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2225 N Street, NW

Representative example of small moderate-income apartment building by prominent developer Harry Wardman; illustrates historically important aspect of cultural context of Dupont Circle/West End area; Renaissance Revival facade responds effectively to adjacent parkland; built 1924-25, Wardman & Waggaman, architects; *DC designation May 16, 1990, NR listing September 9, 1994*

2916-2924 N Street, NW

Houses, originally non-commissioned officers' barracks, built c. 1861; *DC listing November 8, 1964; within Georgetown HD*

Nannie Helen Burroughs School: see National Training School for Women and Girls

The Nantucket (Harry Wardman/A.H. Beers, 1905-08) at 1418 W Street NW: see U Street Historic District

The Natchez (Harry Wardman/A.H. Beers, 1905-08) at 1440 W Street NW: see U Street Historic District

National Academy of Sciences

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW

Built 1924; Bertram G. Goodhue, architect; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing March 15, 1974; see Bibliography (Goode, Washington Sculpture)*

National Arboretum

3501 New York Avenue, NE

The national arboretum of the United States, and an institution of world renown; a major element of the city's park system, established through the efforts of the Commission of Fine Arts, and closely associated with the work of noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.; probably the nation's largest urban arboretum at more than 400 acres; a nationwide center for research, education, and plant propagation, taking advantage of the city's congenial climatic zone at the juncture of North and South; a repository for international gifts; the site of the Latrobe columns from the U.S. Capitol East Portico, and significant archaeological remains; established by Congress in 1927; landscaping of the Mount Hamilton site begun by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s; fully laid out after a 1947-48 master plan by the Public Buildings Administration; opened to the public in 1949; major collections include Morrison Glen Dale Azalea Garden, Gotelli Dwarf Conifer Collection, National Boxwood Collection, National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, National Grove of State Trees, National Herb Garden, and other plantings of native and non-native trees, shrubs, and perennials; *DC listing March 7, 1968, NR listing April 11, 1973; US ownership*

National Archives

Between 8th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Built 1931-37; John Russell Pope, architect; *DC designation November 8, 1964, NR listing May 27, 1971; within Federal Triangle and Pennsylvania Avenue NHS; US ownership*

National Bank of Washington

301 7th Street, NW

Headquarters of one of city's longest-lived banks, founded in 1809 as the Bank of Washington; located at this site from 1828 until c. 1990; existing building built 1889, James G. Hill, architect; *DC listing July 24, 1968, NR listing May 8, 1974; HABS DC-223; within Downtown HD, Pennsylvania Avenue NHS*

National Baptist Memorial Church

16th Street & Columbia Road, NW

Built 1924; Egerton Swartout, architect; *DC listing November 8, 1964; within Meridian Hill Area*

National Benefit Association (Capital Savings Bank) [demolished]

609 F Street, NW

Built 1844, enlarged 1889, remodeled 1907; *DC designation May 16, 1975; demolished c. 1985*

National Building Museum: see Old Pension Building

National Capital Press Building (1913, façade reconstructed) at 511 11th Street NW: see Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site

National Cathedral: see Washington Cathedral

National City Christian Church

14th Street and Thomas Circle, NW

Built 1930 (John Russell Pope, architect); addition by Leon Chatelain (1952); addition c. 1985; *DC listing November 8, 1964; within Fourteenth Street HD*

National Council of Negro Women: see Mary McLeod Bethune House

National Defense University: see Army War College

National Gallery of Art

6th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW

Built 1941 (John Russell Pope; Eggers & Higgins, architects); *DC listing March 7, 1968; within National Mall HD; US ownership*

National Geographic Society, Hubbard Hall (1902), addition (1913), and administrative wing (1931-32) at 1156 16th Street NW: see Sixteenth Street Historic District

National Headquarters of the United States Daughters of 1812: see United States Daughters of 1812

National Institute of Health: see Public Health and Marine Hospital Service

National Library of Medicine: see Army Medical Museum

The National Mall

Roughly bounded by the Capitol Grounds on the east, Independence Avenue on the south, 14th Street on the west, and Constitution Avenue on the north

