Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hiram W. Johnson House

AND/OR COMMON
Hiram W. Johnson House; Parkington

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
122 Maryland Avenue, NE. __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Washington __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
D.C.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
District of Columbia	11	D.C.	001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER: Offices for private, non-profit orgs.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Stewart Mott

STREET & NUMBER
122 Maryland Avenue, NE.

CITY, TOWN
Washington __ VICINITY OF

STATE
D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
515 D Street, NW.

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
National Capitol Planning Commission

DATE
(unknown) __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
National Capitol Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hiram W. Johnson lived in this 2½-story, mansard-roofed, white-painted, stuccoed, brick house from 1929 until his death in 194X? According to the staff of the California State Historic Officer, there are no remaining Johnson residences in California. Besides this structure, the only other known extant Johnson dwelling is Riversdale (Calvert Mansion) in Riverdale, Md., where he lived for several years before moving here.

The builder, architect, and construction date of the Johnson House are unknown, but it is believed to predate the War of 1812. During the early and middle 1800's, when John Clement Fitzpatrick owned the residence, it was known popularly as Parkington. From 1899 to about 1920, Appellete Court Justice Rufus Lathrop Baker Clark owned the structure, and thereafter the Dunkard sect occupied it for a few years before Johnson bought it. He and Mrs. Johnson attempted to restore the house to its original elegance. Among other changes, they added the divided steps at the front entrance.

Following Hiram's death, Mrs. Johnson returned to California, and the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel bought the house. The commission installed a chaplaincy library on the third floor, a chapel--since removed--in the butler's pantry on the first floor, and a second-floor room above the chapel. The present owner of the building bought it from the commission in 1974. He uses part of the space for his Washington office and rents the rest to Fund for Peace and its member organizations--Center for National Security Studies, Center for Defense Information, Institute for International Policy, and In the Public Interest.

Resting on an end lot across Maryland Avenue from the U.S. Supreme Court building, the south-facing Johnson House consists of an almost square central block and, at the rear, an irregular-shaped wing that, due to the position of the abutting residence to the west, apparently narrows toward the north end. To the east, a brick wall, varying in height 5 to 8 feet according to the terrain, extends from the southeast front corner to the northwest rear corner of the dwelling and encloses a landscaped garden with fountain.

Except for door and window decorations, exterior ornamentation on the Johnson House is sparse. A stuccoed string course, probably brick, separates the first and second stories on the south and east facades of the main block, and a white-painted, bracketed, box cornice with plain wood frieze graces the eaves of the mansard roof. Two paneled and corbeled, white-painted, brick interior end chimneys pierce the

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1929-47 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hiram W. Johnson, according to historian George E. Mowry, was the "first prominent progressive leader to demand the founding of a new party in 1912."[1] The resultant Progressive Party with Theodore Roosevelt as its standard bearer and Johnson in the second spot polled 4,119,538 votes for 27 percent of the popular vote--becoming the first third-party since the Civil War to outpoll one of the major parties.

Two years earlier, while running for Governor of California, Johnson had led progressives in that State to an overwhelming victory over the Southern Pacific Railroad political machine that had dominated the State for years. One of the major interpretations of the progressive movement is that it originated in the States, and Johnson's California is a frequently cited example. During Johnson's tenure in the Governor's chair, California adopted more progressive legislation than any other State with the possible exception of Robert M. LaFollette's Wisconsin, and Johnson became a well-known national figure. His successful legislative package included such measures as the initiative, referendum, and recall; a strong direct primary law; woman suffrage; nonpartisan elections on the city and county levels; a child labor law; a workmen's compensation law; and a greatly strengthened railroad commission.

From 1917 to 1945 Johnson served in the U.S. Senate, where he held the unique distinction of being the only Senator to oppose American membership in both the League of Nations and United Nations. During the fight to defeat the League of Nations, he was considered the "noise" of the irreconcilables, and his nationwide speaking campaign against it was, according to diplomatic historian Thomas A. Bailey "markedly successful."[2] In the 1920's and 1930's, as scholar Richard W. Leopold points out, Johnson "delighted in exposing what he called the secret machinations of the State Department to forge alliances

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1 George E. Mowry, The California Progressives (Chicago, 1963), 180.

2 Thomas A. Bailey, Woodrow Wilson and the Great Betrayal (Chicago, 1963), 128.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, Thomas A., Woodrow Wilson and the Great Betrayal (Chicago:. Quadrangle Books, 1963).

Delmatier, Royce D., Clarence F. McIntosh, and Earl G. Waters (eds.), The Rumble of California Politics, 1848-1970 (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1970).

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	322,610	4,306,440
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the boundary of the legal lot known as 122 Maryland Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE George R. Adams, Managing Editor; and Ralph Christian, Assistant Editor

ORGANIZATION: American Association for State and Local History

DATE: March 1976

STREET & NUMBER: 1400 Eighth Avenue South

TELEPHONE: (615) 242-5583

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee 37203

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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lower mansard slope on the east facade, and between them is a segmentally arched hood dormer with a tripartite window of vertical, four-light sections. A similar dormer graces the front and rear lower mansard slopes, where each is flanked by a pair of similar dormers containing double casement windows.

