

Neighborhood Timeline

Starting in the early 1800s, Seventh Street was Washington's major commercial street. From the 1850s to the 1950s, it was the hub of Washington's Jewish community.

Note: All addresses are in northwest Washington.

- 1861-65** Civil War. City's population doubles; Jewish community grows tenfold, to 2,000.
- 1863** Washington Hebrew (founded 1852) buys a former church on Eighth Street between H and I. With a mostly German immigrant membership, Washington Hebrew initially follows orthodox practices but begins reforms in the late 1860s.
- 1869** After Washington Hebrew purchases an organ, a group breaks away to form the orthodox Adas Israel Congregation.
- 1876** Adas Israel constructs a synagogue at corner of Sixth and G Streets. President Ulysses S. Grant attends its dedication.
- 1886** Eastern European immigrants found Congregation Chai Odem (later Ohev Sholom).
- 1890** An electric streetcar line opens along Seventh Street, running from Fort McNair (southwest Washington) to Boundary Street (today is Florida Avenue).
- 1898** Washington Hebrew dedicates a new, larger synagogue on the same site. President William McKinley attends the cornerstone-laying.
- 1906** Ohev Sholom purchases Fifth Presbyterian Church at Fifth and I Streets and converts it to an orthodox synagogue.
- 1908** Adas Israel builds a new synagogue at Sixth and I Streets, featuring Moorish-Byzantine architecture.
- 1931** The original Chinatown, near Pennsylvania Avenue and Fourth Street, is demolished in an urban renewal project. The Chinese community relocates to 600 block of H Street.
- 1951** Adas Israel moves uptown to Cleveland Park. Its former synagogue becomes Turner Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1955** Washington Hebrew Congregation relocates to Macomb Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Its former synagogue becomes Greater New Hope Baptist Church, which it remains today.
- 1960** Ohev Sholom Talmud Torah moves to Sixteenth and Jonquil Streets. Its former building becomes Corinthian Baptist Church. Today it houses the Chinese Community Church.
- 1969** The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) purchases the block at Sixth and G Streets for its headquarters. The Jewish Historical Society moves historic Adas Israel building to Third and G Streets.
- 1975** Restoration of historic Adas Israel is completed. The building opens to the public as the Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum.
- 1980** The Pension Building becomes the National Building Museum.
- 1986** The Chinatown arch is constructed.
- 1997** Construction of the MCI Center (now Verizon Center) at Seventh and F Streets begins neighborhood revitalization.
- 2002** Jewish developers purchase Turner Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church and restore it as Sixth and I Historic Synagogue.
- 2007** The Jewish Historical Society purchases a townhouse at Fourth and G Streets, in the heart of the historic neighborhood.

TOURS AVAILABLE!



The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington offers walking tours, exhibitions, and educational programs for adult and school groups. Call (202) 789-0900 or email info@jhsgw.org for more information!

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington and its Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum preserve, chronicle, and present the story of the local Jewish community through archival collections, exhibits, educational programs, publications, and the restoration and preservation of the oldest synagogue building in the nation's capital.



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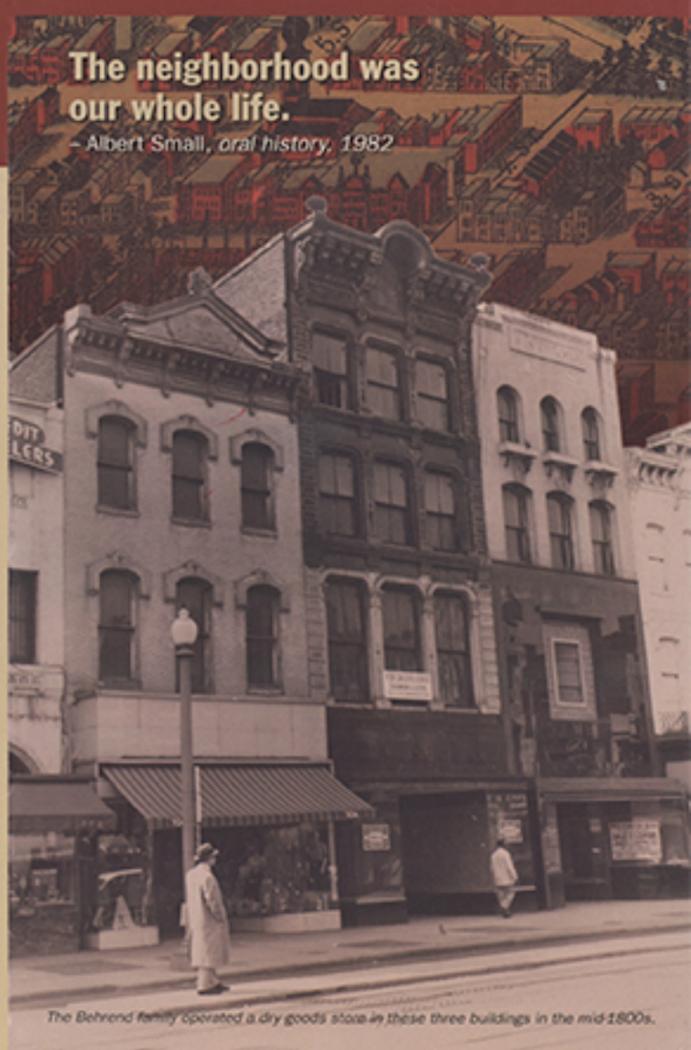
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
LILLIAN & ALBERT SMALL JEWISH MUSEUM

