

PH0011541

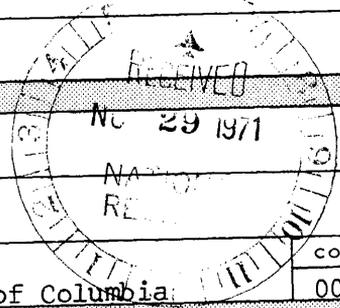
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:
MAR 16 1972

1. NAME
COMMON: (Within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site)
District Building
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: S.E. Corner of 14th and E Street, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001



3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: District of Columbia
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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: STATE: CODE:
Washington District of Columbia 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 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Washington District of Columbia 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 16 1972
DATE:
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The District Building is an excellent example of American Beaux Arts Classicism. Designed by the firm of Cope and Stewardson and built from 1904-1908, it occupies the entire block between E and D Streets, 13-1/2 and 14th Streets, south of Pennsylvania Avenue. The base of the building is of grey granite from Blue Hill, Maine; the upper stories are of white marble from South Dover, New York. The building at grade level is approximately 241 feet wide (13 bays) and 190 feet deep (9 bays). Above the first story, the building opens into a light court on the south or rear elevation, and thus takes a U-shaped form. Of wall-bearing construction, the building is 5 stories high plus basement and sub-basement.

The principal or north entrance facade is symmetrically designed with a great central portal and two slightly projecting end pavilions. The ground story is of smooth granite block with rectangular inset windows separated from the first story by a belt course which continues around the building. The first story is of chamfered rusticated courses with rectangular fenestration; the windows have square, keystone lintels.

Located in the center of the north facade, the main entrance portal which is flush with the main facade is approached by a series of steps. This monumental portal is flanked by plain round pilasters and contains an entablature supported by heavy oversized brackets. Over the portal is the inscription MCMIV--the date construction began on the building. The entablature supports a balcony whose balustrade contains a cartouche surmounted by an eagle with spreading wings and flanked on either side by reclining figures representing, respectively, "Justice" and "Law." From the main portal, another series of steps lead up through a vestibule to the two-leaf entrance door which opens onto the main floor. The interior of the vestibule is elaborately decorated with classical motifs.

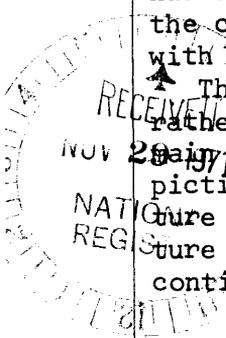
The second, third and fourth stories are treated as one unit and are tied together through the use of Corinthian pilasters set on pedestals supported by a belt course. The Corinthian pilasters are capped by a full entablature with swag decoration in a frieze which terminates with a denticulated, projecting cornice. The end pavilions contain pilasters enclosed by heavy square piers which terminate at the cornice line and do not have capitals.

The fenestration of the second, third, and fourth stories is similar. Each bay (with the exception of the placement of narrow rectangular windows before the end pavilions and the center bay) contains one wide rectangular window separated by stone mullions from flanking narrow side windows. The center window in each bay in the second story contains brackets supporting a triangular pediment. The second story bay window in each pavilion also has a balcony supported by brackets. On the third story, the pediment over the center window is round, and, on the fourth, there is only a square lintel with a keystone over the center window of the bay.

The fifth or attic story contains very plain fenestration combined with rather elaborate ornamentation. Located on the recessed section of the facade on either side of the center bay are heroic sculpted figures depicting (from east to west): Sculpture (male), Painting (female), Architecture (male), Music (female), Commerce (female), Engineering (male), Agriculture (female), and Statesmanship (male). The fenestration and the statuary continues on both the sides and the rear facade of the building.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

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) **Constructed 1904-1908**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the District Building a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage of the District of Columbia. The building, an excellent example of American Beaux Arts Classicism, was constructed from 1904-1908. The commission for the design of the building was awarded to the Philadelphia firm of Cope and Stewardson as a result of a design competition. A vital element in the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, the building serves as a municipal headquarters for the Mayor-Commissioner, the City Council, and has housed the majority of administrative bureaus, departments and commissions of the District of Columbia.

