

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls

Other names/site number U.S. Naval Communications Annex; Naval Security Station; Nebraska Avenue Complex

## 2. Location

street & number 3801 Nebraska Avenue N.W.  not for publication

city of town Washington, D.C.  vicinity

State District of Columbia code DC county District of Columbia code 001 zip code 20505

## 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official  
Federal Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
U.S. General Services Administration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:) \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal
- private

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
16	19	buildings
1		sites
2	3	structures
1		Objects
		buildings
20	22	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School, College, Education-Related

DEFENSE: Military Facility

DOMESTIC: Camp

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:

Processing Site

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Government Office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival; Georgian Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK; SYNTHETICS; CONCRETE

roof: STONE: Slate; METAL

other: WOOD; STONE: Sandstone

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, which currently operates as the Nebraska Avenue Complex for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is an approximately 38.6-acre property located at 3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W. in Washington, D.C., at the northeast corner of the intersection of Nebraska and Massachusetts avenues on Ward Circle. The property is located in a predominantly residential neighborhood in northwest

Washington, D.C., and is bounded by WRC-NBC television station to the north and east, Glover-Archbold Park to the east, residential communities to the south and American University to the west of the campus, across Nebraska Avenue.

The 38.6-acre campus consists of twenty contributing and twenty-two noncontributing resources. Of the thirty-five buildings present, seven date from 1916 to 1942 when the complex was first developed and used as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls.<sup>1</sup> These buildings are generally brick with Georgian Revival or simple Colonial Revival detailing. When the U.S. Navy assumed ownership of the campus in 1943, it continued construction in a style that complemented the existing buildings. Eleven buildings date from 1943 to 1952 when the campus was used as the U.S. Naval Communications Annex (NCA), the site of U.S. Naval cryptanalysis during and immediately following World War II. All but two of the buildings dating from the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and NCA periods retain integrity and are thus contributing. The remaining seventeen buildings were constructed between 1953 and 2015, during occupation by the U.S. Naval Security Station and DHS, and are noncontributing. In addition, the campus has one object (flagpole) and two structures (the semicircular driveway and the northern segment of Nebraska Avenue fence) dating from the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and NCA periods which contribute to the district. A prehistoric archeological site also contributes to the historic property. Three structures erected after the NCA left the property are noncontributing.

The majority of the buildings are set back from Nebraska and Massachusetts avenues. Most of the property is densely developed with three- and four-story office blocks and associated roadways and parking. Other building types include a chapel, gymnasium, cafeteria and house. The greatest density occurs in the north-central portion of the site. The southern part of the site is occupied by two large parking lots, both of which adjoin wooded slopes. An ornamental metal fence, supported by intermittent brick piers topped by sandstone orbs delineates the boundary along Nebraska Avenue at the front of the campus while security fencing of various types border the property on all other sides.

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### **Narrative Description**

**See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.24.**

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 1.0 acre of the 38.6-acre property is still under ownership of the U.S. Navy and includes Building 8—Gatesley House. An ornamental iron fence separates this parcel from the rest of the nominated property; however, the parcel with Gatesley House is historically associated with property and is therefore included in the boundaries and counted as a contributing resource.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

MILITARY

ARCHEOLOGY: Prehistoric

Period of Significance

1,000 B.C. to 1600 A.D.

1916-1952

Significant Dates

1916; 1943; 1945; 1952

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Late Woodland

Architect/Builder

Wesley Sherwood Bessell, Architect

Leon Chatelain, Jr., Architect

Allen De Hart, Architect

U.S. Navy Public Works Department, Architect

U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, Architect

Period of Significance (justification)

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls includes two discrete prehistoric and historic periods of significance. The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224), located on the property and previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, dates to the Late Woodland Period (1,000 B.C. to 1600 A.D.). The next period of significance begins in 1916 with the construction of Building 1 for the Mount Vernon Seminary and the incorporation of the Seminary and ends in 1952, with the creation of the National Security Agency and the removal of the U.S. Naval Communications Annex and the cryptanalysis function from the property.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph and Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)**  
(provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls is significant under Criteria A at the local level in the area of Education as the first campus developed solely for use as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, the first non-sectarian female boarding school in Washington, D.C., whose curriculum was progressive for its time. The property is significant under Criteria A at the national level in the area of Military for its use as the U.S. Naval Communications Annex, the site of U.S. Navy cryptanalysis of coded German U-boat messages during World War II. The property is significant under Criteria C at the local level in the area of architecture as a representative example of an educational and military campus developed with buildings reflecting the the Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival styles popular in the first half of the twentieth century. The property is significant under Criteria D at the local level in the area of Archeology for its potential to yield information on Late Woodland life in the Potomac River Valley region.

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

*Education*

The first buildings on the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls were erected from 1916 through 1940 specifically to house the classrooms, dormitories, libraries, and other functions associated with the Mount Vernon Seminary School for Girls, which occupied the site from 1916 to 1943. Established in 1875, Mount Vernon Seminary was the first non-sectarian female boarding school in Washington, D.C. The school is significant for its progressive education, which combined domestic education with courses, such as history, chemistry, algebra, and psychology, and for its establishment of a Junior College in 1927, one of the first female Junior Colleges in the United States. The school is significant for its college preparatory education of its students as well as for its practice of exposing Seminary students to the political and cultural life of the community.

*Military*

From January 1943 until the surrender of Germany in May 1945, the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls served as the Naval Communications Annex (NCA), the site of U.S. Naval cryptanalysis of coded German U-boat messages during World War II. The NCA utilized the most up-to-date cryptanalytic technology, particularly through the use of four-rotor American bombes, all of which were housed at the NCA. The information decoded and translated at the NCA significantly reduced Allied losses to German U-boats and greatly increased the number of U-boats destroyed during the latter-half of World War II. The cryptanalytic efforts undertaken at the NCA aided in “turning the tide” of the North Atlantic sea war during World War II and consequently aided in the May 1945 surrender of Germany and reduced the loss of Allied productivity and lives from 1943 through May 1945. After the war and until 1952, the NCA remained the center for U.S. Naval cryptanalysis for the Atlantic region as the focus changed to the Cold War.

*Architecture*

During its occupancy of the campus, the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls enjoyed an ever-increasing enrollment of students and consequently grew with the acquisition of additional land and construction of additional buildings, establishing the framework for future development. The similarity of massing, design, and classical detailing of the Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival style buildings erected during the ownership of the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and the interconnected series of pedestrian and vehicular circulation paths all contribute to its significance under Criterion C as a distinguishable unified entity. The interrelated residential, educational, and recreational buildings and areas for students, the majority of which have survived and contribute to the overall campus-like feel of the property. During the World War II and immediate post-war occupancy of the campus by NCA, the campus continued to grow with land acquisition, expanded circulation systems and new buildings. The massing, design, and classical detailing of these buildings echoed the

architecture of the earlier buildings and interconnected series of pedestrian and vehicular circulation paths expanded upon the existing system. Thus the continued development of the campus as it changed from a educational institution into a military cryptanalytic complex maintained the campus-like feel of the property and its significance under Criterion C as a distinguishable unified entity. While the continued use of the property has resulted in the loss or substantial alteration of buildings and features, it still maintains sufficient integrity to represent the applicable areas of significance during from the period of significance 1916-1952.

### *Archeology*

A small site located near Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6) contained several artifacts that represent a single component Late Woodland campsite that also operated as a quarry and lithic workshop where quartz and to a lesser extent quartzite cobbles were collected and reduced. The Navy Chapel Site (5INW224) was determined eligible under Criterion D for the potential to yield information on Late Woodland life.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

**See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.28.**

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**U.S. General Services Administration and State  
Historic Preservation Office for the District of  
Columbia; See Continuation Sheets 9.1 through**

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of repository: **9.5.**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):   N/A  

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**   38.6    
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>  18  </u> Zone	<u>  319461  </u> Easting	<u>  4312299  </u> Northing	3	<u>  18  </u> Zone	<u>  319731  </u> Easting	<u>  4312059  </u> Northing
2	<u>  18  </u> Zone	<u>  319691  </u> Easting	<u>  4311787  </u> Northing	4	<u>  18  </u> Zone	<u>  319256  </u> Easting	<u>  4311986  </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary is shown on the accompanying aerial photograph map.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The National Register boundary for the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls located at 3801 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., includes the entire portion of the approximately 38.6-acre parcel of land historically associated with the complex during its period of significance (1916-1952). This boundary follows the tax parcel lines of two adjacent parcels owned by the U.S. General Services Administration and the U.S. Navy, and includes all of the extant historical buildings and acreage associated with the complex since its use as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and as the Naval Communications Annex during and immediately following World War II. The boundary encompasses all of the significant resources and features that comprise the property, including a the approximately 1.0-acre parcel owned by the U.S. Navy containing Building 8–Gatesley House.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Emma Young/ Architectural Historian; later edits by Elizabeth Hannold, GSA, Center for Historic Buildings  
organization A.D. Marble & Company, prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration date September 2010, revised August 2015  
street & number 3913 Hartzdale Drive, Suite 1302 telephone 717.731.9588  
city or town Camp Hill state PA zip code 17011  
Email eyoung@admarble.com

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The former Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls is a 38.6-acre property located in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C., east of the intersection of Nebraska and Massachusetts avenues at Ward Circle. Currently serving as headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and known as the Nebraska Avenue Complex, the secure campus is surrounded by security fencing and all staff and visitors must pass through security screening to enter the campus from parking lots located outside the fence line. The campus is bounded by WRC-NBC television station to the north and east, Glover-Archbold Park to the east, and residential areas to the south. American University is located west of the campus, across Nebraska Avenue. The property currently has three access points: Nebraska Avenue Entry North, located to the north of Building 7 and leading directly into the campus; Nebraska Avenue Entry South, located to the south of Building 7 and leading to the west employee parking lot; and Massachusetts Avenue Entry, located to the east of Ward Circle and leading to the east employee parking lot.

Most of the property is densely developed with three- and four-story office blocks and associated roadways and parking. The greatest density occurs in the north-central portion of the site. Two large parking lots adjoined by wooded slopes occupy the southern part of the site. An ornamental metal fence, supported by intermittent brick piers topped by sandstone orbs and backed by a second fence and a crash cable system, delineates the public face of the campus along Nebraska Avenue. Fencing of double chain-link, single chain-link, No-climb, and ornamental metal with brick piers, as dictated by the security needs, borders the property on all other sides. With the exception of Buildings 7 and 8, the majority of buildings are set back from Nebraska and Massachusetts avenues. Buildings 8 and 60, as well as the two primary parking lots, are located outside the perimeter fencing.

The property is significant for its association with the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls (1916-1942) and the U.S. Naval Communications Annex (NCA) (1943-1952). Seven buildings, one object, and one structure date from the property's use as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls. These buildings are generally brick, gabled-roofed, with Georgian Revival or simple Colonial Revival detailing. When the U.S. Navy assumed ownership of the campus in 1943, it continued construction in a style that complemented the existing buildings. These utilitarian buildings generally employed similar mass, form, materials and Georgian or Colonial Revival style as their predecessors, but with even sparser use of detailing. The NCA buildings tend to be larger than their predecessors, and their mass is accentuated by a pattern of connecting buildings, either by directly abutting new buildings to existing, or by constructing passageways to link buildings. Eleven buildings and one structure date to the period when the NCA occupied the property. Seventeen additional buildings and three structures erected after the period of significance, from 1953 to 2013, are located throughout the campus. Six of the seventeen post-1953 buildings are very small scale: the five guard booths and Building 88, the security officers' office, all constructed as part of a recent campus-wide perimeter security upgrade. The buildings in the north-central part of the campus share the same mass, style, and detailing as those buildings that pre-date them. Buildings in the eastern quadrant of the site are mostly industrial in nature and consist of maintenance and storage buildings for the complex.

