

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1055

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Samuel Hahnemann Monument
other names _____

2. Location

street & number Reservation 64, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Aves. at Scott Circle, NW not for publication
city or town Washington vicinity
state D.C. code DC county n/a code 001 zip 20036

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Joe Wallis Acting F.P.O. 8/28/07
Signature of certifying office/Title Date
National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

DAVID MALONEY, ACTING SHPO 2-27-2007
Signature of certifying office/Title Date
DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 10/11/2007

Samuel Hahnemann Monument
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

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
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total
1	0	

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

Memorials in Washington, D.C.

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassicism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other Bronze, Granite, Mosaic, Brick.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Samuel Hahnemann Monument

Name of Property

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DESCRIPTION

The *Samuel Hahnemann Monument* is the focal point of Reservation 64, located to the east of Scott Circle at the intersection of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Avenues, N.W. The bronze and granite monument reflects Neoclassical stylistic details.

The form of the monument is a raised, elliptical, granite exedra. Four granite steps lead to a brick platform, comprised of gray and blond bricks laid in a diaper pattern and a central area of red bricks set in a herringbone pattern. The ends of the exedra feature a stylized rosette surrounded by leaves rendered naturally. The names of German cities are inscribed above and below the ornament. The cities of Erlangen and Dessau are inscribed on the left and Leipzig and Coethen at the right; Hahnemann lived, studied, lectured, and/or practiced in each of these places. A lion's head projects above the upper inscription. The animal symbolizes strength and leadership. Finally, a large palmette crowns the top of both ends.

The portrait statue of Hahnemann is located within a central niche with a half dome. Its granite pedestal incorporates the inscription *Similia Similibus Curentur* (Like is cured by like). The bronze figure, seated in an Empire style chair, wears a scholarly robe. His legs are crossed and his right hand supports his head with the face revealing intense concentration. Hahnemann's left hand, hanging downward at his side, holds a closed book. Because the forefinger remains between the pages, the pose suggests that Hahnemann has just lowered it in order to reflect.¹

The central niche is framed by Ionic columns that support an architrave, cornice, and parapet—inscribed with the name HAHNEMANN. The spandrels feature symbolism associated with the doctor. The left one includes a snake wrapped around a bowl and a palm branch, symbols of wisdom and peace. The right spandrel features a lamp and an open book, classical symbols of knowledge and instruction, superimposed over a laurel branch.² The keystone of the arch repeats the lion's head represented at the ends of the exedra. The top of the niche features a mosaic of stylized leaves and flowers from the cinchona plant—used in the science of homeopathy for its fever-allaying properties. The mosaic glass tesserae are gold, green, red, salmon, and black. All of the tesserae, apart from the black pieces, incorporate three fused layers: the bottom portion is dark blue glass, then a layer of gold leaf, with the particular colored glass on top. Sections of the mosaic were repaired in 2005, stock glass mosaic was used in the new work and the difference between the original highly reflective pieces (in part because of the layer of gold and partly because of the irregular corners which refract more light) is clear.

¹ The base of statue is signed by Niehaus and dated 1896. The Gorham Company stamped the base with a casting date of 1898.

² The symbolism was discussed in the book published in conjunction with the monument's dedication. See Benjamin F. Bittinger, *Historic Sketch of the Monument Erected in Washington City Under the Auspices of the American Institute of Homoeopathy to the Honor of Samuel Hahnemann and for the Ornamentation of the National Capital*, (New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1900 (?)), pp. 41-42.

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Four bronze bas-reliefs, two per side, separated by attenuated colonettes, decorate the walls behind the seats. The left side features a relief of Hahnemann studying in a garret, while the other depicts him conducting a chemical experiment. The right side depicts Hahnemann lecturing a class, and tending to a sick girl in bed. Axioms embellish the walls. A large German inscription along the left seat reads: *Die Milde Macht Ist Gross* (Mild power is great). The Latin inscription along the right seat reads: *In Omnibus Caritas* (Charity in all things). A smaller Latin inscription next to the left column reads: *Audi Sapere* (Listen, to know). Its counterpart next to the right column reads: *Non Inutilis Vixi* (I have not lived uselessly). The top of the wall is terminated by a frieze of carved palmettes and disks surmounted by bead-and-reel and egg-and-dart moldings and a simple cornice.

