

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:	United States Marine Barracks
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
Eighth and I Streets, S.E.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Washington (Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, District of Columbia)			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	11	District of Columbia	001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:		
United States of America		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:		
Recorder of Deeds		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
6th and D Streets, N.W.		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Washington	District of Columbia	11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
National Capital Planning Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1325 G Street, N.W.			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Washington	District of Columbia	11	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Marine Barracks post in Southeast Washington occupies the rectangular site (248' wide x 629' long) of Square 927 which is bounded by G Street on the north, I Street on the south, Eighth Street on the west and Ninth Street on the east. Its buildings--a range of barracks, a band hall, officers' quarters, and the Commandant's House--form a quadrangle and enclose a rectangular parade ground approximately 160' wide and 385' long. With the exception of the Commandant's House, all of the buildings at the Marine Barracks face onto the parade ground.

The original post consisted of the Commandant's House on the north and a range of barracks on the west, Eighth Street side of the parade ground. Designed by George Hadfield, the barracks were finished in 1802. Hadfield's plans called for a two-story pedimented "Center House" in the middle of a one-story range of barracks built behind an arcade. The "Center House," which was destroyed by fire in 1829, was replaced by another building. The new structure was basically a standard three-bay townhouse of the period, with shuttered windows on the first two stories and dormer windows projecting from a gabled roof.

During the nineteenth century as the number of men attached to the barracks increased, additional facilities were provided. No photographs or plans have been found which would give an idea of the architectural character of these buildings or locate them precisely. From correspondence and other sources, it is known that a burial ground existed along the south side of the parade ground from 1816 to at least 1836. In 1834 a hospital was built somewhere around the southwest side of the post, and a shooting gallery and band building were erected between 1850 and 1900. The Boschke Map of 1857 and the Enthoffer Map of 1872 show the outline of buildings at the Marine Barracks but do not identify their function.

As far back as 1866 Commandant Jacob Zeilin complained in his annual report of the inadequacy of the facilities: "But in addition to these original defects (bad ventilation, rotting wood, etc.) in the design of the buildings, they have become, from long and constant use, in such a dilapidated condition as no longer to be habitable without more extensive repairs." These complaints went unheeded until 1902 when a sanitary commission recommended that the buildings be replaced. The barracks, the "Center House" and all of the mid-nineteenth century structures were subsequently demolished. Only the Commandant's House still stands from the original post.

Hornblower and Marshall, who had already carried out several military commissions and were at the height of their careers, were selected as the architects for the new Marine Barracks. In redesigning the Marine Barracks in 1902, Hornblower and Marshall located the barrack building on the east and the band hall on the south. They probably designed the officers' quarters on the west, although no evidence has been found to corroborate the attribution.

Because they were redesigning almost the entire post, the architects had the opportunity to give the Marine Barracks a unity rarely found in military installations. All of the Hornblower and Marshall buildings on the present post are built of very similar glazed brick. In spite of individual differences, both the band hall and the barracks had an arcaded loggia on the ground floor which runs the entire length of the south and east side of the parade ground. Both of these buildings also have a uniform limestone string course running the length of the facade at the level of the second floor window sills. Cornice and roof heights throughout the post are very similar.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1801: Year Established

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☒ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the entire Marine Barracks site a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Individual buildings at the Barracks which have also been designated Category II Landmarks are the Commandant's House and the barracks buildings themselves. Established in 1801 on a site selected by Thomas Jefferson, the Marine Barracks is the oldest Marine Corps Post in the nation. It has been the home of the Marine Band since 1801 and the residence of the Commandant since 1805. Many historical figures are associated with the Barracks including Commodore Joshua Barney, Rear Admiral Raphael Semmes, General Archibald Henderson, and John Philip Sousa. The Commandant's House is a noteworthy example of Federal-style architecture. Entirely confined within a single city block surrounded by the residential community of Capitol Hill, this small quadrangle retains much of the quality of an early 19th century military post.

The Continental Marines were established by Congress on November 10, 1775. They were active at sea, including amphibious raids and shipboard service under John Paul Jones and others, and with Washington's army, notably at Princeton. Deactivated after the Revolutionary War, the Corps was dormant until 1798 when it was recreated with William Ward Burrows as Commandant. The Marines were based in Philadelphia until the removal of the seat of government to Washington. By July of 1800 the first detachment of Marines had pitched camp in the new Capital in the area where the old Naval Observatory now stands. Burrows urged the Secretary of the Navy to secure appropriations from the Congress for a permanent Marine Barracks, and by March of 1801 the sum of \$20,000 was approved.

In a letter dated March 31, 1801, to Captain Franklin Wharton of Philadelphia, Burrows noted: "...I have been out all this morning engaged in riding with the President (Thomas Jefferson) looking for a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on. It is not yet absolutely determined, but I have no doubt it will be fixed near the Navy Yard...." The site chosen, square 927, was only three blocks from the Navy Yard within easy marching distance of the Capitol and White House, thereby facilitating the Marines' function of providing special security protection to federal buildings. Half of the lots on this square were owned by William Prout, one of the original proprietors of Washington. Prout agreed to exchange these lots for others elsewhere in the city, and the commissioners were then able to sell the entire square to the United States for \$6,247 on June 9, 1801.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

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7. Description - Marine Barracks

The band hall which extends across almost the entire south side of the post is a simple 2-1/2 story brick building (approximately 200' long and 60' deep) with the ground story recessed behind an arcaded loggia. The twenty-double-hung windows of the second story are joined at the sill level by a limestone string course running the length of the facade. A hipped roof pierced by eight small dormer windows covers the hall.

The barracks building, which extends along almost the entire east side of the quadrangle (approximately 490' long and 40' deep), with its arcaded loggia, string course and hipped roof, is basically identical in design to the band hall. Its greater expanse is interrupted at three points, however, by pavilions which project slightly beyond the principal facade and rise above the roof of the rest of the barracks. The central pavilion, which is the largest of the three, is fortress-like in character. This 3-1/2 story brick tower reminiscent of a Moorish citadel has round-headed double-hung windows on the second story, and double-hung windows with flat limestone lintels on the third story. The small attic story windows are set in openings between the machicolated brick cornice which supports a crenellated limestone parapet. The two side pavilions, which nearly bisect the range of barracks flanking either side of the central pavilion, have similar machicolated brick cornices but carry overhanging pyramidal roofs.

Along Eighth Street between G and I are five houses of almost identical design. These also were probably designed by Hornblower and Marshall. Though not typical of the sort of residential architecture they produced for private clients, the severity of these designs is in keeping with the military character of the rest of the post. Three houses are quarters for senior general officers; one is the quarters of the commanding officer, Marine Barracks; and the last is the Center House Mess and bachelor officers' quarters. Each is built on a square plan and each has almost the same dimensions. Access to the structures is from the parade ground side. Each ground story is taken up by an entrance porch. The second story is three bays wide with plain sash windows and limestone lintels. Four of the houses have pyramidal roofs pierced by two dormer windows on the front and back, while the house closest to the Commandant's has a hipped roof with three dormers on either side.

At the north end of the quadrangle, the Commandant's House, with its contiguous bow rooms dramatically reflected in the striking appearance of the rear facade, is a remarkable piece of early Federal design. It was enlarged and altered several times during the nineteenth century, but the original symmetrical conception remains the nucleus of these additions. The house is a 2-1/2 story brick structure with a mansard roof. Its front facade has an arched entranceway and double-hung sash windows on both the first and the second story. Elaborate dormer windows project from the mansard roof. The rear facade, overlooking the parade grounds, is largely taken up by a porch which obscures the outlines of the building on the ground story, but brings the house closer to the parade grounds by projecting southward 12 feet. The private garden at the rear and sides of the Commandant's House is separated from the parade grounds by an iron fence and a privet hedge. Rhododendrons and azaleas arranged in beds around magnolia, hawthorne and maple trees border on a large lawn. A

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7. Description - Marine Barracks cont.

small patio at the northwestern edge of the square is concealed from the street by a high wall at the corner of Eighth and G Streets.

The parade ground, which occupies the entire center of the site and is the scene of the Evening Parades, is a large expanse of lawn landscaped along its eastern and western sides by numerous maple and oak trees planted in a row. It has a cement-paved troop walk running parallel to the barrack building along its east side and an officers' walk running parallel to the officers' quarters along the west side. A center walk bisects the parade ground and connects the officers' walk with the troop walk. At the northern end of the parade ground, a narrower walkway joins the two principal walks at their termini. At the south end of the parade ground is a small parking area. The principal entrance to the Marine Barracks is a gate on Eighth Street between the band hall and the southernmost of the officers' houses.

8. Significance - Marine Barracks

Even before this sale, an ad appeared in the "Intelligencer" of April 3, 1801, offering a premium of \$100 for a "plan of a barracks for the Marines sufficient to hold 500 men with their officers and a house for the commandant. George Hadfield's design was selected, and on May 20, 1801, he was paid \$100 "for plan of Marine Barracks." The Commandant's House may have been built from his design as well, but only plans for the Center House of the Barracks survive. Hadfield, who had come to America from England, was a product of the Royal Academy and was much respected by American architectural circles. He took over supervising the building of the Capitol after Hallett died in 1796, and Thomas Jefferson recommended him for several important commissions in the early 1800's.

The establishment of the Marines in Washington was closely related to the establishment of the Marine Band. As early as August of 1800 they were giving regular concerts. Mrs. William Thornton writes in her diary of August 29 of that year that she and her mother had driven through 94 degree temperature weather just to hear the band which was on the "Hill...intended for an University." In a newspaper article outlining the purchase of square 927 for a Marine Barracks the "Intelligencer" comments:

"It is intended to keep the Marines here permanently to be used as an escort for the President on public occasions and to furnish music by their fine band for the amusement of the public."

For many years this was the only military band in Washington, and after President John Adams requested them to play at White House functions it acquired the reputation of being the "President's Own" and was used for state occasions by each succeeding President. The earliest recorded notice of a room at the barracks specifically reserved for the band is in an 1838 account of the rooms at the Marine Barracks, but the band members were Marines first and musicians second, and so they were associated with the Barracks from its earliest days.

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8. Significance - Marine Barracks (cont.)

By 1880, when the Band acquired its most famous conductor, John Philip Sousa, they were ensconced in their own hall at the barracks. During the twelve years that Sousa conducted the band, he composed some of his most famous marches and brought the band to international attention. "Semper Fidelis" was written specifically for the United States Marine Band.

The Commandant's House too has a long series of historical associations. It is one of the few public buildings not burned when the British occupied the capital in 1814, and it is especially interesting as the only building still remaining of the original Marine Barracks.

Since the 1930's the barracks has been the scene of a Washington institution, the Summer evening "Sunset Parades" where a military tattoo complete with silent drill team, drum and bugle corps, and ceremonial marching is presented.

The present day Marine Barracks, the oldest Post in the Corps, is still the home of the Commandant and is entrusted with the Corps Battle colors. Its relatively small contingent of men are selected to perform various ceremonial duties centered around several national monuments and the White House itself.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Proctor, John Clagett. "Marine Plant Shared in City's Rise," Sunday Star November 18, 1934. Washingtoniana Collection, D.C. Central Library.

Schuon, Karl. Home of the Commandant's. Washington, D.C. Dickson Company, 1966.

W.P.A. Washington City and Capital. Federal Writers Project, 1937.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 52' 49"	76° 59' 41"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 156,188 sq. ft. or 3.5+ acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Alfred Branam, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Planning Commission

DATE

24 August 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

CODE

11

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Title Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: United States Marine Barracks			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Eighth and I Streets, S.E.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Washington			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	11	District of Columbia	001
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
District of Columbia Department of Highways and Traffic			
SCALE: 1" = 400'			
DATE: March 1964			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			





