



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange

Other names/site number: Cleveland Exchange; Emerson Exchange

Name of related multiple property listing: Telecommunications Resources of Washington, D.C., 1877-1954

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 4268 Wisconsin Avenue NW

City or town: Washington State: DC County: _____

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>DAVID MALONEY / DC SHPO</u>		<u>7/27/2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official:		Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

9.8.17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Stripped Classical

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Limestone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange is an impressive and notable stripped Classical building with Art Deco detailing located at Wisconsin Avenue and Warren Streets NW, a prominent intersection in the Tenleytown neighborhood of northwest Washington, D.C. Constructed as a telephone exchange for the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company, the building is the product of three separate phases of construction, from 1927 to 1962, but appears today as one unified and cohesive building. It occupies the site of the area's first telephone exchange, a small concrete tile building constructed in 1907-08. Along with the adjacent firehouse from 1910, the building represents a period of suburbanization of the former 19th-century village of Tenleytown.

As it appears today, the exchange building (now Verizon's Regional Bill Payment Center) is an expansive two-story smooth-cut limestone-clad building having elegant stripped Classical/Art Deco *bas relief* detailing. The building, which has an irregular footprint and measures approximately 22,500 square feet, was principally constructed in 1931-32, incorporating two walls of the earlier 1927 building into it at the rear. The building was significantly enlarged in 1962 towards Wisconsin Avenue. The 1931-32 building was designed by locally prominent architect Waddy B. Wood and is emblematic of the company's corporate image to build highly artistic buildings reflecting the aesthetics of their period and place. The 1962 addition, which greatly enlarged the 1931-32 building and brought it closer to Wisconsin Avenue, abuts and replicates the earlier building in design, materials and stylistic detailing, and may include re-used parts. Two walls of the 1927 building survive at the rear of the 1931-32.

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Narrative Description

Site

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange building is located at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Warren Streets, NW in the heart of the Tenleytown neighborhood in northwest Washington, D.C. The building practically fills its irregular lot, but runs slightly askew from Wisconsin Avenue leaving a wedged-shaped open area between the building and sidewalk. The wider section of this wedge is paved, providing a single parking spot, while the rest of the area is lined with a planting strip of grass and hedgerow between the building and sidewalk. A strip of grass continues around the Warren Street side of the building, while additional parking is provided at the rear of the building along 40th Street. The building is set upon level terrain and although notable architecturally, the low-lying character of the building blends into the residential fabric off of Wisconsin Avenue.

Exterior

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange building is an expansive, smooth-cut limestone-clad building with stripped classical and Art Deco detailing in front of and abutting the earlier 1927 buff brick Classical Revival-style Emerson Exchange building at the rear. Although this earlier building is visible from 40th Street, the building as visible from the primary intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Warren Streets appears to date from a single period of development reflective of the stripped Classical style. The building is raised upon a low and smooth-cut ashlar stone foundation and is covered with a flat roof. It is five bays wide along Wisconsin Avenue and extends seven bays deep along Warren Street.

The front of the building faces Wisconsin Avenue though both the Wisconsin Avenue and Warren Street elevations are highly articulated architecturally. The Wisconsin Avenue façade is five bays wide consisting of a single entry bay towards the southern end, and window groupings of three in the others. Each of the bays is defined by double-story engaged piers set *in-antis* in a recessed bay, with narrow window openings to either side of the columns at both the first and second stories. The openings on the first story are longer than those of the second and are more deeply recessed from the wall plane. All of the window openings are covered by diamond-patterned metal grilles and are separated between the first and second stories by wide, smooth limestone spandrels.

The entry bay is located in the southern end bay of the façade. The first story of this bay is defined by its entry door--a pair of metal doors with diamond-shaped metal grilles, recessed from the plane of the limestone façade and framed by a limestone surround with a backband. Above the entry is an opening recessed into the wall plane, and divided into three narrow windows by two engaged half-piers set *in antis* like those of the window bays. The windows here are similarly covered with diamond-shaped metal grilles.

Above the second story but below the cornice runs an Art Deco-inspired carved stringcourse. The low *bas relief* sculpture features roundels situated above the pilasters in an ABBA rhythm

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and stylized floral patterns carved in a continuous fashion between the roundels. This string course extends across both the Wisconsin Avenue and Warren Street elevations, though in both cases it stops short of the corner. Above this stringcourse and separated from it by a square-edged fillet rises the building's cornice. The classical cornice includes a plain frieze board and projecting ogee cornice with an egg and dart bed molding.

The Warren Street elevation extends seven bays deep with each of the seven bays being identical to the four window bays of the Wisconsin Avenue elevation. Evidence of the separate phases of construction (1931-32 and 1962) is visible in a seam along this wall at a point between the front three bays and the rear four bays of the building. The plane of the front section of wall is very slightly recessed from the rear section. In addition, there is a different tone of color visible in the stone on the front and rear sections. However, the frieze and the classical cornice including the egg and dart molding continue uninterrupted along the full length of this facade. The four-bay western section was built first, completed in 1932, followed by the eastern, three-bay section towards Wisconsin Avenue, built 1962. Upon construction of the 1962 block, the original west façade of the 1931-1932 building was likely removed and parts of it re-used.¹

The 40th Street elevation (rear) of the building consists of a long and canted buff brick wall consisting of an 11-bay section which dates to the 1931-32 building campaign and a five-bay section which survives from the 1927 exchange building. The 1927 section is located towards the southern end of 40th Street and features buff brick walls with five equally spaced window openings on the first and second stories with brick panels below them. The openings (vents) in the second and fourth bays of the second story are capped by half-round blind arches filled with carved stonework in an intricate vegetal patterning. All of the windows have brick soldier course lintels (actually forming a stringcourse on the second story), while those of the first story have brick cornices above with brick dentils. A door has been fitted into the far end bay at the first story that was, based upon filled in brick, originally a larger window opening. A stone and brick cornice extends along the entire wall, across all three sections, and features oversized dentils or mutules. A brick parapet wall projects above the cornice, hiding the flat, slag roof behind. A metal beam, once part of a block and tackle pulley system, projects from the roofline.

