

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Woman's National Democratic Club

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Whittemore House; Wilcox, Walter D., House; Weeks, John C., House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1526 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy,
District of Columbia

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Clubhouse</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Woman's National Democratic Club

STREET AND NUMBER:
1526 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 001

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: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia additions to the National Register of Historic Places 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:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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 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

Due to its lack of applied decoration, its abstract geometric forms, and its fine brickwork, the Woman's National Democratic Club at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue has a restrained dignity not often found in mansions built in Washington in the 1890's. The bold contrast of the angular brick walls and the free flowing convex curves of the high roofs help to make this irregularly shaped structure a focal point of its street. This house, the successful solution of the problem of building on a difficult triangular lot, is probably the physical product of an architectural ideology similar to that which produced the "Shingle style" and the English Arts and Crafts Movement. It shares with these movements a turning away from derivative, ornate Beaux Arts styles to a less academically derivative style which exhibits a respect for materials, an elimination of non-essential decorative details, and an open plan. This building designed by Harvey L. Page in 1892 is not completely free of derivative details but is a definite step in the direction of a non-derivative style which relies on form and materials for effect rather than on ornamentation.

Located just north of Dupont Circle on a corner triangular lot bounded by New Hampshire Avenue, a diagonal street, on the east and Q Street on the north, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue is a 2-1/2-story, masonry freestanding building facing streets of predominately late 19th and early 20th century, 3-story, masonry attached houses. On the north and east the building is separated from the sidewalk by an ivy covered yard. At the south is a garden enclosed by a brick wall erected in 1972. Attached at the west is a two-story wing, with flat roof. The wing, a frankly contemporary design, which is sympathetically scaled in relation to the older building, was built in 1967. Designed by Nicholas Satterlee this wing has rough concrete walls and 2-story semicircular projections. A highrise building is west of the wing on Q Street. To the south on New Hampshire Avenue there is a 4-story, free-standing block and the Dupont Circle Hotel, the highrise which replaced the Leiter Mansion.

The house's irregular trapezoidal mass with parallel north and south sides has three projecting 2-story polygonal bays or towers, two oriels, and a number of hipped dormers. Although projections have their own roofs, the roofs are unified by the continuous, overhanging eaves and the convex curves which link the roofs to form one undulating, rhythmic mass. This asymmetrical building is organized into masses rather than into bays.

The north (Q Street) facade has a slightly projecting pavilion with its own hipped roof. From the pavilion projects a three-sided, two-story bay also with a pyramidal roof. East of the pavilion the main roof is broken near the joining of it and the pyramidal roof of the two-story seven-sided corner tower by a tall chimney whose wider side faces the street. West of the pavilion the ridgepole of the main roof drops to a lower level suggesting that the western section serves less important functions. The western section of the roof is broken by two dormers separated by a chimney with its narrow side facing the street. At the west a two-story connector which is predominantly glass on the second story links the house with the 1967, two-story wing. The wing with its rough concrete walls and semicircular bays is taller and more massive in appearance than the connector.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Constructed 1892-4, addition 1967

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 Woman's National Democratic Club a Category II landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The Woman's National Democratic Club is a significant example of a building of the 1890's which, due to the elimination of most decorative details and due to the frank handling of materials, has kinship with the English Arts and Crafts Movement and with American "Shingle Style" architecture. This building at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue relies for its considerable visual impact on its exceptionally fine brickwork and on its irregular geometric mass capped by broad expanses of hipped roofs with convex slopes.

Little is known about the building's architect, Harvey L. Page (1859-1934), but the restraint and fine craftsmanship of this building suggest that he was in sympathy with the more advanced architectural thought of his day which favored integrity of materials, simplicity of form, and free flowing plans rather than derivative Beaux Arts Classicism. Although only the inside of the second story porch of the southwest facade has shingle cladding, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue has the abstract dignity, free-flowing plan, hovering roof, and some of the emphasis on flat, rarely interrupted surfaces associated with the Shingle Style. In its abstraction and use of materials, it also has an affinity with the architecture of the Arts and Crafts Movement. It is interesting to note that Page left Washington for Chicago in 1897. One can only speculate that he was looking for a more receptive climate. Chicago at the end of the 19th century was the home of the Chicago Arts and Crafts Society and of the Chicago School while Washington was overcome by Beaux Arts Classicism.

The house has had a number of distinguished occupants including Walter D. Wilcox, John F. Dryden, and John C. Weeks. Since 1927 as the home of the Woman's National Democratic Club, an organization with the aim of educating women in political philosophy, it has been the site of talks by many leading political figures.

