

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

New Designation X
Amendment of a previous designation
Please summarize any amendment(s) _____

Property name Washington Animal Rescue League Animal Hospital/Shelter

Address 71 O Street, NW

Square and lot number(s) Square 0616/ Lot 0110

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E

Date of construction 1932 Date of major alteration(s) _____

Architect(s) Ralph W. Berry

Architectural style(s) LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Tudor Revival

Original use AGRICULTURE/Animal Facility & SOCIAL/Civic

Property owner S.O.M.E, Inc.

Legal address of property owner 71 O Street, NW

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) DC Preservation League

If the applicant is an organization, it must submit evidence that among its purposes is the promotion of historic preservation in the District of Columbia. A copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, or by-laws, setting forth such purpose, will satisfy this requirement.

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 1221 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Name and title of authorized representative Rebecca Miller, Executive Director

Signature of representative _____ Date 3/11/2016

Name and telephone of author of application Hayden Wetzel

Date received 3/18/2016
H.P.O. staff TJD
#16-07

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington Animal Rescue League Animal Hospital/Shelter
other names _____

2. Location

street & number 71 O Street NW not for publication
city or town Washington vicinity
state DC code _____ county _____ code _____ zip code 20001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

Washington Animal Rescue League animal hospital/shelter
Name of Property

Washington DC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Civic
AGRICULTURE/Animal Facility

SOCIAL/Civic
HEALTH CARE/Clinic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH-20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Tutor

foundation Concrete
walls Brick/Stone

roof Slate
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Description Summary:

The building at 71 O Street NW, with a minimal setback, is sited on the north side of the road. Landscaped shrubbery, enclosed by metal picket fencing, abuts the façade. An asphalt-paved parking lot is located east of the building while an alley runs adjacent to the west (side) elevation. A one-story, non-contributing, outbuilding is sited in the northeast corner of the property on the rear property line, which is bounded by metal chain link fencing.

The one-and-one-half-story building located at 71 O Street, NW is five bays wide and is characterized by an extended, low profile with minimal ornamentation. A prominent gable, faced with fieldstone, rises above the central entry and serves as the primary focal point of the façade. Symmetrical in design, the façade is faced with coursed fieldstone and pierced by narrow, single and tripled casement windows. Slate shingles cover the side-gabled roof, which is marked by four gabled dormers on the southern slope. Wide, interior-end chimneys rise from the side (east and west) elevations, barely extending beyond the ridge.

Later additions extend from the rear (north) elevation of the building.

General Description:

Constructed in 1932, 71 O Street NW is one-and-one-half-stories in height, five-bays wide and exhibits elements of the Tudor Revival style. Set on a solid concrete foundation, this brick structure is faced with coursed fieldstone, primarily buff and grey in color. Squared slate shingles cover the asymmetrical, side-gabled roof. Flanking the central gable are dual wood-frame, gabled dormers with roofs of slate. Each dormer is clad with vinyl siding and fenestrated with paired, eight-light metal casement windows. Interior-end chimneys, faced with fieldstone, mark the side (east and west) elevations and pierce the roof at the ridge.

The façade (south elevation) is dominated by a large, central gabled entry. Faced with coursed fieldstone, the gable is lined by two-courses of stretcher-bond brick, which terminate with concrete return cornices. Double-leaf, metal-frame glass doors, flanked by sidelights and topped with a tripartite transom, mark the entry. Rising above the transom into a large rounded arch, are paired lights finished by an elaborate rounded arch of gauged fieldstone. Exterior sconces illuminate the entry. Placed at either side of the primary entry are narrow, metal casement windows with rowlock brick sills and concrete lintels. Additional fenestration consists of tripled metal casement windows, also with rowlock brick sills and concrete lintels piercing the eastern and westernmost bays of the façade.

Stucco covers the east (side) elevation. A single-leaf door, sheltered by an asphalt-shingled awning, and a one-over-one, double-hung window fenestrate the elevation. The west elevation is faced with coursed fieldstone. The first story once featured two separate window openings with concrete lintels. Stretcher-bond brick now infills these openings. Rowlock brick sills and concrete lintels highlight the two

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

window openings in the upper gable. Each opening holds a one-over-one, double-hung metal window. The rear (north) elevation is constructed of brick and a window is located in the easternmost bay.

A one-story, full-width addition extends from the rear (north) elevation of the building and is constructed of five-course, American-bond brick. A concrete parapet, topped by metal fencing, rises from the east elevation and obscures the roof line of the addition. The two southernmost openings on the east elevation contain glass block, while two single-leaf doors and a window opening mark the remainder of the elevation. At least two additional openings on the east elevation have been infilled with brick. The west (side) elevation is not fenestrated.

A later full-width addition projects north from the earlier addition. Likely constructed of brick, the addition has been stuccoed on the east and rear (north) elevations and has a brick west (side) elevation. A concrete block parapet heightens sections of the east and west elevations and is topped by metal fencing. A one-story porch, which does not rise to full height, spans across the east elevation of the two additions and has a shed roof of corrugated metal supported by square metal posts and metal poles. A metal balustrade runs the length of the porch.

Outbuilding (non-contributing):

A one-story outbuilding is located in the northeast corner of the property. Constructed of concrete block, this building is capped by a front-gabled roof of asphalt shingles. Overhanging eaves finish the roof. A single-leaf door is located on the west (side) elevation. Additional details were not visible from the public right-of-way. It replaced the earlier garage at an unknown date.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

1932-77

Significant Dates

1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Arch: Ralph W. Berry

Bldg: Bahen & Wright

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Washington Animal Rescue League animal hospital and shelter is the pivotal structure representing the development of the animal welfare/humane movement in Washington DC. Earlier animal shelters were opened by other and short-lived organizations from the 1890s to about 1910 but all consisted largely of shacks with wire-fenced runs and pens and all soon closed. The Washington Animal Rescue League, formed in 1914, set out to give a temporary home for any abandoned animal (dogs, cats, horses and the occasional "other") brought to its premises and continues its work today. Between 1914 and 1932 WARL moved from hired stable space to (successively) two former residences re-fitted to hold animals. In 1932, having outgrown its last facility and facing eviction from the city government for road construction, WARL made the momentous decision to build the first purpose-built animal shelter in the history of Washington, the present building on O Street NW. The new structure was praised as the acme of modern efficiency and comfort for the animal-tenants and served as a model for WARL's 1977 building on Oglethorpe Street NW.

The WARL animal hospital and shelter is the oldest surviving representative of a movement strong in early 20th century America and in Washington DC to treat animals of all sorts with love and care, complimenting the parallel work of the District pound (with which WARL always had a very cordial relationship). It is also the first building of substance entirely designed and built here for this purpose. As a reminder of its central role in this important and continuing civic and humanitarian effort by the citizens of our city the building qualifies for protection under DC Criterion B (History) and National Register Criterion A (Events).

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Humane Movement and Early Animal Shelters in Washington¹ Laws banning cruelty to animals in the District of Columbia date from 1819 but it was only with the chartering of the District's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in 1870 that the city held any organization specifically concerned with this problem. The SPCA, renamed the Washington Humane Society (WHS) in 1885, focused solely on the treatment of animals both on the street and in other circumstances (in transit on the railroad, in markets, used in medical experiments, etc.) but had no intention of actually sheltering homeless or abused animals, which was left to the District pound. From its establishment in 1872, the pound took stray and unlicensed farm animals and dogs from the city streets and held them for three days (available for redemption by their owners or purchase by others) before killing them. Aside from distressed owners who had to go to the pound and pay a small charge to get back their

¹ This section is summarized from a longer study, Mangy Curs and Stoned Horses: Animal Control in the District of Columbia from the Beginnings to About 1940, by Hayden M. Wetzel, a copy of which is deposited with the Historical Preservation Office. The history of WARL and its shelter is also taken from that source.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

livestock and pets there was no serious complaint during the 19th or early 20th century about the treatment of animals at the pound.

