

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Evermay

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1623 28th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington (Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, District of Columbia)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	11	District of Columbia	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"/> 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	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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Captain Peter Belin, U.S.N., Ret.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1623 28th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	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	CODE
District of Columbia	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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Capital Planning Commission

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

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

Evermay, 1623-28th Street, N.W., is located on one of the most beautiful sites in Georgetown on a hill which overlooks Rock Creek Park and downtown Washington. The Federal house, set back from the street and reached by a curved drive, is situated among 3.72 acres of landscaped grounds. Evermay as it presently stands is the result of extensive renovations and enlargements, many of which were carried out in the twentieth century. Construction of the original house was begun in 1801 and the interior was completed in 1818.

The main block of Evermay can be described as a five-bay, 2-1/2 story Flemish-bond brick house with three dormer windows and a gabled slate roof with four interior end chimneys. The main house is connected by hyphens to wings on either side, all of which are later additions. The north facade which is today the main entrance to the house is symmetrically ordered with a central entrance bay. The door, which is transomed and side-lighted, was installed during the renovations undertaken in 1923. The windows of both the first and second story are rectangular 6/6 light double-hung sash with black louvered shutters. Also dating from the above restoration is the modillioned cornice and the three pedimented dormer windows with arched, double-hung sash.

The south facade is similar to the north in that it is five bays wide with central entrance door and fanlight and sidelights. The windows are 6/6 light and also have black shutters. On the second floor above the entrance is a Palladian window. At one time, over the central bay, there was a pedimented cross gable with a semi-circular lunnette supported on consoles, which has been removed. The ground level around the house was raised in 1923 and light wells were installed in front of the basement windows.

In 1801 construction was begun at Evermay from plans drawn by Nicholas King, Surveyor, for the owner, Samuel Davidson. The plans called for a rectangular brick house 54 feet long and 38 feet deep. On the first floor of the main house were to be four rooms with a central hall. It has been suggested that since no entries for brick appear in the Evermay account book, that the bricks used to build the house may have been stockpiled from Davidson's own brickyard which he had operated from 1792 to 1794. The interior of the house was apparently remodeled by the heir to Evermay, Lewis Grant Davidson, since the books for 1818 show a final bill for interior renovation.

In 1877 the house was again altered by its owner, John D. McPherson. A bracketed one-story wooden porch across the three bays of the south front was added, the dormer windows were removed, the service wing rebuilt and a large screened porch was constructed on the second floor level of the west facade.

The house was essentially unchanged until it was bought by F. Lamot Belin in 1923. He removed the Victorian elements and restored the house back to its Georgian simplicity. The house was cleaned down to the brick, the oyster shell mortar joints were repaired, and other exterior changes were made as described above. The grounds were also redesigned and new retaining walls, balustrades, and terracing added. A sunporch was added to the east front, and the service wing was enlarged.

In 1961, Ambassador Belin replaced the sunporch on the east front with the "orangery," a brick addition which is five bays deep on its east side, and has a semicircular bay to the south with three arched windows.

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 1801**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated Evermay a Category II Landmark which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Evermay, from its spacious grounds in Georgetown, commands an impressive view of Rock Creek Park and downtown Washington. Although the house and gardens have undergone numerous alterations, the main block of the house is representative of Federal domestic architecture of the early 19th century. The construction of Evermay was begun in 1801 but the house underwent interior alterations until 1818. Evermay lost its Federal character in 1877 when it was remodeled in the fashionable Victorian style of the day. It was stripped of its Victorian accretions and restored to its Federal simplicity in the 20th century when the Honorable F. Lamot Belin bought it in 1923. The restorations and additions between 1923 and 1961 have in no way detracted from the original but have added to its dignity and beauty. The history of the house is very closely linked with people and events important in the development of Washington.

Samuel Davidson, a Georgetown merchant and realtor, purchased the property on which Evermay is located in 1794 with profits realized from the sale of land to the government. Davidson and David Burns acquired from the Pierce family several hundred acres of land which were later used for the White House and Lafayette Square.

The remainder of this narrative is an edited version of that prepared by W. Brown Morton, III, for the NHL application.