Planned 1791; 1901; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing October 15, 1966 (documented May 19, 1981); a major element of the L'Enfant Plan; US ownership; includes approximately 10 buildings c. 1847-1976*

National Metropolitan Bank

613 15th Street, NW

Built 1905-07 (B. Stanley Simmons; Gordon, Tracy & Swartout, architects); facade incorporated in new building 1986; *DC designation August 11, 1977, NR listing September 13, 1978; within Fifteenth Street HD*

National Metropolitan Bank (1949-50) at 4301 49th Street NW: see Spring Valley Shopping Center

National Museum: see Arts and Industries Building

National Museum of American Art: see Old Patent Office

National Museum of Health and Medicine: see Army Medical Museum

National Museum of Women in the Arts: see Masonic Temple

National Observatory: see Old Naval Observatory

National Paint and Varnish Association: see Brodhead-Bell-Morton House

National Portrait Gallery: see Old Patent Office

National Presbyterian Church (Church of the Covenant) [demolished]

18th & N Streets, NW

Built 1887-89 (J.C. Cady & Co., architect); *DC listing November 8, 1964; demolished 1966; HABS DC-140; see Bibliography (Goode: Capital Losses)*

National Savings and Trust Company (National Safe Deposit Company)

1445 New York Avenue, NW

Imposing Queen Anne headquarters of Washington's second savings bank; formed from 1891 merger of National Safe Deposit Company (chartered in 1867 as one of nation's earliest safety-deposit institutions) and

National Savings Bank, (chartered in 1870); renamed National Savings & Trust Company in 1907; built 1888, James T. Windrim, architect; additions 1916, 1925, 1985; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing March 16, 1972; within Fifteenth Street HD*

National Shrine: see Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

National Society of the Colonial Dames of America: see Dumbarton House

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution: see Daughters of the American Revolution

National Society United States Daughters of 1812 (John Henry Upshur House)

1461 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

Since 1928, the Queen Anne style rowhouse built in 1884 by Rear Admiral John H. Upshur, USN (1823-1917) has been the national headquarters of the United States Daughters of 1812. The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to patriotism, education, and preservation of documents and relics from the period between 1784 and 1815. It was organized on January 8, 1892, on the 77th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, by founder Flora Adams Darling, an author, Civil War widow, and daughter of John Adams. In 1901, the society was one of the first women's organizations to receive a national charter by an Act of Congress. By 1915, at the end of the administration of organizing president Mrs. William Gerry Slade, 35 state societies had been organized with an enrollment of 3, 758 members. The three-story red brick house with sandstone trim, bowed bay, and a sunburst-pattern railing was designed by architect Frederick Withers. The flagpole in front is a topgallant mast from the USS *Constitution*, given to the society in 1933 following reconditioning of the famed *Old Ironsides*. In 1992, the Society purchased the adjacent Romanesque Revival house at 1463 Rhode Island Avenue for use as a museum and library. *DC designation January 26, 1995, NR listing December 12, 1997; within Fourteenth Street HD*

National Training School for Women and Girls, Trades Hall (Nannie Helen Burroughs School) [National Register only]

601 50th Street, NE

Founded by Nannie Helen Burroughs in 1909, the National Training School offered a unique combination of educational opportunities for African-American young women and girls. The school offered academic training equivalent to the upper grades of high school and community college, religious instruction, and training in domestic arts and vocations. It was the first American institution to offer all of these opportunities within a single school. *NHL designation and NR listing July 17, 1991*

National Trust for Historic Preservation: see McCormick Apartments

National Union Building

918 F Street, NW

Built 1890; Glenn Brown, architect; *DC designation October 24, 1973, NR listing September 21, 1990; within Downtown HD and Pennsylvania Avenue NHS*

National Union Insurance Company (1882) at 645 Indiana Avenue NW: see Downtown Historic District