The majority of buildings are numbered from one to 101; the basis for the numbering system instituted during the U.S. Navy's ownership of the site is unknown. All buildings constructed from 1916 to 1952 have replacement windows, the majority of which are aluminum sash installed in the 1980s, replacing the original

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multi-light, double-hung, wood windows. In addition, many of the original exterior, wood doors have been replaced with high-security and fireproof, steel or storefront type doors, installed after 2001.

A description of each resource in the complex, including historic and current uses and alterations, follows.

*Building 1—Main School Building (1916; Contributing)*

Building 1 is the central building in an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwest quadrant of the complex.<sup>2</sup> This was the first building erected on the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls campus in 1916, and was later altered in 1943, to accommodate the offices of the U.S. Navy. The building originally housed classrooms and dormitories, and currently houses administrative and support offices for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Erected in 1916, the C-shaped, two-and-one-half-story building features a central block with contemporary flanking wings that protrude slightly from the facade of the central block. The north and south wings are banked into a hill that slopes downward from west to east so that the basement is fully visible on the rear elevation of each wing. The exterior walls of the building are clad in brick laid in common bond. A side-gabled roof, sheathed in slate shingles caps the central block of the building. Front-gabled roofs, clad in slate shingles, shelter the north and south wings. An octagonal cupola featuring a copper-clad belcast roof is centrally located on the roof ridge of the central block. Four interior brick chimneys are evenly spaced along the roof ridge of the central block, and five interior brick chimneys are evenly spaced along the roof ridge of the south wing. Three additional interior brick chimneys situated perpendicular to the roof ridge are located on the north wing. Six evenly spaced hipped-roof dormers extend from the southern slope of the roof at the eastern end of the south wing. Each dormer features a four-over-four light, double-hung, wood window. Three hipped-roof dormers are evenly spaced in the western end of the northern roof slope of the north wing and feature four-over-four light, double-hung windows. Two hipped-roof dormers flank a two-bay shed-roof dormer in the eastern end of the northern roof slope of the north wing. The westernmost dormer features a louvered vent in the window opening while the other two dormers have six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows.

The central block measures nineteen bays wide and faces west towards Nebraska Avenue. A brick beltcourse divides the first and second stories, and a curved, wood cornice accentuates the roofline. Four splayed, poured-concrete steps, flanked by iron railings, lead to the main entry situated in the centermost bay, aligned with the cupola.<sup>3</sup> The main entry consists of a pair of paneled, wood doors topped by a full-width paneled lintel. The entry is set into a sandstone surround that consists of pilasters topped by a broken pediment. The pediment contains a T-shaped limestone keystone, the top of which extends above the pediment and features engraved lettering that reads "Mount Vernon Seminary." The keystone bears the shield of the Mount Vernon Seminary, and a diamond-shaped copper light fixture hangs below the shield. Two copper sconces flank the main entry. Six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows topped by brick lintels light the central block. A projecting entry bay is centered in the east elevation of the central block. The bay consists of an arched ground-floor

<sup>2</sup> Other buildings in the administrative building cluster include Buildings 2, 3, 4, 5, 17, 20, 43, and 100.

<sup>3</sup> The main entry into the building is used only for emergency and ceremonial purposes.

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doorway, a second-story tetrastyle portico forming a balcony, and a pedimented gable with a clock in the tympanum. The flanking wings conceal the north and south elevations of the central block.

The front-gabled south wing (Building 1S) measures three bays wide in the west elevation. The center bay of the west elevation of the south wing consists of a two-story projecting bay with six-over-six light double-hung, aluminum windows. Wood shingles cover the walls between the first and second stories of the projecting bay.<sup>4</sup> The south elevation of the wing consists of unevenly spaced bays. Aluminum louvered vents have been inserted in the window openings at the basement level. The windows in the first story consist of nine-over-nine light, aluminum sash, whereas the second story contains six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows. Several window openings in the first story have been in-filled with brick.

