

PH0025658

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 10 1974	

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: Gallaudet College Historic District	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: (See No. 7, for Boundary Description) Florida Avenue and 7th Street, NE			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington (Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, District of Columbia)			
STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11	COUNTY: District of Columbia	CODE: 001

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Gallaudet College			
STREET AND NUMBER: 7th Street and Florida Avenue, N.E.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11	

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: 6th & D Streets, N.W.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11	

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: District of Columbia's Inventory of Historic Sites			
DATE OF SURVEY: March 26, 1974 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" 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	(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 district consists of an L-shaped, 14+ acre plot of land which included the entire rectangular area planned by Olmsted, Vaux, & Co. in 1866 except the northeast corner. This district is outlined on Map 2. The northeast corner is excluded because the nineteenth century buildings and landscaping there have been replaced by the southern section of an overly large 20th century quadrangle. The 1866 plan divided the campus into two parts separated by a large green. At the east are the academic buildings and at the west are a row of faculty residences. Chapel Hall, the focal building, is on a small hill while the President's House is on a knoll. The elaborate network of roads and paths planned by Olmsted, Vaux & Co. were never built and the present road plans are a simplification of the planned circulation. The general pattern of indirect communication among buildings was maintained. The most notable difference between the existing plan and the original plan is the main entrance and the placement of the gate keeper's house. The change was made before the gate keeper's house was built in 1877-78. Also, several buildings, which were not called for in the original plan, were added after 1878.

Below are descriptions of the buildings in the district. The numbers are keyed to the maps.

1. Chapel Hall. The "Main Central Building" at Gallaudet College, Chapel Hall is one of the finest examples of post-Civil War collegiate architecture in the United States and is the focal point of this nationally significant educational institution. It is a picturesque, brownstone, High Victorian Gothic Revival building designed by Frederick C. Withers of the leading mid-nineteenth century firm of Vaux, Withers and Co. Its design reflects the romantic architectural associationalism prevalent in post Civil War America. The building was consciously designed to be a symbol of the national importance of the institution—the only collegiate institution for the deaf in the United States. The building has a rather ecclesiastical character and was an early important building in Washington in the Rus<sup>h</sup>ian Gothic Revival style with constructional polychromy and assymmetrical planning.

The siting of Chapel Hall was determined by Olmsted, Vaux & Co. when that leading landscape architecture and planning firm made a general plan for the school's grounds in 1866. The site chosen for this focal building was previously the site of 'Rose Cottage', one of the two houses occupied by the school when it opened in 1857. Chapel Hall was erected in 1867-71 as a multipurpose building housing the institution's main assembly hall or chapel, a lecture room, dining rooms for college and primary students, a servants' dormitory, and kitchens and services in the basement. The architectural importance of the building was immediately recognized and drawings of it were published by the contemporary architectural press.

Chapel Hall is in the Rus<sup>h</sup>ian Gothic Revival style which was popular in the 1870's, but it exhibits a restraint and fine handling of materials which creates a subdued coloristic harmony unusual in buildings in this polychrome style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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79 Description (Gallaudet College)

Its brownstone walls with cream-colored bands of Ohio sandstone, its gray and red slate roofs, and its decorative details using other materials such as pink granite illustrate the constructional polychromy of the time. The building is asymmetrically massed as the architect carefully differentiated the various parts of the building according to use.<sup>1</sup>

There are three main sections, each with its own steep mansard roof. The one-story west wing originally housed the college's dining room. The almost square central section with two story high walls contained the assembly room or chapel. The east wing was subdivided into two parts. The one story part closest to the central block had a lecture room which opened on to the assembly room by sliding doors. The one and one-half story eastern part had the primary school's dining room on the first floor and a servant's dormitory on the second floor. A full basement under all sections contained kitchens and services.

Although the east and west wings are neither aligned nor the same size, their steep mansard roofs have ridge poles at the same height and this enables the building to be viewed as a long horizontal mass asymmetrically intersected by a large cubic mass. The horizontality is increased by the stone bands. A vertical emphasis comes from the clock tower at the southwest of the central block. This tower has a steep hipped roof which reaches above the other roofs of the building and acts as a focal point tying the parts into a unified asymmetrical composition.

The west wing is approximately 49 feet long and 41 feet wide. It has an apsidal projection at the east. The central block is 61 feet long and 56 feet wide. At the southwest corner is the square clock tower whose walls are flush with the walls of the central block. A one story porch with its own shed roof extends along the south facade to the clock tower. The roof of the central block has a fleche and is broken by a gablet on the south side. The east wing is approximately 70 feet long and 47 1/2 feet wide. Its roof breaks after the lecture room to reflect the differentiation in function and the eastern section is one and one-half stories with a large hipped gablet on the south side.

Each section of the building has different window treatment on the main (south) facade. The west section has rectangular windows. The central section above the porch has a band of five large tracery windows under pointed arches with voussoirs of two alternating kinds of stone. The east

<sup>1</sup> Much of the descriptive information is from Frank Kowsky's "The Nineteenth Century Buildings on the Campus of Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C."



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7. Description (Gallaudet College Continued)

section has groupings of small Gothic windows except the gablet has rectangular windows.