National Woman's Party Headquarters: see Sewall-Belmont House

National Zoological Park

3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Major achievement of the late-19th century conservation movement, created for the preservation of endangered animals indigenous to the US; major component of the park system in the Rock Creek valley; important work of noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, with alterations by F.L. Olmsted, Jr.; site of major scientific investigations including experiments in zoology, anatomy, and aerodynamics; spacious and picturesque location a significant innovation in zoo design; influenced layout of curvilinear street pattern in surrounding area; established 1889, expanded 1921, 1923; approximately 15 buildings 1892-1940; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing April 11, 1973; US ownership*

Bird House: Built 1928 (Howland Russell/A.L. Harris, architects)

Reptile House: Built 1931, (A.L. Harris, architect)

Small Mammal House: Built 1937 by Public Works Administration (Edwin H. Clarke, consulting architect)

Natural History Building, Smithsonian Institution

11th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW

Built 1910 (Hornblower & Marshall, architects); *DC listing November 8, 1964; within National Mall HD; US ownership*

Naval Hospital: see Potomac Annex Historic District

Naval Lodge (ca 1890) at 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE: see Capitol Hill Historic District

Naval Medical School: see Potomac Annex Historic District

Naval Museum of Hygiene: see Potomac Annex Historic District

Naval Observatory Historic District (New Naval Observatory)

Massachusetts Avenue at 34th Street, including the entire Observatory Circle campus except the Vice President's Residence

The U.S. Naval Observatory fills a place in the field of practical astronomy not occupied by any other organization in the United States. One of the world's foremost astronomical institutions, the observatory has established a long-standing and illustrious reputation based on its primary role in precise timekeeping and fundamental astronomy, or the calculation of the exact position of celestial bodies. Since 1893, when it relocated from Foggy Bottom, the institution has been located on a hilltop campus north of Georgetown. The ten original buildings that comprised the observatory complex, all but one of which survive, were designed by the famed American architect Richard Morris Hunt, and are his only buildings in Washington, D.C. The observatory is nationally significant for its architecture and for the importance and continuity of its scientific work.

The site for the observatory was acquired in 1881, and the complex was begun in 1888 and occupied in 1893. After the initial period of construction, the site developed quite gradually, with small buildings constructed as needed to house new instruments or functions. More significant physical changes have occurred during wartime. During World War I, the observatory's longstanding role in the maintenance, repair, and testing of instruments increased dramatically, as many more instruments were needed to equip naval ships and airplanes, and the Navy could no longer rely on European manufacturers for specialized components such as optical glass. The Nautical Instrument Shop, established in 1913, and the Aviation Section, created in 1917, were significant to the war effort, as was the observatory's continuing role in supporting naval navigation and convoy shipping. Modest improvements to the grounds continued during the 1920s and 1930s, and in the early 1930s, the observatory began a modernization program as part of an effort to create a stronger program for abstract scientific investigation. As the observatory's functions expanded again during World War II, a cluster of new buildings was added at the southern edge of the site. During the postwar years, a modern instrument laboratory was built at the western edge of the campus. Buildings subsequent to the original construction were designed by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks.

NR and NHL eligible; US ownership; see also Old Naval Observatory, Admiral's House, and Bibliography (Robinson & Associates, Intensive Level Survey)

Main Building (Building 1; James Melville Gillis Building): A masterful design by one of the most prominent and influential American architects of the late 19th century, the Main Building owes its unusual configuration of intersecting shapes to the unique technical and architectural challenges posed by the observatory program. The building houses four distinct elements—the elegant marble ashlar administrative wing in the center, flanked by the conical-roofed cylindrical library at one end and the rock-faced marble observatory tower and corrugated metal transit house (Building 8) at the other. The administrative wing provides office space for administrative as well as professional staff performing the critical calculations that make astronomical data usable. The collection of the observatory library is one of the world's foremost astronomical collections, containing both current publications and rare books and periodicals dating back to the 15th century. The domed observatory tower houses the original 12-inch refracting equatorial telescope,

supported on a massive foundation that extends down through the tower to bedrock. Both the observatory and the transit house (*see below*) have been significant in conducting the scientific work at the observatory. Designed between 1881 and 1887, the building was constructed in 1891-92. The spare and abstractly detailed façades are inspired by eclectic Neoclassicism.

