

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 8 1980
DATE ENTERED JUN 30 1980

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
Lenthall Houses
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
606 1/2 610 21st Street, NW
CITY, TOWN
Washington, _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE VICINITY OF Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C. Delegate
District of Columbia CODE 1 11 COUNTY CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
George Washington University
STREET & NUMBER
2121 Eye Street, NW
CITY, TOWN
Washington _____ VICINITY OF
District of Columbia STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Recorder of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER
6th & D Streets, NW
CITY, TOWN
Washington, _____ STATE
District of Columbia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
District of Columbia's Inventory of Historic Sites
DATE
January 18, 1979
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office
CITY, TOWN
Washington, _____ STATE
District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>8/5/78</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two Lenthall houses which were originally located at 612 and 614 19th Street, NW, in what was once the town of "Hamburg" have now been moved to another site two blocks west at 606-610 21st Street, NW. This new location remains within the original boundaries of Hamburg. The red brick Federal houses were probably built around 1800, and although there have been some exterior modifications in the wooden trim, the houses retain the character and dignity of the period.

Each house is about twenty feet wide, combined they are forty feet wide. Both houses were originally about thirty four feet deep which is also their present size, since the later additions to the houses were not moved. Constructed of red brick laid in Flemish bond, the original houses are two stories high with attic and basement. The grey saddleback roof contains two wooden dormers, one on each house. There are two chimneys at the north gable and two at the south gable of the roof.

Designed as a unit, both houses share the same roof and cornice line. According to Maud Burr Morris' account in the Columbia Historical Society Records (see bibliography) the houses were constructed at the same time. "A close inspection shows that the brick partition wall between the houses runs only to the attic floor, while from there to the roof, a partition of lath and plaster sufficed to comply with the regulations of the day."

The front facade of the combined houses is six bays wide, three bays to a house. The facade is symmetrically ordered with the two entrance doors adjacent and located in what is the center of the combined houses. There is a difference in treatment of window heads, but the roofs, cornice, brickwork and detailing of the two houses is the same.

The white wooden trim of the doorways has been altered and reflects a change probably in the second half of the nineteenth century. The door frames and pilasters are possibly of an earlier date. The cornice is of plain white painted wood with a denticulated band. The double-hung rectangular windows have denticulated window heads of white wood on the facade of the house at 610 and plain white wooden frames on the house at 606.

The Relocation of the Lenthall Houses

On August 5, 1978, the original portions of the twin brick houses at 612 and 614 19th Street, NW were moved as a unit to another site at 606-610 21st Street, NW. This was the area above the basement. The overall horizontal dimensions of the entity commonly called the Lenthall Houses are 41.5 feet wide by 34 feet deep and two and one-half stories high. The later period additions at the rear of the original buildings on 19th Street were razed to facilitate: (1) a study of the design of the west facade; (2) archaeological work to determine the original layout of the rear yards; and (3) permit the installation of the extensive supports, braces, dollies, and other equipment necessary for the moving operation.

(Continued on Form No. 10-300a)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Lenthall Houses a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The property on which the Lenthall Houses presently stand was once part of the town of "Hamburg" or "Funkstown" owned by German emigrant Jacob Funk who laid out the town in 1768. The two red brick Federal houses were probably built around 1800 and, although somewhat altered, they still retain the simple dignity of the period. The houses at 606 and 610 21st Street, NW retain the name "Lenthall" after John Lenthall who was Latrobe's principal assistant in the construction of the United States Capitol. (The exact date of the erection of the houses is not known). Lenthall contracted to sell to William Francis about one month after completing his purchase from the Commissioners in September of 1800, which could indicate that construction on the houses was started before he received his deed. Since the house was not conveyed to Francis until 1808, it is open to speculation as to whether Francis did not receive the deed until final payment was made or whether Francis was a builder and contractor and had agreed to erect the two houses on the land.) The house at 610 21st Street was in the possession of the Lenthall family for over a century. The Arts Club of Washington was founded in this house in 1916.

