

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 National Presbyterian Church
If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.
****Please include a boundary map of the property with your nomination form.

Address 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Square and lot number(s) Square 1724, part of lot 905 (see attached plat)
Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission ANC 3D

Date of construction 1926-27, 1966-69 Date of major alteration(s) late 20th century
Architect(s) Appelton Clark, Harold Architectural style(s) Tudor Revival, Modern Gothic
wagoner
Original use Orphan asylum, church, School Present use Church, School
Property owner National Presbyterian Church, INC

Legal address of property owner 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW Washington, DC
20016-2735
NAME OF APPLICANT(S) National Presbyterian Church

If the applicant is an organization, it must submit or have previously submitted 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) 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-2735 202-537-0800

Name and title of authorized representative VICE PRESIDENT
[Signature]
Signature of representative _____ Date 9-20-2019

Name and telephone of author of application Anne H. Adams 202-577-7978

Date received _____
H.P.O. staff _____
Case No. _____

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Hillcrest – National Presbyterian Church Historic DistrictOther names/site number: Hillcrest Children's Center; National Presbyterian Church and Center

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)**2. Location**Street & number: 4101, 4121, & 4125 Nebraska Ave., NW; 4120 and 4124 Van Ness St, NWCity or town: Washington State: DC County: _____Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Name of Property

County and State

Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| <u>5</u> | <u>1 large non-</u> | |
| | <u>contributing</u> | |
| | <u>addition</u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>5</u> | <u>1</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/orphanage

Religion/religious facility

Education/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/religious facility

Education/school

Name of Property

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Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District

7.Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th century revivals/

Tudor Revival

Modern Movement/

Modern Gothic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Limestone, fieldstone, stucco, slate (natural and synthetic), masonry block, faceted glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District is located in the far Northwest section of Washington, DC. The contributing buildings in the historic district were constructed in 1926-27 for the Hillcrest Children's Center (Hillcrest) and in 1966-69 for the National Presbyterian Church (Church)* which integrated the Hillcrest buildings into its campus. The approximately 7.65-acre historic district occupies part of Lot 805 in Square 1724, at the

*The National Presbyterian Church building will be referred to as the Church. The institution of the National Presbyterian Church will be referred to as NPC.

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southeast corner of the intersection of Nebraska Avenue, NW on the west and Van Ness Street, NW on the north. Primary access to circulation within the historic district is from Nebraska Avenue. Additional access is also provided off Van Ness Street, NW. Within the historic district the open space between the Hillcrest buildings, originally known as Cottages (Cottages) and the north and west property line is character-defining space. The open space along the south edge of the historic district, currently used as playground space and for parking, is not character-defining space. A large surface parking lot and its access road abuts the eastern edge of the historic district and an NBC broadcast facility abuts the south edge. Beyond the immediate surroundings of the historic district, the larger neighborhood is primarily residential to the north and west, commercial to the east, and government and institutional to the south. There are significant grade changes within the historic district, generally sloping southwest from the intersection. The buildings within the historic district and the district as a whole retain their integrity and the campus continues to reflect its architectural and historical significance.

Narrative Description

The buildings within the Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District were constructed by two significant organizations at two different times – the Hillcrest Cottages in 1926-1927 and the Mid-Century Church in 1969. The four Cottages were part of a plan, never completed, for a larger Hillcrest complex of buildings designed by Appleton P. Clark, Jr. and formal open space designed by Rose Ishbel Greely. The Cottages and the other planned buildings would have formed three sides of a square around planned formal open space and flanking playgrounds. Since NPC's acquisition of the property the Cottages have served as office, administrative and support space for the Church and space for the National Presbyterian School (School). The Cottages have been part of the Church complex for longer than they served their original purpose.

Generally, the area that would have been Hillcrest's formal open space had it been completed is now occupied by the church building. The area of the planned Hillcrest Administration Building, also never constructed, is occupied by the Church's forecourt garden. Portions of the Hillcrest walkway system survived construction of the Church and the circulation roads that separate the Church and forecourt garden from the Cottages. The parking lots within the historic district are not character-defining features of the district. Indeed, the north parking lot includes the site of a Hillcrest Cottage that was never built. That area also originally included a Hillcrest playground, no longer extant, and now includes a new play area, which is not a character-defining feature of the historic district.

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Non-contributing additions and alterations to the School include: an addition to the south side of the School; a late-twentieth century addition to the east side of the School, occupying space between the two south Cottages that originally served as a Hillcrest playground; late-twentieth century alterations to the north side of building; and a new roof and windows; and a new play surface enclosed by a non-contributing fence in the space west of the building. Other alterations in the historic district include: a covered entry feature at the rear, east side of the Church and the closing down or blocking up entirely of window openings in various buildings.

The framework for the location of buildings within the historic district was established by Appleton Clark's 1926 plan for Hillcrest. The original plan included seven buildings generally arrayed around a central open space and adjacent playgrounds. Only four of the buildings, the playgrounds, and some of the planned open space were constructed. For the purpose of this nomination the Cottages will be referred to first by their original Hillcrest names and thereafter by their current names. The Church and its forecourt garden stand at the center of the Cottages, which by use and history have had a second life associated with the Church that has already extended longer than they served as a children's home.

Appleton Clark's design intent was to create a collection of institutional buildings that did not look institutional. Rather, the buildings would be massed, designed, and detailed at a clearly domestic scale. The massing of each building is different, though two buildings have nearly the same footprint. Three of the buildings are two stories, one is a single story. Although each Cottage was individually designed with its specific use in mind they share fundamental design characteristics. They are all Tudor Revival in their design expression. They are all fieldstone, generally restricted to the first floor, with stucco above and their gable roofs are covered with multi-colored slate. They all have porches or recesses providing cover at their primary entry doors. Their elevations are generally irregular, though sections may be regular or mirror one another. Their double-hung windows are varied in size and grouping. They have the same decorative leader boxes. The Cottages are generally in fair to good condition. Some of the fieldstone needs repointing. Areas of stucco need repair and the roofs will soon need to be replaced. The windows are generally wood and generally in poor condition with significant deterioration. There are aluminum storm windows and screens at most of the window openings, excepting those with window air conditioning units.

The Cottage at the northwest corner of the original Hillcrest property was originally called the Van Ness Cottage after the Washington City Orphan Asylum founder and benefactor Marcia Burns Van Ness. It is now known as the Agencies Building. The main block of the two-story and raised basement building, which has a cross gable at its south end, faces Nebraska Avenue, NW, with a rear wing running east off its northeast corner. A fieldstone porch with timber detailing in the stucco gable end of its roof provides cover at the paired front doors. A raised covered porch on the south side of the wing provides access from the first floor to grade and covers a door at the exposed lower level. Windows are generally double-hung, ranging from small single windows to paired windows, to a large central double-hung flanked by narrower

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sidelight windows, to a ganged group of windows in a large opening on the south side of the main block.

Slightly to the east and closer to Van Ness Street, NW is Hillcrest's multipurpose Cottage, now known as the Multi-Purpose Building. This building originally housed the infirmary and laundry facilities in its two-story center block and apartments for the superintendent and the facilities engineer in its flanking end blocks, which are attached to the center block by one-story architecturally-undistinguished hyphens. An attached one-story two-car garage and storage space projects from the north side of the center block behind which a driveway provides access from Van Ness Street, NW. This access post-dates construction of the Multi-Purpose Building; Van Ness Street, NW was not cut through in 1926. Although the materials of the garage match the rest of the Multi-Purpose Building, its massing, placement, and design do not exhibit the level of design attention or care found elsewhere at this building or in the historic district. It makes no positive contribution to the historic district. The south façade of the center block has a raised and exposed basement. Its elevation is fairly regular, with large three-part windows (large center window flanked by two narrow sidelight windows) on both floors. The massing of the flanking blocks mirror each other, with projecting covered porches at the street-facing elevations and shed roofed porches covering the south doors. Their elevations are similar. The lower level of the east block is largely exposed. An addition to the east end of that block houses a two-car garage, entered from the east, with living space above. This addition is similar to the garage off the north side of this building in that it lacks the attention and design care found elsewhere at this building and throughout the historic district and makes no positive visual contribution to the historic district.

The parking lot south of the Multi-Purpose Building covered what was part of the original north playground and the location of a "future cottage" which was never constructed. The cooling tower for the Church, enclosed on three side by a concrete wall and the fourth by a gate, stands between the parking lot and the circulation road. It is a non-contributing feature in the historic district.

The eastern Cottage at the south side of the historic district was originally known as the Dolly Madison Cottage, for another founder and benefactor of the Washington City Orphan Asylum. It is now known as the Administration Building. The footprint of this building is similar to that of the Agencies Building, oriented differently to face into the planned central open space that was not built. The two-story and raised basement Administration Building has cross gables at its ends and an additional, lower gabled projection with fieldstone at its second floor and which overlaps the center section of the Cottage and the west gable end of the building. There is a covered porch on the east side of the rear wing. The front entrance, opposite the south end of the Church's porte cochere is protected by a shed-roof projecting enclosure.

The Edwin Gould Cottage, now home of the School, was named for the donor whose significant donation was largely responsible for making Hillcrest's move to Nebraska Avenue, NW

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possible. This building, which has been altered significantly more than the other Cottages, is the home of the private National Presbyterian School, which opened in 1969 and serves students of all faiths, from pre-school through sixth grade. The School building had a larger footprint than the other Cottages and it is only one story, perhaps because it was originally the infants cottage. The building originally faced Nebraska Avenue, NW; its original front door under a gabled projecting porch enclosure remains. There is a north-facing side porch that no longer functions as an entrance. The windows throughout the building have been replaced with aluminum windows with half screens. The roof has been replaced with multi-color synthetic slate matching the roof of the adjacent addition. Extensive alterations to the north side of the School Building have exposed the lower level of the building to provide a paved terrace with access from that space. These late-twentieth century alterations, although undertaken with attention to the character of the building, are not character-defining features. The playing field between the School Building and Nebraska Avenue, NW has an artificial surface and has been enclosed by a non-contributing fence.

There are additions to the School, one at its original east end and one that fills the space between the School and the Administration Building. The former closely reflects the architectural character of the School building. The latter is a more contemporary interpretation of the character of the School. Its addition is connected to the School by a fieldstone hyphen and the Administration Building by a stucco hyphen, both lower than the roofs of the adjacent buildings. This addition is masonry block and stucco and has a multi-color slate roof. Its irregular massing reflects the character of the historic Cottages. Two non-contributing covered walkways provide shelter from the sidewalk to the entrances to the School Building and the addition. The walls of the back volumes of the addition are unarticulated except for a change in materials. A small, non-contributing storage shed of recent vintage stands on the inside corner of the Administration Building and the newer addition to the School.

The dominant feature of the historic district is Harold E. Wagoner's Modern Gothic National Presbyterian Church. This dramatic Church, with its simple unadorned volumes, soaring lancet windows, and 173' tall bell tower may have been something of a shock to architecturally-conservative Washington when it was completed; the design of Wagoner's Church complex fell outside the norm for large Washington churches. Appreciation of the Church and Wagoner and his work generally has risen in the last two decades, largely the result of relatively-recent research into and focus on Mid-Century architecture generally and Wagoner particularly. The Church complex stands at the center of the former Hillcrest campus, linking the 1920s Cottages and their early-nineteenth century history to the Mid-Century Church, the impressive physical embodiment of the NPC, the history of which dates back to the late eighteenth century.

Wagoner's Mid-Century Modern Gothic design relates to its stylistic precedent in its verticality, soaring sanctuary and tower, and its use of stone and stained glass. Absent is the carving and ornamental detail characteristically adorning Gothic churches. However, the size and presence of both the Church and the bell tower powerfully evoke the feeling and impression of Gothic cathedrals, albeit expressed with a Mid-Century sensibility.

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Although the main mass of the Church is set back a significant distance from Nebraska Avenue, NW, the Church is nonetheless visible from that street. The seven lancet windows rising almost the full height of the building's west face clearly identify the building as a church. However, it is the essentially free-standing bell tower, rising above everything else in the historic district, that is the identity marker of the Church. Although the presence of the Church is obvious, its entrance is not; there is no front door in the street-facing façade of the building. Rather, the entrance is on the south side of the building, at the north end of a covered walkway at which south end is the porte cochere. The simple, solid volumes of the almost-monumental Church are sheathed with limestone. The gable roofs, not a visually significant feature of the Church, are topped with dark grey slate. Most of the walls are solid and unadorned. The lancet windows with projecting limestone surrounds on the west, north, and south sides of the Church articulate otherwise unadorned facades. The surrounds form projecting ribs that extend down to grade, both anchoring the facades and creating the expressive verticality that so defines Wagoner's design. The east elevation of the church is unarticulated save for a cross and doors at grade, covered by a later non-contributing entrance feature. This elevation is clearly the back, parking lot side of the Church.

The Church sanctuary seats over 1250 people. Its Aeolian-Skinner organ features more than 6000 pipes and 104 ranks. The much smaller Chapel of the Presidents, the second liturgical space within the Church, seats approximately 125 people. The secondary and tertiary spaces in the Church are constricted, unwelcoming, and were poorly laid out from outset. Always problematic, they do not meet the needs of the twentieth-first century NPC, its programs, or its congregation.

The most remarkable feature of the Church are its 53 faceted glass windows, produced by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia, the country's preeminent maker of ecclesiastical windows. These windows are one of the company's most significant achievements. With their bright intense colors, they glow magnificently and cast color about the sanctuary. The windows are made of 1" thick glass tiles that were chipped and faceted on their interior side and laid out on a paper pattern and then connected by an epoxy cement mixture that does not have the limitations and problems associated with lead coming. Fourteen of the windows depict men of faith, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul. The tallest windows in the sanctuary, 31' high, reflect two millennia of historic creeds, confessions, and catechisms that provide the structure for Christians to articulate their faith. Other windows depict other aspects of the liturgical center of the Church. The windows in the Chapel of the Presidents, depict particular actions of six presidents – Washington, Lincoln, the two Roosevelts, Wilson, and Eisenhower — that the NPC believes were inspired by faith. Eisenhower was a member of Covenant-First Presbyterian Church and strong supporter of the NPC's move to Nebraska Avenue, NW. His window relates to his insertion of "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additionally, there are 18 leaded-glass windows that were relocated from the Covenant-First Presbyterian Church at 18th and N Streets, NW. These windows, not visible from within the

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historic district, were restored and installed within the Church and are an important link to the NPC's past.

The bell tower is perhaps the most iconic feature of the Church complex and historic district. Its shape is an unadorned articulated square for about two-thirds of its height. Above that, openings echoing the lancet windows in the Church pierce the volume. Rising still higher, to the full 173', is the much-smaller top volume with lancet-shaped openings and a sharply raked top. The tower is connected to the main volume of the Church and the Chapel of the Presidents by an unarticulated single-story volume. The Church is in generally good condition. Its exterior is undergoing cleaning and re-caulking, which began in April, 2019. Planning is underway to add new space under an extended front terrace, which in its current configuration is too narrow to serve as a gathering space, improve accessibility within the Church, and to rework and improve the interior meeting and classroom spaces and circulation.

The area between the front of the Church and Nebraska Avenue, NW is occupied by a complex series of spaces, walls, and walkways that frame three sides of the forecourt garden that opens to Nebraska Avenue, NW. The large oval marble fountain in the forecourt garden appears oversized and out of scale with the available space. It is topped by an outdated symbolic cross and seal no longer used by the Presbyterian Church USA. The garden and fountain were designed by Boris Timchenko, contemporaneously with the Church. Broken and leaking pipes leading to the fountain and the fact that the fountain, when it functioned, continuously overshot its basin have caused the ground to sink and the concrete walkways around the fountain to also shift and sink. The exposed-aggregate concrete walkways around and near the fountain have spalled and are in poor condition as a result of water damage.

The forecourt garden is little used; it is difficult to figure out how to get to it from both within and without the historic district. It is not welcoming to passers-by walking along Nebraska Avenue, NW. Grade changes within the space make it inaccessible to some. Scripture on several walls is both difficult to read and obscured in places, particularly at the eastern edge of the garden, by plantings sufficiently overgrown as to also obscure the original Mid-Century feel of the sunken garden. A secondary paved space, at grade on the south side of the forecourt, is disconnected from both the Church and the forecourt garden. The colossal concrete planters overwhelm the space and neither they nor the space contribute to the overall character of the historic district.

The character-defining features of the Church and its component parts are its: bold, simple volumes; simply articulated limestone exterior; faceted glass lancet windows; soaring bell tower separated from the main volume of the Church; and the forecourt garden (although not necessarily all its component parts).

The buildings in the historic district, taken together, include structures once associated with one of Washington's earliest charitable organization (one that continues in operation today, albeit in a new location and with a different mission) and the national church that grew out of the oldest

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Presbyterian church in the city, which when joined with another prominent Presbyterian church become the NPC, which in turn built this important Mid-Century church complex at the center of the Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District.

7. 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 patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is 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.

Also DC criteria (b), (d), (e) and (f).

