

wp Closer Inspection

In the center of the room sits a **table** for eight that belonged to Filomena, who acquired it from a sister in 1943. Although the table has since been refurbished, the chairs are original.

For her five children, Filomena made shoes, hats, aprons and more. A crocheted tablecloth encircles a 1926 **wedding picture** of Filomena and Italian-born Antimo Chiacchieri.



This **portrait** of Filomena Chiacchieri at age 16 and her brother Anthony at 22 was the prototype JoAnna Chiacchieri used for the restaurant's logo.



Filomena could usually be found at her **sewing machine**, Chiacchieri says. Next to the machine sits the crocheted piece she had been working before she died in 1990 at age 88.



This **tea set** belonged to Chiacchieri when she was a girl. Occasionally, her mother would join her for coffee. "It thrilled me to no end," Chiacchieri remembers.

The kitchen displays Filomena's **cooking utensils**, including a ceramic meat mallet, a basting brush and copper gelatin molds with tin linings.



This **plate** was painted by Chiacchieri's sister Mary Domenica in 1997. After President Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl dined in the kitchen in 1997, Mary sent each a plate, Chiacchieri says.



A family history

Mementos remind D.C. restaurant owner of mother

BY KRIS CORONADO

In a small room at the back of Georgetown's Filomena Ristorante (1063 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-338-8800), a visitor is transported to another place and time: a family kitchen from decades ago. A sturdy dining table anchors the room, and the walls are festooned with knickknacks and photos. The setting is a reminder

of days when meals involved hours spent at the dinner table, without interruption from cellphones or TVs.

That was the intention, according to JoAnna Chiacchieri, owner of the Italian restaurant. "It was so treasured, your time together at the table," recalls the 75-year-old, who grew up on Capitol Hill.

The room, called "The Filomena

Kitchen," pays homage to Chiacchieri's Italian American mother, Filomena, for whom the restaurant is named.

Although the eatery has fed its share of presidents and celebrities during almost 30 years of business, the real stories are found in the family mementos that adorn the space — most of which come from the late Filomena's D.C. home.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENJAMIN C. TANKERSLEY