

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Zalmon Richards House

AND/OR COMMON

Zalmon Richards House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 1301 Corcoran Street NW.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

D. C.

CODE

11

COUNTY

D.C.

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Marion Blakey and  
Dr. William Dooley

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1301 Corcoran Street NW.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Recorder of Deeds  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

6th. and D Streets NW.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None known

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Richards House is a small, 20 by 67 foot, Victorian rowhouse, three stories, on a raised basement, with a slate mansard roof. The end house in a row of identically designed brick structures, the Richards House has an untrimmed, recessed arched main entrance doorway, with transom, approached by a flight of cast-iron stairs on the west side of the first story. A three-sided wooden bay with tall narrow arched windows, and paired decorative brackets occupies the center of the narrow front, on the ground and first story levels. A similar bay in the center of the east wall overlooks a small yard, enclosed with a cast-iron fence.

The brick house is painted red, and all the trim, including dripmoldings around the second story windows, the bays and the brackets and cornice, are painted white. On the rear of the house, the present owner has removed a two-story porch addition seen in the 1965 photographs, and is repairing and renovating the house, which had been used as a rooming house until recently, when he acquired it. The little house to the rear (north, 1636 13th Street) is not part of the Richards House property.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1882-1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Zalmon Richards (1811-1899) devoted most of his life to furthering the development of public education. Known primarily as the founder and first president of the National Teachers' Association (today's National Education Association), Richards was also largely responsible for the Congressional Act which in 1867 established a national educational office.

When he was 17, Richards began teaching in a small country school. Based on this experience he resolved to make teaching his profession. After supplementing his limited education by courses at the Southampton Academy, he entered Williams College, where he came under the influence of Mark Hopkins.

Having graduated from Williams in 1836, he became principal of the Cunningham Academy in Massachusetts. From there he moved to Stillwater, New York, where he headed the local academy. While at Stillwater he organized teachers' institutes in New York and Vermont.

Moving to Washington, D.C., in 1849, he became principal of the preparatory department of Columbian College. Soon he organized the Columbian Teachers' Association. In 1852 he established a private school, the Union Academy.

Richards was the principal founder of the National Teachers' Association, which was organized in Philadelphia in 1857 "to elevate the character and advance the interests of the profession of teaching, and to promote the cause of popular education in the United States." He served as the Association's first president and continued to devote much time to it until 1896. The early growth and progress of the Association, which in 1870 became the National Education Association and is today the leading educational organization in the United States, must be credited in large part to Richards' leadership.

In 1861 Richards was appointed to a clerical position in the Treasury Department but soon transferred to the Bureau of Statistics, where he collected statistics on the schools of the United States. Using this information he was largely responsible for the passage in 1867 of an Act of Congress establishing a national Department of Education to study educational problems throughout the country. He accepted a position with this Department, and remained there until 1869, when, as a member of the Washington city council, he secured the creation of the office of superintendent of the city's public schools. He was the first to hold this position, serving one year.

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Throughout the remainder of his life, Richards remained active in promoting the betterment of public schools. He spoke widely and wrote numerous papers and reports on the subject. In 1880 he published a Teachers' Manual for use by primary school teachers. He also wrote The Natural Arithmetic, published in 1885.

Richards purchased the three-story brick house at 1301 Corcoran Street, N.W., in Washington about 1882. There he lived for the remainder of his life, supporting himself by teaching classes in one of its rooms. The house is privately owned and is not open to the public.

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Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of 13th and Corcoran, N.W., the national historic landmark boundary follows the property line, in a westerly direction along the north curb of Corcoran Street; thence north along the property line, following the common connecting wall between the Richards House and the next property to the west; thence following the north property line east to the west curb of 13th Street; thence south along the west curb of 13th Street to the beginning point.