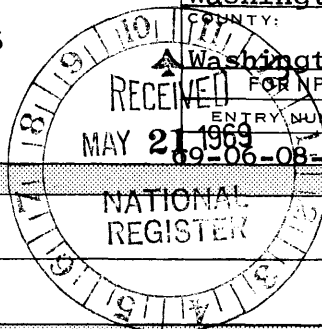


STATE: Washington, D.C.
 COUNTY: Washington, D.C.
 RECEIVED FOR NPS USE ONLY
 MAY 21 1969
 ENTRY NUMBER: 69-06-08-0015
 DATE: 6/23/69

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME
 COMMON: Folger Shakespeare Library
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: 201 East Capitol Street, S. E.
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington
 STATE: District of Columbia
 CODE: 08
 COUNTY: District of Columbia
 CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> library
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNERS NAME: Trustees of Amherst College
 STREET AND NUMBER: Amherst College
 CITY OR TOWN: Amherst
 STATE: Massachusetts
 CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds
 STREET AND NUMBER: 6th and D Streets, N. W.
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington
 STATE: District of Columbia
 CODE: 08
 APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 51,450 square feet

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by Joint Committee on Landmarks
 DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968
 Federal State County Local
 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: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington, D.C.
 COUNTY: D.C.
 ENTRY NUMBER: 69-06-08-0015
 DATE: 6/23/69
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Folger Shakespeare Library faces north on East Capitol Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets, S. E., near the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. The building of white Georgia marble is 48' high, measures 226' from east to west x 111' from north to south and originally consisted of a large central section and two wings. About ten years ago a new one-story office wing was added to the rear of the central section making the former U-shaped building almost rectangular.

At either end of the principal north facade a low flight of marble steps leads to a marble terrace three feet above street level. The two main entrance doors are flanked by block carvings of Pegasus, symbol of Poetry, and are surmounted by the twin masks of Comedy and Tragedy. Between the doors, nine high recessed grilled windows are separated by fluted piers. Under the windows, bas-relief panels sculpted by John Gregory of New York depict scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, the Merchant of Venice, MacBeth, Julius Caesar, King Lear, Richard III, Hamlet and Henry IV. The facade is crowned by a high attic decorated with three inscribed quotations selected by Mr. Folger and emphasizing the building's purpose as a memorial.

On the 2nd Street facade two ground level doors flank five raised two-story windows which, on the first level, open onto a marble balcony with an iron handrail overlooking a small garden and a fountain. Of particular interest here is the sculptural figure of Puck by Brenda Putnam. The 3rd Street facade is broken by a single aluminum door ornamented in low relief with floral bands.

Within this severe facade the interior is pure Elizabethan, designed to create a suitable backdrop for the collection displayed. The two principal north entrance doors lead into vestibules of Lorraine stone with rough plaster walls, vaults, and doorways. The panelled Exhibition Gallery (22' x 130' x 30'6" high) on the East Capitol Street side has a high vaulted ceiling decorated with plaster relief strapwork designs. The monumental wooden grilled doors at either end carry the arms of Elizabethan England and the seal of the United States. The border of the hand-made floor tiles recalls the principal Shakespearean plays. The reading room (32' x 121' x 37'9" high) is a typical great hall of a Tudor English house. It is surrounded by bookcases on two levels with a continuous gallery and railings. Stairs lead directly to the stacks below. The room is lighted by three high bay windows on the south and by Nicholas d'Ascenso's large stained glass tracery window at the east which depicts the seven ages of man. On the east end an oak hall screen with a reproduction of Shakespeare's memorial in Trinity Church at Stratford on Avon frames the entrance to the Folger burial crypt which is flanked by portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Folger.

The theater or lecture hall, which occupies the east wing, is not an exact reproduction of any specific Elizabethan theater. It has three balconies enclosing three sides and an outer, inner, and upper stage flanked by oriel bays. Walls are finished in half-timber and plaster and the open-sky effect is simulated with a colorful draped curtain. The stage set with curtain was designed by J. Monroe Hewlett.

The west wing and the new one-story addition behind the reading room are used for administrative offices.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

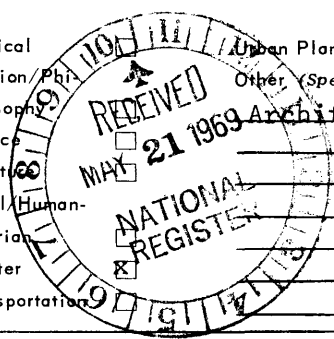
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1929-1932

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Aboriginal | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Folger Shakespeare Library a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The building's simple, modern classical exterior hides an Elizabethan interior with a full-scale 17th century English theater, and the world's largest collection of Shakespeareana. It should be preserved.

