

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **SEP 26 1986**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Walsh Stable

and or common N.A.

**2. Location**

street & number 1511 (rear) 22nd Street, N.W.  not for publication

city, town Washington  vicinity of

state District of Columbia code 11 county District of Columbia code 011

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.A.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Jon D. Francis

street & number 1523 22nd Street, N.W.

city, town Washington  N.A. vicinity of state D.C. 20008

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. D.C. Recorder of Deeds

street & number 6th and D Streets, N.W.

city, town Washington state D.C. 20001

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Historic Preservation Division, 614 H St., N.W.

city, town Washington state D.C. 20001

OCT 29 1986

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>    N.A.    </u>

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## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The stable which Lemuel Norris designed in 1903 for Thomas Walsh is a building which projects an aura of strength and exuberance. It is an elegant, two-story brick structure with Flemish and English stylistic elements which can be seen in the profile of the elaborate gables that dominate the facade and in the overhanging orange tile roof with its twin cupolas. The expansive flatness of the facade is rhythmically pierced by openings and is relieved by contrasting textures of brick, stone, copper, wood, and glass. The exterior, which has not been appreciably altered, retains such original elements as the stable doors and the second-story hay hook. Located in the rear of 1511 22nd Street, N.W. (lot 41, square 67), the primary facade faces east and is 94' 6" wide. The north or secondary facade measures 42'. The building is 42' in height, measuring 25' between the ground and eave line.

A major focus of the facade is the hipped tiled roof with wide eaves supported by heavy curved wooden brackets, and pierced by the three parapeted, shaped gables. The roof is topped by two tiled cupolas with louvered air vents and wide overhanging eaves. Each roof ridge is terminated at the eave line by a decorative tile leaf.

The three elegantly shaped gables (two on the east side and one on the north) are derived from Flemish motifs popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Copper flashing caps the top edge of each gable and terminates in Greek key motifs. Each gable has a centered air vent with louvers inserted in a Norman window. Above the original stable door, the gable is flanked by square brick chimneys; a matching pair of chimneys is located on the west side of the building. Corners of the chimney tops have a modified corbel treatment. (The chimney tops are shorter than originally constructed.) The chimneys are anchored by tie rods which end in decorative metal scroll brackets, one on the face of each chimney.

On the building facades two colors which are original to the building are predominant. The orange tiles of the roof are a counterpoint to the pale buff of the brick walls. Set on a red brick foundation with a granite watertable, the facade's pressed bricks are lightly glazed and are laid in a common bond with five rows of stretchers between header rows. All four facades of the building contain numerous apertures. Those of primary importance are in the east wall with secondary treatments in the north. The west wall is visible only from a narrow walkway which runs between the stable and an adjacent apartment building. The south facade can be seen from the rear of several buildings which front on P Street, N.W. The two major facades (east and north) are described below.

# 8. Significance

Meets National Register Criteria B and C.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		Association with noted business and social figure		
<b>Specific dates</b>	1903	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Lemuel Norris, architect	

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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### Summary

The Walsh Stable is a District of Columbia Category II Historic Landmark. It meets criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for three reasons: 1) It is a handsome and well-designed building by noted Washington architect, Lemuel Norris; 2) It is one of the few remaining unaltered stables in Washington designed to service a lavish and elegant mansion, and as such, is a reminder of a social and cultural era which no longer exists in Washington; 3) It is associated with Thomas Walsh (the owner one of the world's largest gold mines) who not only contributed to the social and cultural development of the Nation's Capital, but also left an architectural legacy. (Criteria B and C)

### Statement of Significance

This building represents the final period of the American upper class' dependence on personally owned horse-drawn conveyances. Designed in 1902, the stable was ready for use just as the District of Columbia issued its first automobile drivers' licences in 1903. The building cost an estimated \$15,000 to construct. A small one-family dwelling unit was included in the stable's design, a typical employer-servant arrangement of the era. In size, the stable is substantial (42' x 94'6" x 42').

