

PH0001791

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 30 1972	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Logan Circle Historic District (within the Shaw School Urban Renewal Area)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
(See No. 7., for description of boundaries)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11      COUNTY: District of Columbia      CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Private Institutions</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple public and private ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
6th and D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

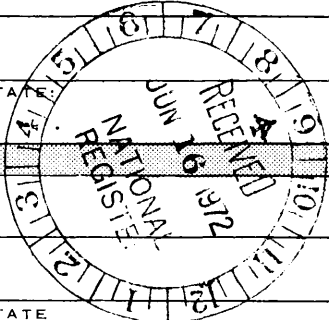
TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1925 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

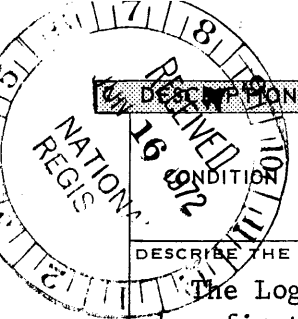


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

012/302300  
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(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed					
(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Logan Circle Historic District appears much the same today as it did when first fully developed during the last years of the 19th century. Although a large number of these impressive single-family townhouses have now been converted into apartments and rooming houses, very few exterior changes have been made. In contrast to other late 19th century neighborhoods, where demolition, rebuilding and "rehabilitation" have stripped away much of the period character, half-a-century of neglect in Logan Circle has left the area deteriorated, but remarkably intact. Demolition has been confined to three structures, and in most cases even such small but important atmospheric details as iron fences and handrails remain in their original form.

The focal point of the Historic District is Logan Circle, individually designated a Category I Landmark as a major element of the 1791-92 Plans of the Federal city. In the center of the circle itself is a bronze equestrian statue of Major General John A. Logan on a pink granite base. Logan was Commander of the Army of the Tennessee during the Civil War and later the Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. In the latter post he designated May 30 of each year as Memorial Day. Logan also served as a Representative and Senator from Illinois. Franklin Simons, the sculptor, designed the bronze statue which cost \$65,000. Congress appropriated \$50,000 towards the cost, and the Society of the Army of the Tennessee contributed the rest. The dedication ceremonies in April 1901 were attended by President McKinley.

The principal changes to the Historic District since its construction have occurred to the circle itself and its surrounding roadway which have been altered to accommodate 20th century traffic patterns. The name of the circle was officially changed by Congress from Iowa to Logan in 1930. The roadway around the circle was widened by 10 feet in 1933 by reducing the sidewalk at the perimeter of the circle from 15 to 5 feet in width. In 1950 traffic lights were installed and the circle was cut into three sections to improve automobile circulation. The circle is now lemon-shaped with a crescent-shaped island on the east and the west side. The diameter of the circle itself is 360', while the distance from perimeter curb to perimeter curb is approximately 450'.

Since the circle was first formally landscaped in the 1870's, its landscaping style has changed a number of times to reflect changing tastes. Today the central statue is surrounded by a circular bed of azaleas, which is encircled by a concrete walkway with curved benches at its perimeter. Four concrete walkways lead out from the inner circle to the roadway. In the outer portion of the lemon-shaped central area, which is planted in grass, are a number of oak, elm, and walnut trees with several azalea beds. The grass-planted crescent-shaped islands each contain several large oak trees, with hedges at each tip.

Logan Circle occupies the center of the intersection of four major traffic arteries: 13th Street running north-south; P Street running east-west; and Vermont and Rhode Island Avenues, both of which intersect the circle diagonally in a northeasterly direction. The entrance and exit of these four streets to and from the circle divide the properties surrounding the circle into eight unequal sections. Six of the sections have a small frontage on the circle itself, while the northwesterly and southeasterly sections are quadrants.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

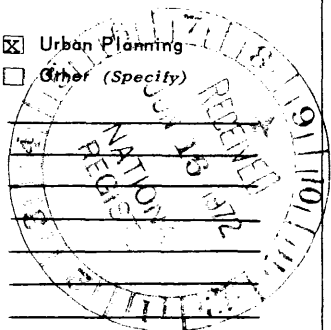
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1875-1900** dates of construction