Nonetheless, activists increasingly felt the need for an effort to house and place abandoned animals that emphasized the welfare of the animals rather than their control, as did the pound. WHS itself operated a shelter on 19th Street and Columbia Road NW in 1897-99 that took in mostly cats but also dogs, the consequence of a gift specifically for this purpose. Unlike the pound, the Bertha Barber Refuge for Animals did not take animals directly from the street but only those brought in by the public; like the pound, those not reclaimed or purchased were put down. The endeavor soon ran into the problems that would doom its immediate successors: the constant need of funds for even its barebones operation (mostly staffed by volunteers) and the demand for its land from a growing city (in this case, planned widening of 19th Street.).

The first decade and a half of the new century saw attempts to establish animal shelters by a variety of well-meaning but short-lived organizations. Concerned principally or entirely with cats were: a second WHS shelter, Mrs. Beckley's Cat Shelter, and the Friendly Hand Society; with dogs: the Society for Homeless Dogs. All of these groups – which largely involved the same organizers – took in animals as the Barber Refuge had done and all succumbed to the same forces. (A third problem commonly was neighborhood complaint about the noise of the animals; most were sited outside the District for this reason.)

Origin of the Washington Animal Rescue League² The shelter movement in Washington lay dormant for a few years after the demise of these early efforts. Here is the genesis of its later and more successful stage, taken from an account of June 1914:

Several months ago two Washington society women, seeing horses mistreated on the streets of the National Capital, had their owners taken into court, where they appeared personally against them. From this action they interested their friends in the misfortunes of cats, dogs and horses in the District.³

One of these determined ladies was Mrs. Peter Goelet Gerry,⁴ who became the leading force in the renewed effort at its beginning. The group of friends invited Mrs. Huntington (Anna Harris) Smith, founder of Boston's Animal Rescue League and crusader for the movement, to meet them informally and outline the possibilities. Smith served as the keynote speaker at the public organizing meeting of the new Washington Animal Rescue League held at the Woodward & Lothrop Department Store auditorium on 31 March 1914. A second meeting the following month formally enrolled members and

² I express my deep appreciation to Ms. Susan Strange, archivist of WARL, for her provision of so much unpublished material used in this section.

³ Evening Star, 20 June 1914, p. 9.

⁴ Sometimes erroneously written Goelet-Gerry. She was a local beauty (Matilde Townsend) married to Rep. Gerry of Rhode Island, and later to diplomat Sumner Welles. See her interesting interview and very attractive photo in Wash Herald, 9 Apr 1914, p. 2, and another photo in Wash Times, 31 Mar 1914, p. 1. She was not a League charter member, however.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

elected officers, and the organization adopted by-laws and incorporated in the District of Columbia on 14 April. The goal of the initial resolutions was “that an animal hospital and shelter be established in Washington,” which work was vigorously begun, but let us first turn to some underlying fundamentals of the new WARL:

Three assumptions guided WARL at its beginning:

- That the League would be primarily concerned with horses: “My love of all animals has drawn me into this work but particularly my great devotion to horses, and they will be the primary and first care of the League,” stated Gerry, a noted horsewoman.⁵ The earliest League record gives its purpose as “the proper disposition of decrepit and injured horses and other animals.” But in fact this was never the case – dogs and cats provided the bulk of the League’s work; horses were already disappearing from Washington streets. This development spared WARL from the dead-end that rendered WHS nearly irrelevant in the same period.
- That the League would be largely an organization of women: The organizers had specified a “mixed board of men and women to assure business-like management,” and were “especially anxious to have representative men as vice-presidents . . . to assure standing in the community”. Nonetheless, the by-laws always referred to the president as “She”. Gerry indicated this truth in the same Herald interview when she expressed her hope that “every woman – and man, too – in Washington . . . should become a member of the League.” Although men were generally represented among WARL officers the preponderance was always female, and there were years in which every officer and the entire Board of Directors were women.⁶
- That the League was an effort of the affluent and socially well-connected: This is clear from reading the oft-published lists of event organizers and attenders, of officers and members, of the prestigious venues of meetings and fund-raisers. Nowhere do we read of any approach even to the city’s middle-class, not to mention the laboring population.

The primary object of the new League was the rescue of friendless horses, dogs and cats from city streets, or – in the case of horses – from abusive owners, usually by direct purchase. They would see their injuries treated and then be returned to their original or new, suitable owners. The organization was clear from the beginning that irredeemable or unwanted wards (generally meaning mongrels) would be humanely put down. “It is our plan, instead of sending the poor dears [referring to dogs] to the pound, to have a humane method by which we will chloroform them,” said Gerry.⁷

From its earliest time the WARL shelter also operated a (contractor) medical clinic – initially open one hour every morning and geared toward horses, free for minor services and at “moderate charge . . . for medicines and for surgical operations.” A boarding service was also envisioned, as had been done at its predecessors. More ambitious plans considered at the March meeting included purchase of “a

⁵ WARL Directors minutes, 28 Mar 1914; Wash Herald, 9 Apr 1914, p. 2. “Friends of Horse Form Rescue Club” headlined Wash Times, 31 Mar 1914, p. 1.

⁶ Said Hutchins at the March meeting: “The men of Washington . . . could not bring this matter to a successful conclusion. So I put the matter up to the women. This afternoon you see the result” (Wash Times, 1 Apr 1914, p. 3). There was a special Men’s Advisory Committee in 1932, which provided much useful service the ladies could not (WARL Sec Ann Rpt, 1932). (Quote) WARL Directors minutes, 28 Mar 1914.

⁷ Wash Herald, 9 Apr 1914, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

horse ambulance and a dog ambulance,” an automobile, and “a special bicycle” (“for carrying injured cats”) and a rest home “for run-down horses.”⁸

It is worth considering just why these well-intentioned people felt the need for a new organization at all – the pound not only humanely disposed of unwanted animals but actually took them off the streets. Anyone wanting a pet could – and often did – travel to South Capitol Street and bought one. It is true that cats could not be adopted from the pound, but WARL organizers were frankly concerned primarily with horses, and consistently treated cats as an afterthought; Gerry admitted that she had little sympathy for them.⁹ The simple answer is that they had little confidence in the pound without being quite able to articulate why. Organizers promised to hold animals longer than the pound and to advertise orphans, but generally a simple assumption that they would handle things in a nicer way was sufficient. Said Smith in her rousing speech: “[A humane shelter] must be something more than the ordinary ill-conducted dog pound.”¹⁰

WARL’s Shelters and Operations The new League made a quick start on its work. A shelter opened “in a few rooms [the hay loft] over a stable” at 20 Decatur St., NE (between N and O) on 10 May with Mary E. Coursey as manager. Coursey, a capable and kind lady, had run the Boston shelter for fifteen years. She was joined by an assistant, Joseph Parker,¹¹ in June and sometime later by another assistant, Mrs. Sacrey. A large box earlier used for grain served as the office. Mrs. Mundrum R. Blumenberg, a WARL vice-president, was an important and constant volunteer. Even in its first full month of operation (June 1914) the shelter took in 19 dogs, 365 cats and two horses. The dogs and cats all met a chloroformed end either at the shelter or on site; the horses were sent to new owners or, if decrepit, disposed of – most likely shot.¹²

Clearly many people agreed with WARL founders that their shelter offered some improvement over the District pound. “As soon as the public learned that the station was caring for cats and other animals, notification by telephone poured in [and] Miss Coursey . . . has been a very busy woman collecting the stray cats and kittens.” Undoubtedly the prominent names attached to the organization bolstered this confidence: Mrs. Henry L. West of the Washington Cat Club and Mdm. Hussein Bey, wife of the Turkish ambassador, were members. So was Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and her daughter, the first in a line of First

⁸ Evening Star, 27 May 1914, p. 24; Wash Times, 1 Apr 1914, p. 3, with quite unflattering caricatures of some founding personalities.

