



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

other names/site number Headquarters Building of National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century

### 2. Location

street & number 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  not for publication

city or town Washington  vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county District of Columbia code 001 zip code 20036

### 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

DAVID MALONEY  
Signature of certifying official

1 JULY 2013  
Date

DC STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER  
Title

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
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

### 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):    

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

8.27.13  
Date of Action

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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	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1 (In Dupont Circle Historic District)

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling (residence)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/  
Queen Anne  
LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK  
walls: BRICK  
roof: ASPHALT AND SLATE  
other: BROWNSTONE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Brigadier General George P. Scriven House is located at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C. The single-family dwelling is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and N Street. The building occupies historic Lot #56, Square 97 in the DuPont Circle neighborhood. The original permit to build, which was issued on May 15, 1884, noted George B. Whiting as architect and builder. The permit was for a three-story pressed brick building, with a flat roof embellished with a slate mansard and brick cornice. The plan of the house was to include a bow window, one bay window and a tower projection. The house as it appears today includes each of these specifications, as well as an addition at the north elevation, made under the design of architect Henry Simpson and the supervision of builder Charles A. Langley in 1901. While visually distinct, the design of the two-story addition complements the main building, featuring pressed brick, a flat roof, and matching double-hung windows and brownstone sills. The division between the main building and the addition is more prominent at the interior, where elaborate Colonial Revival decorative details such as Doric style pilasters and dentil molding sets the addition apart.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### **Site Description**

The Headquarters Building of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century is located at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C., at the northwest corner of New Hampshire Avenue and N Street. The building occupies historic Lot #56, Square 97 in the DuPont Circle neighborhood. Historically, its address has alternately been listed as 2009 N Street. The property contains approximately 3,137 square feet of land, with a frontage of 61 feet on the west side of New Hampshire Avenue and 22 feet on the north side of N Street. The property has an irregular depth of 70 feet, which accesses a small 16-foot rear alley. Foundation plantings, mature shrubbery and several small trees enhance the building's façade. A short iron-work fence separates the property from the public concrete and brick sidewalks. A connecting iron gate provides entry to the property at New Hampshire Avenue.

#### **Brigadier General George P. Scriven House**

##### *Exterior*

This three-story townhouse is composed of a main building, constructed in 1884, and a 1901 addition set to the northeast (north for the purposes of this description). The building features several prominent projections at its east and south elevations, including a bay projection at New Hampshire Avenue, a tower projection at the southeast corner, and a bow window at its N Street elevation. The pressed, stretcher brick main building is set beneath a smooth surface asphalt flat roof with a false mansard of square and fishscale patterned slate tiles. The roof is finished with a slightly projecting wood cornice surmounting a projecting band of brick. At the main building, an interior side brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises to the east side of the north elevation. A second interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises at the intersection of the tower and bow projections. Dormers project from the face of the false mansard roof at each section of the main building. Visual interest is

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created at the façade through a series of brick string and band courses. A grouped series of three stringcourses embellishes the small space between the cornice and the second floor windows. A brick stringcourse defines the sill level of the second-story windows, and another defines the division between the first and second stories at the top of the first-story windows. A prominent band course created from six courses of projecting bricks wraps around the façade directly above the foundation level.

The primary entry to the house is located in the southernmost bay of the façade (east elevation) of the main building at New Hampshire Avenue. It is approached from the public sidewalk by a set of two concrete steps with an iron railing, leading to a steeper set of brick steps with a matching railing. The entry is marked by a single-leaf paneled wood door, set within a prominent, Federal-style surround. The door is flanked by paneled and four-light sidelights and surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight with spider-web tracery. The entry is elaborated with Doric pilasters and an open-bed pediment. The door and sidelights are protected by decorative iron-work grilles, as are all openings at the basement and first stories of the main building and addition. A window is centered above the entry at the second story, and a horizontal stone panel embossed with star-in-roundel molding separates the openings. The window opening holds a 1/1 double-hung wood sash set in a square-edged wood surround, with a narrow brownstone sill and broad, flush brownstone lintel. This window is typical for the main building but is visually prominent due to the flanking "pilasters" formed by the slightly projecting courses of brick to each side. Centered above is a gabled wall dormer projecting from the false mansard roof. Slate shingles cover its roof and cheeks. The dormer face is marked by a short 1/1 double-hung wood sash window, set in a highly molded surround featuring brackets and small fluted pilasters. The upper gable end is marked by a louvered vent.

Set immediately to the north of the entry is a full-height, three-sided projecting bay, capped by a dormer projecting from its flat roof. Each side of the bay is fenestrated with typical 1/1 windows at the first and second stories. A square, sunken brick panel separates the first- and second-story windows. The foundation level of the bay is marked at the center by a single-light fixed wood window, and at the sides with paired, single-light wood casement windows. Each opening has a brownstone sill and is surmounted by a soldier brick segmental arch. The dormer is similar to that above the front entry, except it has a deeper depth with cheek walls that are marked by short 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows.

A full-height, round tower marks the southeast corner of the building. Each story of the tower is fenestrated with two windows. The first- and second-story openings have 1/1 windows. Set on a brownstone sill, they are surmounted by splayed soldier brick jack arches. The foundation level is marked by two, single-light wood casement windows, crowned by segmental soldier brick arches. The tower is capped by a rounded, false mansard roof with two wall dormers. The dormers are similar to the one in the entry bay, except they are set in a simpler surround with flanking brackets, but without pilasters.

The south elevation at N Street is marked by a secondary entry set within a square projection at the first story. The entry is approached by a straight-run set of brick steps from the sidewalk that connect to a small landing, then a set of metal steps that run to the west. The raised entry stoop is supported by a stretcher brick foundation pierced by half-round arches that spring from the ground and are formed by two courses of rowlock bricks. The centered entry is marked by fifteen-light glass double doors in a wood surround, each surmounted by a three-light transom. The entry is flanked by pilasters formed of slightly projecting bricks with cut-brick Doric capitals. The corners of the square projection are defined by identical pilasters. The projection is further accented by a prominent, broad brownstone cornice that also serves as a lintel for the entry.

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The building's two-story, three-bay addition abuts the north elevation of the main building at New Hampshire Avenue. Although visually distinct in its own right, the design of the addition complements the architecture of the main building. The pressed-brick addition sits beneath a flat roof of smooth asphalt that is embellished with a corbelled brick cornice at the façade. The first story is fenestrated with three closely spaced windows; the outer bays are marked by narrow 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows and the center bay has a broader 1/1 window. Each window is set in a square-edged wood surround with prominent brownstone sills and lintels that match those of the main building. The second story is marked by a small stone balcony supported by large stone brackets and is enclosed with a decorative ironwork rail. The balcony is accessed by a set of doors, one in each bay, centered directly above the first-story windows. The central opening is a double door; the flanking doors are single leaf. Each door has three lights set in a wood surround with a single-light stained glass transom surmounted by a gauged brick jack arch. The foundation level of the addition is fenestrated with a recessed central entry holding a single-leaf paneled wood door crowned by a paneled wood cornice. It is flanked by 1/1 windows with flush stone lintels.

The rear elevations of the main building and of the addition are not visible from the public right-of-way. The rear of the building is accessed from the interior of the addition, from a hallway at the west end. A rear alley behind the addition is accessed through a door towards the north side of the hall, and a small courtyard between the main building and the addition is accessed through another door at the far south end of the hall. The rear northwest corner of the main building is canted as the irregular shape of the lot required. Similarly, the rear southwest corner of the addition is canted, with windows at each side. A small, three-sided tower projection rises at the northwest corner of the addition. The rear elevations of both sections lack the embellishments of the façade and N Street elevation. The main building is fenestrated with 4/4 double-hung wood sash windows with stone sills and brick segmental arches. The addition is fenestrated at each level with 1/1 windows with narrow stone sills and segmental rowlock brick arches. The windows are distinct due to leaded glass in the bottom sash.

### *Interior*

The interior of the Headquarters Building is used as office, museum and reception space by the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century. The basement level is devoted to office and research space for the Society. The first floor contains a kitchen and reception rooms for visitors. The second floor contains bedrooms and museum space, as well as a large ballroom within the addition. The third floor, which only rises at the main building, contains bedrooms, one of which currently is used as museum space. The Headquarters Building features materials consistent throughout the first, second and third floors. Except where noted, the floors are narrow width wood plank and the walls and ceilings are plastered. The rooms variously feature simply molded baseboards, chair rails and ceiling cornices. The main building and the addition feature distinct decorative details. In the main building, each door and window opening is set in a wood surround with narrow reed molding, bulls-eye corner blocks and plain plinth blocks. The addition features paneling on the walls. The stylized entry surrounds have dentil molding and fluted Doric pilasters. The basement levels of both the main building and the addition have been renovated with modern materials to serve its current use.

The main entry at New Hampshire Avenue provides access to the first floor of the main building. This floor contains a small reception room in the tower projection, and a larger sitting room in the projecting bay. The square projection to the southwest contains a small entry hall and foyer, a bathroom, and access to the main stairs in the northwest corner of the space. Entry to each of these spaces is provided off the main entry hallway. Accessed through a double-width open entryway, the sitting room is finished with typical materials and decorative details. Beaded-board wainscoting finishes the walls, which are embellished with a molded chair rail

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and baseboard. A built-in shelf on the west wall has paneled wood doors, with a paneled blind transom with molding and bulls-eye corner blocks. The music room is located across the hallway to the north through a matching double-width open entry. The room does not have a chair rail, but is finished with a baseboard and cornice similar to those found throughout the building. The oriel projection at the east wall features ornate molding with bulls-eye corner blocks. A fireplace is centered within the north wall. Its mantel features flanking Doric pilasters surmounted with an entablature embellished with an urn detail at the center and ellipse details at the sides. An open doorway set to either side provides access to the drawing room to the north, within the building's addition; these entry openings may have been window openings originally. Secondary entry to the house is provided at the southwest corner of the main building. A small entryway provides access to an interior set of double doors, each paneled wood with nineteen lights. These doors access a small foyer that provides access to a bathroom and the main stairway to the second floor. The foyer is finished with typical materials. A paneled wood door on the west wall provides entry to the half bathroom. The bathroom has been refinished with tiled floors, wallpapered walls and modern fixtures.

The main first-floor hallway also accesses a smaller stair hall to the west that runs south to north. It provides access to the basement stairs, located centrally in the main building to the west of the hall, as well as a large kitchen to the west of the stairs in the northwest corner of the main building. The stair hall provides entry to the kitchen through a wood double door, and also accesses the addition through paneled wood doors set in a molded surround. The kitchen is finished with linoleum floorings, plaster walls and an acoustic tile drop ceiling. Cabinets line the walls of the room. Two original windows are set in the north wall, both holding 4/4 double-hung wood sash in a molded surround. A small pantry on the west wall is accessed through a paneled wood door with two lights and a single-light transom. The pantry has an exposed brick wall, a paneled wood ceiling and a closed-over double-hung exterior window.

The first floor within the addition contains a drawing room to the east and a dining room to the west. Entry to the drawing room is provided through the doors to either side of the fireplace within the music room, and through a doorway from the stair hall. This large room features stylized materials and decorative details consistent with those found throughout the addition. A fireplace is located at the north wall. It is embellished with a highly decorative surround featuring a mantel with modillions, egg-and-dart molding, and garland molding across the entablature. The mantel is set within a projecting fireplace wall with fluted Doric pilasters and a molded entablature with a dentiled cornice. A simpler fireplace is located on the north wall of the dining room. The mantel features paneling and triglyph detailing at the sides. The walls are embellished with a high chair rail and a simple baseboard, but there is no cornice molding. A paneled wood door to a narrow, winding set of wood stairs is located at the northwest wall. These stairs travel from the basement to the roof of the house. Another paneled wood door leads back to the stair hall.

The main stairway between the first and second floors is wood, with two quarter-landings and turned wood balusters. The stairs access a main hallway running north to south and a smaller hall running west. The main hallway provides access to a museum room in the southwest corner, a sitting room in the southeast corner tower, and a bedroom in the projecting bay to the sitting room's north; all three of these spaces historically were bedrooms. The museum room has been carpeted, and features a molded baseboard and cornice. A fireplace located in the center of the east wall has a simple paneled wood mantel. Built-in cabinets line its walls. The sitting room is finished with a molded baseboard, surrounds, and cornice. The fireplace located in the west wall is embellished with a simple paneled mantel with fluted Doric pilasters. The adjacent bedroom, similarly finished, has built-in wood closets surmounted by smaller cabinets that run the full width of the north wall. A second, smaller sitting room is located in the northwest corner of the main building, accessed off the west

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hallway. The room is octagonal in shape, finished with molded baseboard and surrounds, but lacks a cornice molding. A full bathroom is located adjacent to the sitting room to the south. It has been fitted with a tub, shower and double-sink and is finished with modern materials; the decorative tiles appear to date from the mid-twentieth century.

Access to the addition is provided from the main hall up a short set of carpeted steps to a small landing and through a set of paneled wood double doors. A large ballroom runs the full width and depth of the addition. The walls are finished with wood paneling beneath a high chair rail. The door and window openings are set in molded surrounds with fluted pilasters and molded entablature. A paneled wood door set in the northwest corner of the ballroom provides entry to the enclosed winding stairs.

A small, straight-run stair reaches the third floor, accessed from the same landing that approaches the addition. The stairs open to a carpeted hallway that curves around to the east and west, providing access to several bedrooms, closets and a bathroom. A skylight is centered above the stairs; it is a six-light fixed wood window set in a wood surround. A bedroom now used as an "embroidery room" by the Society is located in the octagonal space in the northwest corner of the building. It features few details, including molded baseboard and surrounds. Built-in wood cabinets with glass display cases above line the walls of the room. A small full bathroom is located adjacent to the south. It is finished with modern materials and fixtures. A bedroom is located in the projection at the southeast corner. It has molded baseboard and surrounds, but no ceiling cornice. A fireplace set in a paneled wood mantel is located at the east wall. The north wall features a small alcove that is flanked by a closet to each side. Another bedroom is located in the bay window projection at the southeast corner. It features typical materials, but its floor has been carpeted. A paneled fireplace is located at the west wall. Another bedroom is set in the northeast corner bay projection. The room lacks a baseboard and cornice. A fireplace with a paneled mantel is centered at the north wall. The ceiling slopes down at the east wall where a dormer is located. A large closet with built-in drawers is located east of the stairs to the north side of the addition.

The basements of both the main building and the addition have been renovated to accommodate their uses as office space. The spaces have been refinished with modern materials, and little historic material remains visible. From the exterior, the basement level is accessed through the below-grade entry located in the addition. This entry opens into the main office, set in the northeast corner of the addition. The library, set to its west, is accessed through a paneled wood door. The microfiche room, enclosed by a modern flush wood door, is a small space located in the northwest corner of the addition. This space also acts as a hall with an exit door to the rear of the building, and entry to the winding stair leading to the roof. The office is finished with vinyl flooring, beaded board walls, and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. The library is finished with identical materials. Two windows are set in the west side of the library's south wall. Originally exterior windows of the main building, they are now enclosed between the two portions of the building.

A doorway in the southwest corner of the main office accesses a small hallway in the main building. The hallway provides access to a small closet to the west and a mail and supply room in the northwest corner of the main building with a bathroom to its south. The mail and supply room is finished with modern materials, including a drop ceiling that partially covers the two original exterior windows now set within the interior north wall. Cabinets have been constructed around the west and north walls of the room. A small half bathroom is accessed through a doorway at the east side of the south wall. The paneled wood door is original to the house, set within bulls-eye corner block surrounds like those seen on the upper floors. A vault room is located across the hall to the east. It is accessed through a hollow-core wood door, down a single step. The space is finished with a poured concrete floor, concrete ceiling and concrete block walls. As the hallway moves south, it opens up

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to the east and west, providing access to a furnace room located east of the vault room within the bay window space, a genealogist's office in the southeast corner within the tower space, a records room to its west within the square projection space, and a second bathroom located between the records room and the mail and supply room's bathroom. A carpeted stairway to the first floor is located in the center of the main building. The floor of the furnace room has been refinished with concrete, but the original brick walls remain visible, and two original windows remain extant in the east wall. The genealogist's office is accessed through a flush wood door with a single glass light. It is finished with a carpeted floor and wide, beaded-board walls. The two windows illuminating the space are original to the building. Set to the west, the records room has a carpeted floor, paneled wood veneer walls, and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. Across the hall to the north, a second half bathroom is finished with a vinyl floor and walls and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling.

### *Summary of Building Renovations*

The building's change in use in the second quarter of the twentieth century from a single-family residence to a meeting and club house for various institutions necessitated several alterations to the interior, and minor renovations and repairs have continued into the present as necessary. Following purchase of the property in June 1928 from Brigadier General Scriven, the Club of Colonial Dames for District of Columbia applied for a permit in July to erect a set of stone steps and to make minor repairs, at an estimated cost of \$1,000.<sup>1</sup> Following their purchase of the building in 1957, the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century undertook renovation of the property, including replacing woodwork where necessary and restoring the hardwood floors and elements of the exterior, for a total cost of \$8,000."<sup>2</sup> In the Society's first decade of ownership, an endowment fund for the maintenance of the building was established. Repairs included the installation of a new fire escape and fire door in 1966. At the 1968 Annual Conference, members voted to redecorate and renovate the Headquarters building and the exterior was repainted and repairs made where necessary.

More significant alterations were made in the 1970s at the basement level, allowing all support and research functions to be centered at the basement level, and the house's upper floors to be used solely for museum and reception purposes. Between 1974 and 1975 a fireproof vault at the basement and a safe access stairway between the basement and first floor were installed. Between 1975 and 1977, the basement level was completely renovated, including the installation of a new entry to the basement at the addition's façade, which was designed to complement the Federal-style front entry at the main building. From 1977 to 1979, the Society took several steps to ensure the continued integrity of the building. The exterior was repaired and restored, and the brickwork was cleaned. A new roof was installed on the building. Throughout the remainder of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, repairs have been made as necessary to maintain the good condition of the building. Circa 1980, new hand railings were installed at the two stairs at the building's front steps. Additionally, the building's windows were repaired. Between 1987 and 1989, a microfiche reading room was created in the space to the west of the library at the basement level of the addition. Following heavy rains in Washington in the summer of 1989, water damage throughout the house was repaired and the interior repainted. The roof, gutters and slate were also repaired and replaced.<sup>3</sup>

Between 1993 and 1995, the Society undertook general repairs, including repair and/or replacement of windows, sills and doors where necessary. Further, the stonework and wrought iron at the exterior were repaired and cleaned, and the building was painted throughout the interior. In the mid-1990s security doors were added to the

<sup>1</sup> "BUILDING PERMITS" *The Washington Post*, July 15, 1928, R1.

<sup>2</sup> Roy, 14.

<sup>3</sup> Roy, 38, 41, 43-44, 50, 54, 57.



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N Street side entry, and the steel door to the furnace room was replaced.<sup>4</sup> Necessary repairs have continued into the twenty-first century, for example, repainting of exterior trim and sanding the wood floors in 2007.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Roy, 65, 69.

<sup>5</sup> "83<sup>rd</sup> National Conference," *Seventeenth Century Review*, Vol 49, #2, April 14, 2007, 30.

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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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1893-1918  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1884  
1901  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Brigadier General George P. Scriven  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Whiting, George B. (original architect/builder)  
Simpson, Henry (addition architect)  
Langley, Charles A. (addition builder)

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Brigadier General George P. Scriven House is 1893 to 1918. These years reflect the period during which General Scriven resided at the property; the end date also marks the building's change in use from a single-family residence to use by various education and civic groups as a headquarters building. It was during his tenure in the house on New Hampshire Avenue that Scriven pioneered the introduction of aviation to the United States military, while serving as Chief Signal Officer of the Army's Signal Corps from 1913 to 1917 and as the first chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in 1915.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)**

The Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, now also known as the Headquarters Building of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, was constructed as a single-family dwelling in 1884 by architect and builder George B. Whiting. Located at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., this three-story townhouse served as the home of Brigadier General George P. Scriven, who pioneered the development of military aviation before and during World War I. This period marked his influential years as Chief Signal Officer of the Army's Signal Corps and as the first Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the direct predecessor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). During this time, he was a leader in the establishment of both the Army Air Corps, which was the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force, and the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, which continues today as the oldest of NASA's research centers. These accomplishments established aviation as a crucial component of the U.S. military, and provided the means for continued aviation research, placing the country at the forefront of aviation through the remainder of the twentieth century. Scriven resided at the house in Washington, D.C.'s prominent Dupont Circle neighborhood during the period when he achieved prominence as a leader in introducing aviation to the U.S. military. Scriven used the house as a center for entertaining important military and political figures, as evidenced by his addition of a two-story ballroom to the house in 1901. Since the second quarter of the twentieth century, the rehabilitated building has served as the headquarters of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, a national organization of women devoted to the documentation and commemoration of America's colonial heritage. The Brigadier General George P. Scriven House is eligible under Criterion B with a period of significance extending from Scriven's purchase of the house in 1893 to 1918, when Scriven began renting the property to civic groups. Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and N Street, the townhouse is noted as a contributing resource to the Dupont Circle Historic District for its architectural significance.

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

The Brigadier General George P. Scriven House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion B** and is significant in the area of the **Military**, due to its association with Brigadier General George P. Scriven. During his residence at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., George Scriven was a

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leader in the development of military aeronautics, first as Chief Signal Officer of the Army's Signal Corps and then as the first Chairman of the National Advisory Committee of Aeronautics. Prior to Scriven's appointment as Chief Signal Officer, the U.S. military had viewed aviation as useful only for reconnaissance purposes and other passive support functions. There was little government support for aeronautical research or the development of military aviation. As a result the United States had fallen behind its European counterparts in aeronautical research and its military applications. In the years leading up to the United States' entry into World War I in 1917, General Scriven successfully fought for increased support of aviation assets. He played a prominent role in the establishment of a government aeronautical research program, which resulted in the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, and was pivotal in the development of the Army Air Service, thus helping to establish the position of the United States at the forefront of aeronautical research for the remainder of the century.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

*George P. Scriven Biographical Summary*

George P. Scriven was born on February 21, 1854, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He began his academic career at the University of Chicago, completing his freshman year before entering Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, to study civil engineering. He remained there for two years before leaving to enter the United States Military Academy at West Point. Scriven graduated fifth in his class in 1878.<sup>6</sup> After serving with the Eighth Infantry, he returned to teach modern languages at West Point. In 1885, Scriven was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and assigned to the Third Artillery.

Delegated to the Adjutant General's Office, in 1890, Scriven was placed on duty with the State Department within the Army's Signal Corps. The Signal Corps was formed in 1860, and as it continues to the present, provided communication and information systems for the armed forces. In its early history this support included a wide range of responsibilities related to military intelligence and aviation. In 1894, Scriven was promoted to Captain and directed to serve as military attaché in the U.S. legation in Mexico. Later that year, he was appointed as military attaché in Rome, Italy. Scriven served in this capacity until 1897, when he was assigned to observe the Turkish army in their war with Greece.<sup>7</sup> In 1898, Scriven was named Chief Signal Officer of the Gulf during the Spanish-American War. He served in numerous military posts and roles over the next decade, including Chief Signal Officer and Military Secretary in Cuba in 1899; Chief Signal Officer as part of the China Relief Expedition from August to November 1900; as Chief Signal Officer of the Department of the East from 1904 to 1909; and as Chief Signal Officer of the Philippines Division from 1909 to 1911.

The culmination of his already successful career came in March 1913, when Colonel Scriven was promoted to Brigadier General and appointed as the seventh Chief Signal Officer of the Army by President William Howard Taft. At the time of the appointment, it was noted that Scriven "has had a career of remarkable activity, having been attached at different times to three branches of the military service, and having seen service in all parts of the world and participated in the front of every campaign which has been waged since his graduation from the Military Academy...."<sup>8</sup> He held the position of Chief Signal Officer until 1917. During this period, Scriven was also appointed Chairman of the newly formed National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in 1915 and served

<sup>6</sup> "Retirement of General Scriven, U.S.A." Aerial Age, Volume 4, Google books: "As Chief Signal Officer, Department of the East, from Dec. 14, 1904, to April 16, 1909...."

<sup>7</sup> "Gen. Scriven Is Dead at 86 in N. Carolina: Served on Staff Of Gen. Merritt In Philippines," *Washington Post*, March 8, 1940, pg 17.

<sup>8</sup> "Promotes col. Scriven: Taft Names Him to Succeed Gen. Allen as Signal Service Head" *The Washington Post*, January 14, 1913.

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until 1916. In February 1917, after 42 years of service, Brigadier General Scriven retired from the Army. He was asked to continue service under the status of "active service in case of war." Accordingly, in September 1917 after the United States had entered World War I, Scriven was assigned to the embassy in Rome as military attaché by direct appointment of the Secretary of War and Secretary of State.<sup>9</sup> While in Rome, he served as military advisor to the Italian army.