The front-gabled north wing (Building 1N) measures three bays wide in the west elevation. The west elevation of the north wing is similar to that of the south wing. The north elevation of the wing consists of unevenly spaced bays comprised of a variety of window types including six-over-nine light; six-over-six light; and four-over-four light, aluminum sash. The north elevation features a gabled-front portico that shelters the five centermost bays and has an octagonal wood window in the gable. The first story contains a former entry that now consists of a twelve-light fixed-sash window topped by a four-light transom. Two secondary entries are situated in the basement level. The westernmost entry consists of a single-light steel fire door sheltered by a standing seam copper-clad hipped roof supported by wood brackets. Slate shingles clad the exterior walls between each story in several areas of the north elevation.

The interior of Building 1 has been altered to meet the needs of the various tenants who have occupied the building since it left the ownership of the Seminary in 1943. Security restrictions limited access to the interior to only the corridors and restrooms. Vinyl tile and industrial carpeting conceal the original flagstone corridor and entry area floors. Some of the plaster walls remain, however, modern partitions comprised of wood paneling and gypsum board are located throughout the first and second floors. Dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting conceal the plaster ceilings throughout the building, with the exception of the plaster ceiling in the original main entry area. The main entry area in Building 1 contains a curved stairway featuring oak risers, an oak railing and handrail, and a polished oak newel post. An arched entryway with oak paneling separates the entry area from the rest of the building.

*Building 2—Class and Recreation Building (1940; Contributing)*

Building 2 is one of the buildings in an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwest quadrant of the complex.<sup>5</sup> Building 2 was erected in 1940 for use as a classroom and recreational building. The building currently houses administrative and support offices for the DHS.

Building 2 is one-and-one-half stories in height with a connected, one-story, curved, gabled-roof passageway extending from its southeast. The foundation of the building is not visible at the exterior. The building has brick clad walls, laid in common bond, and a side-gabled roof clad in slate shingles. An interior brick chimney

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<sup>4</sup> The north elevation of Building 43 bisects the southwest corner of the south wing.

<sup>5</sup> Other buildings in the administrative building cluster include Buildings 1, 3, 4, 5, 17, 20, 43, and 100.

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is located in the north gable. Six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows light the building. Five evenly spaced, front-gabled, wall dormers are situated in the east and west elevations of the building. Each features a single, six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum window.

The main entrances to the building are located in the east and west elevations of the curved passageway. Each entrance consists of a single steel door set into a brick surround comprised of simple brick pilasters supporting a slate shingle-clad pediment.

The interior of Building 2 has been altered to accommodate the needs of the various tenants who have occupied the building since its construction in 1940. The most recent alterations include the application of vinyl tile and industrial carpeting floor cladding, gypsum and plywood wall partitions, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting.

*Building 3—Office Building (1943; Contributing)*

Building 3 is one of the buildings in an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwest quadrant of the complex.<sup>6</sup> The U.S. Navy Public Works Department erected Building 3 for use as an office building. The building currently houses administrative and support offices for the DHS.

Building 3 is a three-and-one-half-story, eighteen-bay, rectangular, gabled-roof, office building. The building sits atop a brick foundation and brick laid in common bond with Flemish headers covers the exterior walls. The moderately pitched gabled roof that caps the building is clad in slate shingles. On both the eastern and western roof slopes, the building features an eighteen-bay continuous shed-roof dormer clad in slate shingles. Six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows light the dormers. A three-and-one-half-story, one-bay, gabled-roof, elevator addition is centrally located in the north elevation of the building. The addition features a round louvered opening in the gable.

The building is lit by six-over-nine-light and six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows. The upper sashes of the windows in the southernmost bays of the east elevation consist of decorative paneled wood. Some of the first-story window openings in the west elevation and second-story window openings in the north and south elevations have been in-filled with brick. A round wood louvered window is located in the gable of the south elevation.

