

DWPC

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
The American Institute of Pharmacy Building
AND/OR COMMON
American Pharmaceutical Association Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2215 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
District of Columbia
VICINITY OF
Walter E. Fauntroy
COUNTY
District of Columbia
CODE
11
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Association

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
American Pharmaceutical Association
STREET & NUMBER
2215 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN
Washington
VICINITY OF
District of Columbia
STATE
District of Columbia

Headquarters

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Sixth and D Streets, N.W.

CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
District of Columbia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
District of Columbia's Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE
January 21, 1977
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
D.C./NCPCH Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
District of Columbia

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 American Institute of Pharmacy building (1932) was designed by New York architect John Russell Pope and erected by the George A. Fuller Co. It is neo-classical in style in the rectilinear late Beaux Arts manner. It is a key element in the "frame for the Lincoln Memorial" and complements that building in style, scale, materials and setting.

The building is sited near the center of Square 62 in lot 817 and faces south on Constitution Avenue between 22nd and 23rd Streets, N.W. It is the only building in the Square. All the remaining land in the Square belongs to the Federal government. Approximately the southern three quarters of the Square, including Federally-owned lots 805, 809, 810, 813, 814 and 815, has been landscaped to provide an appropriate setting for the American Institute of Pharmacy building. The remaining land to the north, Reservation 332B and Lot 808, has been landscaped into a formal urban park having no appreciable design impact on Constitution Avenue.

The American Institute of Pharmacy building is approximately rectangular in plan, 120' long on the Constitution Avenue facade and 76' deep. It is one story high with a full basement partially above grade. Construction is of brick masonry with steel girders, reinforced concrete floor and roof slabs and reinforced concrete foundations. Exterior walls are faced in Vermont marble. The building is sited on a rise above Constitution Avenue, the principal facade set off by a broad balustraded terrace which acts as a base to the building's design, relating it to the sloping site and to the park and Lincoln Memorial below. Stepped terraces descend to Constitution Avenue.

Volumetrically conceived, the American Institute of Pharmacy building consists of a monolithic central block flanked at sides and rear by a lower, subordinate element set back from the principal building line. The composition is formal and symmetrical. The proportions are subtly worked out; the detail handled with sensitive restraint. A heroic arched entrance flanked on either side by doubled pilasters dominates the principal facade, giving the building a temple-like appearance. Above the pilasters a substantial full entablature extends completely around the main block of the building. A high attic parapet wall echoes that of the Lincoln Memorial. Entablature and parapet wall occur in reduced scale on the flanking elements of the building. Fenestration is confined primarily to these elements, and consists of bronze casements framed in stone with stone entablatures.

Fully excavated areaways at the sides and rear allow adequate fenestration of the basement level. Detail of the basement windows is consistent with that above. A bold cornice-like moulding placed at the first floor level above the basement windows serves as a visual base. The entrance composition is carefully detailed. Relief panels by sculptor Ulysses A. Ricci, allegorically portraying pharmaceutical subjects, are placed between the pilasters on either side of the entrance above the spring line of the arch. Below each panel is a narrow window. These windows, as well as the entrance arch, are decoratively screened in bronze. Double bronze entrance doors are panelled and incised with low relief decoration. The parapet wall above the entrance is broken out into a decorative panel and inscribed "American Institute of Pharmacy. This building is dedicated to those who have contributed their knowledge and endeavor to the preservation of public health and the further advancement of science in pharmacy".

(Continued on Form No. 10-300a)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1932; Addition, 1959 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Russell Pope;

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Addition, Eggers & Higgins

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the American Institute of Pharmacy Building a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia.

