THE LAST CALL
Preserving Washington’s Lost Historic Breweries

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

• What is the history of Washington’s local brewing industry?
• What values does this history represent?
• How can preservation be used to interpret this history?
PRESERVATION PROBLEM

• How to use interpretation to preserve the history and values related to a lost building type.
METHODOLOGY

• Survey of Washington’s Historic Breweries, 1850-1950
  • City Directories
• Historical Research on Identified Breweries
  • Census
  • Sanborn / Baist Maps
  • Historic Newspapers
METHODOLOGY

• Contextual History Literature Search
  • Planning and Development History of Washington, D.C.
  • History of National Brewing Industry
  • History of Tavern and Saloon Culture
  • History of Prohibition in Washington
NUMBER OF BREWERIES BY DECADE

1850-1859: 5
1860-1869: 30
1870-1879: 25
1880-1889: 30
1890-1899: 25
1900-1909: 15
1910-1919: 10
1920-1929: 5
1930-1939: 3
1940-1949: 3
National Capital Brewing Co. (1892-1917, Capitol Hill)
Abner-Drury Brewing Co. (1898-1936, Foggy Bottom)
PROHIBITION

1917 - 1933
• **November 1, 1917**: Prohibition in D.C. (Sheppard Act)

• **January 17, 1920**: National Prohibition (18th Amendment)

• **April 7, 1933**: Beer up to 3.5% alcohol legal (Cullen-Harrison Act); breweries begin to reopen

• **December 5, 1933**: National Prohibition repealed (21st Amendment)

• **March 1, 1934**: Sheppard Act repealed; ABC Board created in D.C., prohibiting vertical integration between breweries and saloons
POST-RÉPEAL
1933 - 1950
It's HERE! Senate Beer

WASHINGTON'S FINEST LIGHT BEER

“Senate” has been aged for many months and is now on sale wherever beer is sold.

Ask for “Senate” by name!

Cor. Neurich
BREWING CO.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REVIVAL of an OLD-TIME FAVORITE
HEURICH'S FACES WRECKERS
Another Landmark to Vanish

By CHARLES D. PIERCE
Star Staff Writer

A fortress-like Foggy Bottom landmark which started out as a brewery and blossomed into a home for the Arena Stage, was the victim of a district administrative services office order. The building was in the path of the proposed Theodore Roosevelt bridge approaches, and it became apparent that the building had to go. The contract let by the District provided a penalty of $500 a day if the job was not finished within 73 days. He explained that the brewery operation was

Old Heurich Brewery Going Out of Business
Site of Landmark in Foggy Bottom Earmarked for Road Development

GOING, GOING BUT NOT GONE

The stage was set perfectly. The bids had been advertised, the contract let, and the 850 sticks of dynamite were snugly in place. Then someone pushed a plunger and the old familiar ice house at the Heurich Brewery was engulfed in billowing clouds of dust.

Old Ice House Resists Dynamite, Loses to Ball

The Old Heurich Brewing Co. ice house showed the strength of a glacier yesterday when men tried to blast it to bits, but it held on like a clinging ball. The Enright Service, Inc., the breaker of ice, used to crumble into icy shards. They had a machine on hand, equipped with a massive wrecking ball. Real masonry. The old ice house was down, leaving about 5,000 cubic feet of metal and chunks of steel and brick lying across the street from the old brewery.

Bentz, an explosives specialist, with the compressor running for about four days, then went into the blast. But the ice house fooled 'em. When the bricks stopped falling and the dust clouds cleared, there it stood—its walls, at least, largely intact. (See story on Page A-1.)—Star Staff Photo by A. C. Chian.

Heurich Brewery on Its Way Down
PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

• Considering what has been lost
• Looking at extant structures related to Washington’s historic local breweries
• Considering potential partners in preservation and interpretation
• Interpretive model
HEURICH HOUSE CELEBRATES DC’S CRAFT BREWERIES

JOIN US EVERY THIRD THURSDAY FROM 6:30-8:30 FOR BEER TASTINGS AND TOURS OF THE HEURICH HOUSE MUSEUM.

Thursday, February 21st features DC Brau.

The brewery’s owners will be on hand to pour three of their creations, including a special cask brew made exclusively for the event.

Purchase tickets at historyandhops.dcbrau.eventbrite.com. All proceeds will benefit the museum.

HEURICH HOUSE MUSEUM
1307 New Hampshire Ave NW
202-429-1894
www.heurichhouse.org

Photo courtesy: Lisa Ford Photographs
Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden
(Est. 1910, Astoria, NY)
CONCLUSIONS

• History of Washington's historic breweries reflects many different contemporary values:
  • Walkable communities
  • Eating locally
  • Rejection of homogenized, processed food
  • Affordable quality food
  • Support local business
“Most everything is better done with beer.” — Donald Linebaugh
THANK YOU