The rear wall of the monument is also decorated. It features a central panel surmounted by a tympanum and a parapet. The Roman numerals MCM (1900) are inscribed in the parapet face. The tympanum features two crouched boys, one thinking and the other conducting an experiment. The panel is inscribed with the following:

Christian Friederich
Samuel Hahnemann
Doctor in Medicine
Hofrath³
Leader of the Great
Medical Reformation
Of the Nineteenth
Century
Founder of the
Homoeopathy School

A fountain, fed by a spout from the mouth of a grotesque head, is located below the panel. A concrete cover was installed over the basin at some point between 1983 and 1985. Hahnemann's birth and death dates, along with the associated city, are inscribed at the centers of the curved walls.

³ A Councilor of State.

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 pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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 as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Period of Significance

1900

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Charles Henry Niehaus
Julius F. Harder
Israel (surname)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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 _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
NPS, National Capital Region Headquarters

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SIGNIFICANCE

The *Samuel Hahnemann Monument* is significant because he is the first foreigner not associated with America's independence to be represented in sculptural form in Washington, D.C. The *Hahnemann Monument* also represents an early example of a non-political-military figure in the city; interestingly, he was the second doctor to gain sculptural recognition. Charles Henry Neihaus was the sculptor; the architectural firm was Israel & Harder. The monument arose out of the desire of members of the American Institute of Homeopathy, but it also received funding from individuals across the country; it cost less than \$75,000. The monument was approved by an Act of Congress on January 31, 1900 (31 Stat. 709) with \$4000 appropriated for its foundation. It was dedicated on June 21, 1900. The monument is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art.

The precocious and brilliant Christian Friederich Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) was born in Meissen, Saxony (in modern-day Germany). Hahnemann studied chemistry and medicine at the University of Erlangen and earned a medical degree in 1779. He was also a consummate linguist, the master of German, Latin, Greek, French, Italian, English, Arabic, Syriac, Hebrew, and Chaldaic. As a young man, he was appointed Surgeon-in-Chief of the hospital at Dresden. Thereafter, he was made the Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Goerenthal, where he instituted mild and humane treatment methods. In 1812, he became a part of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Leipzig and ten years later was appointed Hofrath, or Councilor of State. During this time, Hahnemann became disillusioned by the medical orthodoxy that relied on over drugging and bleeding.

Responding to the zeitgeist of the Enlightenment, Hahnemann pursued the "natural laws" of medicine. Accordingly, he attempted to legitimize the medical profession and free it from its barbaric practices. He was opposed to allopathy, medical treatment using the "law of opposites" e.g. anti-biotics, anti-depressants, and developed the "law of similars" (*Similia similibus curentur*—Like is cured by like). He developed this law based on experimentation. The fact that he often conducted his experiments on himself and typically mixed his own medicines became the reasons for his peripatetic lifestyle; Hahnemann was regularly chased out of towns, especially by pharmacists. Hahnemann repeatedly published his findings. His books included *The Organon of the Healing Art* (1810) (this ultimately had six editions), *Materia Medica Pura*, 6 volumes, (1811-1821), and *The Chronic Diseases, Their Peculiar Nature and Their Homoeopathic Cure*, 2 volumes, (1828). Because of his exceptional skills in chemistry and his driven character, Hahnemann is generally recognized as the greatest influence on the practice of homeopathy. Although homeopathy has been controversial from its beginnings, it revolutionized medicine during the nineteenth century. For example, most of the barbary in medical orthodoxy was purged by the 1870s and some homeopathic practices became commonplace by the 1890s.

