

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Timothy Caldwell House--Monroe--Adams--Abbe House

AND/OR COMMON  
Arts Club Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 2017 I Street NW.

CITY, TOWN Washington \_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE D.C. VICINITY OF CODE 11 COUNTY CODE

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Arts Club of Washington

STREET & NUMBER  
8014 Maple Ridge Road

CITY, TOWN Bethesda STATE  
Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER  
6th and D Streets NW.

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE  
D.C.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE National Register of Historic Places

DATE 1969  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service--Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN 18th and C Streets NW., Washington STATE  
D.C.

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# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The following architectural description is taken from the National Register Nomination Form for 2017 I Street. The form was prepared in 1969 and there have been no significant changes to the property since then.

The Arts Club of Washington, facing south at 2017 I Street NW., is a 32' wide (four bays) red brick flemish-bond with buff stone trim rowhouse of three stories and a dormered attic with a grey slate gable roof. The house, set 10' back from the sidewalk, is flanked on the left by an apartment house and on the right by a late 19th century rowhouse.

Above a two-foot stone foundation the first floor has three 6/6 light double-hung windows with stone sills, splayed voussoir-and-keystone-patterned stone lintels and three panelled white wooden shutters. To the right of the windows, the entrance door which is the insignia of the Arts Club, is a 20th century reproduction of the original. This solid wood six-panelled door flanked by vertical 2/2 light double-hung windows is surmounted by an ornamental transom rail and a large fanlight surrounded by a reeded stone archway and scroll keystone. Stone band courses separate the first and second, and second and third stories. The four windows of both the second and the third floors are also 6/6 light double-hung with stone sills, splayed voussoir-and-keystone-patterned stone lintels and have two panelled blinds. Two evenly spaced fourth floor dormers each have a double basement window with three lights to a side topped by a small fanlight. This 1805 part of the house was originally only two stories and a dormered attic, which were converted to the present 3 1/2 stories by Professor Abbe in 1881, but there is little exterior evidence of this expansion.

In 1881 Abbe also built additional rooms in the rear on the upper floors and removed a stable and other outbuildings in the backyard. The rear of the house is similar in detail to the front, but has been covered with buff stucco. Non-original elements include a door made from a double-hung window, a modern second floor concrete deck, fire escapes, and a large fourth floor studio dormer.

The kitchen wing to the east and rear, the original two-story 1802 Caldwell house, which was converted to three floors in the late 19th century, has a low painted metal shed roof. There is a modern lattice porch at the rear. The walled garden, paved with brick and stone, is used as a summer dining area by the Arts Club. There is some evidence of the stable and smokehouse which Abbe removed.

Excellent descriptions and drawings of the interior of the Arts Club exist. Despite the addition of a modern heating system, structural steel, and bathrooms in the main part of the house, much of the original character of this elegant Federal town mansion has been retained. Of particular interest are the numerous fireplaces, decorative plaster moldings and woodwork, oval brass door-knobs, and the main stairway with its bas-relief garlands, mahogany handrail

(continued)

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# 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cleveland Abbe, the father of the United State Weather Bureau, was born December 3, 1838, in New York City. He received his primary education in private schools. In 1851 he entered the New York Free Academy (later City College of New York). In 1857 Abbe graduated with a B.A. degree and in 1860 the academy awarded him a M.A.

Abbe's yough was decisive in deterring his later career in science. Vacations were spent on his grandfather's farm, where the young man delighted in observing natural phenomena guided by "Smellies Philosophy of Nature," a book given to him by his mother. Abbe later stated that this book was the source which first stimulated his interest in science. When he died, it was placed in his hands and buried with him.

Between 1857 and 1868 Abbe held a number of positions which began with teaching mathematics and ended as an assistant at the United States Navel Observatory. It was a period in which he sought and found a vocation. 1860 found him at the University of Michigan teaching engineering. While there he studied with an astronomer named Bruennow, who stimulated Abbe's interest in celestrial concerns. Rejected for Army service in 1860, he spent the war years doing longitude work for the United States Coast Survey. In 1865 he traveled to Russia and spent an enjoyable year at the Observatory of Pulkova. Returning to the United States in 1867, he spent the next year at the United States Navel Observatory, at the time one of the country's leading centers of astronomy.