The 1931-32 canted wall is itself divided into two sections by the cant in the wall. The section north of the cant consists of six bays grouped into three bays with pairs of single 6/6 windows, with those on the first story being longer than those on the second story. South of the cant, the 1931-32 canted wall is divided into five bays with equally spaced single 6/6 windows, save for the center opening on the second story which has a vent in it and the third bay which has a door at the first story level. This southern section abuts the surviving 1927 wall.

An historic iron fence runs in front of an areaway along the 1931-32 section, interrupted by a concrete stoop that also has an iron protective railing.

¹ Based on historic photos and architectural rendering, the 1931-32 east façade was six bays long. Due to the irregular shape of the footprint, the 1962 façade was reduced in length to five bays.

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The south side of the building, facing the side yard of the lot includes the original 1927 wall and a brick extension to it, dating to the final period of construction of the building (1962). The 1927 wall is divided into four bays, with equally spaced openings in each bay at the second story, but only two openings, now filled in, in the center two bays on the first story. The second story openings have square, six-light windows, with those on-center being accentuated by round-arched pediments above the windows and recessed panels below the windows. Unlike the blind arches of the 40th Street side, the arches here are uncarved, but are bordered by brick voussoirs. On the first story, the two long window openings have been filled in with buff brick.

The extension to this wall is laid in buff brick, and though it is covered with ivy, does not appear to have any window openings.

As described, the present building consists of three parts: the principal building dating to two periods of construction (1931-32 and 1962 according to the 1931-32 design) and an earlier 1927 building, of which two walls survive. As it stands, the building reads as a single structure, executed in a stripped Classical style with Art Deco detailing at the cornice level.

The interior of the building is not publicly accessible. It is still in use as a telephone exchange and is used primarily to house equipment and not people.

INTEGRITY

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange retains high integrity. The building occupies the site of the first telephone exchange constructed on the site in 1907, and includes several subsequent building campaigns. The building's setting has changed over the course of time as Tenleytown grew from a 19th-century village to an urban neighborhood, but the building and its different phases of construction, is reflective of that changing pattern of development. The building has high integrity of design and workmanship with the no alterations or additions to the three-phased building that primarily dates from the 1931-32 period. As intended by its high-quality design, the building is not obviously a telephone exchange, but is in keeping with the corporate image of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company at the time and thus retains integrity of feeling and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Period of Significance

1927-1962

Significant Dates

1927; 1931-32; 1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin
Waddy Butler Wood

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, Cleveland- Emerson Exchange building at 4268 Wisconsin Avenue, NW in the Tenleytown neighborhood of northwest Washington was constructed by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company in several phases to accommodate the ever-increasing number of telephone subscribers in the vicinity. The existing building sits upon the site of the first telephone exchange building in Tenleytown (constructed in 1907-08) and consists, itself, of three phases of development: 1927; 1931-32 and 1962.

The 1927 building was designed for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company by the New York architecture firm of McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin who served as the company's corporate architect. The building reflected a Classical Revival style that was typical of the company's earlier exchange buildings in the city. The 1931-32 addition was designed by locally prominent architect Waddy B. Wood in a stripped Classical style of architecture with Art Deco detailing that was emblematic of the company's then-corporate image, as expressed most profoundly on the company's main headquarters building at 726-730 12th Street, NW (1928). The 1962 addition followed the same design aesthetic as that of the 1931-32 building and may have included re-used parts.

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange building is an excellent example of the telephone exchange as a building type and meets National Register Criterion C under the Multiple Property Document, *Telecommunications Resources of Washington, D.C., 1877-1954*. The branch exchange was constructed in phases to house the equipment necessary for telephone communication within the proscribed section of northwest Washington, with the intention of accommodating the increasing numbers of telephone subscribers, and the newest in telephone technology (namely the dial system). The building represents the work of master architect Waddy Butler Wood and adds to our understanding of his body of work.

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange building also meets National Register Criteria A and C under the Multiple Property Document, *Tenleytown's Architectural and Cultural Resources in Washington, D.C.* The building provides an excellent example of the types of public utilities that were required in Tenleytown as it grew from a small, 19th-century rural village to an urban/suburban neighborhood of the city.

The period of significance for the Cleveland-Emerson Exchange extends from 1927 to 1962. The 1962 end date reflects the date when the exchange building was completed, replicating the stylistic character and features of the 1931-32 building by architect Waddy Butler Wood.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

As detailed in the Multiple Property Document, *Telecommunication Resources of Washington, D.C., 1877-1954*, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company (C&P Company) was incorporated in 1883 through the consolidation of two already existing telephone companies—the National Capital Telephone Company and the Telephone Exchange Company of Maryland. At that time, there were 2,354 telephones in the DC-Maryland region, of which 896 were in the city proper. Over the course of the next two decades, significant technological improvements in communications resulted in the growing acceptance of the telephone as a means of communication and in the rapid growth of the C&P Company.

