

History of 1789 Restaurant, F.Scott's, and The Tombs

1789 Restaurant takes its name from a significant year in Washington's history: In that year, its original site was purchased by Archbishop John Carroll, the founding father of Georgetown University; the Constitution of the United States was adopted; and Mayor Robert Peter incorporated the village of Georgetown. Though the restaurant was originally established to serve the community, today it welcomes patrons from around the world.

The restaurant originated in 1960 when Richard J. McCooey, a Georgetown alumnus, acquired two enterprises that occupied a Federal home dating from the mid-1800s. The building's basement was opened as The Tombs, a casual restaurant geared to university students and faculty. The upstairs evolved into 1789 Restaurant, which offered the ambiance of a stately home with its handsome prints and working fireplace. Its original classic French menu and gracious service were hailed by Washingtonians, and it soon became one of the city's most noteworthy restaurants.

In the 1960s, McCooey acquired a third, then a fourth adjacent property. These two sites became F. Scott's, an art deco nightclub named after F. Scott Fitzgerald, the embodiment of style in the Jazz Age. The restaurant houses museum-quality travel posters from the twenties and thirties, original cartoons by Hirschfeld from *The New York Times*, cut glass blocks from the Chrysler Building in New York, and art deco stained glass windows.

In December 1985, Clyde's Restaurant Group purchased all three restaurants, and extensively remodeled, including new kitchens in the renovation, while retaining the original look and feel of the establishments. 1789 Restaurant maintained its elegance in six seating areas, each with its own name and distinctive character.

The John Carroll Room captures the city's history with Currier and Ives prints from George Washington's days as President, early maps of the city, and paintings and prints of Georgetown University. Beautiful American antique furniture, silver and wooden Early American relics, and an elegant fireplace complete the setting.

The handsome Pub is a small room with a five-stool bar, oak banquettes, a gas chandelier, nineteenth-century caricatures and authentic hunt prints. The Parliament clock dates back to when English pubs installed clocks for patrons after Parliament enacted an unpopular tax on watches. The bar itself has a unique history: Its marble top and sides were once part of Washington's *Evening Star* newspaper's production room. The shelves for bottle storage were formerly part of a sixteenth-century monks' bench, where they sat to meditate. Both the pew and the gargoyles behind the bar were salvaged from a monastery in Ireland and date back to the sixteenth century.

The Wickets Room on the mezzanine level has the warmth of a private club and is decorated in oak paneling with a pickled finish. On the walls are more of the nineteenth-century caricatures found in the Pub. In the center of the dining room hangs a three-tiered chandelier made of black metal with individual lamps and silk shades.

The Middleburg Room evokes images of nearby hunt country. It features a ceiling sheathed in barn siding from New England dating back to the 1800s and massive beams from a post-and-beam home in Vermont. A bay window at one end overlooks Prospect Street. The walls, partially covered with hand-planed wainscoting, showcase colorful lithographs of hunt scenes. The Middleburg Room may be used for a private dinner for up to 56 guests.

The Manassas Room and its Civil War them was converted into first floor restrooms in late 2017. F. Scott's, used for private events up until 2017, has been redesigned and will reopen as a sophisticated bar with inventive cocktails, a fine selection of Japanese whiskey and wines by the glass, and an enticing menu by 1789's Executive Chef Kyoo Eom.

www.1789restaurant.com