In 1868 the newly established Cincinnati Observatory offered Abbe the position of director. Recognizing the opportunity to pursue his own research projects, Abbe accepted. It was in Cincinnati that he began the work in meterology that would dominate the rest of his life. Abbe had previously recognized that the development and spread of the telegraph made it possible to send quickly messages for one locale to another. Why not, he reasoned, use the telegraph to assemble at a central location meterological data from around the country. Abbe felt that by collecting such data from a wide variety of locations, it would be possible to determine weather patterns upon which to base weather predictions. With the help of the Associated Press Abbe put his idea to work and by 1871 he had developed the country's first weather service.

Thanks to the success of his weather service, Abbe had by 1871 acquired a national reputation in meterological circles. In the same year the United States Signal Corps, acting on the advice of numerous scientists and interested laymen,

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Issac Asimov, Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, (New York, 1972).  
 "Cleveland Abbe," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 1, (New York, 1928).  
 A. Hunter Dupree, Science in the Federal Government (Cambridge, 1957).  
 W. J. Humphreys, "Biographical Memoir of Cleveland Abbe," National Academy of Science Biographic Memoirs, Vol. 8 (Washington, 1919).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	322560	4307625	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Sheire, Historian

February 1975

ORGANIZATION

OAHP - National Park Service

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

Description:

Arts Club Building

and slender balusters. The 1881 expansion of the house is clearly evidence in the late 19th century trim of the third and fourth floors.

The older kitchen wing has been altered extensively through the years and particularly after a fire on August 14, 1963, destroyed much of the original plaster and woodwork. During restoration the kitchen was expanded into the former enclosed porch at the rear of the ell, and the 1802 parlor was retained as a party.

The Arts Club has also made significant changes in the basement, including the addition of a modern cocktail lounge, new furnace room, bathrooms, and stairways.

The history of the house, as well as its architecture, is interesting. Finished in approximately 1808 by one Timothy Caldwell, who owned the property until 1840, the house was occupied by James Monroe as both Secretary of State and War under Madison and then for the first six months of his own presidency from March 4, 1817, to September 17, 1817. Another notable tenant was Charles Frances Adams. In 1840 Caldwell sold the house to a Francis Markow, who with his heir owned the property until 1877, when Cleveland Abbe purchased it. Abbe lived in the house from 1877 to approximately 1909. At 2017 I Street the Abbe's entertained their many friends and raised their family. After Abbe's death in 1916, the property was purchased by the Arts Club of Washington. This organization still owns the building and uses it as a clubhouse.

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PAGE 1

Statement of Significance:

Arts Club Building

decided to create an agency that would be concerned with national weather conditions. In that Abbe was the only person in the United States that had used telegraphic reports to draw weather maps, the Army invited him to assume the position of Assistant Chief to the Signal Officer and direct the program. Abbe accepted. In 1871 he moved to Washington. Although he thought at the time that he would only stay a few years, the Potomac became his home for the rest of his life.

Between 1871 and approximately 1893 Abbe directed the birth and growth of the United States Weather Bureau. As the years passed and the service expanded, he saw the need to separate the Weather Bureau from the Army's Signal Corps. He was largely responsible for the reorganization of the Weather Bureau out of the Department of War and into the Department of Agriculture in 1890. During these years in addition to his administrative duties Abbe made many contributions to the science of meteorology. In 1893 he put down most of his administrative duties and redirected his energies to editing the Bureau's meteorological journals. He retired in early 1916 at the age of 78. He died a short time later on October 28, 1916.

Cleveland Abbe's significance in the history of science in America is twofold. First, as a professional meteorologist, he made important contributions to his chosen profession. Second, and equally as important, as father of the United States Weather Bureau, he helped create an institution dedicated to the cultivation of an important branch of the earth sciences. As head of the Weather Bureau Abbe became a skilled and practiced advocate of the benefits of science in elite Washington political and bureaucratic circles. Although he published approximately 300 papers on meteorological subjects, Abbe was not primarily a creative man of pure science. He was above all a teacher and propagandist who continuously strove to gain public acceptance of the benefits and values of science. Abbe's career in science began in the 1850's with a broad interest in the general concerns of astronomy and ended in the 1920's with a mastery of the specialized knowledge of meteorology. His own life spanned the period from science as natural history to science as sophisticated and specialized individual physical and biological disciplines. In acting as a public spokesman for the interests of science in an age of ever increasing specialization, Abbe helped secure society's support for an elite activity few Americans understood. As scientist, as father of the United States Weather Bureau, and as teacher and propagandist, Abbe served science and society.

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