

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Emily Wiley House
other names _____

2. Location

street & number 902 3rd Street, N.W. (301 I Street, N.W.) not for publication
city or town Washington, D.C. vicinity
state District of Columbia code DC county _____ code 001 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Emily Wiley House/902 3rd Street, N.W.
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic and Architectural Resources of Mount Vernon
Triangle in Washington, D.C. 1791-1946

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

RELIGION/Religious Facility

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Description Summary:

The three-story brick dwelling located at the northwest corner of 3rd and I Streets, NW and known alternatively as 902 3rd Street NW and 301 I Street NW is an imposing, Italianate-style corner brick urban dwelling form dating from 1869-1871. The building consists of three distinct parts: the three-story main dwelling block, a two-story service wing, and an attached, two-story carriage house at the rear. Once part of a densely built residential neighborhood, the dwelling now stands alone with vacant lots next to and behind it. The north side elevation of the house reveals ghosting of the lower, two-story brick dwelling that historically abutted the building to its north. The dwelling is located within the Mount Vernon Triangle area, currently under intense redevelopment with high-rise apartment buildings and condominiums.

General Description:

Main Block:

The primary section of the building is the three-story main block characterized by its urban Italianate massing and details. The main block has a square footprint and faces 3rd Street. It is set upon a low brick foundation, is covered with a flat roof, and has pressed brick walls laid in stretcher bond. The façade is divided into three symmetrical bays and features a bold bracketed wood cornice comprised of ornate consoles separated by modillions. The bracketed cornice sits above a plain fascia board and a bed molding of dentils. The first floor of the main façade consists of a single entry and two, 2/2 single windows with wood lintels and stone sills next to it. The upper floors feature three, 2/2 wood windows, similarly with stone sills and wood lintels. The entry consists of a hooded door surround with ornate consoles consistent with those on the cornice.

The secondary (south) elevation of this main block extends along I Street and features a three-story projecting bay addition on-center of the façade, and a single entry door in the front bay. The three-story brick bay, added in 1887 includes a large plateglass show window on the first story and paired 1/1 windows above. The entry, probably built at the time of the bay addition, features a six-paneled wood door below a single-light transom and all set within an architrave surround. The windows on the I Street elevation are, like those on the 3rd Street elevation, wood with stone lintels and stone sills.

The north elevation is unfenestrated with ghosting from an earlier building on the site visible along the wall. Above the second story, the brick wall is parged with concrete.

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Service Wing:

The two-story service wing extends five bays deep and is recessed from the I Street elevation of the main block, forming a rear ell. It is constructed of common brick, laid in a five-course American bond, with larger mortar joints and a rougher surface than the pressed brick of the main block. It is covered with a flat roof with a contemporary roof deck addition built against the rear wall of the dwelling; a wooden railing surrounds the edge of the roof. This service wing also features 2/2 wood windows with flat stone lintels and sills. The more utilitarian service wing is both physically and architecturally deferential to the main block.

The carriage house at the rear of the service wing is a two-story brick structure that projects forward from the service wing towards I Street. According to historic maps, the building was historically used as a stable to 902 3rd Street and did not have a separate address. Later maps and supporting archival sources indicate that beginning in the 1920s, however, the carriage house was given the separate address of 307 I Street and was used as for residential and commercial purposes. The rear wall of the carriage house is clad with a stucco surface and has two single entries on the first story and 2/2 windows on both the first and second stories.

The entire building footprint of the three-part building covers a large percentage of the 2,372 square-foot lot.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1869-1945

Significant Dates

Circa 1869; 1887

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder****9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The impressive three-story Italianate-style residence at 902 3rd Street, N.W. known as the Emily Wiley House was constructed between 1869-1871 several blocks east of Mount Vernon Square and the important 7th Street commercial corridor. The building was one of the earliest, substantial dwelling forms in the area. It was constructed one block west of the pre-Civil War Douglas Row, and was likely built with the expectation that the Mount Vernon Triangle area would continue to develop and attract residents coming into the city. Throughout its history, the building was used for residential, commercial and institutional purposes. In the 1910s, the building was in active use as a Catholic church and rectory for Washington's only parish dedicated to serving the city's burgeoning Italian immigrant population. For a time during the 1920s, the building was the site of important political change, when it served as the headquarters for the National Colored Voters Union. The dwelling includes a rear service wing and an attached carriage house/stable that, if not original, hold a pre-1887 date of construction.

