



**INVESTIGATIVE STUDY FOR REHABILITATION OF THE O STREET MARKETPLACE, Washington, DC**



**Client/Owner**  
Bell Architects, PC/Roadside  
Development

**Location**  
Washington, DC

**Project Dates**  
2003

**Materials**  
Brick  
Wood

**Services Provided**  
Assessment  
Materials Testing & Analysis  
Treatment Mock-ups  
Cost Estimating

The O Street Market, built in 1881, is located at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and P Streets in Washington DC. It was built in 1881 Along with the Center Market at Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, and the Northern Liberties Market at Fifth and K streets, NW, it provided a place for residents to sell their wares, purchase food and socialize.

In the early years of the O Street Market, German women and men constituted a large percentage of the sellers. After World War II, African American sellers began to predominate, occupying small stands within the large market space. The market had become of the primary shopping venues for Shaw residents. In the 1960s it had deteriorated, in part because of the increasing competition from modern grocery stores.

As part of the revitalization of the Shaw neighborhood, the market re-opened in 1980. In 2003 a developer, Roadside Development, began plans for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the market.

Conservation Solutions, Inc. (CSI) was contracted to perform a study. The purpose of the investigative study was to perform a cursory investigation of the building in order to: 1) identify the materials from which the building is made; 2) perform a cursory investigation and document the condition of the various materials; 3) identify specific problem areas on the building; 4) perform tests to determine the most efficient means of removing the coatings from the brick and wood substrates; 5) provide recommendations for the restoration of the various materials present on the building; and 6) provide budgetary cost estimates for the restoration of the various components on the building.

Unfortunately, the O Street Market was empty and about to undergo renovation in late 2003 when a major snowstorm collapsed the roof and structure, leaving a partial façade.