Most decorative details have English Gothic Revival origins. Many carved designs are derived from designs in James K. Colling's Art Foliage (1865). An outstanding decorative feature is the entrance porch with three pointed arches carried on pink Scotch granite columns. In a triangular gablet above the central arch carved in half-relief is an American eagle with breast shield with stars and stripes. The open arcade linking Chapel Hall and College Hall is a picturesque element. It has slender white and pink granite columns with very ornate capitals supporting wide pointed arches. Both entrance porch and arcade are paved with black and white marble tiles. Originally all roofs had iron cresting but only these on the west wing have survived.

The interior has been considerably altered. The rooms in the wings have been subdivided. Fortunately the open space of the 56 foot square assembly room has been preserved as movable dividers are employed there. An outstanding feature is this room's 38 foot high, paneled ceiling with its original dark stain.

A Category II Landmark and National Historic Landmark, Chapel Hall is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is retained in the master plan for Gallaudet College.

2. College Hall. This fine example of polychrome High Victorian Gothic Revival architecture was included in the 1866 plan. The east wing, designed by architect E.S. Friedrich, was erected in 1866. The main block of the building, designed by architect F.C. Withers, was erected in 1874-77 with J.G. Meyers as supervising architect. At this time alterations were made to the Friedrich wing. Important in its own right, College Hall is an irreplaceable structure complementing and enhancing Chapel Hall. The northwest wing is the oldest remaining building erected for the college. The second stage of the master plan for Gallaudet College calls for its demolition with the site remaining vacant.

3. Sophia Fowler Hall. Erected in 1916-18, this building was designed by architects O.A. Mechlin, I. Charles Stair, and F.L. Pearsons under Elliott Wood, Architect of the Capitol. The Primary School built in 1859, 1862, and 1865-6 was located on the site now occupied by Fowler Hall. The building is an intrusion in the district. The second stage of the master plan calls for its demolition with the site remaining vacant.



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7. Description (Gallaudet College Continued)

4. Gate Keeper's House. The architect of this house erected in 1877-78 was probably F.C. Withers. It was located in front of Chapel Hall in the 1866 plan but was resited prior to construction in 1877-78. The Gate Keeper's House is a picturesque small Gothic Revival building. It is retained in the master plan.

5. The President's House. This is a large, red brick high Victorian Gothic Revival house located on a knoll at the southwest corner of the campus. The house, erected in 1867-68 and designed by F.C. Withers, is approximately sixty feet north of Florida Avenue. It is surrounded by informally landscaped open space. A circular drive separates it from a row of three High Victorian Gothic Revival Professors' Houses at the north. A large green separates it from academic and administrative buildings at the northeast. The house is oriented so that its main facade faces north toward the faculty houses. Most of the buildings on the campus visible from the President's House were designed by F.C. Withers and were built between 1867 and 1885.

The house is very suburban or rural in character and it is important to remember that in the 1860's the school had a suburban location. The building's design is in the mid-nineteenth century Downing tradition of a dwelling with informal landscaping, picturesque features, and an open plan. There are also features characteristic of post-Civil War architecture such as the "constructional coloration" and the greater plasticity (particularly present in the entrance portal).

The building has a number of parts and numerous accents from dormers, gables, chimneys, and projections. However, there is a unity from the general compactness of the outline and the careful organization of openings. This unity is enhanced by the use of similar decorative motifs.

The house has a 2-1/2-story, brick main block approximately 53'8" by 48'. This block has a broadly overhanging, steep mansard roof broken over each bay by a dormer, gable, or hipped gable. The main block has three bays on its north-south facades and two on its east facade. Centrally located on the north side is a projecting 2-1/2-story brick entrance bay, 14'5" by 10'. Extending the full length of the east side is a one-story frame veranda. A semi-elliptical, one-story bay projects from the southwest bay of the south facade. At the west is a two-story brick service wing, 30'9" by 26'. This wing has a steep mansard roof broken by gables over 2nd story windows. Attached to the service wing at the west is an enclosed, one-story, frame porch, one bay wide. A frame, 1-1/2-story stair wing with shed roof occupies the northwest corner between the main block and the service wing.

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7. Description (Gallaudet College Continued)

The main block and service wing have red brick walls laid in common bond in Flemish variation. There is variegation due to the brownstone foundation and the brownstone bands connecting window lintels. Most openings are rectangular with 2/2-lights. Over major windows are alternating brick and brownstone voussoirs in pointed arches. The arches are filled in with thin bricks laid in a recessed herringbone pattern. Around the main entrance is a very plastic, one-story brownstone portal with buttresses. The ornament on this portal and on the tympanum of the window above the door is derived from James K. Colling's Art Foliage (1865). The frame porch at the east has king post braces and quatrefoil ensemble. This porch is in poor condition.

The first floor plan of the main block has a central hall with plant room at the south and two rooms on each side. Between the west rooms is a handsome stair. The plan exhibits the openness, concern for views, and separation of service wing characteristic of Downing's plans. The addition of the plant room is a post-Civil War characteristic and possibly derived from a design in Robert Kerr's The Gentlemen's House (1864).

The interior has a number of outstanding decorative features. The main rooms of the first floor have dark woodwork and handsome wood and tile mantels. The newel of the stair supports an intricate wood carving of an Indian. Handsome stain glass panels separate the plant room and the central hall. A Category II Landmark, the President's House is retained in the master plan.

6. Professor's House. Designed by Vaux, Withers & Co. and erected in 1867, this house is on the 1866 plan. It is a good example of Gothic Revival domestic architecture. It is the first building on the campus designed by Withers. It will be replaced in the third stage of the master plan by graduate apartment buildings.