In 1891 Sarah Adams Whittemore purchased the triangular southeast corner lot at New Hampshire Avenue and Q Street from William Walter Phelps. Mrs. Whittemore was the daughter of the Reverend Henry Adams, a descendant of President John Adams. After her first husband, Sextus Newell Wilcox, died, she married William C. Whittemore.

Between 1892 and 1894 Mrs. Whittemore built her home at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue. The house was designed by Page, a Washington architect who had worked in the office of J.L. Smithmeyer before opening his own office. Page designed a number of large houses and clubhouses in Washington. The builder was Charles Albion Langley, the building contractor for a number of large

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description - Woman's National Democratic Club

The southeast (main, New Hampshire Avenue) facade is an asymmetrically balanced composition. The east polygonal corner tower due to its higher roof and location at the street corner is more prominent than the southeast polygonal corner tower. However an imbalance is not created as the entrance occupies the southern half of the facade between the towers and adds importance to the southeast section of the facade. The segmentally arched recessed entrance is flanked by narrow windows and approached by a flight of brownstone steps. Around the stoop there is a low, brick wall with brownstone cap. Above the entrance there is a semicircular, copper covered oriel with its own conical roof. Between the entrance and the east tower is a grouping of three windows on the first story and two windows on the second story. Breaking the roof above them is a wide, low, hipped dormer with three openings.

The view of the south facade from the street is obscured by a high brick wall. West of the southeast corner tower is a projecting south wing which has a porch over the enclosed first story. The first-story openings were lengthened in 1967. A metal railing is found above the corbel cornice of the 1st story but three copper clad piers several feet north of the railing support the high hipped roof which protects most of this porch. This roof in turn is broken by a dormer. The rear wall of the porch is covered with shingles. West of the porch roof a double dormer breaks the main roof. The western section of the roof with lower ridgepole is broken by the pyramidal roof of a copper covered, polygonal oriel on the second-story. A tall, massive chimney which is triangular in plan acts as an anchor at the southwest. Below the oriel on the first story a one-story connector links the house with the two-story, semi-circular projection of the 1967 addition.

The handling of materials on the exterior of the building is an outstanding feature. The walls are laid in an unusual, orange-brown brick. There is a judicious use of brownstone trim. The second story oriels, the posts of the second story porch at the south, and the gutter outlining the eaves of the roof are copper or copper covered and are now green in color. The roof is covered with dark gray slate. Window trim is painted black. The double-hung windows have only small panes of leaded glass or have leaded glass at the top and plate glass below. Some basement openings have metal grates.

The flat walls are a major design characteristic. They form the angular towers and bay. They are interrupted by copper covered oriels and are punctuated by voidlike openings. There is no applied decoration but variety comes from subtle variation in the brickwork. The walls, laid with very small mortar joints, are all long narrow stretchers except where rows of headers are used to differentiate sections of the wall. For instance on the Q Street and New Hampshire Avenue facades there is a band of 5 rows of headers at the level of the first story window sill, and between the first and second story windows are three bands (3, 3, and 4 rows of headers). On the south facade there is a band of five rows of headers at the watertable level. Between the first and second story windows of the corner towers and of the Q Street bay are rectangular panels with bricks laid to form a diamond pattern. Most openings are flat or segmentally arched and have large brick jack arches. Near the west corner of the Q Street facade at the basement level is a small semicircular arched opening with a handsome brick arch. (Continued on Form 10-300a, page 2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Page No. 2

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

Windows have brownstone sills and basement windows have brownstone jack arches. There is a brownstone band at the ground level and at the first story window sill level on the corner towers and on the Q Street bay. (The Q Street bay also has a brick band as its first story sill level is higher than the sill level elsewhere on the north facade.)

The most significant feature of the interior are the entrance and stair hall. On the east side of the entrance hall is the stair hall and around these halls on the first floor are grouped the principal rooms. The main rooms on the first floor open on the halls and on to each other through wide doors. The rooms have unusual shapes due to the towers, bay, and oriels and the irregular shape of the building. From the south side of the stair hall rises an elaborate stairway arranged in several flights about an open well. This stair links the two principal floors. The third floor can be reached by a narrow stair off the second floor central hall or by narrow service stairs at the west.