"On June 23, 1801, Davidson contracted with Nicholas Hedges, a carpenter and builder of Georgetown, to begin construction of Evermay. Hedges received \$897.40 on December 7, 1801, as full payment for his work. The house was designed, however, by Nicholas King, a member of the Surveyor's staff of the District Commissioners. King emigrated to America in 1794, worked intermittently with the District Surveyor's office, was the first librarian for the City's first library, and a part time surveyor and friend of Samuel Davidson. King died in 1812 and Evermay appears to be his principal architectural achievement. In addition to his design for the house, King also designed the original garden and was paid for this landscaping work in 1803. The Evermay account book for December 7, 1804, contains the following entry. "To Nicholas King for amount his account for Surveying, Leveling, Designing, Plans etc...\$45."

Samuel Davidson was a bachelor and for most of his years in Georgetown he maintained permanent lodgings in the Union Tavern. Whether or not he actually lived at Evermay full time is somewhat obscure. It would appear that

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description - Evermay

The interior of the house was completely altered during the 1923 renovation. The front hall and stair are the only original features which remain. The present interiors of the house, however, are of very high quality, especially the dining room with its teakwood panels and twin mantles. The upstairs sitting room is paneled in walnut brought from Avignon.

8. Significance - Evermay

except in fine weather he remained at the Union Tavern for domestic convenience rather than fully staff and outfit Evermay for his sake alone. On June 2, 1810, the following notice appeared in the Georgetown newspaper, the Independent American:

"Evermay proclaims,  
Take care, enter not here,  
For punishment is ever near... .

"My man, Edward, who resides on the premises, has my positive orders to protect the same from all trespassers as far as in his power, with the aid of the following implements, placed in his hands for that purpose, if necessary, viz:-Law, when a party is worthy of that attention and proper testimony can be had, a good cudgel, tomahawk, cutlass, gun and blunderbuss, with powder, shot and bullets, steel traps and grass snakes... . Therefore, I beg and pray of all my neighbors to avoid Evermay as they would a den of devils, or rattle snakes, and thereby save themselves and me much vexation and trouble.

Samuel Davidson

Evermay was left to Samuel Davidson's nephew, Lewis Grant, on the condition that he take the surname Davidson. In these early days of the Republic this required a special act of Congress which was approved and then signed by President Madison.

In the spring of 1811, Lewis Grant Davidson undertook repairs to the exterior of Evermay. In 1817 the wood shingle roof was replaced with one of copper, and in 1818 the interior was completed and decorated about the time of Grant Davidson's marriage....After he died in 1832, his widow continued to live there until her death in 1851, when the property passed to her daughter, Eliza Davidson Dodge.

In 1876 the property became the home of a retired Union General, Henry Hayes Lockwood; then in 1877, the home of John D. McPherson. The McPherson family was responsible for the alterations which obscured much of the

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

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Significance - Evermay (continued)

appearance of the original Federal house. After the death of McPherson, his widow leased the house to Mr. William B. Orme and his family. They remained tenants until the property was sold to Mr. Francis H. Duehay in 1919.

On November 28, 1923, Evermay was sold to the Hon. and Mrs. F. Lamnot Belin, who executed the extensive renovations and enlargements which now distinguish the house and grounds. Upon the death of Ambassador Belin in 1961, Evermay was inherited by his son, Captain Peter Belin, U.S.N. (Ret.), who is currently in residence with his family.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Much of the information on this form was taken from the National Historic Landmark nomination form prepared by W. Brown Morton, III. His sources included Evermay, an unpublished manuscript, Washington, D.C. 1954-61, filed in the Evermay archives. Eberlein, Harold Donaldson, and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, Historic Houses of Georgetown and Washington City, Richmond: Dietz Press, 1958.

Interview with Captain Peter Belin, U.S.M., Ret.  
Miller, Hope Ridings. Great Houses of Washington, D.C., New York: Crown Publishers, 1969.