It is a visually integral part of the ceremonial public spaces developed under the McMillan Plan of 1901 as an extension of the Mall to the Potomac River on the western axis of the U.S. Capitol. These include Constitution Avenue (originally B Street), the Lincoln Memorial, West Potomac Park, the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the Arlington National Cemetery. All are Category I Landmarks of the National Capital. It is one of five distinguished public and semi-public buildings constructed west of the Pan American Union Building along the north side of Constitution Avenue during the 1920's and 30's which were designed and landscaped as a "frame for the Lincoln Memorial". The two buildings nearest the Pharmaceutical building--the National Academy of Sciences building and the Federal Reserve Board building--are Category II Landmarks of the National Capital listed in the National Register of Historic Places as is the Pan American Union building itself. Designed by nationally known architect John Russell Pope, the American Institute of Pharmacy building was erected in 1932-33 during the final stages of the implementation of the McMillan Plan. Though the construction was financed entirely by subscription of the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Pope and the Association worked in close consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission throughout the design process, cooperating with these governmental bodies in every way possible. They were required (1) to purchase the entire northern frontage of Upper Water Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets to create an appropriate setting for their building and thereby to enhance the setting of the Lincoln Memorial, (2) to transfer land to the United States for the proposed widening of 23rd Street as an axial approach to the Lincoln Memorial in exchange for most of the bed of Upper Water Street as an addition to their grounds, (3) to build of white marble in conformance with the Memorial and the other buildings along Constitution Avenue, and (4) to maintain Reservation No. 332B between Upper Water Street and Constitution Avenue as part of the grounds of the American Pharmaceutical Institute building. Charles Moore, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, writing to Senator Keyes, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, in 1929 commented on plans for the development of Western Constitution Avenue--

...it is contemplated to occupy the whole area between Seventeenth Street and Twenty-third Street with a series of buildings of the general character of the Corcoran Gallery, the Red Cross, the D.A.R. Building and the Pan American Building; that is to say comparatively small, low buildings, with ample space for gardens in front of them.

(Continued on form No. 10-300a)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.2+ acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	3	2	2	2	3	0	4	3	0	6	6	8	0
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B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies lot 817 in Square 62 and is approximately 247' x 214' (52,975 sq. ft.) in size.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tanya Beauchamp, Architectural, Historian

ORGANIZATION Joint District of Columbia/National Capital

DATE

Planning Commission Historic Preservation Office

STREET & NUMBER National Capital Planning Commission

TELEPHONE

1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

District of Columbia

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Housing and Community Development

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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The siting and landscape setting are an integral part of the design of the American Institute of Pharmacy building. Tall trees and shrubs are massed at the sides and rear of the building. Evergreen shrubbery of medium height is used as a foundation planting at the base of the building on the balustraded terrace. Low-growing, spreading evergreens are planted at the base of the terrace and along the steps cascading down toward Constitution Avenue. Thus enframed, the incisive white marble building rises above an extensive 'field of grass' which merges visually with West Potomac Park, carrying down to the river bank.

The interiors of the building are organized around formal public spaces which include a central rotunda, museum and library. Offices are ranged at the rear of the building on the principal floor while laboratories, offices, rest rooms, stacks, storage boiler and receiving rooms are located on the basement level. Detail of the public spaces is austere neo-classical. The rotunda is a lofty, dignified space with saucer dome supported by pendentives resting on piers. The soaring pendentive arches frame the entrance door, the doors to the library and museum, and a semi-circular alcove opposite the entrance door. The latter contains Richard Burge's heroic seated portrait bronze of William Proctor, Jr. (1817-1874), "the father of American pharmacy". The door surrounds are of stone with broken pediments supported by scrolled consoles. The doors themselves are leather covered with leather-covered and fringed transoms. The cornice of the piers supporting the dome is carried on around the alcove. Here Ionic pilasters enframe the statue of Proctor and flanking smaller doors leading to the offices at the rear of the building. The ceiling of the alcove is coffered above the cornice line. The Rotunda is lighted by a central, copper-framed oculus in the dome. The floors are of terrazzo in shades of green, purple and white enhanced with an inlaid circular design and with inlaid purple and dark green marble in a square-on-square pattern at the center of the rotunda. The library and museum rooms are similar to each other. As high as the rotunda, they are lighted by large rectangular skylights enframed by scrolled plaster ornament accented with rosettes. The ceiling bordering the skylights is coffered, each coffer containing a rosette. Ionic columns in antis occur at the entrances to alcoves at either end of each room. A broad denticulated cornice extends around the central portion of the rooms below a panelled frieze. The museum room opens into a lower-ceilinged space to the west. The library room is self-contained, the lower space being originally for stacks.