Before construction of the District Building, the square had a variety of uses. A Baltimore stage line occupied one corner of the tract prior to the establishment of Nailor's stables in 1820's. In the 1850's a three-story brick shop used as a bindery fronted on E Street. Immediately before the construction of the District Building, the site housed a Capital Traction Company powerhouse. The powerhouse was completely destroyed by fire in 1897.

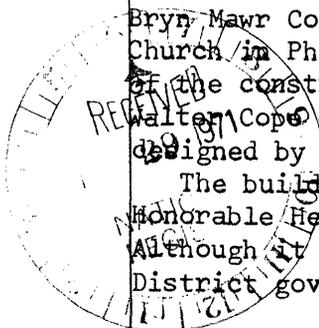
The public building act which became law in 1902 authorized \$550,000 for purchase of the powerhouse site. The same law also authorized construction of a building at a cost not to exceed \$1,500,000. This amount was later increased to \$2,000,000. Construction costs were increased by the need to drive approximately 2,400 piles into the marshy ground to support the building since it was located on the bed of the Tiber River.

The program for the competition for the design of the building called for a "Classic design in the manner of the English Renaissance." The jury was composed of the Supervisor of Construction Major Chester Harding, later succeeded by Captain William Kelly; the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, James Knox Taylor; and D.H. Burnham, George B. Post, and Robert S. Peabody. The contract was awarded to the Philadelphia firm of Cope and Stewardson, a well known East Coast firm which had previously designed buildings for Bryn Mawr College, Princeton University, and the Lady Chapel of St. Mark's Church in Philadelphia. Neither principal of the firm was alive at the time of the construction of the building. John Stewardson drowned in 1896, and Walter Cope died in 1902. The statuary on the exterior of the building was designed by De Nesti.

The building was dedicated with much ceremony on July 4th, 1908, with the Honorable Henry Macfarland, the President of the Commissioners, presiding. Although it has been used throughout its history to house agencies of the District government, during World War II, the War Department moved in and in

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mechlin, Leila. "New Public Buildings at Washington," The Architectural Record, New York, Vol. XXIV, September, 1908., pp. 198-200.

"Old Power House Site," Evening Star, Nov. 12, 1902, Washingtoniana Collection.

Tindall, Dr. William. "The District Building," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 26, Washington, DC, W.F. Roberts, 1924.

Washington City and Capitol, Washington Guide Series, Federal Writer's Project, GPO: Washington, D.C., 1937.

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	53'	42" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	01'	54" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **46,051 sq. ft.**

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:
Suzanne Ganschietz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: 11 May 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

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: [Signature]

Title: Deputy-Mayor Commissioner

Date: _____

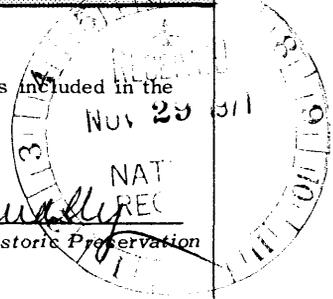
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/16/72

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 16 1972

(Number all entries)

7. Description - District Building

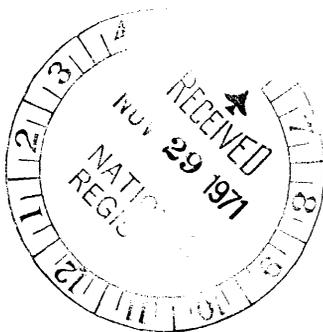
The rear facade contains two end pavilions 3 bays wide connected at the first story level. The first story of this connecting section is terminated by a parapet containing a large cartouche in the center. The building above the first story forms a U-shaped light court with walls articulated in a manner similar to the remainder of the building. This rear facade opens onto the Grand Plaza of the Federal Triangle.

The interior of the first floor contains a grand marble stairway located opposite the main entrance. The walls have marble wainscoting and the interior still contains such classical motifs as broken pediments over the interior doors. The fifth floor was originally designed to house the offices of the three Commissioners who governed the city of Washington. These pine-paneled offices are located at the northeast, northwest, and south ~~east~~ corners of the building, and are now occupied by the offices of the Mayor-Commissioner and the Chairman of the City Council. The "Boardroom" with its elliptical vaulted ceiling is now used as a Council Chamber. The interior of the building has been altered frequently throughout its history.