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The National Sculpture Society advised the American Institute of Homeopathy on the design of the *Hahnemann Monument*. The society formed a committee, comprised of sculptors Daniel Chester French, George E. Bissell, and Olin Warner, as well as architects Thomas Hastings and Russell Sturgis, to judge the competition. Twenty-five models were submitted. After they were reviewed, the models were exhibited at the American Academy of Fine Arts in New York City. This was the first public exhibition of competition models in the country. The winning model called for Indiana limestone. Thereafter, the American Institute of Homeopathy determined that it wanted the monument to have greater durability and thus voted to raise more funds to enable the use of granite.

Sculptor Charles Henry Niehaus (1855-1935) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to German immigrants. He worked as a stonecutter and then attended the Royal Academy in Munich (1877-1880). Upon his return home in 1881, the state commissioned him to create a statue of one of its sons, the recently assassinated President James Garfield. Niehaus moved to New York City in 1887. His work included the pediments for the Appellate Court at Madison Square in New York City and for the Kentucky State Capitol. He also designed the doors for Trinity Church in New York City. Niehaus's career, however, focused on portraiture. Consequently, he was retained eight times for portraits for National Statuary Hall and twice for portraits for the Main Reading Room in the Library of Congress. For outdoor Washington, Niehaus also created the *John Paul Jones Monument* (1912). Although the *Hahnemann Monument* was completed in 1900, Niehaus produced his bronze portrait of the doctor in 1896 and the four bas-reliefs in 1896 and 1897. The architectural firm of Israel and Harder designed the structure of the monument.

The book that was produced as a gift for the contributors of the Hahnemann Monument discusses the legislative difficulties that had to be surmounted by the American Homeopathy Institute. It noted that the monument committee had to "...perform enormous labor...to correct wrong impressions" by Congress.⁴ Although a statue of Lafayette had been erected in Lafayette Square in 1891, this was the first monument to a foreigner not associated with the America's independence. Congressional xenophobia and anti-German attitudes had to be overcome by the institute in order to erect the monument. (Hahnemann, moreover, had never even visited the New World.) The parochial nature of Congress and its general reservation about funding projects for Washington undoubtedly was at the bottom of the legislative wrangling.

⁴ Bittinger, 26.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bittinger, Benjamin F. *Historic Sketch of the Monument Erected in Washington City Under the Auspices of the American Institute of Homoeopathy to the Honor of Samuel Hahnemann and for the Ornamentation of the National Capital*. New York: The Knickerbocker Press, (1900?).

Goode, James. *The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.* Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974.

www.homeoint.org/morrell/british/index.htm

Samuel Hahnemann Monument
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 2 3 4 5 8 Easting	4 3 0 8 4 4 9 Northing	3															
2																			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eve L. Barsoum, Historian
organization National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers date April 2003
street & number 444 North Capitol Street, N.W. telephone 202.354.1822
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name U.S. Government, administered by the NPS, NCR, National Mall & Memorial Parks
street & number 900 Ohio Drive, S.W. telephone 202.485.9686
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20242

Paperwork Reduction 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. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The *Samuel Hahnemann Monument* is located in Reservation 64, at the intersection of Sixteenth Street with Massachusetts and Rhode Island Avenues, on the eastern side of Scott Circle. The boundary of the object includes the land occupied by the granite memorial.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of *Samuel Hahnemann Monument* has been historically associated with the object.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hahnemann, Samuel, Monument

MULTIPLE NAME: Memorials in Washington, D.C.

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 8/31/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/17/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/02/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/14/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07001055

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10/11/2007 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept c
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 10/11/2007

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



SAMUEL HAHNEMANN MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON, DC

EVE BARSOUM

FEB 2004

NCR

FACING EAST

1 OF 2

FEH 18 ST 3605
377 28** N N N F 29 2 (B24)



SAMUEL HAHNEMANN MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON, DC

EVE PARSONS

FEB 2004

NCR

FACING WEST

2 of 2

PEHN 18 STK 2888
376 20**NHN-7 64 2024)

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500992