

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:
Lafayette Square Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Generally between 15th and 17th Streets on the east and west
CITY OR TOWN:
and H Street and State Place - Treasury Place on the north and south in N. W. Washington,
STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
District of Columbia

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Various public and private
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the north end of the district is Lafayette Park, a rectangular tract of land of 6.96 acres. From north to south it measures 420.67 feet and from east to west 722.7 feet. The dominant features of the park are statues honoring American war heroes Gen. Andrew Jackson (completed in 1853), General Lafayette (1891), General Rochambeau (1902), General Thaldeus Kosciuszko (1910), and General von Stueben (1910). See attached plan.

Surrounding Lafayette Park and adjacent to it are a number of buildings of special historical and architectural interest. In the southwest corner of the district, at Pennsylvania and 17th Street, is the Executive Office Building (designed by A. B. Mullet and built 1871-1888), sometimes known as the Old State, War, and Navy Building. On the opposite side of the White House (omitted from the district) in the southeast corner is the Treasury Building (Robert Mills and Thomas Ustick Walters, 1836-1869), the oldest of the government's departmental buildings. On the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, across the street from the Executive Office Building, are the Renwick Gallery (James Renwick, 1859), built for William Corcoran, and the Blair-Lee Houses (1824, restored in 1931 by Waldon Faulkner), which are used for entertaining distinguished visitors from foreign countries.

Facing Lafayette Park on Jackson Place are row houses dating from the 19th century, occasionally interrupted by reconstructed residences of a similar style. Despite a latitude of variations, the houses have a compatibility and cohesiveness of scale, texture, materials, colors, voids, and rhythm. Of greatest interest is the Decatur House (a National Historic Landmark, Benjamin H. Latrobe, 1818), the first private home built on Lafayette Square.

Facing Lafayette Park on H Street, beginning at the northwest corner of the district, are the Chamber of Commerce Building (Cass Gilbert, 1925); the Hay-Adams Hotel, built on the site of the homes of John Hay and Henry Adams; St. John's Church (a National Historic Landmark, Benjamin Latrobe, 1816; James Renwick, 1883), sometimes called the "Church of the Presidents; St. John's Parish House (1822-1834), which at one time served as the British Embassy; and the Veterans Administration Building (James A. Wetmore, 1918).

Facing Lafayette Park on Madison Place, beginning at the northeast corner of the district, are the Cutts-Madison House (1820), a simple Federal residence occupied by Dolly Madison in her later years; the old Cosmos Club Annex (1904); the Tayloe-Cameron House (1818), which became known as the "Little White House," when owned by "Boss Hanna" (Senator Mark Hanna of Ohio), one of the most powerful men in Washington in his day; the United States Court of Claims Building 1965; and the Treasury Annex (Cass Gilbert, 1919), which with the Chamber of Commerce Building represent the only completed portions of a plan to unify the architecture of Lafayette Square in the manner of the older Treasury Department.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Robert

Smith

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

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

7. Description Continued

Page 1

East of the Treasury Annex on Pennsylvania Avenue are the Riggs National Bank (York and Sawyer, 1898) and the American Security and Trust Company (York and Sawyer, 1899) buildings. Across the Street from the York and Sawyer structures, at the corner of 15th and New York Avenue, is the National Savings and Trust Company Building (James Windrim, 1880), noted for its complex fenestration.

8. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Lafayette Park was originally included in the President's Park planned by Maj. Pierre L'Enfant. Thomas Jefferson later authorized the separation of the present tract into a park for area residents and visitors. Workmen laid the first walks in 1824, at the time the park received its name, after the triumphant visit to this country of Maj. Gen. Marquis de Lafayette. Andrew Jackson Downing, the leading American landscape architect of his time, designed the first landscaping plan in 1853. His plan has been adhered to over the years with only slight revisions. The principal improvements occurred in 1872-1881, 1936-1937, and 1969.

Traditionally, Lafayette Park has been the people's park. Its statues remind visitors of the struggle to achieve a popular form of government, and it has often been a meeting place for those wishing to bring important issues to the immediate attention of the Chief Executive. Surrounding it and adjacent to it are buildings that date from the 19th and early 20th centuries, representing the period during which the Republic grew from relative insignificance to world leadership. Many of the great figures in the political, military, diplomatic, and economic life of the nation worked in the buildings included in the district or were frequent visitors to them.

Stylistically, key buildings have their roots in the Federal Period. The rest run the gamut of architectural style through 19th-century Victorianism and early 20th-century Edwardian taste, culminating in the Beauxarts style of the 1920's, as exemplified in the United States Chamber of Commerce Building. With a few minor exceptions, the district encompasses all the buildings of architectonic quality in the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS 1851-2

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George J. Olszewski, Lafayette Park (Washington, 1964); NPS, Historical Study of the Buildings along Madison Place, Lafayette Square (Washington, 1960); Landmark files, Division of History, NPS, on St. John's Church and Decatur House; AIA, A Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D. C. (Washington, 1965.)