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Logan Circle Historic District a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. This approximately 8-block area is a unique, virtually unchanged example of a prosperous, late-19th century residential neighborhood constructed around a large urban open space. The focal point of the district is Logan Circle, a Category I Landmark and an important element of the 1791-92 L'Enfant and Ellicott Plans of the Federal City. Surrounding this circle and on some of the radial streets, closely grouped, impressive three- and four-story houses, nearly all constructed during the 25-year period between 1875 and 1900, present an almost solid street facade of Late Victorian and Richardsonian architecture. Despite variations of style, detail, and individual excellence, it is the unity of materials, scale, height and period character which makes this group of buildings a distinct and significant historic district.

The Logan Circle Historic District, located in the southwest section of the Shaw School Urban Renewal Area, lies within the boundaries of the city of Washington planned by L'Enfant in 1791. On L'Enfant's map, the present-day site of Logan Circle appears as a large triangular open space. When Ellicott developed and refined L'Enfant's plan a year later, he altered this triangular space into a basically circular form. The area was too far from Downtown Washington for early development, however, and as late as 1857 Logan Circle was still an open field and the area immediately surrounding it only sparsely inhabited. During and just after the Civil War, a few small-scale dwellings--the majority of them of wood--were erected in the area, primarily to house the freedmen and "contrabands" then pouring into Washington. By 1874 all the present-day streets had been cut through, and the area was beginning to lose some of its rural character, although the circle was still an unlandscaped field.

Approximately 60% of the three- and four-story brick and stone buildings now standing in the Logan Circle District were constructed during the 13-year period between 1874 and 1887. In those years also, several large churches were built in the area, public transportation developed, streets were paved, sewerage installed and street trees planted. The D.C. Directory of 1879 refers to the circle by name for the first time as Iowa Circle, and it was probably formally landscaped at this time.

Construction continued at a slightly slower pace during the last decade of the 19th century. By 1900 the Logan Circle District was a completely

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Shaw School Urban Renewal Area Landmarks, Prepared by the Shaw Project Staff, National Capital Planning Commission in Cooperation with the D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency, October 1968. Real Estate Directory of the City of Washington, D.C., by E.F.M. Faetz and F.W. Pratt, 1874. Survey and Plats of Properties in the City of Washington, D.C. by G.M. Hopkins, 1887. Real Estate Plat Book of Washington, D.C. by G.M. Hopkins, 1892.

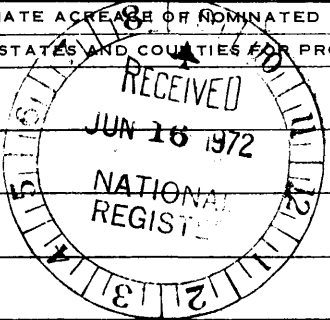
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	54'	35"	77°	02'	00"			
NE	38°	54'	43"	77°	01'	43"			
SE	38°	54'	35"	77°	01'	36"			
SW	38°	54'	20"	77°	01'	53"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **18 + acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission** DATE: **April 17, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1325 G Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **11**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Title [Signature]

Date **JUN 8 1972**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/30/72

ATTEST:

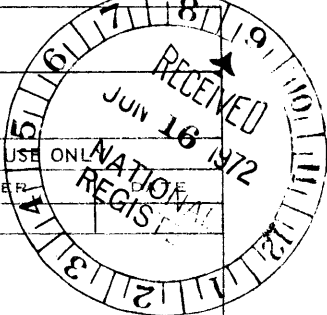
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Significance - Logan Circle Historic District

developed residential community. "In its heyday, the circle was a fashionable address, the home of prominent businessmen and statesmen." By the mid-1890's, however, the wealthy were beginning to build their mansions further west towards Dupont Circle, and the prosperous families began gradually to abandon the area around the turn of the century, leaving their fine houses to deteriorate.

The rapid development and equally rapid abandonment of the area left the Logan Circle District and much of the present-day Shaw School Urban Renewal Area architecturally fossilized. With the exception of three residences on the southeast quadrant of the circle, virtually no demolition has occurred within the 20th century. Many of the single family residences have now been converted into apartments or rooming houses, but exterior alteration to the houses in the District has been extremely limited.

During the past several years a number of houses, particularly along Vermont Avenue, have been privately rehabilitated. A larger number are in a deteriorated condition, however, with a significant number of vacant structures. All of two of the squares and part of a third in the Logan Circle Historic District have been designated for rehabilitation as part of the District of Columbia's third year Neighborhood Development Program. Language has been inserted into the Shaw School Urban Renewal Plan's property rehabilitation standards requiring that the exteriors of buildings in the Logan Circle Area be restored "in a manner consistent with the architectural and aesthetic character of the period during which they were erected." Plans are now being developed to preserve the Logan Circle Historic District as a joint rehabilitation, restoration project.

7. Description - Logan Circle Historic District

One of the great distinctions of the Logan Circle Historic District is the way in which the buildings, individually and in groups, occupy the irregularly-shaped lots and frontages created by the non-grid pattern of the streets. The irregular street pattern is also partially responsible for the irregular boundaries of the district itself, as is the different character of the areas immediately behind it. To the west of the district, 14th Street has long been an important commercial artery. On the south the district is approached by the more modern developments around Scott Circle and the Downtown Urban Renewal Area. On the east the district is bounded by blocks of buildings erected during approximately the same period, but they are generally smaller in scale and substantially inferior in design and construction. Immediately to the north are several rows of buildings of equal quality to those within the district, but more closely related to the Corcoran Street area than to Logan Circle.

The boundaries of the Historic District have been carefully drawn by the Joint Committee on Landmarks to include only those buildings which are necessary to the preservation of the character of the area as a whole. While

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7. Description - Logan Circle Historic District (continued)

a number of the buildings adjacent to or immediately behind the district should, and undoubtedly will, be rehabilitated, the Joint Committee does not feel that they are significant enough to warrant the expenditure of public restoration funds. (For exact Boundary Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 4.)

With the exception of several important freestanding structures, the buildings within the District are all rowhouses. Most of the buildings are set back a few feet from the sidewalk behind small yards enclosed by iron fences. Despite variation in style, ornamentation, and color, the entire district is unified by similarities of scale, texture and period character. Most of the buildings are 3 to 3-1/2 stories in height with partially exposed basements. The building material is principally brick with stone trim. Rock-faced granite ashlar in combination with brick is a less common material. High Victorian (particularly Second Empire) and Richardson-inspired Romanesque are the architectural styles which predominate.

With minor exceptions the structures built prior to 1887 are the most finely detailed and architecturally distinguished. Those constructed later in the century are equally important to the overall integrity of the district, however. The greatest variety of architectural style and detail is found in the buildings closest to the circle itself, while those on the radial streets are often identical rowhouses in groups of three to five. Subtle variations in color deriving from different toned brick, stone, paint and detailing are especially important to the general character of the area.

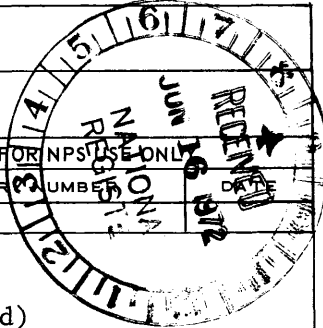
Following are brief descriptions of a few of the pivotal buildings or groups of buildings in the historic district. It is not intended as a complete list of the significant structures in the area, but only an indication of the buildings which typify the district at its best.

Nos. 1 and 2 Logan Circle: This double house constructed around 1880 aggressively occupies its prominent southwest position on the circle. No. 1 was originally owned by William I. Hildrup, present of the Harrisburg Car Company. No. 2 was first occupied by Charles D. Colman, a lawyer and Norman K. Colman, Commissioner of Agriculture. From 1895-99 the Venezuelan Legation occupied this building, which was later to serve as a sanatorium. Both houses are now under single private ownership and will be among the first buildings rehabilitated under the Neighborhood Development Program. This brick double-house in the Second Empire style is three stories high on a largely-exposed rusticated basement. Double stairways lead up to the entrances to the houses in the central pavilion, the mansard roof of which rises a story above the rest of the house. The building is characterized by its three-dimensionally projecting pavilions and bays; tall, narrow fenestration; highly decorative and varied treatment of window ornamentation; tall chimneys, and its mansard roof. Nos. 1 and 2 Logan Circle is one of the few freestanding buildings in the historic district. Behind it at Nos. 1300 and 1302 Rhode Island Avenue, and Nos. 1344 and 1342 Vermont Avenue are four smaller row-houses with typical side hall plans which have identical detailing to the Logan Circle Houses and were obviously erected at the same time by the same builder.