During the first decade of the 20th century, the number of C&P Telephone subscribers had significantly expanded from 896 in 1883 to over 40,000 by 1905. In order to accommodate the growing numbers of subscribers, the C&P Company entered into an extensive building campaign. Beginning in the early 20th century, C&P not only erected a new and expanded headquarters and main office downtown, but also constructed several branch exchange buildings and a large warehouse and garage structure. Between 1900 and 1908, the telephone company opened six exchanges that serviced the city's growing residential neighborhoods. In 1903, the North Exchange opened at 14th and R Streets to service those residential areas north of downtown. Within a matter of years, however, the North Exchange was experiencing severe telephone congestion. To help ease the congestion and accommodate the growing residential neighborhoods north of downtown the C&P Company continued its building campaign.

In Tenleytown, the C&P Company established the Cleveland Exchange to service the Tenleytown and Cleveland Park areas. Initially, the Cleveland Exchange operated out of private residences as the telephone switchboards were installed by C&P in the home of the operator.² The Cleveland exchange, named for President Grover Cleveland and the nearby neighborhood of Cleveland Park (also named after the former president and serviced by the branch exchange) consisted of the letters CL followed by one, two or three digits.

The First Cleveland Exchange Building (1907-08)

The first purpose-built Cleveland Exchange building was constructed in 1907-08 as a modest, two-story concrete tile structure located next to the fire station on the site of the present exchange building at 4268 Wisconsin Avenue. Eidlitz & McKenzie, corporate architects for the C&P Telephone Company designed this exchange building, along with the company's several other branch exchange buildings that were being built around the same time. The exchange was placed in operation on June 13, 1908 with 1,900 telephones in service.

² The first operator was a Mrs. Davis who lived on Grant Road. Later, Mrs. Katherine Easley had the exchange in her house on Wisconsin Avenue at Belt Road. See Judith Beck Helm, *Tenleytown, D.C.: County Village into City Neighborhood*, (Tennally Press, Washington, D.C.), 1981, p. 161.

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While the downtown branch buildings generally followed a stately Classical Revival style that reflected the C&P Company's then-corporate image, the branch exchange buildings in the more remote and suburban neighborhoods were designed in manners that were in keeping with their surroundings. At that time, Tenleytown still retained its village character and consisted primarily of modest frame houses. Based upon maps and the D.C. Permit to Build, this first exchange was a concrete tile building that would have reflected the area's rural character in its modest size and vernacular appearance.

Following World War I, the city's population increased dramatically, as did the popularity of the telephone. At the beginning of 1926, 126,800 telephones were in service in the city; by the end of the year, 9,200 new telephones were added to the system, making one telephone for every 3.7 people. At the same time, the number of daily telephone messages citywide began to increase significantly. During this period, the Cleveland Exchange itself had grown from its initial 1,900 subscribers in 1908 to 13,000 in 1926 as Tenleytown experienced its own population boom. Between World War I and II, as area streets were cut and laid according to the Permanent Highway Plan, developers aggressively subdivided the land and built single-family middle-class dwellings on the formerly rural landscape. In an on-going effort to accommodate these growing telephone needs, the C&P Telephone Company was continuously laying miles of new underground conduit and overhead cables, adding to existing exchanges, and building new ones.

Subsequent Building Campaigns (1926-27, 1931-32)

In 1926-27, to again accommodate an increase in subscribers, the C&P Company built an addition to the Cleveland Exchange, comprising a new exchange called Emerson. Designed by McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin, the successor firm to Eidlitz and McKenzie, this 1926-27 building was a substantial, two-story building having a concrete frame and buff brick curtain walls. According to the local press, the 1927 enlarged building provided for "fourteen additional operators' positions of switchboard and associate apparatus."³ The new switchboard accommodated 2,000 new lines.

The interior of the still relatively new exchange building was described in a *Washington Post* article two years after its 1927 opening by 17-year-old Helena Dispenza, a neighbor of the building. In the article, young Helena describes the main room from a tour she was given:

"At last we arrived in the main room. It was a long room, not very wide. There were about 30 positions in the room. All the girls were seated on swinging stools in front of a board, which holds 100 telephone numbers. They have two sides. One is called the "A" board and the other the "B" board. The "A" board holds all the numbers up to 2,000. The "A" operator takes your number, and if it's higher than 2,000 she repeats it to the "B" operator who connects you with your party...The operators wear a headpiece which contains only one earphone, and this connects to the mouthpiece."⁴

³ "Telephone Growth in Capital Places City with Leaders," *The Washington Post*, April 3, 1927.

⁴ Helena Dispenza, "The Most Interesting Thing on my Block," *The Washington Post*, December 29, 1929, p. JP3.

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Despite the enhanced switchboard capacities, the new Emerson exchange was completed at the same time that telephone technology was evolving from manual to dial technology, essentially rendering the Emerson Exchange obsolete upon completion. The introduction of the dial system provided mechanical and electrical mechanisms to replace manual operators. In 1927-28, the company constructed a new main office on 12th Street downtown to accommodate dial-switching equipment and soon began the process of converting the company's 60,000 phones in downtown DC over from the manual system to the dial system. So, in 1931-32, just a few years after completing the Emerson Exchange, the C&P Company erected a substantial new building to accommodate dial technology for both the Cleveland and Emerson exchanges that would accommodate the growing neighborhood. This new building would be referred to jointly as the Cleveland-Emerson Exchange.

