

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

For NPS use only

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

received **SEP 30 1986**

date entered

NOV 6 1986

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

1. Name

historic 1644 - 1666 Park Road, N.W.

and/or common South side of the 1600 block of Park Road, N.W.

2. Location

street & number 1644-1666 Park Road, N.W.

not for publication N/A

city, town Washington

vicinity of N/A

state D.C.

code 11

county N/A

code 001

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple private owners, see attached list

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

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

city, town

Washington

state

D.C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date March 21, 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records D.C. Historic Preservation Division/614 H St., N.W.—Room 305

city, town Washington

state D.C. 20001

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The following description was taken from the application for the designation of these properties as a D.C. Landmark. The application was submitted to the Historic Preservation Review Board by the property owner and it was dated 11/14/83. The appearance has changed little since that time.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

1644-1666 Park Road, built in 1906, consists of twelve red brick, three-story, semi-detached Colonial Revival row houses facing north. The six duplex buildings, which are divided vertically, rest on raised basements and are topped with mansard roofs punctuated by dormers. Like many other residences in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, a one-story wooden porch supported by Doric columns extends across the front of each building.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Although the basic form of the six buildings on Park Road is similar, two types of buildings alternate within the row. Type 1 (1644-46, 1652-54, 1660-62) features two shallow octagonal oriel windows projecting from the second floor. The windows terminate in a Doric cornice that separates the second and third floors. Four round arched dormers pierce the slate mansard of the third floor. The pressed brick facade is laid in a bond composed entirely of stretchers. Type 2 (1648-50, 1656-58, 1664) is a more mannered composition. There are two triple windows on the second floor. The brick wall framing two sets of double windows on the third floor interrupts the mansard and cornice. A less elaborate cornice surmounts the third floor. Brick jack arches with molded keystones top the second floor windows. The cornice above the windows on the third floor is crowned by a curved pediment broken by urns. The Type 2 structures feature Flemish bond brick high-lighted by glazed headers. On both building types the fenestration is varied, consisting of multiple-light over single-light sash. The arched entries are symmetrically paired at the center of each building. There are delicate fanlight transoms above the doors.

Because 1664-1666 Park Road abuts an earlier Romanesque style brick building and because this end building is squeezed into narrower lots formed by the triangular block, it differs slightly from the other buildings. The 1664 half is Type 2 in form. 1666 is slightly wider than the other duplexes and lacks a porch. It features a projecting gambrelroofed gable bay that helps tie the house in with its older neighbor whose Park Road facade is distinguished by two projecting bays. It functions as a transitional element skillfully joining this twentieth-century row with its nineteenth-century neighbor on the corner. The lack of a porch is compensated for by the elegant elliptically arched transom and sidelights that frame the front door.

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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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1906 **Builder/Architect** Appleton P. Clark, Jr. (Architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Preservation Review Board of the District of Columbia has recommended that the State Historic Preservation Officer nominate the south side of the 1600 block of Park Road, N.W. (1644-1666 Park Road, N.W.), to the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

1. Essentially unaltered from its original appearance, the south side of the 1600 block of Park Road, N.W., is a distinctive and unusual group of semi-detached Colonial Revival row houses that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
2. As an excellent and important design by Appleton P. Clark, Jr., it possesses high artistic value and represents the work of a master and as a distinctive example of speculative row house development in Mount Pleasant during its main period of development, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a building type and period of design.

The following information was contained in the application for the designation of the south side of the 1660 block of Park Road, N.W., as a D.C. landmark.

1644-1666 Park Road, built in 1906, is an excellent example of the work of noted Washington architect Appleton P. Clark, Jr. This distinctive group of semi-detached Colonial Revival row houses exemplifies Clark's approach to the D.C. row house type as well as to the vernacular of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. 1644-1666 Park Road meets Criterion C of the Criteria for Evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places because it is a good example of the distinctive characteristics of speculative row house development in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood in the early twentieth century and because it represents an excellent example of Appleton Clark's work.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND

1644-1666 Park Road was designed by Appleton P. Clark, Jr., in 1906 for the builders Osterman and Butler. Although Clark designed numerous residences within the District of Columbia, there are only five streetscapes of houses attributed to him.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately .7 acres

Quadrangle name Washington west, D.C. - MD - VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	2	3	3	4	0	4	3	1	0	9	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sheet.

