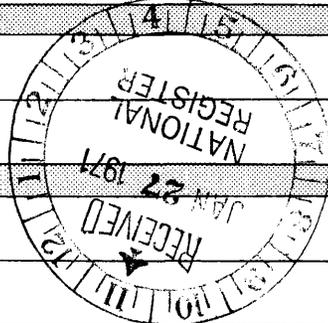


PH0011606

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE 71.3.11.0001 3/3/71



1. NAME

COMMON: Halcyon House AND/OR HISTORIC: Benjamin Stoddert House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 3400 Prospect Street, N.W. CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): Building, Structure, Object OWNERSHIP: Private, Both PUBLIC ACQUISITION: In Process, Being Considered STATUS: Occupied, Unoccupied, Preservation work in progress ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: No PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Private Residence, Other (Specify) Apartments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Edmund W. Dreyfuss and the Blake Construction Company (Prospect Associates) STREET AND NUMBER: 1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds STREET AND NUMBER: Sixth and D Streets, N.W. CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Capital Planning Commission STREET AND NUMBER: 726 Jackson Place, N.W. CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE 71.3.11.0001 3/3/71 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

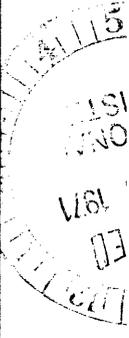
When erected in 1787, Halcyon House was a freestanding red-brick Georgian Mansion which consisted of a 2-1/2 story plus basement main block 48' (5 bays) wide x 36' deep with a slate gable roof and two flanking lower wings 24' x 16' also with slate gable roofs. Situated on a hill sloping down to the Potomac River, the house originally faced south, with extensive formal boxwood gardens. The only architectural change during the latter half of the 19th century was the construction of a bay window in place of the rear north door. Between 1900 and 1938 Albert Clemens greatly altered the north, west and east sides of the house with bizarre additions, but left the south front and interior of the main block largely intact. Clemens extended the house north to the property line on Prospect Street. The principal entrance to the house now faces north on the ground floor (formerly the basement). Within the new space on the first floor is a large ballroom: on the second, an enormous unfinished room constructed largely from architectural members from a demolished church. The exterior brick north wall of the original house is the south wall of this room, and two original dormers can be seen through the upper clerestory windows. It is widely accepted that Clemens additions which now encase the north half of the house must be removed if the house is to be preserved. Therefore, little attention is given here to a description of the present facade of the structure.

The foundations of the original house are of stone and brick, the wall construction of the main block is Flemish bond, with common bond in the wings. There were four chimneys, one at each end of the main block and one at the end of each wing. The ridge of the gable roof runs east to west.

In the center of the main block on the south front, which is remarkably intact, a glazed 15-light modern door hangs within an "elegant 18th century doorway with flat fluted Tuscan pilasters supporting short lengths of frieze complete with triglyphs and a full denticular cornice, repeated in the triangular pediment. The door is set within a panelled arched reveal with a simple fan light and dentilled transom bar. There is a three-part key block and a very free but symmetrical vine carving in the spandrels." First floor windows were 9/9-light double hung wooden sash; second floor windows were 9/6-light. There were two slate-sided wood gabled roof dormers with 6/6-light double-hung windows on both the north and south fronts. Windows in the wings were 6/6-light. All shutters were of louvered wood. "Many of these original windows remain, though some are now indoors. The two in the northeast first floor room have been reglazed with mirrors; one in the northwest room has been converted to a door; the other has been replaced with a mural." The wooden cornice on the south front of the main block has bedmoulds, shaped modillions and crown moulds.

