

PH0011932

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY DATE  
**FEB 15 1974**

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
President's House, Gallaudet College  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
President's House, Columbia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
7th Street and Florida Avenue, N.E.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Congressman  
Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.  
STATE: District of Columbia  
CODE: 11  
COUNTY: District of Columbia  
CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Gallaudet College  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
7th Street and Florida Avenue, N.E.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
STATE:  
District of Columbia  
CODE: 11

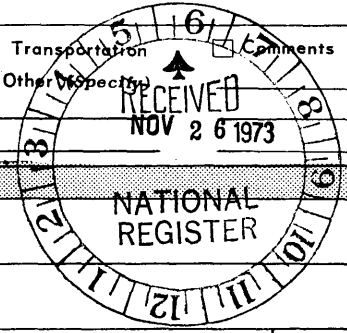
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
6th and D Streets, N.W.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
STATE:  
District of Columbia  
CODE: 11

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia additions to the National Register of Historic Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks  
DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968  
 Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Capital Planning Commission  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
STATE:  
District of Columbia  
CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 15 1974**  
DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The President's House at Gallaudet College is a large, red brick high Victorian Gothic Revival house located on a knoll at the southwest corner of the campus planned by Olmsted, Vaux & Co. The house erected in 1867-68 and designed by F.C. Withers is approximately sixty feet north of Florida Avenue. It is surrounded by informally landscaped open space. A circular drive separates it from a row of three High Victorian Gothic Revival Professors' Houses at the north. A large green separates it from academic and administrative buildings at the northeast. The house is oriented so that its main facade faces north toward the faculty houses. Most of the buildings on the campus visible from the President's House were designed by F.C. Withers and were built between 1867 and 1885.

The house is very suburban or rural in character and it is important to remember that in the 1860's the school had a suburban location. The building's design is in the mid-nineteenth century Downing tradition of a dwelling with informal landscaping, picturesque features, and an open plan. There are also features characteristic of post-Civil War architecture such as the "constructional coloration" and the greater plasticity (particularly present in the entrance portal).

The building has a number of parts and numerous accents from dormers, gables, chimneys, and projections. However, there is a unity from the general compactness of the outline and the careful organization of openings. This unity is enhanced by the use of similar decorative motifs.

The house has a 2-1/2-story, brick main block approximately 53'8" by 48'. This block has a broadly overhanging, steep mansard roof broken over each bay by a dormer, gable, or hipped gable. The main block has three bays on its north-south facades and two on its east facade. Centrally located on the north side is a projecting 2-1/2-story brick entrance bay, 14'5" by 10'. Extending the full length of the east side is a one-story frame veranda. A semi-elliptical, one-story bay projects from the southwest bay of the south facade. At the west is a two-story brick service wing, 30'9" by 26'. This wing has a steep mansard roof broken by gables over 2nd story windows. Attached to the service wing at the west is an enclosed, one-story, frame porch, one bay wide. A frame, 1-1/2-story stair wing with shed roof occupies the northwest corner between the main block and the service wing.

The main block and service wing have red brick walls laid in common bond in Flemish variation. There is variegation due to the brownstone foundation and the brownstone bands connecting window lintels. Most openings are rectangular with 2/2-lights. Over major windows are alternating brick and brownstone voussoirs in pointed arches. The arches are filled in with thin bricks laid in a recessed herringbone pattern. Around the main entrance is a very plastic, one-story brownstone portal with buttresses. The ornament on this portal and on the tympanum of the window above the door is derived from James K. Colling's Art Foliage (1865).<sup>1</sup> The frame porch at the east

<sup>1</sup>Much of the descriptive information is from Frank Kowsky's "The Nineteenth Century Buildings on the Campus of Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C."  
(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1867-68**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the President's House, Gallaudet College, a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The large, red-brick, High Victorian Gothic Revival residence was designed by Frederick C. Withers of the leading mid-nineteenth century firm of Vaux, Withers & Co. It is a well-preserved and handsomely detailed example of a large residence in the tradition of Downing's rural houses of the 1840's. In addition, the house has the polychromy and plasticity characteristic of post-Civil War architecture. Since it was erected in 1867-68, the building has served as the home of the president of the nation's only college for the deaf. Its siting was determined by Olmsted, Vaux & Co. when that leading landscape architecture and planning firm made a general plan for the grounds in 1866.

In 1857 Amos Kendall established a primary school for deaf and blind children in the District of Columbia across the boundary line of the Federal City at Eighth Street, N.E. Edward M. Gallaudet became superintendent of the nascent school. Gallaudet had a vision of a government supported college for the deaf, and in 1864 the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb was given collegiate powers. (In 1865 blind students were taught elsewhere. In 1894 the college's name was changed to Gallaudet College in honor of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, Edward M. Gallaudet's father and the founder of the first school for the deaf in the United States.)

The school received support from the United States Government and care was taken to insure that it expanded in an orderly fashion. In 1866 Olmsted, Vaux & Co. made a master plan of the campus. From 1866 to 1870 substantial development took place and great care was taken to follow the 1866 plan.

On December 14, 1866, Edward Gallaudet, the school president, requested Olmsted, Vaux & Co. to proceed to design three buildings for the campus, as he hoped to begin the chapel, the president's house, and one professor's house the next year. The plans for these buildings were actually made by the architectural firm of Vaux, Withers & Co. This firm was closely associated with the school's planners, as Vaux was a member of both firms.

Frederick C. Withers (1828-1901) was the partner who designed the buildings at Gallaudet. Withers was an English architect who immigrated to the United States around 1852 to work with Andrew J. Downing, the popularizer of the

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Atwood, A.W. Gallaudet College: Its First One Hundred Years. Lancaster, Pa: Intelligencer, 1964.

Atwood, A.W. "Gallaudet in Washington: The World's Only College for the Deaf." Records of the Columbia Historical Society in Washington, D.C. Vol. 63-65 (1963-65), pp. 432-447.

Centennial Souvenir Book Committee. Our Heritage 1864-1964. Sponsored by D.C. Chapter of Gallaudet College Alumni. Washington: Graphic Arts Press, 1964.

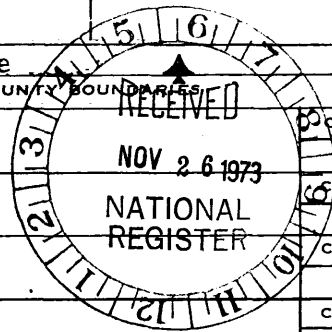
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 54' 23"	76° 59' 51"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



18/226906/4307760

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: May 21, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name James M. Anka

Title Assistant to the Mayor for Housing Programs

Date NOV 19 1973

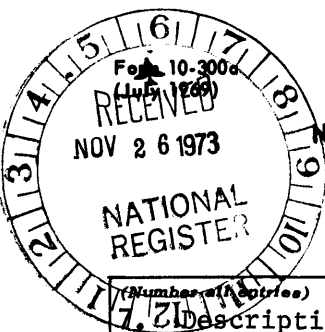
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/15/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Acting Keeper of the National Register

Date Feb. 14, 1974



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 15 1974

(Number of Entries)  
7.21 Description - President's House

has king post braces and quatrefoil ensemble. This porch is in poor condition. The first floor plan of the main block has a central hall with plant room at the south and two rooms on each side. Between the west rooms is a handsome stair. The plan exhibits the openness, concern for views, and separation of service wing characteristic of Downing's plans. The addition of the plant room is a post-Civil War characteristic and possibly derived from a design in Robert Kerr's The Gentlemen's House (1864).

The interior has a number of outstanding decorative features. The main rooms of the first floor have dark woodwork and handsome wood and tile mantels. The newel of the stair supports an intricate wood carving of an Indian. Handsome stain glass panels separate the plant room and the central hall.

8. Significance

picturesque Gothic Revival cottage set in informal landscaping. Withers worked with Olmsted and Vaux on Central Park in New York City. In 1866 he formed a partnership with Vaux which lasted until 1871. This firm is best known for their High Victorian, Gothic Revival designs, such as Jefferson Market Court-house in New York City (on the National Register of Historic Places) and Chapel Hall at Gallaudet College (a National Historic Landmark).

The first building by Withers completed at Gallaudet was the Professor's House erected in 1867. The President's House and Chapel Hall were begun at the same time but due to their larger size and more elaborate designs took longer to complete. Both the President's House and the Professor's House are located on land purchased from Capt. Patterson after the Olmsted, Vaux and Co. plan was made. However, both buildings are sited as determined by the plan as it called for the purchase of this property. The existing original plans for the President's House are dated March 16, 1867. The house's design largely conforms with these plans. By August 1867 the building was ready for rafters and was roofed by the winter of 1867. Gallaudet in the Annual Report dated October 26, 1868, stated that the house was nearly complete. The house was occupied by Gallaudet and his family in December 1868.

Probably in 1887 a frame stair wing was added in the northwest corner where the main block joins the service wing. From 1887 to 1889 the newly admitted female students in the college were temporarily living on the third floor of the President's House. The stairs were probably built to enable the students to reach their rooms without going through the President's quarters.

The house has undergone relatively little modification excepting the addition of modern utilities. It contains a considerable amount of furniture dating from the occupancy of Edward M. Gallaudet.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>FEB 15 1974</b>	

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography

Hamlin, T.F. "Withers, F.C." Dictionary of American Biography. XX. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1936, p. 435.

Gallaudet, E.M. "A History of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb." Records of the Columbia Historical Society. XV (1912), pp. 1-22.

Gallaudet College (Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb). Annual Report to the Department of Interior, 1858-1895.

Gallaudet Library. Original Plans and Elevations of President's House, 10 drawings dated March 16, 1867. Letterbooks of President of Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, 1866-1869. Letters from Olmsted, Vaux & Co. and from Vaux, Withers & Co., 1865-1868.

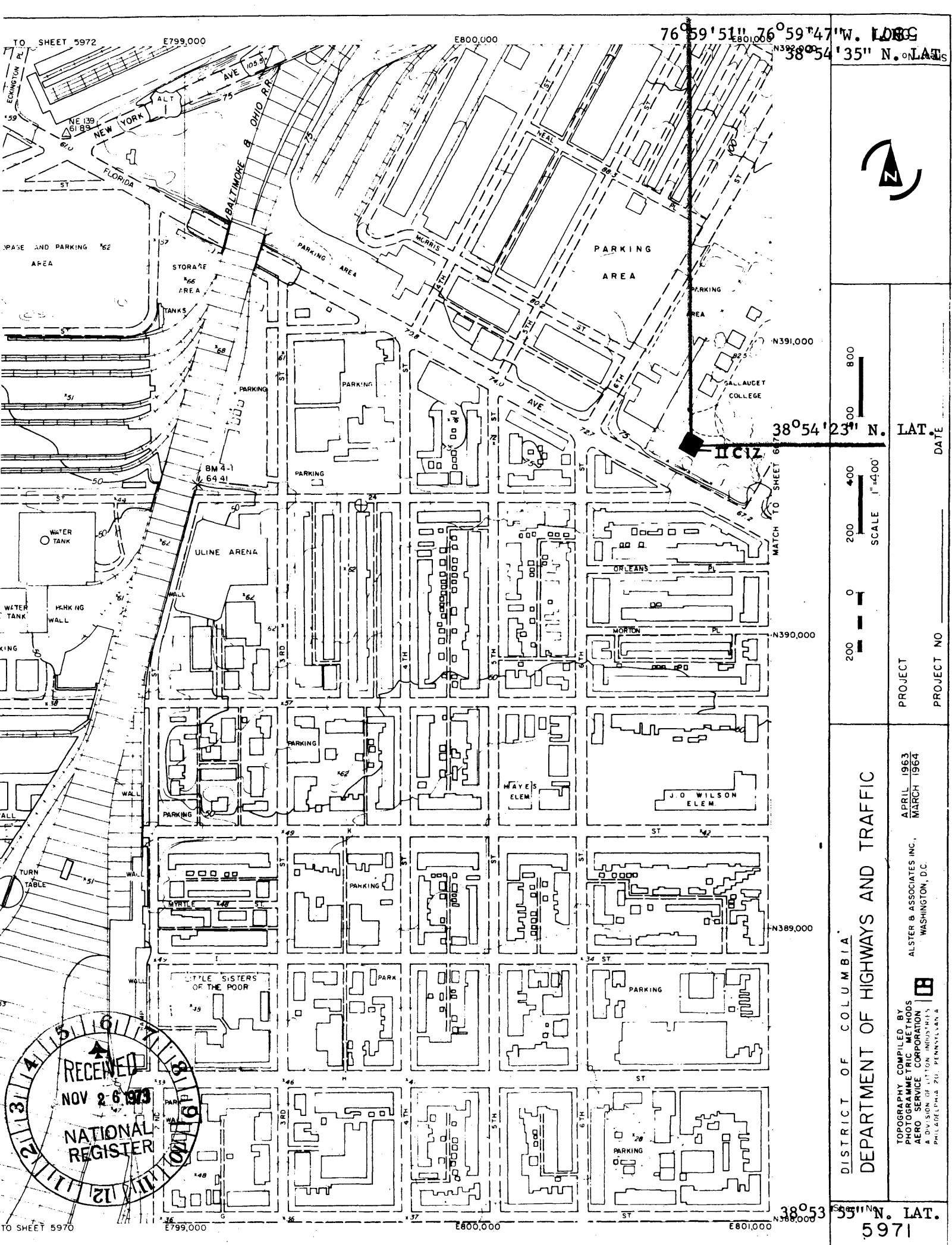
Kowsky, Frank. "The Nineteenth Century Buildings on the Campus of Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C." State University College at Buffalo, New York. 1970. Copy in Gallaudet Library.

National Capital Planning Commission. Landmarks File.

Newspaper Articles. Washingtoniana Collection. D.C. Public Library.

Withey, H.F. and E.R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970.





TO SHEET 5972

E799,000

E800,000

76° 59' 51" W. LONG  
38° 54' 35" N. LAT.

E801,000

N391,000

N390,000

N389,000

N388,000

SPACE AND PARKING AREA

STORAGE AREA

PARKING AREA

PARKING AREA

PARKING AREA

TANKS

BM 4-1  
64.41

ULINE ARENA

ORLEANS PL

MORTON PL

MAYES ELEM

J.O. WILSON ELEM

MYRTLE ST

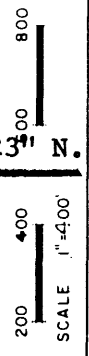
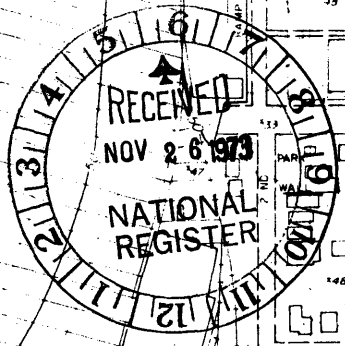
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

PARK

ST

ST

ST



38° 54' 23" N. LAT.

LAT.

DATE

PROJECT

PROJECT NO

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

ALSTER & ASSOCIATES INC.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TOPOGRAPHY COMPILED BY  
PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS  
AERO SERVICE CORPORATION  
A DIVISION OF LITTON INDUSTRIES  
PHILADELPHIA 20, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 1963  
MARCH 1964

38° 55' N. LAT.  
5971

TO SHEET 5970

E799,000

E800,000

E801,000