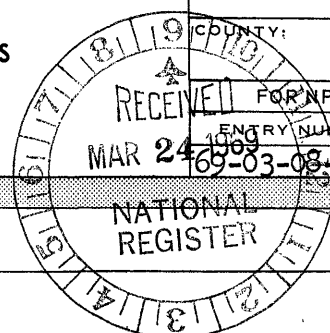


PH0011860

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 69-03-08-0004 DATE: 3/24/69

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **Winder Building**

AND/OR HISTORIC: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **604 17th Street, N. W. (N. W. corner of 17th & F Streets)**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**

STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08** COUNTY: **District of Columbia** CODE: **001**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: **United States of America GSA**

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: **08**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **31,989 square feet**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by 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: **726 Jackson Place, N. W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: 69-03-08-0004 DATE: 3/24/69

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Winder Building, located on the N. W. corner of 17th and F Streets, N. W., is an austere buff-painted, L-shaped brick building of five stories and a basement. It is 53 feet deep, and fronts 101 feet (9 bays) on 17th Street and 209 feet (13 bays) on F Street. When built in 1847-1848, this 130-room office building was an architectural and engineering pioneer for its height, its use of iron beams and its central hot-water heating system. The Winder Building was one of the first to rely exclusively on central heat, and the absence of fireplaces precipitated a controversy which resulted in Government buildings being built with fireplaces and chimneys, in spite of central heating, for decades thereafter. Although the building was notable for being one of the very first in Washington with iron beams, it is essentially a masonry building..

The Winder Building has undergone a number of alterations during its 120-year history. The original foundation walls were sheathed in marble after the 1872 grading-down of 17th and F Streets uncovered them to within 20 inches of the footing. This permitted the basement rooms to be excavated, but impaired the strength of the foundations. The exterior brick walls above the basement were originally covered with mastic cement or stucco which was partially removed at some later date and the brick painted. This accounts for its present rough appearance. The first floor is marked by six vertical rows of recessed band courses running between the windows on the two facades, and giving the appearance of rustication. Originally, both facades on the second floor had an ironwork balcony, which is said to have been a reviewing stand for Civil War military parades. This balcony was removed around 1930, and in 1932 the original 12-foot double-hung windows which had given egress to the balcony were replaced by the present 9-foot 2/2 light double-hung windows. At the same time, all the windows in the building were replaced by modern ones and the original stone sills and lintels removed. A slightly projecting brick belt course separates the fourth and fifth stories. The fifth floor garret windows were replaced with larger ones when that floor was converted to an additional office floor in 1928. The simple, classic projecting cornice has large dentils beneath it.

The main entrance to the building was in the middle of the 17th Street facade with two smaller entrances near either end of the F Street side. Each of these entrances was reached by a low flight of steps. In the 1947-1948 renovation, the F Street door nearest 17th Street was replaced by a large window to increase the interior light. At the same time, the principal entrance on 17th Street was raised and a classical pediment and graceful double-curved stairway were added. Modern shutters have also been added on the windows of the two lower floors.

In the interior the enormous original iron stairway, which was once the pride of the building, was long ago removed as a fire hazard. A new fireproof stairway was added in an area way outside the original walls.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

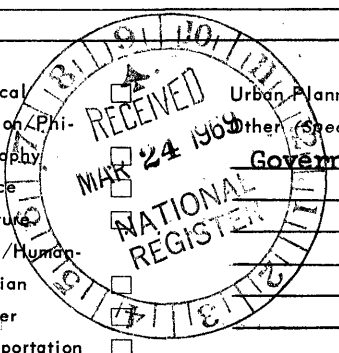
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1847-1848

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Winder Building a Category II Landmark which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. One of the few extant pre-Civil War office buildings in Washington, the Winder Building was notable at the time of its construction for its height (much criticized) in pre-elevator days, its early use of iron beams, and its central heating system. Lincoln, Meigs, Jefferson Davis, and the Government's early engineers, scientists, and surveyors, as well as historic events, are associated with this 120-year old building. It should be preserved.

Designed exclusively for governmental use, the Winder Building was erected in 1847-48 as a commercial venture by W. H. Winder, a nephew of General W. H. Winder, who commanded the American Forces at the Battle of Bladensburg in the War of 1812 and who is often mistakenly credited as the builder. The Government rented the building in 1848 for several bureaus of the Interior, Treasury, War and Navy Departments, overflowing Government-owned buildings, and then bought it in 1854 for \$200,000 after long dispute.

Early in the Civil War, Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs and the Chief of Ordnance were housed in the building. The Judge Advocate General, the Office of the Commissioner for the Exchange for Prisoners, and the Bureau of Military Justice moved in later, and the search for the conspirators in Lincoln's assassination and their prosecution were directed from there.

Much pseudo-Civil War history has been credited to the Winder Building. It has long been believed that the Union military telegraph had its headquarters in the building, that it housed the offices of four successive Commanding Generals of the Union Army (Scott, Halleck, McClellan, Grant) and that it was a military prison complete with dungeons in the basement. Recent research has revealed that the telegraph office was in the Old War Building; that the Commanding Generals were headquartered in the Grant Building across the streets (S. W. corner of 17th & F Streets, now site of FDIC); and that, although civilian suspects were interrogated in the building, it is unlikely they were imprisoned there. An historic plaque which perpetuates these inaccuracies was placed on the 17th Street facade of the building in 1950 by the National Capital Sesquicentennial Commission. It should be removed.

After the Civil War the building was used exclusively by the War Department and housed in part a museum for the display of an ordnance collection later dispersed when the War Department moved into the State, War and Navy

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Winder Building," Report of the Commission on Public Buildings and Grounds, H. R. Report No. 193, 33rd Congress, 1st session, 1854. p. 13.

Topham, Washington. "The Winder Building," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 37-38. Washington, D. C., 1937. pp. 169-172.

Shipley, Ruth. "The Historic Winder Building," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 50. Washington, D. C., 1952. pp. 235-244.

Lehman, Donald, G.S.A. Historian, Unpublished Notes

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE						
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	38	°	53'	51"	77	°	02'	24"
NE	°	'	"								
SE	°	'	"								
SW	°	'	"								

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission**      DATE: **Feb. 28, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**726 Jackson Place, N. W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **District of Columbia**      CODE: **08**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 *Wm F. Fletcher*

Title Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date March 24, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Ernest Allen Connolly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date March 24, 1969

ATTEST:

*William Johnston*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date April 3, 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18/323060/4309180

OTM Ref  
7-7-98 w/v

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-03-08-0004	3/24/69

(Number all entries)

8. Significance--Winder Building

Building in 1888. The Winder Building then served the Treasury Department and still later a variety of agencies related to the State Department and to the Executive Office of the President. Since 1960 it has housed the Office of Civil Defense Mobilization, now called the Office of Emergency Planning.