Construction of the Cleveland-Emerson Exchange

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange, designed by architect Waddy Butler Wood and built 1931-32 was anticipated to be enlarged as telephone needs increased. The first phase replaced the 1907-08 structure⁵, and was built in front of and retained two exterior walls of the 1926-27 addition. Completed in December 1932, this first phase of construction included the underground conduit and cables and other infrastructure necessary to provide service to the expanding residential area.⁶ Local newspaper coverage indicated that this addition was erected to "provide space for telephone facilities in the area for the next ten years" during which time it was expected that "the dial equipment for this section of the city will be installed."⁷

This 1931-1932 building was set well back from Wisconsin Avenue, as shown on historic maps, an historic rendering, and historic photos.⁸ Although a second phase of construction was anticipated within ten years of completion of the first phase, the building was not actually enlarged again until 1962. This phase of construction significantly enlarged the building and filled in the lot from the west face of the 1931-32 building to Wisconsin Avenue. It is likely that the 1931-32 west façade was removed and applied to the new façade presently fronting Wisconsin Avenue.

The two phases of construction are architecturally cohesive and visually read as a single building. Local architect Waddy Butler Wood designed the 1931-32 building in a Stripped Classical style with Art Deco detailing. The choice of style was consistent with the C&P Telephone Company's then-corporate image, established in 1928 when C&P architects Voorhees, Gmelin and Walker designed the company's new headquarters building and dial

⁵ Permit to Raze # 157732 (9/28/1932). Also, according to the Structural Engineer reports included in the DC Permit to Build #156429, the "old building" was razed on 10/14/1932.

⁶ According to the Structural Engineer reports included with the DC Permit to Build #156529 (8/18/1932), the building was completed on 12/21/1932. Also, see "New Telephone Exchange Boosts Building Total: \$1,800,000 Addition to Cleveland-Emerson Central on Wisconsin Avenue Brings Weeks Figure for District up to \$2,467,800," *The Evening Star*, August 1, 1931, p. B-1.

⁷ "New Telephone Exchange Boosts Building Total," *The Evening Star*, August 1, 1932, B-1.

⁸ See rendering of the "New Cleveland and Emerson," in "*Washington's Telephone System*," p. 8.

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switching station in a soaring Art Deco style. Shortly thereafter, the company built its large warehouse on North Capitol Street in a modest expression of the style.

No plans or drawings have been found to determine whether the 1962 phase of construction followed designs made by Wood and built posthumously. It is assumed however, that Wood's 1931-32 design was simply extruded further on the site and replicated in detail. As noted above, it is also likely that some materials and details were re-used from the 1931-32 façade that was removed.

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange building, now owned by Verizon, provides an important physical reminder of the 20th-century evolution of the telephone system and of the symbolism of corporate imagery.

Waddy Butler Wood

The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange was designed by Waddy Butler Wood (1869-1944) a talented and prominent local architect who practiced architecture in Washington for 48 years from 1892 to 1940 during a period of great development in the city. Wood is well-recognized in historic preservation as a master architect for his quality designs for a variety of building types that ranged from single-family dwellings to large-scale private and government office buildings. Having established his own practice in D.C. in 1892, Wood's first major commission came in 1895, when he was retained by the Capitol Traction Company to design the company's new car barn on M Street in Georgetown, soon to be followed by the East Capitol Street Car Barn for the same client. Soon, Wood's personality and talent allowed him access into Washington society and he was designing houses for some of the city's most distinguished residents. In 1902, Wood formed a partnership with Edward Donn, Jr. and William I. Deming. The popularity of the firm grew with Wood serving as the principal designer. After the dissolution of his firm in 1912, Wood continued to work independently to capture prestigious commissions. He focused his attention on commercial and government work, undertaking residential work for Washington's elite. During this period, Wood designed buildings for large corporations such as the Potomac and Electric Power Company (999 E Street, NW), the Union Trust Company (738-740 15th Street), the Masonic Temple (801 13th Street, NW), the Southern Railway Company (1500 K Street), the Commercial National Bank (1405 G Street, NW), the Department of the Interior, and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. In Tenleytown, in addition to the Cleveland-Emerson Exchange, Wood designed one of the still-extant water towers at the Fort Reno Reservoir.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Published and Unpublished Books and Papers:

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, Annual Reports, 1887; 1938; 1939; 1941; 1942; 1943; 1944; 1946; 1949; 1954; 1963.

Connor, John V. *A Descriptive Analysis of the C&P Telephone Company: A Study in Public Utility Operations Methods and Policies*. Washington, D.C., 1926.

Cromwell, Joseph H. *The C&P Story: Service in Action*. Washington, D.C.: The C&P Telephone Company, 1981.

D.C. Building Permits, #856 (9/9/1907); #10139 (5/22/1926); #146147 (*28/1931); #156529 (8/18/1932); #157732 (9/28/1932).

Helm, Judith Beck, *Tenleytown D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood*. 1981, Second Edition: Kutztown, New York, Tennally Press, 2000.

Martin, Oliver. *Chesapeake and Potomac Country*. Washington, D.C.: The C&P Telephone Company, 1928.

Van Orsdel, Ralph A. "History of the Telephone System in the District of Columbia," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, vol. 48-49, p 171-180.

"Washington's Telephone System," uncited published paper in D.C. Historic Preservation Office Vertical Files, circa 1931.

Williams, Kim "Telecommunications Resources of Washington, DC, 1877-1954," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2006.

Williams, Kim. "Tenleytown's Architectural and Cultural Resources, Washington, DC," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2008.

Williams, Paul, *Historic Resources Survey of Tenleytown, Washington, D.C.* Washington, D.C.: Historic Preservation Office, 2003.

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Newspaper Articles

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The Washington Post (Listed Chronologically):

“60,000 Telephones to go on Dial Basis; ‘Number Please’ of Operator Heads for Oblivion Next Week, April 27, 1930, p. M22.

“136,000 Phones Used in Capital in 1926; Gain made is 9,200.00,” January 1, 1927, p. FR 13.

“C&P Telephone Company 50 Years Old This Week,” June 25, 1933, p. 11.