Great Equatorial Building (Building 2): Built as part of the original complex to house the 26-inch telescope still in use, this is one of the most important scientific structures at the observatory. The rock-faced white marble building is composed of two interconnected parts, a small temple-like office wing in front of the domed observatory. The dome rotates a full 360 degrees, and the floor of the observatory can be raised or lowered with counterweights. The telescope was the largest in the world when built, and today it is the largest refracting instrument still in use. The lens dates from 1873 and was relocated from the old Foggy Bottom observatory. It has been used for observations of planetary features and moons, binary stars, comets, asteroids, novae, and occultations.

Clock House (Building 3) and Observer's Rooms (Buildings 4 and 5): Built from 1888-93, this attached group at the exact center of the observatory circle determined the plan of the entire complex. The Clock House, a small, gable-roofed granite building in the form of a Greek temple, housed the observatory's original master clock until about 1961. The Zero Mark, a small metal disk, is set into the center of the floor. The master clock, sealed in a vault for protection from external temperature, humidity, and barometric pressures, gave the extremely accurate time calculations that were broadcast daily to navigators, telegraph and telephone systems, and civil authorities. Since the delicate timekeeping instruments needed maximum protection from external vibrations caused by traffic or construction, an 1894 Act of Congress protected the circular area within 1,000 feet of the house from development. The flanking observer's rooms, connected to the clock house with short hyphens, supported the work of timekeeping and the two transit circle instruments by providing space for astronomers to rest, warm up, and perform calculations at night. The hip-roofed observer's rooms are similar to the clock house, and share a continuous stone foundation, but are constructed of wood. All three buildings were designed by Richard Morris Hunt as part of the original complex. A new time clock vault, added at the rear of the building in 1932, was part of a general modernization of the observatory. It allowed observation of the time clock through a periscope, avoiding the need to enter the vault.

Nine-Inch Transit House (Building 6), North Marker House (Building 29), and South Marker House (Building 30): Built to house the nine-inch transit circle telescope, the transit house was part of the original 1893 complex. It is one of the pair of transit houses located on either side of the Clock House because of their use in timekeeping and sensitivity to vibration and other interference. As originally designed, the transit house was a simple gabled box set on a high stone foundation, with corrugated metal sides and observation openings along the ridge and sides, enclosable with large flaps. Uninsulated metal walls were necessary to ensure even interior and exterior temperatures. The original nine-inch transit was one of the most important telescopes in the observatory, used in positional astronomy and in determining the fundamental celestial coordinate system in the early 20th century. In 1932-33, the roof was replaced with a lower gable that split open transverse to the ridge, by rolling on steel beams supported by external trussed buttresses. The original telescope was decommissioned in 1945 and replaced by a seven-inch transit from 1956 to the late 1960s. The north and south marker houses (circa 1893-1908) are small, square wooden sheds on brick foundations, placed at a precise distance from the transit house to shelter lights used in calibrating the instrument.

Six-Inch Transit House (Building 7), North Marker House (Building 27), and South Marker House (Building 28): Built to house the six-inch transit telescope, this transit house is the twin of the nine-inch transit house. For more than 100 years, the building housed the six-inch transit circle telescope, one of the observatory's most important instruments, used in the creation of six fundamental star catalogues since 1924. The telescope was installed in 1898 and decommissioned in the mid-1990s, when the fundamental coordinate system for the northern hemisphere was completed. Like its twin, the transit house was altered in 1932-33; the north and south marker houses date from 1899 and circa 1900-08 respectively.

Transit House (Building 8): The transit house at the west end of the Main Building was originally similar to the other transit houses, sheathed in corrugated metal with an operable observation slit along the gable.