Scriven received multiple honors throughout his career, including recognition for gallantry in action against Chinese Boxer forces at Yang Tsun on August 6, 1900, and at Peking on August 14-15, 1900. He also received badges for his service during the Spanish-American War, the Philippines Invasion, the Army of Cuban Occupation, the China Relief Expedition, and the Mexican Expedition. In 1918, he was awarded the decoration of Grand Officer Crown of Italy for his service during World War I.

Scriven also wrote a number of significant publications throughout his career, which strongly influenced military and aviation policy. Scriven authored several books: *Transmission of Military Information* in 1908; *The service of information, United States Army. A review of the nature, use, field of service, and organization of the Signal corps of the Army, with an outline of its methods and technical apparatus, and notes on the service of information and the organization of the aviation service of the leading foreign armies* in 1915; and *The Story of the Hudson Bay Company* in 1929.<sup>10</sup> In the 1890s, he received the gold medal of the Military Service Institution for his contribution to military literature for an essay entitled "The Nicaraguan Canal in its Military Aspects." In 1910, while serving as Chief Signal Officer of the Philippines, he published a report analyzing the vulnerability of Corregidor Island to aerial surveillance and attack. According to historian Herbert A. Johnson, this "report ranks as one of the most farsighted staff studies of its day."<sup>11</sup>

George P. Scriven married Bertha Bragg on February 7, 1891. Mrs. Scriven was born on July 29, 1863, in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, to Cornelia Coleman and Edward Stuyvesant Bragg. Union Brigadier General Bragg had become famous during the Civil War for his command of the 6th Infantry, which was infamously known as the "Iron Brigade." George and Bertha Scriven had two daughters, Cornelia, born January 1892, and Katherine, born February 1893. Bertha Scriven died at the age of 50 on February 4, 1914, after an illness of several months, and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.<sup>12</sup> The following year, on October 6, 1915, Scriven married Elizabeth McQuade (b. September 20, 1876, d. December 3, 1968) of Staten Island, New York.<sup>13</sup> While Scriven spent significant time traveling abroad for his military assignments, he always maintained a permanent residence in Washington, where his family lived full-time and where he entertained guests when at home. He owned 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., from 1893 to 1928, and maintained it as his family's primary residence from 1893 until 1918, when he entered a lease agreement with the American Red Cross Woman's Club.<sup>14</sup> He and his second wife, Elizabeth, moved to 2241 Bancroft Place, N.W., Washington, D.C., by the early 1930s, where

<sup>9</sup> Gen. Scriven Is Dead at 86 in N. Carolina: Served on Staff of Gen. Merritt in Philippines," *Washington Post*, March 8, 1940, pg 17.

<sup>10</sup> *Who Was Who in America*, Vol. 1, 1847-1942, Chicago, IL: Marquis Who's Who Press, 1943.

(<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/scriven/george.html>).

<sup>11</sup> Johnson, 70.

<sup>12</sup> "Obituary," *The Washington Post*, February 4, 1914, pg 5.

<sup>13</sup> *National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington D.C.; Special Diplomatic Passport Applications, 1916-1925; ARC Identifier 1150702 / MLR Number A1 537; Box #4218; Volume #2; "Gen. Scriven Married: Chief Signal Officer, U.S.A., Weds Miss Elizabeth McQuade," Washington Post, October 7, 1915, pg 4; "Gen. Scriven Engaged: To Wed Miss Elizabeth McQuade Within Four Weeks," The Washington Post, September 1, 1915, pg 7.*

<sup>14</sup> "Society: Gayeties of Week Given Brilliance by Entertainments for Prince Axel and Maj. Gen. Janin," *The Washington Post*, September 22, 1918.

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Scriven spent his retirement years.<sup>15</sup> Brigadier General Scriven died at the age of 86 on March 7, 1940 and was buried at West Point.<sup>16</sup>

### *George P. Scriven and Aviation in the United States*

Wilbur and Orville Wright's first successful airplane flight on December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, generated tremendous public enthusiasm for aeronautics. Following this event, though, aviation pursuits in the United States centered on recreational exhibition meets, at the cost of serious aeronautical research. In research, the United States lagged far behind Europe, where many countries recognized the importance of concentrated research and continued development in the field of aeronautics. While national aeronautical libraries existed throughout the European continent by the turn of the twentieth century, university research in the United States "was virtually non-existent."<sup>17</sup> Additionally, the U.S. military delayed in taking aviation seriously as an increasingly important military field. Aviation's military applications were regarded as limited to reconnaissance and other passive support functions, and the federal government did not consider making significant military appropriations for aviation research.

The first major advance in military aeronautics in the United States came on August 1, 1907, when the Chief Signal Officer of the Army announced the creation of an Aeronautical Division within the Army's Signal Corps, which had been created in 1891. Particularly well suited to promote the study of aeronautics, the Division was charged with responsibility for all issues related to "military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects."<sup>18</sup> The Division was the first heavier-than-air military aviation organization in the world and the precursor to the United States Air Force. Led by Captain Charles deForest Chandler, a Signal Corps officer with interest in military aeronautics, the Division was established with three officers and ten enlisted men, all from the Signal Corps. It soon became clear that the newly formed Aeronautical Division was limited by both a lack of funding and inadequate staffing. In the Division's first year, the War Department submitted a request to Congress for a \$200,000 appropriation for aeronautical equipment and instruction, but the item was struck from the final bill. The Board of Ordnance and Fortifications stepped in, appropriating enough funding for the War Department to purchase an airplane from A.M. Herring of New York, and another from the Wright Brothers. The first regular appropriation for aeronautics in the military services was not made until 1911, and while annual reports of the Chief Signal Officer repeatedly stated that funding was insufficient to keep pace with aeronautical development in other countries, appropriations granted by Congress remained small. Another major problem facing the Aeronautical Division was a lack of personnel within the Signal Corps devoted to aeronautics. Between 1908 and 1910, repeated attempts were made to secure legislation that would authorize a personnel increase, but none were successful.<sup>19</sup>

These issues received more serious and focused discussion with the introduction of a bill to create an Aviation Corps within the Army. Introduced by Representative James Hay (West Virginia) on February 11, 1913, the Hay

<sup>15</sup> "Display Ad 123 - No Title," *The Washington Post*, June 9, 1969: "Public Auction of Scriven Estate Sale by Catalogue At Sloan's Art Galleries"; and *Officers of the Army in or near the District of Columbia*, United States Adjutant-General's Office, 1931.

<sup>16</sup> "Gen. Scriven Is Dead at 86 in N. Carolina: Served on Staff of Gen. Merritt in Philippines," *Washington Post*, March 8, 1940, pg 17.

<sup>17</sup> Alex Roland, *Model Research Volumes 1 and 2*, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Scientific and Technical Information Branch (Washington, D.C.: 1985), no page number; available from <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4103/contents.htm>; Internet; accessed September 2011.

<sup>18</sup> *Organization of Military Aeronautics 1907-1935*, Army Air Forces Historical Studies, No. 25, prepared by Assistant Chief of Air Staff Intelligence, Historical Division (Washington, D.C.: December 1944), 4.

<sup>19</sup> *Organization of Military Aeronautics 1907-1935*, 4-6

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Bill (H.R. 28728) ultimately failed to pass, but it succeeded in instigating serious and necessary discussion regarding the current and future state of aeronautics within the U.S. military. It was the first bill to propose separating aviation from the Signal Corps, and it engendered serious debate due to that provision.

The House Committee on Military Affairs held lengthy hearings on the Hay Bill beginning on August 12, 1913. The bill was opposed both by the War Department and by most Signal Corps officers called to speak before the Committee. Among the most vocal were Acting Secretary of War Henry Breckinridge, General William Mitchell, and Chief Signal Officer Brigadier General Scriven, who had recently been promoted to his position.<sup>20</sup> These men welcomed the attention finally being paid to the issue of military aeronautics, but Scriven in particular believed strongly that it would be a mistake to remove aviation from the Signal Corps, because it had the technical information and machinery necessary to perform the work, as well as experienced personnel.<sup>21</sup> He noted the scientific progress made by the Corps and stated that such knowledge was more valuable to aviation than pure flying experience. Scriven argued that personnel numbers should be increased and that aviation should be assigned permanently to the Signal Corps.<sup>22</sup>

In the fall of 1913, while the House Committee on Military Affairs continued with its consideration of the Hay Bill, Brigadier General Scriven continued his campaign to both promote aviation and to keep it within the Signal Corps. Scriven released a public statement on the topic in 1913. The *New York Times* published the piece, entitled "Asks Trained Men for Army Aviation; Head of the Signal Corps Appeals for a Strengthening of That Branch of the Service." Describing the statement as "in a way an appeal to Congress," the article noted that "it is rather bluntly stated that the flying situation in the United States viewed strictly from a military standpoint, is in a critical condition." Emphasizing that aerial navigation was on the verge of assuming significant consequence, Scriven stated "...aviation, which may be considered a sport by the people of the country at large, is to the army a vital necessity. The time for serious effort in this new military science is at hand." Scriven, noting the situation as "critical," called for an increase in funding to support trained personnel for aeroplane and reconnaissance work. Acknowledging the efforts of the Signal Corps in compiling data and information on the strength of materials, the use of radio-telegraphy in aeronautics, and other topics, Scriven concluded that "the Signal Corps officials give the opinion that the work of aeronautics in the United States Army should be carried out along its present lines of development, and that the work should receive every reasonable aid and encouragement by Congress."<sup>23</sup> His outspoken views on aviation would establish the Signal Corps' policy in the crucial years before World War I.

As a result of the hearings and the work of interested men including Scriven, several revisions were made to the Hay Bill in the following months. Finally, the House Military Affairs Committee substituted a new bill, H.R. 5304, which, instead of creating an aviation corps within the Army, established an Aviation Division within the Signal Corps, with 60 officers and 260 enlisted men. In presenting the bill to Congress, the Military Affairs Committee recommended a \$300,000 appropriation for the Aviation Section, stating that while it would not try

<sup>20</sup> General Mitchell went on to become a significant figure in aviation in the years between World War I and World War II, and was among the leaders in the introduction to and development of aviation within the military. His house in Middleburg, Virginia, historically known as Boxwood and today as the General William "Billy" Mitchell House, was named to the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark under Criteria B in 1976. Mitchell resided at the house during the last decade of his life from 1926 to 1936.

<sup>21</sup> *Organization of Military Aeronautics 1907-1935*, 15.

<sup>22</sup> Herbert A. Johnson, *Wingless Eagle: U.S. Army Aviation through World War I* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), 62, 63.

<sup>23</sup> "Asks Trained Men for Army Aviation: Head of the Signal Corps Appeals for a Strengthening of That Branch of the Service," *NY Times*, September 21, 1913.

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to place the Aviation Service on the same plane as those found in European countries, it would try to put U.S. aviation in a position to “enable it to keep up with the experiments being made in aviation.” On July 12, 1914, the Senate Military Affairs Committee agreed, stating “If this branch of the military service is to be made effective every opportunity must be given for its development.”<sup>24</sup> The bill passed on July 18, 1914. It created the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps, eliminating the Aeronautical Division, and with that major organization change also increased the budget and personnel numbers. In addition it provided for training of aviation students, additional pay for flying duty and payment of benefits to the widows of servicemen killed in the line of duty.

As Chief Signal Officer of the Signal Corps, Scriven spent the following months working in support of the new Division. A *Washington Post* article published in September 1914 stated that he was “making every effort to improve and extend the aviation work of the military service and to perfect the organization of the aviation section of the Signal Corps in accordance with the act of July 18, last.” Noting that the army “for the first time” had adequate organization for aviation work, the article stated that authorities including Scriven hoped “that they may do something to cover the ground lost by almost complete inaction for the last few years in the matter of mechanical flight.”<sup>25</sup> A month later, the *Post* wrote that the “government has made tremendous strides in the improvement of its aeroplane arm of the military service.”<sup>26</sup> Furthermore, the article noted that Scriven, along with Representative Hay, “deserve the lion’s share of the credit for the fact that the aviation squadron is now a real and efficient engine of war. These two men, it was pointed out yesterday by the army officers, are the ones who made the long fight for the recognition of aviation as a necessity for the army.”

Although the creation of the Signal Corps’ Aviation Division helped to advance the aviation program within the military, progress in support of concentrated aeronautical research was stalled. The primary issue remained the establishment of a central aeronautical research laboratory that could compete with those found throughout Europe. While the American public for the most part continued to view airplanes as a recreational fad, sentiment in favor of a research center was growing among a small group of scholars and military men, including Brigadier General Scriven. Charles Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, supported a fact-finding tour abroad. The resulting report, published in 1914, “emphasized the galling disparity between European progress and American inertia.”<sup>27</sup> The outbreak of war in Europe that same year further served as a catalyst for the creation of an American agency, as the technology employed in combat there emphasized the shortcomings of the American aviation program. In 1915, utilizing reports by American attaches and other observers, Brigadier General Scriven published a report on the new status of aviation in Europe. He noted that airplanes were not only used for information-gathering activities but also now conducted attacks on enemy personnel and material.<sup>28</sup> Walcott, Scriven, and other like-minded men pushed for legislative action to provide for an advisory committee for aeronautics that would concentrate on research.

