

DRAFT

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Homer Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 601 13th Street, N.W. (1220-26 G Street & 1229-1221 F St.) not for publication

city, town Washington vicinity of _____ congressional district Walter E. Fauntroy
Congressman

state District of Columbia code 11 county District of Columbia code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name S. Kann Sons Company Inc.

street & number 601 13th Street, N.W.

city, town Washington vicinity of _____ state District of Columbia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number 6th and D streets, N.W.

city, town Washington state D.C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building is four stories high with thirteen bays across the long (13th Street) facade, three and one-half bays on the G Street facade, and five bays of F Street. It is of steel frame construction faced with cream-colored glazed terra cotta.

The fenestration is varied. Pilaster-like piers link the first two stories vertically; spandrels are recessed behind the plane of the piers. The second-story windows are of the Chicago type with large fixed central window flanked by two narrow windows that open. Each window grouping at this level has ornamental cast-iron window guards. The pilasters have simple capitals with an egg and dart molding. Above the capitals is a plain frieze with an ornamental border of foliated design. On the third story, wide piers support a full projecting cornice and a dentiled frieze. Each bay is divided into thirds by two narrower piers. The bays on the fourth floor retain this same tripartite division, the corner bays being similar to those at the third level. The interior bays at this level, however, are divided by fluted columns recessed behind the plane of the main piers. These dividing columns and the spandrels at the first and second-story levels appear to be of some type of metal and are painted a dark brown color. The roof is flat with a simple molded cornice and a Renaissance balustrade.

A marquee extends over the sidewalk above the main entrance on 13th Street. The doorway has a cast-iron surround flanked by fluted engaged Ionic columns and pivotal windows. A cornice above the doorway is ornamented with stylized foliated design which, like the foliated detailing found elsewhere on the building, is suggestive of the designs of Louis Sullivan.

Glass revolving doors lead to the lobby, which has floors and pilasters of white marble with green marble trim. The plaster cornice displays the same foliated detailing as the cornice over the outside entrance. The ceiling is bordered by an elaborate ornamental plaster band. The walls are paneled wood with the north side containing a row of rectangular mirrors. Two large bronze chandeliers hang from the ceiling.

Most of the first floor along G Street and four bays along 13th Street have been hollowed out for a Metro station. Along 13th and F Streets, shop fronts cover some of the original structure at the first-floor level. The upper stories remain intact, except on the F Street side, where aluminum siding covers the second floor.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1914-15

Builder/Architect Appleton Prentiss Clark, Jr.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Like many buildings downtown, the Homer Building relates to the history of the commercial city, not the monumental capital. Although a few federal bureaus were housed briefly within the building, it draws its character from its use as an office building for local business and organizations. Erected during World War I, the building reflects the period of the city's commercial life between the world wars. Architecturally the building is a combination of the Commercial style with Neo-Classical ornamentation and some Sullivanesque detailing. While this combination was seen throughout the country, its legitimacy is perhaps greater in Washington, where during the first three decades of the twentieth century the Neo-Classical style was so entrenched that it was common practice to have some type of Neo-Classical window dressing on commercial buildings. The MacMillan Commission's plans for Washington in particular made white Neo-Classical buildings appropriate for this city.

The Homer Building appears to have been named for Homer Guerry, a Washington lawyer who had previously owned much of the property on which it was erected. The building was designed to house offices and stores, a use which has not changed since the structure was constructed in 1914-15. It was opened for occupancy during World War I, which had created a shortage of office space in the capital. As a result, government agencies, such as the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of War Economics, were among the first tenants. The Russian Government Purchasing Commission rented space during World War I and as late as 1920 the Belgian Commission was housed here. Its predominant use, however, was by non-federal tenants, such as insurance companies, architects, lawyers, and organizations such as the Washington Chamber of Commerce.

During the late '20s and '30s a number of jewelers had offices in the building. In 1934 Galt and Bros., a Washington jewelry firm established in 1802, moved into the space on the first floor that it still occupies. This firm is connected to the family of Edith Galt, who married President Woodrow Wilson. Over the many years it has been in existence, Galt and Bros. has counted many prominent Washingtonians among its clients.

The architect of the Homer Building, Appleton Prentiss Clark, Jr., was born in Washington, D.C. in 1865. He attended Central High School and later studied in the office of architect A.B. Mullett. Early in his career he was appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to assist in revising the building regulations. Later he published guidelines on the design and construction of institutional homes for children, a particular interest of his. He was an unusually prolific architect. During his long professional career in the District of Columbia he designed numerous buildings including schools, theatres, hospitals, children's homes, banks, office buildings, hotels, apartment buildings, rowhouses and detached residences.

Many of Clark's buildings have not survived and, unfortunately, no good inventory exists of those that remain. A partial listing of Clark's buildings in the District of Columbia includes: the Roosevelt Hotel; the New Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church; the old Episcopal

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Home for Children at Utah and Nebraska, N.W.; the old Fourth Presbyterian Church at 13th and Fairmont; the old Central Union Mission Building at 624 Indiana Avenue; Residence at 2300 S Street (a one-time residence of Herbert Hoover); Residence at 220 O Street; the Percival Padgett residence at 1833 Park Road; Rowhouses on the north side of the 1700 block of Lanier Place (where Clark also made his residence); the Carriage House of the Christian Heurich Mansion (1902) and a wing to the main house in 1914. Upon Clark's death in 1955, the Washington Post referred to him as the "Dean of Architects."

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D.C. Building Permits - 754, 755, 1114, 2346, 3156, 3157, 3491.

City Directories - 1905, 1913-1952, inclusive.

Washington City General Assessments - Vol. 1, 1914-15; Vol. 1, 1917-18;
Vol. 1, 1921.

Land Records: Liber 2934, fol. 419; Liber 2934, fol. 127; Liber 2763, fol. 89;
Liber 3469, fol. 121; Liber 3665, fol. 259; Liber 3947, fol. 58; Liber 4083,
fol. 38; Liber 13026, fol. 551.

Lusk's D.C. Assessment Directory 1979, p. 48.

Ross, Isabel. Power with Grace. The Life Story of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. New
York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1975, pp 22-23, 25, 53.

Slauson, Allan B., Editor. A History of the City of Washington. Washington,
D.C.; The Washington Post Company; 1903; pp. 306-307.

Washington Post, March 27, 1955, Obituary, "Appleton Clark, 89, Dean of Architects."

Washington Star, March 26, 1955, Obituary, "Appleton Clark, Jr."

Telephone Interviews

Carson, Jeffrey, Architectural Historian, Commission of Fine Arts, Washington,
D.C. May 26, 1981.

Fisher, Perry, Director, Columbia Historical Society. May 27, 1981.

Provine, Dorothy, Archivist, D.C. Collection, National Archives and Records
Service, Washington, D.C. May 27, 1981

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title

organization date

street & number telephone

city or town state

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For HCERS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration