

PH0011631

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 1 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Indonesian Embassy

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Walsh-McLean House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Embassy
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Indonesian Government

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.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 & D Street, 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 Properties 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

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Indonesian Embassy (Walsh-McLean House) faces north on Massachusetts Avenue at 21st Street between Dupont and Sheridan Circles. The "conglomerate" style of the mansion combines Renaissance, Baroque, and Louis XVI elements within an art nouveau context. The mansion, built in 1903, was designed by architect Henry Anderson. The 3-1/2 story structure is approximately 95 feet square. The undulating walls begin with a three-bay swell on the east corner of the north facade followed by a composite entrance bay and a four bay bow rounding the northeast corner onto 21st Street. The west facade contains five additional bays; the second from the north is a porte-cochere. The south facade begins with two bays and ends in a two-bay swell. The east facade has a projecting metal and glass conservatory below five upper bays. This facade terminates in a composite bay with a second floor oriel.

The mansion sits on a stone-faced base of rusticated granite capped by a blind limestone balustrade which follows the baluster line of the north terrace and acts as a sill for the first floor windows. The upper walls of glazed tan Roman brick are divided by two limestone string courses, one at the height of the spring line of the first floor windows, while the second acts as a sill for the second floor windows.

The north (Massachusetts Avenue) entrance door is round-arched with soffitt bead moldings and a decorative cartouche keystone scroll. The archway is set within a Rococo frame, which is terminated by a single volute and swag columns. The serpentine frame and entablature swell at the center and diagonally flair away from the facade at the ends. The arch, of decorative castiron in arabesque and rinceau patterning, is superimposed on vertical bars over plate glass; the segmentally arched double door is similarly treated. The entrance is approached by two riser flights and a balustraded rectangular terrace of urn balusters, punctuated by pedestals with vases. A second-story loggia rests on the serpentine, German Rococo entrance. The loggia consists of an urn balustered balcony supporting three round arches on Ionic porphyry columns with cartouche keystones and shared cornice above limestone brackets.

The west entrance is approached by nine risers and is underneath the porte-cochere. A rusticated limestone base and marble column support the metal porte-cochere. On the east facade is the elliptical conservatory with a granite base and limestone false balcony capped by a continuous row of casement windows with stained glass transoms.

The dominant theme for the first-story windows is the round arch with beaded soffitt and decorative cartouche keystone. The Louis XVI ogee and shell casements and sashes are flanked by engaged Ionic columnettes. The rectangular second story windows have similar casements and sashes. The double hung, third story windows have segmental arches framed by double crossette architraves and scroll key, the arch breaking through the architrave and frieze of the building entablature. The exceptions to the above fenestration include: the loggia over the north entrance, the fenestration in the conservatory, the northeast oriel which is similar in treatment to the conservatory, and the broken scroll and urn pediment window above the west entrance.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1903

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Indonesian</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Embassy</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<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 Indonesian Embassy (Walsh McLean House) a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. This eclectic mansion with Renaissance, Baroque, Louis XVI and Art Nouveau elements was designed by Henry Anderson in 1903. The house is one of many magnificent mansions constructed in the early 1900's in this area of Massachusetts Avenue near Dupont Circle. The house was built for Thomas F. Walsh, owner of the Camp Bird Mine in Ouray, Colorado, and reputed to be one of the richest men in the world. The house, which was later the residence of his daughter, Evalyn, and her husband, Edward B. McLean, now serves as the Indonesian Embassy.

Thomas F. Walsh was, in his day, considered to be one of the richest mine owners in the United States. Born in 1851 in Tipperary, Ireland, he immigrated to the United States in 1870. Walsh eventually worked his way west and settled in Colorado where he "grubstaked" a number of prospectors who eventually struck gold. In this way he became part owner of many mines as well as sole owner of Camp Bird Mines and Mills in Ouray, Colorado. He introduced new mining techniques and expanded his base operations. In addition, he was director of a large number of financial and other institutions as well as a large holder of real estate in Washington, D.C., where he built his house around the turn of the century. There is a legend that a slab of gold was built into the foundation.

Walsh entertained lavishly and many celebrities visited the house. In 1903, the year the house was completed, King Leopold of Belgium toured the United States and during his visit in Washington stayed in the new house in an apartment which Walsh had especially designed and decorated for him. Walsh married Carrie Reed in 1879, and they had two children, Evalyn and Vinson. Vinson was killed in a car accident.

Evalyn married Edward B. McLean, also heir to an immense fortune, and son of the owner of the Washington Post and other papers in various major cities. Their son Vinson was thus heir to two fortunes and heavily guarded to prevent possible kidnapping. Vinson one day ran away from his guards and into the street where he was killed by a passing automobile. This and other tragedies that were part of the McLeans' life were often ascribed by the press and others to the fact that Edward had presented Evalyn with the Hope Diamond--a diamond which was supposed to carry a curse with it. McLean, a friend of President Harding and Albert Fall, was involved in the teapot dome scandals. He was declared insane in 1933 and died eight years later in a Baltimore hospital.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Information compiled by the Commission of Fine Arts particularly the architectural description. Information now on file at the Commission of Fine Arts.  
 Information from the files of the Washingtoniana Collection of the Public Library  
 Information from the Embassy of Indonesia.  
 McLean, Evalyn Walsh. Father Struck It Rich, 1936.

**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 TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	N38°	54'	37"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	W77°	02'	47"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14,846 sq. ft.

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:  
 Suzanne Ganschietz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission      DATE: 23 Jan. 1972

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**

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 William A. Walsh  
 Title Deputy-Mayor Commissioner  
 Date JUN 8 1972

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

Robert Van Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/18/73  
 ATTEST:  
Norma M. [Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Date 1.9.73

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description - Indonesian Embassy

The mansard roof has red tile consistent with wall curvature and is capped by a copper circlet course behind which the roof is built-up. There are 8 chimneys which are of Roman brick with limestone quoins, panel frieze entablature, curved cartouche pediment and block cap.

The most prominent aspect of the interior is the three-story galleried and skylit central hall. The dramatic, Y-shaped, art nouveau central hall stair which is flared at the bottom leads up to an orchestra landing. The mahogany, free-standing stair then divides and ascends up to the second floor. The skylight consists of a decorative glass cove surrounding three panels having a floral oval centerpiece on a field of yellow ochre.

The most important rooms on the first floor are: the central hall or Massachusetts Avenue entrance, the 21st Street entrance room, the drawing room, the organ room, and the dining room which is now used as the Ambassador's office. The drawing room has a beaded baseboard, a recessed panelled thirty-inch wainscot and pink damask covered walls. The pink, green and gold ceiling is decorated with Rococo cartouches, escutcheons, swags, shells and sprays. The organ room has green damask walls; the pink, green and blue ceiling has an outer portion sectioned into beamed gilt rocaille cartouche and escutcheon panels, and an inner quatrefoil outlined in wood. The dining room has a ceiling of 17th century English geometric design in bound bay leaf and bead moldings. The rooms of the upper floors have been converted into office space. The fourth floor contained the ballroom whose walls have Ionic pilasters on wainscot pedestals above which are frieze panels of painted birds. The ceiling is coved. The ballroom has been subdivided into office space.

8. Significance

In the mid-1930's the house was vacant. It was occupied by the U.S. Suburban Resettlement Administration in 1936 and then by the U.S. Rural Electrification Commission in 1937. From 1942-8, the American Red Cross had its headquarters in the mansion. From 1954 to the present it has been occupied by the Indonesian Embassy.