Finally, on March 3, 1915, Congress passed a Smithsonian-backed proposal to create such a committee. Thanks to a friendly House Committee on Naval Affairs, the enabling legislation for the National Advisory Committee of Aeronautics (NACA) was attached as a rider to a naval appropriation bill, and was easily approved as part of the larger legislation. The legislation gave the committee a \$5,000 annual budget and authorized the U.S.

<sup>24</sup> Johnson, 25.

<sup>25</sup> “Army & Navy Gossip,” *Washington Post*, September 27, 1914, pg E2.

<sup>26</sup> “Recent Strides in Aeroplane Branch of U.S. Army Must Be Kept Up Until Uncle’s Sam’s Aircraft Hold Dominion of the Skies, Military Experts Insist” *The Washington Post*, October 4, 1914.

<sup>27</sup> Roland, no page number.

<sup>28</sup> Johnson, 44.



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President to appoint twelve members to the NACA's main committee.<sup>29</sup> The committee was to include two members from the War Department, two from the Navy, one member each from the Smithsonian Institution, the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Standards, and then five additional members "who shall be acquainted with the needs of aeronautical science, either civil or military, or skilled in aeronautical engineering or its applied sciences."<sup>30</sup> The committee members were directed with the purpose "to supervise and direct the scientific study of the problems of flight, with a view to their practical solutions."<sup>31</sup>

On April 23, 1915, the main committee of the NACA met in the Office of the Secretary of War. The Committee chose Brigadier General Scriven to serve as the NACA's first Chairman. Aeronautical historian Michael Gorn states that the committee "chose well" as Scriven "brought a wealth of experience and know-how to the job. He applied his knowledge deftly, enabling the Army and the NACA to serve their mutual interests."<sup>32</sup> Scriven accomplished this by striking a bargain with the NACA committee, promising that if its members supported the Aviation Division's spending requests to Congress for training, aircraft purchases and a research center, that he would do his part to support an expanded NACA budget. He stated his belief that "nothing will better advance the cause of aeronautics in the United States than for this Advisory Committee to recommend and urge with all its authority the appropriations for the Army...."<sup>33</sup>

The Committee's most significant work during Scriven's period as chairman was the promotion of an aeronautical research laboratory, which had been a primary goal of aviation experts for years. Scriven's proposal for a research laboratory was endorsed by the executive committee of the NACA at a meeting on October 14, 1915, and by the main committee the following day.<sup>34</sup> In 1916, he proposed for the following year's budget an \$85,000 appropriation for the "equipment of a flying field together with aeroplanes and suitable testing gear" as well as a "well-equipped laboratory specially suited to the solving of those problems [in aeronautics] which are sure to develop...."<sup>35</sup> On August 29, 1916, Congress appropriated \$87,000, of which \$53,580 was earmarked for the construction of a research laboratory. Scriven "shrewdly linked the NACA's need for land to the Army's need to find a home for its own aeronautical research center, a measure also approved by Congress."<sup>36</sup> He appointed a board of officers, including four members of the Signal Corps' Aviation Division, to review fifteen possible locations. The board ultimately chose a 1,650-acre parcel of land in Elizabeth City County (now Hampton), Virginia, which the Army and the NACA agreed to share as the site of a future laboratory.<sup>37</sup>

While General Scriven served as Chairman of the NACA only for a short period in 1915 and 1916, "his brief period there proved to be pivotal."<sup>38</sup> On June 11, 1920, the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory was formally dedicated and opened for research.<sup>39</sup> The Laboratory's emphasis was on aerodynamics research, and it

<sup>29</sup> Michael H. Gorn, "The NACA and Its Military Patrons During the Golden Age of Aviation, 1915-1939, *Air Power*, June 22, 2011, pg. 1. Available from: <http://www.militaryaerospace.com/index/display/avi-wire-news-display/1451847327.html>; Internet; accessed September 2011.

<sup>30</sup> Roland, no page number.

<sup>31</sup> Roland, no page number.

<sup>32</sup> "Hears Aeronautic Plans: President Expected to Approve Scriven as Chairman of Federal Committee," *Washington Post*, April 29, 1915, pg 5; Gorn, no page number.

<sup>33</sup> Gorn, no page number.

<sup>34</sup> *Organization of Military Aeronautics 1907-1935*.

<sup>35</sup> Gorn, no page number.

<sup>36</sup> Gorn, no page number.

<sup>37</sup> *Organization of Military Aeronautics 1907-1935*.

<sup>38</sup> Gorn, no page number.

<sup>39</sup> Roland, no page number.

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also studied the design, construction, and operation of airplanes. By the late 1920s, it was considered the premier aeronautical engineering laboratory in the world.<sup>40</sup> After years of delayed progress in aviation, the establishment of the new laboratory placed the NACA at the forefront of aviation research for the next forty-three years, when it was absorbed into the newly created National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958. At NASA's inauguration in that year, the contributions of Brigadier General Scriven and the original NACA board were acknowledged and honored. Today, the Laboratory remains in use as NASA's oldest research center, known as the Langley Research Center.

*Early Construction History of 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.*

The present-day Dupont Circle neighborhood, where the Brigadier General George P. Scriven House is located, traces its origins to 1664, when the area was held as part of a 600-acre patent by John Langworth in Charles County, Maryland. The land was held by various owners over the next century before passing to James McCubbin Ligan in 1778. Ligan was a proprietor at the time the Federal City was laid out in the early 1790s and, under George Washington's agreement with the original proprietors, received title to half the newly created building lots created on their land once streets, city squares (blocks) and public reservations were laid. Recorded by Commissioners Gustavus Scott, William Thornton and Alexander White, Square 97, comprised of Lots 1-12, was laid out on July 12, 1794 and signed by its original patentee, James Ligan.<sup>41</sup> The area now known as Dupont Circle was set aside as a public reservation in Pierre (Peter) L'Enfant's plan for the Federal City. However, the surrounding land remained largely undeveloped up until after the Civil War.

In 1869, the southern portion of Square 97 was recorded as the C.N. Thom Subdivision, with Lots 1 through 5 reconfigured as Lots 1 through 20. In the 1870s, as the city began to expand northward, public investment in the area stimulated real estate speculation and development. Between 1871 and 1874, Alexander "Boss" Shepherd, head of the short-lived D.C. Board of Public Works and later Governor of Washington, D.C., began laying out sidewalks and paving streets in the area. The Army Corps of Engineers constructed the traffic circle and park, which was at that time known as Pacific Circle and later renamed Dupont Circle. However, despite the development, the 1300 block of New Hampshire Avenue remained undeveloped through the decade.

Lot 56, on which the building was constructed, was created through a series of subdivisions between 1879 and 1884. In 1879, C.N. Thom subdivided Lot 3 and Lot 20 to form Lots 37 and 38, each with a 13-½' wide alley as the rear boundary. In 1880, Thom subdivided Lots 1 through 9 and Lots 37 and 38, making Lots 39 through 49. At this time, some lots in the 2000 block of N Street were sold but Thom retained Lots 45, 47 and 48. His wife, Sarah C. Thom, held the title to Lots 39, 40, and 41.

On August 31, 1882, George B. (b. ca. 1827, d. 1902) and Mary H. Whiting (b. ca. 1833) purchased Lot 40 from Sarah C. Thom and sold it the same year to Katherine M. Henderson.<sup>42</sup> The sale agreement stipulated that Whiting would design and construct a house on the corner lot for her. Yet, on March 12, 1884, Whiting repurchased Lot 40 from Henderson, who had decided not to oversee construction of a house there. In May of that year, the southern five feet of Lots 39, 40 and 41 were subdivided, with a public alley added at the rear of

<sup>40</sup> *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Historic Aviation Properties*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service; available from [http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/aviation/nrb\\_aviation\\_II.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/aviation/nrb_aviation_II.htm) Internet; November 2011.

<sup>41</sup> Hudson, 1.

<sup>42</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Washington, Washington, District of Columbia, District of Columbia; Roll: 122; Family History Film: 1254122; Page: 299D; Enumeration District: 37; Image: 0602.

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what became Lots 56 and 57. At this time, the property noted as 1300 New Hampshire Avenue became Lot 56, accessed by an alley at the rear of the property line. A deed for the unimproved lot was signed by George and Mary Whiting.

On May 15, 1884, George Whiting obtained a building permit (D.C. Permits #1628) for the construction of a single-family dwelling on Lot 56 in Square 97, at the northwest corner of N Street and New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. As described in the permit, the house was to be 41' high and 35' deep, three stories in height on a raised 18" basement. The specifications indicated party walls of the townhouse were to be 14" at the first, second and third stories. The façade was to be pressed brick set beneath a flat roof with mansard of slate and tin, embellished with a brick and iron cornice. The plans for the house illustrated it would feature one bow window, one bay window and a tower projection. It was to be served by a heated furnace. George B. Whiting, who constructed several buildings in the city during this period, was listed as the owner, architect and builder.<sup>43</sup> An engineer of the Navy Department living on I Street, N.W., Whiting oversaw the design and construction of the house on New Hampshire Avenue as a speculative venture.

### *Residential Occupants*

On July 31, 1885, the Whitings sold the newly constructed house to James Ogilvie Clephane (b. February 2, 1842, d. November 30, 1910) and his wife, Pauline M. Clephane (b. January 1, 1850, d. January 30, 1935).<sup>44</sup> After an early career as a successful stenographer, Clephane became known for his leadership in developing the typewriter and the linotype machine in the late nineteenth century. In his obituary, the *New York Times* wrote that Clephane was known as "the father of the linotype machine," and "that it was to him in large measure that the great development in the field of mechanical typesetting is due."<sup>45</sup> He was also an officer and director in the Mergenthaler Linotype Company, the American Graphophone Company, the National Typographic Company, and the Oddur Manufacturing Company. The Clephanes resided at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue for eight years with their three children: Sarah L. (Sadie), Malcolm W. and Pauline J.<sup>46</sup>

In 1893, Clephane sold the residence to First Lieutenant George Percival Scriven and his wife, Bertha Bragg Scriven. The couple lived in the house with their two daughters, Cornelia "Helen" Elizabeth and Katherine. Early in September 1901, Scriven applied for a permit to alter the steps on New Hampshire Avenue and add a new basement entrance beneath the front steps and a secondary entrance on N Street. More significantly, on September 14, 1901, George Scriven applied for a building permit to build a 20' x 58' addition to the house. As described in the permit, the addition was to have a basement and two stories, with 13" walls. The brick addition was to have Hummelstown sills and a flat slag roof with access to the roof provided by a new stair. The architect

<sup>43</sup> Buildings by Whiting, Geo. B.; This project has been funded by a U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund grant administered by the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office); and Hudson.

<sup>44</sup> Source Citation: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington D.C.; Passport Applications, 1795-1905; ARC Identifier 566612 / MLR Number A1 508; NARA Series: M1372; Rolls #550 and 518.

<sup>45</sup> "James O. Clephane Dead: Development of Linotype Machine Largely Due to His Efforts," *New York Times*, December 1, 1910, pg 11. Also see: "At Her Father's Altar: Marriage of Miss Margaret W. Falls to Dr. Frank R. Rich," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, Apr 23, 1891, pg. 5). "New Concern Formed: Linomatrix Company Incorporated Under Laws of West Virginia," *The Washington Post*, April 11, 1899, pg. 9. Paul Sampson, "First Linotype Needed Years, Brains, Money," July 25, 1954, pg B3. "Obituary 1," *The New York Times*, February 1, 1935, pg 21. "Maurice Pechin is Dead: Old Washington Resident Succumbs to Paralysis After Year's Illness," *The Washington Post*, February 2, 1911, pg 4.

<sup>46</sup> Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Washington, Washington, District of Columbia, District of Columbia; Roll: 123; Family History Film: 1254123; Page: 264B; Enumeration District: 56; Image: 0532.

