

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Elliott Coues Home

AND/OR COMMON  
1726 N Street NW.

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1726 N Street NW.

CITY, TOWN	Washington	___ VICINITY OF	___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE	D.C.	CODE	COUNTY
		11	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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME St. Matthews Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER  
1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW.

CITY, TOWN	Washington	___ VICINITY OF	STATE
			D.C.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER  
6th and D Streets NW.

CITY, TOWN	Washington	STATE
		D.C.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

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

1726 N Street NW., Washington, D.C. is a three story with basement, brick, semi-detached row house. The date of construction is unknown, but it was probably built in the 1880's. The house is similar to others in the row and is of no architectural distinction.

Elliott Coues Lived at 1726 N Street from approximately 1887 to his death in 1899. Although Coues grew up in Washington, his career in the United States Army as an assistant surgeon took him away from the city. He returned to his native city in the 1880's and lived there until his death.

The exterior of 1726 has been altered. A first story entrance has been removed in favor of entrance through the so-called English basement. The building is painted a dull grey. The interior has been divided into apartments.

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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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elliot Coues was born September 9, 1842, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In 1853 his father took a job with the United States Patent Office and the family moved to Washington, D.C. Coues completed his secondary education at Gonzaga Seminary and then entered Columbian College (now George Washington University). He graduated from Columbian in 1861 and received his M.D. from the same school in 1863. In 1862 Coues enlisted in the United States Army and in 1864 was commissioned an assistant surgeon. At the end of the Civil War Coues decided to make a career of the Army. He followed the peacetime Army into the West and served there until he retired in 1881. Although the duties of Army Surgeon were demanding, Coues pursued his ornithological interests throughout his almost twenty years service in the military. The highlight of Coues' Army career from a scientific point of view was his 1873 to 1876 service with the United States Northern Boundary Commission as the survey's naturalist and secretary.

In 1880 Coues became secretary and naturalist of the Geological and Geographic Survey (later United States Geological Survey) under Ferdinand V. Hayden. At the same time he occupied the chair of anatomy at Columbia and was also very active in ornithological circles. He helped found the American Ornithologists Union in 1883 and later served as its vice-president and president. In the 1880's he also became active in the theosophical movement, but abandoned his participation after acrimonious fights with the movements leadership.

During the 1890's Coues turned his attention to the history of the Old West. He edited approximately fifteen volumes of journals, memoirs, and diaries by famous Western explorers and fur traders. Among these books were the History of the Expedition of Lewis and Clark (1893), Journals of Alexander Henry and David Thompson (1897), and Forty Years a Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri by Charles Larpenteur (1900). These works, to which Coues' editorial notes and comments make a valuable contribution, remain essential primary sources for students of Western History. After a strenuous trip to the Southwest in 1899, Coues became ill. He broke off the trip and returned to Washington, D.C., where he died December 25, 1899.

Elliot Coues significance in the history of science in America is that he was one of the country's leading ornithologists during the second half of the nineteenth century. In addition he contributed to anatomy and the history of the Old West. Coues was essentially an encyclopedist and bibliographer of North American birds. He was in the descriptive tradition of the great nineteenth century naturalists.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- J. A. Allen, "Biographical Memoir of Elliott Coues," National Academy of Science Biographical Memoir Series, Vol. 6, (Washington, 1909).  
 "Elliott Coues," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 4, (New York, 1930).  
 John Parsons, West on the 49th Parallel, (New York, 1963).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	3 2 3 1 1 5	4 3 0 8 2 2 0	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

March 1975

ORGANIZATION

OAHP-Historic Sites Survey-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

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

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Statement of Significance:

1726 N Street

The great scientific controversy of the period, Darwin's theory of natural selection, apparently did not interest him. However, his participation in the mysticism of the Theosophical Society and his contributions to the history of the Old West are indications that his interests extended beyond the biological sciences. As a leading American ornithologist and as an historian and mystic, Coues was one of the more interesting figures of nineteenth century American science.

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