# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

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historic	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
and or common	Dupont Circle	Historic Dist	rict Bounda	ry Increase	
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#### 7. Description

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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The four areas under discussion constitute additions to the Dupont Circle Historic District, a neighborhood which in its 1977 designation extends from the historic Boundary Avenue (Florida Avenue) on the northwest, east along Swann Street, south on 17th Street (west side) to Rhode Island Avenue, west in a jagged path to 21st Street and north to Florida Avenue, with Dupont Circle at its heart. The additions, small groups of residential and commercial buildings, are generally contiguous with the 1977 historic district, contemporary in style and construction dates, and reflect the same social forces that affected the development of the rest of the neighborhood. They extend the boundaries slightly on the southwest, south and northeast.

The Dupont Circle area was developed as a fashionable residential district in the last quarter of the nineteenth and early decades of the twentieth century. \In spite of some large scale late twentieth-century intrusions, its character today is still essentially determined by two predominant types of buildings: palatial mansions and free-standing residences, built in styles popular between 1895 and 1910 (eclectic Beaux-Arts, Chateauesque, Renaissance and Georgian revival); and three- or four-story brick rowhouses, often trimmed with brownstone or limestone, many of them designed in characteristic local variations on the Oueen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque The mansions appear along the broad, tree-lined diagonal avenues that intersect Dupont Circle, while the rowhouses line the grid streets of the neighborhood. The additions consist primarily of the latter type, which give the area one of the finest concentrations of late nineteenth-century domestic styles in the country. The rowhouses with their projecting bays contribute to an alternating rhythm along the grid streets. Their consistency of scale creates continuity at the same time that the variety of forms and ornamental features make the district rich and interesting. The additions also include a number of low-scale commercial buildings in diverse early 20th-century styles that give a colorful and cosmopolitan character to Connecticut Avenue, one of the three major diagonal thoroughfares intersecting Dupont Circle.

Following is a general description of the four Areas of Expansion.

#### Southwest Area of Expansion

The Southwest Area of Expansion is comprised of lots 45, 46 and 47 in Square 68 at the addresses 2103-2107 O Street, and all of those properties in Square 69 not previously included in the Dupont Circle Historic District designated in 1977. Encompassing the north side of the 2100 block of N Street, the east side of the 1300 block of 22nd Street, both sides of the 2100 block of Newport Place, and the south side of the 2100 block of O Street, the Southwest Area of Expansion contains a predominance of late nineteenth and early twentieth century townhouses rich with ornamental brick and stonework, turrets and gables. Their quality and dates of construction demonstrate this area's continuity with the previously designated historic district it adjoins.

#### 8. Significance

1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 _X 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates	Various	Builder/Architect Vari	ious	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In its decision dated June 30, 1983, the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital stated that the areas of expansion qualify for addition to the Dupont Circle Historic District, a category II Historic District of Importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage or visual beauty and interest of the District of Columbia, for the following reasons:

- 1. They share many of the same distinguishing qualities as the Dupont Circle Historic District which was designated in 1977.
- 2. They contain abundant examples of several of the styles that characterize the 1977 Dupont Circle Historic District; namely, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Beaux-Arts and several kinds of eclectic brick vernacular.
- 3. They contain buildings designed by many of the same prominent local architects -- Meyers, Clark, Havey Page, Marsh and Peter, Hornblower and Marshall, and George Ray -- who designed the buildings in the earlier designated historic district.
- 4. Like the 1977 district, the rowhouse architecture on the grid streets in these areas is characterized by a diversity of facades which are among the most varied and imaginative in the city.

In addition, the Joint Committee found that the areas of expansion meet the criteria of, and possess the quality of significance present in the Dupont Circle Historic District which has already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

- 1. They share a common history and architectural quality with the previously registered Dupont Circle Historic District.
- 2. They contain excellent examples of late 19th-early 20th century Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Beaux-Arts and several kinds of eclectic brick vernacular style structures designed by prominent local architects for prominent, professional and affluent Washingtonians, which make a significant contribution to the historic, cultural and architectural heritage of the District of Columbia and which retain their integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The additions to the Dupont Circle Historic District are significant for both their architectural and historical contributions to the District of Columbia.

9.	Major	<b>Bibliogra</b>	phical	References
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Rows of fine late nineteenth-century townhouses form richly textured streetscapes in the 2100 block of 0 Street (2104-2118 and 2103-2107). Five of these houses worthy of particular note (2110-2118; photo 1) were built in 1892 by important local architect, Appleton P. Clark, Jr. Clark, an early president of the AIA, was the architect of Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church, the Roosevelt Senior Citizens' Home and a number of notable commercial and residential buildings throughout the Federal City. Clark united these five 0 Street houses with a continuous steepsloping roof but distinguished them with gables in several different styles including a particularly picturesque Flemish stepped gable. A row of early twentieth-century brick townhouses (c. 1915) and two contributing apartment houses at the west end of the block continue the fabric of brick dwellings in traditional styles on the south side of the 2100 block of 0 Street. The Rock Creek Apartments at 2142, with its Spanish-style overhanging tiled roof and alternation of rectangular and arched windows, is a particularly attractive and well-proportioned building from the second decade of this century.

The north side of the 2100 block of N Street, N.W., with round and polygonal turrets, steep pointed gables, single and multiple arched windows on the upper stories is a romantic row of special merit (photo 2). The variety and fantasy of fine brickwork (photo 3) and stone trim familiar in the rest of the Dupont Circle Historic District also appear in this block of N Street, developed for the most part about 1890.

In the 2100 block of Newport Place, some 40 houses built mostly between 1900 and 1912 offer their intimate scale and continuity to the atmosphere of this old residential neighborhood. This unique block-long enclave of modest old townhouses would have been home to some of domestic workers in the larger houses of the historic district. Some houses have tile roofs, some cornices, some front porches and a few projecting bays. This ensemble of working class houses forms a streetscape with a small scale quality of considerable charm, and testifies to the diverse social structure of the neighborhood in the early twentieth century.

The east side of the 1300 block of 22nd Street (photo 4) contains a variety of townhouses types. Nos. 1305-11 and 1335-1337 are particularly lively with projecting bays, turrets, finials, balconies, arched windows, and ornamental festoons and brickwork.

#### New Hampshire Avenue Area of Expansion

The New Hampshire Avenue Area of Expansion is comprised of two properties — the Fleet Reserve Association Building at 1303 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Square No. 99 (photo 5); and lot 56 in Square 97, a double house with the address 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. The Fleet Reserve Building was designed in 1885 by William M. Poindexter, the first vice president of the AIA's Washington chapter (1887), and Joseph C.

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Hornblower's partner from 1877-1879. Poindexter, who designed a number of houses in the Dupont Circle area, produced this one for Dr. G.F. Whiting. The single building on this triangular-shaped Square, this splendidly varied red brick and grey stone mansion is noteworthy for its fluctuating planes, recessed and projected bays, flat and gabled rooflines, and decorative brickwork.

Across the street, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., is a handsome brick mansion with a steep slate-covered roof that gracefully rounds the corner from the avenue to N Street. This house, now headquarters of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, was built in 1884 by George Whiting, believed to be the same man who commissioned the Fleet Reserve Building a year later. A sympathetic addition on the north was built in 1901, and is the work of Harry Simpson.

#### Southern Area of Expansion

The Southern Area of Expansion includes all of U.S. Res. 150-A and properties at the following addresses in two squares: in Square 139, 1205 and 1207 19th Street, N.W., 1813, 1815, 1817, 1819, 1821, 1823, 1825, 1827, 1829, 1831, 1833-37 M Street, N.W., 1210, 1212, 1214 and 1216 18th Street, N.W., and 1218 and 1220 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.; and in Square 159, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221 and 1223 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. The area contains elegant commercial buildings which replaced townhouses on Connecticut Avenue beginning at the turn of the century, but preserved their scale and sometimes even their party walls behind new facades. It also includes a small triangular reservation containing the statue of John Witherspoon, a double house at 1205-1207 19th Street and a particularly fine row of mostly late nineteenth-century residential buildings now generally adapted to commercial use.

The blocks facing 19th and M Streets stand out for the quality of their individual buildings, their cohesion as a group that turns the corner, and the number of them designed by important local architects. The double house at 1205-1207 19th Street, now Flaps Rickenbacker's, is an 1887 design by the prominent architectural firm of Hornblower and Marshall. It exemplifies Victorian brick design in its most elegantly simple expression, distinguished by a few salient features that include a pair of graceful entrance arches. Obviously designed to complement the Flaps building and immediately to the south on 19th Street is another Hornblower and Marshall residence of 1887 which now houses Gusti's restaurant (photo 6). This building rounds the corner onto M Street with a handsome polygonal turret and sensitively assimilates the different styles of its neighbors by combining projecting bays of varied shapes with the shingled roofs and dormers of the small houses. James M. Johnston, who collaborated with Hornblower and Marshall on these and numerous other projects (including 1821 and 1819 M Street, below), was a native Washingtonian

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attorney who served as a director of Riggs National Bank, and wrote the original draft of the bill that established Rock Creek Park.