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listed in the permit was Henry Simpson, with Charles Albion Langley acting as the builder.<sup>47</sup> The interior of the addition held a two-story ballroom, used by the Scriven and his wife to entertain notable politicians, diplomats, fellow military officers, and other prominent members of society.<sup>48</sup>

On February 3, 1914, Bertha Scriven passed away at her home on New Hampshire Avenue, after an illness of several months.<sup>49</sup> The following year, in October 1915, Scriven married Elizabeth McQuade.<sup>50</sup> The couple lived in the house until 1918, when Scriven began leasing it to the American Red Cross Woman's Club.<sup>51</sup>

### *Institutional Occupants*

Having leased the house for several years, the Scriven family sold the property to the Club of Colonial Dames for District of Columbia on June 12, 1928.<sup>52</sup> In 1937, the property was passed to the renamed Colonial Dames of District of Columbia.<sup>53</sup> Newspaper articles from the period report that the Colonial Dames used the house for national meetings and as a temporary residence for members.<sup>54</sup>

On January 16, 1948, Ruth Kaplan purchased the house on New Hampshire Avenue from the Colonial Dames of District of Columbia on behalf of the Admiral Robert E. Peary Ship #427 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for \$45,000. The *Washington Post* reported that the house would be adapted by the VFW as a club for members and transient personnel of the Navy and the Marine Corps. The VFW planned to use the ballroom for dances and other spaces for dining parties, recreation rooms, and living quarters.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Langley was a builder contractor from Dover, New Hampshire who had moved to Washington in 1875. During the 1880s and 1890s, Langley built a number of prominent residences throughout the city, first as a partner with James G. Gettinger from 1879 to 1889, and then as an independent builder. He is best known for his construction of the State, War, and Navy building, today known as the "Old Executive Office Building."

<sup>48</sup> General Scriven and his wife, Bertha, were frequently noted in the society pages of the *Washington Post* during this period; examples include several soirees at the White House, such as a reception for army officers in January 1902 ("Ablaze in Colors; Last White House Reception a Brilliant Spectacle," *Washington Post*, January 31, 1902), and a musical programme in the East Room of the White House in 1904 ("Music In East Room," *Washington Post*, January 16, 1904).

<sup>49</sup> "Obituary," *The Washington Post*, February 4, 1914, pg 5.

<sup>50</sup> *National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington D.C.; Special Diplomatic Passport Applications, 1916-1925; ARC Identifier 1150702 / MLR Number A1 537; Box #4218; Volume #2.*

<sup>51</sup> It appears that the group rented and maintained several houses belonging to military officers in Washington at this time, as noted in a Bulletin published by the National Red Cross that year. The Bulletin states that "The American Red Cross Woman's Club, of Washington, completed the first year of its existence on June 1. On that date, 1918, the club house, at 2009 N Street, N.W., was formally opened. At the request of the War Council the club later took over the administration of three additional houses. During the past twelve months the club has housed as many as ninety girls and averaged fifteen to twenty transients a month... Besides providing living accommodations, the club has served as a recreation center for all its members. In view of its great success the club has decided to retain the present club house for several months. The other houses will be kept open as long as they are needed" (*The Red Cross Bulletin*, Volume 3 (American National Red Cross: 1918), 7).

<sup>52</sup> There is no relationship between the Club of Colonial Dames for District of Columbia and the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century.

<sup>53</sup> Anne McMath Roy, *The History of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century: A Retrospective 1915-1999* (Washington, D.C., 1999), 14.

<sup>54</sup> An article titled "Mrs. Rhett Goode, Active in D.A.R., Dies" published in *The Washington Post* on December 20, 1929 noted that "Mrs. Rhett Goode, National President of the Children of the American Revolution, and President of the National Officers Club of the Daughters of the American Revolution, died today at the club of the Colonial Dames, 1300 New Hampshire avenue, after an illness of several weeks." In "Notes of Society," published on October 11, 1941 in *The Washington Post*, it was reported that a Mrs. Frazer, a past president of the Colonial Dames, had moved to the house for the winter months. Also see: "1,000 Colonial Dames Attend Jubilee Fete" *The Washington Post*, May 6, 1941.

<sup>55</sup> "Two Home Sales Top Quiet Week," *Washington Post*, January 4, 1948, pg C4.

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The *Washington Post* reported on October 13, 1952, that the Workshop Center of the Arts would be setting up their new headquarters in the building on New Hampshire Avenue. The Art Center served as a place where nonprofessionals could attend workshops in painting, dance, ceramics, poetry and other arts. It was also a noted place of study for professionals. Notable artists who studied at the Workshop while it was located at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue include Willem de Kooning (1905-1997), known as the foremost American abstract expressionist of the twentieth century. Other modernist artists who studied at the building include Morris Louis, Leon Berkowitz and Jacob Kainen.<sup>56</sup> Directors Leon and Ida Berkowitz believed that, "The house itself, with its wealth of big rooms and fireplaces is ideally suited in space and lighting for studios and lounges." The 1952 *Washington Post* article specifically noted the creative use of the former dwelling, with the kitchen used for ceramics classes, the ballroom serving as a film theatre, and "a gargantuan metal sink, where beer and highball glasses were formerly washed next to the basement bar, is made to order for casting sculptures."<sup>57</sup>

The building briefly returned to the ownership of the VFW in 1956. At the Annual Conference of the Colonial Dames in 1957, Margaret Hook, Chairman of the National Headquarters Building Committee, announced that the committee "recommended the National Society purchase property located at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C." The Executive Board, the Board of Management and the Conference delegates accepted the purchase terms with only four dissenting votes."<sup>58</sup> On May 15, 1957, the VFW sold the property to the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century for \$35,000, and it became the Society's Headquarters, serving as a meeting place, library and repository for their records and papers; it continues this use at present.<sup>59</sup>

In order to augment their purchase of the building, the Society rented the basement level to the National Park Service for the first six years for \$21,600, or \$300 per month. Occupying the upper floors, the Society used their new Headquarters Building for their annual conference for the first time on April 9-12, 1958. In 1968, the Society decided to discontinue the rental of the property, and Burkett obtained a Certificate for Occupancy from the District of Columbia granting the Society permission to use all three floors of the building.<sup>60</sup>

Currently, the Headquarters Building serves as the Society's house museum at the upper floors, and as a center for administrative support and research at the basement level. The main floors of the house serve as reception space for Society members, with several rooms at the second and third floors used as museum space. The upper floors remain residential, and retain their original architectural detailing. The basement has been renovated to support the Society's research goals, including a library and a genealogist's office.

### *Historical Summary of Patriotic Societies in the United States and National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century*

Patriotic societies like the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century first grew out of a period of increasing nationalism and corresponding patriotism in the late nineteenth century.<sup>61</sup> During this period, a number of forces rapidly transformed American society, beginning with industrialization and leading to a more urbanized, diverse population. The formation of smaller societies, associations, clubs and so on became

<sup>56</sup> Roy, 14.

<sup>57</sup> Matt McDade, "Art Center's Home Meets Varied Needs," *Washington Post*, October 13, 1952, pg 13.

<sup>58</sup> Roy, 13.

<sup>59</sup> Roy 14; Hudson, 3.

<sup>60</sup> Roy, 15, 22, 28-29.

<sup>61</sup> Hofstadter, 41.

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increasingly popular in the context of this larger and more complex population. One of the most notable developments of the period was not the number of associations in itself, but that so many of them identified themselves as “patriotic.”<sup>62</sup> An 1895 publication entitled *Ancestry* by the Department of Heraldry of The Bailey, Banks & Biddle Company of Philadelphia, noted forty-seven patriotic societies in existence in the United States in that year.

Perhaps most characteristic of the late-nineteenth-century patriotic societies was the number formed specifically for women. The forerunner of later women’s patriotic societies was the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, established by Ann Pamela Cunningham in 1853. Davies notes that the group’s efforts to raise the money necessary to purchase Mount Vernon “anticipated the historical activities of many women’s hereditary leagues later in the century and of necessity marked an important step in the progress of women’s emancipation.”<sup>63</sup> In the 1890s, a significant number of women’s patriotic and hereditary groups formed as counterparts of the already existing men’s groups, including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.<sup>64</sup>

In 1898, Edward S. Holden published an article entitled “Hereditary Patriotic Societies in the United States” in the *Overland Monthly* publication. Within this article, Holden discussed the various patriotic societies within the nation at that time, and their objectives and activities in detail. The activities of the groups remain strikingly similar to the current objectives of women’s patriotic societies. Holden noted that the societies were particularly active in preserving historic monuments, buildings, and documents, and in erecting markers at historic sites. He wrote that each of them fostered patriotism and promoted that interest through historical research. As such, Holden noted the already obvious educational contribution of such societies, including the stimulation of genealogical research and the detailed study of Colonial and Revolutionary history.<sup>65</sup> These patriotic groups have continued to perform these activities with dedication into the twenty-first century.

The establishment of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century in 1915 directly stemmed from these earlier groups, as reflected in its goals and objectives. The Society has its roots in the 1915 meeting of the International Genealogical Congress at the Panama Exposition in San Francisco, California.<sup>66</sup> It was at this meeting that founder Mary Florence Taney, along with Alice Hardeman Dulaney, Anna Taylor Hodge, Georgena Hodge Bailey, Florence Mary Washington, and Grace Marie Cheever, first conceived the idea of the Colonial Dames. Led by Taney, the Charter officers stated their purpose as “the establishment of a College of Heraldry; the founding of Chairs of Historical Research in Colleges and Universities; and to commemorate the heroic deeds of our great Republic in order that men and women may be inspired to follow their example.”<sup>67</sup> Although the Society originated at this 1915 meeting, the First Certificate of the Incorporation was not recorded

<sup>62</sup> Davies, *Patriotism on Parade: The Story of Veterans’ and Hereditary Organizations in America, 1783-1900*, 28, 45.

<sup>63</sup> Davies, 26-27.

<sup>64</sup> Munseys, Volume 14, 83.

<sup>65</sup> Holden, 369.

<sup>66</sup> Roy, 1.

<sup>67</sup> In addition to founding the National Society, Taney’s most significant contributions to the society are considered to be authoring the Certificate of Incorporation “which legitimized the Society’s purpose as a benevolent, charitable, and educational program” and secondly, organizing state societies and chapters within the national organization. Taney also wrote the state anthem for Kentucky, and was the author of *Kentucky Pioneer Women* and *McDowell Music Society*. In addition to the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, Taney also founded the National Daughters of America and the National Society Dames of the Court of Honor (Roy, 14); Roy, 1.

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until August 19, 1920 in Washington, D.C. Taney wrote the document “which legitimized the Society’s purpose as a benevolent, charitable, and educational program.”<sup>68</sup>

Today, the Society continues the original purpose outlined by the Charter officers’ as a not-for-profit organization with 46 state societies and two international societies in Canada and Mexico. The organization boasts approximately 12,000 members. Eligible members are adult women who are lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived and served in one of the original colonies of the present United States prior to 1701. The Society carries out their purpose through the preservation of historic records and sites, through the support of charitable and education projects, and through promotion of heraldry and historic colonial research, including maintenance of a library specializing in heraldry and American colonial history.

Successful projects through the years have included placement of its first historical marker at the Cappaehosi House in Gloucester, Virginia, on May 19, 1951, to mark the site of an historic eighteenth-century ferry crossing at the York River. Of particular importance to the Society has been the maintenance of Pocahontas’s grave. This project was first approved during the 1954 Annual Conference, when members approved that each chapter should send the Treasurer General contributions to the Pocahontas Memorial, St. George’s Chapel, Gravesend, England. The Society has also honored Pocahontas’s memory in other ways, including the commission and placement of a bronze portrait bust that was placed in the American Indian Hall of Fame in Anadarko, Arkansas, in 1965.<sup>69</sup> In addition, the Society maintains a number of charitable and educational projects. This work includes maintaining many annual academic scholarships, including those offered at Roxbury Latin School, the University of the District of Columbia, William & Mary College, and the United States Military Academies, among others. The Society has also maintained a Veterans Services project, to which volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours since the 1960s. Today, the Society donates substantial sums of money to veterans hospitals, clinics, state veterans home, military hospitals, and nursing homes in support of this project.<sup>70</sup>

A major goal of the Society since its earliest years was the purchase of a national headquarters building. As early as 1937, the purchase of a building for that purpose was seriously discussed among members. At that time, it was tradition for the home city of the current President General to be the location for annual Society conferences, and the official headquarters at the time was the home of the current President General. In 1946, during the Annual Conference held in Richmond, Virginia, a *Reorganization and Revision of the Constitution and Bylaws* established that national meetings would from then on be held where the President General and the Board of Management recommended. The first was held in Washington, D.C. In that year, donations were made for the first time to the “Fund for the National Headquarters,” and \$200.00 was collected for the cause.<sup>71</sup>

At the 1957 Annual Conference, Vice President General Mrs. Thomas E. Merritt announced that the Society had saved enough money to purchase a national headquarters building.<sup>72</sup> In April 1958, the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held in the Ballroom of the Society’s new Headquarters Building at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Since that time, the building has served as a meeting place for the Society, and increasingly as a center for historical education and research. In fact, the Society has been more greatly able to fulfill its commitment to research and education since the purchase of the Headquarters Building, and has dedicated itself to that goal.