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Criteria Considerations

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

- ☒ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1926 – 1969

Significant Dates

1926-27 and 1966-69

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Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Appleton P. Clark; Harold E.
Wagoner; Boris Timchenko

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hillcrest-National Presbyterian Church Historic District is the twentieth-century embodiment of the Washington City Orphan Asylum, an important early Washington, DC institution, and the National Presbyterian Church, which has direct roots back to the first Presbyterian church in Washington, DC, known as St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. St. Andrew's subsequent congregations joined with an important nineteenth-century Presbyterian congregation and ultimately became the National Presbyterian Church and Center, the national church for Presbyterians across the country. The Washington City Orphan Asylum moved to Nebraska Avenue, NW in 1927, into Tudor Revival cottages designed by Appleton P. Clark; there it was known as the Hillcrest Children's Center. These cottages are an important example of Clark's philosophy about and efforts to improve the design of children's institutions, not just in the District of Columbia but across the country. Fifty years later, the NPC built its impressive Modern Gothic church, designed by master ecclesiastical architect Harold E. Wagoner, amid the former Hillcrest Cottages, creating a church campus that integrated the old and new buildings for a new use. Wagoner chose to place the new Church and its outdoor space between the pairs of Cottages, thus integrating his new building into the site of the former children's home. The result is a U-shaped complex, oriented toward Nebraska Avenue, NW, within which the Cottages maintain their original siting and relationship to the site and relate to the Church and its bell tower, which is the central focal point of the district. The Tudor Revival Cottages were embraced by the NPC and they continue to provide the NPC with administrative, office, and special use

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space, such as the library and the National Presbyterian School. The Church complex is a nationally-significant example of the work of Harold E. Wagoner, perhaps the most important Protestant church architect working in the middle decades of the twentieth century, thus elevating the significance of the historic district to national level as well.

The Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District is eligible for listing in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites under criterion (b) History, for the significance of the Washington City Orphan Asylum and the Hillcrest Children's Center as an institution associated with a social movement important to the growth and development of the District of Columbia, criterion (d) Architecture and Urbanism, because the buildings embody the distinguishing characteristics of architectural styles (Tudor Revival and Modern Gothic) and building types (children's institutional buildings and a national church) that are significant to the development of the District of Columbia, criterion (e) Artistry, because the Church possesses high artistic values that contribute significantly to the heritage and appearance of the District of Columbia, and criterion (f) Creative Masters, because the historic district includes important examples of the work of master architects who influenced his area of practice locally and across the country; the Cottages are an important work Appleton P. Clark and the Church is an important work of Mid-Century Modern master architect Harold E. Wagoner.

The Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion (a) because it is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad pattern of our history and criterion (c) because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of two building types (orphanage and church), its buildings are the work of two masters, Appleton P. Clark, Jr. and Harold E. Wagoner, and because it possesses high artistic values. Additionally, although a sympathetic, non-contributing addition to one Cottage has visually connected it to its neighboring Cottage, the historic district retains its integrity and sufficient time has passed to allow professional evaluation of the district.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District reflects the twentieth century coming together of two early Washington institutions on one site, first one and fifty years later the other, to form the campus of the National Presbyterian Church. The Orphan's Asylum purchased from William K. Ryan about twelve and a half acres of vacant land in the undeveloped rural far northwest of the city. Until that time the property's only street frontage was Nebraska Avenue, NW; Van Ness Street was yet laid out and paved shortly thereafter. The Orphan Asylum constructed four of Clark's planned seven buildings in a group close to Nebraska Avenue, NW. When the Hillcrest Children's Center, as the Orphan Asylum had been renamed, could no longer use the buildings the property was sold to the NPC as the future site of its national church. The large Modern Gothic church, with its bell tower, was built amid the Cottages on the site, reinforcing the collection of buildings at the western part of the site and

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leaving the large area of land east of the Church for use as a parking lot, which it remains today. That parking is visually and architecturally unrelated to the character of the historic district and makes no contribution to its significance. It is therefore excluded from the historic district. A frame house at the northeast corner of the NPC property is likewise excluded from the historic district. It too is architecturally unrelated to the contributing buildings in the historic district and is visually separated from those buildings by the parking lot and trees and hedges that generally block the view of the house from the historic district and the historic district from the house.

Washington City Orphan Asylum

The Tudor Revival cottages built for the Washington City Orphan Asylum, renamed the Hillcrest Children's Center, are historically important for their association with this important institution. They are also architecturally important as the work of Appleton P. Clark, Jr. and as examples of his enlightened views on the best way to design children's homes in the early twentieth century.

The Washington City Orphan Asylum was one of if not the oldest such charitable institution in the nation's capital. It was founded in 1815 by a group of socially prominent and publicly minded ladies, including Dolley Madison, Marcia Burns Van Ness, and Margaret Bayard Smith, wife of the publisher of *The National Intelligencer*, to help address the dire needs of the city's expanding orphan population (albeit originally only for girls and always only for white children of European descent)* caused by the War of 1812 and the diseases that ran rampant in the city at that time. These women were reacting to the government's decision that orphans would be housed in the newly combined city poorhouse and workhouse; they felt that such an environment was not suitable for children and that the city needed a permanent home for its orphans, where they could be provided with a Christian upbringing and some schooling. Later, after the Orphan Asylum began accepting boys, originally brothers of girls already living at the Asylum, it also arranged for boys to learn a trade and girls to gain experience as domestic workers.

These women and their invited guests met for the first time in the barely-finished chamber of the House of Representatives in the Brick Capitol to discuss the founding of an institution for the relief and maintenance of orphans. From that meeting came the Asylum, with a First and Second Directresses and a Board of Lady Managers. Although the founders and their successors ran the day-to-day operations of the Asylum and raised funds for its maintenance they could not legally enter into certain real estate transaction or have rights relating to the surrender of children and by custom did not handle the Asylum's finances. These matters were undertaken and overseen by the all-male Board of Trustees. In the early year the Board of Lady Managers included the wives of many of the city's clergymen, including Mrs. John Brackenridge, wife of

*Many of the details about the early history and operation of the Orphan Asylum are found in Jamalin Rae Harp's MA thesis on the Orphan Asylum.

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the minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth B. Laurie, wife of another Presbyterian minister, the Reverend Dr. James Laurie, Elizabeth Riley Brown, wife of Baptist minister Obadiah Brown, and Wilhelmina Potts Hayley, wife of Episcopal minister Reverend William Hayley were also on the Board of Lady Managers.

Over the years the Directresses and Board of Lady Managers included members of the city's most prominent families, including along with the founders Mrs. Benjamin Ogle Taylor, Mrs. Matthew Emery, Mrs. Joseph Bradley (the last member of the Bradley family to live on the farm that would become the Chevy Chase Country Club), Mrs. Samuel Woodward, Mrs. William Flather, Mrs. James Wilkes, and Mrs. Horace Peaslee. Similarly, the Board of Managers included John P. Van Ness, Benjamin Ogle Taylor, William Corcoran, Senator Blair Lee, and James Wilkes, likely the same James Wilkes who handled twentieth century zoning and legal work for the First Covenant-First Presbyterian Church. They were of every political persuasion. Successive generations of families have been represented on both Boards.

Mrs. Brackenridge and two other Lady Directresses were charged with finding a suitable home for the Asylum. The first suitable home of the Asylum was a four-room frame house on 10th Street West near Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. It was rented for \$120 a year and provided housing for ten girls. Intent on finding a permanent home on March 16, 1816 the Lady Managers resolved to build such a home and made each Lady Manager responsible for a donation of \$25. Dolley Madison gave \$20 and a cow. Mrs. James Monroe, on declining the position of First Directress, gave \$50. Marcia Van Ness gave \$10.00 and a lot on H Street, NW on which the new home could be built. Builder Henry Smith was awarded the contract to construct the new home, deemed large enough to meet the Asylum's needs for some years to come. Construction began in October, 1816 and was complete in May, 1817, for the sum of \$700, allowing the Asylum to accept its first orphan and half-orphan (with one parent still living but unable to care for the child) girls. The Asylum outgrew its home by 1822. It moved to a house on 7th Street, NW between H and I Streets, NW until a larger home could be constructed.

Over the years the Asylum accepted monetary and a wide array of other donations that could support the care and feeding of the orphans. Gifts of cows, tin milk pans, wood, and clothes were all gratefully accepted. At Christmas, 1817 "Mrs. General Montgomery Meigs gave ... a bushel of potatoes, one turkey, onions, apples, raisins and cloves, as well as two pints of butter and twelve herring." In 1835 Captain James Riley brought back from Morocco a pair of Arabian horses and an African lion for President Jackson, who could not keep the animals. Mrs. Bomford, then First Directress, asked Jackson to give the animals to the Asylum to be auctioned for the benefit of the Asylum. What happened to the lion is unknown but the Asylum received \$150 for the pair of horses. Jackson and his nieces were frequent visitors to the Asylum, including one Christmas Eve, often bringing fruit, nuts, and candy. In 1849 the Asylum received \$1250, half the receipts from Zachary Taylor's Inaugural Ball.

During the years the Lady Directresses often found it difficult to find and keep qualified matrons to properly care for Asylum residents. On more than one occasion Lady Directresses, including

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Mrs. Brackenridge, moved into the Asylum to assume the job until someone suitable could be hired.

The Asylum was chartered by Congress on May 24, 1828 to "rescue from ignorance, idleness, and vice, destitute, unprotected and helpless children". Congress also donated \$10,000 and several city lots to the Asylum. Architect Charles Bulfinch designed the new orphanage, which was completed in 1829 and was home and school to countless orphans and needy children until after the Civil War.

