

STATE: District of Columbia	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Charles Evans Hughes House (1930-1948)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2223 R Street, N.W. (off Sheridan Circle)

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: COUNTY: CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>embassy residence</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Union of Burma

STREET AND NUMBER:
2223 R Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

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: D.C. CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charles Evans Hughes house stands just off Massachusetts Avenue's Sheridan Circle in what was, during the years just prior to the First World War, Washington's most fashionable residential area. It would appear that the architect, George Oakley Totten, had something of a small Florentine palazzo in mind when he designed this large townhouse and its neighbor, at 2221 R Street, for Mrs. A. Clifford Barney in 1907. Detailing, at least, suggests Mediterranean antecedent, though it is rather more Spanish than Florentine. The facade of the dwelling, three bays long, has an overall width of fifty feet and is set far enough back from the sidewalk to accommodate a double driveway before the centrally-placed entrance. The doorway is defined only by a flat, simply-molded architrave, surmounted by a canted hood, resting on iron brackets and composed of rectangular panes of opaque glass. This entrance breaks the ashlar ground story of the house, and is flanked by small grilled windows. A secondary entrance occupies the eastern bay, balancing a window in the western bay of the ground floor.

A bold, ashlar beltcourse with an ogee molding emphasizes the horizontality of the house and distinguished the first floor from the smooth-surfaced upper portion of the facade. Window openings at the second and third story levels are set into shallow recesses which accentuate them in the absence of an architrave. Three tall arched bays, containing French windows and fronted by utilitarian iron balconies, articulate the main floor, or piano nobile. Directly above, diminutive masonry window boxes set upon molded consoles project balcony-like from the third floor sash windows. There is a narrow, molded beltcourse between the third floor and the fourth, the latter being which is treated as an attic space. The square casement openings here are overshadowed by a stolid mansard of green tile, supported projecting beams. The lot itself is 97 feet deep, with a small enclosed court on the east side, and a rear court abutting the back property line.

During the first 23 years of its existence, the house served as a residence and, successively, as the chancery for the legations of Peru and Chile. In March of 1930, it was purchased by Chief Justice and Mrs. Hughes, and six months later they occupied it. Mrs. Hughes redecorated and refurnished the house, which was maintained with the assistance of a chambermaid, a cook, and several other servants. The Hugheses also employed a chauffeur.

Regularly, Justice Hughes was at his desk in the first-floor study each morning at 8:30, working half a day there when court was in session, before going to his official offices, and all day--except for a brief lunch--during court recess. Hughes's R Street chambers consisted of two rooms. The study itself was:

a pleasant, squarish room with books covering two walls....simply furnished, with two overstuffed chairs and a davenport. [Hughes]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1930-1948**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 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

Charles Evans Hughes was a statesman and juror of the highest order, a leader in the Progressive movement, and the holder of a succession of important offices from the administration of William Howard Taft to the New Deal. His biographer, Merlo Pusey, has called him "one of the great minds of the century."¹ When first appointed in 1910 to the Supreme Court, of which he later became Chief Justice, Hughes took his place alongside Oliver Wendell Holmes as one of the conservative body's two distinguished dissidents, exercising a powerful voice in progressive reform and as an early champion of civil rights and racial equality. A man of "integrity, independence, great power of leadership, and, above all, intellectual depth,"² as Arthur Link has hailed him, Hughes was for forty years a dynamic force and a dominant figure in American politics.

Although a native of New York, Hughes made Washington his permanent home. He and Mrs. Hughes purchased the commodious R Street residence, next door to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Francis Adams, in 1930, when he returned to the city as Chief Justice. For the rest of their lives--longer than they had lived anywhere else, the Hughes resided here, maintaining the order and efficiency that had always characterized their daily existence. As at his earlier Washington home, Hughes maintained a study on the first floor. "From these modest quarters," writes Pusey, "the Supreme Court was to be directed for eleven years."³ Now occupied by the Ambassador of Burma, the dwelling is outwardly unchanged.

¹Merlo J. Pusey, Charles Evans Hughes (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1951), p. 805.

²Arthur S. Link, Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era, 1910-1917 (New York: Harper and Row, 1964), p. 231.