“Telephone Building Will Get Addition; Contract Let for Extension to Central Office on Wisconsin Avenue,” August 2, 1931, p. R-1.

“Telephone Company Plans Big Program,” June 16, 1929, p. R10.

“Telephone Company to Spend \$4,384,000,” February 21, 1928.

“Telephone Growth in Capital Places City with Leaders; Chesapeake and Potomac is Planning New Units,” April 3, 1927.

“The Most Interesting Thing on My Block,” December 29, 1929, p. JP3.

The Evening Star:

“New Telephone Exchange Boosts Building Total, \$1,800,000 Addition to Cleveland-Emerson Central on Wisconsin Avenue Brings Week’s Figure for District up to \$2,467,800,” August 1, 1931, p. B-1.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately .5 acres (22,591 square feet)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.94446 | Longitude: -77.07832 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The C & P Telephone Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange building at 4268 Wisconsin Avenue, NW occupies current-day lot 9 on Square 1786. This lot corresponds with historic lot 801 on the same square.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The present building, constructed in three phases, has stood on this site since it was built in 1927; 1932; and 1962. An earlier 1907-08 building which served as the first telephone exchange and now demolished historically occupied the site.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kim Williams
organization: D.C. Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 1000 4th Street SW Suite 650
city or town: Washington, D.C. state: _____ zip code: 20024
e-mail kim.williams@dc.gov
telephone: 202 442-8840
date: February 2009 (revised November 2016)

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange
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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State: DC

Photographer: Farleigh Earhart

Date Photographed: November 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

View looking southwest showing north and east elevations
1 of 15

View looking southwest showing east elevation
2 of 15

View looking west showing east elevation
3 of 15

View looking west showing southern entrance bay of east elevation
4 of 15

View looking west showing north elevation obliquely
5 of 15

View looking south at north elevation showing seam between 1931-32 and 1962 building
6 of 15

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
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View looking southeast from 40th and Warren Streets showing northwest corner of building
7 of 15

View looking southeast showing west elevation of building from 40th Street with remaining
walls of 1927 building at far right
8 of 15

View looking northeast showing west elevation of building from 40th Street
9 of 15

View looking northeast showing south elevation of 1927 building obliquely
10 of 15

View looking east showing three bays of west elevation of 1927 building
11 of 15

Detail of carved tympanum on west elevation of 1927 building
12 of 15

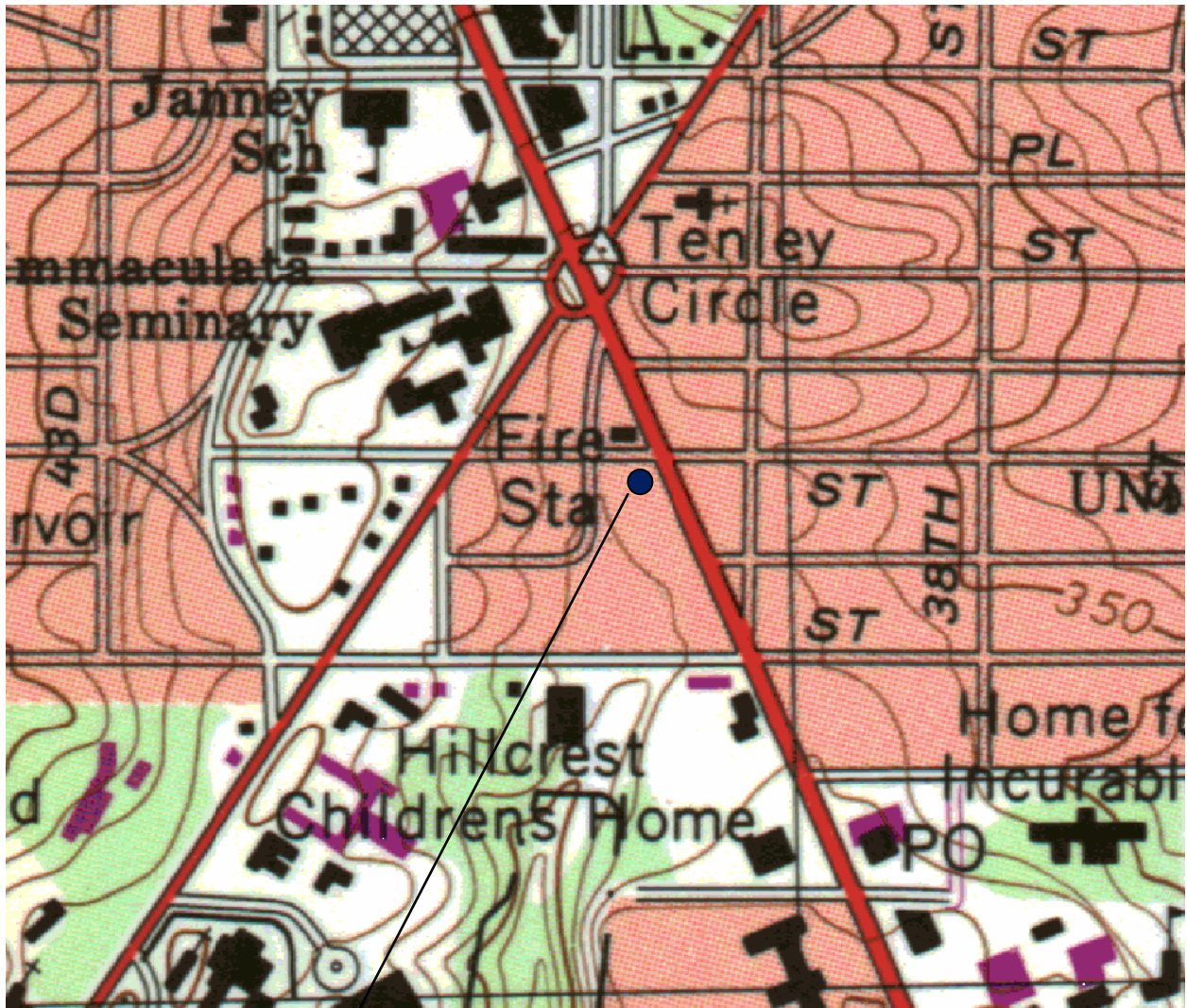
Detail of windows on south elevation of 1927 building
13 of 15