The population explosion and devastation brought to Washington by the Civil War added greatly to the city's orphan and needy children population. The Bulfinch building was no longer large enough for the Asylum's needs. Trustee William Corcoran felt that in order to accommodate the Asylum's future needs it needed to move to a different part of the city, where more space was available. Toward that end, the H Street, NW building was sold to William Galt for \$25,000. He promptly sold the property to the Board of Trustees of the St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum. The Washington City Orphan Asylum moved to a large house on I Street, NW, near 2nd Street, NW. That house was part of a three-house row known as Douglas Row, built in 1857 by Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. One house in the row was seized during the Civil War for use as a Union hospital. Another was seized when its owner, John C. Breckinridge, became Vice-President of the Confederate States of America. The house next to the Asylum was occupied by General Ulysses S. Grant and his family. The I Street house was the Asylum's temporary home for the next nine years. By the beginning of the Civil War the Asylum had provided shelter, food, some education (academic and religious) and job training for hundreds of children.

The Asylum's next move was to a 55,350-square foot lot at the southeast corner of 14th and S Streets, NW, donated by William Corcoran. At that time that part of the city was still largely undeveloped. There were outlying cemeteries and a horse-drawn streetcar that ended at S Street. Construction on the new orphanage began in the summer of 1865 and progressed quickly. The Italianate building was three-stories tall with a four-story tower rising at the center of the façade.

In the spring of 1866 William Seward, Secretary of State, requested that the building be completed for use by his department, which occupied the building until November, 1875. The Asylum finally moved into its building in May, 1876. This large and up-to-date building served the Asylum for the next fifty years, accommodating children in the best, most forward thinking manner of the day. The property was sold in 1927 for approximately \$400,000 to James L. Karrick, of Security Fidelity Storage Company, who planned to fireproof the building and remodel its 14th Street frontage for stores and showrooms.

By 1920 it was clear to the Board of Lady Managers and the Board of Trustees that they could no longer best serve the needs of their charges at their existing building. Plans were made to bring the Asylum into the twentieth century, in a facility that again reflected the then-most-current thinking about the design of children's institutions. An anonymous \$225,000 donation from Edwin Gould, son of Jay Gould of New York, made the next move possible. The Asylum

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purchased a large piece of undeveloped land (approximately 13 acres) in rural upper Northwest, on Nebraska Avenue, NW. Gould was a benefactor of a number of children's institutions and later made a second large donation to the Asylum.

The Asylum was historically forward thinking in its attitudes toward and treatment of its charges (it largely abandoned corporal punishment early on in favor of demerits, shaming, and alienation for bad behavior and even rewards for good behavior). The leadership of the Asylum chose Appleton P. Clark, Jr., whose approach to designing children's homes was similarly forward thinking, to design its new facility. Clark was particularly interested in the design of children's institutions; he wrote about them and ultimately wrote *Institutional Homes For Children*, which was published in 1945. Clark firmly believed that buildings for the housing and care of children should not look at all institutional. Rather, they should look like houses and be of a domestic scale to which children could relate, clusters of small buildings, like children's villages. The Hillcrest Children's Center was one of several children's homes Clark designed along this model, including the Episcopal Home for Children at Nebraska and Utah Avenues, NW and the Baptist Home for Children in Bethesda, MD.

Clark's plan for the new Hillcrest Children's Village (the legal name remained Washington City Orphan's Asylum) included seven buildings, five cottages, an administration building with a chapel and gymnasium, and a superintendent's house. Horace Peaslee, another prominent architect who specialized in landscape design, developed the site plan for the project. Landscape architect Rose Greely developed the grading plan and the roads and pathways for the property. Access to the cottage with the laundry facility and infirmary and the garage was provided off Van Ness Street, NW, once Van Ness Street, NW was paved. A service road off Nebraska Avenue, NW provided access to the southern length of the large property. Greely's plan also included several playgrounds, and a central plaza with a flagpole. Construction of the Church obliterated most of what was built of Greely's plan; the Church stands on the location of the central plaza area and a playground and the woods and many paths through the site were eliminated for the parking lot.

Only part of Clark's planned village was constructed. Four cottages were built, as well as playgrounds, a roller skating ellipse, and at least some part of a plaza with a flagpole. A large portion of the site remained wooded. However, even in its unfinished state the complex functioned admirably. An article in the October 31, 1926 Washington Post called the Hillcrest Children's Center a "model village" that is a "noteworthy example of institutional architecture." Clark's fieldstone and stucco cottages were designed to look like houses found in residential neighborhoods in many parts of the city. There were three cottages for children (boys, girls, and infants) and one that housed the laundry, infirmary, a garage, and apartments for the engineer and superintendent. The children's cottages were named for benefactors, Marcia Burns Van Ness, Dolley Madison, and Edwin Gould. Each cottage had a housemother and an assistant housemother. Madison Cottage provided workshop space for the boys and space for the girls to do arts & crafts, needlework, and knitting. Children received small weekly allowances and were

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encouraged to visit friends and attend church on Sunday; Hillcrest worked to create an atmosphere as close to a normal family setting as possible.

By the 1960s the property and cottages no longer functioned for Hillcrest's changing mission. The property was sold to the NPC and Hillcrest moved to a new facility at 1325 W Street, NW, where its efforts went into providing daycare for "retarded and deprived" children. Hillcrest moved again, to 915 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, and became the Hillcrest Children and Family Center, a behavioral health care and social services agency providing behavioral health treatment and prevention and community and family support services that is still operating today.

National Presbyterian Church

The NPC's earliest history goes back to the late 18th century and the Scottish stone masons building the White House. Its efforts to become the national Presbyterian church go almost as far back. The path to the Church at the Nebraska Avenue, NW site began numerous times, involved several prominent architects, land swaps and four sites, and was not without opposition from within and without. Ultimately, the NPC settled on the Nebraska Avenue, NW former home of the Hillcrest Children's Center. The Hillcrest Cottages provided space for at least some of the NPC staff while the new Church was being constructed. Architect Harold E. Wagoner, perhaps the most influential Protestant ecclesiastical architect working at the time, was chosen to design the new church. He sited his Modern Gothic Church and bell tower between the Hillcrest cottages, creating a church compound and campus that has been the home of the NPC and Church for fifty years.

Although the NPC's history is interesting and important, it is for its architecture that the Church is most important. While the Church dominates its site and the historic district Wagoner clearly intended there to be a relationship between the Church and the Hillcrest Cottages. The closely-grouped collection of buildings within this historic district have existed together for fifty years. They are the physical representations of early Washington, DC history brought into the twentieth century and they make a significant contribution to the architectural heritage of the city.

Much has been written about the founding of the Presbyterian church in the District of Columbia and the group of Scottish stone masons who by tradition gathered in 1794 or 1795 to hold Presbyterian services in a carpenters' shed on what are now the grounds of the White House. As St. Andrew's, as the congregation became known, grew and moved we can generally trace where it worshipped. However, exact locations may never be identified with certainty.

While there were Presbyterian congregations in Maryland in the mid-18th century and in Georgetown by 1780 it was not until late in the 18th century that the first Presbyterian congregation came together in the District of Columbia. The first Presbyterian minister to hold services in the city was Reverend John Brackenridge, who had previously and possibly simultaneously served a Presbyterian church in Bladensburg, MD. Brackenridge was installed in

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a "church at the city of Washington" – where the Scottish stone masons worshipped – sometime in 1795. His congregation became known as St. Andrew's and it worshipped successively in a farmhouse at 10th and G Streets, NW, a schoolhouse at 10th and F Streets, NW or near the Navy Yard, and then in the Supreme Court room in the Capitol. In 1804 and 1805 Brackenridge was holding services at Stella's Hotel on Capitol Hill. That congregation was the beginning of what would become the First Presbyterian Church, which was formally organized in 1811. The following year the First Presbyterian Church purchased a lot at the corner of South Capitol and B Streets and on June of that year the first services were held in the new structure. James Madison, James Monroe, John Brackenridge, and 119 others had contributed funds for the building of the church. The church survived the War of 1812 and thrived. In May, 1818 Brackenridge resigned from First Presbyterian Church. He served as Chaplain of the United States Senate from 1811-1814 and as Chaplain to the United States House of Representatives in 1822 and 1823. In October, 1823 the Presbytery of the District of Columbia was formed. John Brackenridge was the first moderator, elected in 1824. Brackenridge was educated at Dickinson College. He appears to have been a man of some means and, unusual for the clergy, had business interests in the city and elsewhere. His wife was a Lady Directress of the Washington City Orphan Asylum.

On April 10, 1827 the cornerstone was laid for the First Presbyterian Church, an impressive building on what is now John Marshall Place. Within three years the congregation had grown to 215 members, including President Andrew Jackson. By 1836 the church had active outreach programs and had established a Sunday school for "people of color", who were also admitted to church membership during this time.

