

PH0011908

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 5	1972

1. NAME			
COMMON: Washington Club			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Patterson House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 15 Dupont Circle, 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"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 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) Women's Club

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: The Washington Club			
STREET AND NUMBER: 15 Dupont Circle			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11

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 Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> 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

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION ³	(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 Washington Club (Patterson House) at 15 Dupont Circle is located on the northeastern sector of Dupont Circle at the intersection of Dupont Circle and P Street NW. This grand, Neo-Classical palace was designed by Stanford White of the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White and completed in 1903. The design relates well to the site by embracing the circle with its two projecting wings. An addition was built on the P Street side in 1955.

The four-story mansion is brick with marble and stone facing on the major facade. The house is sited on an irregular lot and is itself irregular in shape. The main facade, which fronts on the circle, tends to embrace the circle by means of its two projecting wings. The wings are connected on the second floor level by a loggia and a balcony on the third.

The facade is surfaced in marble and is richly ornamented. The corners are defined by limestone quoins. The ground floor is separated from the piano nobile by a Greek-key string course. Another string course separates the third and fourth floor windows, and, at the same time, acts as a sill for the fourth floor windows. The fenestration ornamentation is richly conceived. Between each window on the second and third floor are panels of variegated marble with egg and dart frames having carved scrollwork at the bottom and urn and festoons at the top. The windows on these floors are topped by apex escutcheons and swags with fruit branches on ribbon supported by putti on the second story and winged figures atop the panels and blind windows of the third story. The windows of the second story are surrounded by an architrave, rinceau frieze and overhanging pediment. The crosseted architrave frames of the third story windows are topped by a female mask supporting a flambeau and flanked by scrolls. Above the central opening of the third story is a huge cartouche with fruit swags. On the fourth floor the wall space between each opening is panelled. The ground floor front windows are covered by wrought-iron bars in a reversed console motif.

The main entrance door is a black enamel double door with each leaf containing four panels. Above the door is a trapezoidal loggia composed of two pairs of Renaissance Ionic styled columns. At either end completing the ensemble is a single pilaster. The entablature consists of a torus and bead architrave and an egg and dart fascia and cyma cornice. The balustrade of the balcony above has alternating urn balusters and pedestals corresponding to the voids and columns below. The loggia is approached from the foyer, drawing room and dining room by French doors. The foyer door is flanked by a narrow window on either side. All the openings are framed by pilasters and escutcheon with swag friezes.

The truncated hipped roof carries seven chimneys of tan brick with panelled shafts and simple entablatures.

The ground floor interior contains a large foyer with a mantel in the 15th century Italian manner and a grand staircase of white marble which leads to a fountain at the landing and backs on itself as a double run of risers to the piano nobile. The cast iron railing is composed of a rinceau and cartouche pattern with a red velvet handrail.

The major rooms of the piano nobile are the ballroom, the dining room and the drawing room. The drawing room has walls of high grade panelling and a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

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) completed February 1903

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☐ Historic

☒ Industry

☐ Science

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Sculpture

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☐ Theater

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ Transportation

☐ Communications

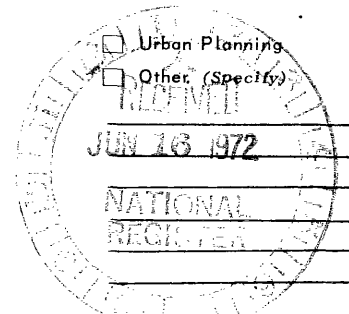
☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Washington Club (Patterson House) a Category II landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. This Neo-classic palace, completed in 1903 and located on Dupont Circle, was designed by Stanford White of the New York firm McKim, Mead & White for Mrs. Robert Patterson of Chicago. Mrs. Patterson's daughter, Elinor, who was to become publisher of the Times Herald, occupied the house from 1923 until her death in 1948. The house was then left to the American Red Cross and subsequently sold to the Washington Club in 1951. The Washington Club is a women's club whose membership consists mostly of wives of prominent men in government and business.

Mrs. Robert Patterson was the daughter of Joseph Medill, editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. In an article about her in the Washingtonian magazine, her granddaughter Felicia Gizycka mentions that; "any woman with enough money...could become a successful Washington hostess." Felicia also said, "My grandmother Patterson built Dupont Circle to attain social prestige and get away from Chicago." Mrs. Patterson's father had Stanford White design the house he built for her in Chicago and she employed White herself for the Washington house. Stanford White (1853-1906) was a principal in the New York firm of McKim, Mead & White from 1879 until he was killed by Harry Thaw in 1906. White was an excellent designer and had a major design role in much of the work produced by the firm.

Mrs. Patterson had two children, Joseph Medill, who joined his father on the Tribune, and Elinor. Elinor (Cissy) married Count Joseph Gizycka in 1904 and had one child, Felicia. (Felicia was to marry columnist Drew Pearson, a marriage which would end in divorce.) Cissy was divorced in 1917 and married Elmer Schlessinger in 1925. In the late twenties, Cissy wrote two novels, Glass Houses ('26) and Fall Flight ('28). The Schlessingers occupied the house regularly when he was counsel for the Shipping Board. The house during those years was a mecca of social and official Washington.

In 1927 President and Mrs. Coolidge occupied the Patterson mansion while the White House was undergoing extensive repairs. Lindberg was a guest there after his historic transatlantic flight.

Schlessinger died in 1927, and in 1930 Cissy took her maiden name becoming legally Mrs. Elinor Medill Patterson. The same year Hearst appointed her editor of the Herald. She eventually became publisher, and by 1936 circulation of the Herald had doubled to 120,000.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gizycka, Felicia. "15 Dupont Circle," Washingtonian, Vol. 5, No. 11, August, 1970, pp. 46-49.

Information gathered by the Commission of Fine Arts, particularly the architectural description. Information now on file at the Commission of Fine Arts.

Information from the files of the Washingtoniana Collection of the D.C. Public Library.

Information from the members of the Washington Club.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N38° 54' 35"	W77° 02' 32"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 13,901 square feet

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	DATE
National Capital Planning Commission	Dec. 15, 1971
STREET AND NUMBER:	
1325 G Street, N.W.	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Washington	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 Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date

JUN 8 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

10-4-72

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description - Washington Club

chair rail of four inch cyma which corresponds to the inset panels of wainscot.

The ballroom has a slightly coved smooth plaster ceiling recessed behind decorative wood panelling. The walls consist of a pedestal wainscot treatment. The plan is staggered to accommodate fluted composite pilasters, thus forming a true pedestal. The orchestra of the ballroom forms an ellipse in the western part of the room. The balcony is visually carried by Corinthian consoles with festoons and guttae at the bottom.

The new two-story addition on P Street, which connects with the ground floor and piano nobile of the east facade, was erected in 1955.

8. Significance

When Elinor died in 1948, the house was left to the American Red Cross. In 1951 the Washington Club purchased it. The Washington Club was organized in 1891 with Mrs. Blair Lee as its first president. The purpose of the club, whose members are prominent Washingtonians, is for literary purposes, mutual improvement, and social intercourse.

