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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: District of Columbia Pound  
Other names/site number: Randall Recreation Center Daycare Center  
Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 820 South Capitol Street SW and 9 I (Eye) Street SW  
City or town: Washington, DC State: DC County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

<u>DAVID MALONEY / DC SHPO</u>	<u>7 AUGUST 2014</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*Patrick Andrews*  
Signature of the Keeper

*9/30/2014*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government/Public Works

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Sports Facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Colonial Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The former District of Columbia Pound building at 9 I Street SW is a one-story, three-part brick building consisting of a central block and perpendicular end wings, covered with intersecting hipped roofs sheathed in standing seam metal and capped with cupolas. The building, now a day care center, is located at the northwest intersection of South Capitol Street and I Street SW and is part of a larger recreation center complex with a swimming pool, tennis courts and other sports courts to the north and west of the building. The District Pound was constructed in three parts and two principal stages. It was originally erected in 1912 as two separate buildings to accommodate the pound and an associated stable. The stable and a frame wagon shed that connected the two buildings accommodated the draft horses and vehicles of the District of Columbia's Health Department. Five years later, the pound and stable structures were joined by a brick hyphen on the west side opposite the frame wagon shed and creating a courtyard in the center of the complex. The frame wagon shed was demolished after 1959, and in 1967, the brick connector was enlarged towards the west, eliminating the central courtyard and becoming the central block that it is today. Although it appears as a single building today, differences in brickwork and filled-in openings due to the different phases of construction are apparent upon close inspection.

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## Narrative Description

The three-part District of Columbia Pound building is a freestanding building with a U-shaped footprint formed by the central block and two end pavilions (one on south and one on north end of central block). The south end pavilion was historically the stable and office, while the north pavilion apparently served as the actual pound; both pavilions were constructed in 1912 and connected by a one-story frame wagon shed on the west side. The central block, connecting the two end pavilions on the east side was built in 1917 as a garage to accommodate the city's motorized vehicles used in the collection of stray animals. It was expanded in 1967 to the west, and the frame wagon shed was removed. The one-story end pavilions have identical massing and are similarly designed with brick walls laid in five-course American bond. The pavilions are covered with hipped roofs featuring wide eaves with exposed rafters and are clad with standing seam metal. Octagonal cupolas with conical roofs sheathed with standing seam metal cap the center of both pavilion roofs. The southern end pavilion is located at the intersection of South Capitol and I Streets, while the northern end pavilion is sited approximately 20 feet north of it; the central wing connecting the two pavilions extends along South Capitol Street between them. The building is essentially oriented to the east and opens onto a paved parking area and the recreation complex.

The south end pavilion—the former stable and office—faces I Street, SW. The south elevation is seven bays wide with a large carriage door entrance (filled in) on-center with three windows to either side. This central carriage door features a segmental-arched brick opening with corner imposts and central keystones of stone. The opening has been filled in with brick with a single, metal replacement door is located on-center. An original transom below the segmental arch features seven, 4-light windows filling the transom bar. On the interior large hinges survive indicating that a pair of heavy doors would have historically filled in this opening.

To either side of the carriage door are three openings—three single windows to the left and a pedestrian door and two single windows to the right. The door, now a replacement, would have opened into the office on the building's east side, while the three windows to the left of the carriage door would have opened into the stable area. All of the windows are set within segmental brick arches with stone sills and are behind metal grilles.

A brick stringcourse rises above these windows and extends across all elevations of the building, giving the impression of a plain brick frieze above it. The wide eaves of the hipped roof extend out to shelter this brick elevation.

The west elevation of the building consists of the west elevations of all three parts of the building. The two end pavilions project beyond the wall of the central block, creating a narrow court area between them. The south end pavilion (stable and office) features a set of three small windows on the west wall that reveal the location of the horse stalls on the interior. The north end pavilion includes two longer, single windows with a pedestrian door between them. The central wing spanning the end pavilions is recessed from them and features five tall door openings with brick segmental arches. This west elevation is of the 1967 addition to the 1917

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central pavilion and garage. The 1917 west exterior wall is embedded in the interior of the building.

The north and south walls of the projecting end pavilions that form the court have single window and door openings. On the north end, there are two single windows to the inside of a brick chimney stack which rises next to them. This stack at the southeast corner of the north pavilion, rises through the overhanging eaves, to above the roofline. On the south end pavilion, there were several openings, one of which has been filled in and partially cut off by the intersecting central block. Another basement level one has similarly been filled in. The two surviving openings—a door and window—are the center of the four openings. All of the openings have brick segmental arches above them.

The east elevation facing South Capitol Street includes the end walls of the north and south pavilions, and the long side wall of the 1917 central wing. Unlike on the west side where the end pavilions project beyond the plane of the central block, here all wall surfaces are flush. The north and south pavilions both have three equally spaced windows beneath their hipped roofs, though the center one on the south pavilion is bricked in. On the north end, a tall interior brick chimney rises above the roofline at a mid-point along the elevation.

The central connector is five bays wide with each bay being defined by brick pilasters and openings on-center. Four of the five are windows, while the southern-most bay has a single replacement door in it (opening is original, though). The 1917 section of the central block is covered with a flat roof, visible on this elevation, while the 1967 expanded area to the west features a hipped roof that rises behind the flat one.

The north elevation which is the north elevation of the north pavilion features a series of twelve openings in the brick wall surface, some of which are historic and others of which have been altered. The first two apertures are pedestrian doors with transoms—one of which has been bricked-in, both doors are replacement units. Four like-narrow windows span the center of the building, followed by mechanical equipment affixed to the wall. Beyond the mechanical equipment are two more windows. All of the windows appear to be original. This fenestration is set beneath a hipped roof at the top and center of which is a like-louvered ventilator—also oriental in style. Mechanical equipment and a play yard adjoin this façade.

The brick course, making a frieze beneath the eaves of the roofline spans all sides of the north and south pavilions of the building. The hipped roof is clad in a painted red standing seam metal roof that may or may not be original.

## **Interior Description**

According to historic descriptions, the District Pound was designed to accommodate twelve pens for dogs with each pen capable of holding twelve dogs each; four pens for “mad dogs;” and an asphyxiation plant. The stable building was designed with twelve horse stalls for the horses of the health department, a carriage room, and an office for the poundmaster. The demolished wagon shed accommodated the wagons of the Department. Although the interior of the building

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no longer retains the pens, horse stalls, or fixtures or features associated with the building's use as a pound and stable, the interior exposes and retains the building's historic structure and certain features. The wood and metal truss work remains exposed in both the north and south end pavilions and the 1967 central connector. In the south pavilion, horse stall windows clearly identify the location of the horse stalls, though the stalls themselves are no longer extant. And, the large metal hinges on the south wall where the carriage door historically opened reveal the original location of the doors.