In 1853 Dr. Bryan Sunderland was installed as senior pastor, a position he held for 53 years. The years of Sunderland's tenure marked the high point in the church's history. Sunderland was a friend and supporter of Abraham Lincoln and an opponent of slavery, a position not necessarily popular in what was essentially a southern town. Frederick Douglass delivered, from the pulpit, a speech on the life and death of Abraham Lincoln in 1866. First Presbyterian was the only white church in the city open to Douglas. In 1926 the church celebrated its 100 years and also bought property on Massachusetts Avenue, NW at 30th Street, where it built a new chapel in 1927. In 1929 the federal government bought the First Presbyterian Church building for \$125,000. The final communion was held in the church in June, 1930, the same month that the First Presbyterian Church and the Church of the Covenant were combined to form the Covenant-First Presbyterian Church, which held its services at the Romanesque Revival church at 18th and N Streets, NW.

In 1883 calls came for a new Presbyterian church to be located in Northwest Washington, farther northwest in more recently developed areas than the older downtown churches. In May of that year a group pledged \$18,000 for the purchase of a lot at the southeast corner of 18th and N Streets, NW and the Church of the Covenant was formed. Two years later the church was formally organized and two years after that, on June 28, 1887 the cornerstone was laid for its Romanesque Revival church with its very tall tower, which famously collapsed on August 22,

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1888. The tower was rebuilt and the first services were held in the sanctuary on September 25, 1889 and the church was dedicated on January 6, 1901, after all debts were paid in full.

The call for a national Presbyterian church in the nation's capital began in 1803 with an overture to the Presbyterian General Assembly for such a church. However, it took more than another century for the first serious push to form a national Presbyterian church in Washington, DC to occur, led by Reverend Charles Wood, the pastor at Covenant-First Presbyterian Church. In 1923, the General Assembly, at its meeting in Indianapolis, appointed a commission to study the feasibility of establishing a national church in Washington. In 1924 the General Assembly approved the formation of a National Capital Commission with the purpose of developing a National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC.

This Commission raised funds and got as far as locating a suitable site for this national church and hiring an architect to design the complex. Nationally known and important Ralph Adams Cram was hired to design a major church complex to be located on Calvert Street, NW, west of Connecticut Avenue, NW, on the future site of the Shoreham Hotel. Cram designed a cathedral-sized church and related lesser buildings in the Spanish Gothic style. They would have been an impressive site from anywhere but particularly from the south coming up Connecticut Avenue, NW and from within Rock Creek Park. Insufficient fund raising combined with the Depression caused the demise of this effort for a national Presbyterian church in the city.

On March 10, 1947 the Presbytery of Washington approved the change of name and transfer of titles from Covenant-First Presbyterian Church to National Presbyterian Church. As early as 1951 the General Assembly authorized the creation of a Sponsor's Committee for the purpose of raising funds for a new national Presbyterian church. In 1953, ten days after his inauguration, President Dwight Eisenhower was baptized in the Covenant-First Presbyterian Church chapel by The Reverend Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, who had served under Eisenhower during World War II as an Army chaplain. In 1961 the General Assembly for the first time referred to Covenant-First Presbyterian Church as the NPC, the center of Presbyterianism in the United States. In 1959 the Church purchased a 16 1/2 acre site at 4300 Massachusetts Avenue, NW for the new national church complex. During the early 1960's, with the endorsement of President Eisenhower and assistance from Henry Luce, Jimmy Stewart, and many others outside Washington, there was a major effort to raise money for the construction of new national Presbyterian church. Many property sales and land swap later, the Nebraska Avenue, NW site became the new home of what was to be the NPC.

Along the way the church hired Edward Durell Stone to design the new church complex at the Massachusetts Avenue site. Stone's rather fantastical Mid-Century design was too big for the site, exorbitantly and prohibitively expensive, and was ultimately rejected. In 1963 the NPC turned to Harold E. Wagoner, commissioning him to design a church for the Massachusetts Avenue site. Finances ultimately led the NPC to the smaller site at Nebraska Avenue, NW, which it purchased with the proceeds of the sale of the Massachusetts Avenue, NW property with significant funds left over to put toward the construction of the new Church. In 1964 Wagoner

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began new design studies for the Church at the new site. Plans were approved the following year and the groundbreaking for the new church was celebrated on May 22, 1966. The cornerstone was laid on October 14, 1967 and the Church's first services were held in 1969. Wagoner's plan for the new complex incorporated the four Cottages on the site into the NPC and Church program and campus while at the same time creating a monumental Church clearly frontally focused toward Nebraska Avenue, NW.

Wagoner's soaring Modern Gothic design for the Church and its bell tower befitted a national church and was commensurate in its size and presence with the other national churches in Washington, excepting perhaps the National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Wagoner's design was not universally praised at the time. However, with the increased attention being paid to mid-twentieth century church design, and Wagoner's church designs in particular, one can now better appreciate the strength and quality of Wagoner's design scheme. The design, which both references the Church's past and looks forward to the future, is one of Wagoner's finest. It is certainly one of, if not the most important Mid-Century church in Washington.

Architects

Appleton P. Clark, Jr.

Appleton P. Clark, Jr., who designed the four Hillcrest Cottages, was one of Washington's most significant, influential, and prolific late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architects. Clark was born in Washington on November 13, 1865. He attended District of Columbia public schools and graduated with honorable distinction from Central High School in 1883. Clark showed an early talent for drawings and writing. He won a gold medal for original design in a special drawing class. He also won a gold medal for an essay he wrote for a competition sponsored by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. After graduation he remained at Central High School, serving as the librarian. He later married his assistant, Florence Perry, in 1891. The couple lived at 241 Delaware Avenue, NE until the property was purchased by the federal government for the construction of the Senate Office Building. The Clarks moved to the 1700 Block of Lanier Place, NW, where they lived the rest of their lives.

As was typical of the time, most of Clark's architectural education was self-acquired through independent study and European travel. He served an apprenticeship with Alfred B. Mullet in the early 1880s and opened his own architectural office in January, 1886. He practiced for more than fifty years. Early in his practice Clark entered a competition held by the city of New York for the design of a municipal building. He won the \$2000 prize over a field of nationally-known competitors. Clark designed buildings of every type and he designed buildings in all quadrants of the city. His residential buildings ranged from blocks of low-cost houses for the Washington Sanitary Improvement Company to garden apartments to significant single-family houses and

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luxurious apartment buildings. His non-residential buildings included office buildings, banks, warehouses, automobile showrooms, churches, and children's institutions. Although Clark designed buildings outside Washington, such as the Carnegie Library in Fairfield, Iowa and the Mary Washington Lodge in Fredericksburg, Virginia, it is for the hundreds of buildings he designed in Washington, DC that he was most important. His buildings, individually and collectively, are an important component of the city's late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architectural heritage.

Clark's interest in architecture went beyond his own practice; he believed that architecture was a path to civic betterment and worked toward that end throughout his career. He became a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1916. He was active in that organization on both the local and national level for many years, serving as president of the local chapter and on numerous national committees. He was a Fellow of the AIA. Clark was active in the Board of Trade for over half a century, serving for many years as the head of the Municipal Arts Committee and instituting architectural awards for design excellence. He was the chairman of the committee that reviewed and reported to the District of Columbia authorities and Congress on the state of the city's public schools. He also participated in efforts to review and revise the city's building and zoning codes. Clark wrote about the city's architecture, contributing "The History of Architecture in Washington" to John Proctor's *Washington Past and Present; a History*, published in 1903.

Clark wrote extensively about other aspects of design and architecture. His *Institutional Homes for Children* was the culmination of a career-long interest in the design of children's institutions (of which he designed a number), in which he promoted the benefits of "cottage-type" institutions over more traditional single-structure institutions. According to Clark's Washington Post obituary of March 27, 1955, this book was written to "... encourage other architects to build better children's institutions."

Clark was also a pioneer in the provision of low-cost housing in Washington. For more than fifty years he was the president of the Washington Sanitary Housing Company, which sponsored low-cost housing throughout the city. He was also a director of the Washington Sanitary Improvement Company. These organizations were responsible for blocks and blocks of modest, low-cost, architect-designed rowhouses and flats throughout the city. Indeed, in some areas these rowhouses and flats defined the character of entire neighborhoods.

Clark was active in other civic organizations and business enterprises. He was a member of: the Chamber of Commerce; the Board of Directors of the Washington Hotel Company, serving a chairman at the time of his death; the Equitable Life Insurance Company; Citizen's Savings Bank; and that Terminal Refrigerating and Warehouse Company, for which he designed an impressive building at 300 D Street, SW, in 1923.

Clark's earliest known buildings – flats at 2620 K Street, NW and a store and offices at 1222-1224 Connecticut Avenue, NW — date from 1892. Important early commissions include: The

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Washington Post buildings(1893) at 1337 E Street, NW; the House and Herman Furniture store (1895) at 901-903 7th Street, NW; and a number of schools, including Ellington (1897), Wheatley (1902-03) and John Eaton (1910). Among his buildings listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites are: the semi-detached Colonial Revival houses at 1644-1666 Park Road, NW; the Victor Building (1909 and the 1911 addition) at 724-726 9th Street, NW; the Homer Building (1914) at 601 13th Street, NW; the Second National Bank (1927-28) at 1331-1333 G Street, NW; the Terminal Refrigerating and Warehouse Company (1923) at 300 D Street, SW; the Denrike Building (1925-26) at 1041 Vermont Avenue, NW; and the Owl's Nest (1897) at 3031 Gates Road, NW.