Built for Thomas F. Walsh, "the gold king," the stable was an adjunct to the Walsh Mansion at 2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Walsh (1851-1910) immigrated to the United States from Ireland and participated in the Colorado gold rush which followed the Civil War. His was a phenomenal "rags to riches" story, precipitated by his discovery of one of the world's largest gold mines. Walsh moved his family to Washington, 1897-98, acquiring the material trappings of the late 19th century wealthy classes. In addition to the impact the family made on the Capital's society, they are responsible for some of the city's fine architecture. The mansion at 2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., the Ouray Building at 805 G Street, N.W., and this stable all were built for Thomas F. Walsh.

The property Walsh purchased for the stable was large (97'6" x 47'). For a total of \$3,260 Walsh acquired Lot 9 (now Lot 41), Square 67 for the stable site, plus a right-of-way across a strip of land which would permit access to the stable from 21st Street, N.W. The stable is located in the interior of the square directly west of Walsh's residence. An analysis of the land use of the two squares in 1901

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1/10th acre

Quadrangle name Washington West

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

### UTM References

A 

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Walsh Stable at the rear of 1511 22nd St., N.W. is on city lot 41 (old lot 9), square 67.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Robinson and Julie Mueller

organization Traceries

date August 1986

street & number 1606 20th Street, N.W.

telephone 202-462-0333

city or town Washington

state D.C. 20009

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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

Carol B. Thompson  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/24/86

Date of processing letter

For NPS use only

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

for Eleanor Byer  
Keeper of the National Register

date

11-6-86

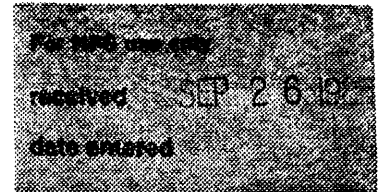
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Eleven bays wide, the east facade contains the original sliding, double stable doors. The doors are composed of three panels of diagonally-laid slats. There are three types of fenestration: round-arched windows with diamond panes; six-over-six light, double-hung, segmentally-arched windows; and larger, ornate tripartite windows. Among the most notable window groupings is a first floor rhythmic row of seven round-arched windows which are linked at the springline of each arch by a brown stonecourse. Two of these round-arched windows retain their diamond-paned casements; the other five are boarded. The round arch is comprised of two rows of pressed brick headers. A second type of notable fenestration is the tripartite window above the stable doors. This window is double-hung, six-over-six light with diamond-paned, leaded-glass sidelights and has a lintel sheathed with copper frets for decoration. This trim matches that above the stable doors and visually ties the aperture trim with that on the gables. Windows with segmental arches are located at the northern end of the east facade. All three types of windows have slightly protruding stone sills of a light colored granite which matches the watertable. The sill for the large window above the stable door rests on four slightly curved stone brackets.

The second story of the east facade has a door which once served the hay storage area. The hoist arm and long metal hook are in place above the door. Two exterior staircases--a wood one leading down from this door, and a metal one on the south facade--were added in 1942 according to building permits. The electrical line on the building's facade and the rearrangement of the downspouts also date from the 1942 alteration.

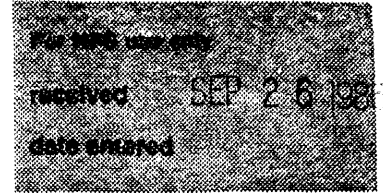
The north facade of the stable has a parapeted gable at its center and two windows below it which are similar in design to the tripartite window on the east facade. These windows have a single, six-over-six light, double-hung window to either side. Three rows of headers form segmental arches over the windows.

The base of the building is red brick which has been stuccoed with concrete in places. There is a wide granite watertable which is at ground level on the east facade due to the slope of the land.

All told, only minimal alterations have taken place over the years. The exterior of the building has undergone very little change since construction. Most obvious, but not irreversible, is the enclosure of several of the first floor windows and the replacement of the hay storage door with a pedestrian one. In 1942, the building was

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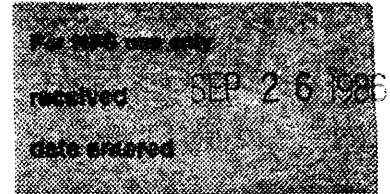
7

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converted into a club for women war workers. The repair permit does not mention interior alterations beyond work on the heating, plumbing and electrical systems. Exterior work included the addition of the two staircases. In the 1950s, when the stable was converted to commercial use, additional interior alterations were made.

