

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Dist. of Columbia

COUNTY:

Dist. of Columbia

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

69-06-08-0017 6/23/69

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Columbia Historical Society

AND/OR HISTORIC:

The Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

District of Columbia

08

District of Columbia

001

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Headquarters,	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	private societies	

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

Columbia Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

08

## 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

08

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 17,380 square feet

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by 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:

726 Jackson Place, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

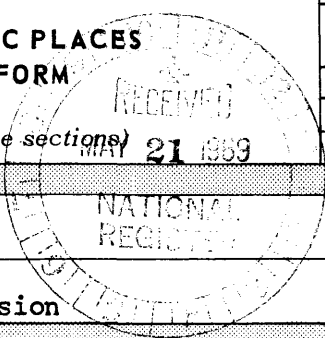
District of Columbia

CODE

08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS


PH0021959

STATE: DIST. of Col.  
COUNTY: Dist. of Col.  
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## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Columbia Historical Society mansion, located on a trapezoidal lot at the N.E. corner of New Hampshire Avenue and Sunderland Place, N.W., is basically a -shaped building which measures approximately 75 feet on New Hampshire Avenue x 115 feet on Sunderland Place. John Granville Meyers, the architect of this massive brownstone and brick pile, was obviously strongly influenced by H.H. Richardson's "Romanesque" style of architecture.

The New Hampshire Ave. entrance facade of rough-faced brownstone ashlar consists of a partially submerged basement and three stories with a fourth dormer floor behind the green, standing seam metal roof. The most distinctive element of the design is the massive corner tower whose pointed metal dome rises an entire story above the mansard. Partially balancing this tower on the left is a rectangular bay with a late Gothic style dormer. The arched central entrance door is concealed behind a rectangular porte-cochere which juts out of the building to the sidewalk and is composed of paired dwarf columns on rough-faced pedestal walls, supporting round-headed arches with rough-faced voussoirs and thin drip moulds. Two gargoyles jut out of the corners of the cornice moulding below the balustrade which extends around the porte-cochere and across the single-bay left curtain wall. Behind the porte-cochere, the 2-bay central section is flanked by slender multi-textured turrets which rise through the second and third stories and the cornice to frame a second gabled dormer. Paired second floor windows of this section have round-arched transom lights with rough-faced voussoirs. The two 1/1-light double-hung third floor windows flanked by paired dwarf columns have smooth-faced stone lintels. A semicircular window is set below the peak of the gabled dormer.

The fenestration and texture of this facade are extremely varied. With the exception of the large, first floor, round-arched window with rough-faced voussoirs of the left bay and the rectangular machicolated first floor window of the left curtain, most of the first and second floor mullioned windows have rectangular transom lights and smooth-faced brownstone sills and lintels. The second story is separated from the third by a leaf-pattern string course which runs along the facade at the level of the third floor window sills. Third floor windows are generally 1/1-light double-hung with lintels joined in a smooth-faced band course which extends across the facade directly below the corbelled dentilled cornice and roll moulding. The third floor balcony of the left bay has a low balustrade whose corner pedestals support a large round-arched opening with smooth-faced voussoirs. Flanking the balcony arch are slender turrets which again frame the gabled dormer above, decorated with four small Romanesque arches and patterned walls. On the tower a wide band of intertwined leaves separates the roll moulding below from the fourth floor tower windows which are flanked by clustered columns. Several feet above these windows a heavily bracketed cornice supports the overhanging dome.

On the Sunderland Place side the walls are of common-bond pressed brick of a strong orange-red hue. This facade is composed of a 2-bay curtain, a 3-sided bay with curved sides, another 2-bay curtain and a second 3-sided bay. First floor mullioned windows with transom lights have smooth-faced brownstone sills and lintels. The second floor curtain windows have round-arched transom lights while the bay windows carry rectangular ones. On the

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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)

1892-1894

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐Religion/Philosophy ☐Other (Specify) ☒Historic ☐Industry ☐Science ☐ArchitectureAgriculture ☐Invention ☐Social/Humanities ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Theater ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐Transportation ☐Communications ☐Literature ☐War ☒Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The late Victorian residence, which now serves as the headquarters of the Columbia Historical Society, was built in 1892 by a German immigrant who became one of Washington's wealthiest and most distinguished citizens and philanthropists. The building is an outstanding and virtually unchanged example of the Norman Revival style. It should be preserved.

Born in Haina near Roemhild in 1842, Christian Heurich became a brewmaster while still in Europe and arrived in the U. S. at the close of the Civil War. By 1873 he was the sole owner of the Christian Heurich Lager Beer Brewery, later the Christian Heurich Brewing Company. His first brewery—at 1229 20th Street, N. W.—proved so successful that by 1896 he had built the huge brewery at 301 26th Street, N. W. Heurich's Senate Beer won prizes at expositions at Paris in 1900, Liege in 1905, and Jamestown in 1907. Heurich was an active member of the Board of Trade, the Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia Historical Society, the Association of Oldest Inhabitants, and was on the Board of Directors of the German Orphans Home and the Christian and Eleonora Ruppert Home for Aged and Indigent Residents of the District of Columbia. He also donated large funds to charitable works in his native Haina and Roemhild and became Roemhild's first honorary citizen. In 1905 and 1912, Duke George II offered Heurich a knighthood which "as a good American citizen" he gladly renounced.