⁹ “The object of the organization is to provide painless deaths for stray animals, principally cats” (Evening Star, 6 Aug 1914, p. 15).

¹⁰ “The object of the League is to rescue cats, dogs, etc. from starvation, and to dispose of them instead of having the dog pound outfit do it” (letter, Wash Times, 10 Mar 1915, p. 8). No one ever explained how being killed at WARL was better than being killed at the pound.

¹¹ “On meager pay, Miss Coursey plunged into her work. Because of her self-sacrificing devotion, her disregard to her own personal comfort and her straightforward common sense and clear headedness [WARL] today is a monument to the devotion, leadership and vision of its founders” (Evening Star, 25 Oct 1931, p. 14). She returned to Boston in 1920 with a gift of \$65 from the grateful League (WARL Directors minutes, 8 May 1920). Coursey’s photo is in Evening Star, 20 June 1914, p. 9, and perhaps the lady in Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13.

Parker was “the faithful colored man . . . to whose devotion and intelligence high credit is due” (Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13). He is probably the man pictured with a dog in the 1919 Annual Report.

¹² Evening Star, 20 June 1914, p. 9; 9 Oct 1921, p. 59; WARL Ann Rpt, 1919; WARL, New shelter dedication brochure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

Lady supporters. Prominent actor George Arliss championed participation by men but feared (how different from today!) that “people wouldn’t listen to an actor off the stage.” There was reported to be work in Takoma “done along this line.”¹³

With business booming (so to speak) the League needed larger quarters and moved to a rented “small house” (at a rather expensive \$25/month) at 1355 Ohio Avenue, NW, in December 1914. Here operations continued as before but on an increased scale. In the single month of August 1915 the shelter took in 743 dogs and cats. The large number of these continued to be chloroformed but League reports increasingly spoke of animals given to new homes. Unsurprisingly, there was a distinct preference for animals of good breed: “None of the dogs . . . have been at all valuable, and so have been chloroformed at once.” Occasionally, as at the pound, a particularly fetching inmate won the matron’s heart and stayed on as a mascot – Nellie, a temperamental dog, merited a photo in the 1919 Annual Report in this way. Another, Mickey, appeared in the 1924 Annual Report.¹⁴

The smaller Ohio Avenue facility housed cats on its second floor and dogs on its first, but the modest number of horses taken in had to be placed in rented stalls at nearby stables. These received medical care and then, ironically, were put down.¹⁵ Purchase of “a small country farm” would have alleviated this situation but was beyond the organization’s means. Horses commonly came to the League by purchase, negligent owners offered \$1-10 for worn out nags; 69 were bought in 1915. This practice, laudable as it was, opened the possibility of hucksters buying broken-down animals and then taking them to WARL as a sort of hostage, a practice the group promised “was well provided for; . . . no such deception could be practiced.”¹⁶

Other efforts during this earliest period included the provision of “a kind of carpet slipper” allowing horses to get traction on snow-covered streets,¹⁷ and encouraging MPDC officers to report abused animals to the shelter. In general, operation of the shelter remained the focus of WARL’s work.¹⁸

¹³ Evening Star, 20 June 1914, p. 9; 5 Mar 1916, p. 8; Wash Herald, 2 July 1914, p. 10; Wash Post, 6 Aug 1914, p. 14; WARL Ann Rpt, 1919. Arliss continued his remarks by suggesting, with disarming innocence, that “some politician be asked to make an appeal for the League [as if the populace held politicians in higher esteem than celebrities] but he was told by some of the women . . . that ‘a politician in Washington’ was more or less an everyday ‘occurrence’”. Arliss was an active member for many years and later made an honorary WARL Vice-President (Evening Star, 27 Apr 1933, p. 2). Another celebrity supporter was actress Minnie Maddern Fiske.

¹⁴ (Rent) Evening Star, 25 Oct 1931, p. 14; (statistics/mascots, of which many others are mentioned) Wash Times, 3 Sept 1915, p. 2; 29 Oct 1922, p. 7; Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13; Evening Star, 9 Oct 1921, p. 59; 24 July 1927, p. 5 (Jerry, a goat); (dogs) Evening Star, 20 June 1914, p. 9.

¹⁵ WARL members in 1916 discussed the desirability of finding a place for this procedure “where a group of small boys will not be able to act as interested spectators” (Evening Star, 13 Dec 1916, p. 17).

¹⁶ (Housing) Evening Star, 6 Apr 1915, p. 5; (farm, purchases) 13 Dec 1916, p. 17; (fraud) 5 Mar 1916, p. 8.

¹⁷ “The ridicule of those who scoffed at this simple idea turned to approval when experience proved its effectiveness” (WARL, New shelter dedication brochure).

¹⁸ (Slippers) Evening Star, 6 Apr 1915, p. 5; (police) Wash Post, 16 May 1915, p. 12 (officers were given contact cards for ready use). It is noticeable that WHS officials speaking at WARL meetings were generally critical of the police, while WARL members were much more complimentary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 6

A visitor of 1915 wrote: "The system in remarkable . . . I was so impressed by the place that I feel every man, woman and child should visit." Nonetheless, a headline of two years later tells the usual story: "Residents of Ohio Avenue Opposed to Rescued Animals in Neighborhood". Among other complaints in the residents' petition to local government was that dead animals were not taken up for days "and that it is impossible to keep out the sickening odors from the homes in the vicinity. The lives and pleasures of human beings should be considered before animals."¹⁹ Both its own growth and neighborhood opposition soon brought about a move to WARL's third shelter.

In July 1917 WARL purchased "a roomy old mansion" at 349 Maryland Avenue, SW²⁰ for \$14,000, a four-story brick building with a two-story rear extension that was then serving as a dispensary of the Miner Institute. This substantial expense was generously covered by Chester A. Snow (the former WHS president formerly so opposed to animal shelters) and Miss Martha C. Codman. Codman, "a member of a distinguished old Massachusetts family . . . well known in Washington, New York and Newport society," and at that time only "a winter resident" of Washington, also donated the new heating system (\$2,100) and electric killing cages (about \$1,000). Codman funded an addition the following year.²¹

As with its earlier move, the new and larger facility allowed the League to amplify its core work: over 6,700 animals passed through its hands in the 1918-19 year (April-March), and 12,200 in 1921-22 (!). The new home had stables for two horses and a run for dogs. More employees were taken on: a bookkeeper and an extra summer agent. Staff generally consisted of a daytime clerk to run the office and answer calls, a live-in matron, and the on-street agent. In 1924 their combined salaries of \$2,625 comprised the largest item of WARL's nearly \$6,000 annual budget.²² In 1920 J. Joseph "Billy" Smallwood replaced Parker as agent, making animal pick-ups.²³

Along with the numbers of animals processed, so did their range expand, though only of smaller types. We never read of farm animals going there, but reports show minor numbers of squirrels, wild birds, rabbits, monkeys, foxes, turtles, guinea pigs, opossums . . . in 1921 someone dropped off 104 white rats. Almost all of these animals were injured and brought in to be euthanized.²⁴

¹⁹ (Visitor) Wash Times, 10 Mar 1915, p. 8; (petition) Evening Star, 14 June 1917, p. 17.

²⁰ At the corner of Maryland and 4½ Street. The house had once been the brothel of the city's leading madam, Mary Hall. Wash Times, 28 July 1917, p. 4; Wash Post, 1 July 1917, p. R1; Wash Herald, 1 Apr 1914, p. 2; WARL Ann Rpts, 1919, 1924. Good photos of the building will be found in the two annual reports, and also in Evening Star, 18 Nov 1917, p. 9; Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13. WARL Ann Rpt, 1924 lists a number of necessary repairs to the facility, coincidentally giving a few more details of the place.

²¹ Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13; Evening Star, 9 Oct 1921, p. 59. Later Mrs. Maxim Karolik. She was also a generous benefactor of the Boston organization.