Unlike the exterior which largely retains its 1890's appearance the interior has undergone some alteration. In 1967 the new dining room in the wing was extended into the older wing incorporating all the area on the first story under the section of the roof with a lower ridgepole. The dark panelling of the entrance and stair halls has been painted. The handsome plaster ceiling in the northeast parlor is gone although the northwest parlor and the oval hall on the second floor retain their plaster decoration. Many decorative features remain including large mantels with stone surrounds, panelling, heavy mouldings, plaster cornices, and the exposed panelled beams of the entrance and stair halls' ceilings. The most spatially exciting room is the eastern section of the attic where the framing of the main roof and of the corner tower is exposed. The western section of the attic has been divided into small rooms.

8. Significance

residences who earlier had been employed in the construction of the State, War and Navy Building (now the Executive Office Building).

City Directories between 1894 and 1903 list the house's occupants as W.C. Whittemore and/or Walter Dwight Wilcox, Mrs. Whittemore's son. Wilcox (1869-1949) was a noted photographer who between 1898 and 1909 wrote a number of travel books on Canada and in 1924 a book on Cuba. He moved to Washington from Chicago in 1891 while a student at Yale. After graduation from Yale in 1893 he went on scientific explorations in Canada, Cuba, and Hawaii. He operated a mahogany and cedar plantation in Cuba and in 1918-19 was a representative of the War Trade Board in Cuba.

On December 9, 1896, Aline Wilcox, Mrs. Whittemore's daughter, married Albert Halsted in the parlor at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue. The Washington Evening Star gave an extensive description of this wedding in the "spacious and artistic home."

(Continued on Form 10-300a, page 3)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Page No. 3

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

The house has been the site for other social events. In 1906-07 Theodore P. Shonts, a wealthy railroad magnate, rented the house during the year his two daughters made their debuts. While John C. Weeks lived in the house his daughter, Katherine Sinclair Weeks, made her debut.

Weeks (1860-1926), who rented the house from 1907-1911, was one of its better known tenants. While living there he was a Congressional representative from Massachusetts. From 1913 to 1919 he was a Senator and from 1921 to 1925 he was Secretary of War under Harding and Coolidge.

In 1903 Senator John F. Dryden (1839-1911) of New Jersey rented the house. Dryden, one of the founders of Prudential Insurance Company in America and of Fidelity Trust Company, was a Senator from 1902 to 1907 when he returned to business.

On December 27, 1907, Mrs. Whittemore died and left 1526 New Hampshire Avenue to her son and daughter. After 1911 Wilcox and his family lived in the house. In 1912 his sister deeded him her share of the property. The Wilcoxes who lived there until 1926 are said to have entertained lavishly.

In 1926 the house was vacant. Wilcox sold it to T. W. Phillips, Jr., Inc. who sold it to Loren B.T. Johnson. Johnson in 1927 sold the house to the Woman's National Democratic Club.

The Woman's National Democratic Club was incorporated in 1922. Its By-Laws state that its purposes and objectives are "the education of its members in political science, economics, and the arts, the study of the processes of democracy and procedures of government and the rendering of educational and social services to the community." The club opened in 1924 in rented quarters at 820 Connecticut Avenue but quickly realized the need for additional space and brought 1526 New Hampshire Avenue. On May 10, 1927, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Mrs. John W. Davis dedicated the club building. From July 1, 1943, to February 15, 1946, the building was leased to the British Service Club although reserved at certain times for the Woman's National Democratic Club. In 1966-67 a two-story wing was added at the west to enlarge the dining room where the club's twice weekly luncheons with political speakers are held. This wing designed by Nicholas Satterlee of Washington was dedicated by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967.

9. Bibliographical References

National Capital Planning Commission. Landmarks Files.

National Democratic Woman's Club. A Brief History of the Woman's National Democratic Club. 8 pages. Mimeographed.

Withey, Henry F. and E.R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc. 1970. Facsimile of 1956 ed., p. 452.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas, City Directories and Newspaper clippings, Washingtoniana Collection D.C. Public Library.
 Adams, Evelyn C., Compiler. Early History of Club House, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue 1892-1927. Compiled Nov. 1957-Jan. 1958. Typewritten manuscript kept by History Committee, Woman's National Democratic Club.
Biographical Directory of American Congress 1774-1927. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1928, pp. 921-922, 1678-79.
 Columbia Real Estate Title Company. Deed Search Files. Case 99308.
 MacFarland, Henry B.F. American Biographical Directories: District of Columbia. Washington: Potomac Press, 1908, pp. 275, 427, 505-506.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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°	54'	39"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	02'	34"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8,493 square feet