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7. Description - Logan Circle Historic District (Continued)

Nos. 4-14 Logan Circle and No. 1500 13th Street, N.W.: These eleven buildings, which occupy the northwest quadrant of the circle, typify the Logan Circle Historic District. Of varied High Victorian and Richardsonian styles, constructed of several kinds of stone and several varieties of brick, all are three to five stories in height set on partially exposed basements and all have projecting bays. No. 4, which is particularly noteworthy for its porches and detailing, is vacant and in very poor condition. 1500 13th Street is also of exceptional merit. Of brown brick with limestone trim, this house has considerable ornamental iron work with the original cast-metal porches, rails and fences remaining. 1500 13th Street, with its neighbor at 1502, which differs from it in plan but is identical in detail, once housed the Korean Legation.

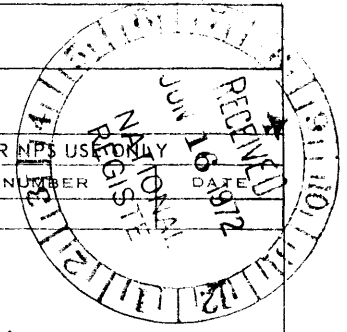
✓ Nos. 1314-1344 Vermont Avenue, N.W.: This series of houses represent an excellent example of late nineteenth century domestic architectural styles. The houses are well-scaled to the street, and trees and front yards enhance them. They date from 1875 to 1890 and are constructed of brick, pressed brick and stone. All are three stories high, with partially exposed basements, and all have projecting bays. Many of them have dormered attics. String courses, sill lines and cornices are uniform through much of the block. In recent years, a number of these houses have been converted into flats and rooming houses.

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 1308 Vermont Avenue, N.W.: A Category III Landmark, the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church is the only building in the historic district which is a designated landmark in its own right. The relatively large scale of this church, which is the only nonresidential building in the area makes it an effective terminus to the historic district on the southwest. The church was erected between 1882 and 1884 as the Vermont Avenue Christian Church. President James A. Garfield, who was the congregation's most distinguished member, was assassinated in 1871, and the church was dedicated to his memory at its completion. In 1953, the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church Congregation purchased the building for \$100,000.

R.G. Russel of Hartford, Connecticut, designed the building in the High Victorian Gothic style. Of red brick with white limestone trim, the church is 70 feet wide by 205 feet deep. The principal Vermont Avenue facade is characterized by double entrance vestibules, a wide variety of large and small pointed-arch elements, an 80-foot high gabled roof and the dramatic corner spire which rises to a height of 137 feet.

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7. Description - Logan Circle Historic District

Boundary Description - (See attached map)