7 & 8. Professors' Houses. F.C. Withers was architect of these houses erected in 1874-75. On the 1866 plan, they are good examples of Gothic Revival domestic architecture. They will be replaced in the third stage of the master plan by graduate apartment buildings.

9. Professor's House. Erected prior to 1885 and demolished since 1967, the architect of this house is not known. On the 1866 plan, it was a typical late 19th century frame residence of no particular architectural significance.



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7. Description (Gallaudet College Continued)

10. Faculty House. Erected prior to 1885, the architect of this house is not known. It is within the area planned by Olmsted, Vaux & Co. but the plan locates the fifth house in the row with the other faculty houses. It is a typical late 19th century frame dwelling, in scale with the other buildings. It will be replaced in the second stage of the master plan with graduate student apartment buildings. It appears to be in poor condition.

11. Old Gymnasium. Designed by F.C. Withers, this building was erected in 1879-81 with J.G. Meyers as supervising architect. Its picturesque design is derived from Swiss architecture. It is within the area planned in 1866 but is not included in the plan. It appears to be in poor condition and will be replaced in the second stage of the master plan by graduate apartments.

12. Kendall Hall. The architect of this building erected in 1884-85 was F.C. Withers. Within the area planned in 1866, it is not included in the plan. It is in scale with the older buildings and is the last building on the campus designed by Withers. It is retained in the master plan.

13. Statue of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. This sensitive bronze group by sculptor Daniel C. French was unveiled on June 26, 1889. It portrays Gallaudet with his first pupil. Given by the National Association of the Deaf, it is an important work by French and one of Washington's finest statues. It is retained in the master plan.



## 6. 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) 1866-1878

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-<br>losophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>Architecture</u> |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br>Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-<br>itarian | _____  |
| <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                                |  | _____  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Gallaudet College Historic District a Category I Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia.

This nationally significant educational institution is the only college in the United States specifically for deaf persons. The historic district consists of most of the original campus which was planned in 1866 by Olmsted, Vaux, & Co. (See Maps 1 and 2). This leading late 19th century landscape architecture and planning firm felt that since the college's students lacked the ability to hear extra care should be taken so that "the senses of sight and smell are gratified in a most complete and innocent way." Gallaudet College's romantic informal plan was one of the firm's earliest collegiate works and is contemporary with their work at the University of California at Berkeley. This plan was substantially carried out between 1866 and 1878 although landscaping plans were simplified in execution. The 1878 campus is in a remarkable state of preservation except in the northeast section, an area excluded from the historic district.

In 1857 Amos Kendall established a primary school for deaf and blind children in the District of Columbia across the boundary line of the Federal City at Eighth Street, N.E. Edward M. Gallaudet became superintendent of the nascent school. Gallaudet had a vision of a government supported college for the deaf and in 1864 the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb was given collegiate powers. (In 1865 blind students were taught elsewhere. In 1894 the college's name was changed to Gallaudet College in honor of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, Edward M. Gallaudet's father and the founder of the first school for the deaf in the United States.)

The Institution received support from the United States Government and care was taken to insure that it expanded in an orderly fashion. In 1866, Olmsted, Vaux & Co. made a master plan of the campus. From 1866 to 1878 substantial development took place and great care was taken to follow the 1866 plan.

On December 14, 1866, Edward Gallaudet, the Institution's president, requested Olmsted, Vaux & Co. to proceed to design three buildings for the campus, as he hoped to begin the central building (Chapel Hall), the president's house and one professor's house the next year. Gallaudet



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architecture and Building News I (March 18, 1876), p. 93  
 Atwood, A. W. Gallaudet College: Its First One Hundred Years  
 Lancaster, Pa.: Intelligencer, 1964.

Atwood, A. W. "Gallaudet in Washington: The World's Only College for  
 the Deaf" Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D.C.,  
 1963-65, pp. 432-447.

Brady, S.M. "The Silent Schools of Kendall Green" Harpers. LXIX (July,  
 1884), pp. 181-187.

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 38° 54' 29"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 76° 59' 48"	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		
NE	38° 54' 24"	76° 59' 36"	° ' "	° ' "		
SE	38° 54' 17"	76° 59' 41"	° ' "	° ' "		
SW	38° 54' 22"	76° 59' 53"	° ' "	° ' "		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 14.7 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:  
**T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION: Joint District of Columbia/National Capital Planning Commission Historic Preservation Office DATE: June 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1325 G Street, N.W. National Capital Planning Commission

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: James G. Banks  
 Title: Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia

Date: 6/28/74

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

AT Martens  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/10/74

ATTEST:  
Charles Adams  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9.6.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. Significance (Gallaudet College Continued)

requested that the Central Building be Gothic or Romanesque and that it have brownstone walls and a clock tower. The plans for the buildings were actually made by the architectural firm of Vaux, Withers & Co. This firm was closely associated with the school's planners, as Vaux was a member of both firms. James G. Naylor was the contractor and Emil S. Fredrick the supervising architect.

Frederick C. Withers (1828-1901) designed the buildings at Gallaudet. Withers was an English architect who immigrated to the United States around 1852 to work with Andrew J. Downing. Withers worked with Olmsted and Vaux on Central Park in New York City. In 1866 he formed a partnership with Vaux which lasted until 1871. This firm is best known for their High Victorian Gothic Revival designs, such as Jefferson Market Courthouse in New York City (on the National Register of Historic Places).

