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District of Columbia

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

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1 Name

historic Ingleside

and or common Stoddard Baptist Home

Location 2.

1818 Newton Street, N.W. street & number

city, town

Washington

vicinity of

county

District of Columbia 11 state code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	<u> </u>	agriculture	museum
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	yes: restricted	government	scientific
•	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	<u>X</u> N.A.		military	<u>x</u> other: Nursing Home

Owner of Property 4.

Stoddard Nursing Home Association name

1818 Newton Street, N.W. street & number

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resentat	ion in Ex	cisting Su	irveys				
ventory of His	toric Sites	has this proper	ty been deter	nined eli	gible?x	yes	no
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Washington city, town

7. Description

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Page 1 of 3

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Introduction

The Stoddard Baptist Home, known historically as Ingleside, is a skillful example of the Italian Villa style with numerous formal It is the design of an architect of major significance details. in American architecture, Thomas Ustick Walter. The two-story main house block of the mansion features a shallow hipped roof with bracketed eaves, a large square tower at its southwest corner, and ample arcaded porches. A two-story wing to the east, wrapped on two sides by an arcaded porch is also part of the original structure. Walls are of brick, uniformly covered by pebble-dash stucco; the roof is of tin. Although the original structure retains much of its earlier character, the building has undergone a number of changes through years of individual and institutional ownership. A large addition to the west facade has just been completed; this new wing is a long brick structure which simulates the neighborhood's rhythmic rowhouse facades and red brick materials. (A summary of alterations is presented chronologically in Section 8 of this nomination form.)

Exterior Description

The extant portion of the original house is two stories in height, rectangular in massing, and is stuccoed. The front (north) facade is six bays wide and has a one-bay wing to the east. A one-story, three-bay, projecting arcade topped by a balustrade, delineates an elegant entrance to the house. A balustraded terrace begins at the front line of the arcade and wraps around to either side of the building. The arcade and terrace were built in 1911. Directly east of the projecting entrance is a slightly projecting, one-story bay with a set of three round-arched jalousie windows; the bay is original to the house.

The arch is a motif repeated in the window heads and doors. All of the openings on the main facades (north and east) are elongated and round-arched. Windows which are operable are sixover-six, double-hung, wooden sash, with fan-lights in the arch. First floor windows which open onto the terrace were originally jalousie windows. All windows are placed singly except for a pair on the second floor directly above the set of three in the projection on the first floor. This second floor pair is articulated by a narrow, balustraded balcony. All windows have molded surrounds supported on lug sills.

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below prehistoric archeology-prehistoric community planning landscape architecturereligion 1400-1499 archeology-historic conservation law science 1500-1599 agriculture economics literature sculpture 1600-1699 x architecture education military social/ 1700-1799 art engineering music humanitaria x 1800-1899 communications industry politics/government transportation x 1900-

Specific dates 1851-53, 1896, 1911 Builder/Architect Thomas U. Walter Page 1 of 9

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary

The Ingleside estate, located at 1818 Newton Street, N.W. was designed in 1851-52 by one of America's most distinguished architects, Thomas Ustick Walter, best known for his monumental Classical Revival public buildings which include the dome and wings of the U.S. Capitol. The building is of stylistic importance since its fine Italian Villa design is rare in the context of Walter's work. It may carry additional significance because of its possible association with prominent landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing.¹ Ingleside has served as the residence of several historically important people, including members of the Walbridge and Noyes families. Although less than one acre of the original estate remains, the history of its setting reflects the gradual transition from a remote rural mid-19th century estate to a densely populated neighborhood where it has long been recognized as a landmark.

