

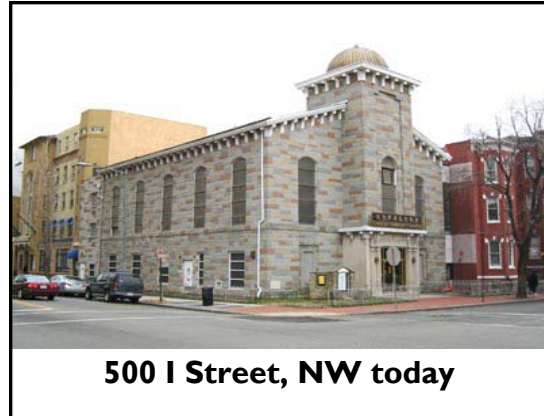


D.C. History Minute

May 2008

The new home of the Chinese Community Church, at 500 I Street, NW, contains a fascinating and many-layered history. The church building itself is over 150 years old and has housed Presbyterians, Jews, African American Baptists, and as of May 2006,

Chinese Christians. In fact, historians have discovered recently that the architect of the original brick and sandstone structure, completed in 1852, was none other than Thomas U. Walter, the fourth architect of the United States Capitol. The Chinese Community Church of Washington, D.C. was incorporated in 1935 and first met at the Mt. Vernon Place Episcopal Church. By 1994, the Chinese Community Church had entered into a shared ministry with the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church before moving to its new I Street location.



500 I Street, NW today



In 1949 the building was the Ohav Shalom Synagogue. Photo by John P. Wymer, HSW Collections

This has been a moment in D.C.'s past brought to you by C.R. Gibbs and the Historical Society of Washington D.C.