

# Scenes from the Past...



Courtesy—www.igamfick.org

Historic photographs, such as the circa 1906 one of the “Logan” apartment building shown here, once located at 27 Logan Circle, can be deceiving to the eye. What one might assume was a large apartment building constructed at one time was actually a massive expansion of several existing houses that had been built on the site years earlier.

The natural brick building illustrated in the photo at the top was an expansion of three houses numbered 27, 28 and 29 Iowa Circle, as it was then known, and was adjoined to 26 Iowa Circle, shown to the left in the photograph painted white. Iowa Circle became officially coined Logan Circle in 1930. The house at 26 Iowa Circle was built by James G. Hill at a cost of \$7,000 following issuance of a building permit on August 8, 1879.

The house originally at 27 Iowa Circle was constructed also at a cost of \$7,000 following issuance of a building permit on August 13, 1879 to W.W. Fitzgerald. The house originally at No. 28 had been built a year earlier, following a building permit issued on March 12, 1878. It was granted to owner H. Clay Ford, who revealed that it had been designed by architect Thomas Plowman and would be constructed at a cost of \$4,835 by Joseph Williams. And, the house originally at No. 29 was built prior to 1877, when building permits were neither issued, nor required in Washington.

On October 18, 1883, a man by the name of S.E. Goff applied for and was granted a permit, numbered 665, for a new address demarcation of 30 Iowa Circle “to build two brick bay windows - one on circle and one on 13th Street, N.W. 4 Stories High, and raise building two stories, walls to be thickness defined by building regulations.” With the estimated \$6,000 to complete the job, Goff systematically combined the three young houses, added two stories to their height, and added the bay windows and dramatic turret. It featured two entrances, one facing the circle, and one on

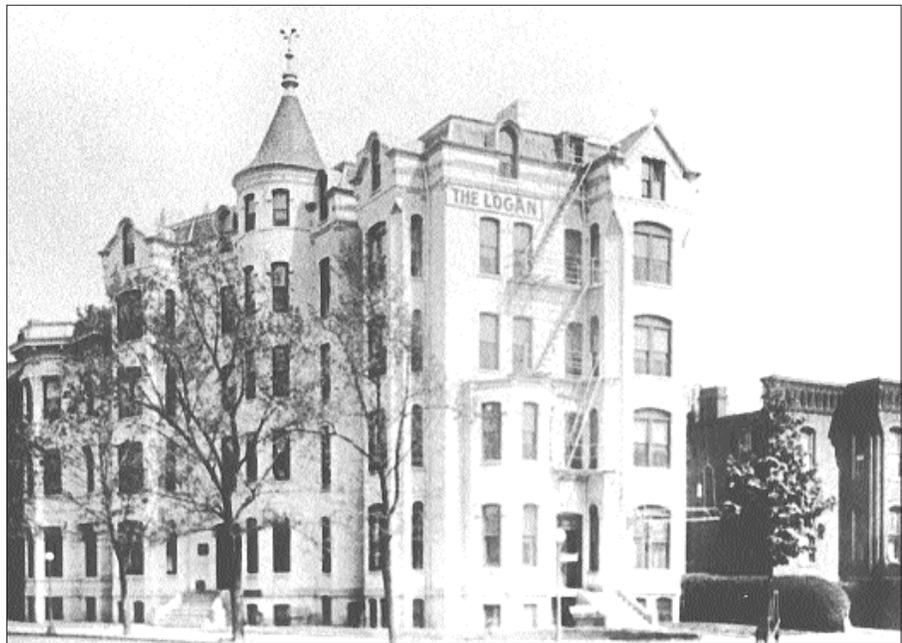
13th Street. The new building also eventually incorporated the adjoining house at 26 Iowa Circle in 1910, the same year an elevator was installed.

The early 20th century image, the second photo from the top, shows the Logan building and adjoining house at No. 26 Logan, then all painted white. The 1900 census reveals that 65-year-old Lucy Prindle managed the building, and lived there along with her son and sister and 34 boarders. They were all Caucasian, and all had been born in the United States; they ranged in age from 21 to 65, and worked such jobs as government clerks, chambermaids, an electrical engineer, a violinist, students, a coffee salesman, and a dishwasher.

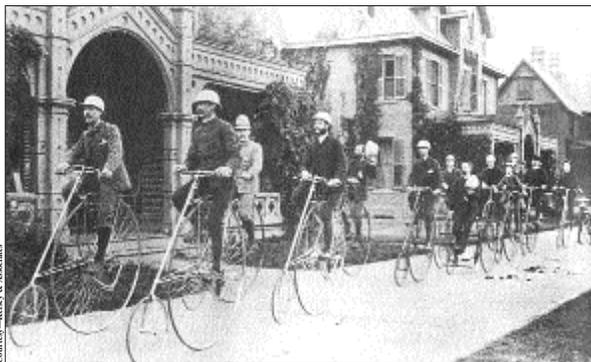
To those early residents of the houses around Logan Circle, a spring delight was a frequent “big wheel” velocipede bicycle race around the circle itself, which was closed to traffic. The Capitol Bicycle Club, seen here touring Galludet College on Florida Avenue, twice erected reviewing stands within the circle for their spectators. One was built in the spring of 1881, and another the next year at a cost of \$189, following issuance of a building permit on May 9, 1882. It was to be torn down within five days of the event.

The Logan apartment building was coined The Lincoln by 1956, and was last listed in the 1960 City Directory as a vacant building. Shortly thereafter, the property was purchased by S. Jon Gerstenfeld, but by that time, the structure was no longer standing. After nearly two decades as an empty lot, the neighbors “adopted” the parcel to create, with the owner’s blessing, a wildflower garden and butterfly refuge until a couple of years before the P.N. Hoffmann firm developed the site with the variegated condominium building designed by architect Jim Foster. Ironically his design closely replicated the Logan apartment building’s appearance.

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Courtesy—Kelsey & Associates



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Photo—Paul K. Williams—The InTowner