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

**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**
Room 405, George Herbert Jones Laboratory, University of Chicago

**AND/OR COMMON**
the same

**2 LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**
University of Chicago campus

**CITY, TOWN**
Chicago

**STATE**
Illinois

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>DISTRICT</em></td>
<td><em>PUBLIC</em></td>
<td><em>OCCUPIED</em></td>
<td><em>AGRICULTURE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>BUILDING(S)</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE</em></td>
<td><em>UNOCCUPIED</em></td>
<td><em>COMMERCIAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>STRUCTURE</em></td>
<td><em>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</em></td>
<td><em>WORK IN PROGRESS</em></td>
<td><em>EDUCATIONAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>SITE</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE</em></td>
<td><em>ACCESSIBLE</em></td>
<td><em>ENTERTAINMENT</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>OBJECT</em></td>
<td><em>BEING CONSIDERED</em></td>
<td><em>YES: RESTRICTED</em></td>
<td><em>GOVERNMENT</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>NOT FOR PUBLICATION</em></td>
<td><em>YES: UNRESTRICTED</em></td>
<td><em>SCIENTIFIC</em></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td><em>NO</em></td>
<td><em>TRANSPORTATION</em></td>
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<td><em>OTHER</em>:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**
The University of Chicago

**STREET & NUMBER**
5801 Ellis Avenue

**CITY, TOWN**
Chicago

**STATE**
Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**
Cook County Recorder and Registrar of Titles

**STREET & NUMBER**
118 North Clark

**CITY, TOWN**
Chicago

**STATE**
Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**
none

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**

**STATE**
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- ALTERED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

George Herbert Jones Chemical Laboratory is located on the northwest side of the main quadrangle of the University of Chicago campus. It is a 1929 structure, and as seen on the enclosed campus map, it is connected to Kent Hall on the east and Searle Hall on the north.

Room 405 is a small, approximately six by nine foot, pantry-like room, with shelves and counters along each wall. The room, which can be viewed through a glass door, is set up with laboratory equipment and looks virtually the same as it does in ca. 1942 photographs taken shortly after the historic experiments were completed there.

Room 405, which is located on the fourth floor, was undamaged by a 1973 explosion which destroyed the basement and first floor of the building.
In Room 405 of the George Herbert Jones Laboratory at the University of Chicago, a group of chemists working under the direction of Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg first isolated a pure compound of the man-made element plutonium. The sample, isolated on August 18, 1942, was the first synthetically produced isotope of any element seen by man. Less than a month later, on September 10, 1942, B. B. Cunningham and L. B. Werner prepared the first weighable sample of a synthetic element. This first isolation and weighing of plutonium was a milestone in the development of nuclear energy. The extraordinary importance of plutonium as a basic fuel for nuclear power reactors has opened for the benefit of mankind a whole new realm of science and technology.
Room 405 alone is considered the national historic landmark site and the boundary is drawn immediately around the Jones Lab Building, on the west along the east curb of Ellis Avenue, on the south along a line between Jones and the Administration (University Press) building, on the east, along the wall of Jones separating it from the Kent Building, on the north by the wall of Jones separating it from Searle Building and running to the curb of Ellis Avenue.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

State | Code | County | Code
--- | --- | --- | ---

Form prepared by

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project: original report 1967

Organization: National Park Service, Historic Sites Survey

Street & Number: 1100 L Street NW.

City or Town: Washington

State: D.C.

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: ____________________________