The first building by Withers completed at Gallaudet was the Professor's House erected in 1867. The President's House and Chapel Hall were begun at the same time but due to their larger size and more elaborate designs took longer to complete. Both the President's House and the Professor's House are located on land purchased from Capt. Patterson after the Olmsted, Vaux and Co. plan was made. However, both buildings are sited as determined by the plan as it called for the purchase of this property. The existing original plans for the President's House are dated March 16, 1867. The house's design largely conforms with these plans. By August 1867 the building was ready for rafters and was roofed by the winter of 1867. Gallaudet in the Annual Report dated October 26, 1868, stated that the house was nearly complete. The house was occupied by Gallaudet and his family in December 1868.

Probably in 1887 a frame stair wing was added in the northwest corner where the main block joins the service wing. From 1887 to 1889 the newly admitted female students in the college were temporarily living on the third floor of the President's House. The stairs were probably built to enable the students to reach their rooms without going through the President's quarters.

The house has undergone relatively little modification excepting the addition of modern utilities. It contains a considerable amount of furniture dating from the occupancy of Edward M. Gallaudet. The foundations and basement of Chapel Hall were built in 1867. In early 1868 preliminary plans for the building were altered when a second story was added over the primary school dining room in the east wing. The existing original plans for the building are dated April 30, 1868, and the completed building largely conforms to these plans. By October 1869 parts of the building were being roofed and in 1870 the dining rooms and basement were occupied. The completed structure was dedicated on January 29, 1871, during a ceremony attended by President Grant.

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8. Significance (Gallaudet College Continued)

In 1874-77 College Hall, also designed by Withers, was erected northwest of Chapel Hall and connected to it by a handsome pointed arched arcade. College Hall, a brick High Victorian Gothic Revival building forms a unified composition with Chapel Hall. During the construction of College Hall the terrace and steps in front of Chapel Hall were constructed. Also in the 1870's the wooden veranda on the north side of the west wing of Chapel Hall was bricked in. On June 26, 1889, a statue of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet by Daniel C. French was unveiled. This statue, one of the finest in Washington, is located in front of the main entrance of Chapel Hall.

Today the exterior of Chapel Hall retains its 1870's appearance. The interior has undergone considerable alteration. At present the building contains offices in the east and west wings and in the basement. The central assembly room is used by the public relations department. There is interest in rehabilitating the building for use as a visitor's center and as a Hall of Fame of outstanding deaf persons.

In 1870 the college purchased Kendall Green, an area of approximately 90 acres behind the original campus. This land enabled the school to expand in recent years to the north and has preserved the nineteenth century campus. From 1879 to 1885 a few buildings were added in the area planned by Olmsted, Vaux & Co., but their placement is in keeping with the general concept of the plan and the late Victorian designs are in scale with earlier structures. In 1889 French's statue was unveiled in front of Chapel Hall. The district has undergone little change since 1885. The most significant is the demolition of the Primary School erected in 1859, 1862, and 1865-6 and the erection on its site in 1916-18 of Sophia Fowler Hall. Since 1967 a small frame house, not designed by Withers, was replaced by tennis courts.