8. Significance - District Building

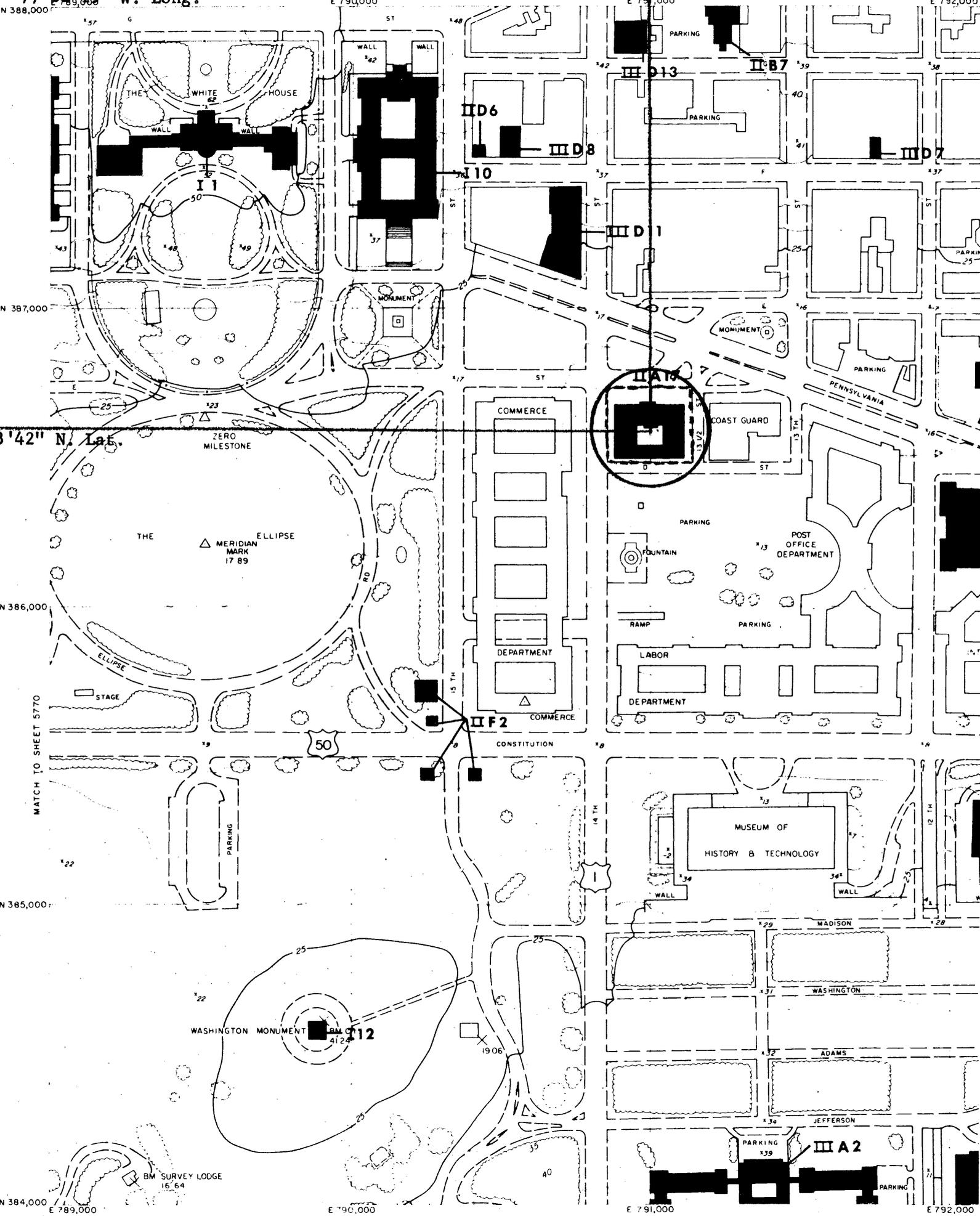
1944 the main corridor was lined with 200 cots for visiting servicemen.

The building was never formally named except by the casual mention of the name "District Building" in the appropriation law of May 26, 1908, and later laws. The commissioners informally agreed to call the building by that name.



77°02'19" W. Long.

77°01'54" W. Long.



N 388,000

E 790,000

E 790,000

E 792,000

N 387,000

3'42" N. Lat.

N 386,000

N 385,000

N 384,000

MATCH TO SHEET 5770

E 790,000

E 791,000

E 792,000

E 789,000