

PH0001830

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
NOV 30 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Stone House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

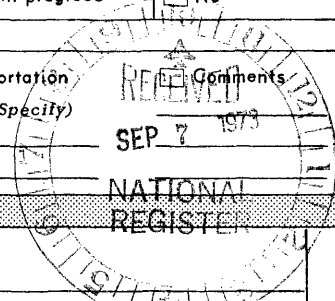
STREET AND NUMBER:
3051 M Street, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Congressman
Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.
STATE: District of Columbia CODE 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	



4. AGENCY

Department of the Interior, National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
National Capital Parks
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
STATE:
District of Columbia CODE 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
National Capital Parks
STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE:
District of Columbia CODE 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
National Park Service survey in compliance with Executive Order #11593
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Parks
STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE:
District of Columbia CODE 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

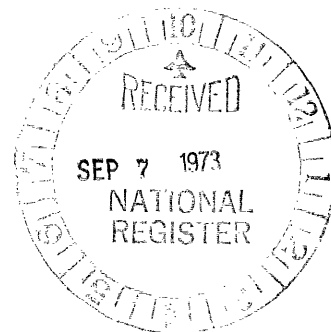
Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Stone House faces south at 3501 M Street, N.W. The house is architecturally styled as Pennsylvanian and most of the exterior trim is original. It is T-shaped in plan, with a small wing in the rear projecting into the hill behind the house. This wing was added to the house in 1767, two years after the house was built. The panelling in the second floor dining room, also added by the second owner, is unique in that the only similar panelling found in America, now in the American wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, was found in a Long Island, (N.Y.) home built in 1739. The street level floor of the house, built by Christopher Layman as a shop and living quarters, has a well-proportioned room with a huge fireplace and original mantel. The kitchen on this floor which served the Layman family has a fireplace measuring 5 x 6-1/2'. On the outside front of the house is a stairway from the sidewalk that leads to a second story door, just above the ground floor entrance. The second floor has three rooms, one of which is the panelled dining room with an off-center fireplace. The third floor contains the living quarters: 3 bedrooms.

The exterior of the house is blue granite quarried locally. There are three windows facing the street beneath a pitched wood shingled roof with a chimney at either end of the house and two dormers in front.

There is a garden area behind the house which provides a quiet setting for the house and suggests the kitchen gardens typical of town dwellers during the period. In 1960, the National Park Service opened the house to visitors after restoring it to 18th Century appearance and furnishings.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1765

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

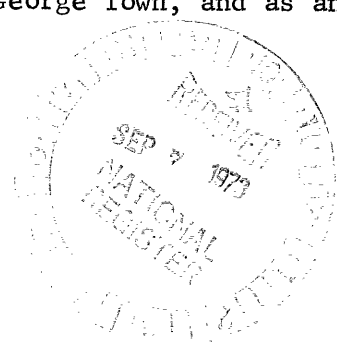
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>social history-</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>example of 18th</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>century middle</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>class home.</u> |
| <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 Old Stone House is believed to be the oldest pre-Revolutionary building in Washington, D.C. The house stands on what was called Bridge Street (now M Street, N.W.) in George Town, which was laid out in 1752. Bridge Street was a main thoroughfare for road traffic from the Western frontier and paralleled the canal, which after 1833 was heavily used for cargo traffic. The house was to be built on Lot 3, land first sold to John Clagett, one of George Town's Commissioners. In 1764, Christopher Layman, a cabinetmaker and his family purchased Lot 3 and built the Old Stone House for use both as a home and a shop. Layman died in 1765 and the house was sold to Cassandra Chew, who in 1767 added a wing to the rear of the house. Cassandra and her two daughters lived in the house until 1808 when it became the home of the eldest daughter Mary, and her husband Richard Smith. From 1826, according to the will of Mary, who had married twice, the house was divided among her several heirs and was continually used as a residence until 1953 when it was purchased for \$90,000 by the U.S. Government. Among the inhabitants of the Old Stone House were John Suter, Jr., Mary Smith's son-in-law, who used the ground floor of the building as a watchmaker's shop during Mary's residency there.

There have been various attempts over the years to prove that the Stone House was either George Washington's Engineering Headquarters and/or Suters Tavern, but neither of these ideas was ever substantiated, although, for a time, a plaque on the house designated it as Washington's headquarters.

The significance of the Old Stone House lies in its mixed residential-commercial use during the last quarter of the 18th Century as a reflection of the social, cultural and economic life of George Town, and as an example of pre-Revolutionary American architecture.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