Beginning at the N.E. corner of Lot 84 in Square 242 at a point 93.42 feet N.E. of the N.W. corner of the intersection of N Street, N.W., and Vermont Avenue, N.W., thence northwesterly along the north side of said lot 84 and of lots 834 and 83 in Square 242 to the northeast corner of lot 835 in Square 242, thence westerly along the north property line of said lot 835 to intersect the east rear property line of lot 76 in Square 242, thence northerly, easterly and northeasterly along the rear property of said lot 76 and continuing northeasterly along the east rear property lines of lots 77, 78, 832, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, and 811 in Square 242 to the S.E. corner of lot 1 in Square 242, thence northwesterly along the east property line of said lot 1, and continuing northwesterly along the east property line of lots 2, 3, and 830 in Square 242 extended across Rhode Island Avenue, N.W. to intersect the north side of Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., in Square N-242, thence northwesterly along the north side of Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., to the S.E. corner of lot 29 in Square N-242, thence northerly along the east property line of said lot 29 extended across P Street, N.W., to intersect the north side of P Street, N.W., in Square 241, thence easterly along the north side of P Street, N.W., to intersect the west side of Kingman Place, N.W., thence northerly along the west side of Kingman Place, N.W., to intersect the south property line of lot 820 in Square 241, thence easterly across Kingman Place, N.W., along the extended south property line of said lot 820 and continuing easterly along the south property line of lot 825 in Square 241, to intersect the front southeast property line of said lot 825, thence northeasterly along the front southeast property line of said lot 825 and continuing northeasterly along the front southeast property line of lot 824 in Square 241, to intersect the east property line of said lot 824, thence northerly along the east property line of said lot 824 and continuing northerly along the east property lines of lots 823 and 822 extended across a 20-foot alley in Square 241 to intersect the north side of said 20-foot alley, thence easterly along the north side of said 20-foot alley to intersect the east property line of lot 57 in Square 241, thence northerly along the east property line of said lot 57 extended across Q Street, N.W., to intersect the north side of Q Street, N.W., in Square 240, thence easterly along the north side of Q Street, N.W., extended across 13th Street, N.W., and Vermont Avenue, N.W., to intersect in Square N-278 the east side of Vermont Avenue, N.W., thence southwesterly along the east side of Vermont Avenue, N.W., extended across Q Street, N.W., to intersect the north side of a 10-foot alley in Square 278, thence southeasterly, southerly and southeasterly along the north side of said 10-foot alley to intersect the north side of Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., thence northeasterly along the north side of Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., extended across 12th Street, N.W., to intersect in Square 310 with the extended east property line of lot 805 in Square 311, thence southeasterly across Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., along the extended east property line of said lot 805 to the southwest corner of lot 804 in Square 311, thence northeasterly along the