²² The salaries in 1914 were: Manager -- \$45/month; night watchman -- \$40/month; veterinarian -- \$30/month (WARL Directors minutes, 14 May 1914).

²³ Wash Herald, 26 Apr 1919, p. 3; Evening Star, 31 Jan 1918, p. 23; 9 Oct 1921, p. 59; WARL Ann Rpts, 1919, 1924; WARL Directors minutes, 19 Oct 1920. Smallwood's photo is in the 1924 Annual Report with Micky, the mascot.

²⁴ Evening Star, 28 Apr 1921, p. 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 7

Animal pick-ups (which by 1924 “not only cover the entire city but reach out into the suburbs [old county]”) were made during the day but deliveries accepted at any time. After several years of the League’s agent taking cats from houses in a basket by streetcar (“a wonderful performance”) WARL acquired an ambulance²⁵ in the summer of 1918 through the efforts of Walter Stilson Hutchins (another WHS president). Even with this, emergency runs in members’ cars or taxis were not uncommon.²⁶ The ambulance averaged 19 collection runs daily in 1921, and in 1933 travelled 14,665 miles, supplemented by 688 taxi trips.²⁷ In 1931 the shelter still had only one ambulance and the president wrote with frustration to citizens who demanded immediate pick-up of animals (“It would seem possible that . . . people . . . would bring in their own dog or cat, thus releasing our one car to the calls of those who have no conveyance”). Persons turning over animals received a receipt and signed a release.²⁸

Conditions at the shelter were exemplary, by all reports. WARL regularly advertised its approval by the District Health Department. In one of those stories that no writer could invent, two men searching for a supply of fleas for “a troupe of trained fleas . . . performing at a carnival at a nearby city,” combed dogs for an hour, recruiting only two insect-performers for their company. “The Animal Rescue League is quite proud of this record” – understandably.²⁹

WARL remained frank in its policy of executing animals not readily adopted.³⁰ Virtually all horses met this fate. “The horses are given a few days of comfort in the . . . stable before they are led into the stall . . . called The House of Blessed Release.” They were at the shelter because of their decrepit condition, after all. Recall also that, unlike WHS, WARL did not prosecute offenders, only buy their nags with its Horse-Purchase Fund.³¹

Of dogs and cats, clearly diseased or otherwise undesirable animals were killed on receipt. The large number stayed on for four or five days while the League attempted to locate their owners (both

²⁵ A photo of this vehicle is in the 1919 Annual Report, and of a later truck in the 1924 report; Evening Star, 3 Aug 1930, p. 4; Wash Times-Herald, 7 June 1941, p. 17. Replacements were purchased in 1920, '24, '33 and '36, and perhaps years whose minutes are lost also. “A new one will be needed every few years” (WARL Exec Comm minutes, 18 May 1933). The 1936 model had a built-in gas chamber (WARL memo, “Outstanding Achievements”, 29 Apr 1936). There was a standing Ambulance Fund.
²⁶ “Before the League had an ambulance . . . it was no uncommon occurrence for a member to leave a dinner table on receiving a telephone call . . . and drive to some remote section of the city to bring in some injured or suffering creature” (Evening Star, 25 Oct 1931, p. 14).
²⁷ The number of taxi runs actually increased over the years: 1936 – 1,454; 1938 – 2,004 (WARL Sec Ann Rpts, 1936, 1938). The League “has a special cat rescue gadget to fetch Toby out of a tree” (Times-Herald, 27 Apr 1941, p. E2).
²⁸ Evening Star, 28 Apr 1921, p. 10; 9 Oct 1921, p. 59; Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13; WARL Ann Rpt, 1924; WARL Sec Ann Rpts, 1921, 1933; WARL, “A Few Facts”. See also Palmer’s extensive complaint about demands for the ambulance “by thoughtless and selfish people” in the 1924 Annual Report, and also in WARL, “A Few Facts”.
²⁹ Evening Star, 29 May 1921, p. 6. See also Evening Star, 23 July 1923, p. 6; and Wash Post, 22 Sept 1940, p. 74, for further details of operations.
³⁰ WARL Pres. Palmer: “I wish to emphasize that we are neither a hospital nor a boarding house for animals” (WARL Ann Rpt, 1924), and many other such statements.
³¹ Evening Star, 9 Oct 1921, p. 59; WARL Ann Rpts, 1919, 1924. These purchases were still advertised in 1936 (Evening Star, 20 Dec 1936, p. 3).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 8

searching Lost and placing Found notices in the local papers)³² or find new families. “We would like to be able to place more animals in homes . . . but good homes appear difficult to find,” moaned the League’s secretary. Only males were put up for adoption; all unredeemed females (dogs and cats) were put down.³³ There was no charge for the animal and the League bemoaned how few persons made any donation for the service. A charge of \$2 for animals eventually was instituted.³⁴ Potential new owners were screened and signed a contract to care for the pet, obtain a tag (for dogs) and not allow them to be used for experimentation. Animals could be returned and any donation remitted.³⁵

Horses and mules received well-publicized if largely symbolic support by WARL’s annual Christmas feast, modeled on Boston’s project and initiated in 1915 by member Mrs. Ira Bennett. Held at various locations over the years but eventually settling at the shelter, horses munched hay and corn before selecting an apple or carrot from a large Christmas tree, all this donated by members and sympathizers. Drivers found coffee and doughnuts, a gesture these hard-working men undoubtedly appreciated.³⁶ In some years dog biscuits awaited accompanying canines. Take-out was available, and deliveries made by a roaming truck. The League’s winter horse-slippers and even leather bridles (to replace painful wire ones) were given out free of charge.³⁷

The League made sporadic efforts to educate children on humane practice but not as successfully as WHS. Its most successful juvenile program was made in conjunction with the District playground manager, Susan Root Rhodes, who encouraged the organization of Junior Animal Rescue Leagues in the very early 1920s. Sometimes children formed their own support groups, such as The Happy Four, which raised \$35.23 for the League in 1922, and “another club of young girls” called The Animal Friends Society. Apparently this movement withered but was revived briefly in 1934, again under the initiative of the youngsters themselves.³⁸

³² “The League people are experts in detecting a stray from a homeless dog” (Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13). The cost of classified ads (always in the Evening Star and the Post; WARL Directors minutes, 29 Oct 1919) must have been a major expense – they appeared in the press almost daily – unless they were run gratis (see WARL Ann Rpt, 1924’s thanks to the press, “which have been most generous in giving us notices”). WARL Exec Comm minutes, 30 Sept 1936 mentions a standing contract with the Washington Herald.

³³ WARL’s Executive Committee considered releasing spayed females on 27 June 1934, and 29 Nov 1939.

³⁴ At least by 1941 (Times-Herald, 27 Apr 1941, p. E2).

³⁵ Evening Star, 9 Oct 1921, p. 59; Wash Post, 30 Mar 1919, p. S13 (“Careful investigation of the proposed home is made, and decision always is rendered on whether the dog would like that kind of home, and not whether the applicant would like that kind of dog”); WARL Ann Rpt, 1924; WARL “A Few Facts”; WARL Sec Ann Rpt, 1923. They seldom went to homes with small children (Wash Post, 24 July 1927, p. 5) or apartments without exercise yards (Wash Post, 22 Sept 1940, p. 74).

³⁶ Needless to say, reporters could not resist the satirical possibilities: “Menu: Oats au naturel; Cornstalk fodder, Illinois style; Apples, carrots; Doughnuts a la life preserver; Coffee au lait” (Evening Star, 26 Dec 1916, p. 2).

³⁷ Evening Star, 26 Dec 1916, p. 2; 24 Dec 1918, p. 2; 24 Dec 1919, p. 2; 28 Dec 1923, p. 6; but every year earned an account.

³⁸ (Education) Evening Star, 19 June 1920, p. 3; Wash Herald, 27 Oct 1938, p. 15; (Jr ARLs) Evening Star, 11 Sept 1920, p. 10; 28 Apr 1921, p. 10; Wash Herald, 18 May 1921, p. 16; WARL Ann Rpt, 1924; (Happy, Friends) Evening Star, 29 May 1921, p. 6; WARL Directors minutes, 21 May 1921; 26 Apr 1922; (later) 28 June 1934, p. 37; 5 Aug 1934, p. 24; WARL Exec Comm minutes, 27 June 1934.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 9

Paid staff grew to seven by 1940: kennelmen, drivers, matron and office employees. "Capt. Parker" (no source gives his personal name) followed Mary Coursey (after an interval) as manager of the facility from about 1931 to at least '39, and was much loved in that position. "Under his guidance the Washington Animal Rescue League [shelter] has grown to be one of the best administered in the country . . . It is a model for all similar enterprises and could well serve as a model for private kennels and veterinarian hospitals in both cleanliness and arrangement." Preston Thomas served as a very valuable agent from 1932 to at least 1942. Jessie (Mrs. Charles H.) Jones served as the on-site supervisor for most of this period.³⁹

The O Street Shelter In 1932 WARL made the momentous move to its first purpose-built shelter, the building still standing at 71 O Street NW. The impetus for this project was twofold: (1) an increasing need for space and facility for an increasing number of animals;⁴⁰ and (2) the National Capital Park and Planning Commission⁴¹ plan to develop the District's immediate southwest area as a government enclave. Sale of the Maryland Avenue property to the District government (the street was being widened) paid for most of the new land and building; the public was encouraged to donate the expense of specific components in exchange for a name plaque, as was done also at the 1977 facility.⁴²

The community into which WARL moved – near the no-longer-existent Truxton Circle about a mile due north of the Capitol – was a long-established area by 1932, and in fact showing some deterioration as warehouses and workshops (especially garages and auto repair shops) increasingly crowded against the blue-collar residents. Its next-door neighbor to the east, picturesquely called Swampoodle, had already largely succumbed to this trend.

The League's Real Estate and Building Committee first considered a site at South Capitol and D Streets SW, "an unusually desirable location" near its current shelter and only five blocks north of the pound, and had made a deposit when "a few congressmen" (like all neighbors) objected to such an annoying house close to their offices. The O Street site was the next choice. In fact, even semi-gritty O Street protested; neighbors immediately to the east of the property hired a downtown law firm to protest the shelter as a non-conforming use in violation of zoning regulations. Unfortunately for them the Commissioners disagreed and permitted the "animal hospital" but limited it to 40 animals.⁴³

The present lot 110 of square 616 (the shelter and its parking lot) encompasses the consolidated lots 43-48 and originally carried the addresses 67-77 (odd numbers only). Lots 45-48 (71-77 O Street),

³⁹ (Staff) Wash Post, 22 Sept 1940, p. 74; (Parker) Evening Star, 12 July 1937, p. 29; WARL Directors minutes; (Thomas) WARL Directors minutes; Evening Star, 20 Dec 1942, p. 18. See WARL Exec Comm minutes, 23 Oct 1936 for a curious imbroglio, in which Mr. Jones attempted to get Parker's job through unsigned letters.

⁴⁰ No non-profit organization has ever been known to admit that it has enough space, but in this case the complaint was correct.

⁴¹ Now National Capital Planning Commission.

⁴² WARL, "A Few Facts"; New shelter dedication brochure.

⁴³ Comm Minutes/Orders, 2 Sept 1931; WARL Sec Ann Rpt, 1932; letters regarding zoning protest attached to the building permit. The Corporation Counsel reaffirmed its stance (though it is not clear that this opinion arose from a complaint about WARL) in 1936. Neighbors, as the East Central Civic Association, tried to dislodge the shelter again in 1940 but were rebuffed (Comm Minutes/Orders, 6 Sept 1940).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 10

previously holding houses, were joined as tax lot 811 in 1907 for the construction of a two-story brick warehouse (“waste paper packing plant”, F. C. Butt & Co.), enlarged to three stories in 1913, which was demolished for the shelter.⁴⁴ The 1870s houses on lots 43 and 44 (tax lot 867) were purchased by WARL in 1953 (but only consolidated as lot 110 in 1985) and taken down for today’s parking lot sometime afterward. The new shelter was about one block west of the League’s first, rented space on Decatur Street.⁴⁵

R. W. Berry received the contract to plan (in separate jobs) the street-facing shelter/office and, on the rear alley, a garage. Architect Ralph W. Berry designed nearly 100 houses in the District and others in Montgomery County, Maryland, between 1923 and 1937, almost all brick or stone structures in the wealthy upper-northwest area. This was a rare non-residential building for him.⁴⁶ Berry and League officials visited shelters in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New Orleans. The architect submitted his proposal to the federal Commission of Fine Arts (which oversees projects affecting the appearance of the capital city) for an advisory-only opinion. The Commission found the design “a good one” but felt that a stone structure was “more appropriate for a suburban type of building” and recommended instead its then-standard “Georgian type of brick building.” Berry ignored this advice.⁴⁷

Of the seven bids for construction, the choice went to Bahen & Wright, a general contractor active in the city 1926-40 and working mostly in the eastern half.⁴⁸

No building project is simple. To quote League Secretary Flora Beales’ 1932 report (abridged): “We were beset with difficulties from the very beginning – such as delay in removal of the old warehouse, readjustment of plans, securing permits, and finally when the excavating was started a bad soil condition and water was found, necessitating a different foundation.” The last added \$6,260 to costs, bringing the project to about \$26,000.⁴⁹

⁴⁴ For an account of a fire that destroyed a later occupant, the Cook and District Waste Paper Company, see Wash Post, 23 Apr 1927, p. 1. It was “an old brick structure.” Its removal must have gratified the neighbors: it burned again three years later (Wash Post, 30 Aug 1930, p. 1).

⁴⁵ Building permits 76/6 July 1907; 77/6 July 1907; 2370/29 Nov 1913. Perhaps a house on lot 48 was demolished in 1907 – the building records are not clear on the exact location of many properties, but see Evening Star, 26 Feb 1900, p. 10. The history of the lots is derived from the records of the District Surveyor’s office with the kind assistance of Mr. Neal Isenstein.

⁴⁶ DC building permit database, Washingtoniana Div, ML King Library. Perhaps his disappearance as an active architect from 1931 (immediately after designing the shelter) to 1934 tells us that he was the R. W. Berry who held some civil posts in his home of Chevy Chase, Maryland, at that time (Wash Post, 14 Oct 1931, p. 8; Evening Star, 8 July 1933, p. 26). It is difficult to disentangle him in newspaper accounts from a near exact contemporary and well-known topographer with the U.S. Geological Survey, Ralph Whitely Berry, of nearby Kensington (Evening Star, 24 Feb 1949, p. 21). The “A. Moore Berry, Architect” addressed in the CFA documents was Judge Berry, the architect’s father, who lived with him and perhaps handled some of his business matters (see Evening Star, 7 Mar 1939, p. 9). Mrs. Berry frequently attended local society events.

⁴⁷ Building permits 146152/28 Aug 1931; 146153/28 Aug 1931; Wash Post, 25 Oct 1931, p. M22; WARL Sec Ann Rpt, 1932; CFA minutes, 24-26 Sept 1931.

⁴⁸ WARL Sec Ann Rpt, 1932; DC building permit database, Washingtoniana Div, ML King Library.

⁴⁹ Evening Star, 5 Sept 1931, p. 13; WARL Sec Ann Rpt, 1932.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 11

The shelter opened with an invitation-only ceremony⁵⁰ on 23 June 1932. It had (and still has) “an English façade” of Potomac River gneiss (from “the Bucolstone [sic] Quarry”) over a brick structure. Public rooms showed the same fieldstone and glazed tile. A slate roof topped both shelter and the separate double garage, and handsome multi-panel windows (sadly now gone) gave an aristocratic feel to the entry and gables. All of this reflects Berry’s work on posh new houses for an upper-class clientele.⁵¹

Visitors, and reporters, were adequately impressed: “The most modern and well-equipped facilities for the care and shelter of stray and sick beasts,” “thoroughly insulated and fireproofed,” and “safe, sanitary and comfortable accommodations.” With its 50 cages for dogs and a dozen cat cages, separate runs for each, veterinary clinic, two “comfortable” stalls for horses (in the garage), and an upstairs caretaker’s apartment, “the new building compares favorably with the best anywhere” – “a credit to the City and to the Directors.”⁵² Cages carried the names of their donors (including the Washington Cat Club), and a plaque in the main hall commemorated the 1917 donation of the earlier building by Martha Codman and Chester Snow, which later paid for the new one. League members made other special donations: shrubbery, the paved walk, office furniture. The contractor made unspecified contributions.⁵³

Later History of the Shelter At its inauguration the building already held 40 dogs and 12 cats. In its new quarters the League increased its clinic service to three veterinarians (later reduced back to one paid doctor but expanding this effort through the affiliated Tail-Waggers Club).⁵⁴ Through an agreement with the District government, city-owned horses retired in favor of trucks went to WARL, which placed the healthy ones in nearby farms. At the same time, routine ambulance runs to take pets from homes dropped back from daily to four days a week, though the truck was available 24 hours a day for injured animals. Educational outreach grew in scope.⁵⁵ Generally the League’s work at O Street continued smoothly as before, but with a larger staff, more professional operations and

⁵⁰ “With much newspaper and radio fanfare” (WARL, New shelter brochure).

⁵¹ Perhaps some League members knew Berry in this way. (Opening) Wash Post, 24 June 1932, p. 18; Evening Star, 23 June 1932, p. 17; (building) Evening Star, 25 Oct 1931, p. 14; 19 June 1932, p. 13; WARL Sec Ann Rpt, 1932; building permits. The two Star articles have good pictures of the facility; Wash Star, 18 Nov 1974, p. 32, shows the pens and run.

⁵² “The runs are covered with a shelter . . . protecting the animals from heat and rain. There are hose connections in the tiled kennels so that they may be kept clean and have plenty of fresh water. There is over-head ventilation and . . . a thermometer in the room so that the temperature may be properly regulated” (Secretary’s Ann Rpt, 31 Mar 1933).

⁵³ Wash Post, 24 June 1932, p. 18; Evening Star, 19 Jan 1932, p. 13; 23 June 1932, p. 17; WARL Sec Ann Rpt 1932. The plaque is now at the current shelter.

⁵⁴ Perhaps these doctors were donating their time. “A number of veterinarians were antagonized due to not being recognized in any of their work through the League” (WARL Exec Comm minutes, 25 May 1938).

⁵⁵ (Animals held) Evening Star, 23 June 1932, p. 17; (clinic, horses) WARL Exec Comm minutes, 25 Aug 1937; WARL, “The Twins . . .”; (ambulance) WARL, “Please! Cooperate . . .”. Purchase of a small “pick-up ambulance” in 1938 was intended to eliminate the need for taxi trips (WARL Ann Rpt, 1938).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 8 Page 12

continued harmonious governance.⁵⁶ When Tail-Waggers disbanded in the mid-1990s WARL established its own medical center (1996).

By the mid-1960s the facility clearly required updating and its neighborhood had greatly deteriorated. The District government proved uncooperative in the renovation project and then announced that it planned to take the property for a school playground. Although this last threat receded, the organization began a five-year search for larger quarters, taking it to a spacious and striking building at 71 Oglethorpe Street NW (at the very edge of the District) in 1977. (The new shelter received a significant renovation in 2005.)⁵⁷

In the early 1980s the community service organization So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E) purchased the shelter building and made interior renovations. The group now uses it as its headquarters; daily meals for the needy are served where the pens were once located.

⁵⁶ The Executive Committee minutes of 25 Mar 1936 record: "It seems that, because of the large amount of publicity we are receiving, Mr. Smith, of the Pound, is worried about his job. Mrs. Moses will see him, to explain that we really do different work from the Pound."

⁵⁷ WARL New shelter dedication brochure; Monahan, Such Courage, Such Heart.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Animal Rescue League Animal
Hospital/Shelter

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

Federal Government Documents

Commission of Fine Arts minutes (at CFA)

District of Columbia Government Documents

Commissioners Orders/Minutes (at NARA RG 351, Entry 14 "Minutes, including Orders [of the Commissioners . . .]").

District building permits, and permit database (at Washingtoniana Division of the ML King Library)

Newspapers

Evening Star (later Washington Star)

Washington Herald

Washington Post

Washington Times (sometimes The Times, or the Morning and the Evening Times)

Washington Times-Herald

WARL Documents (all at WARL Archives)

Washington Animal Rescue League annual reports

Washington Animal Rescue League Secretary annual reports (always in April); Directors/ Executive Committee minutes; By-laws

Washington Animal Rescue League pamphlets: "A Few Facts", 1931?; "A Day at the Washington Rescue League" (by 1941); "Please! Cooperate with the Washington Animal Rescue League to Save Strays", ca. 1942; "The Twins Begin to Learn the Happiness of Owning a Pet", 1950?; Community Chest funding application, 1950; New shelter dedication brochure, 1977; other, miscellaneous documents cited in text.

Published Sources

Free, Ann Cottrell, "No Room, Save in the Heart", in *Washingtonian* (April 1971). Washington DC.

[Monahan, Linda], Such Courage, Such Heart: A Centennial History of the Washington Animal Rescue League. Privately printed, WARL. 2014.

Interviews

Ms. Susan Strange, WARL historian

Washington Animal Rescue League animal
hospital/shelter
Name of Property

Washington DC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

The nomination covers only the building itself, without the adjacent parking lot or outbuilding.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

The shelter building originally stood between adjoining rowhouses and so was designed without thought of open space on either side.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hayden M. Wetzel
Organization DC Preservation League date 28 January 2015
street & number 1026 Irving Street NE telephone (202) 526-5986
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name So Others Might Eat
street & number 71 O Street NW telephone (202) 797-8806
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20001

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

Section 10 Page 1

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Washington Animal Rescue League Shelter and Hospital is located on Square 616, Lot 0110 in the Bates/Hanover neighborhood of northwest Washington DC. The customary address is 71 O Street, NW.

Boundary Justification:

These boundaries represent the area associated with the building as described in the statement of significance.



Boundary Map, 71 O Street, NW, Square 616/Lot 110, Source: DC Property Quest, <http://propertyquest.dc.gov/>, Accessed: March 11, 2016

WASHINGTON ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE ANIMAL SHELTER – LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

No.	Subject	Looking	Date	Source
1.	71 O Street, NW, South Elevation	North	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
2.	71 O Street, NW, North Elevation	Southeast	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
3.	71 O Street, NW, East Elevation	West	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
4.	71 O Street, NW, West Elevation	Northeast	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
5.	71 O Street, NW	Northwest	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
6.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, South Elevation	North	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
7.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, South Elevation	North	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
8.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, South Elevation	North	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
9.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, West Elevation	Northeast	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
10.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, West Elevation	Northeast	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
11.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, West Elevation	Southeast	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
12.	71 O Street, NW	Southwest	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
13.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, East Elevation	Northwest	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
14.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, East Elevation	Northwest	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel
15.	71 O Street, NW, Detail, East Elevation	Northwest	March 16, 2015	Hayden Wetzel





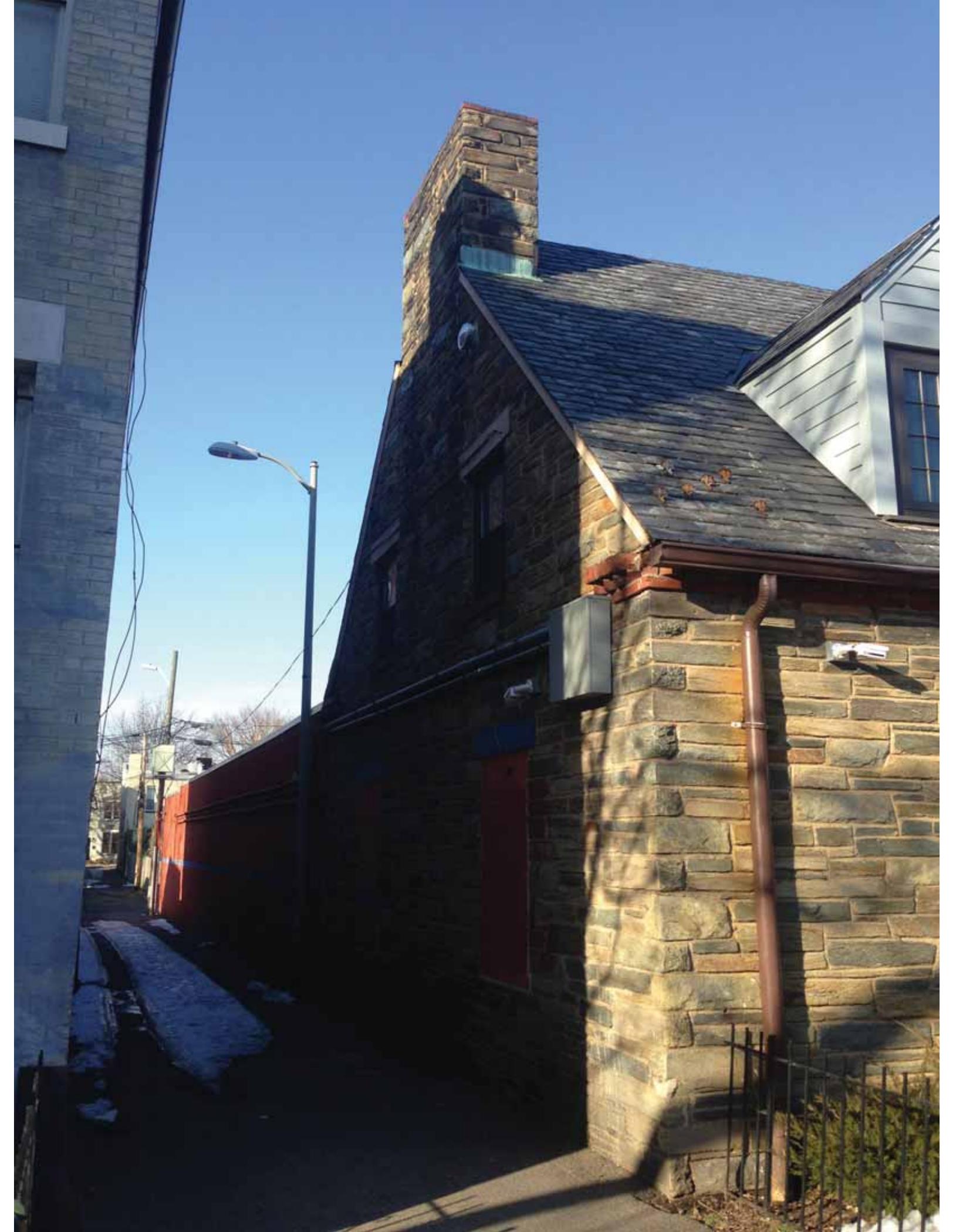


VISITOR
PARKING

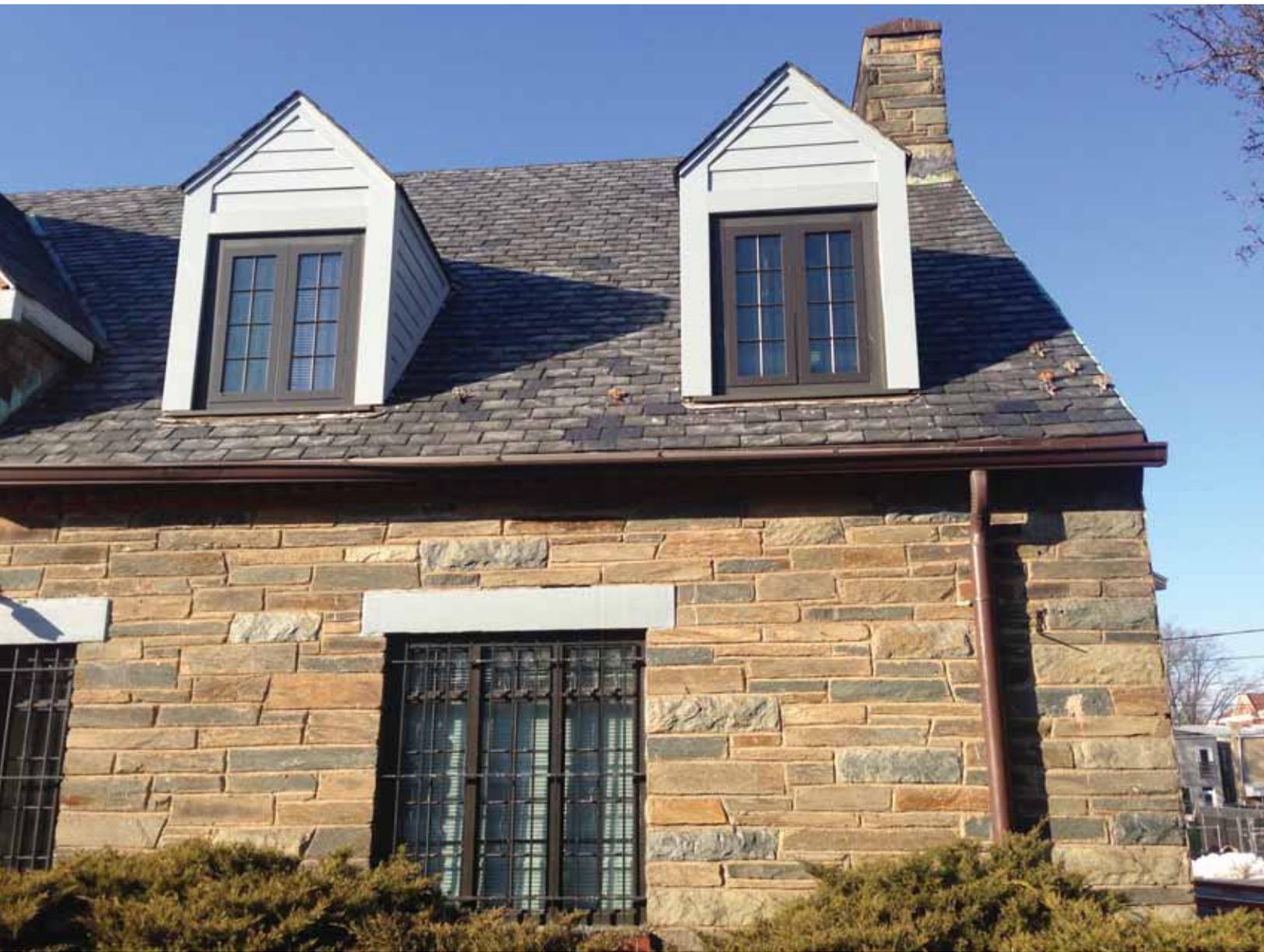
VISITOR
PARKING

VISITOR
PARKING

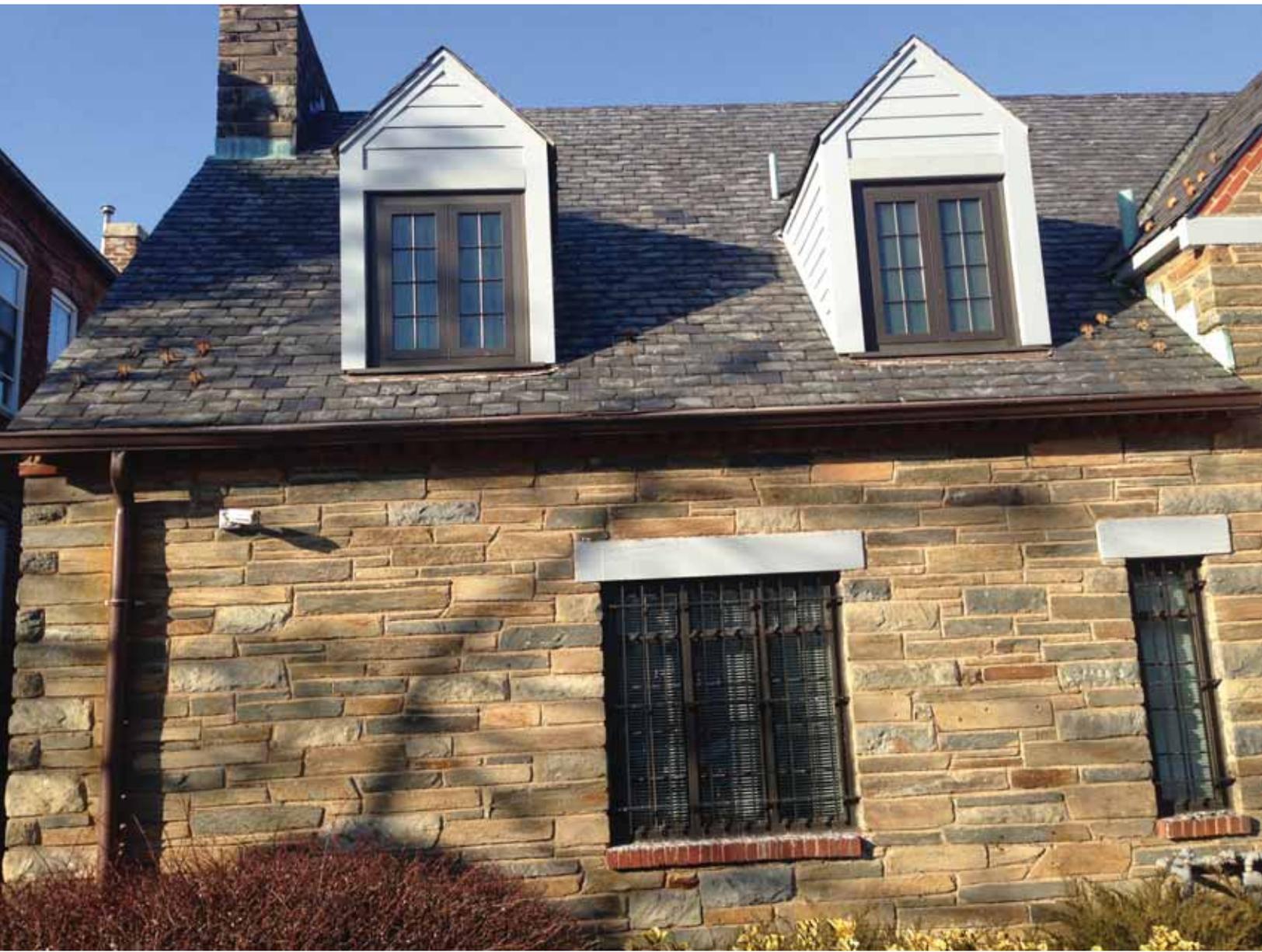
VISITOR
PARKING

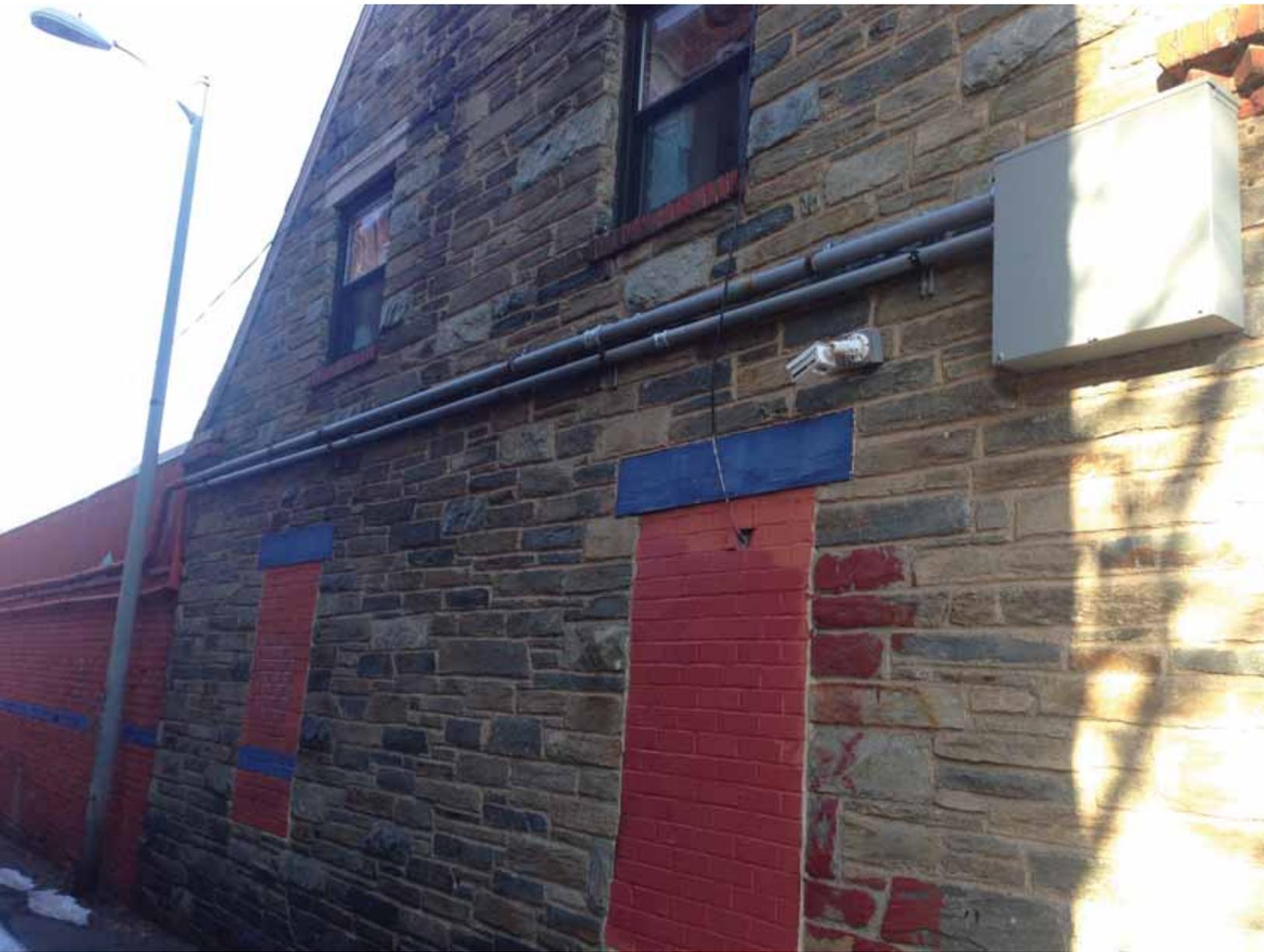




















VISITOR
PARKING

RESERVED
PARKING

RESERVED
PARKING

RESERVED
PARKING





RESERVED
PARKING

RESERVED
PARKING

RESERVED
PARKING

RESERVED
PARKING

NOTICE TO TENANTS
RENOVATION WORK
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE
BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED FOR
RENOVATION WORK FROM
MARCH 15, 2018 TO
MARCH 31, 2018.
PLEASE CONTACT THE
PROPERTY MANAGER AT
(714) 941-1111 FOR MORE
INFORMATION.