Early History of the Property

Ingleside was one of a number of large country estates which once existed in the rural county of Washington. The property was originally composed of portions of two tracts of land, Pleasant Plains and Mount Pleasant. It is unclear when the name was first associated with the land, but it was known as Ingleside (Scottish for "fireplace") before the mansion was erected. According to deeds, the land was assembled by John P. Heiss. He purchased a portion of Mount Pleasant from Abner Pierce in 1824 and Pleasant Plains from the Holmead family in 1847. In 1850, "a parcel of land, called Ingleside, composed of lots 4 and 5 of subdivision of Mount Pleasant, and part of Pleasant Plains, and also another part of Pleasant Plains"² was sold to Edwin P. Hewlings. Hewlings, in turn, sold it in 1851 for \$1 to the wife of his brother, T.B.A. Hewlings.³ Little information has been found about the Hewlings family, but the fact that they came from Philadelphia may explain their selection of an architect for the house they built on the property.

Design of the House by Thomas U. Walter

In 1851, T.B.A. Hewlings commissioned Philadelphia architect Thomas Ustick Walter to design a house and stable for the Ingleside property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet.

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The shallow hipped roof has standing seam metal cladding. Its wide, overhanging eave is supported by handsome shaped brackets. Four of the original brick panel chimneys are extant. The roof of the east wing arcade is low in pitch and is supported by dentils. This dentilled pattern is repeated below the roof balustrade of the entrance arcade.

One of the most prominent features of the house is a large threestory square tower at its southwest corner. In each face of the tower, a set of three arched windows at the third floor level is inset into a shallow frame. Above each set of windows, this framing takes the form of five corbelled arches. The third story of the tower is delineated by a beltcourse. The roof of the tower has a wide, overhanging eave supported by brackets.

The south facade of the building is the most extensively altered side according to historic photographs. Today, this facade sits almost against the property line which abutts a retaining wall (built in 1915) next to an alley. There is no remaining evidence of the triple arcade which served as the main entrance to the house before 1896.

A large new western addition replaced the two 20th-century wings and an original wing of the house (which may have served as the servant's wing). This addition was designed to relate visually to the red brick rowhouses of the surrounding neighborhood of Mount Pleasant. It is a three-story, undulating six-bay brick structure which steps back to a one-story connector to the house's western facade.

Interior Description

The house is entered through a heavy, wooden, nail-studded door into a small vestibule designed in 1896 when the house was reoriented to the north. The interior glass door which leads into the entrance hall is elegantly articulated by a leaded glass fanlight and sidelights. The fanlight was destroyed by vandals following the 1983 fire and has been restored, but the sidelights survived and date to 1896. (The original fanlight was brought from Spain by Frank Noyes, owner of the estate during the 1896 alterations.) The long entrance hall opens through an arch into a central hallway from which the first floor rooms open. The main stairhall also opens into this center hall, directly opposite the entrance. William Marsh, architect of the 1896 alterations, was responsible for the interior detailing of this entrance and stairhall, which a contemporary newspaper accounts

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described as "Pompeiian." All interior trim, including pilasters, door, window and ceiling moldings, capitals, railings and stained glass windows in this area were destroyed by fire and have been carefully restored to the Marsh design using photographic documentation.

Several large rooms on the first floor are organized round a cross-hall. All have been extensively restored. Stolen mantelpieces have been replaced by period pieces, and moldings have been cut to match existing ones. Windows and doors are inset into heavy, carved rounded frames. One plaster ceiling medallion is extant. Modern radiators have been added and carpeting has been laid in all rooms.

The stair hall had to be completely reconstructed following the fire. The new construction closely follows that which appears in post-1896 photographs of the first floor.

The second floor stair hall has been altered to adhere to modern building and fire codes. On the second floor, rooms facing Newton Street have been returned to their original configuration. The central hallway and rooms facing south have been altered to accommodate new office functions. Window moldings on this floor appear to be original, as is one mantelpiece.

