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## 4441–4443 Twentieth Street: Resident History

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**I**n early 1895, 28-year-old stonecutter William H. Johnson purchased a lot on the south side of 20th Street, twenty-five feet east of Eureka Street, and constructed a two-floor residence upon it. Johnson, who immigrated to the United States in 1881 from Finland, was unmarried, with two small children—a son Victor, age 3 and a daughter Ethel, age 1. In the autumn of 1895, he moved his family into the newly completed residence known as 4443–20th Street. Johnson remarried in 1898 and by 1900 decided to alter his residence into two flats, now known as 4441-4443–20th Street.

In the 1900 national census, Johnson, along with his wife Eugenia and their 2 children, resided at 4443–20th Street. His neighbor, at 4441–20th Street, was Charles Whald, a 50-year-old German ship carpenter, who shared the flat with his wife Annie, age 37. She immigrated from Ireland in 1882. Annie's sister, 23-year old dressmaker Katherine Rusk, also resided there. Katherine came to America from Ireland in 1894.

In May 1905, Johnson sold the flats to Nicholas Morrissey, owner of a horseshoeing business located South-of-Market Street. It is possible that the flats were a wedding gift to his wife Josephine, whom he married that year. Morrissey was born in Australia in 1881 and immigrated in 1889 to the United States. By 1910, the couple had a son, Nicholas, Jr., and occupied the 4441 flat.

Living at 4443 in 1910 was Hugh Jackson, a 26-year-old fellow horseshoer, with his wife Margaret, age 24, and their infant son, James. By 1920, the rental unit at 4443 had a new tenant. He was Joseph C. Scollin, age 35, a furrier in his own shop, with his wife Maud, age 38, and his three sons—Raymond age 13, Charles, age 9, and William, the youngest at age 4.

When Morrissey died around 1931, the property passed to his widow, Josephine. In 1943, she deeded the property to her son, Nick Morrissey, Jr., who had begun his career in 1932 working for the state of California. At the time of his death in 1955, he was the state director of professional and vocational standards. He sold the property to Josephine L. Smith in June of 1946 for \$8000. Ms. Smith sold the flats to Frederick E. Wider, a policeman, in August of 1947, for \$7500. Wider lived at 4443 until March 1955, when he sold the property to John and Delia M. Moss. Mr. Moss was a bartender.

John A. McAdam purchased the building in February of 1960 for \$21,450. Subsequent owners include Kjeld L. Strom in April of 1965, Richard Snyder and Sheldon P. Donig in February of 1976, and P. A. Cherini, Jr. in November of 1976. Cherini then sold to Jon C. Yverson that same month. Two years later, in September 1978, the property was purchased by Michael Loughlin and Mary Gavin. They held possession until August of 1988, when the flats were bought by Theron O' Connor and Demaris Brinton. The present owner, George Lester King, III purchased 4441-4443–20th Street in June of 1996.