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suggests that Walsh's decision to separate the two buildings was in response to the congested nature of the square in which his mansion was to be built.

Stylistically, the stable differs significantly from the residence. Although the two structures were constructed concurrently, Walsh had chosen different architects for them. Henry Andersen, a New York architect, designed the mansion, while local architect Lemuel Norris designed the stable (which was completed in 1903).

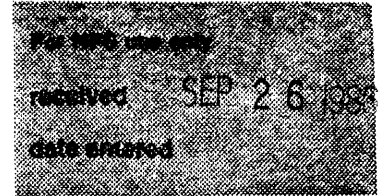
The stable and mansion were used by the Walsh family until the early 1930s. (Thomas Walsh died in 1910, but his wife and daughter lived in the mansion intermittantly and used the stable until 1930 when Mrs. Walsh died.) The mansion stood vacant during most of the 1930s except when the U.S. Suburban Resettlement Administration and the U.S. Rural Electrification Committee rented it between 1936 and 1937. In 1942, Evalyn Walsh McLean, daughter of Thomas Walsh, sold the mansion to the D.C. Chapter of the American Red Cross, thus ending the structure's use as a private family residence. She renovated the stables for use as a club for women war workers. The renovation included general repairs, work on the plumbing, heating and electrical systems, and the addition of two sets of exterior stairs. Mrs. McLean paid for the renovation and donated personal belongings to furnish the club.

The adaptive use of the mansion and the stable was not unusual in Washington at the time. At the onset of the Depression, numerous wealthy families closed their large in-town residences. The Walsh mansion, as mentioned above, stood unoccupied for most of the 1930s except when it was being used as office space. Accessory structures to these large in-town residences were either demolished (such as the Anderson carriage house which stood in the same alley as the Walsh Stable) or were converted to commercial use.

Of the buildings constructed as stables for the luxurious residences near Dupont Circle, the Walsh Stable is one of the few extant architecturally distinctive ones which projects its original exterior features in a virtually unaltered manner. Its architect was Lemuel Norris (1848-1930) who practiced in Virginia and Washington between 1895 and 1925. He received his architectural training at the Virginia Military Institute, after which he returned to Leesburg, his birthplace, for a brief period. Moving to Washington around the turn of the century, Norris established a private practice. In 1904 he began a long association with the District Government. This association was interrupted only briefly between 1905 and 1910 during a second period of private practice. Norris received several short-

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term appointments to the District government between 1900 and 1929. He is listed in directories at various times as "chief draftsman, District", "architect, District", or "structural engineer, District". His titles included Superintendent of Construction; Heating, Ventilating and Sanitary Engineer; Chief Draftsman for the Office of the Municipal Architect; and Engineer.

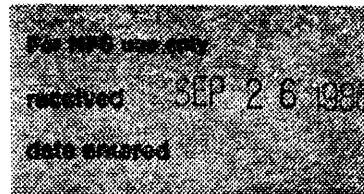
Even while in the public employ, Norris maintained a private practice. (The Walsh Stable is an example of a project completed while he was publicly employed.) Norris maintained an office at 808 17th Street, N.W. Among his most noted works are the Hyle House, 2009 Wyoming Avenue, N.W.; a monastery for Marist fathers; the General Corbin House, 1701 22nd Street, N.W.; the Gage School; an office building at 1422 F Street, N.W.; and the Marlatt House at 1521 16th Street, N.W.

In 1982, the Walsh Stable was declared a District of Columbia Category II Historic Landmark because of its association with Thomas Walsh and because it provides insight into the lifestyle of the late 19th - early 20th century wealthy classes and of the support staff necessary to maintain their elegant manner of living. The stable offers testimony to the dramatic changes which occurred in 20th-century America: the mechanization of personal transportation, the diminishing ability or interest of the extremely wealthy to maintain highly visible extravagant lifestyles, and the ability of society in general to implement successful adaptive use plans for the remnants of those lifestyles. Today, the stable is used as a photographer's studio.



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