Boiler House (Building 17) and Dynamo House (Building 16): This connected structure includes one-story granite boiler house with brick smokestack, designed by Richard Morris Hunt as part of the original complex, and a brick dynamo house annex designed by Leon Dessez in 1891. Two floors were added to the dynamo house in 1917, when it was converted to an instrument repair shop. The observatory's nautical instrument work was a critical function during wartime.

Transit Laboratory (Building 25): This small gabled shed, made of metal with an operable roof, dates from about 1893. Its original use may have been related to the photo house and photoheliograph (now demolished), and it was also used as a portable transit house for longitude calculations.

Superintendent's Residence (Quarters A): *see separate listing for Admiral's House*

Observers' Houses (Quarters B and C): Built in 1895-96, this duplex residence is one of the earliest buildings on the site, designed by noted Washington architect William J. Marsh. Astronomer's residences, of which Quarters B and C are the best examples on the site, were crucial to the efficiency and productivity of the observatory, as proximity to the telescopes allowed astronomers to work at night whenever viewing conditions were optimal.

Foreman's House (Quarters D): Built in 1901, this American foursquare residence (with recent additions) was erected to house the foreman and captain of the watch.

Non-Magnetic House (originally Building 42, now Building 54): Built in 1918 in response to a shortage of magnetic compasses during the war, this small square wooden building with overhanging flared eaves was constructed without any iron or steel in order to allow for compass work. It was later converted to house clock vaults.

Astrographic Laboratory (Building 24) and Addition (now Building 78; Simon Newcomb Laboratory): Built in 1932, the astrographic laboratory was one of three major scientific buildings constructed as part of the modernization effort in the early 1930s. It housed laboratory space, offices, and dark rooms for developing photographs. A large 1961 addition, the only major postwar building on the campus, houses the Time Service Division, Astrometry and Astrophysics Division, and Horological Museum. Atomic and quartz-crystal clocks used in modern timekeeping are housed here, as is the current Master Clock calibrated to an accuracy of one billionth of a second per day from instruments at various locations on the grounds.

Forty-Inch Telescope Dome (Building 39): Built in 1932, this structure housed the forty-inch Ritchey-Chretien aplanatic reflecting telescope, one of the first of its kind and one of the largest telescopes in the country when installed. The building is hexagonal in plan, sheathed in corrugated metal, with a rotating observation dome. The original telescope was relocated to Arizona in 1955.

Instrument Repair and Storage Building (Building 52): This concrete industrial building from 1940-41 was a significant component of the World War II-era expansion of the observatory facilities, accommodating a more than 10-fold increase in employment in the Material Department. The building housed the observatory's nautical instrument repair, calibration, maintenance, and dissemination, which was critical to the war effort.

Mess Hall (Building 59): This one-story brick building was constructed as a cafeteria in 1942, in conjunction with the vast increase in the observatory's work in supplying navigational instruments during World War II. It was an important support building associated with the wartime mobilization. The International style design features overhanging roofs, wraparound casement windows, and a recessed corner entrance flanked by circular windows.

Training Compass House (Building 55): Built in 1943 as a twin to the 1918 non-magnetic house, this structure was apparently built for the same reason—increased compass demand during wartime. It was also used subsequently for clock vaults.

Compass Adjustor's House (Building 61): This small rectangular hip-roofed wooden cottage on a brick foundation was built in 1943 for compass work.

Simon Newcomb Laboratory (Building 78): The two-story 1961 addition to the Astrographic Laboratory is the only major postwar building on the campus. It is flat-roofed with an observation dome; facades are precast paneled concrete, with abstract pilasters and trim reflecting to the design of the 1932 laboratory. The combined structure houses the Time Service Division, Astrometry and Astrophysics Division, and Horological Museum. Atomic and quartz-crystal clocks used in modern timekeeping are housed here, as is the current Master Clock calibrated to an accuracy of one billionth of a second per day from instruments at various locations on the grounds. *Eligible due to exceptional importance.*

Navy-Peace Monument

Pennsylvania Avenue and 1st Street, NW

Erected 1877 (Franklin Simmons, sculptor; Edward Clark, architect); *within a L'Enfant Plan reservation and Pennsylvania Avenue NHS*

The Navy Yard (Original Appropriation No. 14) and Annex: see the Plan of the City of Washington and Washington Navy Yard Historic District.

