NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Check all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wheat Row

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1315, 1317, 1319, and 1321 Fourth Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
[] District [X] Building
[] Site [] Structure
[] Object

OWNERSHIP
[] Public [X] Private
[ ] Both

STATUS
[ ] Occupied [X] Unoccupied
[ ] In Process [X] Being Considered
[ ] Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[ ] Yes: [X] Restricted
[ ] No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
[ ] Agricultural [ ] Commercial
[ ] Educational [ ] Industrial
[ ] Entertainment [ ] Military
[ ] Museum [ ] Private Residence
[ ] Religious [ ] Scientific
[ ] Transportation

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Harbour Square Owners, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 N Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

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:
District of Columbia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY:
March 7, 1968

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia
Wheat Row consists of four attached, three-story brick houses built as a unit in the late eighteenth century. They are located in Southwest Washington in an area which was almost totally cleared in the late 1950's and early 1960's during urban renewal. Today the row is a part of Harbour Square Co-Operative Apartments, a complex of townhouses and highrise buildings erected in 1964-66. The Duncanson-Cranch House and the Edward Simon Lewis House are the other historic buildings which are part of Harbour Square.

The building has a full basement with stone walls. The rest of the walls are brick laid in Flemish bond, except the north wall. This wall is unusual as it is partially laid in English bond and is believed to be the only instance of such bonding in an older building in Washington.

The rectangular building with low hipped roof is approximately 102-1/2' by 34'. The longer sides have twelve bays. Each of the four houses is three bays wide and the two central houses are slightly narrower than the corner houses. The main (east) facade has a four bay wide, slightly projecting central pavilion. This symmetrical, late Georgian facade does not reflect the internal arrangement of space. The pediment of the pavilion crosses party walls as the pavilion contains two bays of two houses. The standing seam metal roof carries two double chimneys. Originally the south facade of the building had three bays and the north end had no openings. Today three story townhouses erected in 1964-66 are attached at the north and south ends.

On the east and west facades (and originally on the south facade) belt courses of four rows of headers separate the first and second stories and the second and third stories. There is a wooden fretwork cornice. On the main facade a stone band separates the pediment from the third story. Two large chimneys mark the location of the party walls between the end houses and the two center houses.

Windows, except those of the basement, have stone sills and stone lintels with voussoirs and keystones. The elliptical window in the pediment of the main facade has stone facing. The window sash dates from the 1964-66 rehabilitation. Basement windows, which are not visible from the street as they open on to a trench bound by a simple metal fence, have 6/6-lights and brick arches. First and second story windows have 9/9-lights. The lower third story has 6/3-light windows.

There are four doorways on the east facade, two located in the corner bays and two located in the center bays. These doorways have semicircular fanlights under brick arches. Sometime prior to the 1964-66 rehabilitation the entrance at 1317 Fourth Street was altered so that it had a flat, brick, jack arch imitating the stone arches of the windows. This arch was removed and replaced by a semicircular brick arch during the rehabilitation. Beside each entrance are modern, globe lighting fixtures.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated Wheat Row at 1315-1321 Fourth Street, S.W., a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The four attached houses are probably the first speculative housing erected after Washington was chosen as the seat of government. They were built by the Greenleaf Syndicate about 1794 and their design is attributed to the architect-builder, William Lovering.

Daniel Reiff, an architectural historian, believes that Wheat Row's design is similar to that of earlier Georgian buildings with central pedimented pavilions, such as Hollis Hall at Harvard University built in 1762-63, and that in 1794 this was "a somewhat backward style." The building is an important example of conservative, vernacular domestic architecture constructed in Washington in the Federal Period.

James Greenleaf was the United States Consul in Amsterdam when he visited Washington in 1793. He purchased 3,000 lots in the new city, but later in the year relinquished his lots and with Robert Morris and John Nicholson purchased 6,000 lots. These three men, known as the Greenleaf Syndicate, controlled one-third of the saleable land in Washington. They were required by the Commissioners to build twenty houses a year for seven years in order to receive title to the property. Wheat Row, the Thomas Law House, and the Duncanson-Cranch House were among the first houses built by the syndicate.

The name, "Wheat Row," is derived from a nineteenth century owner, John Wheat. Wheat lived at and owned 1315 Fourth Street as early as 1819 and in 1844 left 1315, 1319, and 1321 Fourth Street to his wife, Mary. Wheat was listed in the 1830 Washington Directory as a gardener and in 1834 he was listed as a Senate messenger. Members of the Wheat family owned part of the row until at least 1868.

Other owners of Wheat Row houses in 1819 include Robert P. Washington, owner of 1317 Fourth Street; Richmond Johnson, owner of 1319 Fourth Street; and Thomas L. Washington and Philip Stuart, owners of 1321 Fourth Street. By 1824 Stuart was sole owner of 1321 and was part owner with Johnson of 1319 Fourth Street. Stuart is not listed in the Washington directory of 1822 but in 1830 a "Gen. Philip Stewart" probably resided at Wheat Row. It is probable that "Stewart" and "Stuart" are the same person. Stuart (1760-1830)

(Continued on Form 10-300a)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


"The Barney Neighborhood House and Social and Industrial Settlement, 1901-1942." Pamphlet.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>CORNER</th>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY Boundary:

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

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 [X] State [X] Local [ ]

Name

Title
Assistant to the Mayor for Housing Programs

Date
JUN 4 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert Innis
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date
7/23/73

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
7/13/73
7. Description - Wheat Row

Wheat Row's walls and trim are now painted light gray in order to blend in with the new townhouses. The building was a more effective design when its white stone trim contrasted with its red brick walls.

The four houses have typical Federal townhouse plans with side halls with stairs and two rooms on each floor. These plans have been slightly modified to accommodate modern conveniences.

8. Significance

served in the Revolutionary Army, but probably never obtained a rank higher than lieutenant. From 1811 to 1819 he was a congressional representative from Maryland. He died on August 14, 1830, in Washington. Richmond Johnson probably lived in the Wheat Row house he owned in 1822 when he was a receiving teller in the Branch Bank. By 1830 he had moved and had changed jobs and was a clerk in the surgeon general's office. The Washingtons are not listed in city directories for 1822, 1830, or 1834 and probably did not reside at Wheat Row. A study of George Washington's genealogy shows no relation of these men to him.

The Wheat Row houses served primarily residential functions until 1939 when John Neligh, the director of industrial crafts at Barney Neighborhood House, left 1315 Fourth Street to Barney Neighborhood House, a community service organization. The house was then used as the U.S. Service Men's Club. In 1941 Barney Neighborhood House received another Wheat Row property, 1319 Fourth Street. By 1950 the organization owned 1317 Fourth Street as well. 1317 and 1315 Fourth Street were used as residences, while 1319 Fourth Street housed a day nursery. In 1950, 1321 Fourth Street was owned by Floyd Bohman and contained apartments.

In 1964-66 Wheat Row was rehabilitated as a part of Harbour Square, an urban renewal housing project designed by Mrs. Chloethiel Smith. The 1794 building now serves its original function as four dwelling houses.

9. Bibliography


Columbia Real Estate Title Company. Deed Search Files. Case 24655.

9. Bibliography (continued)

H.A.B.S. D.C.-10, "Wheat Row."