The Lenthall Houses have always been located in Funkstown or Hamburg. Jacob Funk purchased a 130 acre tract of land within the present city of Washington which he laid out in 1768 into 287 lots and streets. (It is known that Thomas Jefferson in his outline sketch for the new capital city selected Funkstown for the site of the Capitol building.) On December 20, 1792, Funk converted his holdings to Benjamin Stoddert and William Deakins, Jr., in trust to execute deeds to holders of lottery tickets issued for sale of lots in Hamburg. Stoddert and Deakins transferred legal title of this property to John Lenthall in 1800.

John Lenthall was born in England in 1762, the son of Sir William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons. Lenthall, a skilled architect, came to Washington about 1793 and was selected in 1803 by Benjamin Latrobe as his principal assistant in his work on the U.S. Capitol. In 1800 or 1801, Lenthall married Jane King, whose father and brothers were early surveyors in the District of Columbia. In September 1808, Lenthall was killed when one of the arches of the Supreme Court chamber of the Capitol collapsed and crushed him.

(Continued on Form No 10-300a)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morris, Maud Burr. "The Lenthall Houses and Their Owners." Records of the Columbia Historical Society. Volume 31-32, 1930. Pp. 1-35.

Paxton, Annabel. Washington Doorways. Virginia: The Dietz Press, 1940.

(Continued on Form No. 10-300a)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

approximately .09 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	3	22	2	0	0	4	3	0	7	4	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building is centered on the center line between Lot 51, Square 80 (606 21st St. NW) and Lot 50, Square 80 (610 21st St. NW). The nominated property includes all of both lots. Per Kevin Mauldon for Rob't Dickman, Asst. Treas.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
			G.W.U. 6-25-80 J.F.T.
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Suzanne Ganschietz, Architectural Historian 3 August 1979

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Office, DHCD (202)724-8795

STREET & NUMBER

1325 G Street, NW

TELEPHONE

Washington, DC 20005

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___

STATE X

LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Carol B. Thompson

TITLE Special Assistant to the Director

DATE February 1, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

John A. Booke
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE June 30, 1980

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-25-80

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In studying the development of Square 121, the George Washington University found that the Lenthall Houses interfered with the most logical layout and the most advantageous use of the property. Recognizing the historic and architectural merits of these structures and their inclusion in the National Register of Historic Properties, the University considered alternatives for saving them from demolition. The most logical solution seemed to be the relocation and preservation of them on a site which could be made available on 21st Street. This site, a vacant lot adjacent to rowhouses on the south and a George Washington University dormitory on the north is two blocks west of the original location of the houses, and provides a setting similar to that of the original and continuing neighborhood environment. Consultation with architects, engineers, and contractors indicated the feasibility of such an undertaking, subject to relatively high costs.

The University discussed this proposal with city officials and agencies responsible for Historic Preservation. After reviews, the plan for relocation was approved by: (1) Joint Committee on Landmarks - June 1, 1977; (2) The District of Columbia Zoning Commission - Order No. 186, dated October 13, 1977; (3) The State Historic Preservation Officer, November 22, 1977.

Consultant for the move was A. Edwin Kendrew, F.A.I.A., former Architect and Senior Vice President of Colonial Williamsburg, who advised on the procedures for the historic preservation of the structures. The architect for the relocation was John Carl Warnecke and Associates. The architect's role concerned the preparation of measured drawings of the existing structures and site conditions, the preparation of working drawings and specifications for the adjustment of the buildings to the new site including the necessary alterations for residential occupancy, as well as the physical restoration of the buildings and landscaping at the new site.

The initial planning work and the investigation of the many successive alterations and additions to the original structures were complicated by the envelopment of the building with a dense growth of vines on the exterior.