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 Anne H. Adams, Architectural Historian

organization Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick & Lane, Cht. date July, 1986

street & number 1666 K Street, N.W. telephone (202) 429-7133

city or town Washington state D.C. 20006

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 30, 1986

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

for Allore B. [Signature] date 11-6-86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Below is a list of current property owners and mailing addresses for Park Road, N.W. according to the Department of Revenue and Finance:

1644 Park Rd., NW (Lot 824, Sq. 2608)	-	Wolsey A. Semple 1644 Park Rd., NW Washington, DC 20010
1646 Park Rd., NW (Lot 636, Sq. 2608)	-	Kalian NV, Inc. 1651 Lamont St., NW Washington, DC 20010
1648 Park Rd., NW (Lot 2049, Sq. 2608)	-	Starting Managing, Inc. 473 H St., NW Washington, DC 20001
1650 Park Rd., NW (Lot 634, Sq. 2608)	-	Douglas L. & E.C. Namien 3312 Newark St., NW Washington, DC 20008
1652 Park Rd., NW (Lot 633, Sq. 2608)	-	Kalian NV, Inc. 473 H St., NW Washington, DC 20001
1654 Park Rd., NW (Lot 632, Sq. 2608)	-	Kalian NV, Inc. 473 H St., NW Washington, DC 20001
1656 Park Rd., NW (Lot 631, Sq. 2608)	-	Kalian NV, Inc. 473 H St., NW Washington, DC 20001
1658 Park Rd., NW (Lot 630, Sq. 2608)	-	Kalian NV, Inc. 473 H St., NW Washington, DC 20001
1660 Park Rd., NW (Lot 1027, Sq. 2608)	-	Kalian NV, Inc. 473 H St., NW Washington, DC 20001
1664 Park Rd., NW (Lot 822, Sq. 2608)	-	Barbara L. Berney 3817 Upton St., NW Washington, DC 20016
1666 Park Rd., NW (Lot 626, Sq. 2608)	-	Leo & Anastasios Vandas c/o Demers Real Estate 1662 Columbia Rd., NW Washington, DC 20009

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Before the 1982-83 certified rehabilitation occurred, the exterior appearance of the row had changed little over the years. The structure that had undergone the most significant alteration was 1660-62 (now 1660) which had been converted to an apartment building known as the Tivoli. While the interior plan of this duplex had been completely altered, its exterior was changed very little. Although no building permit has yet been found for this conversion, city directory research indicates that it probably took place in 1923. The doors to either half of the duplex had been infilled with brick and replaced by a single central entry. Porch columns had been removed and metal rail had been installed in place of wood. Wide central cement steps replaced the two sets of wooden steps formerly leading onto the porch.

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Park Road is one of the five and is the only row of houses designed by Clark in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. The row demonstrates his facility for eclectic design and his aptitude for creating buildings that relate well to their context. The semi-detached houses are a thoughtfully-composed Colonial Revival adaptation of typical Mount Pleasant residences. The Colonial Revival detailing is reinforced by the symmetry, proportions, and brickwork of the buildings. Porches, mansard roofs, and shallow oriels characteristic of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood are fused with the Colonial Revival elements to create a skilled composition of mass and detail. Where the row terminates at an older Romanesque Revival corner building, the transition is artfully handled.

Appleton P. Clark (1865-1955) was a Washington native and one of the District's most important early twentieth-century architects. He left his mark on the city through his civic and professional activities as well as through his buildings. Like many other architects of the period, Clark educated himself through apprenticeship and self-study. After graduating from Central High School, he first worked in the office of A. B. Mullett before taking a European tour to supplement his experience. By 1886 he had opened his own practice. Although he was responsible for countless buildings in Washington, his more notable ones include the Foundry Methodist Church, 1500 16th Street, N.W., the Roosevelt Hotel, 2101 16th Street, N.W., and the Homer Building, an individually designated landmark at 601 13th Street, N.W. He was particularly interested in children's institutions. He designed three children's homes in the Washington area and in 1945 published Institutional Homes for Children, a book advocating cottage-type residences.

Clark was no less active in business and professional affairs. A member of the Washington Board of Trade, he served for many years as chairman of its architecture committee. He was a member of the board of directors of the Equitable Life Insurance Company, the Terminal Refrigerating and Warehousing Company, the Washington Hotel Company, and the Washington Sanitary Housing Company (this last organization sponsored low-cost housing in the District). Clark was active in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) on both the local and national levels. He served on several national committees and was president of the local chapter.

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Especially knowledgeable about local architecture, Clark chaired committees to revise the city's building codes and wrote the "History of Architecture in Washington" for Volume II of John Clagett Proctor's Washington: Past and Present. This 1930 essay reveals Clark's concern with the quality of architecture in the District of Columbia, a concern shared by other architects throughout the country. Clark and his colleagues were eager to see building worthy of the nation's capital. He remarked favorably about the Georgian foundations of Washington's architecture but lamented the gradual decline in high-style architecture that began with the Federal period. Clark was not impressed by Washington's urban vernacular. He referred to it as "the pressed brick style" and disparaged the "perfectly meaningless lines and shapes" with which it was ornamented. He saw a "vast improvement" in architectural character during the twenties, an improvement to which he and his fellow architects contributed.

Clark's buildings at 1644-1666 Park Road may be viewed in the context of his concern for elevating standards of architectural taste. The nineteenth-century row house was a form that exemplified the shortcomings of Washington architecture to early twentieth-century designers. Consequently, the way these architects themselves treat speculative housing is of particular interest. According to the tabulation of Clark's work compiled by Dorothy Provine and Darryl Munsey at the National Archives, Clark designed numerous speculative houses. He appears to have designed residences primarily in groups of two or three houses rather than participating in the development of entire rows or blocks. There are only six known streetscapes by Clark, one of which has been demolished. The remaining rows consist of some early row houses built in 1892, a Romanesque-style development at 312-336 Maryland Avenue and 313-321 C Street built in 1905, some modest row houses for Washington Sanitary Housing Company constructed in 1911, and twenty-one detached bungalows in Petworth. The nineteenth-century row houses lack the sureness and sophistication of Clark's later work, and the bungalows read as individual buildings rather than as an ensemble. While the dwellings constructed by the Washington Sanitary Housing Company form a handsome row, their design is primarily utilitarian and they appear stark when compared with Clark's other work or with other housing of the same period. Thus the streetscapes on Park Road and on Capitol Hill are particularly noteworthy.

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The contrast between the Mount Pleasant row and the Capitol Hill row, built only one year apart, is revealing. It illustrates both Clark's concern for context as well as his careful use of traditional forms and ornament. The Capitol Hill row responds to the vernacular that establishes this nineteenth century neighborhood's architectural character. The dwellings are executed in brick and incorporate the projecting bays that dominate street facades in this part of the District. The row is distinguished by alternative elliptical and hexagonal bays and by its treatment as a unified composition. A single roof-line highlighted by a central shaped gable flanked by pedimented gables unifies the row. The streetscape thus relates to the picturesque quality of earlier row houses on Capitol Hill while presenting a more coherent and studied appearance. The Park Road townhouses share the same attention to compositional rhythm and detailing. Like the Maryland Avenue row houses, they relate to the context of their neighborhood. The neo-Georgian detailing, symmetrical composition, mansard roofs, white-columned front porches, and shallow oriels are all characteristic of the more recent residential area of Mount Pleasant. The two rows of dwellings and the contrast between them demonstrate Clark's facility in the practice of eclectic design as well as his sensitivity to the context in which his buildings were placed. 1644-1666 Park Road is an excellent example of the contribution well-designed speculative architecture can make to the urban environment. While these duplexes were modest homes, their skillful massing, respect for their surroundings, and thorough incorporation of high-style detailing lends them a dignity and presence that sets them apart.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- A. Application for the designation of 1664-1666 Park Road, N.W. as a D.C. Historic Landmark.
- B. Staff Report on the above-mentioned application prepared by Historic Preservation Review Board Staff dated 2/24/84.
- C. Primary and Unpublished Sources:
- Alumni Records of Central High School, June 1940
(Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Library)
- D.C. Building Permit 2611, April 7, 1906 (National Archives)
- Index to D.C. Building Permits taken out by Appleton P. Clark (National Archives)
- Minutes of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A. Archives)
- Mount Pleasant Historic District Application (National Capital Planning Commission)
- D. Secondary Sources:
1. Books:
- Applewhite, E.J., Washington Itself. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1981.
- City Directories: 1914, 1915, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1930, 1935, 1940 (Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Library).
- Glassie, Henry H., Victorian Homes in Washington. Washington, D.C.: Columbia Historical Society, 1966.
- Goode, James, Capital Losses. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1979.

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Proctor, John Clagett, ed., Washington Past and Present, Volumes II and III. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1930 (Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Library).

Senkevitch, Anatole et al., Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Study, Inc., "Architectural History," "Historical Background," and "Architectural Analysis." College Park, Maryland: University of Maryland.

2. Newspaper Clippings:

"Appleton Clark, 89, Dean of Architects," Washington Post, March 27, 1955.

"Appleton Clark, Jr., Architect in District More than 50 Years," Evening Star, March 26, 1955.

"Appleton P. Clark, Prominent Retired D.C. Architect Dies," Evening Star, March 27, 1955.

"Mrs. Appleton P. Clark Funeral Rites Today," Evening Star, March 17, 1949.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies lots 637, 636, 635, 634, 633, 632, 631, 630, 1027, 627, and 626 in Square 2608 in the north-west quadrant of the District of Columbia. These adjacent lots have a 274.5 foot frontage on the south side of the 1600 block of Park Road, N.W. The majority of the lots are rectangular and 125 feet deep.