers; the roofs are clad with slate in polychromatic patterns. The six bays of the 7th Street facade are delineated by brick piers and the O Street facade is five bays long. Each bay has one or two large, multi-light windows. The edifice's highlights include ornate segmental-arch lintels and corbelled cornices. The building is in good condition.

The most distinctive element in the building is the tower. In plan, the tower does not project from the building. The tower is distinguished in its elevation. There are two pairs of doors with large transoms, one on each side. The doors are framed by cast iron columns with simple foliate capitals. The columns support a brick projection with a segmental arch and decorative brickwork which adds monumentality to the entrance. At the second level are windows in an a:b:a pattern surmounted by a segmental wood inset panel which is enhanced by machine-cut foliage patterns and decorative brick segmental-arch lintel. The level is terminated by a deep corbelled cornice. The large truncated pyramid roof is taller than the tower's first and second levels combined. Its elongated dormers are proportional to the pyramidal roof. The gray, white, and red slate is laid in striped and triangular patterns. The pyramidal and dormer roofs are crowned by curved finials.

The O Street elevation has five bays, including the tower. There is a pair of doors in each bay except for the central bay. The first bay projects and incorporates a ten-over-ten light transom window and a brick pediment. The second and fourth bays are identical with ten-over-ten light transom windows surmounted by six-over-six, double-hung windows. The center bay also projects. It has a battered base and features a fifteen-over-fifteen light window. The fifth bay is the tower. The walls are crowned with brick corbelling.

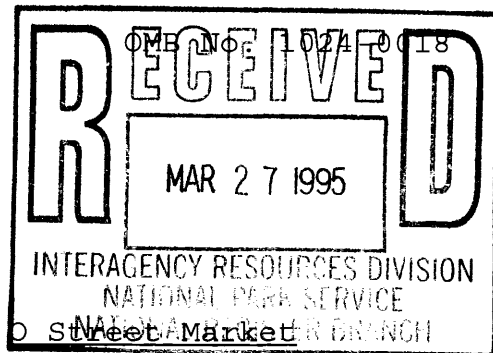
The 7th Street elevation has six bays. The first bay is the tower. The second through fourth bays are identical. There is a pair of doors with a ten-over-ten light transom window in each bay. The window is surmounted by a segmental wood inset panel which is enhanced by machine-cut foliage patterns and a decorative brick segmental-arch lintel. The bays are separated by piers which are terminated by ventilators with pyramidal caps. The end bay is highlighted by a pediment.

The west elevation repeats the bay, door, and window patterns of the 7th Street facades but the only decorative detail is the corbelled cornice. Only the ventilators at the corners remain. The central bay on the north elevation is the same as that on the O Street facade. However, its first bay does not incorporate a pediment, nor do the second and fourth bays include the smaller double-hung

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2



Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.  
County and State

=====  
windows. The original opening in the fifth bay has been replaced by a large rolling steel door.

The tin gable roof is crowned by a continuous monitor. Each of its seven bays include four six-light windows which pivot, the bays are separated by louvered panels the same size as the square windows. The monitor has a hipped roof covered in standing seam tin.

The building was damaged during the 1968 riots. Its exterior was rehabilitated by the District of Columbia's Redevelopment Land Agency in 1974. During this effort brickwork was repointed and painted, and doors and windows were repaired or replaced. The building underwent additional rehabilitation in 1978-79 by its new owner, a private developer. The scope of the work included: replacement (in-kind) of the metal roofs; installation of metal gutters; insulation; replacement (in-kind) of the tower's and dormers' slate roofs and finials; repairing the dormer windows; repairing or replacing windows and doors; repointing; the division of the interior into shop spaces--as opposed to the original stalls; installation of quarry tile flooring on the main floor; rebuilding the cold storage spaces in the basement, and; the removal of the canopy.

A one-story hipped roof addition has been attached to the west facade at the south end of the market. A brick wall at the northern end of the west facade conceals a utility area.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   8   Page   1  

O Street Market  
Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.  
County and State

=====  
The O Street Market is historically significant because it: is one of the three remaining nineteenth century public markets in the city; exemplifies the large, functional, well designed market buildings erected in the District of Columbia under the massive public works campaign headed by Alexander "Boss" Shepherd, and; represents a distinctive commercial structure with Victorian details. Except for the decade following the 1968 riots, the O Street Market has served continuously as a market for more than a century.