The American Institute of Pharmacy building is architecturally well-preserved. The most substantial alterations include contemporary use of the museum room for the library and conversion of the library to office space. Some partitions have been erected in the former stack area, but the principal library room is intact. Original light fixtures are still in place. The 1959-61 addition by Eggers and Higgins is a three story and basement office block subordinated in design to the original building.

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The idea is to make a frame for the Lincoln Memorial. The type of building contemplated is shown in the National Academy of Sciences Building, which was designed as the first unit along B Street.

There are five possible units. The National Academy of Sciences Building is one. The American Pharmaceutical Association Building, to be built adjacent to it, a building designed in accordance with the idea above adverted to, is the second; the Pan American would be the third; leaving two squares to be taken care of in the future. One of these is already owned by the Government; the other is in private ownership, but at present is under control. This scheme provides a suitable termination for B Street, which is now being developed as the great monumental thoroughfare from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial.

Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Vol. XVIII, No. 9 (Sept.), 1929, p. 961.

Pope designed the building in a spare late Beaux Arts neo-classical style similar to that he used for the National Gallery of Art at the eastern end of Constitution Avenue. Conceived as a monumental "temple to pharmacy", the building possesses a formal Palladian pavilion-like quality which effectively complements the nearby Lincoln Memorial and relates positively to the adjacent parkland. The building is sited well above Constitution Avenue on a line with the Pan American Union building at 17th Street and slightly in advance of the neighboring National Academy of Sciences building. Monumental stairs, descending rhythmically and ceremoniously in stepped terraces to Constitution Avenue are similar in concept to those of the Lincoln Memorial and the nearby Watergate.

John Russell Pope (1874-1937) was a distinguished American architect who designed many notable buildings in Washington. These include the National Archives (1934), the National Gallery of Art (1941), the Jefferson Memorial (1941), Meridian House (1920) and the White-Meyer House (1910), Category II Landmarks; the Scottish Rite Temple (1910), National City Christian Church (1930), the Brazilian Embassy (1908), the National Paint and Varnish Association (1912), and the Daughters of the American Revolution (1930), Category III Landmarks. The latter was one of the 17th Street buildings mentioned by Moore in his letter to Keyes. Pope was appointed to the Commission of Fine Arts by President Wilson and served from 1917 to 1922.

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The American Pharmaceutical Association, established in 1852, was the first national pharmaceutical association in the United States. At the dedication of the American Institute of Pharmacy building on May 9, 1934, they described their business as follows--

The American Institute of Pharmacy, erected by the American Pharmaceutical Association, houses the Association activities which include the revision of the National Formulary and cooperates in the revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia both legal standards in National and State Food and Drug Laws. The Association cooperates with state and national associations that have to do with the drug industry and pharmacy. The work done here is in the interest of public health and legislation concerned with its promotion.

Originally the building housed a museum, library, research laboratory and offices. A compatible rear addition, connected to the building by a hyphen and only marginally visible from Constitution Avenue, was designed by architects Eggers and Higgins in 1959 and completed in 1962.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bibliography

American Pharmaceutical Association Archives. Newspaper clipping files, memorabilia, complete working drawings.

Columbia Real Estate Title Insurance Co. Records.

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Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Vols. 14-23 (1925-34).

Kremer and Urdang. History of Pharmacy. Fourth Edition. New York: J. B. Lippincott, 1976.

Martin Luther King Library. Washington Collection. Newspaper files and real estate atlases.

National Archives. Record Group 66. Records of the Commission of Fine Arts.

National Capital Planning Commission. Minutes of the Meetings of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1931-35.