Navy Yard Car Barn (Washington & Georgetown Railroad Car House)

770 M Street, SE

This imposing brick and stone streetcar barn was constructed in 1891 at a terminus of the city's first and perhaps most important streetcar line, running along Pennsylvania Avenue from Georgetown to the Navy Yard. The sprawling Romanesque Revival building is well known for its picturesque castellated corner, standing just opposite the Yard's Main Gate. It is the only Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company building to survive from the cable car era, and one of the city's few surviving streetcar facilities. The car barn is a reminder of Navy Yard's importance as a place of local employment, and of the streetcar system that lasted for 100 years and had a profound influence on the city's development. Walter C. Root, architect; *DC designation March 23, 2006; NR listing November 14, 2006; within Capitol Hill HD*

Navy Yard East Extension: see Washington Navy Yard, East Extension

The Netherlands (Hunter and Bell, 1909) at 1852 Columbia Road NW: see Washington Heights Historic District and Bibliography (Goode, Best Addresses)

The New Berne (Hunter & Bell, 1905) at 1113-15 12th Street NW: see Shaw Historic District

New City Reservoir: see McMillan Park Reservoir

New Interior Building: see Department of the Interior

The New Lynton and Monticello (Hunter & Bell, 1909) at 3149 and 3151 Mount Pleasant Street NW: see Mount Pleasant Historic District

New Naval Observatory: see Naval Observatory Historic District

The New York (Julius Wenig, 1902) at 115 New York Avenue NW: see Mount Vernon Square Historic District

Francis Griffith Newlands Memorial Fountain

Chevy Chase Circle, NW

Built 1933; *DC designation February 22, 2007; NR listing October 12, 2007; US ownership*

The Newport (Robert I. Fleming, 1884) at 1618 21st Street NW: see Dupont Circle Historic District

Newton Theater

3601-11 12th Street, NE; 1200-02 Newton Street, NE

The 1007-seat Newton Theater opened in 1937 on the main commercial strip in Brookland, at a time when the trend in movie-going drifted away from large downtown venues to smaller, neighbor-based theaters. For many years the Newton has been a social and physical center of Brookland, and its fortunes have often mirrored those of the surrounding community. The Newton's opening was a boon to the 12th Street commercial district, but such new theaters ultimately suffered from increasing competition themselves, not only from other venues, but

from other media such as television. Theaters' troubles were aggravated by the flight of both population and capital from urban neighborhoods, and in a climate of dropping demand, desegregation contributed to making redundant theaters unsustainable. The Newton closed in the mid 1960s, and its vacancy became not only a symbol but a cause of the neighborhood's flagging health. The Newton was designed by prominent theater architect John J. Zink, who is credited with more than 200 movie theater projects in this region. With its glazed yellow brick, streamlined corner portal, and ziggurat sign, the building is a good example of an Art Moderne/Art Deco-style neighborhood theater, one of only a handful left in the city. *DC designation April 27, 2006, NR listing June 26, 2007*

1603 Nineteenth Street (Speiden & Speiden, 1899): see Dupont Circle Historic District

Nineteenth Street Baptist Church [demolished]

19th & I Streets, NW

Built in 1871 on the site of Washington's first Baptist Church (built 1802); *DC listing November 8, 1964; demolished 1976; HABS DC-357*

Ninth Precinct Station House (ca. 1895) at 523-25 9th Street NE: see Capitol Hill Historic District

The Nolando (Wood, Donn & Deming, 1905) at 1413 T Street NW: see U Street Historic District

The North Carolina and the Georgia (William S. Plager, 1905) at 309 and 311 4th Street SE: see Capitol Hill Historic District