The dormer windows excepted, most windows in the Johnson House are double-hung sash. On the first story of the symmetrically rendered, five-bay-wide front facade are four four-over-four sash windows, each with a white-painted stone lugsill and ornamented lintel. Five smaller, two-over-two sash windows light the second-story front; these have stone lugsills and flat, stone arches with keystones. All front windows may have been shuttered at one time, but now the lower one-third of each is graced by a white-painted, decorative iron grill. The east facade has two two-over-two sash windows on the second story and only a door opening on the first floor, while the rear facade has two nine-over-nine sash windows on the first and on the second floors. None of the east- and north-facade windows have grills.

Main entrance to the residence is a single, white-painted, paneled, wood door set in a wooden architrave in the center of the first-story's front facade. Above the door is a rectangular, leaded-glass transom and a segmental pediment, or hood, on consoles. The door is accessible from a stoop that shelters a basement-level entrance and is served by two sets of iron-railed side steps that join a Y-shaped walkway reaching to the street sidewalk. On the first-story, east facade, another major entrance provides passage between the house and the walled garden. This opening consists of a glass-paneled, double door set in a stone frame with flat arch and keystone, above which is a plain segmental pediment. Four radiating stone steps descend from the doorway to a small stone-tiled patio. Rear entrance is through a single doorway in the flat-roofed rear wing.

Inside the main block, the Johnson House, which follows a central hall plan, has undergone relatively few alterations, but there is no original furniture, and the rooms are being used for office and work space. Except in the library, walls throughout are white-painted plaster, and most floors--which, where exposed, appear to be original--are carpeted with modern coverings. The front door opens into a

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small foyer, from which a sidelighted, glass- and wood-paneled door leads into the first-floor hallway. It displays original wainscotting and baseboards and features a two-flight, open, balustraded stair that rises along the right and rear walls. Right of the hall, a pedimented, double, wood door opens into the library. There two white marble mantles decorate the east wall, which like the others in the room is partially papered. Left of the corridor, two similarly rendered single doors open into two drawing rooms, now offices. Each features a marble mantle. In the first floor of the rear wing are three offices.

Underneath the main stairway, an enclosed stair descends to the basement, where another central hallway divides the space into an office and an informal eating room on the right and an office and a furnace room on the left. A workroom, closet, foyer, small office, and two restrooms fill the rear wing's basement area. On the main block's second and third floors, reached by a continuation of the main stair, the central hall is closed off on the south end to create space for an office and small modern kitchen respectively. On both floors there are on each side of the corridor two offices, which probably were bedrooms formerly. Despite the house's current use, it continues to convey the atmosphere of a domestic dwelling.

abroad."[3] As a leading proponent of neutrality legislation, he authored the 1934 Johnson Act which made it illegal for American citizens to loan money to any nation which had defaulted on repayment of its war debts to the United States. Because many believed that American bankers had helped push the Nation into war in 1917, the Johnson Act, says historian Basil Rauch, was "widely supported as an isolationist measure which would reduce the motive for the United States entering a future war."[4]

In the area of domestic policy Johnson was usually aligned with the Republican insurgents who opposed many of the policies of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. An unsuccessful candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1920 and 1924, Johnson in 1932 bolted the party, supported Franklin D. Roosevelt, and approved much of the early New Deal legislation. In the late 1930's, however, Johnson grew disturbed about Roosevelt's foreign policies and attempt to "pack" the U.S. Supreme Court and became an adamant foe of the New Deal.

Johnson lived in this 2½-story, mansard-roofed, white-painted, stuccoed, brick house from 1929 until his death in 1947. Little-altered, it is the only known Johnson residence other than Riversdale in Maryland. There are no extant Johnson dwellings in his native California.

Biography

Hiram Warren Johnson was born September 2, 1866, in Sacramento, Calif., to Grover L. and Annie Johnson. After graduating from the Sacramento public schools in 1882, Hiram entered the University of California at Berkeley but dropped out during his junior year to get married. He began to read law under his father and in 1888 won admission to the bar. For the next few years, he practiced law in partnership with his father and brother.

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3 Richard W. Leopold, The Growth of American Foreign Policy: A History (New York, 1962), 412.

4 Basil Rauch, The History of the New Deal (New York, 1963), 150.

Johnson's father was an important figure in California Republican politics, and Hiram soon became politically involved himself. In 1892 he asked for and received the Populist Party nomination for sheriff of Sacramento County, but he withdrew from the race when he failed to receive the Republican nomination for that position. In 1894 Hiram and his brother managed their father's successful congressional campaign, but 2 years later they refused to support his bid for re-election because of his connections with the Southern Pacific Railroad. As a result, Hiram and his father were political enemies the rest of their lives.

In 1902 Johnson moved to San Francisco where he quickly became one of that city's leading attorneys and advocates of reform. He first attracted public attention when he replaced Francis J. Heney, who had been shot in the courtroom, as prosecutor in the San Francisco graft trials. Although political boss Abraham Reuf was eventually sent to prison as a result of Johnson's work, he was unable to obtain the conviction of businessmen like Patrick Calhoun of the Southern Pacific Railroad who had been implicated as well.