The building at 902 3rd Street meets Criteria A and C of the National Register, with architecture as its area of significance for the following reasons:

The building is a rare survivor from this period in the Mount Vernon Triangle area and represents a period of optimism in the neighborhood when scattered upper-middle-class development was spreading east of the immediate vicinity of the 7th Street commercial corridor into undeveloped, or sparsely developed areas. More substantial brick dwellings from this period began to replace smaller frame structures from the pre-Civil War period.

The three-story brick dwelling provides an excellent example of an Italianate-style urban townhouse residence. The tall, three-bay brick house embodies distinctive characteristics of its style, including its cubic form, articulated with long and narrow 2/2 windows with flat stone lintels, a robust wood door surround and a bracketed wood cornice. Similarly, the two-story rear service wing and the attached carriage house/stable are integral components of the property and reflect the building trends of the period.

The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The Period of Significance for 902 I Street, N.W. extends from circa 1869-71, when the house was built to 1887, when the two-story projecting bay was added and the rear service wing and carriage house were known to exist. A sufficient amount of time has passed to permit a professional evaluation of the building.

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Resource History and Historic Context:

Throughout its history, 902 3rd Street was used for residential, commercial, religious and political purposes. As originally built, the dwelling was the largest and most expensive building on the block.¹ Its construction was likely inspired by the even grander, Greek Revival-style Douglas Row located one block east built by Senator Stephen Douglas and historically occupied by prominent members of the city. According to General Assessment records, the dwelling at 902 3rd Street was constructed between 1869 and 1871 by Emily Wiley.² In 1869, the records show that Emily Wiley (Jones) was assessed \$1,000 for “improvements” on the 2,372-square foot lot, while the 1871-72 records assess her for a “three-story brick” on the property, valued at \$8,500. The significant increase in value indicates the construction of the present building on the lot between 1869 and 1871-72. Given its location one block west of Douglas Row and less than three blocks from the Northern Market at 5th and K Streets, NW, it is likely that Emily Wiley expected the continued growth of the market and the building’s proximity to the established Douglas Row to increase the values in the neighborhood.

During the 1880s, the property was owned and occupied by A.E. H. Johnson³, who was then a patent agent, living at 902 3rd Street with his wife, his son (also a patent agent) and daughter-in-law, four daughters, four grandchildren, and a boarder. During the Civil War, Johnson acted as private secretary to Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of the War, and also helped coordinate the famous War Department telegraph office, which revolutionized military chain of command communications.⁴ He was apparently privy to much that went on behind-the-scenes and later shared his recollections with the public through newspaper articles and even a 1909 paper given at the Columbia Historical Society. In an 1887 *Washington Post* article⁵, Johnson provided new anecdotal information about the roles of Secretary Stanton and Assistant Secretary Dana in saving the Army of the Cumberland. In this article, Johnson also told the story of how, during Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg, Lincoln demonstrated his coolness in a

¹ The 1873-1874 Faetz and Pratt Assessment Records indicate that the next most expensive dwelling on the block was valued at \$2,500.

² Although little is known about Emily Wiley, it is known that she was wealthy and owned a total of \$20,000 in real estate in 1870. She was married twice: first to a Wiley, with whom she had two sons, and around the time of the construction of this house, to a Stanley Jones, with whom she bore a third child. Stanley Jones, a druggist according to census records, also appears to have been a real estate speculator who was later run out of town as an “Embarrassed Broker” for his dealings. See “An Embarrassed Broker,” *The Washington Post*, August 18, 1879.

³ 1880 U.S. Census Records.

⁴ See “Lincoln and Stanton,” *The Washington Post*, February 13, 1887, p.5; “Incidents of Lincoln,” *The Washington Post*, April 16, 1891; “Never Served in War,” *The Washington Post*, April 5, 1896; Historical Society Meeting, *The Washington Post*, February 8, 1909.

⁵ “Lincoln and Stanton,” *The Washington Post*, February 13, 1887, p. 5.

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crisis by reading aloud from a copy of Hamlet that Johnson had retrieved from the library shelves. Stanton was too frazzled to hear a word of the reading, according to Johnson.

By 1887, Daniel McLaughlin, a constable, and his wife owned and occupied the house. In that year, the McLaughlins enlarged the house by the addition of the three-story side bay.⁶ By 1900, according to the U.S. Census Records, Daniel McLaughlin had died, but his widow Elizabeth was listed as head of house, and lived there, along with twelve other persons, including her daughter and son-in-law and their six children, and with three lodgers.