Proceeding eastward down the 1800 block one comes next to 1831, 1829 and 1827 M (photo 7), built in 1885 for Clarence Duvall, which feature two-story, polygonal bays flanking a three-story square bay whose chamferred corners are filled with cylindrical projections to create a complex sculptural contour; a strongly corbelled roofline beneath decorated pediments, a skillful use of moldings, varied arch forms and recessed windows to enliven surfaces, and at least five different kinds of ornamental brick. The smaller house at 1825 adjoining this trio (photo 7, right) apparently emulated the simplicity of the older Hornblower and Marshall houses down the block. It was built in 1917 by Clarke Waggaman, designer of 2929 Massachusetts Avenue and a prolific local residential architect who in 1917 entered partnership with the important Beaux-Arts commercial architect George Ray (see below). The buildings at 1821 and 1819 (photo 8) are by again Hornblower and Marshall but these were built in 1883, four years before those to the west. typical of Hornblower and Marshall houses in their compact simplicity, their restrained use of classical details and their asymmetrically-placed windows. richly textured bonded brick house at 1817 M Street, still in use as a residence, was built in 1884 by the well-known firm of Grey and Page.

The statue of John Witherspoon on U.S. Reservation 150-A at Connecticut Avenue and N Street, N.W. is by sculptor William Couper and was dedicated in 1909 as a gift of the Witherspoon Memorial Association. Witherspoon, born in Scotland, was a noted Presbyterian minister, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the organizers of the Presbyterian Church in America. His statue, long associated with the Dupont Circle area, is a reminder of the 1889 National Presbyterian Church, a notable Romanesque Revival style design by J.C. Cady, which stood across the street at the northeast corner of 18th and N Street until it was demolished in 1965.

Just down the street from Witherspoon on both sides of Connecticut Avenue and the west side of 18th Street are several groups of commercial buildings from the early decades of the twentieth century which equal or better the blocks of Connecticut Avenue to the north, included in the earlier district. The variety of color and detail is particularly outstanding in the small-scale buildings, mostly from the 1920s, on the east side of the 1200 block of Connecticut (photo 9) where the styles range from Federal (1217), to Beaux-Arts (1219), to Byzantine Venice (1221) to Art Deco with Greek details (1223) in a five-lot stretch. With the green dome of St. Matthew's Cathedral looming over them, this ensemble provides a delightful view of early commercial Connecticut Avenue when one approaches from the west along Jefferson Place.

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Of particular note is 1219 Connecticut Avenue, the Pasternak Building, designed in 1923 by George Ray, a leading commercial architect and the designer of other fine Beaux-Arts structures in the area, such as Schwartz's Drugstore at 1700 Connecticut. With its Indiana limestone facade and ornate brackets and cornice below the balconies, 1219 suggests an 18th-century Parisian mansion.

The eclectic spirit of this row is carried across the avenue to the 1200 block of 18th Street (photo 10), which takes on a Mediterranean cast from details that include Islamic, Hispanic and Italian Renaissance. The Spanish-style house (photos 10 and 11) at 1216 18th Street has romantic wrought iron balconies and overhanging red tile eaves supported by steeply descending brackets. At 1214 18th Street, the Middle Eastern- style facade displays filigreed stone ornament, black marble columns, ogival arches and delicate red, green, yellow and white tiles. It was designed in 1931 as an oriental rug store by the major local architect, Mihran Mesrobian, who also designed the Dupont Circle Building. 1212 has fluted Corinthian columns and graceful white engraved tile ornament, while 1210 displays intricate stone ornament in low relief above its trio of second story windows and around its entrance.

Across Jefferson Place to the north, 1218 Connecticut Avenue is a dark brown brick palazzo (photo 11). Its light-colored stone trim, stately arches, tabernacle windows, string courses and fine rhythms and proportions are reminiscent of Renaissance Italy.

#### Northeast Area of Expansion

The Northeast Area of Expansion is comprised of all of those properties between 17th Street on the west, the rear property lines of properties fronting on the north side of S Street on the north, the rear property lines of properties fronting on the west side of Sixteenth Street on the east, and the rear property lines of properties fronting on the south side of R Street on the south. Parts of Squares 177, 178 and 179 are involved. Encompassing both sides of the 1600 blocks of S Street, Riggs Place and R Street west of the 16th Street Historic District and 1631 through 1741 17th Street (east side), the Northeast Area of Expansion is characterized by rowhouse development of the same degree of architectural excellence and by some of the same noted architects as the previously designated Dupont Circle Historic District. It also contains some contributing early 20th-century apartment houses such as the Rutland Court at 1725 17th Street (c. 1915-1919) and the Shelburne at 1631 S Street (c. 1920-1924). Socially and historically prominent Washingtonians, both white and black, have long been associated with this area.