In 1910 Johnson won election as Governor on a platform whose principal plank was to halt the influence of the Southern Pacific Railroad upon California politics. During his tenure in the statehouse from 1910 to 1917, California adopted more progressive legislation than any other State with the possible exception of Robert M. LaFollette's Wisconsin. Johnson became a nationally known progressive leader. His legislative program included such measures as the initiative, referendum, and recall; a strong direct primary law; woman suffrage; nonpartisan elections on the city and county levels; a child labor law; a workmen's compensation law; and a greatly strengthened railroad commission. At the same time, Johnson built a personal machine, which, according to historian George E. Mowry, was "as tight a political organization as ever existed in California."[5]

In helping significantly to advance progressive principles on the national level, Johnson in 1911 helped found the National Progressive Republican League, and in 1912 he was one of the principal supporters of Theodore Roosevelt's attempt to win the 1912 Republican Presidential nomination. As leader of Roosevelt's forces on the credentials committee

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5 Mowry, California Progressives, 119.

at that year's convention, Johnson became indignant at the Taft-dominated proceedings and, according to George E. Mowry, the Californian was the "first prominent progressive leader to demand the founding of a new party in 1912."[6] When the resultant Progressive Party was created, Johnson became its Vice Presidential candidate, and during the campaign he delivered 500 speeches in 22 States. In the Presidential election, Roosevelt and Johnson polled 4,119,538 votes for 27 percent of the popular vote--becoming the first third-party ticket since the Civil War to outpoll one of the major parties.

Unlike many Progressives, Johnson tried to make the new party viable. In 1914 he won reelection as Governor on the Progressive ticket, decisively defeating the Democratic and Republican candidates. By 1916, however, it became clear to Johnson that the party was doomed, and he returned to the Republican fold, seeking the nomination for U.S. Senator. That summer while the primary contests were underway, Republican Presidential nominee Charles Evans Hughes visited California and at the insistence of Johnson's enemies ignored him. Johnson eventually won the primary and went on to defeat his Democratic opponent easily in the fall, while Hughes narrowly lost the State and the election to Woodrow Wilson. This led to charges by Johnson's enemies that he had knifed Hughes, but according to historians Royce D. Delmatier, Clarence F. McIntosh, and Earl G. Waters, this accusation was false because there was "no evidence that he was less active for Hughes than he had been for cohorts in previous election."[7]

Johnson entered the Senate at the same time that the United States entered the war in Europe. Although he supported most war measures, he grew increasingly critical of Wilson, and during the fight for the League of Nations in 1919-20 was one of the leading irreconcilables. "One of the greatest stump speakers of his time," Johnson, according to historian Ralph Stone, "did most of the 'trailing' of the President" when Wilson went to the country to appeal for the League.[8]

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6 Ibid., 180.

7 Royce D. Delmatier, Clarence F. McIntosh, and Earl G. Waters (eds.), The Rumble of California Politics, 1848-1970 (New York, 1970), 189.

8 Ralph Stone, The Irreconcilables: The Fight Against the League of Nations (New York, 1970), 132, 185.

In 1920 Johnson was one of the leading contenders for the Republican Presidential nomination, but he failed to get it largely because of the opposition of conservatives who had not forgiven his 1912 apostasy and who still believed he was responsible for Hughes' defeat in 1916. Harding offered Johnson the Vice Presidential nomination but he refused. In 1924 he challenged President Collidge in several primaries but withdrew from contention after winning only in South Dakota. During these years, Johnson was usually aligned with the Republican insurgents who opposed many of the policies of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover.

Johnson bolted the Republican Party again in 1932 to support the candidacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and for the next few years the Californian supported most New Deal measures. By the late 1930's, however, Johnson, disturbed about Roosevelt's foreign policies and his attempt to 'pack' the U.S. Supreme Court, became an adamant foe of the New Deal. One of the leading advocates of neutrality legislation, Johnson in 1934 authored what became known as the Johnson Act. It made it illegal for American citizens to loan money to any nation that had defaulted on repayment of its war debts to the United States. Even World War II failed to change Johnson's opposition to American membership in an international peace organization, and from his deathbed in 1945, he was one of three Senators opposed to U.S. membership in the United Nations. On August 6, 1945, the same day the United States dropped the first atomic bomb--on Hiroshima, Japan--Johnson died in the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Md., at age 78.

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Fund for Peace, "122 Maryland Avenue, NE., Washington, D.C., 20002," mimeographed (Washington: Fund for Peace, n.d.).

Jonas, Manfred, Isolationism in America, 1935-1941 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1966).

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Memorial Services Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, Together with Remarks Presented in Eulogy of Hiram Warren Johnson Late a Senator from California (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1948).

Mowry, George E., The California Progressives (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1963).

Rauch, Basil, The History of the New Deal (New York: Capricorn Books, 1963).

Stone, Ralph, The Irreconcilables: The Fight Against the League of Nations (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1970).