DOWNTOWN JEWISH WASHINGTON

Learn more about this historic, continually changing neighborhood in the heart of the nation's capital!

The neighborhood was our whole life.

— Albert Small, oral history, 1982



The Behrend family operated a dry goods store in these three buildings in the mid-1800s.

1. Adas Israel Synagogue/Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum

- Built 1876, 701 Third Street, NW
- The oldest synagogue building in Washington, it was moved from Sixth and G Streets in 1969. It is the departure point for neighborhood walking tours.
- Did you know?** Adas Israel occupied the building from 1876 to 1908. After that, four churches and several stores used it.



2. JHSGW Offices

- Built 1876, 701 Fourth Street, NW
- A typical building of the neighborhood, it started as a home on the corner. Later owners expanded it. Today it houses the offices of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.
- Did you know?** Through the years, the building has housed a barbershop, apartments, a Jewish tailor, and even a saloon.

3. St. Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church

- Built 1890, 723 Fifth Street, NW
- This German Catholic church has occupied this site since its founding in 1846. Today it holds a service in Chinese.
- Did you know?** Albert Small (1902-1987), who grew up across the street and attended Adas Israel, took music lessons at the church.



4. Chinese Community Church

- Built 1852, Fifth and G Streets, NW
- Originally Fifth Presbyterian Church, it has served as Ohev Sholom synagogue (1906-1960), Corinthian Baptist Church (1960-2006), and Chinese Community Church (2006-today).
- Did you know?** The building's architect, Thomas Ustick Walter, designed the dome and wings of the U.S. Capitol in the 1850s.

5. Home of Bernard Schlosberg

- Built 1896, 819 Sixth Street, NW
- Schlosberg, a Russian Jewish immigrant, owned a clothing store at 1213 E Street, NW. He hired A.B. Mullet and Company, a well-known local architect, to design this house.
- Did you know?** Schlosberg started in business by selling shoestrings at the Old Soldiers Home during the Civil War.



Seventh Street Jewish Sites



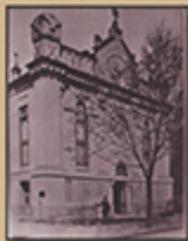
6. Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

- Built 1906, 600 I Street, NW
- Second home to Adas Israel (1908-1951), its design incorporates a combination of Moorish, Romanesque, and Byzantine motifs.
- Did you know?** The rose window on the Sixth Street side was reconstructed based on black-and-white photos of a 1949 wedding.



7. Greater New Hope Baptist Church

- Built 1898, 816 Eighth Street, NW
- Washington Hebrew Congregation converted a Methodist Episcopal church to a synagogue in 1863, then built the current, larger structure in 1898.
- Did you know?** Sheet-metal domes, one of the building's many Byzantine architectural elements, once capped the towers.



1863-1897

1898-1955

10. Original Location of Adas Israel

- 6th and G Streets, NW
- Adas Israel's first building stood on this site (1876-1969). Today the site is Metro's headquarters.
- Did you know?** In the 1950s-60s, the former synagogue housed a pork barbecue restaurant. (pictured)



11. Hockemeyer Hall

- Built 1888, 719 Sixth Street, NW
- Home of John Hockemeyer, a German-born grocer who added a banquet hall and assembly room in 1893. Today houses the German-American Heritage Center of the USA.
- Did you know?** Simon Wolf, a prominent 19th-century Jewish leader, was the attorney for the building's social club.

12. Seventh Street Department Stores

- Jewish-owned department stores in the neighborhood included Hecht's (Seventh and F), Lansburgh's (pictured, Seventh and E), Goldenberg's (Seventh and D), King's Palace (Seventh, between H and I), and Kann's (Eighth and Pennsylvania).
- Did you know?** Lansburgh's is now home to the Shakespeare Theatre Company. The store's original Eighth Street facade still exists.