Summary of Alterations

The house was originally oriented to the south. In 1896, the house was reoriented to face the street which had been laid to its north (the property had been subdivided and an alley was cut directly south of the house). Several major alterations were made to the interior of the house to accommodate this reorientation. Later alterations include the 1899 stuccoing of the northeast porch columns to match the walls of the main body of the house, the 1911 addition of the elegant entrance arcade and terrace, and two 20th-century additions (which have recently been demolished, along with the original western-most wing of the Some alterations are difficult to document since house). building and repair permits pertaining to the structure are sometimes vague. Ingleside has recently undergone extensive renovations to rehabilitate the structure for office use after a 1983 fire heavily damaged the interior. Attention to historic detailing and plans were an essential component in the rehabilitation scheme. A large brick addition to the west has just been completed.

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Walter (1804-1877) is now considered to be one of the most important of all 19th-century American architects. He is responsible for 400 to 500 noted buildings, ranging from major public commissions to the gemlike Greek Revival estate Andalusia. It was in 1850, when he won the competition for the design of the extension of the U.S. Capitol (which included the wings and the dome), that his place in American architecture was assured. Because Walter is most noted for his monumental Greek Revival public buildings and his engineering prowess, Ingleside, designed in another vein, is a notable contrast to the body of his work.

The design of the Hewlings mansion occupied Walter for over two years, as entries in his diary indicate.⁴ At the same time, his diaries are filled with entries pertaining to his work on the U.S. Capitol.

Walter's diaries are located in the Thomas U. Walter papers at the Athenaeum in Philadelphia. On January 11, 1851 he noted that he visited "Mr. Hewlings's place" in Washington for a consultation. By early February, he completed plans and elevations for the house. And by April, when all the drawings were completed, Walter "visited Mr. Hewlings country seat" to decide on the site for the building. Two original drawings for the Ingleside mansion are also located at the Athenaeum (see Figure 1). Dated 1851 and signed by Walter, the drawings are the only known surviving drawings of the house, and are labeled "Design for a villa for T.B.A. Hewlings Esq."⁵

Walters felt Ingleside represented one of his most important works. In a letter written later in his career to J.A. McAllister (a stereo-optician), he listed 50 important buildings and included among them the "Walbridge Mansion, called Ingleside, in Washington, D.C."⁶

Secondary sources suggest that another major figure may have been involved with planning the Ingleside estate. A 1929 Washington Star article attributes the original landscape plan to America's pioneer landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing of New York. The possibility that two designers of such enormous significance to American architecture collaborated on this property is quite intriguing. Certainly, Downing was in Washington at this time working on designs for the President's Park and the Smithsonian Institution grounds. In addition, the Italian Villa style of the building is somewhat unique to Walter, and is of interest because it is a strong facsimile of a design for a country villa (Design XXXIII, Southern Villa--Romanesque Style) published in Downing's 1950 book, The Architecture of Country Houses.⁷ However, further

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documentary evidence has not been found to substantiate a collaboration on Ingleside. (Downing's name is not mentioned in Walter's diary or account books, or in other sources viewed to date.) And unfortunately, the grounds have long been altered by subdivisions of the land.

Occupancy of Ingleside by the Walbridge Family

How long it took to erect Ingleside, or if Hewlings ever occupied it, is unknown. By 1854, however, the house and land were conveyed to General Hiram Walbridge. The property remained in the Walbridge family until 1890 and was often referred to as the Walbridge Estate. Secondary sources indicate that the first members of the family to occupy the house were Congressman and Mrs. Chester Walbridge, parents of Hiram. They used it as their country estate. Mrs. Walbridge, occupied the house permanently after her husband's death in the mid-1860s.

A photograph dating from the mid-19th century (see Figure 2) shows the south facade of the house during the time of the Walbridge family occupancy.⁸ (The south facade was the main facade at the time; later, in the 1890s, the house was reoriented so that its entrance faced north.)