³Pusey, p. 667.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bonner, Thomas. Our Recent Past: American Civilization in the Twentieth Century. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1963.
 Leuchtenburg, William E. The Perils of Prosperity, 1914-1932. Third edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1968.
 Link, Arthur S. Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era, 1910-1917. New York: Harper and Row, 1964.
 Pusey, Merlo J. Charles Evans Hughes. Two volumes. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1951.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				D R	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	54'	45"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	02'	40"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/8th acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Robert S. Gamble, Chris Redburn, Alice W. True-Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: National Park Service DATE: July 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Charles Evans Hughes
House

(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description (Continued) (1)

sat at a plain, flat-topped mahogany desk in the high-back chair which he had used as governor....Close at hand was his dictionary and a shelf of reference books. Looking down on him at his left above the clock was a picture of Chief Justice White, and nearby an engraving of The Right Honorable Thomas Lord Denham, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench. Behind the door...was a likeness of John Stuart Mill. Facing the Chief Justice from a high mantelpiece across the room was a bronze bust of Lincoln--the most conspicuous object in the room.¹

After his retirement, Hughes and his wife lived in "delightful seclusion" at their R Street house, the former statesman spending much of his time answering correspondence, reading, and working on his biographical notes. When Mrs. Hughes died in 1945, the living room of the home was kept precisely as she had left it. The most significant structural change made by the Hughes appears to have been the addition of a brick wall in 1935 to separate the side court of their home from the adjoining property at 2221 R Street.

The Union of Burma acquired the house from the Hughes family after Justice Hughes' death in 1948. Today it is the Burmese chancery, and entrance is prohibited.

¹Merlo J. Pusey, Charles Evans Hughes (New York: The Macmillan Comapny, 1951), p. 667.

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8. Significance (Continued) (1)

Biography

Great intellect was unified with high idealism, humanity, and rare integrity in the life of Charles Evans Hughes. This dedication of singular talents to lofty purpose was perhaps the legacy of his pietistic background, for, born in 1862, he was the son of a gifted clergyman who was then pastor of the Baptist flock at Glens Falls, New York. The family moved a number of times during Hughes' childhood, as his father's prominence increased, and eventually they settled in New York City. Hughes attended formal school only intermittently, but his quick intelligence and the warm home life he enjoyed put him far ahead of most children of his age. At thirteen, he finished high school in Manhattan. The next year, he entered Madison (now Colgate) University, then went to Brown, where he received his degree in 1881. Graduating with honors from Columbia Law School two years later, Hughes was admitted to the New York bar. He then practiced law until 1906, except for a two-year interval as a professor of jurisprudence at Cornell.

Hughes first entered the public arena in 1905, as counsel for the Stevens committee investigation of the gas and electricity industries. This was followed by an astounding probe of the insurance industry. His exposés of corruption in these citadels of big business thrust him into prominence as a likely candidate for the governorship, and with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt, he became the Republican candidate in 1906. He was elected, and in 1908 was returned to office for a second term. The Hughes administration, comparable to that of Woodrow Wilson in neighboring New Jersey, or of Robert M. LaFollette in Wisconsin, was a model of progressive achievement. Among his accomplishments were new regulation of public service agencies, administrative reforms, and labor and welfare legislation.

In 1910, Hughes was appointed by President Taft to the Supreme Court, where he became a champion of civil rights as well as railroad regulation. His name was often mentioned in connection with the presidency, but with determination he declined until 1916, when he was drafted by the Republican Party. The Progresssive Party, too, endorsed him. But the truculent nationalism expressed by such prominent supporters as Theodore Roosevelt proved detrimental to the Hughes campaign. Furthermore, he was unable to define a position very different from Wilson's. In November, he narrowly lost the election. After his defeat, Hughes again entered private practice in New York, interrupted for a time by war work in Washington undertaken at the behest of his former presidential opponent.

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8. Significance (Continued) (2)

The Republican Party called upon him once more when it returned to power in 1920. As Secretary of State under President Harding, Hughes was untouched by the scandals which rocked that administration. Amid a national mood of isolationism and mediocrity, he worked with laudable dedication. He advocated American entry into the League of Nations and the signing of the Versailles Treaty. Failing in this, he arranged for separate treaties with the enemy countries. He was the instigator of the Washington Conference of 1921-22 which, despite its long-range inefficacy, resulted in a reduction of the naval armament race between the U.S., Britain, and Japan. He also re-negotiated the reparations agreements with Germany, and attempted to get the United States into the World Court.

Hughes became involved in various public services after his tenure as Secretary of State, and resumed legal practice until 1930, when he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. During the New Deal, he occupied a position between the extreme conservatives and the liberals on the court, but he strongly opposed Roosevelt's court-packing scheme plan in 1937. Four years later, he retired, and in the summer of 1948, he died while at Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

In tribute to his great friend, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Hughes had once written, "The most beautiful and the rarest thing in the world is a complete human life, unmarred, unified by intelligent purpose and uninterrupted accomplishment, blessed by great talent employed in the worthiest activities."⁴ The words could well be applied to Hughes' own life and vision, as a statesman who left a lasting impression on American life.

⁴Ibid., p. 805.