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Perhaps the best known group on S Street is Old Castle Row at 1612-1616 (photo 12), erected in 1889-1891 and designed by William Marsh, a follower of H.H. Richardson. Marsh was the primary draftsman for the firm of Hornblower and Marshall during the period when he designed these houses. His clients were Theodore and Frank Noyes, founders of the Evening Star, who lived at 1614 and 1616 S, respectively, and who later hired Marsh, by then with his own firm of Marsh and Peter, to design the 1898 Evening Star Building, an individually designated Historic Landmark. Clarence Rheem made his home in the third of the Old Castle Row group at 1612, and President Wilson and his second wife are remembered as frequent visitors to their friend Rheem's house where the President is reported to have played ragtime music on the piano. This unrestrained Romanesque Revival-style row is noted for its rugged fortification-like stonework and the peculiar form of the group, with the side houses flanking the central one like the twin towers flanking the portcullis gate of a medieval castle.

The grey-painted house across the street at 1615 S Street (photo 13, far right) was the home of Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954) during the latter part of her life. Terrell, a graduate of Oberlin College, was an educator, writer, lecturer, charter member of the NAACP, founder of the National Association of Colored Women and the first black woman appointed to the D.C. Board of Education. Her husband, Robert Terrell, a graduate of Harvard College and Howard University Law School, was appointed judge of the Municipal Courts by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson.

Further up the street at 1623 S (photo 13, left) is another house with Romanesque details designed by John Granville Meyers, who built several outstanding structures in Washington, including the Heurich Mansion, at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., an individually designated Historic Landmark. The stone and brick building, with its broad, arched front window flanked by clustered dwarf columns and filigree-carved impost blocks, reflects the admixture of styles typical of the late Victorian period. An early owner, Dr. James Eli Hayes Taylor, was a black surgeon on the staff of Freedmen's Hospital. Black poet and writer May Miller Sullivan now lives, in an apartment at 1632 S Street.

The 1600 block of Riggs Place, between R and S, is a beautifully preserved enclave much praised for its original stained glass and brick and copper work. It was developed in four distinct but harmonious segments from 1888 to 1890. In the western section toward 17th Street (photo 14), the continuous rhythm of arched windows across the upper stories of five facades suggests a Roman aqueduct. Further to the east (photo 15) the asymetrical fantasy and ornately angular rooflines characteristic of the Queen Anne Style predominates. Most of these houses are the work of Harvey Page, an important local architect known for other buildings in the Historic District, such as the Women's National Democratic Club at 1526 New Hampshire

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Avenue, an individually designated Historic Landmark, and the Meyer mansion at 1600 20th Street.

At 1623-1631 R Street is a symmetrically composed quintet of late nineteenth-century brick houses. Flat, stepped roof lines enlivened by four chimneys apiece alternate with steep pointed gables flanking a bowed central bay. 1608 R Street is marked with a plaque denoting its status as the National Historic Landmark home of Charlotte Forten Grimke, who was a pioneer black female educator, an early supporter of women's rights, a writer, translator, and an active abolitionist. She was married to a fellow crusader for black pride and rights, Francis Grimke, who was pastor for some 60 years of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church and who also lived at 1608 R.

The east side of 17th Street in the Northeast Area of Expansion contains additional examples of good Victorian residential buildings as well as several larger but contributing apartment buildings. At 1733-1739 17th Street (photo 16) is an especially fine 1893 row by S. P. Rodgers, with steep slate roofs and a pleasing alternating rhythm of rounded projecting bays suggesting the turrets of a castle wall. The corner house, which also faces on S Street, is noteworthy for its multiple towers and gables and its deep, shadowy arched porch. 1733 17th Street was the late nineteenth-century home of Senator Money of Mississippi. Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar, a congressman senator and cabinet member lived at 1735 17th Street.