General Hiram Walbridge and his family moved into the house upon his mother's death in 1867. Hiram Walbridge was a lawyer by training. Shortly after being appointed brigadier general in the Ohio militia in 1843, he moved to New York where he became involved in banking and trade. After winning a single Congressional term in 1853, he ran unsuccessfully for several elected positions. Proportedly a close friend of Abraham Lincoln's, he refused a commission offered by Lincoln in the United States Army because he felt he lacked sufficient military training. Hiram Walbridge died in 1870, leaving his estate to his wife. In 1872, Mrs. Walbridge signed the house and land over to one of Hiram's brothers, Heman.

For the next 18 years the house and land passed back and forth between Heman Walbridge and the third Walbridge brother, Horace. Briefly, between April and November of 1887, the house was used as the temporary home of the Washington City Orphan Asylum. In 1890, the estate was deeded to two Walbridge decendants who almost immediately sold it to Chapin Brown. At this time, the area known today as Mount Pleasant was beginning to develop into a suburb of Washington, D.C. Large estates were being

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subdivided, small houses were being erected, streets adhering to the L'Enfant Plan were being planned and laid, and the small community was connected to the city by horse-drawn busses. Brown subdivided the Ingleside property and sold a 2 1/2-acre portion with the mansion to Charles H. Bauman, who in turn sold it in 1896 to Frank B. Noyes, treasurer and editor of The Evening Star.

Frank B. Noyes Remodels Ingleside

Noyes, who went on to become president of <u>The Evening Star</u> newspaper and the Associated Press, was one of Washington's most prominent businessmen. He hired talented local architect William J. Marsh to remodel Ingleside in 1896. Building Permit #1828, issued on June 11, 1896, vaguely describes the alterations as "general repairs" and states that a brick, 16' x 18' servants quarters was going to be added to the house, though it does not state exactly where. The most important change to the house was its reorientation to face north rather than south. In June 1896, the <u>Evening Star</u> printed a description of the alterations in its "Real Estate Gossip" column which appeared in the paper every Saturday.

> One of the houses well known in the social life of the city of some years back was the Walbridge residence in Ingleside. In those days the house was far in the country, but now, lying as its does just to the west of Mt. Pleasant, it is in the line of the city's growth. As an evidence of this the extensive grounds surrounding the old house have been subdivided into building lots, leaving a spacious plot about the residence itself. This house, with the grounds above it, has been purchased by Mr. Frank B. Noyes, and some important changes are being made in order to prepare it for his residence...

> This house is in the Italian villa style, and is simple and dignified in its lines. The stout brick walls are cemented in rough-cast work, which the Architect, W.J. Marsh, who has prepared plans for the remodeling of the house, intends to make an ivory cream color, which will carry out the idea of preserving intact the architectural effect of the house as originally planned. The main entrance of the house is on the south side, but, owing to the location of the streets in the subdivision which has been made of Ingleside, the south front now looks toward an alley, while the north front faces Howard avenue [Newton Street]...

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What was formerly the garden side of the house is to be the front, and an entrance is to be made which will open into a wide and spacious entrance hall. The latter will be an effective feature and will be lighted by windows opening to the lawn. On this floor will be located the reception room, drawing room, dining room, library and conservatory. The rooms are large and spacious and will be furnished in a style harmonious with the general treatment of the house. The halls will be decorated in the Pompeiian style. The front door will be of plain wood, studded with iron nail heads, a Spanish design. The vestibule door will be an elaborate wrought iron and glass partition fitting the full width of the hall. This door was purchased in Spain by Mr. Noyes. In the dining room, which will be finished in mahogany, an attractive feature will be the fireplace, which will contain an oldfashioned hob grate, after a colonial model. As the house is considerably above the grade of the street, the approach will be by a series of terraces after the style of the old Italian gardens. The entrance to the grounds will be between two columns supporting a wrought iron gate and spanned by a wrought iron arch holding a lantern.