On November 12, 1879, Heurich's first wife, Amelia, purchased lots 37 and 38 of Square 115 from Thomas Sunderland and his wife Mary of San Francisco. Upon Amelia's death in 1884, Christian inherited the two lots. In 1892 he began constructing his home designed by John Granville Meyers on lot 38. Later additions were designed by Appleton Clark. In 1894 Heurich moved into the mansion at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue with his second wife, Mathilde, who died there in 1895. Mr. Heurich's four children were all by his third wife, Amelia Louise Keyser, whom he married in 1899.

Mr. Heurich died on March 7, 1947, at the age of 102, leaving his home of 53 years and most of his estate to his wife and children and \$100,000 each to the Ruppert Home for the Aged and Indigent and the

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Milton Rubincam, "Mr. Christian Heurich and His Mansion," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, 1960-1962, Washington, D. C. Published by the Society, 1963. pp. 167-205.

Records, Columbia Historical Society Library

Glassie, Henry H., "Victorian Homes in Washington," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, 1963-1965, Washington, D.C.: Published by the Society.

# 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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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:		
Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian		
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
National Capital Planning Commission	March 25, 1969	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
726 Jackson Place, N. W.		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Washington	District of Columbia	08

# 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

*Wm F. L. [Signature]*

Title

Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date

May 12, 1969

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

*Ernest Allen Connally*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 23 1969

Date

ATTEST:

*William J. [Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

JUN 20 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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STATE	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description--Columbia Historical Society

third story the bays terminate at the sill level, and the three round-arched windows have paired columns supporting smooth-faced archivolts with thin drip moulds below diaperwork walls. Flanking these windows are small corbelled turrets which rise through the cornice to frame the dormers. The left dormer has two rectangular windows flanked by single columns; the right dormer has three rectangular windows below, with a central semicircular window under the peak of the gable. Third floor curtain windows are 1/1-light double-hung with smooth stone lintels surmounted by the corbelled dentilled cornice and the roll moulding which extends across the entire facade.

The high, single-story conservatory above the stone basement at the back of this side of the building has a cast copper front composed of 6 tall, slender round-arched windows separated by slender fluted engaged pilasters. Its roof is a black tile mansard. Behind the house is a well-kept garden and a carriage house now converted into offices. The brick wing to the left rear of the house is a later addition designed by Appleton Clark.

The interior of the house, including most of the family furniture, has been carefully preserved much as it was when the Heurichs lived there. The spacious triangular entrance hall with its Italian suit of Armor and antique Japanese temple vase opens to the left on the library which contains Heurich's massive secretary desk built in 1872 for President Grant. Across the hall is the drawing room, with blue paneled walls, a carved ivory frieze and frescoed ceiling. Behind the drawing room is a reception room, then a small music room overhung by a mezzanine musicians gallery which is also visible from the front hall. In back of a second small reception room is the completely oak paneled dining room with a massive oak dining set. Behind the dining room is the large room which served as a conservatory, rookery, fernery and aviary. Other interesting interior elements are the curving staircase of brass, marble and onyx, the elaborately carved wooden fireplaces in nearly every room, the quantities of gold leaf decoration, richly ornamented bathtubs and wash basins and gold leaf furniture.



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**8. Significance--Columbia Historical Society**

German Orphans Home. His son, Christian, Jr., and his son-in-law Charles E. Eckles, ran the brewery until 1956 when competition with national brewing companies and the impending Theodore Roosevelt Bridge forced them to close. The brewery was demolished in 1962. On April 19, 1955, Mrs. Heurich deeded the "Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion" to the Columbia Historical Society, which has occupied the building since shortly after her death on Jan. 24, 1956.

The Columbia Historical Society which was incorporated in 1894 is a "non-profit, cultural and philanthropic association dedicated to the 'collection, preservation and diffusion of knowledge about the history, biography, geography and topography of the District of Columbia, national history and biography, and, in general, the transaction of any business pertinent to an historical society at the National Capital.'"

There are a number of organizations belonging to the Society who use the Heurich mansion as a repository for their records and for meetings. These organizations are: the National Geneological Society; the Huguenot Society of Washington; the District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; the Aztec Club of 1847; the Military Order of the Loyal Legion; the National Society of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America; the Central High School Alumna Association; the American Association of University Women; the National Society of the Daughters of Colonial Wars; the Daughters of Veterans of the Civil War; the board for Certification of Geneologists; the Mayflower Society; and the American Military Institute.