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38 ° 54 ' 04 "	77 ° 02 ' 23 "		0	0	
NE	38 ° 54 ' 04 "	77 ° 02 ' 00 "				
SE	38 ° 53 ' 47 "	77 ° 02 ' 00 "				
SW	38 ° 53 ' 47 "	77 ° 02 ' 23 "				

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:
John D. McDermott, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **OAHP, NPS** DATE: **3/10/70**

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N.W.

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

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 type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
--	---

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The line represents in each case the rear property line of each of the buildings mentioned in the "Present Appearance" section of the National Register form

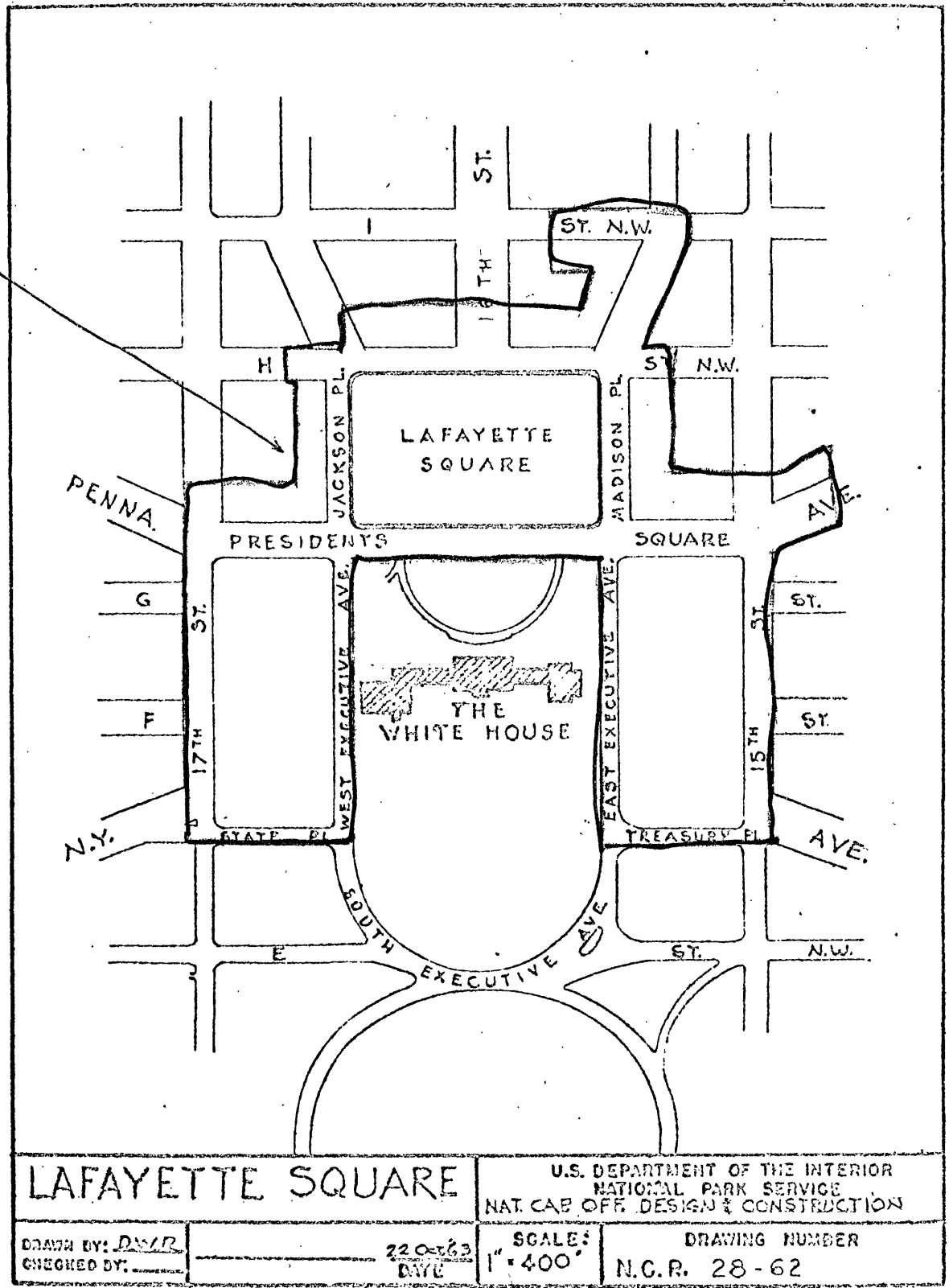


Fig. 2.--Lafayette Square in relation to the White House Neighborhood.