These changes to the house were corroborated in a 1929 <u>Washington</u> <u>Star</u> article which states that Noyes extensively remodeled the house and beautified the grounds. This remodeling and landscaping altered the original house as designed by Walter and the grounds which the article states were laid by A.J. Downing.¹ According to the article, Noyes collected and planted many rare and exotic plants on the grounds. The article also contained a photograph dating c. 1896 (see Figure 3) which showed the entire north front entry of the house as it appered during the Noyes residency.

In 1899, a repair permit was issued to allow the lathing and pebble-dashing of the wooden columns of the porch in the northeast corner so that they would match the rest of the house (Building Permit #550; September 22, 1899). A year later, Marsh and his partner Walter Peter were commissioned to design a new stable for the estate (Building Permit #45; July 11, 1900). (The stable is no longer extant.) Despite these changes to the house, it still retained the essence of an Italian Villa style residence.



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Noyes sold Ingleside	in 1904. Betw	een 1907 and 1911.	Chester A

Snow, a patent lawyer owned the house. Ingleside was purchased by Samuel J. Masters in 1911. President of the National Investment Company and partner in Master & Kinnear, a real estate investment firm, Masters was responsible for the three-bay extension of the north portico and for the addition of open porches across the front facade (Building Permit # 1943, October 13, 1911). The designer was Washington architect Nicholas Haller.

Purchase of the Property by the Presbyterian Home

In 1917, Masters sold the estate to the Presbyterian Home for the Aged, a charitable organization founded in 1906 to care for old and infirm women who were without means or relatives to support them.

The Presbyterian Home moved from a small rowhouse on M Street, N.W. to Ingleside in 1917. Within ten years it had outgrown the house and required expanded facilities. In 1927, the noted local architect Arthur B. Heaton was asked to design an addition to the house. Building Permit #9093 (issued on April 25, 1927) describes the new structure as a brick and tile, two-story, 44'3" x 43'8" addition on the west facade of the residence. An index of Heaton's papers indicates that he made other alterations to the house, but it is unclear what these changes were.

In 1938, Heaton was commissioned to design yet another addition to the Presbyterian Home. This brick and concrete, 44' x 100' addition was added to the west facade of the first addition. Building Permit #217834 (October 28, 1938) also includes a letter from Heaton to the Inspector of Buildings requesting permission to place a wooden cornice on the new addition to match the cornices of the original building and the 1927 addition (permission was granted). Photographs of both additions appear in the 1957 Annual Report of the Presbyterian Home (see Figure 4). They indicate that the buildings were simple in design so as not to detract attention from the original home. Two stories in height, they were designed in a modified Colonial Revival style. They had shuttered, six-over-six light, double-hung windows, and one-story pedimented porticos over the centrally placed front A bracketed, wooden cornice (which matched the cornice of doors. the original building) topped each addition.

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Recent Purchase and Alterations by the Stoddert Baptist Home

The Presbyterian Home occupied Ingleside until 1961 when it moved to a new and larger facility. At that time, the estate was purchased by the Stoddard Baptist Home which was in search of a larger building for its elderly residents and patients. The Stoddard Baptist Home was founded in 1890 for the care of people over 65 years old who could no longer work for a living. The Home has owned the property since 1961.

In 1979, Ingleside was designated a Landmark of the National Capital for its association with Walbridge, Walter and Downing. The house was vacated shortly thereafter while plans were being prepared to expand and modernize the facility. In 1983, the interior of the abandoned mansion was heavily damaged by fire which spread from the center hall and stairwell. The building was then vandalized and some interior features, such as mantel pieces and lighting fixtures, were stolen.

Reconstruction of Ingleside began shortly following the fire. The stair was rebuilt and many interior features were restored through the use of historic photographs. Many of the rooms which had been partitioned over the years were returned to their original configurations. A wing and the two additions on the western facade of the house were demolished and a large new addition was erected in their place. When occupied in late 1986, the mansion will be used as the administrative center for the Stoddard Baptist Home. The new addition will house its residents.