After the Civil War, Washington sought to replace its small town image. The new territorial government of the District of Columbia determined the need for substantial physical improvements. Alexander Shepherd, the self-appointed head of the five man Board of Public Works, sought to change Washington from a poorly paved, unattractive city into a model and beautiful capital. The improvements included laying sewer and water lines, grading and paving streets, planting trees, and removing unsightly nuisances.

The city's older public markets fell under the last category. The dilapidated markets were razed amid protests by the stall owners, but were replaced by well-designed, brick markets. Shepherd organized the construction of public markets throughout the most heavily populated areas of the city. After Shepherd ordered the demolition of the Northern Liberties Market in 1872, for health code violations, the city benefited, albeit a decade later, from the construction of O Street Market.

The Northern Liberties Market had opened in 1843, after petitions from local residents to the City Council. It was located on the east side of Mount Vernon Square, the reservation located at the intersection of 7th, 9th, and K Streets and New York and Massachusettes Avenues, NW. The market took its name from the local neighborhood known as Northern Liberties, approximately bounded by 3rd, 15th, G and O Streets, NW. At this time, very few people lived north of M Street, thus the term "northern" was logistically appropriate. From the outset, Northern Liberties Market was popular. However, its success led to hazardous health conditions. In 1860, local residents petitioned for its removal.

In 1872, the year after the opening of a new and improved Center Market located at 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Shepherd turned his attention to the Northern Liberties Market dilemma. The government purchased Square 446 (bounded by 6th, 7th, O, and P Streets, NW) from William W. Corcoran, the noted Washington banker and philanthropist and arranged for displaced merchants to temporarily relocate to the site in former Civil War barracks.<sup>1</sup> Shepherd ordered the

---

<sup>1</sup> The low frame building housed 187 stalls which rented for \$3.56 per month and was called "Corcoran Market." Faetz & Pratt's real estate atlas (1873-4) shows a \$500 frame market shed at this location.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   2  

O Street Market  
Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.  
County and State

=====  
demolition of the Northern Liberties Market, at Mount Vernon Square. The vendors, however, refused to vacate the site. As a result, Shepherd had the market demolished on September 3, 1872 at 8 p.m. Several people were killed when the destruction occurred.

Some of the outraged merchants joined with other businessmen and formed the Northern Liberty Market Company. They purchased the west half of "Savage Square," bounded by K, L, 5th, and 4th Streets, for \$110,000 from the daughters of George Savage on January 27, 1874.<sup>2</sup> The following June, the Company commissioned the architect James H. McGill to construct the Northern Liberty Market. The market opened in January 1875. The Victorian design included towers, dormers, beltcourses, keystones, and rich brickwork. The one-story building occupied 41,600 square feet and housed 284 stalls that rented for \$5.90 per month.<sup>3</sup> This market was never very successful because the public deemed it too far from the main commercial artery, 7th Street.

In 1881, the Northern Liberties Market Company was formed and in order to construct a market on 7th Street. The Company purchased part of the block bounded by O, P, 7th, and 8th Streets, NW (Square 422, lots 9, 18 - 21). During the first half of the 1800s, the block belonged to Michael Hoover, a butcher. Hoover sold the property around 1845 to Andrew Rothwell, a printer, who improved the property with beautiful gardens. The property was popularly known as "Rothwell's Gardens." On May 31, 1881, the Northern Liberties Market Company applied for a permit to build a one-story brick market, 95' x 150', at an estimated cost of \$15,000. In order to avoid confusion with the other markets, the new building was called O Street Market.

The building permit was signed by the president of the Company, Jesse B. Wilson. Wilson and other members of the Company apparently purchased the market for investment purposes, as most of the Company's officers were not merchants. Wilson also served as the president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company and of the Central Free Dispensary. Other officer included Ruben B. Detrick, chief of the internal revenue collectors division; William A. Cook, a lawyer; Henry J. Daly of Daly & Cunningham, liquor dealers; Christian Ruppert, dealer in toys and fancy goods; and, William B. Downing, a master carpenter and builder.<sup>4</sup> There were two

---

<sup>2</sup> Washington Topham. "Northern Liberty Market," Records of the Columbia Research Society, Vol 24: Washington City, John B. Larner, Ed., 1922, p. 43.