Between 1914 and 1919, the house became the parish of Holy Rosary Church, established by pastor Father Nicholas DeCarlo. In 1913, Father DeCarlo established the parish for Catholic residents of Italian birth or descent, originally housing it in a private home at 83 H Street, NW.⁷ However, as the original nucleus of 40 parishioners quickly increased and more space was needed, the parish moved to 902 3rd Street. On June 14, 1914, one hundred children received the sacrament of confirmation from the apostolic delegate Archbishop Bonanzo at the church, then known as “The Chapel of the Holy Rosary.” On August 25, 1914 Father DeCarlo officiated a mass for the soul of Pope Pius X, “the most solemn occasion in the history of the church.”⁸ In 1919, the parish constructed a church building at 3rd and F Street, N.W.⁹

In the early 1920s, the house was being occupied by an Italian immigrant and his family, while the rear service wing (listed under the separate address of 301 I Street), served as the “Liberty Meat Market,” with “Fruit and Vegetables.” The carriage house was also converted to commercial purposes, serving as

⁶ See D.C. Permit to Build, 6/22/1887, #2662.

⁷ In 1913, Father deCarlo had come to the United States from Italy to study biology at Catholic University. Washington’s Italian immigrant population was booming at the time, and Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore asked the young priest to establish a parish for Catholic residents of Italian birth or descent. See “Fr. Nicholas deCarlo Founded Church Here,” *The Washington Post*, May 12, 1961, p. B12.

⁸ *The Washington Post*, August 26, 1914.

⁹ *The Washington Post*, September 7, 1919 and December 21, 1919.

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a store with a 307 I Street address. Also by 1927, based upon sign permits and historic maps, it appears that the first story of the main block of the house also contained a store.

In 1927 and 1928, 902 3rd Street became the headquarters of the National Colored Voters Union and the Smith and Robinson Club.¹⁰ The Union called for a national conference of African American voters to be held for the purpose of unison of action in support of the Al Smith and Joseph Robinson ticket. Aaron P. Prioleau, a delegate from the Union, was in the forefront in the fight against barring African American delegates from the Republican national convention.¹¹ Prioleau believed it was time to end African American support of the Republican Party and Hoover's "lily-white" policy.¹² Prioleau and the Union also petitioned Hoover to appoint qualified African American representatives to federal boards.

By 1930, the Emily Wiley House was occupied by renters. African American William Miller, listed as head of household in the 1930 U.S. Census Records, paid \$23 per month to rent the house. The house that originally served as a single-family dwelling for more established residents, was by 1930, rented out to a working-class family. Despite the expectations that the original owners may have had for this neighborhood in building this large single-family residence, Mount Vernon Triangle area was principally throughout its history a working-class neighborhood, dependent upon the commercial activity of the nearby 7th Street commercial corridor and local Northern Liberties Market.

¹⁰ "A.P. Prioleau Forms Negro Smith Club," *The Washington Post*, July 7, 1928, p. 16.

¹¹ "Prioleau Attacks Hoover Policy as Lily-White," *The Washington Post*, July 18, 1928, p.12.

¹² "Negro Conference for Smith Called," *The Washington Post*, August 3, 1928, p. 5.

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Major Bibliographical References:

The Washington Post, published daily at Washington, D.C. 1877-2005

Faetz and Pratt Assessment Records, Washington, D.C. 1873-74.

Hopkins, G.M. Washington, D.C. Real Estate Atlas, 1878.

Proceedings of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C., 1909.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2,373 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 2 5 2 1 3 Easting	4 3 0 7 7 7 2 Northing	3			
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kim Williams, Architectural Historian and Donna Hanousek
Organization D.C. Historic Preservation Office, D.C. Preservation League, date February 8, 2006
street & number 801 North Capitol Street, NE telephone 202 442-8800
city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20002

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- X A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- X Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Mount Vernon Development Group, LLC
street & number 6031 Kansas Avenue, NW telephone _____
city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20011-1566

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The building at 902 3rd Street, including the main block, rear service wing and attached carriage house/garage occupies Lot 800 on Square 527. The lot is located at the northwest corner of 3rd and I Streets, N.W.

Boundary Justification:

Lot 800 on Square 527 has been associated with the property since construction of the dwelling on the site in 1869-1871.