

2/12/73

PHOON 801

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE: | |
| COUNTY: | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| DEC 5 | 1972 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sulgrave Club

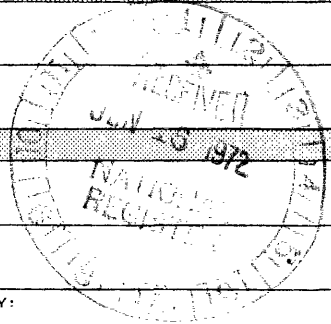
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Wadsworth House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001



3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Private Women's Club</u> |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Sulgrave Club, Incorporated

STREET AND NUMBER:
1801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th 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 Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| |
|------------------|
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| DATE |
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

| | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| (Check One) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated |
| (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 Sulgrave Club (Wadsworth House) is located on a triangular lot with its main entrance facing southwest on Massachusetts Avenue, and bordered by 18th Street, and P Street. The building style is eclectic and combines 18th century French and English elements in its design. The plan of the house generally conforms to the triangular shape of the lot and was designed in 1900 by architect Frederick H. Brooke. The house, which is oriented toward Massachusetts Avenue, is terminated on both the Dupont Circle and 18th Street ends by a curved or bowed facade. The structure measures 136 feet across its composite Massachusetts Avenue facade, 125 feet on P Street, and 76 feet on 18th Street.

The 3-1/2 story house sits on a cyma capped limestone base with a rusticated yellow brick ground floor. A limestone fret and cyma string course separates the ground floor from the yellow brick second and third floors.

The ground floor central facade bay on Massachusetts Avenue was originally a carriage entrance through to P Street. The original entrance passed through a segmental brick voussoir arch with an acanthus scroll key. This entrance was filled in and a porch or stoop added in 1932. The present entrance is a result of remodeling in 1952. It consists of a limestone stoop, eight glazed French door panels, an iron scroll-console and canopy marquise.

The predominately double-hung ground floor windows have block sills and brick voussoirs. The second story (piano nobile) windows are double-hung with limestone fillet sills, panel architraves and scroll consoles flanking plain friezes and supporting corona overhangs. The bows have Louis XVI French doors separated from their transoms by ogee bars. Each bay of the second floor bows has decorative wrought-iron balconies on scroll consoles. The Louis XVI east windows (ballroom) are higher from the ground and lack balconies. The Palladian window over the entrance consists of dado panels with scroll block supporting the fluted Ionic columns and pilasters and an Ionic pulvinated entablature broken by a shell arch flanked by balustrade panels. The third floor has limestone, double crossette, double-hung windows except for the casement windows in the bows, the oval oculi at each corner of the building facade extensions, and the plain limestone architrave of those openings above the Palladian window.

The roof rises as a slate-covered mansard with its top built up. The limestone building entablature consists of a bead and reel architrave, plain frieze and dentil and egg and dart courses supporting a corona overhang capped by an urn balustrade with panel blocks. The fourth floor dormers are hidden behind the continuous roof balustrade.

The interior of the house is eclectic and although it has been somewhat modified, much of the original detailing remains. The carriage entrance is now the ground floor entrance hall. On the east axis is found the reception room followed by the dining room. On the west entrance hall axis is a pentagonal stair hall (inspired by 17th century English designs) followed by the original oval library.

The stair ascends a single flight to the trapezoidal piano nobile living hall with dining room directly opposite, the oval salon to the west and the ballroom to the east. The dining room has a glyph cove ceiling with acanthus

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Women's Club</u> |
| <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 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 Sulgrave Club (Wadsworth House) a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Designed in 1900 by architect Frederick Brooke, this mansion, with its 18th century French and English elements, mirrors the eclecticism of the period. Built primarily for entertaining by Herbert Wadsworth of Geneseo, New York, the mansion was one of several palaces located on Dupont Circle at the turn of the century. The house served briefly as headquarters for the American Red Cross. It now houses the Sulgrave Club, a women's club similar in organization to the Colony Club in New York.

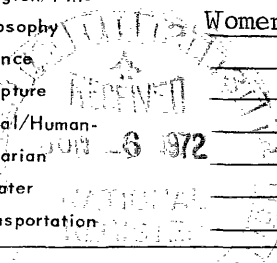
The triangle of land now occupied by the Sulgrave Club was owned by the Church of the Holy Cross in 1862. The land was next owned by Mrs. Kate D. Van Wyck in 1889. In 1896 the land was purchased by the Herbert Wadsworths of Geneseo, New York. The house was built by Wadsworth.

The architect of the Wadsworth House was Frederick H. Brooke (1879-1961) who also designed the District of Columbia War Memorial in West Potomac Park and was the American architect of the U.S. Embassy in Britain. The house was designed primarily for entertaining and receptions and, among other features, contained a large ballroom. During Theodore Roosevelt's administration, the house was a prominent center for Washington social activities.

In February of 1917 the Wadsworth turned the house over to the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Red Cross. This was the first private residence in the U.S. to be given by its owner for use in Red Cross work.

In 1932 the house was purchased by Miss Mabel Boardman for \$125,000 for use as a private women's club. Miss Boardman who lived on P Street across from the Wadsworth house brought together a group of friends and neighbors to both found the club and to prevent the property from falling into undesirable hands. Organized along the lines of the Colony Club of New York and the Chilton Club of Boston, the club was planned to be a center of social, artistic, literary and musical activities in the city. Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington, was chosen as an appropriate name for the club and permission to use the Washington coat-of-arms for the Club's seal was obtained. The house still serves as the Sulgrave Club.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information compiled by the Commission of Fine Arts, particularly the architectural description. Information now on file at the Commission of Fine Arts.

Information from the files of the Washington Collection of the D.C. Public Library.

Information from the Sulgrave Club pamphlet: "Sulgrave Club - 1932-1957." "Obituaries," Progressive Architecture, vol. 42, February 1961.

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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | N38° 54' 33" | N77° 02' 32" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5,673 square feet

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Suzanne Ganschietz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: February 25, 1972

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

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>John A. Watt</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>Deputy-Mayor Commissioner</u></p> <p>Date: <u>JUN 8 1972</u></p> | <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert G. Utley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>12/5/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William D. Swartz</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>12 4 72</u></p> |
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description - Sulgrave Club

corners. The oval salon is decorated in a late 18th century English style. The ballroom ceiling is coved and divided into recessed beamed panels having crosseted insets, those of the cove decorated with escutcheons and festoons. On the third floor are located bedrooms and baths. The original servants quarters were located on the fourth floor. These rooms have been remodeled and are used for guest rooms.