<sup>68</sup> Roy, 2, 3.

<sup>69</sup> Roy, 10, 11, 24.

<sup>70</sup> Seventeenth Century Review, “83<sup>rd</sup> National Conference” April 14, 2007, Vol 49, #2, pg 71.

<sup>71</sup> Roy, 5, 8.

<sup>72</sup> Roy, 13.

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The Society has maintained a library in the Headquarters Building that is devoted to seventeenth-century history since the 1960s, which has steadily expanded over the years. The Society has also maintained a library of heraldry since 1969, fulfilling its unique commitment among patriotic societies to heraldry.<sup>73</sup> At present, the Society holds approximately 7,800 volumes in its library collections, according to Librarian General Elizabeth Gramling. Additionally, the Society maintains a collection of valuable historic papers. Today, the Society is also believed to have the largest collection and exhibit of Coats of Arms in the country, with the collection hanging in the former ballroom of Brigadier General George P. Scriven at the Headquarters Building.<sup>74</sup>

### *Assessment of Integrity*

The Brigadier General George P. Scriven House sufficiently maintains all seven aspects of integrity. The house retains its original location and setting. The dwelling has not been moved, and its architecture is complementary to its setting within the historic Dupont Circle neighborhood, which developed primarily in the late nineteenth century as an upper-class residential community of the nation's capital. Property owner George Whiting designed and built the high-style house at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. specifically within this neighborhood as a speculative venture, intending it to become the home of prosperous residents of Washington, D.C. The house's location within this upper-class community met the needs of the prominent George P. Scriven as he served as Chief Signal Officer of the Army under President William Howard Taft and as chairman of the newly formed National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. During this period, the building served prominently as the home of a nationally significant military advisor. Further, the house reflects integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The original foundation and exterior walls remain intact, as architect and builder George B. Whiting designed in 1884. The building continues to reflect Whiting's original permit specifications, which described a flat roof with a slate mansard embellished with a brick cornice, and projections including a bow window, bay window and tower projection. The house also retains the historic 1901 addition and renovations, made during Brigadier General Scriven's residence, under the direction of architect Henry Simpson and builder C.A. Langley. The building reflects Scriven's permit descriptions, which called for a new basement entrance, a secondary entrance on N Street, and a two-story brick addition with a flat roof and brownstone details. All of these elements, including plan, materials, decorative details and fenestration pattern, remain intact to reflect Scriven's occupancy. The building's change in use in the mid-twentieth century required some minor alterations to the interior, as well as continued renovations and repairs, but these do not compromise the overall integrity. The exterior of the building and the main floors retain strong integrity as the single-family dwelling of Brigadier General Scriven, and as a result, integrity of feeling and association remain.

<sup>73</sup> Roy, 32.

<sup>74</sup> Seventeenth Century Review, "83<sup>rd</sup> National Conference" April 14, 2007, Vol 49, #2, pg 30.



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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Dupont Circle Historic District

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.072  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>0322602</u>	<u>4308259</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The Brigadier General George P. Scriven House is located at 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. in Washington D.C. The boundary includes all of Lot 56 in Square 97. The lot sits at the northwest corner of the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and N Street, and directly fronts on each street. The rear of the lot fronts an alley, running to the rear of the adjacent properties on N Street. The lot has a frontage of approximately 61 feet on the west side of New Hampshire Avenue, approximately 22 feet on the north side of N Street, with an irregular depth of 70 feet, giving access to a 16 feet rear alley. The property contains approximately 3,137 square feet of land. 1308-1310 New Hampshire Avenue and 2011 N Street are directly adjacent to the Scriven House.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The Brigadier General George P. Scriven House has been historically known as both 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., and 2009 N Street, N.W. It is located on Lot 56 in Square 97. The boundary reflects the lot purchased and improved in 1884 by George B. Whiting, and has not been subdivided since that date.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kathryn Ritson and Laura Trieschmann/Architectural Historians (with research assistance from the  
Colonial Dames XVII Century National Register Committee)

organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date February 2012

street & number 1121 Fifth Street, N.W. telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20001

e-mail kate.ritson@traceries.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Façade, looking Northwest  
1 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Façade, looking Southwest  
2 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Façade, looking North  
3 of 15.

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County and State

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Façade, Detail Main Entry, looking West  
4 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Façade, Detail N Street Entry, looking Southwest  
5 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Rear, Addition, looking East  
6 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, First Floor, Main Entry Hallway, looking West  
7 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, First Floor, Main Entry Hallway and Reception Room, looking Southeast  
8 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, First Floor, Main Hallway, looking North to Foyer and Music Room  
9 of 15.

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
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**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, First Floor, Addition, looking Northwest  
10 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, Second Floor, Main Hallway, looking South  
11 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, Second Floor, Sitting Room, looking South  
12 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, Second Floor, Addition, looking West in Ballroom  
13 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, Third Floor, Main Building, Hallway looking South  
14 of 15.

**Name of Property:** Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.  
**County:** Washington **State:** District of Columbia  
**Photographer:** EHT Traceries  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011  
**Location of Original Negative:** EHT Traceries, 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Interior, Third Floor, Northeast Corner Bedroom, looking East  
15 of 15.

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**Property Owner:**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

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

name National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century  
street & number 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20036

**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 18 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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Brigadier General George P. Scriven  
House

Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.

County and State  
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property Washington, D.C.
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven  
House

Name of Property  
Washington, D.C.

County and State  
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 3

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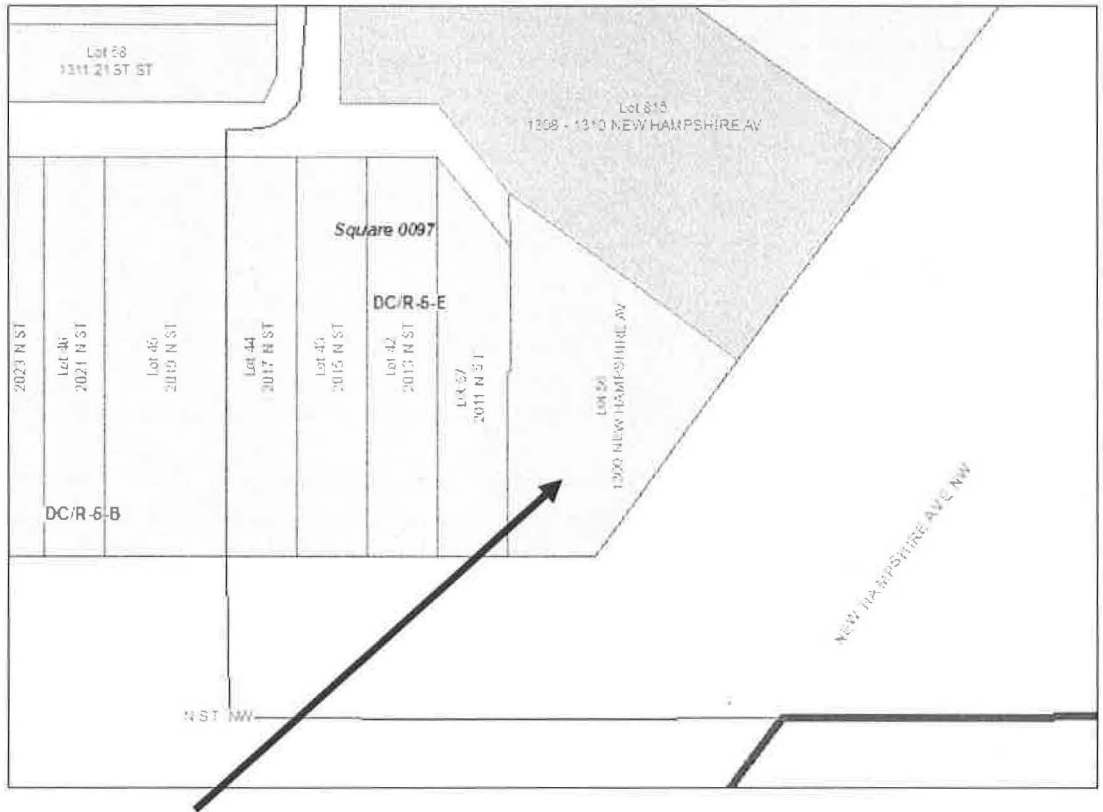


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property Washington, D.C.
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps Page 4



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Lot 56, Square 97

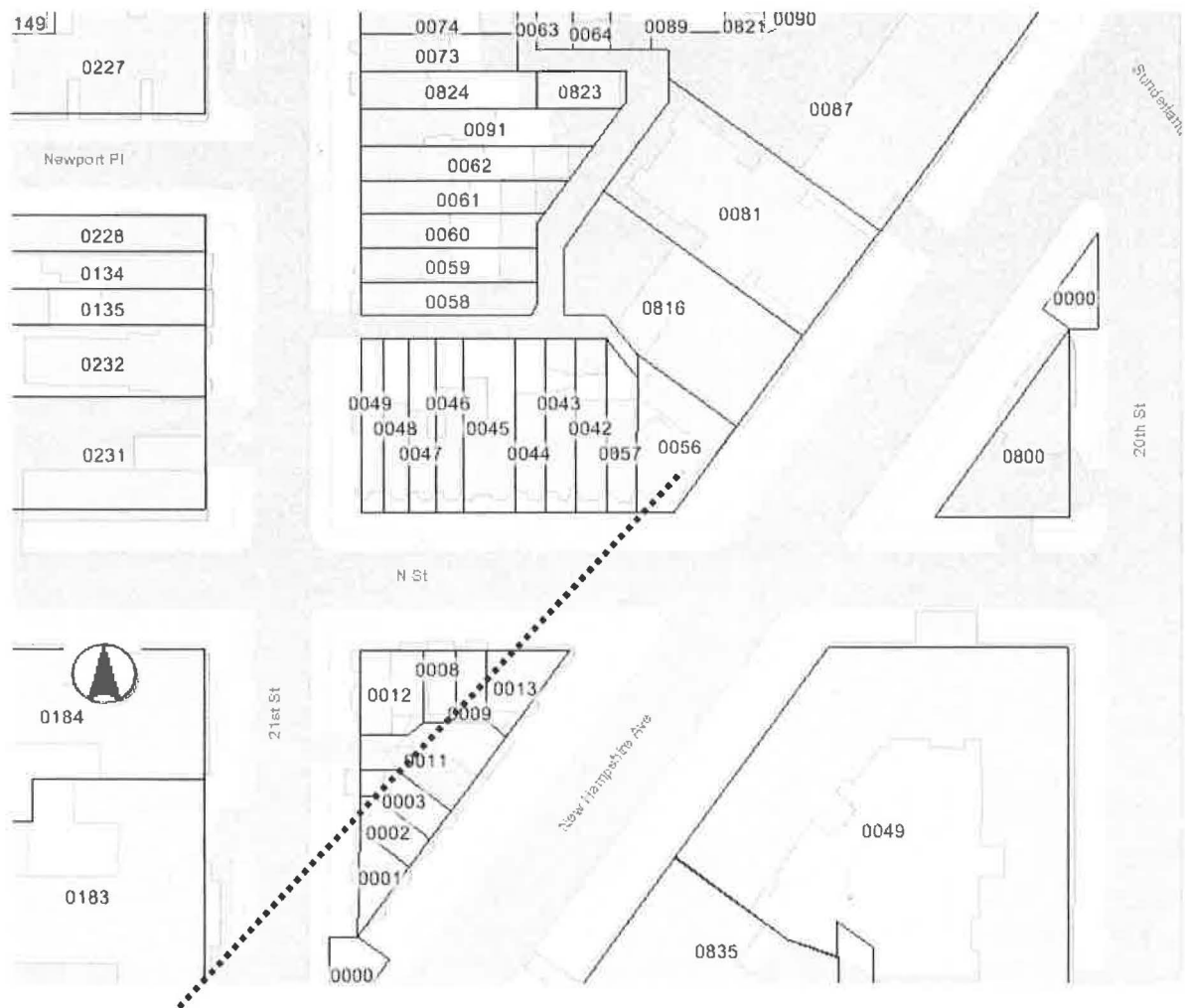
*From "DC Property Quest," District of Columbia, Office of Planning.  
<http://propertyquest.dc.gov/>*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps Page 5



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Lot 56, Square 97

From "DC Atlas," District of Columbia, Geographic Information System  
[http://dcAtlas.dcgis.dc.gov/dcgis\\_allservices/viewer.htm?portal\\_link=hr](http://dcAtlas.dcgis.dc.gov/dcgis_allservices/viewer.htm?portal_link=hr)

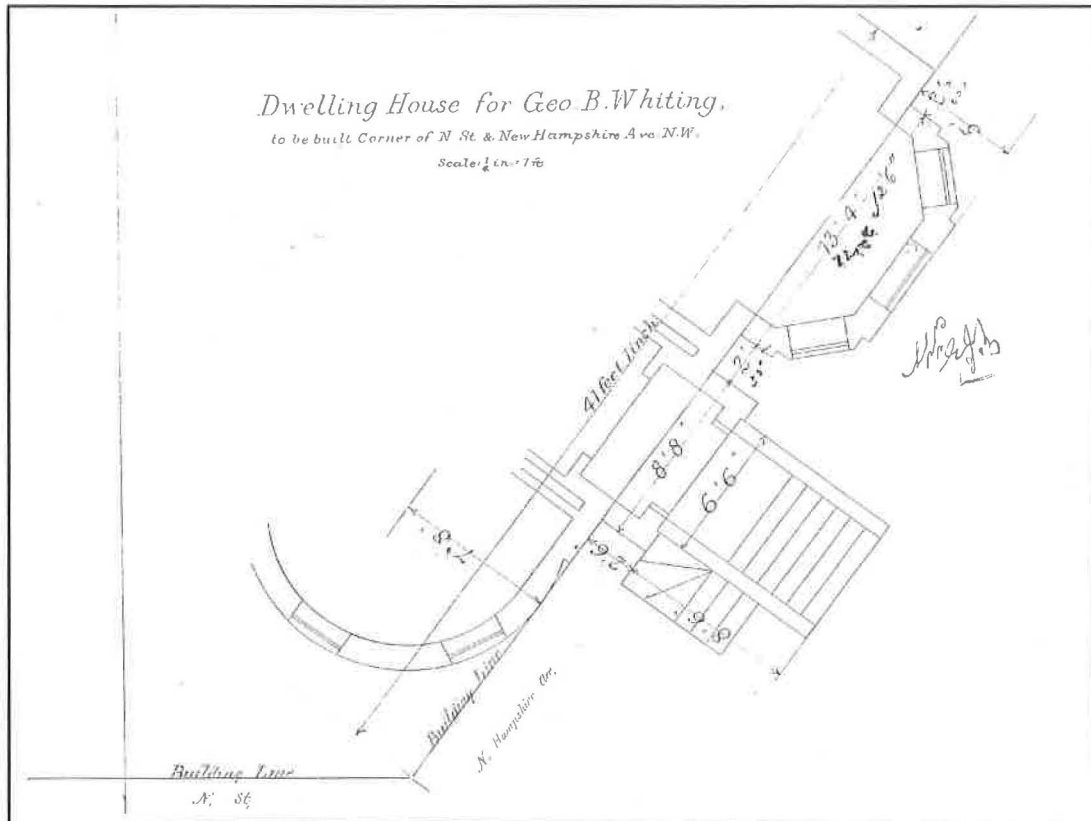
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 6



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, Drawing for Dwelling House, 1884

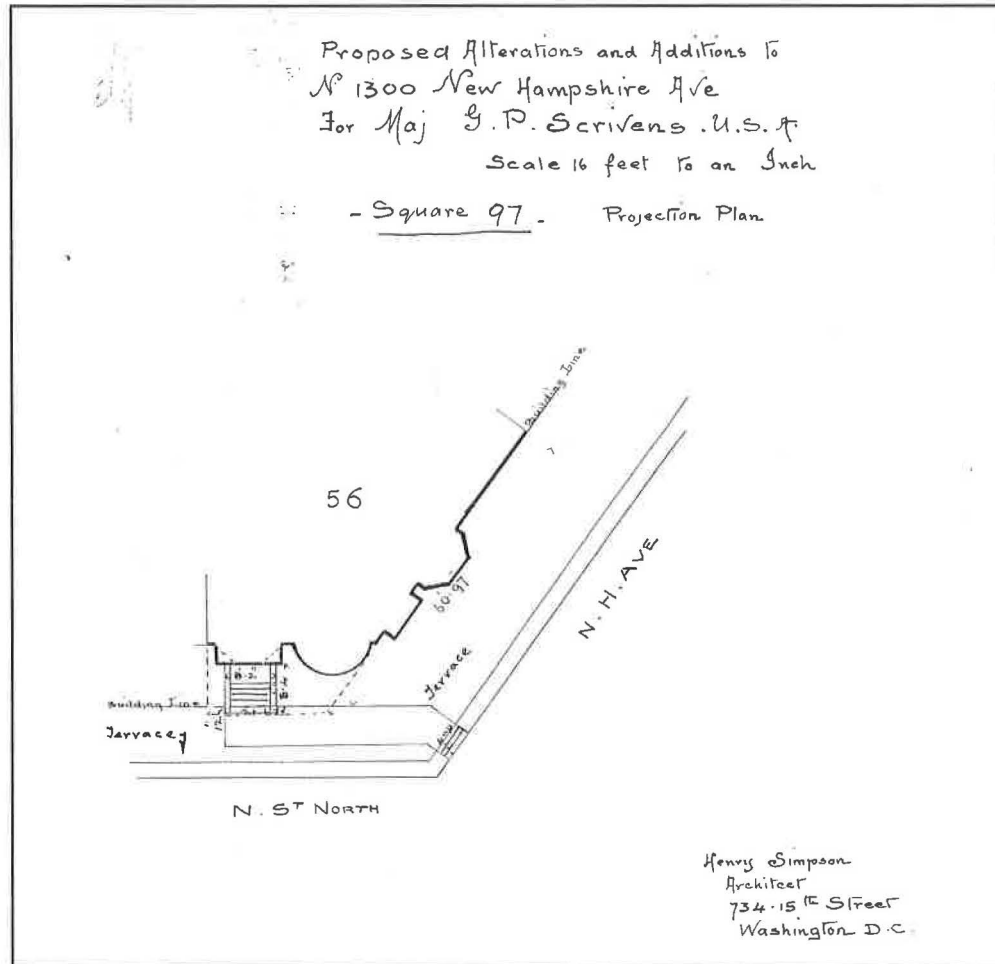
Source: National Archives, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps Page 7



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, Drawing for Proposed Alterations, 1901

Source: National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven
House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
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Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 8



Portrait of Brigadier General George P. Scriven, undated

*Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division*

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven  
House

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 9



Portrait of Brigadier General George P. Scriven, undated

*Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division*

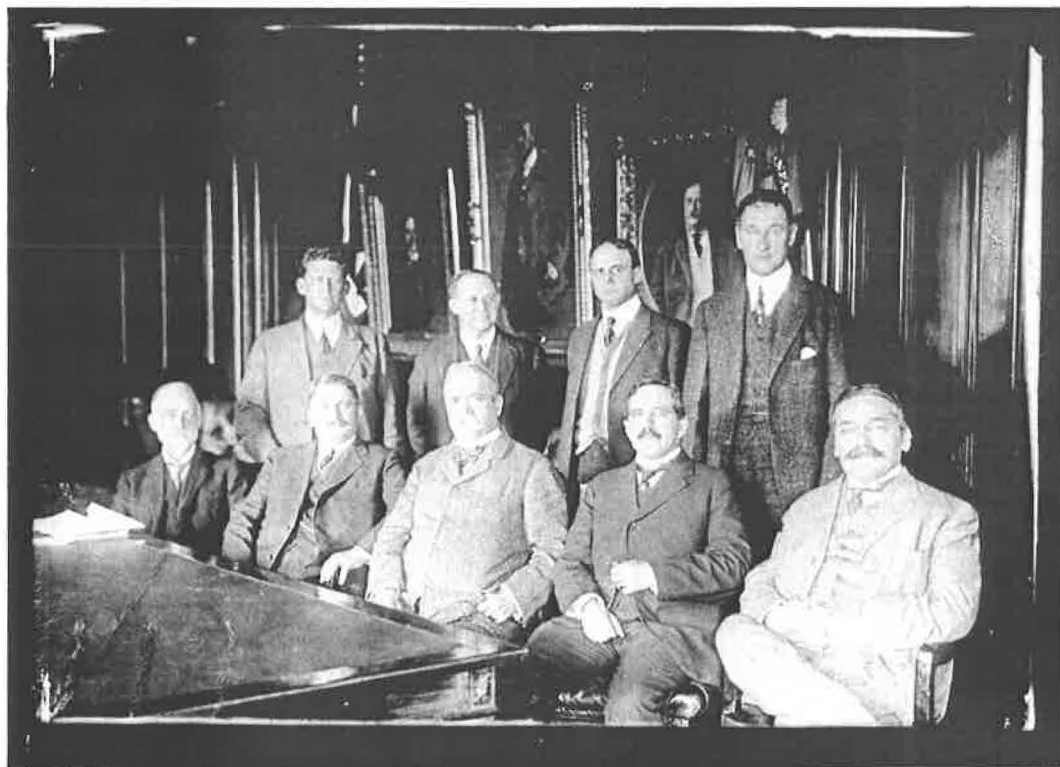
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven
House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 10



Brigadier General George P. Scriven, sitting first row center, at meeting with National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, 1915

*Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division*

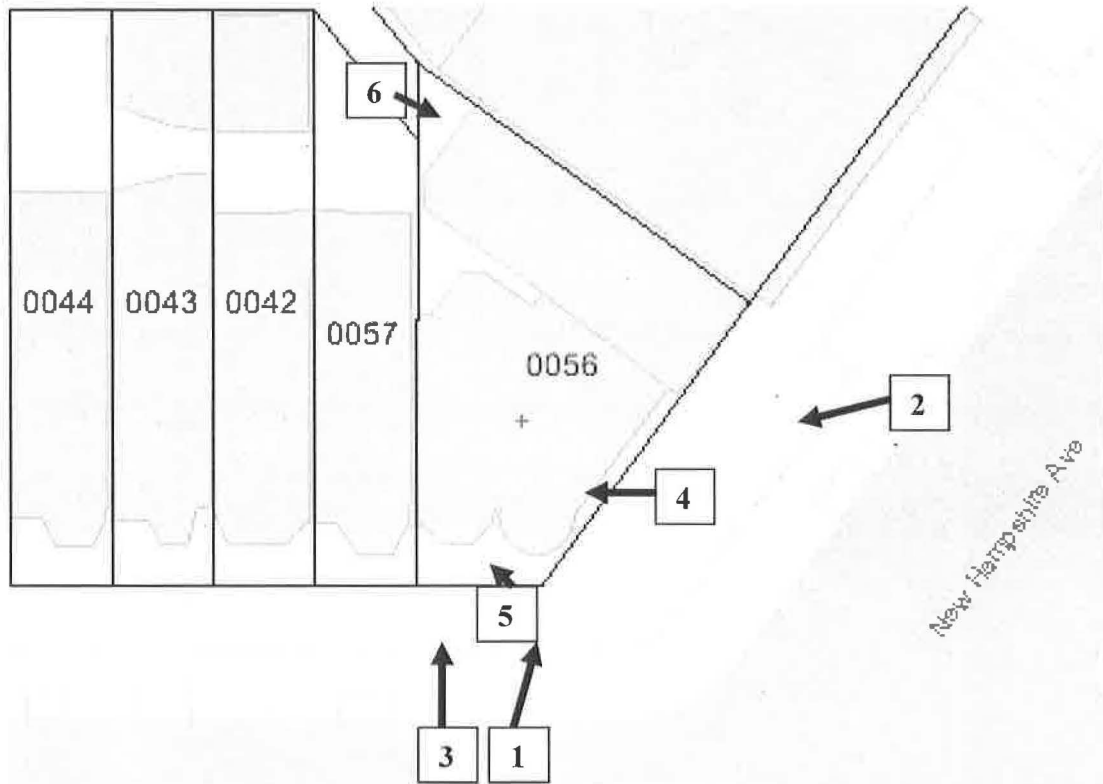
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 11



**Photographic Key**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Lot 56, Square 97

*From "DC Atlas," District of Columbia, Geographic Information System  
[http://dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/dcgis\\_allservices/viewer.htm?portal\\_link=hr](http://dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/dcgis_allservices/viewer.htm?portal_link=hr)*

Key: Shows Direction of View and Photograph Number



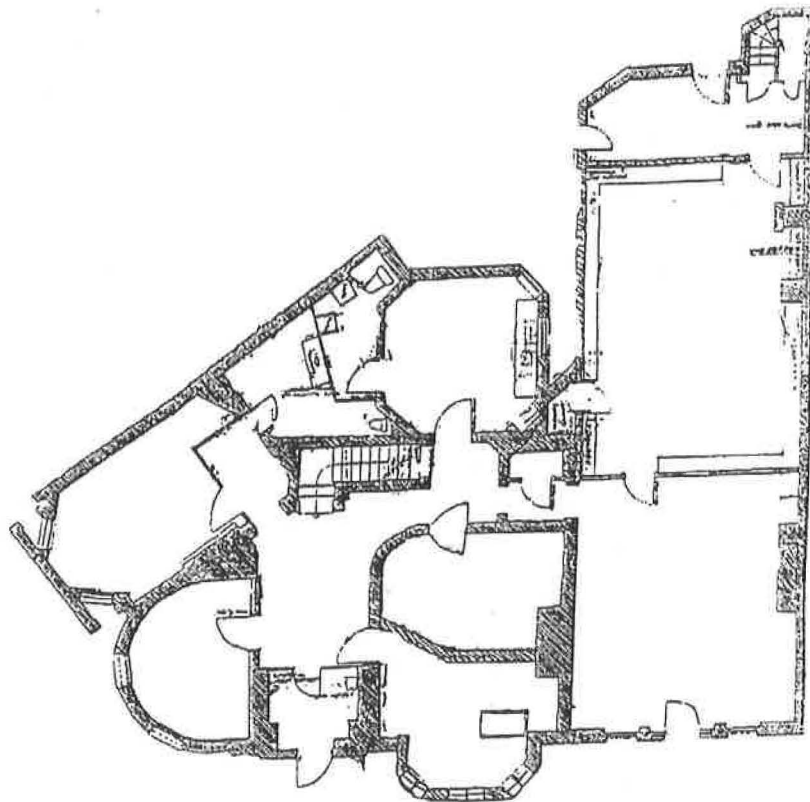
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property Washington, D.C.
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 12



**Basement Level**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Lot 56, Square 97

From Mrs. Loy L. Hudson, *History of National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century*, 1990.

