

"The Princeton downtown Historic District consists of a fine collection of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century one to three-story commercial buildings that form the Historic commercial core of the city of Princeton."

This is the portion of the 1997 application that applies to your building:

Gottfried Schall Building (Contributing) 602 West Water St.
1882/189117 Map No. 17

The Italianate style two-story Gottfried Schall Building occupies the northwest corner created by the intersection of Pearl and West Water Streets and it is one of the more intact buildings in the district. This building was built in two stages.

The first and also the largest portion was built in 1882 and it is rectilinear in plan, measures 25-feet-wide x 70-feet-deep, and consists of the four right-hand(east) bays of today's six-bay-wide West Water Street facade. The first story was designed to house Schall's hardware store and the second story housed storage space for the business. In 1891, Schall added a two-story two-bay-wide addition along the west side of his existing building that measured 12-feet-wide x 70-feet-deep. Both portions rest on rubble stone foundation walls that enclose a casement story whose original segmental-arched window heads can still be seen along the base of the east facing side elevation. The south and east-facing exterior walls that rest on this foundation are fashioned out of cream brick, the west wall is clad in rubble stone.

These walls rise up to sloping parapets on the building's side elevations and to a tall corbelled brick parapet on the main facade that is topped with an overhanging bracketed cornice.

The principal facade of this building faces south onto W. Water Street and historic photos show that the 1882 portion's storefront originally consisted of three large, tall segmental-arched openings joined together to form an arcade. The center area contained the deeply inset main entrance, which was flanked by two four-light display windows, and another large segmental-arched display window was placed around the corner at the south end of the east-facing side elevation. When the 1891 addition was built, another arched opening was created for it and all of these openings were then surmounted by an overhanging wood cornice that spanned almost the whole width of the facade just above the storefronts.

At a later date, all of the original storefront elements were replaced by the early twentieth century storefront visible

today, which consists of three large flat arched display windows and a single deeply inset entrance door facing onto Water Street and a single window of identical design facing onto Pearl Street. Each of these windows originally had a transom above it as well, but these have now been filled in with plywood.

The second story of this facade is six-bays-wide and it is highly intact. Each bay contains a single semi-circular-arched window opening having a cut stone sill and a corbelled brick hood mold accented with a stone Keystone. Each opening still contains its original four-over-four-light double hung wood sash window, the upper sash of which is arched to fit the opening. A rectilinear date and name plaque

19 Princeton Anniversary Historical Committee, up. Cit., p. 54.
see also:
Princeton Republic; March 9, 1882, p. 5; April 16, 1891, p. 5;
June 25, 1891, p. 5;
September 10, 1891, p. 5.

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bearing the words "G. Schall" and "1882" is placed in the spandrel above and between the second and third bays from the right (this off-center placement is explained by its being centered on the original portion of the building) and the facade is then crowned by its original wooden overhanging cornice, which is supported by four pairs of sandwich brackets.