In 1790 when the District of Columbia was formed, Square 760 on which the library stands was owned by Daniel Carroll of Duddington, the city's largest landholder. In the division of lots between the government and the proprietors, the government received all of Square 760 which remained vacant until after the Civil War when it was sold to Captain Albert Grant, who built about 30 town houses on the property. Purchasing the land a parcel at a time, Folger had acquired the entire property by 1928 at a reported cost of more than \$300,000.

Henry Clay Folger (1857-1930) was a millionaire Standard Oil executive who devoted a great deal of his life to the acquisition of the largest collection of Shakespearean materials in the world. When Folger decided to build his library on Capitol Hill, he first intended it to be of Elizabethan design. The architect Paul P. Cret convinced Folger that an Elizabethan building could not be harmoniously juxtaposed with its classical Capitol Hill neighbors--the Capitol, Library of Congress, and House and Senate Office Buildings. The modern classical building which Cret designed provided for a library of 75,000 books with future space for 150,000 volumes. It also contained an Elizabethan theater, now used as a lecture hall, an Exhibition Gallery for the display of items in the collection, a reading room for scholars and administrative offices for the library staff. Construction was begun in November 1929. Mr. Folger died two weeks after the cornerstone was laid in 1930. His will appointed the Trustees of Amherst College to administer the library. The building was dedicated on April 22, 1932, generally accepted as the 386th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

In designing the building Paul Cret and his associates were advised by Alexander B. Trowbridge, consulting architect. The lighting fixtures were supplied by Edward F. Caldwell, Co.; the furniture by Westing Evans and Egmore; the hand-made Exhibition Gallery tile work by the Enfield Pottery and Tile Works; the stained glass by the d'Ascenzo Studios; the painted decorations by Austin Purves; the decorative sculpture by the Voigt Company, and the woodwork and cabinetwork by Erick Jansson.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Folger Shakespeare Library, A Brief Description, Published for the Trustees of Amherst College, 1968.
 Paullin, Dr. Charles O., "History of the Site of the Congressional and Folger Libraries," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 37-38, Washington, D. C.: Published by the Society, 1937.
Washington City and Capital, Federal Writers' Project, WPA, Washington, D. C.: U. S. GPO, 1937.
 Caemmerer, H. P., Washington the National Capital, Washington: U. S. GPO, 1932.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 53' 16"	77° 00' 13"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 53' 16"	77° 00' 09"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	38° 53' 12"	77° 00' 09"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	38° 53' 12"	77° 00' 13"		° ' "	° ' "	

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:
 Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission

DATE: April 22, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 726 Jackson Place, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE: 08

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Wm F. [Signature]*

Title Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date May 12, 1969

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

Annex Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 23 1969

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register


Date JUN 23 1969 JUN 20 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington, D.C.	
COUNTY Washington, D.C.	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 09A06-08-0015	DATE 6/23/69



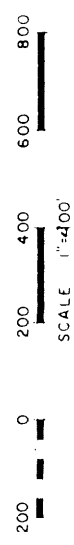
(Number all entries)


8. Significance--Folger Shakespeare Library

Perhaps the most famous work in the Folger Shakespeare collection is the first collected edition of Shakespeare's Works, printed in 1623 and known as the First Folio. Out of a world supply of 238 First Folios, Folger collected 79 copies. He also acquired 58 copies of the Second Folio of 1632; 24 of the Third Folio of 1663-64; and 36 of the Fourth Folio of 1685. The library also owns the world's largest collection of 18th and 19th century editions of Shakespeare, including copies owned by Washington, Adams, and Lincoln. The rarest item in the collection is the 1595 First Quarto of Titus Andronicus, the first of Shakespeare's published works. On display in the Exhibition Gallery is a scale model of the Globe Theater and a number of artifacts from the Elizabethan period.

In recent years, the Trustees of Amherst College, who administer the foundation under the terms of Folger's will, have transformed the library from a collection primarily concerned with Shakespeare into one of the most important repositories in the world for materials dealing with every aspect of English civilization from the time of the invention of printing to 1700. Of the total number of extant books printed in English between 1475 and 1641, the Folger Library possesses at least 55% of the recorded titles. The library is a research institute for advanced scholars of the period. Its reading room and library are not open to the general public.

76° 59' 47" W. Long.
38° 53' 55" N. Lat



PROJECT  Folger Shakespeare Library
201 East Capitol Street, S.E.

MARCH 1964

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Prepared By ALISTER B ASSOCIATES, INC. Engineers
Washington, D.C. Utilizing Stereophotogrammetric Methods

38° 53' 16" N. Lat
5970