Detail of bas relief detail on east elevation of 1931-32 building
14 of 15

View looking northwest showing southeast corner of building and south elevation wall of
brick from 1962 building campaign
15 of 15

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange
Name of Property

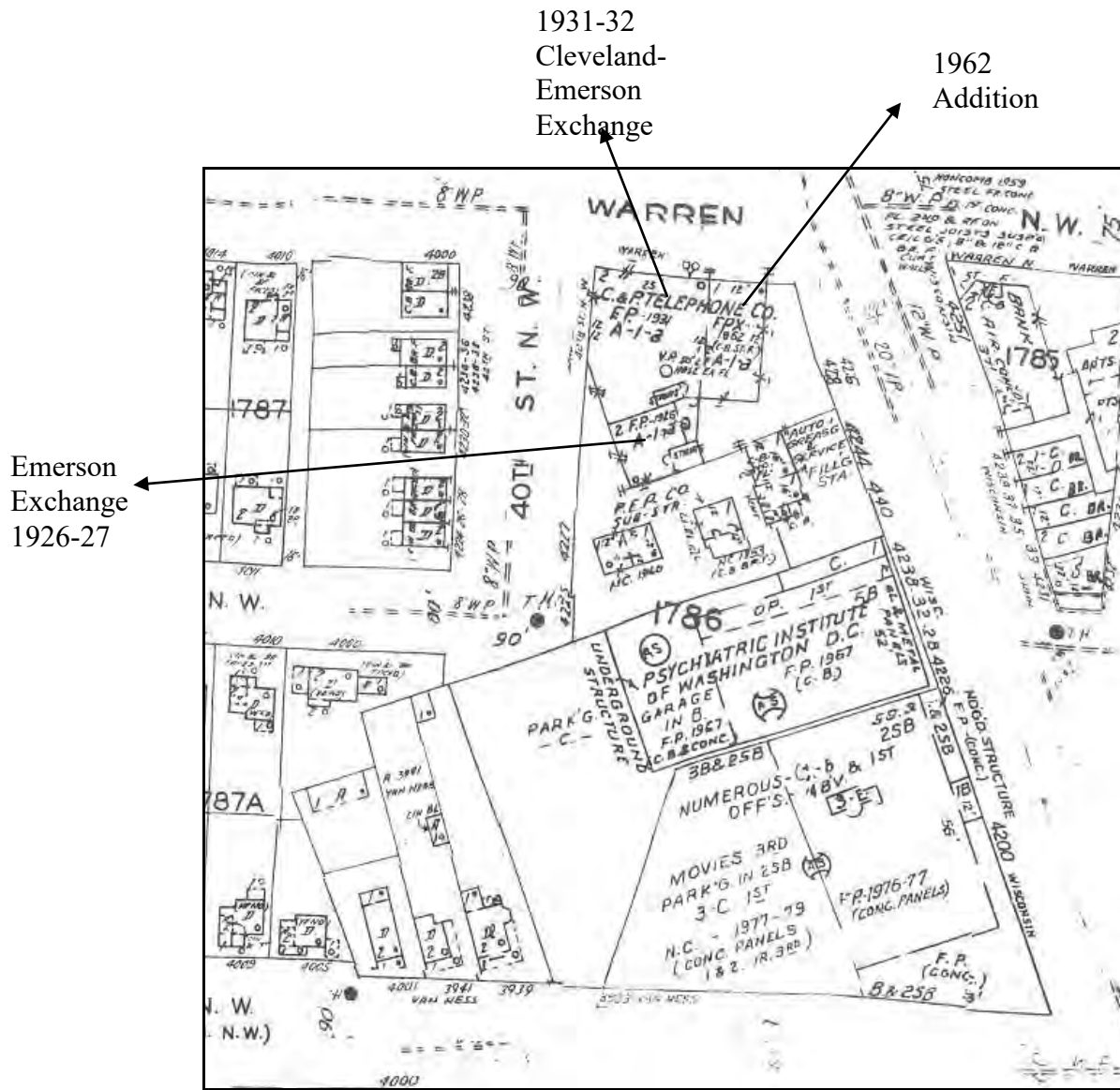
Washington, D.C.
County and State



Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange
4268 Wisconsin Avenue NW
USGS Washington West Quad
Lat/Long: 38.94446; -77.07832

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State



Site Plan Showing Building Campaigns
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1991)