Clark's other important buildings include: Foundry Methodist Church (1903-04), the Jewish Community Center (1910), and the Roosevelt Hotel (1919), all contributing buildings in the Sixteenth Street Historic District; Columbia Title and Real Estate Insurance Company (1924) at 503 E Street, NW, and a Jelleff's store (1939) at 1214-16 F Street, NW.

Harold E. Wagoner

Harold E. Wagoner, who designed the National Presbyterian Church, was perhaps the most important and prolific architect practicing during the middle half of the twentieth century whose practice focused solely on Protestant religious buildings. His churches, over 500 in 36 states, were a major component of this country's post-World War II church building boom. Wagoner was born February 27, 1905 in Pittsburgh, PA. He graduated from Sharon High School and, in 1926, the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon University), with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. After graduation he went to work as a draftsman for the Methodist Bureau of Architecture, one of the many denomination-based organizations that existed at that time for the purpose of elevating church architecture and assisting churches and synagogues with the design, development, and construction of their buildings. From 1929 to 1933 he was a junior partner at Sundt & Wenner in Philadelphia. Wagoner went to France to study at the Ecole Americaine des Beaux-Arts in Fontainebleau. He returned to Philadelphia and from 1936 to 1939 was a draftsman for Thomas & Martin and then from 1940-1941 chief draftsman at Wenner & Chance. From 1942 to 1944 he served as the Chief of the Camouflage Unit of the Army. Wagoner taught at Drexel Institute of Technology for over 20 years. He was a life-long Presbyterian, lived for some time in Berwyn, PA, and attended church in Wayne, PA. He died April 23, 1986.

In 1944 Wagoner formed Thomas & Wagoner with Walter Thomas, for whom he previously worked. In 1948, after Thomas's death, he formed Wagoner and Associates, which continued into the 1980s. He was succeeded in this firm by long-time associate Henry Jung. Wagoner was active in architectural organizations, particularly those related to church architecture, throughout his career. He became a member of the AIA in 1945 and a Fellow in 1968. He was on the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia chapter of the AIA and was second vice president in 1959-1961, the vice president in 1961-1962, and president in 1962-1963. Wagoner was licensed to practice

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in at least 27 states and the District of Columbia. He was almost continuously on the Board of the Church Architectural Guild of America, now the Guild for Religious Architecture, for twenty years and served as its president. He was an officer of the Lutheran Society for Worship, Music, and the Arts and a member of the Department of Building and Architecture of the National Council of Churches. He received the Award of Merit from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1948. He wrote for various publications on religious architecture, his projects were widely published in architectural and construction-related magazines and journals (and even in *America Magazine*, printed in Russian by the Department of State). He lectured often, from the T Square Club in Philadelphia, to the Council of Churches in Hawaii, Iowa, and Texas, to the Pan Hellenic Society. His firm dominated architectural awards for church design throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

Although Wagoner's commissions ranged from modest churches for small congregations of modest means to large and significant designs for a national church, most were for wealthier congregations seeking statement designs. Regardless of the size of a commission Wagner was known to be responsive to his clients and always provide "good architecture". Vincent Kling, in his support for Wagoner's elevation to AIA Fellowship, described Wagoner's work:

No two buildings are alike which, in my opinion, is a great asset. He has always been able to select the architectural mood which is most suited to the environment of the community in which he works. When the site and sponsorship suggested a very dramatic building, Mr. Wagoner has risen to the occasion and produced good architecture. On the other hand, when the established community and its sponsorship suggested a modest building in character with the neighborhood, Mr. Wagoner again was sensitive to the situation and produced good architecture.

Unlike some prominent architects working at the time, who tolerated no thought or interference from any client, Wagoner listened to and worked with his clients to achieve a satisfactory design result. His designs spanned the gamut of architectural styles popular in the twentieth century, from modest and grander Colonial Revival to Modern Gothic to very contemporary designs executed in glass, steel, and concrete. Consequently, there is no identifiable Wagoner style. This perhaps accounts for his relative lack of notice in contemporary architectural press. He was not a big-name architect of the time, such as the Saarinens, father and son, Pietro Belluschi, and Felix Candela, all of whom designed churches. The churches designed by those architects were capital A Architecture first and churches second. They were examples of high-style architectural philosophies, designed for clients who were looking for architectural statements, rather than the well-designed churches conceived with their congregations in mind that Wagoner's office produced. Nonetheless, no architect of ecclesiastical buildings had more impact on his field than Wagoner. The sheer number and geographical distribution of his churches, the quality of his designs, and his influence on church design over many decades elevate Harold Wagoner to a master in his field.

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Wagoner first received praise for his First Presbyterian Church in Vero Beach, FL and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Savannah, SC. Among his most notable works, in addition to National Presbyterian Church, are: Community Methodist Church, Westwood, Los Angeles, which won a First Award for Large Churches, 1951, from the Church Architectural Guild of America; First Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach, FL, which won a First Award for Small Churches, 1958, from the Guild for Religious Architecture; Cathedral of the Rockies (1960) in Boise, ID; First Presbyterian Church, Avenel, NJ, which won a 1965 Honor Award from the Pennsylvania Society of Architects; and the rather extraordinary Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church on Coral Ridge, FL, dedicated in 1974. In addition to the National Presbyterian Church Wagoner designed two other churches in Washington, DC, the traditional Gothic First Baptist Church (1955) at 1328 16th Street, NW and the Modern Westminster Presbyterian Church (1964-65) at 400 I Street, SW.

Boris V. Timchenko

Boris V. Timchenko, the landscape architect who worked with Harold Wagoner on the Church, was a well-known landscape designer in Washington in the middle years of the twentieth century. He was born in either Tambov or Lipezk, Russia, on October 1, 1889. He studied at the Russian State Gymnasium prior to the Russian Revolution and served as a cavalry lieutenant in the White Army during the Revolution; he fled to Constantinople in 1920 after the White Army's defeat by Communist forces and arrived in France two years later. He studied agriculture and landscape design at the Ecole National D'Agriculture du Grignon from 1924-26. His ambition was to become a farmer but limited prospects and responsibility for supporting his father and ailing sister prompted him to emigrate to the United States; he sailed into New York City on the SS George Washington on July 3, 1926 and made his way to Washington. Timchenko became a naturalized citizen on January 1, 1932. He was a prominent member of the city's White Russian community and a founder and active member of St. Nicholas' Russian Orthodox Church, as well as a member of the University Club and the Landscape Architects Club and for 18 years the landscape architect for the National Capital Flower and Garden Show, a position he resigned in 1968 due to commercialization of the show. He died on December 24, 1975 and was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery.

Beginning in 1929 and continuing at least through 1942 Timchenko was employed as a manager in the landscape department and as a landscape architect at A. Gude and Sons Co., a large Washington area nursery and wholesale flower grower. His office was for many years at 1318 I Street, NW. In 1942 his salary was \$4120. He also established his own firm in 1938. Among his residential projects were: gardens for the Auchincloss family at Hammersmith Farm, Newport, RI; Jackie Kennedy's garden at the Georgetown house in which the Kennedys lived when Jack Kennedy was in the Senate; gardens at President and Mrs. Eisenhower's farm near Gettysburg, PA; and gardens at Farmer's Delight, the 1791 house in Loudoun County, VA, then owned by George McGhee. He also designed gardens for John Foster Dulles and Mr. and Mrs. John Warner.

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His commercial projects included landscaping for: the Tompkins Building at the George Washington University; the North Chevy Chase Christian Church; the Lord and Taylor's store at Seven Corners in Fairfax, VA; the National Geographic Membership Operations Building in Gaithersburg, MD; the Washington Mosque; and Wesley Theological Seminary. He worked on the 1967 restoration of the gardens at Gadsby's Tavern. His landscape plans for the Equitable Life Insurance Company headquarters at 3900 Wisconsin Avenue, NW were cited as one of the top ten industrial landscape projects of 1959 by the American Association of Nurserymen. The same organization gave him an award in 1965 for the landscape design for the Washington Hilton Hotel. The First Lady's Committee for a More Beautiful National Capital also presented Timchenko an award for his garden atop the Shoreham Hotel's Regency Ballroom. Timchenko's most notable project is probably the landscape plan for the Watergate complex at 2500, 2600, and 2650 Virginia Avenues, NW and 600 and 700 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, designed by Italian architect Luigi Moretti and completed in 1971.

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Hillcrest/National Presbyterian Church Historic District

County and State

8. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See attached sheets.