The interior of Halcyon House, which retains much of its original trim, is typically Georgian in plan. Leading off the central stair hall on both of the main floors are four rooms. Floors are of random width pine. Walls and ceilings are of painted plaster. The mantel piece in the northeast corner room on the main floor is particularly notable; "fluted rectangular pilasters at each side of the black slate surround support an entablature with an oval panel in the center and arched vertical panels in projections above the pilasters, as does the shelf itself. There is a large panelled overmantel with a dogeared architrave supporting a broken scrolled pediment. At each side of this chimneypiece are full-height flat fluted Tuscan pilasters topped with

(Continued on form 10-300a)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1787

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abariginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | <u>district History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated Halcyon House a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Halcyon House was built in 1787 by Benjamin Stoddert, the first Secretary of the Navy and one of the 19 "original proprietors" who signed the agreement for the "Ten Mile Square." Stoddert acted as President Washington's confidential agent during the early negotiations for the establishment of the District of Columbia, and his home was the scene of frequent informal conferences important to the shaping of national as well as local history. Although Halcyon House was greatly altered in the 20th century, the original freestanding brick Georgian mansion stands reasonably intact within the shell of the present house. If properly restored, Halcyon House would unquestionably rank as one of the most historically and architecturally important sites in Georgetown.

Benjamin Stoddert fought in the Revolutionary War and served as Secretary of the Revolutionary War Board in Philadelphia from 1779 to 1781 when he returned to Maryland and married Rebecca Lowndes, daughter of a Bladensburg, Md., founder and niece of Thomas Bladen, Governor of Maryland. In 1783 Stoddert became a partner in the prosperous Georgetown shipping firm of Forrest, Stoddert and Murdock with branches in France and England.

On Nov. 25, 1786, Stoddert bought lots 16 & 17 in Georgetown (then in Maryland) from William Deakins, Jr., and John Threlkeld. He then built Halcyon House on lot 17 at the corner of Prospect and Frederick (34th) Sts., with gardens extending into lot 16. In 1795 Stoddert purchased the western half of the square. During this period Stoddert was active in civic affairs and began to acquire extensive real estate holdings in Georgetown and Washington. When the Bank of Columbia was founded in 1793 to help establish the District of Columbia, Stoddert was one of the incorporators and later became its president. Among Stoddert's friends and associates were Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson, Light Horse Harry Lee, Francis Scott Key, Aaron Burr, Dolly Madison, and Commodores Truxton and Decatur.

In 1796 President Adams appointed Stoddert the first Secretary of the Navy. Stoddert drafted the bill to organize the U.S. Marine Corps and encouraged Congress to appropriate funds to build six navy yards and more powerful naval vessels. In 1800 Adams asked Stoddert to assume the additional position of Secretary of War, which he did until April 1801, when he resigned to private life. By 1801 Stoddert's financial condition was so preilous that he was forced to mortgage his home to the Bank of Columbia.

Stoddert died in 1813. His daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Thomas Ewell lived in the house until 1819. Between 1819 and 1908, the house and

(Continued on Form 10-300a)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.3.110001	3/31/71

(Number all entries)

8. Significance--Halcyon House

property were successively owned by the Bank of Columbia, William Worthington, Charles Pairo, John Kidwell, Catherine Kidwell, and Emma McCahill who subdivided the property on which the house stood in 1885 and again in 1898.

In 1900 Emma McCahill sold the property to Albert Adsit Clemons. During the next 40 years, Clemons, an eccentric who was convinced he wouldn't die as long as he kept building on to the house, enlarged the structure substantially and disfigured the north front and side wings with an amazing assemblage of architectural details from demolished buildings. Clemons built a number of apartments in the enlarged structure.

In 1942, four years after Clemons' death, Halcyon House was purchased by Dorothy W. Sterling, wife of the former U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, who modernized and restored part of the mansion. Susie H. Kondrup and her daughter Anne K. Gray purchased the house in 1951 and remodeled the apartments. In 1961 they sold the house to Georgetown University who used it as a dormitory for women. In 1966 the property was sold to Edmund W. Dreyfuss and the Blake Construction Company who rent most of the house as a private residence.

7. Description--Halcyon House

short lengths of frieze complete with triglyphs supporting a denticular cornice above the fireplace area. The cornice in the remainder of the room is similar but without dentils."

The house has not been well maintained structurally in recent years and there are a number of areas of failure which have been stabilized rather than repaired.

