

PH0001783

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
NOV 30 1973

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
Lockkeeper's House, C & O Canal Extension	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

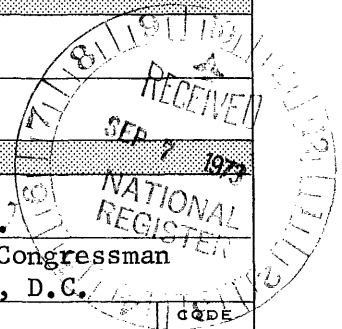
2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Southwest corner of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.	
CITY OR TOWN:	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Washington	Congressman
STATE:	Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.
District of Columbia	District of Columbia
CODE	CODE
11	001

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object ☒ Building ☐ Structure	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) comfort station

4. AGENCY	
Department of the Interior, National Park Service	
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)	STREET AND NUMBER:
National Capital Parks	1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
Washington	District of Columbia
	CODE
	11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	
National Capital Parks	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
Washington	District of Columbia
	CODE
	11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY:	
National Park Service survey in compliance with Executive Order 11593	
DATE OF SURVEY:	☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
National Capital Parks	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
Washington	District of Columbia
	CODE
	11



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NOV 30 1973

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☒ Moved☐ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lockkeeper's House of the C & O Canal Extension is a rectangular one and a half story building, 30' wide and 18' deep. The Lockkeeper's House was originally two and a half stories high but, when the canal, which has become virtually an open sewer, was filled in for sanitary reasons, the area around the structure was filled to such an extent as to reduce its height to the present one and a half stories. The Lockkeeper's House was originally approximately 40' west and 10' north of the present location but was moved in the early 1930's when 17th Street was widened.

The Lockkeeper's House is constructed of field stone with a shingled roof and stone chimney at either side of the structure. The building is symmetrically designed in the Federal Style with a central doorway flanked by two windows directly below two dormers in the shingled roof. This facade is repeated at the rear of the building. Each window had sandstone sills. The front and rear doors measure 7' 1-1/2" in height and 3' 4-1/2" in width, with a granite step. Since its move to the present site on Constitution Avenue, the former Lockkeeper's House has been altered inside to accomodate its present function as a public comfort station and park maintenance area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) c. 1833

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☒ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☒ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lockkeeper's House, on the Southwest corner of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., is the only remnant of the C & O Canal extension. The structure was built(1832-1833)as the house for the Lockkeeper of the Canal, who collected the tolls and kept the records of commerce on the canal.

The C & O Canal extension was built between 1832 and 1833 to connect the Washington City Canal with the C & O Canal. The Washington City Canal was first proposed by Pierre L'Enfant in his plan for the Capital and was opened in 1815. It served as a major commercial thoroughfare connecting the Potomac River and Northwest Washington with the Anacostia River and the southern section of the city.

In addition to the Washington City Canal the founders of Washington also envisioned a major canal connecting the city with the fertile Ohio Valley. Construction of such a canal, the Chesapeake and Ohio, began in 1828. Washingtonians, however, were fearful that Georgetown, not the City of Washington, would benefit from the expected canal commerce, as the C & O's proposed eastern terminus was Georgetown. The City of Washington had subscribed to one million dollars in stock in this undertaking and C & O officialswere informed in November 1831 that they would not be paid until a branch was constructed connecting the C & O with the Washington City Canal. The C & O Canal was in great need of this one million dollar payment and construction of a Washington extension quickly began. In 1833 the canal extension connecting the C & O and Washington City Canal was completed.

"The Chesapeake and Ohio Branch, which connected the Washington City Canal to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, started in the Rock Creek Basin of the C and O Canal and followed along Twenty-seventh Street to Constitution Avenue. Here it turned east and continued to Seventeenth Street, where it joined the Washington City Canal" (Heine, p. 23). At the junction of these two canals, the C & O constructed the Lockkeeper's House.

The canal ventures proved to be a poor investment. Railroads, not canals, became the dominant form of transportation.in the nineteenth century. Construction of the C & O canal ended in Cumberland, Maryland, in 1850, and not in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as had originally been planned.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington, City and Capitol, G.P.O., Washington, 1937.

Caemmerer, H.P., Washington, the National Capital, G.P.O., Washington, 1932.

Heine, Cornelius W., "The Washington City Canal," in Records of the Columbia Historical Society, National Republic Printing Co., Washington, 1959.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	53'	30"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77°	02'	24"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Helen Dillon, Historian		DATE: Nov. 27, 1972
BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Capital Parks		
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.		PHONE: 426-6957
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE District of Columbia	CODE 11

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

[Signature]
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☐ Local

[Signature]
 Federal Representative Signature

6/21/73
 Date

Dir, Nat'l Cap Parks
 Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Associate Director, Professional Services

Date **11/30/73**

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date **11-29-73**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 30 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - Lockkeeper's House

Furthermore, the local, Washington City Canal, was beset by problems of poor maintenance. Work on a major improvement plan to remedy the canal's poor condition began in 1849, but was never completed. After 1855 the Washington City Canal "ceased to be of any notable use for commerce. In addition, the Washington branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was allowed to fall into decay" (Heine, pp. 20-21). After the Civil War there were numerous proposals to revitalize the Washington City Canal, but in the 1870's the long process of filling the canal began.

During the development of the Potomac Park in the early 1900's, the lockkeeper's house was given to the United States and functioned for a while as the Park Police headquarters. By 1940 Federal Office buildings began to appear along Constitution Avenue near the Lockkeeper's House. That year, the first floor of the structure was converted to its present use as a public comfort station, while the attic was used for park maintenance storage.

The present use of the Lockkeeper's House is highly unfitting considering that the construction of this landmark predated the construction of the streets, offices and even landscaped grounds around it.