Previous documentation on file (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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 7.65 acres, per attached plat

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number ____ Page ____

9. Bibliography (Selected)

Bryan, Wilhelmus Bogart. "The Beginnings of the Presbyterian Church in the District of Columbia" (read before the Columbia Historical Society, Washington's DC, April 11, 1904.

Clark, Appleton P., Jr. *Institutional Homes for Children*. New York; William Hepburn, Inc., 1945.

Goode, James M. *Capital Losses; a Cultural History of Washington's Destroyed Buildings*. Washington, DC; Smithsonian Institution, 2003.

Lawson, Joanne Seale. "Remarkable Foundations: Rose Ishbel Greeley, Landscape Architect." *Washington History*, Vol. 10 Number 1 Spring/Summer 1998.

McCartney, Albert Joseph. "The National Presbyterian Church and its Heritage in Washington." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, DC, 1960-1962, 1963.*

Price, Jay M. *Temples for a Modern God; Religious Architecture in Postwar America*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013.

Scott, Pamela and Antoinette J. Lee. *Buildings of the District of Columbia*. New York; Oxford University Press, 1993.

Sefton, Peter. *Midcentury Modern Churches of Southwest Washington*. Washington, DC; Southwest Neighborhood Association, 2015.

Stone, Hicks. *Edward Durrell Stone; A Son's Untold Story of a Legendary Architect*. New York; Rizzoli, 2011.

Williams, Paul Kelsey. *Tenleytown Historic Resource Survey*, for DC Historic Preservation Office and office of Planning, 2003.

Baist's Real Estate Atlases for Washington, DC, Vol. 3, Plate 31; 1907, 1911, 1915, 1919, 1925, 1931, 1937, 1945, 1954, 1960

National Presbyterian Church Archives:

Construction photographs, many taken by Nicholas Penovic

Correspondence relating to construction of National Presbyterian Church

Hillcrest, A Children's Village, pamphlet published by the Washington City Orphan's Asylum

Minutes of the Board to Trustees, National Presbyterian Church

Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

100 Years at the Old Stand, 1826-1926, published by Old First Presbyterian Church

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Forms:

1644-1666 Park Road, NW

Second National Bank

Tenleytown in Washington, DC: Architectural and Historic Resources, 1770-1941

Van Ness Mausoleum

Watergate

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Presbyterian Church Publications:

Facets of Faith: Seeing the Light Through the Windows of the National Presbyterian Church, 2016
For a National Presbyterian Church (promotional brochure), 1927
Seeing the Light: A Guide to the Windows of the National Presbyterian Church
The National Presbyterian Church and Center, 1970
The National Presbyterian Church: The First 200 Years 1795-1995

Newspapers:

The Evening Star:

May 5, 1930, A12
November 30, 1960, C14
October 12, 1967, B1

The Sunday Star, Magazine Section, November 27, 1927

The Washington Daily News, November 25, 1927

The Washington Post:

November 25, 1927
April 11, 1931
October 10, 1947
May 9, 1970

The Washington Star:

November 25, 1927
November 26, 1927
October 6, 1940
September 26, 1965

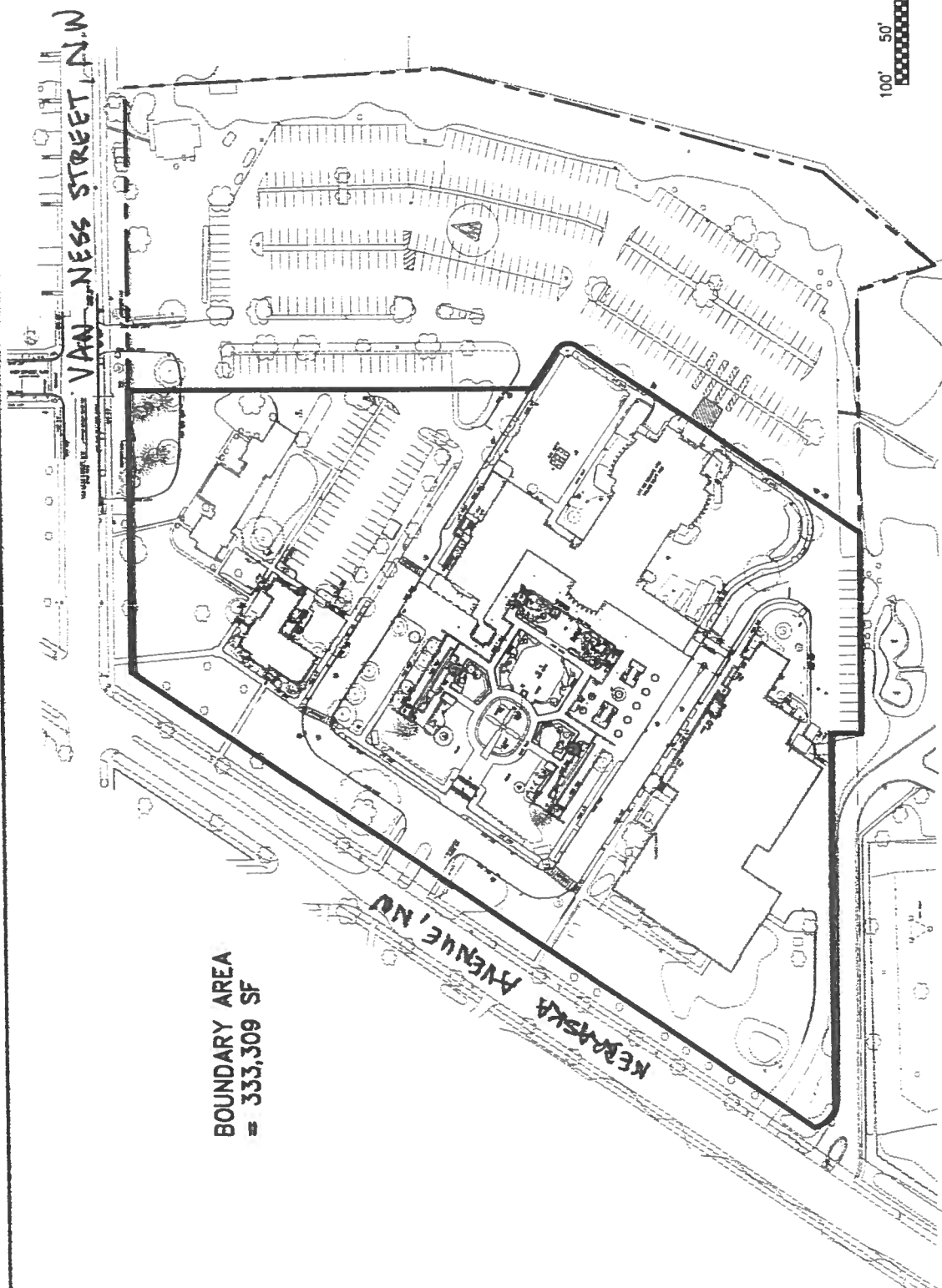
Unpublished Sources:

Applications for DC Permits to Build, National Archives

Harp, Jamalin Rae – The Capital's Children; the story of the Washington City Orphan Asylum, 1815- 1860, Master's Thesis, Department of History, Texas Christian University, 2012

Boris Timchenko - Application, Office of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy, June 4, 1942

Harold E. Wagoner - Applications for Membership and Fellowship, American Institute of Architects



BOUNDARY AREA
= 333,309 SF

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4101 NEBRASKA AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Drawing Title: HILLCREST/NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORIC DISTRICT | | Exhibit |
| Wiles Mensch Corporation | | WMC Project No. |
| 11860 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 200, Reston VA 20191 703-391-7600 Fax 703-284-0595 | | Date: 08/02/2019 |
| | | Scale: 1" = 100' |

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The north, south, and west boundary of the Hillcrest-National Presbyterian Church Historic District runs along the corresponding edges of Lot 805 in Square 1724. The east boundary of the historic district runs along what would have been the west edge of 41st Street, NW had it continued south of Van Ness Street, NW, to the green space at the northeast corner of the Church and then south behind the Church to the south lot line, as per attached plat.

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Hillcrest-National Presbyterian Church Historic District includes all the land and buildings in Square 1724 that contribute to the significance of the historic district. The boundary includes the four original Hillcrest Children's Center cottages and the Church and excludes the large parking lot to the east that contributes nothing to the significance or character of the historic district and a frame house that is both physically and visually removed from the historic district and architecturally unrelated to the buildings in the historic district.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anne H. Adams, Architectural Historian

organization: A. Adams & Co.

street & number: 4800 Hampden Lane, Suite 200

city or town: Bethesda state: MD zip code: 20814

e-mail: andi.adams@adamsahhp.com

telephone: 202 577-7978

date: July 31, 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

See attached sheets.