However, with even limited access, it was determined that the legend of the kitchens of the original houses being in detached outbuildings became questionable. The remains of brick arched lintels and jambs for rather large fireplaces were discovered in the basements, indicating that originally cooking undoubtedly took place there.

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Inspections of the west wings before, during, and after demolition proved that they were not a part of the original construction. A portion of the wing of 612 House was the first addition and undoubtedly provided a welcome improvement of kitchen service from the original location in the basement.

An approximate reconstruction of the kitchen fireplace will be incorporated into the new basement of the northerly house at the new location--as an illustration and record of the earliest construction and use.

After considering several types of adaptive uses for each of the houses when relocated, it was concluded that the single family residences would be preferable. Hence the plans call for the installation of modern plumbing, heating, and electric systems in a manner that will be the least disturbing to the original structure with the modern kitchennettes and equipment in the basements. Hence the two houses will remain essentially unchanged in the upper stories, except for the addition of one bathroom for the south house similar to the one which exists in the adjoining house.

When careful examination became possible it was found that the structural elements were quite fragile. In fact sagging beams, thin masonry walls of considerable heights, and the lack of adjacent houses which usually flanked and braced buildings of this kind, had required much reinforcement and protective measures over the years. Plaster had been applied extensively on exterior walls at an early date evidently to waterproof and add support to thin masonry.

This situation made it seem inadvisable to attempt the removal of such later period elements. Similarly, the consultant and architects recommended that some of the architectural features which had evolved over the years should be repaired and retained wherever possible. In fact, on the west facade it seems advisable to add some protective stucco to badly deteriorated and patched face brickwork.

Hence the exterior of these houses will represent the same size and general design of the original structures, with an accumulation of necessary structural reinforcement and certain architectural features on the principal facade which are representative of later architectural styles as they came into vogue.

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Some of the missing features such as the cornice on the rear facades, trim of dormer windows, and parapet corbels will be studied further for restoration at a later time.

The layout of the front and rear garden areas at the 19th Street site was given consideration so that a somewhat similar environment might be adapted on the new location. It was found that the lowering of 19th Street several feet many years ago, had necessitated alterations to the attractive front stone steps and railings, as well as the areaways providing basement access. A scheme for suitable adjustments using as much original stonework, etc. was incorporated into the drawings. However, the extensive coverage of the rear yard area by later period building additions, paving and walls, obviated physical evidence of early layouts.

At the recommendation of Mr. Kendrew, the Anthropology Department of the George Washington University assisted in observing and photographing the demolition of the wing at 612 House and subsequently performed archaeological excavations in the yards of both houses.

This verified that the rear buildings were not original with the main houses and also uncovered valuable evidence for original walks, outbuildings, underground drains, a cistern, etc. This not only provides a record of historic importance but can be a guide for a more meaningful layout at the new site in the future.

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Although the house at 610 21st Street was to stay in the possession of the Lenthall family until 1902, it was probably not occupied by John Lenthall or his immediate family. The house at 606 was only briefly in the possession of the Lenthall family. It was deeded to William Francis in August 1808 who deeded the property away the next day.

After the death of the widow Jane Lenthall in 1853, 610 21st Street was left to her unmarried daughter, Mary King Lenthall, a local artist. Mary Lenthall retained the house until her death in 1892 when the property was bequeathed to her brother's grandson, John Lenthall Waggaman, real estate broker, art patron, and collector of Chinese and Japanese porcelains and Dutch masters. John Lenthall Waggaman kept the house until 1902 when it passed out of the family.

Eventually Bertha Noyes, a well-known Washington artist, came into possession of the property, restoring and modernizing the house. The Arts Club of Washington was founded in her home in 1916. After the death of Bertha, her sister Edith became the sole owner of the property which she bequeathed to George Washington University upon her death in 1966. In the 1970's George Washington University acquired the adjacent house.

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Tindall, William. Standard History of the City of Washington.
Knoxville, Tennessee: H.W. Crew and Company, 1914.