Summary

Built in the early 1850s, Ingleside has had a distinguished architect and ownership history. Throughout its 135 years, the house has been occupied by prominent citizens or charitable organizations. Originally designed by Thomas Ustick Walter, the noted 19th-century architect, the house is an important example of his domestic design.

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FOOTNOTES

1 The name of Andrew Jackson Downing, the renowned architect and landscape architect of the mid-19th century, has often been associated with the Ingleside estate. His name appears in late 19th-century and 20th-century newspaper accounts about the estate. It is certainly possible that Downing played a role at Ingleside. He often visited Washington, D.C. in the late 1840s and early 1850s (before his untimely death in 1852), to work on his commission to landscape the Mall. Walter was in Washington working on the Capitol dome at the same time. And they both had dealings with W.W. Corcoran during those years. It is highly likely that they knew each other and therefore the possibility exists that they may have collaborated on the design of Ingleside. However, there is no primary documentation or concrete evidence of Downing's involvement.

A chain of title for the property is given in the 1929 Washington Star article. This description is quoted from that article.

3 This information is from testimony presented by Nancy Schwartz at the 1979 Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital's hearing on Ingleside.

4 Entries pertaining to Ingleside in Walter's 1851 diary include: January 11: "Visited Mr. Hewling's place for consultation." January 17: "Worked at Hewlings' cottage." February 3: "Finished following drawings for Mr. T.B.A. Hewlings, plan of cellar, plan of 1st story, plan of roof, plan of second story, original plan of villa, 1st story, original front elevation commissioned Jan. 15." February 5: "Finished the following drawings for T.B.A. Hewlings: Front elevation No. 1 North elevation 6 South elevation

Back elevation

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April	3: "Finished plans for Mr. Hewling		follows.	
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	9 Detail of Bay window			
	10 " of casement windows			
	11 Plans " " "			
	12 " Bay windows, back			
	13 Details of balcony			
	14 Cornice full size			
	15 " of Bay windows"			
April	6: "Worked atand Mr. Hewling's	drawi	nao II	
April	8: "Finished the following drawing	urawı va far	Mr. Hou	
npt 11	lings: Plan of cellars, Plan of	$\frac{1}{2}$	ML. New-	
	of 2nd story. Wrote to Mr. Hew!	linge	"	
April	10: "made three designs for stable	e for	πολ	
	Hewlings."	-5 101	I.D.A.	
April	11: "Consultation until 12:00 [mic	Iniaht	l with Mr	
	Hewlings"	inigit	j with ML.	
April	12: "Visited Mr. Hewling's country	, coat	dogidad	
	on the site of the building."	g seat	, decideu	
April	26: "T.B.A. Hewling's expense of v	vicit	to Washing-	_
	ton\$24.84"	1510	to washing-	•
April	30: "Finished the following drawing	nge fo	r Mr	
	Hewlings, Front elevationworki	ina dr	awing Dlar	
	and sections of Stonework."	ing ui	awing, iia.	8
May 2:	"Visited Mr. Hewling's Country Se	at wi	th wife and	1
	daughter."		wite and	•
F	-			
⁵ The Walter	drawings illustrate the east and w	vect c	ides of the	

The Walter drawings illustrate the east and west sides of the structure, but are labeled as the north and south elevations. The plans either were reoriented when the building was erected, or were originally mislabeled.

6 Letter from Thomas Ustick Walter to John A. McAllister, November 26, 1860, in the McAllister Collection, Library Company of Philadelpia, the Historical Society of Pennsylania.

7 An 1896 Evening Star article even attributes Ingleside to Downing. Downing was responsible for at least two Italian Villa style residences in Washington which date to the 1850s, but the Walter papers seem to clearly contradict this claim that Ingleside was his work.

8 The photograph is archived with the Walter papers at the Athenaeum in Philadelphia. It is undated. "Hewlings' Villa" is penciled onto the back.

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