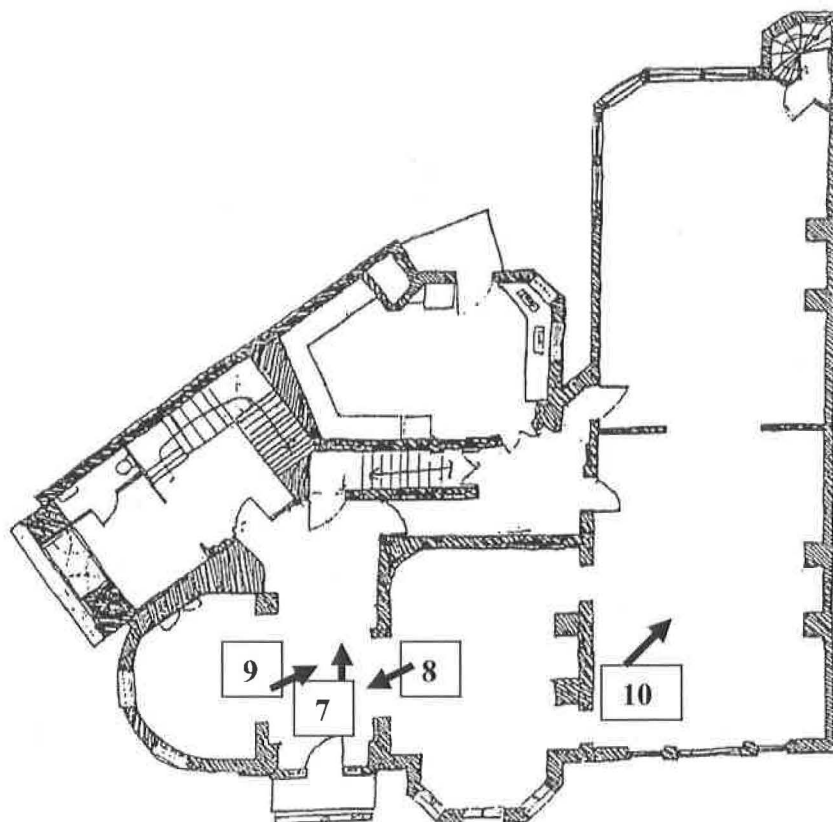
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 13



**First Floor**

Photographic Key

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Lot 56, Square 97

From Mrs. Loy L. Hudson, *History of National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century*, 1990.

Key: Shows Direction of View and Photograph Number

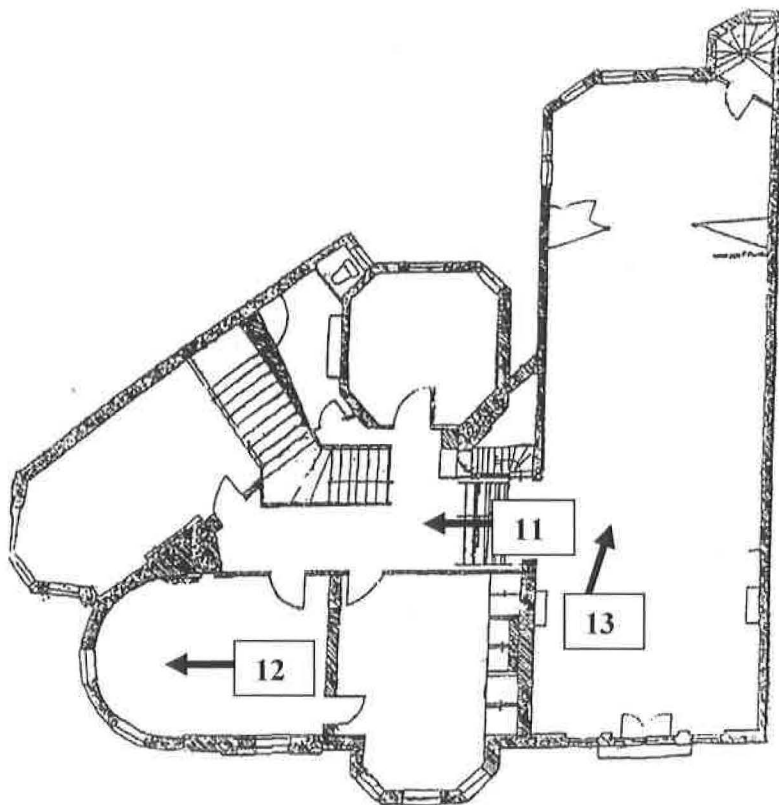
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 14



**Second Floor**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Lot 56, Square 97

From Mrs. Loy L. Hudson, *History of National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century*, 1990.

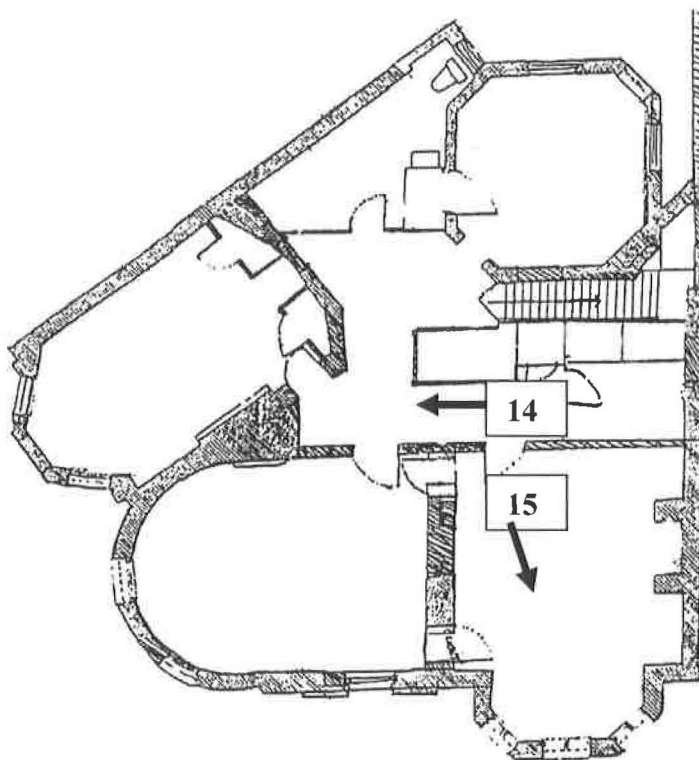
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs and Maps

Page 15



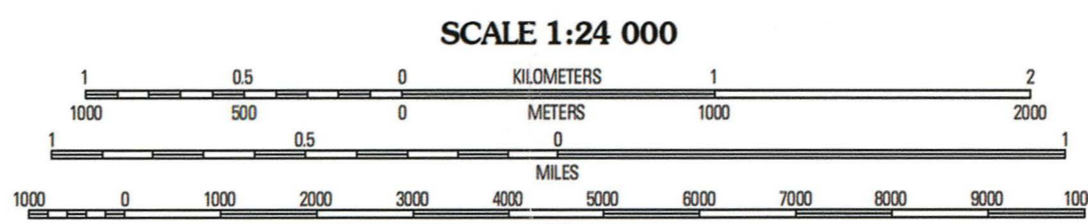
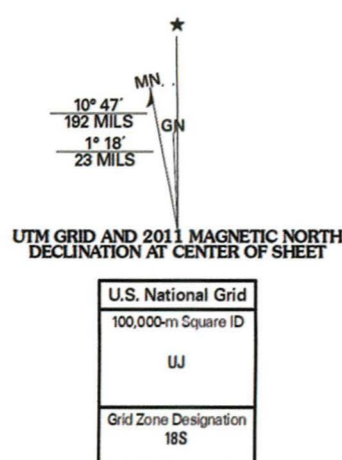
**Third Floor**

Brigadier General George P. Scriven House, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Lot 56, Square 97

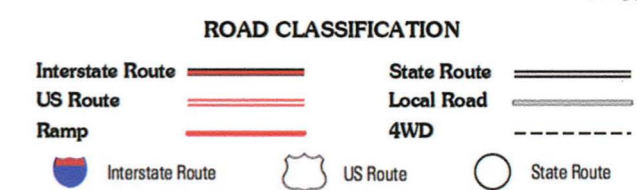
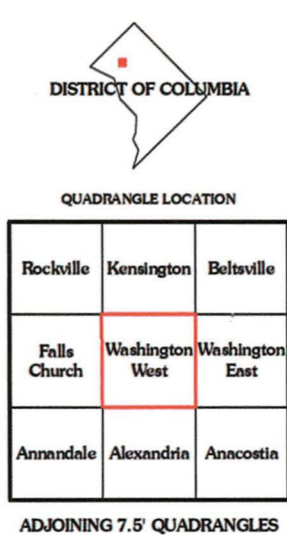
From Mrs. Loy L. Hudson, *History of National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century*, 1990.



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CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988 This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10 of the USGS US Topo Product Standard. A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.5.15



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Roads: ©2006-2010 Tele Atlas  
Names: GNIS, 2010  
Hydrography: National Hydrography Dataset, 2009  
Contours: National Elevation Dataset, 2008  
Boundaries: Census, IBWC, IBC, USGS, 1972-2010

Brigadier General George P. Surber House  
New corner at  
New Hampshire Avenue  
and N Street, N.W.  
UTM = 18J0322602/  
4508259



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Traceries

August 2011

Facade, looking Northwest

Photo 1 of 15





Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
Washington, D.C.

EHT Traveries

August 2011

Facade, looking Southwest  
Photo 2 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

FHT Traceries

August 2011

Facade, looking North

Photo 3 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Traceries

August 2011

Facade, detail main entry, looking west

Photo 4 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Traceries

August 2011

Facade, detail N street entry, looking Southwest

Photo 5 of 15





Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
Washington, D.C.  
ETH Traceries  
August 2011

Rear, Addition, looking East  
Photo 6 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Swiven House

Washington, D.C.

FHT Traceries

August 2011

Interior, First Floor, main entry hallway, looking West

Photo 7 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Sinner House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Traceries

August 2011

Interior, First Floor, main entry hallway and telephone room, looking Southeast

Photo 8 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Trueries

August 2011

Interior, First Floor, main hallway, looking North

Photo 9 of 15





Brigadier General George P. Suriven House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Traceries

August 2011

Interior, First Floor, Addition, looking Northwest

Photo 10 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

EIT Tracerics

August 2011

Interior, Second Floor, main hallway, looking South

Photo 11 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House  
Washington, D.C.

ETH Traceries

August 2011

Interior, Second Floor, sitting room, looking South  
Photos 12 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Trueries

August 2011

Interior, Second Floor, Addition, Ballroom looking west

Photo 13 of 15





Brigadier General George P. Scriven House

Washington, D.C.

ETH Trueries

August 2011

Interior, Third Floor, main building, hallway looking South

Photo 14 of 15



Brigadier General George P. Scrivon House

Washington, D.C.

EHT Traceries

August 2011

Interior, Third Floor, northeast corner - bedroom, looking East

Photo 15 of 15

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Scriven, BG George P., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 7/12/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/12/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/27/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/28/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000620

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: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    8.27.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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.