



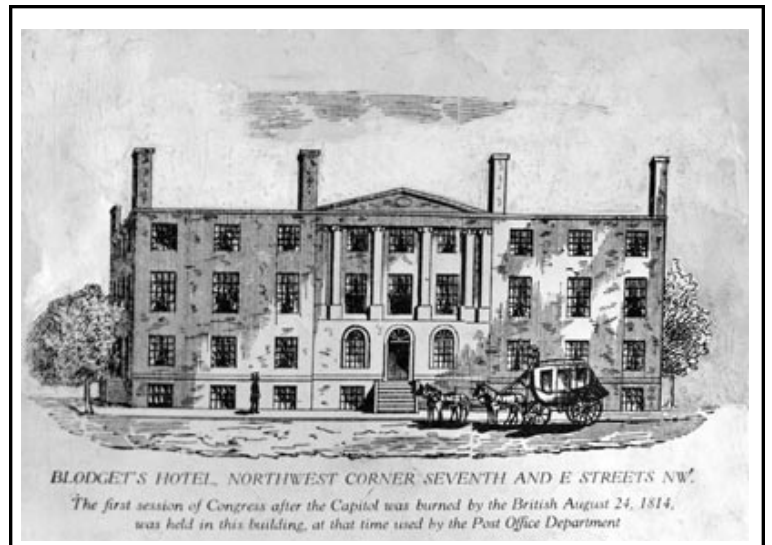
# D.C. History Minute

August 2008

## Blodgett's Hotel

On E Street, between 7th and 8th Streets, NW, on the site now occupied by the Hotel Monaco, once stood the nerve center of early downtown Washington, D.C. It was known as Blodgett's Hotel when it was built in the 1790s by real estate speculator Samuel Blodgett. Blodgett went bankrupt and the building sat unfinished for a time.

But, in 1800, the building opened as the United States Theater, the first one in the new capital. Around 1810, the federal government bought the building and used it for the Post Office and Patent Office. Blodgett's Hotel was a temporary home for Congress in 1814 and 1815. But, in 1836 the building burned down and thousands of patent models and patent drawings were lost. Although Samuel Blodgett's dream for his hotel wasn't realized in his time, it's ironic that his old site now hosts one of Washington's finest.



**Sketch of Blodgett's Hotel, NW, from the Thornton Owens Collection, CHS 02504.**

*This D.C. History Minute is brought to you by C.R. Gibbs and the Historical Society of Washington D.C.*

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