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: Jan. 26, 1973

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 _____

Title Assistant to the Mayor for Housing Programs

Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

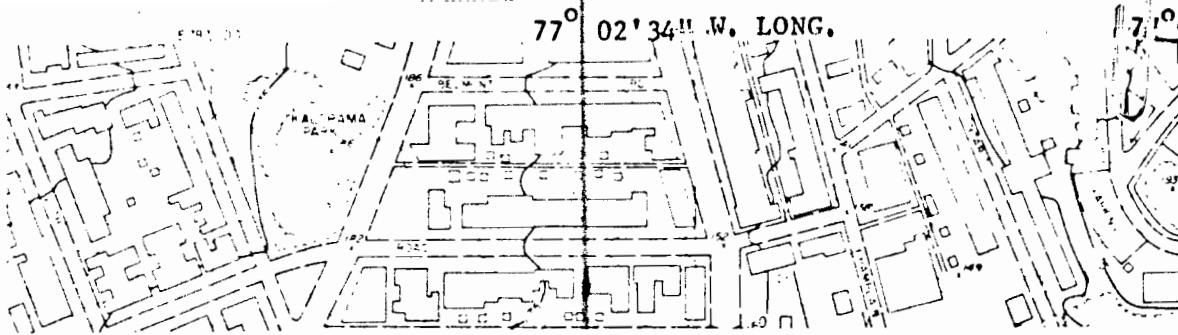
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



77° 02' 19" W. LONG.
38° 55' 14" N. LAT.



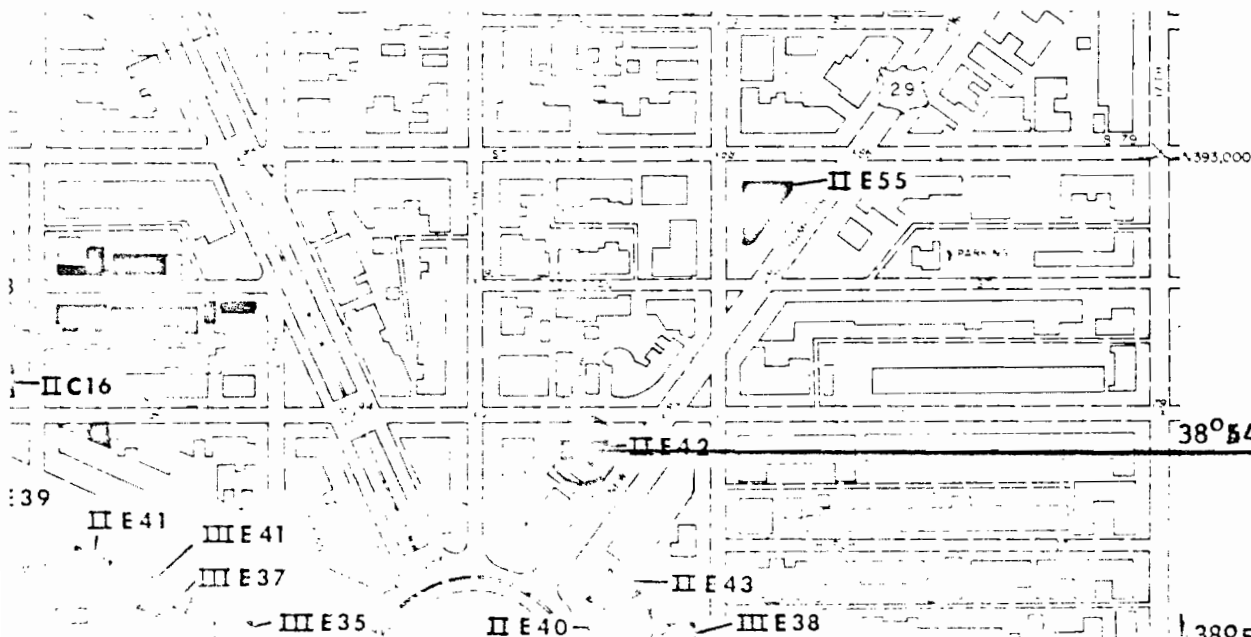
10-301
1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Democratic Club	Whittemore House: Wilcox, Walter D. , House: Weeks Hse.	
LOCATION		
DISTRICT	COUNTY	TOWN
District of Columbia	District of Columbia	Washington
STREET AND NUMBER		
526 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.		
REFERENCE		
DATE	SCALE	
District of Columbia Depart- of Highways & Traffic	March 1964	1" = 400'

REMARKS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

GPO 932-010



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND T
 B ASSOCIATES, INC. Engineers
 1400 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20004

DATE
 PROJECT NO

MARCH 1964

38° 54' 39" N. LAT.

38° 54' 25" N. LAT.