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange
Name of Property

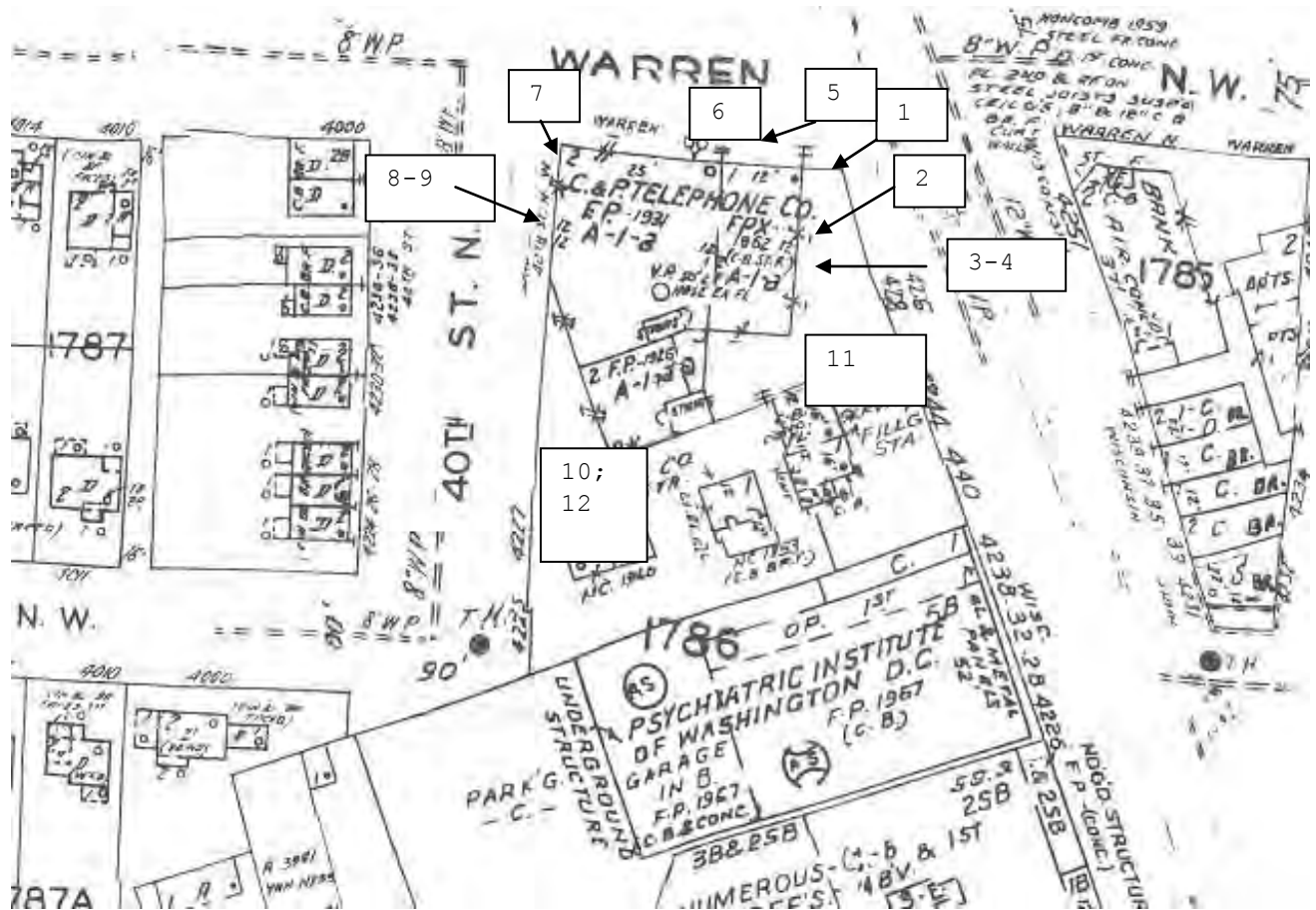
Washington, D.C.
County and State



Site Plan showing National Register Boundaries
(Square 1786 Lot 9)

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
Company, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State



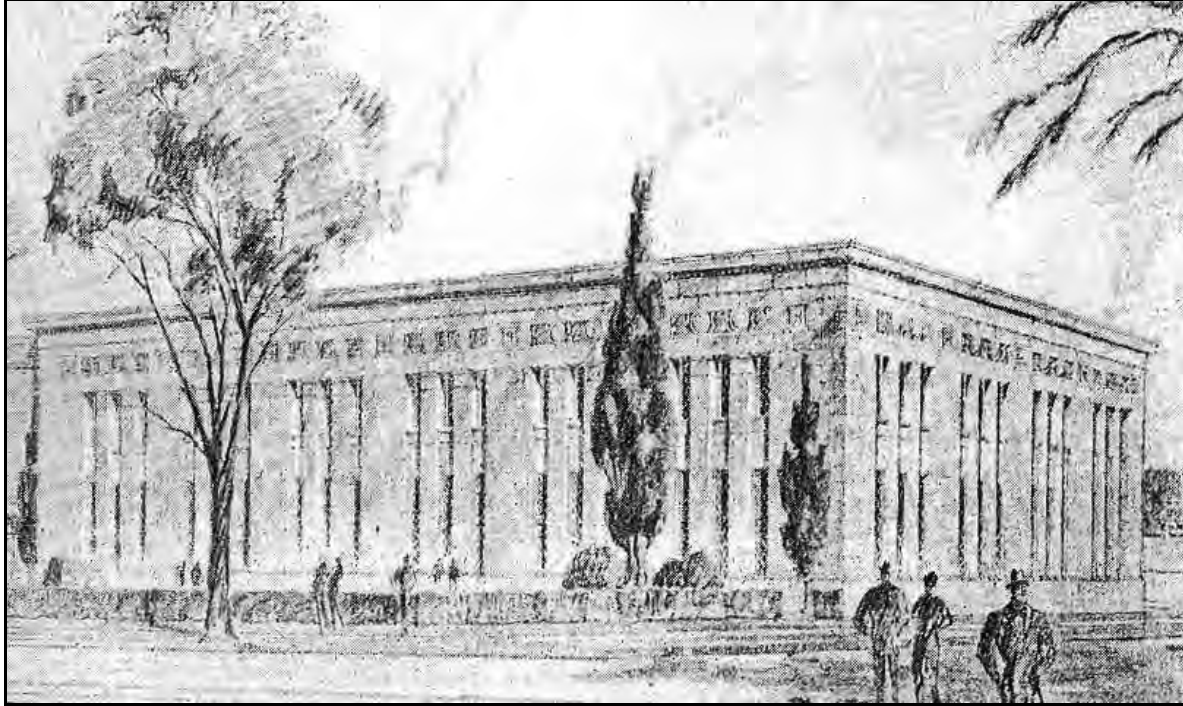
Key to Photographs

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone
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Name of Property