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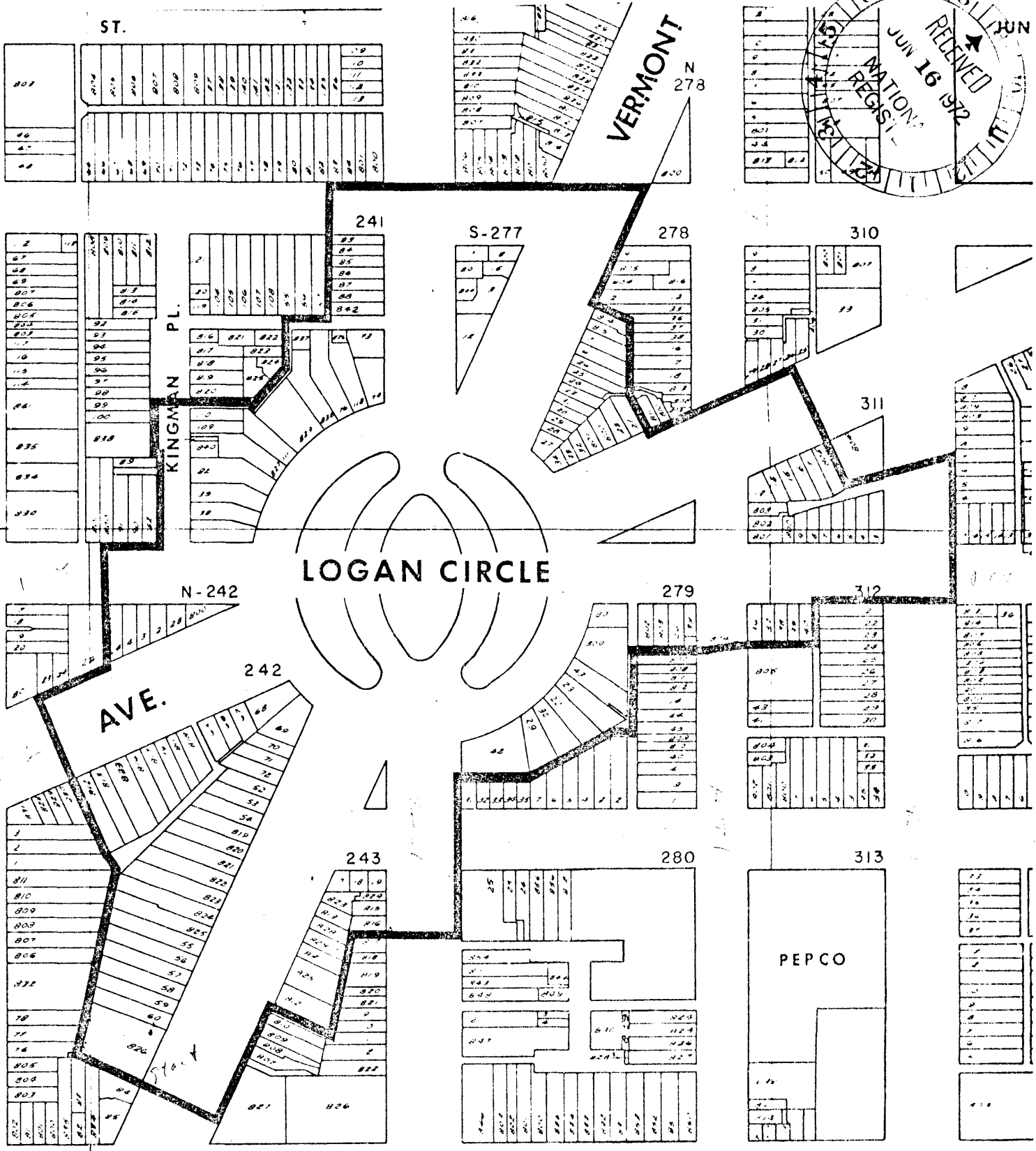
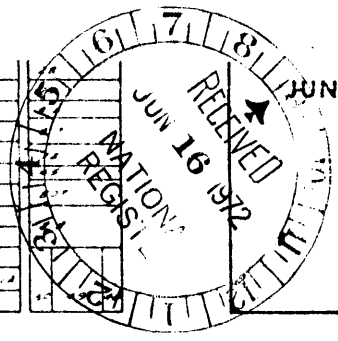
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7. Description - Logan Circle Historic District (Boundary Description cont.)

south property line of said lot 804 extended across 11th Street, N.W., to intersect the east side of 11th Street, N.W., thence southerly along the east side of 11th Street, N.W., extended across P Street, N.W., to intersect the south side of P Street, N.W., thence westerly along the south side of P Street, N.W., extended across 11th Street, N.W., to intersect in Square 312 the east side of a 12-foot alley, thence southerly along the east side of said 12-foot alley to intersect the extended north property line of lot 805 in Square 312, thence westerly along the extended north property line of said lot 805 to the N.W. corner of said lot 805, thence southwesterly across 12th Street, N.W., to the N.E. corner of lot 806 in Square 279, thence westerly along the north property line of said lot 806 to the east side of a 15-foot north-south alley in Square 279, thence southerly along the east side of said 15-foot north-south alley to intersect with the extended north property line of lot 2 in Square 279, thence westerly along the extended north property line of said lot 2 to the N.W. corner of said lot 2, thence southwesterly and westerly along the north property lines of lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 35, 34, 33, 32, and 31 in Square 279 to intersect the east side of 13th Street, N.W., thence southerly along the east side of 13th Street, N.W., extended across O Street, N.W., to intersect in Square 280 with the extended south property line of lot 816 in Square 243, thence westerly along the extended south property line of said lot 816 in Square 243, to the southwest corner of said lot 816, thence southwesterly along the west property lines of lots 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 9 and 10 in Square 243 to the southeast corner of lot 812 in Square 243, thence northwesterly along the south property line of said lot 812 to intersect the east side of Vermont Avenue, N.W., thence southwesterly along the east side of Vermont Avenue, N.W., to intersect in Square 243 with the extended north side of lot 84 in Square 242, thence northwesterly along the extended north property line of said lot 84, crossing Vermont Avenue, N.W., to the place of beginning.





LOGAN CIRCLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Boundaries designated by the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital