

PH0001767

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
JUL 23 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lewis, Edward Simon, House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
erroneously known as Lewis, Washington, House; the Ernie Pyle House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
456 N Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Congressman
Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

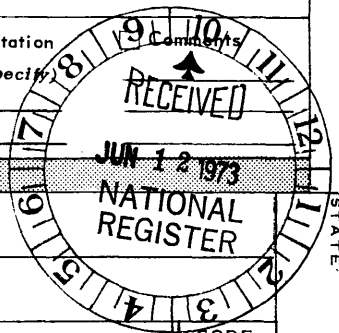
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Harbour Square Owners, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 N Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and G 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:
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUL 23 1973

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward Simon Lewis House, erroneously known as the Washington Lewis House, is located on the south side of N Street, S.W., near the corner of Fourth Street. It was one of the few buildings spared during urban renewal clearance in southwest in the late 1950's and early 1960's. At that time the houses attached to the east and west sides of the Lewis House were demolished. Today the early nineteenth century Federal style house is part of Harbour Square Co-Operative Apartments, and townhouses built in 1964-66 are attached at the east and west.

The Lewis House, probably erected in 1817, is a 2-1/2 story, three-bay-wide brick building with full basement. The 31'1" wide and 39'4" deep house has a brick and stone foundation. Front (north) walls are laid in Flemish bond above the line of the first floor. Elsewhere the walls are laid in common bond. The gable roof covered with tin with standing seams is broken by two dormers with elliptical pediments on the north and two similar dormers on the south. These dormers were rebuilt in 1964-66 when a shed dormer connecting the dormers of the north facade was removed. The large brick chimney at the west was also rebuilt in 1964-66. The north and south facades have a plain brick cornice with bricks set at a 45° angle. At the east and west are parapet gable ends. The house projects slightly north from the attached rowhouses at the east and west.

The north and south facades are representative examples of the standard, early nineteenth century, Washington three-bay-wide facade. The plain brick walls have a flat planar wall surface unbroken by belt courses. The main doorway with semicircular fanlight is located in the first story east bay of the north facade. Windows have brick jack arches and stone sills. Both first and second story windows have 6/6-lights as do the dormers. The basement has casement windows. The proportions of the facades and the placement of openings are characteristic of the Adam-Federal style.

Exterior trim including louvered shutters, door, door trim, and entrance porch are not original. Most of these features date from the 1964-66 rehabilitation. At that time the building was painted beige. Originally the house had a standard side hall plan with two rooms to the west. The interior had interesting woodwork with corner blocks with rosettes and Adamesque mantels. The interior has undergone considerable alteration and in 1964-66 was completely modernized.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) c. 1817

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 | <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 Edward Simon Lewis House at 456 N Street, S.W., a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. As well as being representative of an early nineteenth century vernacular building type, the house is one of the few older buildings preserved in the Southwest Urban Renewal Area.

It has had several interesting occupants including "Neighborhood House," an early settlement house founded there in 1901, and in 1930 Lewis J. Heath and Ernie Pyle, well known journalists.

The property on which the Lewis House is located was owned by the Greenleaf Syndicate in 1797 when it was sold with several other lots to John Ashley. In 1817 title passed to Samuel Eliot, Jr., after court cases to determine ownership of property following the bankruptcy of the Greenleaf Syndicate. Eliot, the bookkeeper for the Syndicate and later cashier of the Bank of Washington, leased the property to Edward Simon Lewis in 1817. It is probable that the house was constructed about this date. Lewis had an option to purchase the property and in 1819 it was assessed to him.

Traditionally the house is said to have been built by Washington Lewis, George Washington's nephew. A deed search and a review of assessment records yield no evidence to verify ownership by Washington Lewis. In 1830 a neighboring lot was assessed to him. City directories list him as living elsewhere in 1822, 1830, and 1834. City directories for 1822 and 1830 list Edward Simon Lewis, a clerk in the third auditor's office on the first floor of the navy department, as living on N Street at Greenleaf's Point. It can be assumed that he was living in the house and that it was definitely erected prior to 1822. A search of George Washington's genealogy does not yield any relationship between him and Edward S. Lewis.

Lewis' title to the property was not clear and in 1821 it, with other property owned by Eliot, was conveyed to William Brent, Frederick May, and John G. McDonald. In 1835 they conveyed it to the Bank of Washington. In 1842 the Bank sold it to Joel W. Jones. Jones, a clerk at the arsenal, lived there from 1842 to 1851 when he sold the house to Samuel Pumphrey. The property was involved in another court case in 1886 prior to being bought by Alice Anderson. In 1889 Mary Ellen and Albert E. Carr purchased it.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Assessments. Corporation of Washington. 1814, 1818, and 1824. National Archives.

Assessments, Atlas, Directories, Newspaper Clippings, and Photographs. Washingtoniana Collection, D.C. Public Library.

"The Barney Neighborhood House and Social and Industrial Settlement, 1901-1942." Pamphlet.

Columbia Real Estate Title Company. Deed Search File. Case 121973.

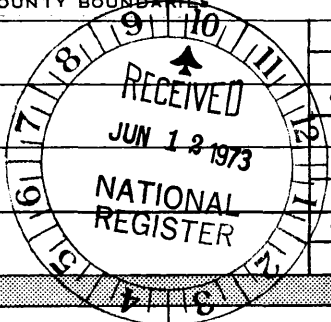
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	52'	28"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77°	01'	06"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: around 1280 square feet

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian

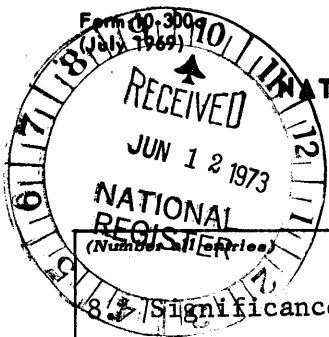
ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission** DATE: **April 16, 1973**

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>James E. ...</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>Assistant to the Mayor for Housing Programs</u></p> <p>Date: <u>JUN 4 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert H. Utley</i></u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>7/23/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>Wm. ...</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>7 13 73</u></p>
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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8. Significance - Edward Simon Lewis House

They are believed to have lived there from 1889 to 1900. From 1900 to 1918 they rented the house. In 1901 the Charles Wellers opened "Neighborhood House" there.

"Neighborhood House," later known as "Barney Neighborhood House" is a settlement house founded by the Wellers. Charles F. Weller was secretary of Associated Charities. The first organized playground in the District of Columbia was opened in the backyard of 456 N Street. In 1906 the community service organization was incorporated and by 1910 it had vacated the Lewis House after moving down the street to the Duncanson-Cranch House, a Category II Landmark. Due to urban renewal in the 1950's and 1960's Barney Neighborhood House moved out of Southwest Washington and is now located at 3118 Sixteenth Street, N.W.

In 1910 the Lewis House resumed its residential function. In 1923 Theo J. Morgan, an artist, moved into the house, and Helice M. Tracey, later Morgan's wife, purchased the house in 1928. The house was divided into apartments. Interesting persons lived there in the 1920's and 1930's. Particularly noteworthy occupants were Lewis J. Heath, a newspaper correspondent, and Ernie Pyle, a writer on aviation who later achieved fame as a World War II correspondent.

In the early 1960's, Mrs. Morgan's last tenant, Captain Lewis C. O'Rourke, waged a campaign to preserve the Lewis House from urban renewal demolition. The fight was successful and today the house is part of Harbour Square Co-Operative Apartments, a housing project of 1964-66 combining townhouses and highrises. The building which was rehabilitated in 1964-66, now serves its original function as a single family dwelling.

9. Bibliography

D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency. A Brief History of Southwest Washington. Washington, 1957. pp. 13-14.

H.A.B.S., D.C.-26, "Washington Lewis House."

Henry, R.B. Compiler. Genealogies of Families of the Presidents. Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1935.

National Capital Planning Commission. Landmarks File.

Reiff, Daniel D. Washington Architecture, 1791-1861, Problems in Development. U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971.