The west side wall of the original central connector piece is embedded in the enlarged central block. Large openings that historically accommodated the Pound's vehicles have been filled in with brick or concrete block, but are readily understood as former openings. There are no cages, equipment, and/or furnishings associated with the housing of animals.

## **INTEGRITY**

The building retains its original massing, materials and details from its completion in 1917 and the building survives in its original location. The original vehicular openings (most notably the original carriage entrance on the south end of the building) have been filled in, and a few other openings filled or otherwise altered, but the original openings are still apparent and could be readily returned to their historic condition. Although the original interior fixtures such as animal pens and horse stalls have been removed, the building's large open spaces, brick walls and roof trusses remain exposed.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

SOCIAL HISTORY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1912-1966

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1912; 1917; 1966

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Snowden Ashford, Municipal Architect

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The District of Columbia Pound merits designation in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. It meets Criterion A for its association with the development of the municipal government to provide health-related city services, such as animal control, and Criterion C as an example of an early municipal pound and stable building in the District of Columbia.

The one-story, hip-roofed, brick building was constructed in three principal parts and in two principal stages. It was originally built as two separate buildings in 1912 as a pound and an associated stable and connecting wagon shed for the District of Columbia Health Department's draft horses and vehicles. The pound and stable buildings were joined five years later by a garage wing on the east which was later expanded towards the west.

The pound was constructed after decades of makeshift approaches to animal control in the District. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the corralling of runaway farm animals was a major focus of the enterprise, but the roundup of stray and untagged dogs always remained the pound's main concern. Stray animals were not merely a nuisance, but could present a threat of direct harm to health. Perhaps most feared were cases of rabies, or "hydrophobia," but animals could be vectors for other diseases and could be pose a traffic hazard or a threat to property, and a danger from bites, scratches and collision. Even as the District began to develop rapidly after the Civil War, civic progress was inconsistent, and animal control was one of those functions—and budget items—that were ignored.

The construction of this pound building, however, manifested a genuine and permanent commitment to a professionalized animal-control arm of the municipal government. It is evidenced by the amount appropriated for the project for the construction of the building. The initial \$10,000, plus the later addition and improvements, came under scrutiny for seeming extravagant. But the key was that it was a durable, new structure, capacious compared to its predecessors, and with functionally differentiated spaces. In its own small way, it represented the maturing of the municipal institutions of the growing city, and the increased reach of local government into many aspects of urban life. Following the Senate Park Commission's plan for the District, improved facilities for public works reflected greater capacity and efficiency, demonstrated more thoughtful locational planning, and even expressed pride in how the city came to handle mundane tasks like the provisions of water and sewerage. The architecture of the pound could not be said to be a direct product of the aesthetically focused City Beautiful movement, but it is certainly a product of that movement's successor, the City Practical or City Efficient, which melded municipal reform impulses with an interest in best practices.

The new pound was said to be "one of the best equipped institutions of its kind in the country." In addition to pens for stray dogs and those for mad dogs, there was an office, and a stable for the Health Department's wagons and dozen horses. But the real innovations were "an up-to-date asphyxiating plant" and "an experiment room for the bacteriological branch" of the Health

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Department, both indicative of a Progressive-era interest in applied science. The latter demonstrates a broader mission of fighting disease in the city, while the former illustrates the adoption of an ostensibly more compassionate approach (than, say, shooting) to putting sick and unwanted animals “to sleep.” At this time, too, the pound took on a more prominent role as a pet-adoption agency.

The Period of Significance begins with the building’s construction in 1912 and ends in 1966, the date when the building ceased use as a pound. After more than fifty years, the model pound of the Progressive Era was at last outmoded. From the redeveloping neighborhood around it came increased complaints of barking dogs, and it was closed.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The District of Columbia Pound is significant in the Area of **Health/Medicine** for its strong identification and association of health and safety programs as related to “stray” and/or “vagrant” animals—often categorized simply as dogs, when actually inclusive of all animals. The construction of a modern, purpose-built building to house the District Pound was a symbolic expression of the formal development of health and safety programs in the city. Like other American cities, Washington, D.C. was “plagued” with “stray” and/or “vagrant” dogs, among other animals, that roamed the streets, and often carried with them disease, if not, at least, vermin. With nearly 100 dogs collected per day around 1900, the District Pound was under the authority of the Health Department of the District of Columbia Government and, therefore, enforced City Ordinances related to animals by collecting those untagged and holding/adopting them out, or disposing of them at the pound facility, as a measure to enforce and ensure public health and safety.

Prior to the erection of this building, the pound was a make-shift establishment in its physical built environment and this building was the first modern, purpose-built pound of its kind in the city. Its importance is underscored by the understanding of disease and illness as related to animal carriers, as well as the observation of animals as a manner or alternative of quarantine.

The District Pound is also significant in the Area of **Social History** for its relationship with the local community and its general treatment of animals, the development of “humane” standards as required by the establishment of animal rights and the national movement to adopt strayed animals as an alternative to animal disposal. During the period when this building served as a pound, a movement toward adoption over disposal of animals evolved. Pet adoption increased over the years, while the number of dogs collected per day decreased through the mid-twentieth century. The District Pound’s manner of disposal also evolved over time—originally, death through a bullet between the eyes; later, death by gas, and, finally, death by injection—these modes became more humane.

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## Resource History and Historic Context:

### Origins of the Pound Service<sup>1</sup>

Control of stray or nuisance animals in the District of Columbia began in the first decade of the District's existence and included both farm animals (horses, cows, hogs, goats, geese) which were generally treated as lost property likely to be reclaimed by their owners, and dogs which were more likely unwanted and needed to be destroyed by authorities. The District justices of the peace (for farm animals) and police (for dogs) held the responsibility of animal control. As the city's population and urban character increased, the swarms of roving animals (as they were often described) wore on the nerves of its inhabitants, leading to cries for relief from the local government. The pound master and his crew dealt with animals as nuisances—largely wandering the streets—while attention and prosecution of cruelty cases, such as beating or overloading draft horses, came under a somewhat parallel effort of the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (later the Washington Humane Association), working with the city police. (It should be noted that the issue of cruel behavior of people toward animals was of little consideration before the Civil War period and hardly entered into discussion of a pound.)

The idea of a pound service was preceded by several abortive attempts to establish a city-wide service targeting strays: in 1863, 1867, 1871 and 1872. All of these efforts were essentially contractor operations – a private pound master (bonded) built his own facility, hired his own men, and (following relevant decrees of the Board of Health) collected redemption fines and maintenance charges from owners, sold or destroyed unclaimed animals, and generally handled all operations, reporting regularly to the city. The pound master made his money by keeping the fines. Through a combination of inadequate financial arrangements<sup>2</sup> and ill-chosen pound masters, none of these pounds proved effective.

In 1872 the Board of Health, which had responsibility for controlling the stray animal nuisance, adopted an ordinance establishing a city-owned and city-funded operation. For a short time the Board planned to continue its dual system of pounds in Washington and Georgetown (the Georgetown pound seems to have never actually functioned), but began construction of a temporary pound – a collection of shacks – across the street from the Old Naval Observatory at 23<sup>rd</sup> and E Streets, NW. The pound master was for a short time a shadowy figure, Henry Young, but in March 1873 the Board hired a 25-year-old German-born businessman from Alexandria, Samuel Einstein, as pound master. Although Einstein, in his 38 years as pound master, would not live to see the present building on South Capitol Street, it was his operation and his vision that truly created it.

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<sup>1</sup> This material is taken from a longer monograph by the same writer tentatively titled "Mangy Curs and Stoned Horses: Animal Control in the District of Columbia from the Beginnings to About 1930". A copy is deposited with the Historic Preservation Office. The sections of this nomination giving background on the pound and its operations are taken from that study and are specifically sourced in it. Material dealing with the pound building is sourced in this nomination.

<sup>2</sup> Since the pound men made more money by capturing more animals, they often yielded to the temptation to lift prey from private yards.

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Samuel Einstein served as the District pound master from 1873 to his death in 1911, leaving the city better not only from his diligent and humane professional service but also his regular participation in local charities, particularly in the Jewish community. "He performed the duties of his office with conspicuous tact and fairness. I shall always recall his genial personality with pleasure and regret," eulogized a city official at his funeral.

Einstein's charge covered rounding up all animals from horses to dogs that were illegally prowling the city streets. (Cats became part of the responsibilities toward the end of his service.) In his early years as pound master the most public aspect of this was the collection of stray farm animals. He often met stern and sometimes violent opposition from hog and goat owners, necessitating police protection, and was once even shot by an aroused owner. As the city replaced the former rural land within its limits, the pound master's work fell more and more to the control of stray dogs. The dog tax (indicated by the well-known metal tag) existed in Washington and Georgetown from their very early years but had not much controlled the number of untaxed canines, both those roaming the streets and those held by citizens. The number of farm animals held in the pound steadily diminished during the late 19th century until the pound truly became the dog-pound of today.

Einstein performed his work with the help of a chief assistant and laborers hired by the Board of Health (changed to the Health Officer in 1878). For most of his tenure the pound had the use of one wagon, plus an assortment of nets to perform its work. Initially unwanted dogs were shot, but later asphyxiated with charcoal fumes; farm animals could always be sold. In spite of Einstein's regular complaints that he did not have enough men, and that the ones he had were not adequately paid, city officials pointed to the Washington pound operation as one of the best-run in the country.

### The Old District Pound

Washington's first municipal pound (built and owned by the city) was under construction by May 1871 and in use by that October. It was always described as of temporary intent. The city expanded and improved the largely outdoor structure over the years. In 1879, the "rickety old shed" was replaced with new ones designed by Building Inspector Thomas Entwisle that included an office and a new water supply, all "suitably arranged for the comfort of the unfortunate animals...impounded there." In 1885, the "yellow pine palings" were replaced with iron ones, and a new concrete floor was laid.<sup>3</sup> The pound was sited directly over the intersection of 23rd and C Streets, and New York Avenue NW (where the Institute of Peace is now) "as it is remote from business places or dwelling houses."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Evening Star*, 23 Sept 1879, p. 4; 21 Nov 1879, p. 4 (a very detailed description); 29 Jan 1885, p. 5. It also got some improvement with the issuance of the 1874 muzzling ordinance (*National Republican*, 18 June 1874, p. 4). Repairs and minor additions appear in the Commissioners' orders of the early 1900s.

<sup>4</sup> *Evening Star*, 21 Nov 1879, p. 4. Adolph Sachse's 1884 map of Washington seems to show the pound though not entirely as built over 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

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A reporter of *The Washington Times* described visiting the pound in 1903: “It stands – or perhaps it is better to say it leans – up against one of the murkiest hills in Foggy Bottom. It is only after a tour of houses full of holes, dogs, cats and oleaginous babies, and through a waste of dog fennel, wild strawberries. . . and pokeberries that you arrive at the most melancholy morgue. . . It is an enclosed structure of pine boards, like a stockade or stable.”<sup>5</sup> “To the casual visitor the pound presents the appearance of having stood there for years, with little or no change, and this is the case, with the exception of a few repairs.”<sup>6</sup>

### Need for a New Facility

With the initiation of the Territorial Government in 1871, the District began to report to Congress annually on its operations and plans known as the Commissioners Reports. The Pound master Reports are found in the volume of the Health Officer. These reports were written by Einstein, and remind us not only of his perspicacity but also of his wry humor. The need for new facilities made a regular appearance in the Pound master Reports. The earliest report that complains about the pound buildings dates from 1878, giving a good summary of Einstein’s thoughts:

The pound as at present situated is totally unsuited for the purposes required. It is remote from any leading thoroughfare, beyond reach of water-supply or means of proper drainage, and by no way easy to access to the many person who are compelled to call daily for animals impounded. It should be placed at the most central point possible where it can be kept free from offense, and where the advantages of water-supply and sewerage may be obtained. The present inclosure is about 40 by 40 feet, and has always been too small.<sup>7</sup> At least one-half as much additional space in required. The yard should be properly paved with stone or concrete, and one entire side covered into a shed for the protection of animals, wagons, etc. during bad weather. A good, substantial stable for the accommodation of two or more horses, and an inclosure for storage of food for same [is also needed]. Two pens for confining the dogs impounded daily, to be supplied with water, and an office-room for use of poundmaster [whitewashed inside] and watchman. . . If a location could be decided upon where it would be free from complaint and become permanent, I would advise the construction of a good substantial brick building and inclosure. A pound will always be one of the necessities of the District, and as a permanent fixture it should be made

<sup>5</sup> *The Evening Star*, 26 July 1903, p. 5. Photographs of the old pound can be found in this article, and in *The Washington Times*, 7 Aug 1904, p. 4; and *The Evening Star*, 27 Aug 1911, p. 48.

<sup>6</sup> *Washington Times*, 7 Aug 1904, p. 4. The pens were expanded in the early 1890s through a private donation (WHS Annual Report, 1897). Illustrations of the old pound can be found in *Washington Times*, 13 Apr 1902, Ed/Drama p. 17; 26 July 1903, Magazine p. 5; 7 Aug 1904, p. 4; *The Evening Star*, 30 Aug 1890, p. 12; 16 July 1905, p. 45; 27 Aug 1911, p. 48.

<sup>7</sup> The original pound had capacity for 150 dogs, plus “stable for cows and horses, and also accommodations for goats, sheep, geese, etc. Every arrangement has been made to provide captives with food and water” (*National Republican*, 18 June 1874, p. 4). It was “a kolsomined [calcimined/whitewashed] structure of pine boards, like a stockade or a big stable” (*Washington Times*, 11 Aug 1897, p. 8).

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substantial and not call for constant repair, as does the present tumble-down institution which bears that name.”

He raised the question of his building again the next year, and again in 1883, 1895, and almost every year thereafter. In 1908 he wrote: “The pound is becoming more dilapidated each year, or at least would be so were not considerable sum of money spent . . . to prevent that result. The work done by the pound service during the many years that it has occupied its present wretched quarters certainly entitles it . . . to a better home.”

The 1910 report reminded authorities of his “previous recommendations for a new pound and for construction therewith of a stable for the accommodation of all horses and vehicles in the service of the health department.” The 1911 report reiterated the need: “It will be a relief to all concerned to have substantial quarters for the pound in place of the frame structure erected as a temporary pound 40 years ago, and now in a state of decay, and the operation of the pound and stable as a single establishment will make for efficiency and economy.” The report pointed out that the city owned suitable land “adjacent to the James Creek Canal.”

The city government presented a budget request to Congress for a new building in virtually every annual report from 1895 to 1912.<sup>8</sup> The 1903 testimony noted that the streets adjoining the pound had been re-graded leaving the facility below grade. Continual barking of the dogs kept staff and patients in the newly built adjacent Naval Medical School Hospital from sleeping.<sup>9</sup> Also the proposed new structure would accommodate the Health Department’s horses, which were then kept in rented quarters or livery stables.

Congress included \$10,000 for a new pound, sited on any appropriate city-owned property, in the 1912 budget.<sup>10</sup> Reservation 290 – the present South Capitol site – was transferred from federal to municipal ownership by the same bill for payment of \$4,100 (half the assessed value).<sup>11</sup> As Commissioner Judson noted, “If you could see the location you would see that it is entirely suitable for a pound and not fit for any other purpose.”<sup>12</sup>

Rep. Burleson had qualms about the expense of the proposed building which he took to the city’s Health Officer, Dr. Woodward:

---

<sup>8</sup> “Revised Estimates for the Support of the Government of the District of Columbia . . . FY 1903” (7 Jan 1902, printed with the DC Appropriations Bill, 1903), p. 58, note 123; Hearings on the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill for 1907 (House), 7 Mar 1906, pp. 734-739; Hearings . . . 1910 (House), 23 Jan 1909, p. 203; Hearings . . . 1912 (Senate), 3 Feb 1911, pp. 81-82. Very likely there are others – the library’s collection is by no means complete. The hearings cited here are only the ones found with substantive discussion of the buildings.

<sup>9</sup> *The Evening Star*, 7 Sept 1910, p. 18.

<sup>10</sup> The act was passed on 2 Mar 1911.

<sup>11</sup> Hearings . . . 1914 (House), 3 Jan 1913, pp. 190-194. The District disputed the charge, saying it had earlier received use of the land. The question almost derailed dedication of the building (*Wash. Post*, 22 Oct 1912, p. 14), and eventually the city had to pay (*Evening Star*, 14 Feb 1913, p. 5). These actions were confirmed with the District’s 1914 budget, passed on 4 Mar 1913. The rest of this paragraph and the testimony come from the 1914 hearing.

<sup>12</sup> “The District dog pound is in an out-of-the-way place. . . The neighborhood there . . . is not much. There is a great junkyard across the street, and acres and acres of idle land all about – vacant lots with weeds full grown” (*The Washington Post*, 25 Sept 1921, p. 10).

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Burl: That is quite an elaborate pound, is it not, Doctor -- \$10,000 ought to provide quite an elaborate one.

Wood: I should not regard it as at all elaborate. It is plain.

Burl: You think it is very plain. Do you know of any other city that has a \$10,000 pound?

Wood: I think I would have no trouble in locating cities that have pounds and stables that cost a good deal more than \$10,000.

The property had been created in the early years of the century when James Creek was filled in. At a later date the site was combined into neighboring Square 644. This new portion of Square 644 was shown only as "Square 644/part" in city tax assessments but in fact given the lot number 809. In 1955 lot 809 was broken into 811 (the old creek bed) and 810 (the triangle between the creek and South Capitol) which includes the most of the pound and stable building.

### The New District of Columbia Pound

In 1911, the Engineering Department Report notes that the proposed new District of Columbia Pound building was "in planning," awaiting selection of an appropriate site.<sup>13</sup> The following year, the Municipal Architect's office reported that it had completed the drawings and anticipated completion of the building by 10 September 1912, for a total cost of \$9,544. The planning went through several drafts since the Commissioners order (10 May 1912) awarding the building contract required that all modifications in alternate proposals be included.<sup>14</sup> The Architect's Report of 1913 indicated \$45 spent for installation of wire windows and door guards, installed in October 1912.<sup>15</sup> A further \$1,000 was spent the following year to pave driveways and grounds and add a screen to dependent wooden sheds, and in 1916 heating apparatus, a flag pole, awnings and a fire hose.<sup>16</sup>

The new building was not closely followed in the press, but the reporting that was done fills in certain details: construction commenced on 18 May 1912, with the first shovelful of dirt having been removed by Health Officer William C. Woodward.<sup>17</sup> Pound master Emil Kuhn, long-serving property clerk Harry McLean, and "King of the Dog-Catchers" John Wells all watched. The plans were prepared by Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford, and the building was constructed by builder, H. J. Montgomery. Equipment from the old facility was moved to South Capitol Street on October 21, 1912 and the building was put into use the next day. According to the newspaper account, the new building was "one of the best equipped institutions of its kind in

<sup>13</sup> The selection committee was comprised of the Health Officer, Chief Clerk of the Engineering Department, and the Municipal Architect (Commissioners order, 28 Apr 1911, revising the order of 24 Mar 1911).

<sup>14</sup> The building was formally accepted by the Commissioners on 2 Oct 1912. A photo of it at the time of its dedication is in *The Evening Star*, 15 Sept 1912, p. 11.

<sup>15</sup> Opp. Cit., (1911) pp. 16, 199; (1912) pp. 19, 194; (1913) pp. 14, 203. See also Commissioners order, 7 Oct 1912. A telephone was added at the same time (Commissioners order, 8 Oct 1912).

<sup>16</sup> Hearings . . . 1914 (House), 3 Jan 1913, p. 190-194; see also *The Evening Star*, 15 Sept 1912, p. 11. The RFP was published in *The Washington Post*, 24 Apr 1912, p. 2. 1916 procurement: Commissioners order of 16 Apr 1915.

<sup>17</sup> *The Evening Star*, 18 May 1912, p. 5, but the same newspaper (8 Feb 1913, p. 2), in an obituary for John Wells, says that he turned the first shovel of dirt "at his special request."



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the country.” It held twelve pens for impounded dogs (with each pen holding twelve animals each) plus four separate pens for mad dogs, “an up-to-date asphyxiating plant,” the Health Department stables (twelve stalls), an office and an interior court, and sheds for wagons. The new building also incorporated “an experiment room for the bacteriological branch of the department” – a function that was not otherwise mentioned either in the earlier discussions or later accounts.<sup>18</sup>

The Engineer’s Report of 1918 included plans for a “garage for health department pound and stable.” The plans were prepared by the Municipal Architect’s office at a cost of \$2,641, drawing on a Congressional appropriation of 1 Sept 1916.<sup>19</sup> Completion was planned for July 1917. This is the flat-roofed western part of the central wing joining the end pavilions holding the pound and stable. In 1928, the Commissioners approved \$1,835 “to cover structural work and painting at the pound.”<sup>20</sup>

### Later History

The completion of the new facility capped a long evolution in city pound operations under Poundmaster Einstein. The evolution extended from what might be called the heroic period of the 1870s and 1880s when captures were dominated by farm animals to the 1890s and later as these diminished, and as dogs and cats became the main fixture of the pound.<sup>21</sup> Early in his tenure Einstein’s crew regularly faced violent opposition from animal owners as they performed their work. (And this was an improvement over the days of the first pound master, T. Z. Hoover, whose pound was surrounded by a mob which threatened to burn it down if their animals weren’t immediately freed.) Over the first two decades of Einstein’s tenure, however, farm animals gradually disappeared from the District through both legal and social pressures. In 1874 the pound took in 415 farm animals (as opposed to 2,290 dogs), for example; in 1896 this number had dropped to 105, and in 1912 it was reduced to only 21 cases. Even the number of dogs taken was on the decline by 1912 from its average around 3,000 in the late nineteenth century to 2,634 that year.<sup>22</sup> By 1912 the pound had become a respected local institution as much for dropping off unwanted animals (cats were only taken this way) and shopping for lost or new pets.

The new pound offered what would now be called community outreach activities, including regular dog vaccination days, Dog Week events, and advertising lovable pups for redemption.<sup>23</sup>

The Randall Community Center attached to nearby Randall Junior High School had been established adjacent to the pound in 1936<sup>24</sup> and the city’s park department eyed the pound for

<sup>18</sup> *The Washington Post*, 19 May, 1912, p. 8; *Evening Star*, 18 May 1912, p. 5; 21 Oct 1912, p. 9.

<sup>19</sup> *Op. cit.*, pp. 13, 114. The text reads “1918” but that must be a misprint. See also Hearings . . . 1915 (House), 23 Jan 1914, pp. 179-180, in which the proposed garage will hold vehicles for all the Health Department.

<sup>20</sup> Commissioners order, 23 Mar 1928.

<sup>21</sup> See “Mangy Curs and Stoned Horses” for more on this subject.

<sup>22</sup> These figures taken from the annual Poundmaster Reports included in the Health Officer volume of the Commissioners Reports.

<sup>23</sup> For examples, see: (vaccination) *Washington Post*, 7 July 1948, p. B2; (Dog Week) 19 Sept 1939, p. 3; (puppies) 19 Dec 1949, p. B1.

<sup>24</sup> This information thanks to Tony Simon of the Commission on Fine Arts. The city at that time was given use of the land but the formal transfer of title from the Federal government occurred in 2008.

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expansion space continually. The city's DDOT Archives of historic building plans contains a set of plans to build tennis courts over the pound site from both 1946 and 1951.<sup>25</sup> In 1950, the *Washington Post* reported that the "District Recreation Board Chairman Harry S. Wendeer said his agency has repeatedly requested removal of the pound because of the smell and noise, but has been turned down because of the cost."<sup>26</sup> Efforts to move the pound continued through the 1950s to Mt. Olivet Road NE ("The present facility . . . long has been a source of annoyance in the neighborhood")<sup>27</sup>; and to Burnham Barrier Island ("just below Benning Rd., NE", then used "as a dump fill").<sup>28</sup>

In 1965 the city contracted with the Weiss Construction Company to construct a new pound at its current New York Avenue NE address for \$138,000. The blueprints for this project were prepared by W. A. MacLaurie and dated the same year.<sup>29</sup> The pound moved in July 1966 to the relief of the nearby Skyline Inn whose manager "had a huge file of barking complaints from . . . tenants." Since then the old pound building has been used by the Randall Recreation Center.<sup>30</sup>

In 1967, the central garage wing connecting the District Pound and Stable buildings was expanded to the west, filling in what had been an open central court area. The wood frame wagon shed was demolished

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<sup>25</sup> DDOT/Reeves Center Basement Archives, Cabinet 11/drawer 13. See also *The Washington Post*, 18 May 1941, p. 13 for expansion plans of the Rec Center.

<sup>26</sup> *The Washington Post*, 30 Apr 1950, p. M15.

<sup>27</sup> *The Washington Post*, 2 September 1956, p. A15.

<sup>28</sup> *The Washington Post*, 3 July 1959, p. B1.

<sup>29</sup> *The Washington Post*, 24 Sept 1965, p. B3. See also DDOT/Reeves Center Archives, Cabinet 18/drawer 1; and drawings in Cabinet 21/drawers 7 and 11. This drawers also contain 1981 expansion plans.

<sup>30</sup> *The Washington Post*, 17 July 1966, p. L4. A 1966 proposed re-design of the rec center by Chlothiel Woodard Smith (or at least her company) of the recreation center, found in Cabinet 11/drawer 13, eliminated the pound building in favor of a swimming facility.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

### Newspapers

*Evening Star*  
*Washington Post*  
*Washington Times*

The following government documents are found at the Washingtoniana Division of the M.L. King Memorial Library:

- Commissioners Reports
- Board of Health/Health Officer annual reports (inc Poundmaster Reports)
- Metropolitan Police Department annual reports
- District tax assessments
- US Senate and House of Representatives, testimony regarding the budget of the District of Columbia
- Territorial Legislature: Journal

At the National Archives:

- Commissioners: Minutes and Orders

D. C. Dept. of Transportation/Dept. of General Services plans archives

Wetzel, Hayden M., "Mangy Curs and Stoned Horses: Animal Control in the District of Columbia from the Beginnings to About 1930". Unpublished MS, 2013.

---

### **Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register  
\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### **Primary location of additional data:**

\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency

District of Columbia Pound \_\_\_\_\_

Washington, DC \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre (38,480 square feet)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.879581 Longitude: -77.009361

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes a rectangular parcel of land measuring approximately 185 x 208 feet and that takes in Lot 810 and Part of 812 in Square 644. The boundaries include the District Pound building itself as well as the parking lot west of it that is enclosed within a brick wall. The boundary extends slightly to the north and south of the building.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundary squares off the triangular shaped Lot 810 within Square 644 which is straddled by the District Pound building and which is a remnant of a federal reservation that hugged the old James Creek Canal. The boundaries extend to the west, in Lot 812, to capture the walled enclosure and other landscape around the building, resulting in the approximately 185' x 208' rectangular boundary.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Hayden Wetzel  
organization: Southwest Neighborhood Assembly  
street & number: 1206 Irving Street NE  
city or town: Washington, D.C. state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: 20017  
e-mail haydenwetzel@hotmail.com  
telephone: 202 526-5986  
date: 22 April 2013

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

**Name of Property:** District Pound and Stable

**City or Vicinity:** Washington, D.C.

**County:**

**State:**

**Photographer:** Timothy Dennée

**Date Photographed:** June 2013

### Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

View looking east showing west elevation of the District Pound and Stable with the stable being the south end pavilion and the pound being the north end pavilion.

1 of 15

View looking north showing south elevation of the south end pavilion (stable).

2 of 15

View looking north showing detail of carriage door on south elevation of south end pavilion.

3 of 15

View looking northwest showing east elevation along South Capitol Street.

4 of 15

View looking southerly showing east elevation along South Capitol Street.

5 of 15

View looking south at north elevation of north end pavilion

6 of 15

View looking southwest showing detail of east elevation of north end pavilion

7 of 15

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View looking northwest showing east elevation along South Capitol Street  
8 of 15

View looking northeast from west side of building showing detail of north end pavilion and connecting central block  
9 of 15

View looking southwest from west side of building showing detail of south end pavilion and connecting central block  
10 of 15

View looking south showing north elevation of central wing (1967)  
11 of 15

View looking south showing north elevation of north end pavilion  
12 of 15

View of interior looking north in the central wing (1967 section) looking towards north end pavilion  
13 of 15

View of interior in south end pavilion showing detail of carriage door opening (bricked in) and transom on south elevation  
14 of 15

View of interior in south end pavilion showing horse stall windows on west wall of south end pavilion  
15 of 15

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

District of Columbia Pound

Name of Property

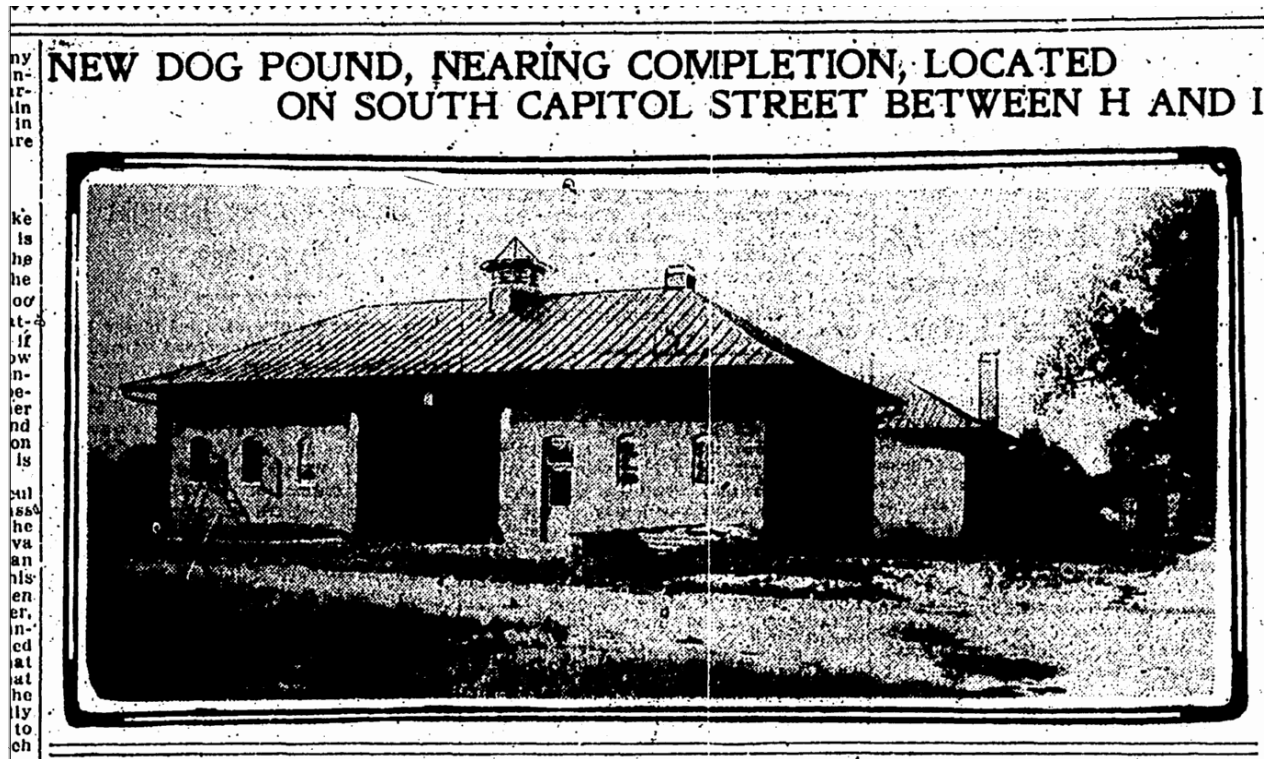
Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Page 1



Photograph of the Distric of Columbia Pound as illustrated in the *Evening Star*, September 15, 1912.



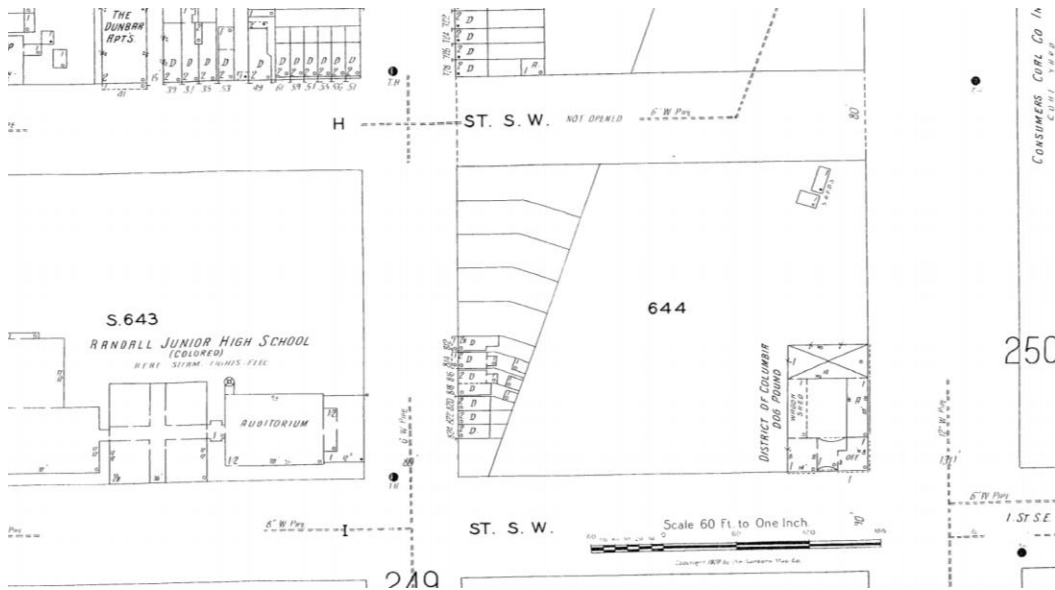
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

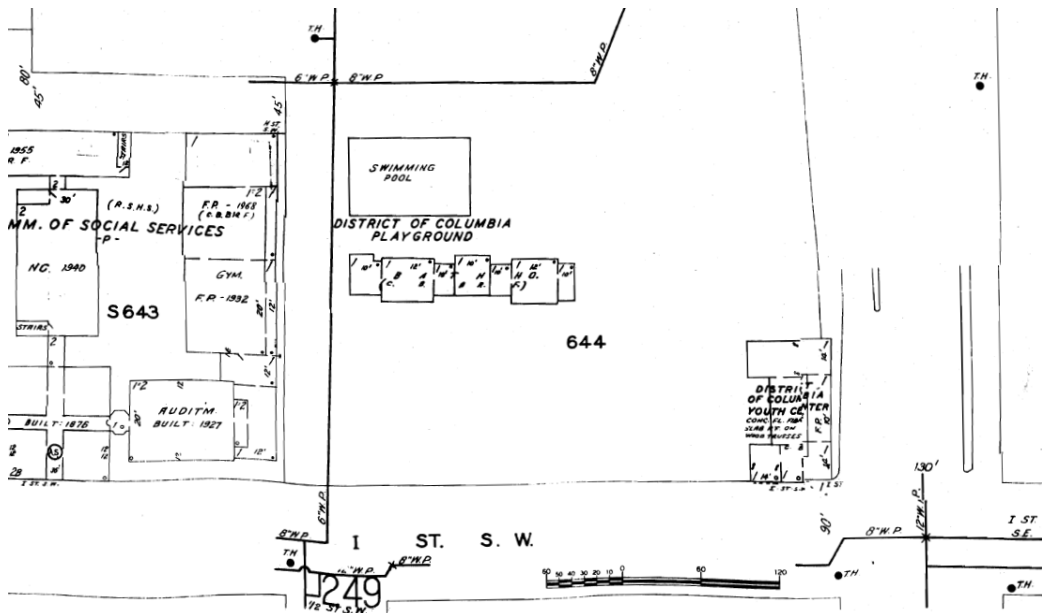
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1927 Sanborn Map showing District of Columbia Pound  
(From Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1927)



1998 Sanborn Map plan showing District of Columbia Pound (DC Youth Center)  
(From Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1998 )

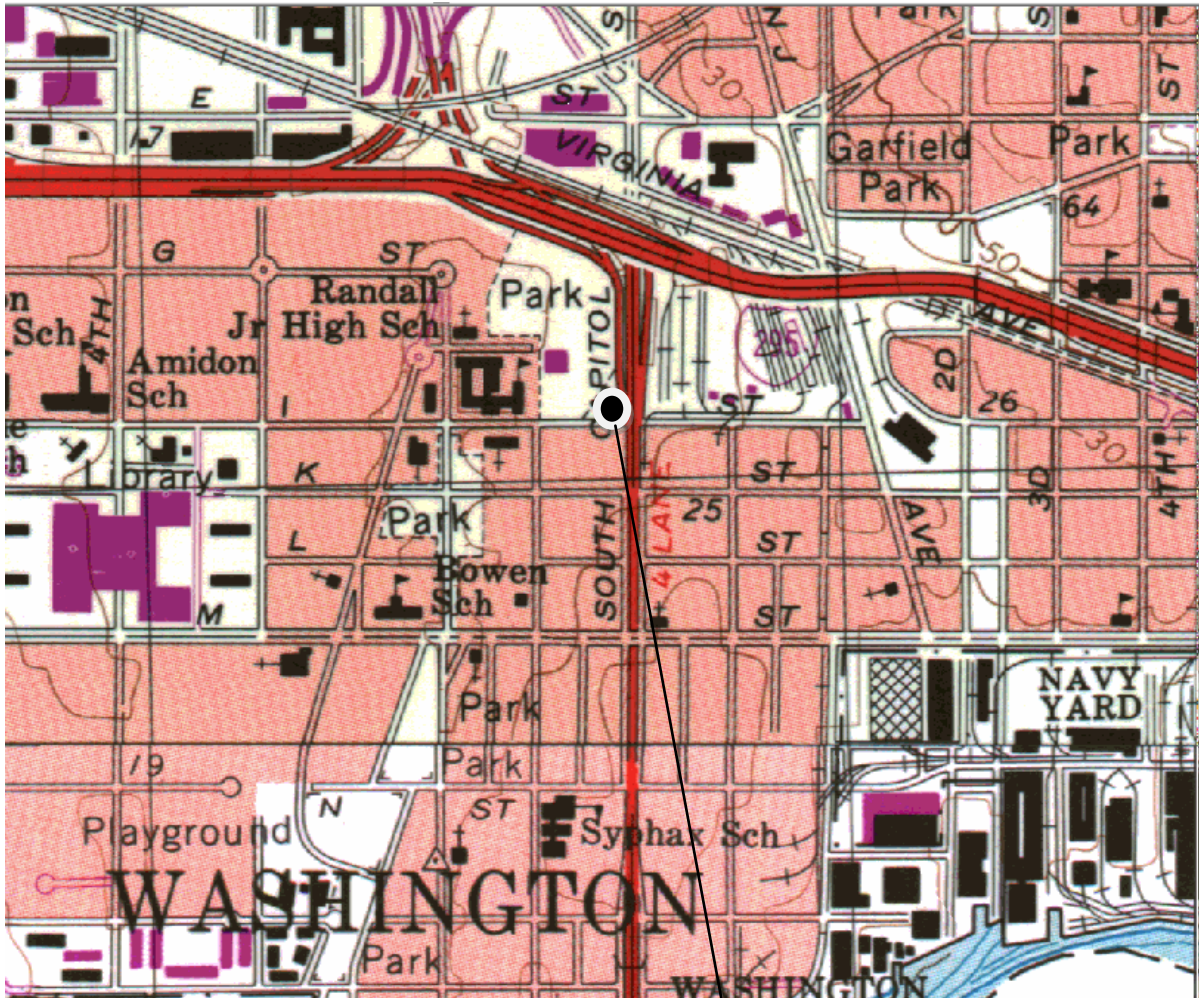
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District of Columbia Pound
9 I Street SW
Washington, D.C.
USGS Quad Map

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Site Plan showing National Register Boundaries of District of Columbia Pound  
(From DC Office of Planning, GIS Maps, 2012)

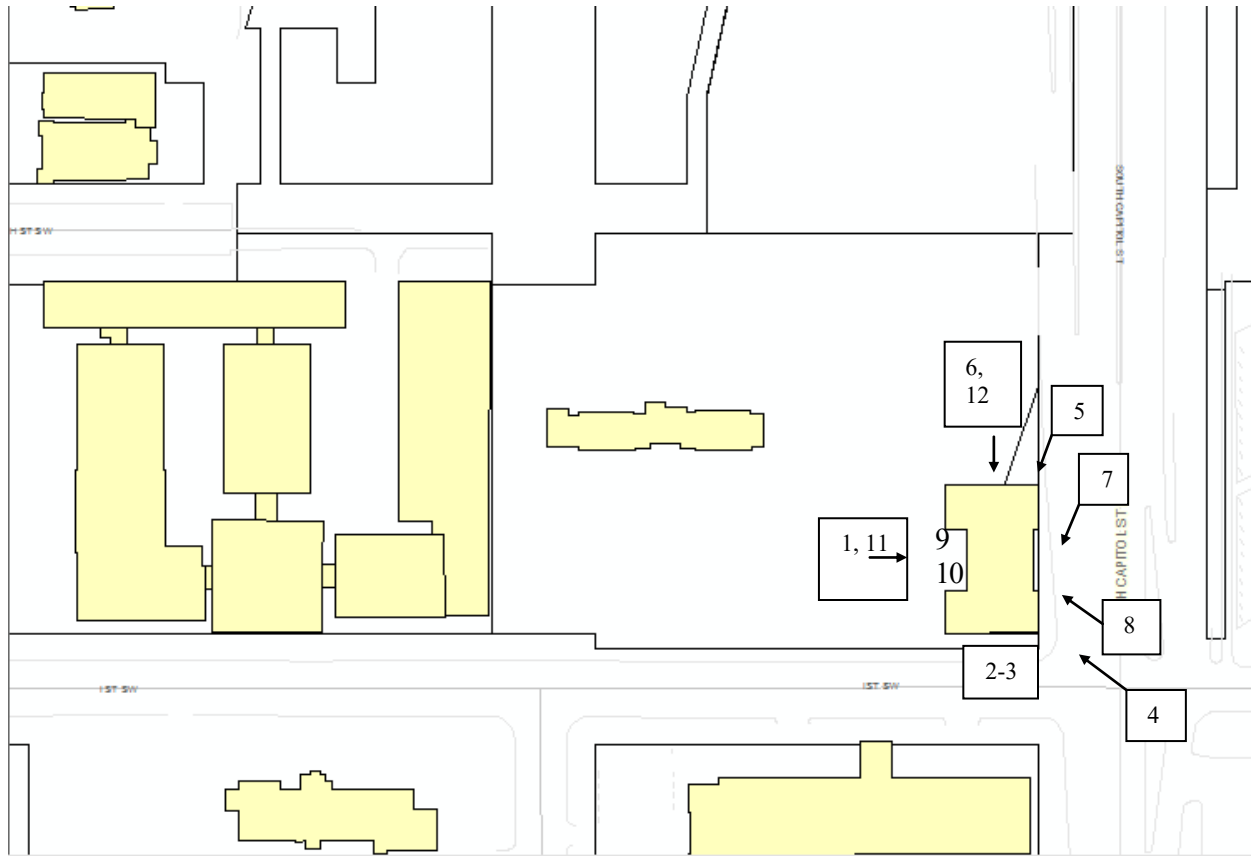
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Page 5



District of Columbia Pound  
Key to Photographs





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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 202-451-1234















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY District of Columbia Pound  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 8/15/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/08/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/23/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/01/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000798

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/30/2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 9/30/2014

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



MEMO

DATE: August 8, 2014

TO: Patrick Andrus

FROM: Kim Williams

RE: Transmittal Letter for District of Columbia Pound National Register nomination

The enclosed disk (Disk 1 of 2) contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POUND to the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, the enclosed Disk 2 (of 2) contains the NR photos as per the NR photo requirements.