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The buildings described above, including numerous excellent examples of late nineteenth-century domestic and early twentieth-century commercial architecture, reflect the life of the city during two major periods of development that shaped the historic district as a whole. The first is the administration of Governor Alexander Shepherd (in control of the Board of Public Works by 1871, governor 1873-1874), who set in motion public works programs that created newly paved and graded, tree-lined streets in the previously undeveloped neighborhood around Dupont Circle, and encouraged a wave of housing speculation that continued for some 40 years. This development filled the Dupont Circle area with richly crafted late Victorian brick homes, designed for a population of official and professional Washingtonians that grew steadily after the Civil War. The leading local architects whose work characterizes the additions (as it does the 1977 historic district) include Appleton P. Clark Jr., William M. Poindexter, Hornblower and Marshall, Clarke Waggaman, Harvey Page, William Marsh and John Granville Meyers. The leading citizens who lived in the areas or played a part in their development have included Theodore and Frank Noyes, Mary Church Terrell, Francis and Charlotte Forten Grimke, Senator Money of Mississippi, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar, James M. Johnston, and E. Francis Riggs. In addition commercial growth between the beginning of this century and the Depression turned Connecticut Avenue from a primarily residential street into the "Fifth Avenue of Washington," The resulting shops, which served the fashionable neighborhood and the city, are restrained in scale (often reflecting the conversion of townhouses) but elegant and imaginative in style, creating a richly varied linear experience that once provided a setting for Washington's annual Easter Parade. This streetscape, of which the additions form a part, testifies to a time in the city's history when commerce was on the rise under leadership that brought a sense of tradition, craftsmanship and human values to the business environment it generated. Architects George Ray and Mihran Mesrobian contributed to these groups of buildings, as they did to the 1977 historic district and Connecticut Avenue as a whole.

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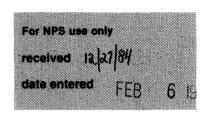
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- National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Dupont Circle Historic District prepared by Anne H. Helwig and Suzanne Ganschinietz, D.C./NCPC Historic Preservation Office, February 21, 1978, resulting in National Register Nomination May 1, 1978
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Key to Sketch Map of Expansion Areas, Dupont Circle Historic District, Washington, D.C.

Note: There are no intrusions or vacant lots.

Numbers 1-16 match numbers of photographs.

\* = special streetscapes (hatched in green on the map)

Addr	ess	Architect (if known)	<u>Date</u>
1.	2104-2118 O St., NW 2110-2118 O St., NW	Appleton P. Clark	c. 1890-1895 1892
2.	2115-2119 N St.		c. 1890
3.	2139 N St., NW		c. 1890
4.	1305-1311 22nd St., NW		c. 1890
5.	1303 New Hampshire Ave.,NW (Fleet Reserve Building)	William M. Poindexter	1885
6.	1833-1837 M St., NW (Gusti's)	Hornblower and Marshall	1887
7.	1827-1831 M St., NW 1825 M St.	Clarke Waggaman	1887 1917
8.	1819-1821 M St., NW	Hornblower and Marshall	1883
9.	1217-1223 Connecticut Ave., NW		c. 1900-1925
	1219 Connecticut Ave., NW (Pasternak Building)	George Ray	1923
10.	1210-1216 18th St., NW 1214 18th St., NW	Mihran Mesrobian	c. 1910-1931 1921

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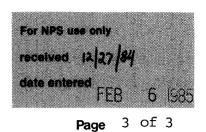
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Address		Architect (if known)	Date	
11.	1216 18th St. and 1218 Connecticut Ave., NW ("Mediterranean Corner")		c. 1910-1920	
12.	1612-1616 S St., NW ("Old Castle Row")	William Marsh	1889-1891	
13.	1615-1623 S St., NW 1623 S St.	John Granville Meyers	1891	
14.*	1628-1632 Riggs Place, NW	Harvey L. Page	1893	
15.*	1609-1613 Riggs Place, NW	Harvey L. Page	1889	
16.	1733-1739 17th St., NW	S.P. Rodger, Rochester	1893	
17.	2103-2107 O St., NW		c. 1890	
18.	2142 O St., NW (Rock Creek Apts.)		c. 1913-1919	
19.	2120-2138 O St., NW		c. 1913-1919	
20.	2100 blocks of Newport Place, NW		c. 1910-1912	
21.	1300 New Hampshire Ave., NW (Colonial Dames)	George Whiting Harry Simpson	1884 1901 (addition on north)	
22.	1205-1207 19th St.	Hornblower and Marshall	1887	
23.	1717 17th St. (Graymore Apts.)	Claughton West	1918	
24.	1608 R St., NW (Grimke House)		c. 1875-1880	
25.	1619 R St., NW (Roydon Apts.)		c. 1913-1919	

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### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

(Shelburne)

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Addr	ess	Architect (if known)	Date
26.	1623-1631 R St., NW (quintet)		c. 1890
27.	1630 R St.		c. 1919-1924
28.	1725 17th St., NW (Rutland Court)		c. 1913-1919
29.	1631 S St.		c. 1919-1924

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