<sup>3</sup> A second floor convention hall was added in 1891 at which time the name was changed to Convention Hall. In 1931, following the destruction of Center Market for the construction of the National Archives the name was changed to Center Market.

<sup>4</sup> The Downing family of carpenters and builders gained wealth from early land ventures as the city began to grow. The Downings built a number of homes (extant) between Logan Circle and O Street

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   3  

O Street Market  
Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.  
County and State

=====  
members of the Company who were also merchants with stalls at the O Street: Henry Weyrich, a butcher, and J. M. Eiker, a butter merchant.

When O Street Market was constructed, the neighborhood was comprised of a mixture of races and socio-economic classes. The neighborhood included whites, blacks, and Germans which were government employees, skilled and unskilled laborers, as well as merchants. The market maintained a bustling clientele at the turn of the century. By the 1920s, the neighborhood became almost completely inhabited by blacks. As a result, black businesses began to develop along 7th, 9th, and 14th Streets (up to U Street) and between 7th and 14th Streets on U Street to service their community. After World War II, the physical condition of the market, as well as the neighborhood, began to deteriorate. The 1968 riots caused the market to close, although no serious damage occurred to the building. The closing of the market and other shops on 7th Street left the community without sufficient commercial shopping facilities.

In 1974, the O Street Market was part of a two block redevelopment project, the first of major commercial redevelopment plans for the Shaw Urban Renewal Area. The market was partially restored and rehabilitated by the Redevelopment Land Agency under the auspices of the District of Columbia's Department of Housing and Community Development. In 1977, the O Street Market, along with the entire block bounded by 7th, 9th, O, P Streets was sold to the entrepreneur James C. Adkins for commercial development of the land and further rehabilitation of the market. The O Street Market formally reopened on February 23, 1980.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Market.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   9   Page   1  

O Street Market  
Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.  
County and State

- =====
- Bryan, Wilhamus Bryant. A History of the National Capital, 1916.
- Historical Society of Washington, D.C. Records , 1800-1973, pp. 556-594.
- Crew, H.W. Centennial History of the City of Washington, D.C. Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1892.
- Downtown Urban Renewal Landmarks, National Capital Planning Commission/D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency, Summer 1970.
- Dubois, W.E.B. Black Reconstruction in America 1860-1880. Cleveland, Ohio: Meridian Books, 1962.
- George Washington Studies. "Washington, The Territory City." No. 3, Oct. 1975.
- Green, Constance McLaughlin. Washington Capital City, 1879-1950. Princenton: University Press, 1963.
- Maury, William M. GW Washington Studies, Alexander Boss Shepherd and the Board of Public Works No. 3, (George Washington University, Washington, D.C., October, 1975), pp 40-41.
- McArdle, Walter F. Development of the Business Sector 1800-1973. (RCHS of Washington, 1973-1974, Vol. 49, 1975), p.466.
- D.C. Permit to Build #1334, May 31, 1881.
- Overbeck, Ruth Ann and McLoud, Melissa. "...in a workman like manner..." The Building of Residential Washington 1790-1900. The Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives Exhibit, Washington, D.C., 1987.
- Proctor, John Clagett. Washington Past and Present, The Territorial Period: 1871-1874. (Lewis Historical Publications, NY, 2 Vols). 1930.
- Prospectus for Development, District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, Washington, D.C., October 7, 1974.
- Smith, Kathryn S., ed. Washington at Home. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988.
- Topham, Washington. Northern Liberty Market. Records of the Columbia Research Society (RCRS), Vol 24: Washington City, John B. Larner, Ed., 1922, pp. 43-57.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

O Street Market  
Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.  
County and State

=====

The O Street Market is located at the northwest corner of 7th and O Streets, NW on Lot 829 in Square 398.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   10   Page   2  

O Street Market  
Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.  
County and State

=====

Boundary Justification

The O Street Market has historically been associated with Lot 829 in Square 398.