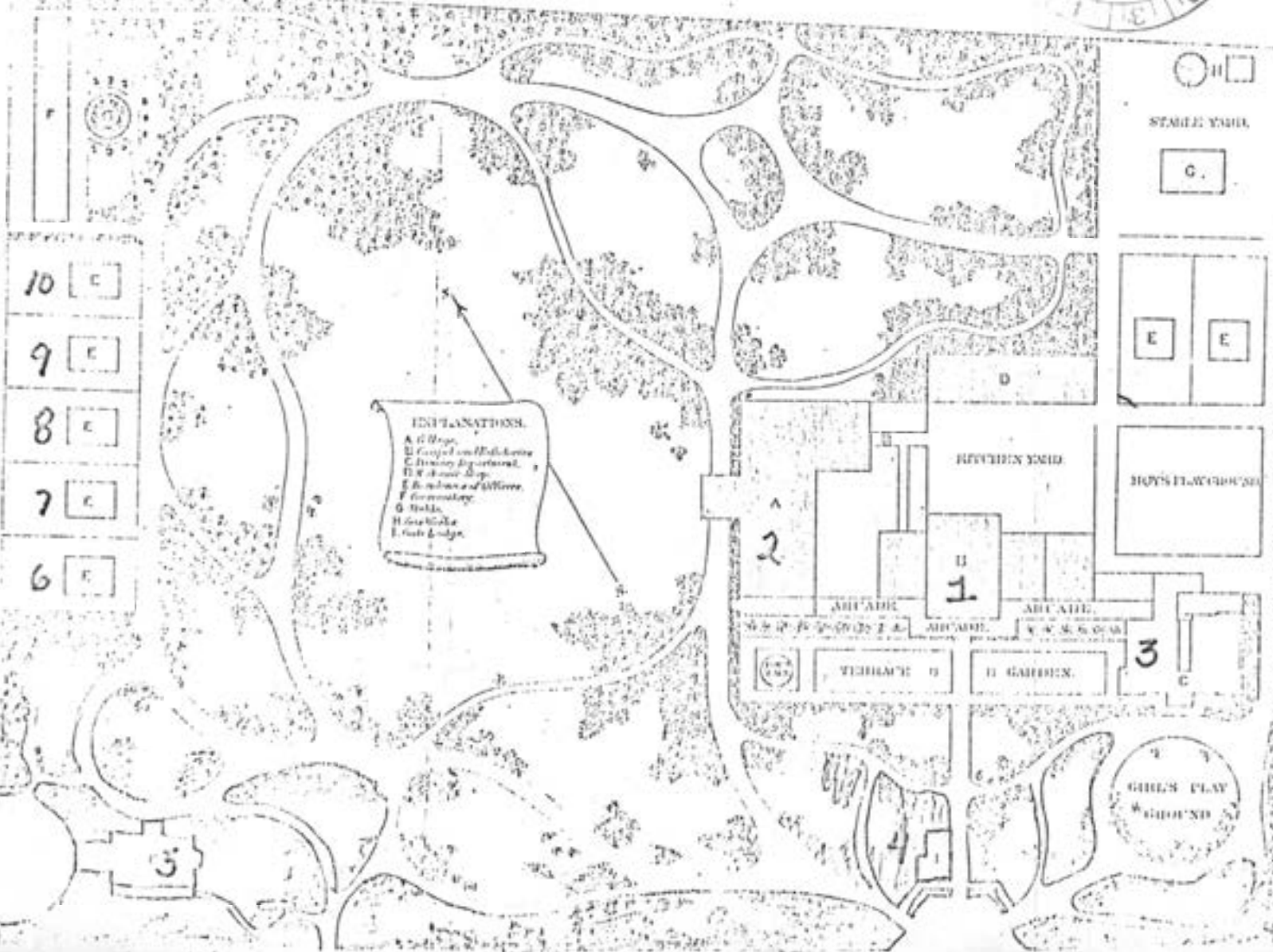
*Columbia Institute*

**COLUMBIA INSTITUTION**  
 for the  
**DEAF AND DUMB.**  
 PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT  
 of the  
 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.  
 designed by  
**MESSRS. OLMSTED, VAUX AND CO.**  
 NEW YORK.  
*Architects and Landscape Architects.*

VEGETABLE GROUND AND ORCHARD



Map 1: The 1866 Master Plan of Columbia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb (now Gallaudet College) by Olmsted, Vaux & Co.



**EXPLANATIONS.**  
 A. Hedges.  
 B. Fenced vegetable ground.  
 C. Driveway by railroad.  
 D. Hedges along driveway.  
 E. Hedges along driveway.  
 F. Hedges along driveway.  
 G. Hedges.  
 H. Hedges.  
 I. Gate Lodge.

STABLE YARD.  
 C.

E E

RECREATION YARD.  
 HOUSES FOR WORKMEN

ARCADIE  
 TERRACE G  
 GARDEN.  
 3 C

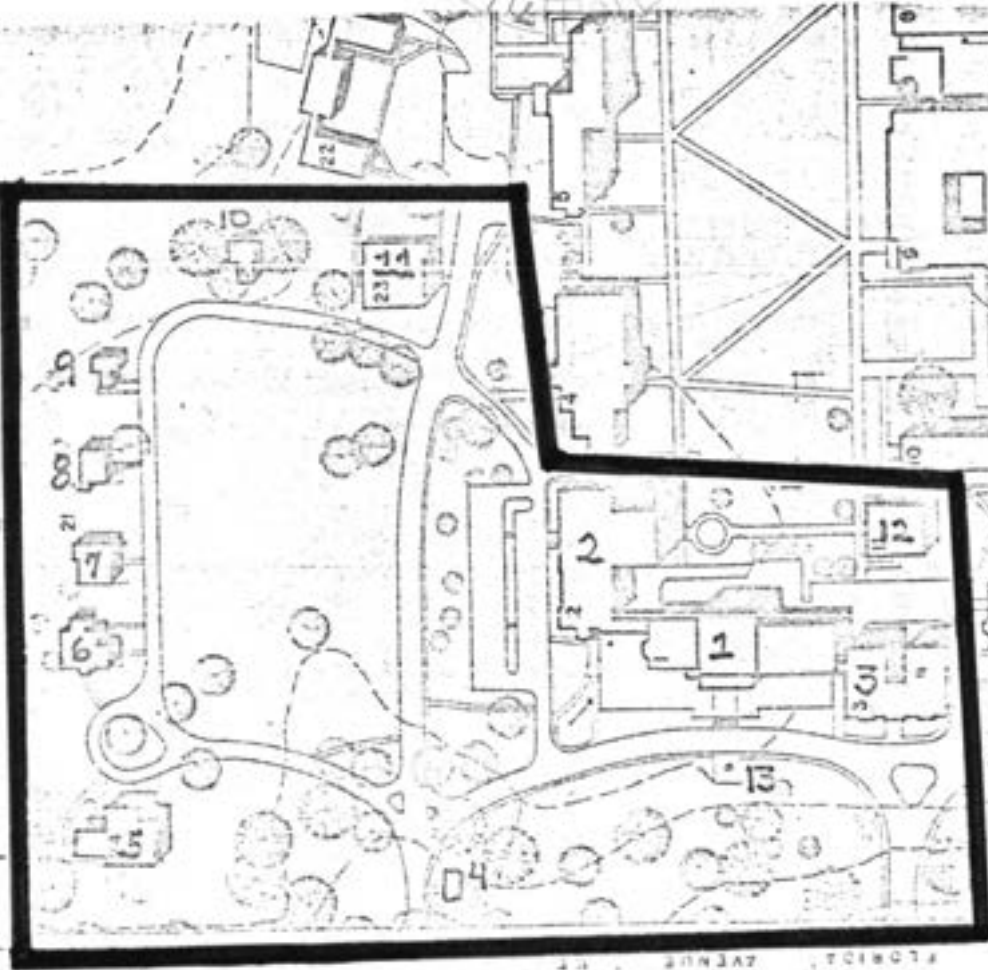
GIRLS' PLAY GROUND

1. Chapel Hall
2. College Hall
3. Primary School  
(later replaced by Sophia Fowler Hall)
4. Gate Keeper's House  
(Resited)
5. President's House
6. Professor's House
7. Professor's House
8. Professor's House
9. Professor's House
10. Professor's House  
(resited)