**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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 54' 42"	77° 03' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.72 acres

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 Ganschinietz, Architectural Historian

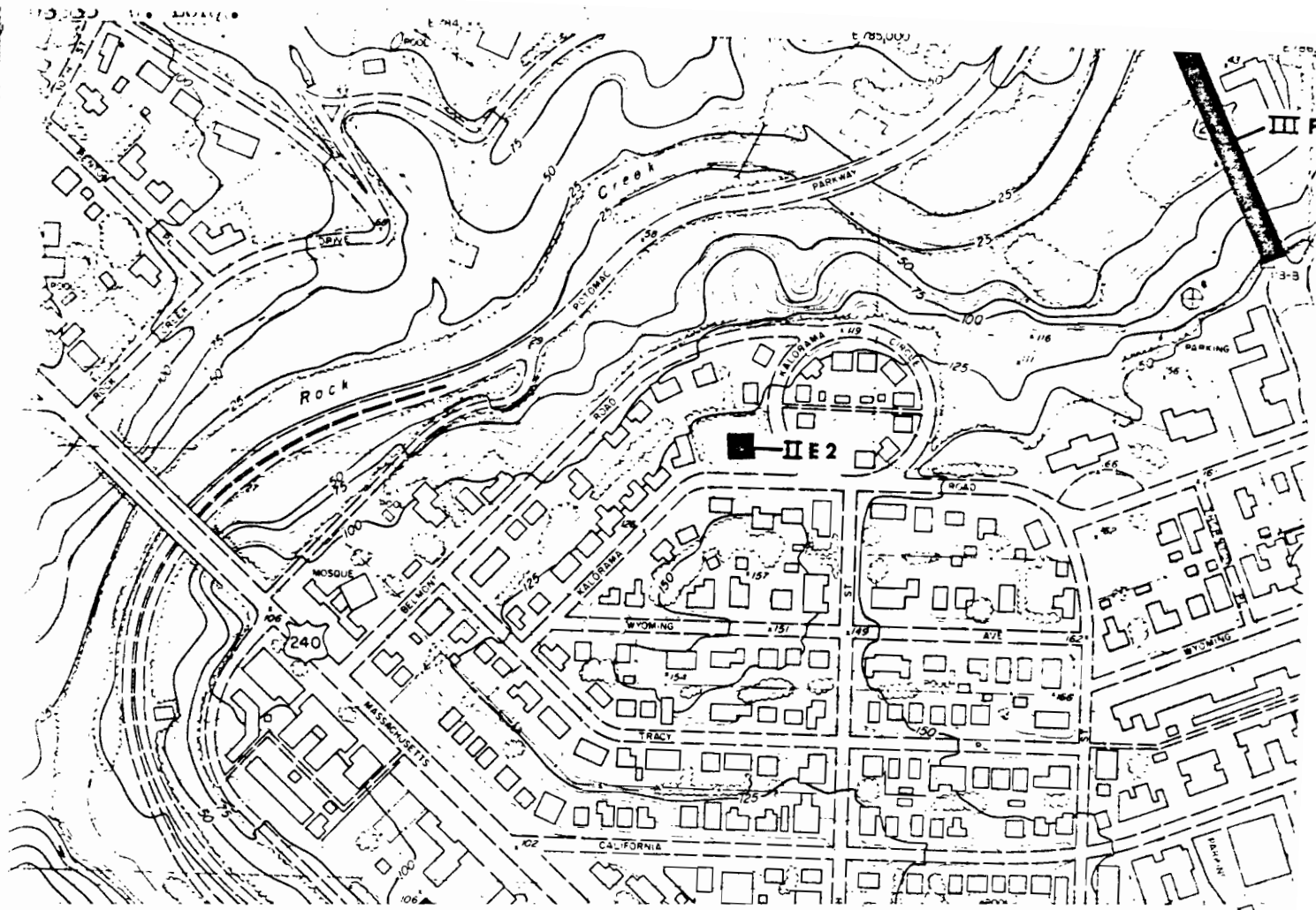
ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission      DATE: 22 May 1972

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**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title <u>Deputy Mayor-Commissioner</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: . . .</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

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)*

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Evermay  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

1623 28th Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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District of Columbia

11

District of Columbia

001

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:

District of Columbia Department of Highways and Traffic

SCALE: 1" = 400'

DATE: March 1964

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

