

1400 BLOCK OF MARKET STREET

Wheeling, Ohio County

Construction Date:

circa 1880 - 1900

Threat: Vacancy; Neglect

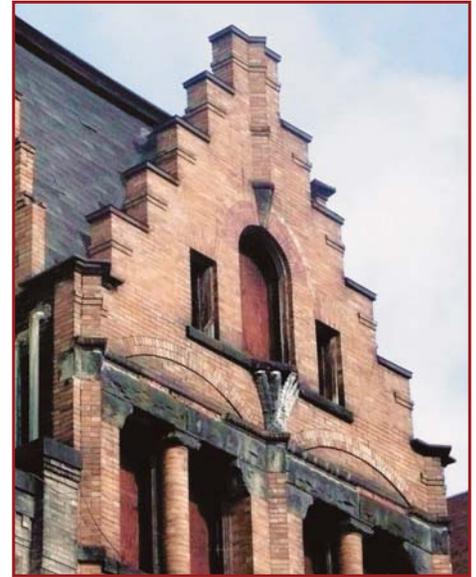
The endangered 1400 Block in Wheeling consists of three contiguous buildings (1425, 1429, and 1433) on the west side of Market Street in the Wheeling Historic District.

The vacant buildings are located on the same street as the iconic West Virginia Independence Hall and are near the growing West Virginia Northern Community College campus. All three of the buildings have housed commercial interests on the first floors and have historically been mixed-used structures with residences on upper floors. All three of the buildings were home to some of Wheeling's most prominent businessmen and have housed locally owned and operated businesses - including Standard Cigar Works, Wheeling Candy Kitchen, and, most famously, Zellers Steak (in the middle of the three buildings, number 1429). Zellers was owned by Wheeling's most

notorious underworld figure, "Big Bill" Lias. The first floor at the time was a legitimate restaurant, while a plush gambling casino operated on the second floor, and back rooms and upper floors supported Lias's extensive gambling operations.

In addition to being a part of Wheeling's fascinating past, the buildings are architecturally interesting. Number 1425 (3 stories) is Italianate in design; 1429 (5 stories) is Flemish with Medieval overtones; and 1433 (3 stories) is Victorian/Neoclassical, with the different styles reflecting their different eras of construction.

Facades of the upper floors of each building are essentially original, while first floor "contemporary" storefronts are not true to the histories of the buildings. Renovation of these first



floors would enhance the architectural value of the entire block.

The City of Wheeling acquired the buildings in 2014 and is willing to sell the properties to the right buyer with a negotiable purchasing price. Anyone interested in buying any of the three buildings should contact the City of Wheeling's Planning Department at 304-234-3701 and ask for a copy of the City's Request for Proposals that details the requirements to purchase the properties. Requirements include

an indication of a business plan for each or all of the properties' re-use, financing options, and a timeframe for rehabilitation.

**ENDANGERED
PROPERTIES
OF WEST VIRGINIA**

PAWV

2016



Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

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