Map 2: The Boundaries of the Gallaudet College Historic District

Buildings included in the district:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Chapel Hall         | 8. Professor's House    |
| 2. College Hall        | 9. Professor's House    |
| 3. Sophia Fowler Hall  | 10. Professor's House   |
| 4. Gate Keeper's House | 11. Old Gymnasium       |
| 5. President's House   | 12. Kendall Hall        |
| 6. Professor's House   | 13. Statue of Gallaudet |
| 7. Professor's House   |                         |



FLORIDA AVENUE

PROPERTY Hallandale College Historic District STATE D. C.

Ref 7400 2160

WORKING NUMBER 7.17.74.1162

TECH REVIEW  
PHOTOS 3  
MAPS 2

CONTROL REVIEW

CM  
7.19  
74

HISTORIAN Mention of demolition plans in Master plan for college Hall, Fowler Hall; Professor's homes does not indicate our approval — Does it? Should we wait until Blanche completes the revision of the landmark boundaries, which will be (over)

OK

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Accept - perhaps NR listing will make college change its mind re: demolition. Arch. significance should definitely be checked.

Hax and  
8/30/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*[Signature]*  
for Munday  
7.6.74

National Register Write-up 10/25/74

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry 11/5/74

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered SEP 10 1974

almost exactly the same - I think we should  
Accept. (So NCPc doesn't feel they have worked  
W.R. Luce for nothing) -  
8/19/74





Gallaudet College Historic District

DC

Rev. Edmund Barrett for NEPS

(9-10-74 doc)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

WM. EDMUND BARRETT  
LOCK BOX 21062  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009  
(202) 667-1690  
1973 #15277



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. NAME		
COMMON Gallaudet College Historic District	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>  SEP 10 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY District of Columbia	TOWN Washington
STREET AND NUMBER  See Form 10-300, No. 7, for boundary description		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Wm. Edmund Barrett for NCPC	DATE 1973	NEGATIVE # National Capital Planning Commission
4. IDENTIFICATION		

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Perspective view of Chapel Hall from southwest.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Gallaudet College Historic District		SEP 10 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
District of Columbia	District of Columbia	Washington
STREET AND NUMBER		
See Form 10-300, No. 7, for boundary description		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Wm. Edmund Barrett for NCPC	1973	National Capital Planning Commission
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Perspective view of College Hall from the west.		





Callahan College

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

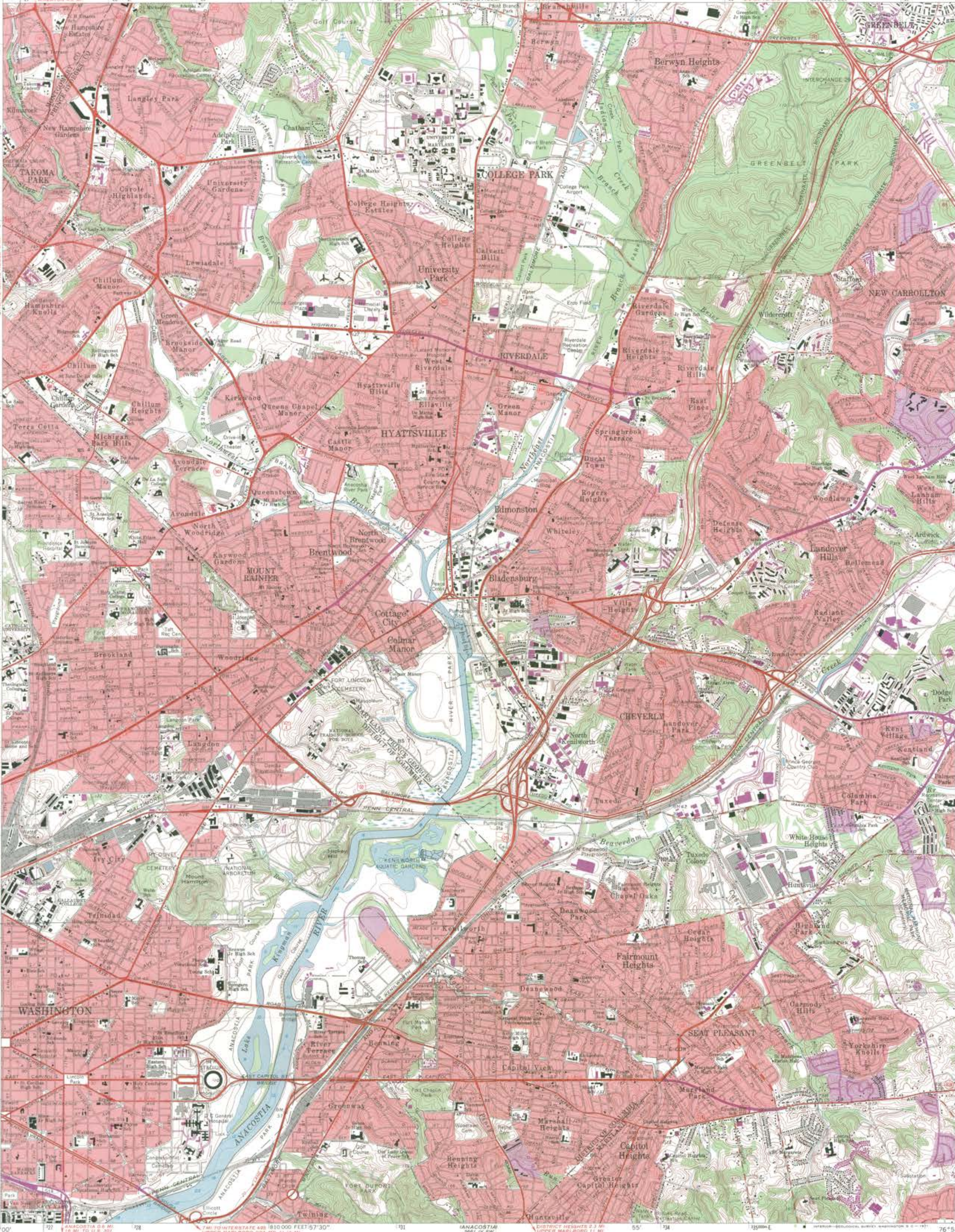
WASHINGTON EAST QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1:80,000 FEET