Northbrook Courts (Harry Wardman/Frank R. White, 1917) at 3420 and 3426 16th Street NW: see Mount Pleasant Historic District

Northeast Branch Library (1932) at 330 7th Street NE: see Capitol Hill Historic District

Northeast Masonic Temple (1914) at 523 8th Street NE: see Capitol Hill Historic District

Northern Liberty German-American Savings Bank (1912, facade only) at 511 7th Street NW: see Downtown Historic District

Northern Liberty Market [demolished]

5th & K Streets, NW

Built 1874 (James McGill, architect); burned and heavily altered in 1946; *DC listing November 8, 1964, omitted from list July 24, 1968; demolished 1988; see Bibliography (Goode: Capital Losses)*

Northern Market: see O Street Market

The Northumberland (and Interiors)

2039 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

Built 1909-10 (Albert Beers, architect); designated interiors include lobby and public circulation space exclusive of basement spaces; *DC designation November 21, 1978, NR listing March 25, 1980; within Greater U Street HD; see Bibliography (Goode, Best Addresses)*

Northwest Rectangle Historic District [National Register eligible]

Generally bounded by Constitution Avenue, 17th, E, and 23rd Streets NW, including buildings on the north side of E Street between 18th and 19th Streets and between 20th and 21st Streets

This district of government offices and institutions developed incrementally over a period of seven decades as a neighborhood of monumental buildings framing the Ellipse and the extension of the Mall. Civic improvement of the area on a grand scale began as early as 1891, with the construction of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. A decade later, the Senate Park Commission Plan encompassed the area within the kite-shaped "General Plan for Central Washington," but aside from a group of civic buildings on the west side of the Ellipse, and a new avenue leading to the Lincoln Memorial site, it envisioned mostly a buffer of parkland. Soon thereafter, the western frame of the Ellipse was in place, with construction of the Pan American Union (1908-10), D.A.R. Headquarters (1910), and Red Cross (1915). The same pattern continued westward in the 1920s, as the National Academy of Sciences (1922-24) rose across the park from the Lincoln Memorial.

The federal presence in the area was heralded by the construction of the Interior Department Offices in 1915-

17, as well as wartime “tempo” for the cabinet departments housed in the State, War, and Navy Building nearby. Sustained demand for expansion of government offices led to more formalized planning of the “northwest triangle” or “northwest building area” as a counterpart to the Federal Triangle complex across the Ellipse. By 1931, the National Capital Planning Commission officially recommended the design of a unified complex of federal buildings, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., prepared initial layouts for the grouping that would become known as the Northwest Rectangle. A series of plans evolved through the 1930s, as new buildings were constructed for the Public Health Service (1933), Department of the Interior (1935-36), Federal Reserve (1937), and War Department (1939-41). Intermittent ideas for a functionally consolidated public health or defense center, organized around a central square or “Little Mall” were considered, but none was fully realized. After the Second World War, major construction continued with the Pan American Union Annex (1949), Red Cross D.C. Chapter House (1950-52), State Department (1957-60) and Office of Personnel Management (1963). Though architecturally diverse, the district is unified by buildings of monumental scale, imposing presence, and similarity of design inspiration and materials. It includes 17 contributing buildings dating from 1891 to 1963. Nearly all are constructed of limestone or marble with facades that show a gradual evolution over the years from classicism to modernism. *Eligible for NR listing*

The Norwood (Hunter and Bell, 1916) at 1868 Columbia Road NW: see Washington Heights Historic District and Bibliography (Goode, Best Addresses)

Number Four Fountain: see East and West Potomac Parks Historic District. Constructed in 1905-06 as part of a 50-acre nursery and rose garden installed in West Potomac Park by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, this 58-foot diameter concrete fountain basin is the last of four to survive. Surrounded by flowerbeds, it is now part of the George Mason Memorial.

Nuns of the Battlefield Monument

Rhode Island Avenue and M Street, NW

Erected 1924 (Jerome Connor, sculptor; Ward Brown, architect); *within a L’Enfant Plan reservation*