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Architect Rendering of Cleveland-Emerson Exchange, ca. 1931, as published in “Washington’s Telephone System, 1931,” (DC HPO Files)

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Historic Photo of Cleveland-Emerson Exchange, ca. 1932
(Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY

WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY

WISCONSIN ST
1200



GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

111

WISCONSIN

4200



110















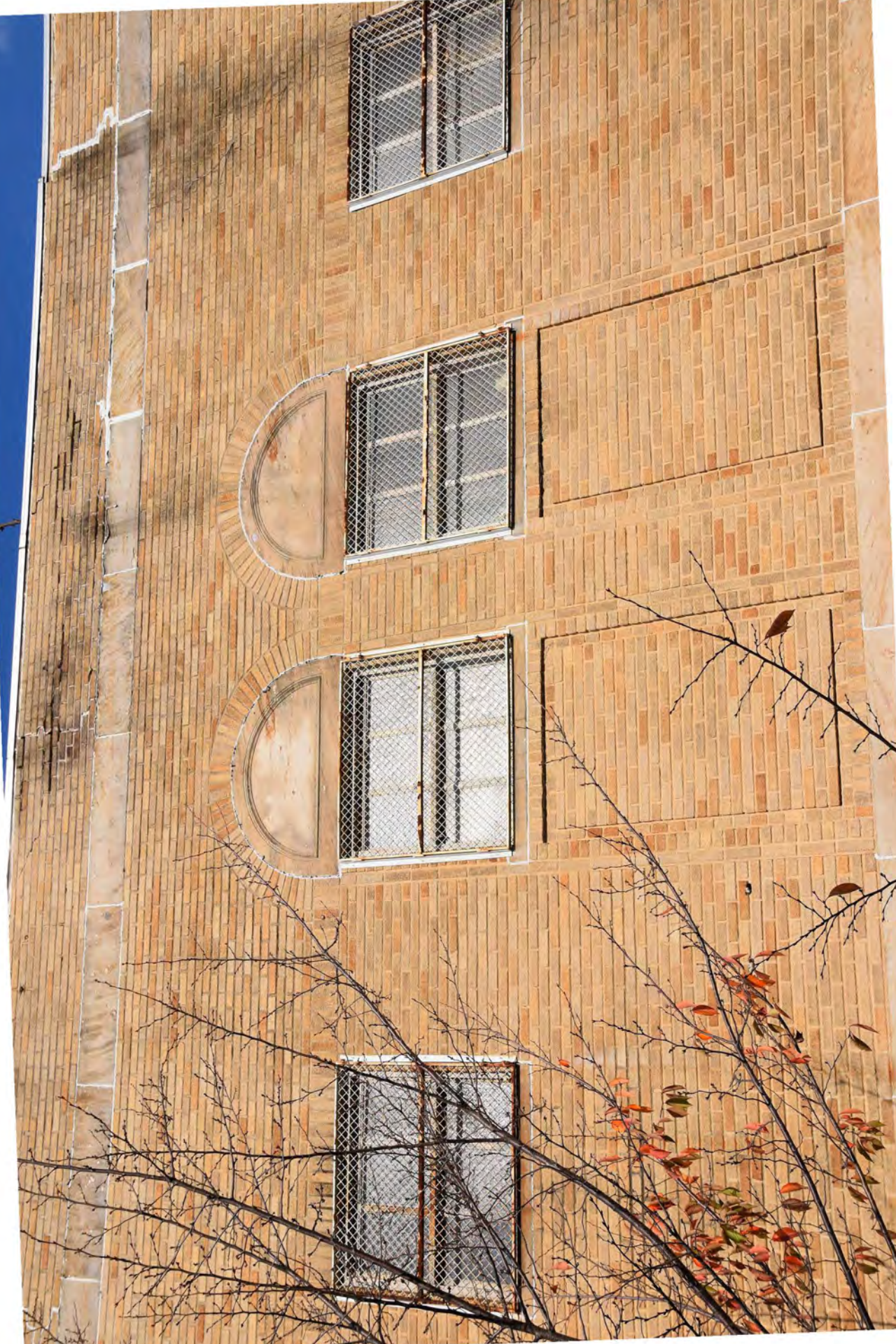






PRIVATE
PROPERTY
NO
TRESPASSING







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Discipline

Telephone Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



MEMO

DATE: July 24, 2017
TO: Patrick Andrus
FROM: Kim Williams *KW*
RE: Transmittal Letter for Cleveland-Emerson Exchange National Register Nomination

Please find enclosed two disks for the Cleveland-Emerson Exchange National Register nomination. The enclosed disk, Disk 1 (of 2) contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Cleveland-Emerson Exchange. The enclosed Disk 2 (of 2) contains photographs as per the NR photo requirements.

Patrick -

The HPRB listed The Cleveland-Emerson Exchange in 2016; I have been trying unsuccessfully to gain access to the interior for the past seven months. My understanding is that the building was filled with dial exchange equipment but is now largely empty. I am submitting this nomination without interior photos, though not for lack of trying.

K