39°00' 38°52'30"

76°52'30" 77°00'

UTM ref  
DEC 10 1975 -wv  
① 18/327030  
4302140  
② 18/326980  
4302060  
③ 18/327080  
4308000  
④ 18/327020  
4307890  
⑤ 18/326980  
4308080  
⑥ 18/326890  
4308220



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, NCP&S, and WSSC  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1955. Field checked 1957. Revised 1965  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 560 (1965)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1971. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



WASHINGTON EAST, MD.—D. C.  
N3852.5—W7652.5/7.5  
1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 5861 IV NW—SERIES V833

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

*Handwritten:* Allendale College

*Handwritten:* Allendale College



JOINT COMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20576

GALLAUDET COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT-  
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Recommendation to State Historic Preservation Officer

June 18, 1974

The Joint Committee recommends that the State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia nominate to the National Register of Historic Places the Gallaudet College Historic District, a designated Category I Landmark of the National Capital.

\* \* \* \* \*

Significance of Recommended Property

Gallaudet College, a nationally significant educational institution, is the only college in the United States specifically for deaf persons. The historic district consists of most of the original campus which was planned in 1866 by Olmsted, Vaux, & Co. This leading late 19th century landscape architecture and planning firm felt that since the college's students lacked the ability to hear extra care should be taken so that "the senses of sight and smell are gratified in a most complete and innocent way." Gallaudet College's romantic informal plan was one of the firm's earliest collegiate works and is contemporary with their work at the University of California at Berkeley. This plan was substantially carried out between 1866 and 1878 although landscaping plans were simplified in execution. The 1878 campus is in a remarkable state of preservation except in the northeast section, an area excluded from the historic district.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Date Entered SEP 10 1974

Name

Location

Gallaudet College Historic District

7th Street and Florida Avenue, N.E.

Also Notified

Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy

Regional Director, National Capital  
Parks

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Lorenzo W. Jacobs  
Acting Director  
Office of Housing and Community  
Development  
Room 112A, District Building  
14th and E Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

PR MMOTT: pl 9.13.74

# Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

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1522 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

---

August 28, 1980

Mr. Gill Sailer  
Environmental Officer  
Department of Education  
Switzer Building, Room 4117  
3rd & D Street SW.  
Washington, DC 20203

D.C.  
listed  
9/10/74

Dear Mr. Sailer:

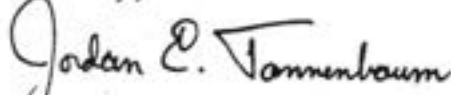
We have been informed by Tanya Beauchamp, of the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, that the revisions to the lighting plans throughout the Gallaudet Campus, Washington, D.C., an undertaking of the Department of Education, may have an effect on the campus, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please investigate this matter to determine whether the nature of the effect requires that you obtain the comments of the Council in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Section 470F, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320). Steps to determine this responsibility are set forth in Section 800.4 of the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

We hope to hear from you as soon as possible so this matter can be resolved expeditiously. If you have further questions or require assistance, please call Ms. Amy Schlagel at 254-3495.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Jordan E. Tannenbaum  
Chief, Eastern Division of  
Project Review

255 5 1980

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

SEP 2 1960

DATE REC'D \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY (ATTACHED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PROPERTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACQUISITION \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

25 Apr 85

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

11:00

AM  
~~PM~~

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Catherine

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

D.C. Preservation League

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Gallaudet College A. D.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Desired photocopy of map showing boundary of the district.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

R. Henderson

6111

November 9, 2007

Database Corrections for Gallaudet College Historic District(66000856) and Gallaudet College Historic District 74002160)

Timeline:

12/21/1965—National Historic Landmark Chapel Hall, Gallaudet College

10/15/1966—the NHL is automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places

09/24/1974—A National Register district is Listed as Gallaudet College Historic District.