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

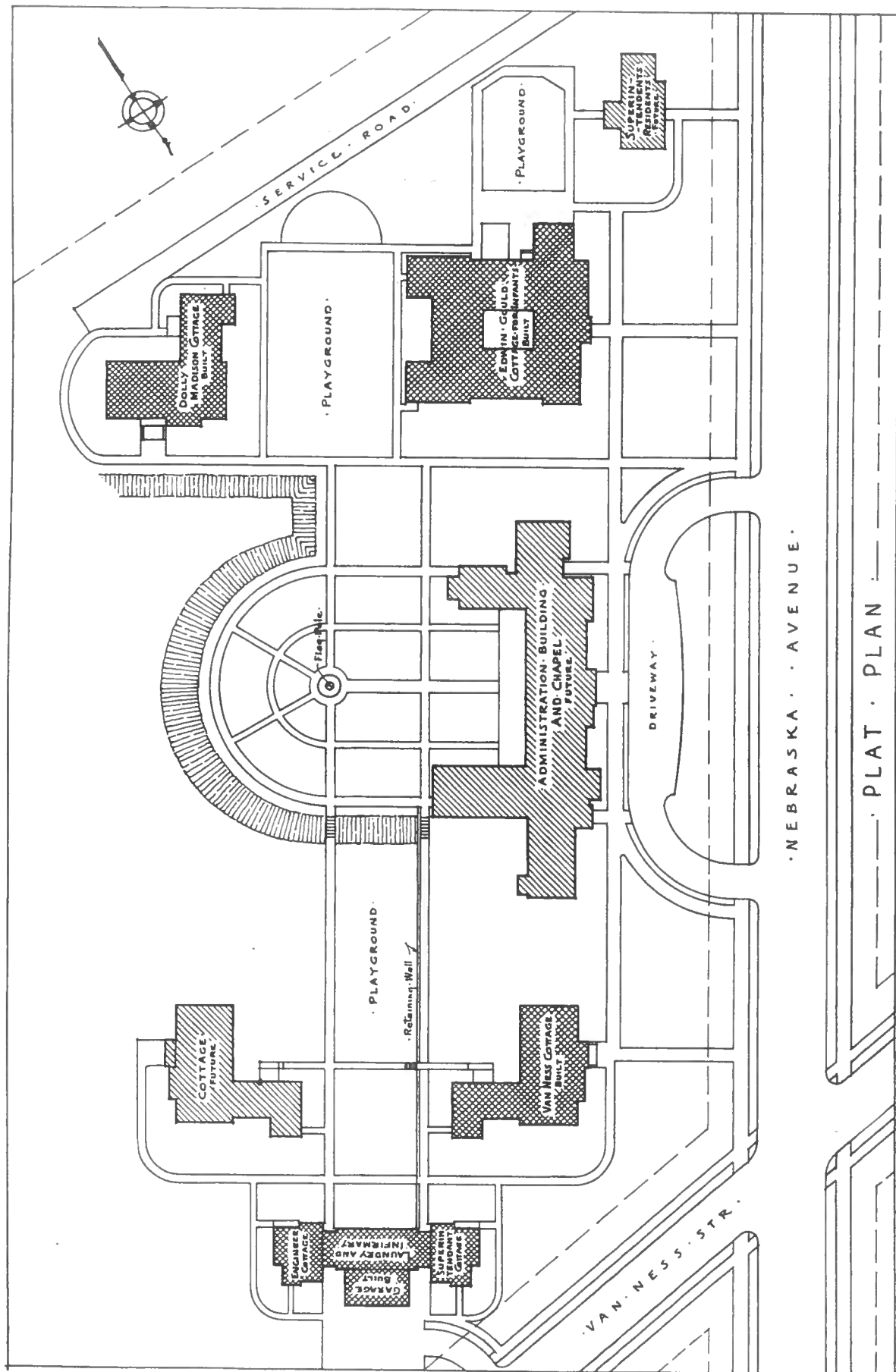
Section number Page 1

Photo Log – List of Images

1. Appleton Clark plan for Hillcrest Children's Village, from *Institutional Homes for Children*

Photo Key – all photographs taken by Anne H. Adams, June and August, 2019

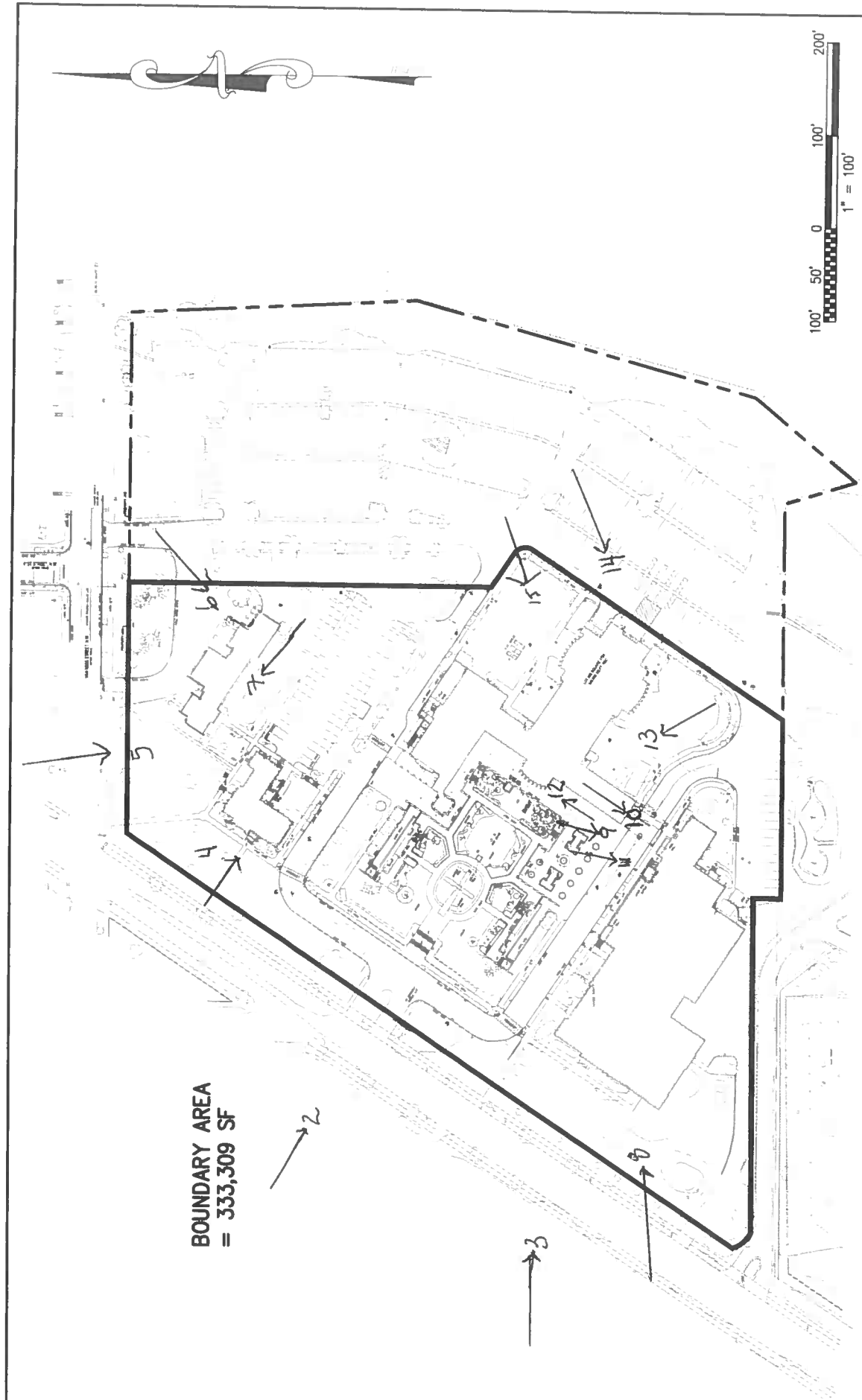
2. View of Church from across Nebraska Avenue, NW
3. Looking toward Church from southwest across Nebraska Avenue, NW
4. Agencies Building, west elevation
5. Multi-Purpose Building, looking southeast
6. East end of Multi-Purpose Building, looking south toward bell tower
7. Addition on east end of Multi-Purpose Building, looking northwest
8. West façade of School from Nebraska Avenue, NW
9. Church arcade and porte cochere and Administration Building
10. Entrance of Administration Building from Church porte cochere
11. Leader box on Administration Building
12. Front of Church, looking northeast
13. South side of Church, looking northwest
14. Rear elevation of Church from parking lot, looking southwest
15. North side of Church and bell tower, looking southwest



HORACE W. PEASLEE, Consultant, Buildings and Grounds
MISS ROSE GIBBELEY, Landscape Architect

PLOT PLAN—HILLCREST, "A CHILDREN'S VILLAGE," WASHINGTON, D. C.

A. P. CLARK, JR., Architect



NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4101 NEBRASKA AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

Drawing Title: HILLCREST/NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORIC DISTRICT

Wiles Mensch Corporation

11860 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 200, Reston VA 20191 703-391-7600 Fax 703-264-0595

Exhibit
WMIC Project No.

Date: 08/02/2019

Scale: 1" = 100'

Photo Key