08/22/1985—A boundary study and Name change in Completed for Chapel Hall. It is now the Gallaudet College Historic District National Historic Landmark. The boundaries are different from the NR listing

Solution:

Since the boundaries are different there is a need to two listings.

Patty Henry (NHL), Jeff Joeckel (NRHP) and Alexis Abernathy (NRHP) discussed and approved this solution

Alexis Abernathy  
202-354-2236

This property is a National Historic Landmark.

NHL properties are automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places, however the documentation for the property is kept with the National Historic Landmarks collection.

This property is an undocumented National Park Service property.

Historic units in the National Park System are automatically listed, sometimes documentation for these properties was not created.

This property has been removed from the National Register of Historic Places

Documentation on removed properties is kept in a separate collection

This property is missing

The documentation on this property is missing. The State Historic Preservation Office in that state that the property is located may have a copy of the documentation.

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but is also a National Historic Landmark

This documentation is for the National Register listing, there is separate documentation for the National Historic Landmark listing. The NHL documentation is kept with the NHL collection.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

1. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION

4. NUMBER  
HPG 78-6  
5. DATE  
1978 7 21

6. STY APPL. IDENTIFIER

7. NUMBER  
DB 782840  
8. DATE ASSIGNED  
1978 10 20

1. TYPE OF ACTION  
 PREAPPLICATION  
 APPLICATION  
 NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (ONLY)  
 REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION

SECTION I - APPLICANT/RECIPIENT DATA

4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT  
 a. Applicant Name: District of Columbia  
 b. Organization Unit: Dept. of Housing & Comm. Development  
 c. Street/P.O. Box: 1325 G Street, N.W.  
 d. City: Washington, D.C.  
 e. State: D.C.  
 f. Zip Code: 20005  
 g. Contact Person (Name & Telephone No.): Charity W. Davidson (202) 724-0181

1. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.  
536-001131  
 2. PROGRAM (From Federal Catalog)  
 3. NUMBER: 1151-4111  
 4. TITLE: Historic Preservation

7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT  
 Gallaudet College Historic District, Old Gymnasium; Florida Avenue and 7th Street, N.E.: Exterior restoration, interior rehabilitation: Phase I. The 1879-81 Gymnasium is significant as the last building in the historic district designed and sited by architect Frederick Withers in consultation with Olmsted during the implementation of Olmsted, Vaux & Co.'s innovative 1886 campus plan for Gallaudet College. (cont. over)

8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT  
 a. Agency  
 b. Non-Profit  
 c. Individual  
 d. Other (Specify):  
 e. Other (Specify):

9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE  
 a. Assistance  
 b. In-Kind  
 c. Other (Specify):

10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Name of State, County, District, etc.)  
District of Columbia

11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING  
707,900

12. TYPE OF APPLICATION  
 a. Initial  
 b. Renewal  
 c. Other (Specify):

12. PROPOSED FUNDING

1. FEDERAL	237,195
2. APPLICANT	237,195
3. STATE	
4. LOCAL	
5. OTHER	
6. TOTAL	474,390

14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF APPLICANT: D.C. Delegate  
 15. PROJECT: Statewide  
 16. PROJECT START DATE: 1978 9 1  
 17. PROJECT DURATION: 25 Months  
 18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY: 1978 12 29

13. TYPE OF CHANGE (For use of 124)  
 a. Increase Dollars  
 b. Decrease Dollars  
 c. Increase Duration  
 d. Decrease Duration  
 e. Other (Specify): N.A.

19. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP Code): Dept. of the Interior, Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service, Washington, D.C. 20240

20. REMARKS ADDED  
 Yes  No

SECTION II - CERTIFICATION

21. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT:  
 a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, I am the authorized representative of the applicant for the purpose of the foregoing and I am authorized to execute the foregoing on behalf of the applicant.

b. I require no DHS Circular with this application and therefore, pursuant to the provisions of 48 CFR 101-11.6, I understand and acknowledge the provisions of 48 CFR 101-11.6.  
 Metro. Wash. Council of Governments  
 D.C. Ofc. of Budget & Management Systems

22. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE: Lorenzo W. Jacobs, Jr., Srata Historic Preservation Officer

23. SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
 24. DATE SIGNED: 1978 12 26

SECTION III - FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION

25. AGENCY NAME: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

26. APPLICATION RECEIVED: 1978-12-28

25. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: GRANTS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

25. ADDRESS: WASHINGTON, D. C. 20243

28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION

25. ACTION TAKEN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWARDED	26. FEDERAL	237,195
<input type="checkbox"/> RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT	27. APPLICANT	237,195
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED	28. STATE	
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN	29. LOCAL	
	30. OTHER	
	31. TOTAL	474,390

29. ACTION DATE: 1979 1 19

30. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and Telephone Number): Stephen D. Newman 202-343-4941

31. STARTING DATE: 1979-01-01  
 32. ENDING DATE: 1980-09-30  
 33. REMARKS ADDED:  Yes  No

34. FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION: I have done my best to comply with the provisions of 48 CFR 101-11.6 and I understand and acknowledge the provisions of 48 CFR 101-11.6.

35. FEDERAL AGENCY OFFICIAL (Name and Telephone No.): SAME AS #35

DEC 28 1978



Section I, item 7:

One of the earliest college gymnasium buildings in the country, it symbolizes the importance of physical culture in the education of the deaf. The preservation objectives are to restore the exterior and rehabilitate the interior for use as a college and alumni center

Date	11/2/79
Signature	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
APPROVED	