A pedimented slightly projecting, three-story, gabled bay is centrally located in the west elevation. The first-story openings in the bay are arched and a limestone belt course separates the first story from the upper stories of the bay. Brickwork quoins are located at the corners of the second and third stories. The pediment gable features an oculus centered in the shiplap-clad tympanum.

A two-and-one-half-story, five-bay contemporary passageway connects the south elevation of Building 3 to the northeast corner of Building 17. The exterior walls of the passageway are clad in brick laid in running bond. At the roof, aluminum poles support an aluminum awning that shelters an exterior walkway. The east elevation of

<sup>6</sup> Other buildings in the administrative building cluster include Buildings 1, 2, 4, 5, 17, 20, 43, and 100.

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the first story of the passageway contains a centrally located, three-bay-wide vehicular entrance with a roll-away aluminum garage door set within a limestone surround. An arched vehicular entrance accessed via an aluminum overhead garage door occupies the northernmost bay in the first story. A poured-concrete ramp flanked by a steel-pipe railings, leads to the one-bay pedestrian arcade that occupies the southernmost bay in the first story of the passageway.

Two, three-story, three-bay passageways dating to circa 1990, are attached to the west elevation of Building 3 and connect the building to the north and south wings of Building 1. Each passageway contains the same features and design. The exterior walls of the passageways are clad in brick laid in running bond. A gabled roof, clad in slate shingles, caps each passageway. The first story contains a centrally located one-bay vehicular entrance at the north and south elevations accentuated by limestone footers and topped with a limestone lintel. Two arched pedestrian entries provide exterior access through the passageway to the east and west of the vehicular bay. In the north and south elevations, the second and third stories of the passageways each contain a tripartite window composed of four-over-four light, double-hung, aluminum windows.

Due to security restrictions, the interior of Building 3 was not accessible during the site visit.

*Building 4—Laboratory Building (1943; Contributing)*

Building 4 is one of the buildings in an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwest quadrant of the complex.<sup>7</sup> The U.S. Navy Public Works Department constructed Building 4 in 1943 for use as a code and signals (cryptoanalysis) laboratory building. The building currently houses administrative offices for the DHS.

Building 4 is a three-story, brick-clad, rectangular, hipped-roof building that faces east. The northernmost bay of the building is set back approximately one foot from the face of the east and west elevations. The building is banked into a hill that slopes downward from west to east so that the basement level is visible on the south and east elevations. A brick beltcourse separates the second and third stories on the east and west elevations. The hipped roof of the building is sheathed in slate shingles, and two sets of paired interior, brick chimneys extend from the north and south ends of the roof ridge. Three evenly spaced, hipped-roof end dormers with louvered aluminum vents protrude from the southern and northern roof slopes. A pediment caps five bays on the west elevation of the building towards the southern end. Aluminum siding covers the gable, and the roof is clad in slate shingles.

Many of the original window openings in the basement level of the south and east elevations have been in-filled with brick. A poured-concrete ramp flanked by iron railings leads to the east elevation entry comprised of a pair of steel, paneled doors. Iron brackets support a gabled-front entry hood, which is clad in aluminum siding at the gable. Six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows light the basement level in the east elevation.

The first-story windows in the east and west elevation of the building consist of six-over-nine light, elongated, double-hung, aluminum windows. Aluminum louvers fill some of the window openings here and replace the

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<sup>7</sup> Other buildings in the administrative building cluster include Buildings 1, 2, 3, 5, 17, 20, 43, and 100.

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upper sashes of the windows in the first story of the south elevation. Six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows light the second story in all elevations of the building.

A single, steel, pedestrian door is the only remaining opening in the south elevation. A two-story, *circa*-1990 passageway, clad in aluminum siding and capped by an asphalt-shingle roof, connects the southwest corner of Building 4 to the north wing of Building 1.

Three poured-concrete steps set into a brick landing and flanked by steel-pipe railings provide access to a pair of steel doors situated in the northernmost bay of the west elevation. The entry is set into an arched brick surround and topped by a fanlight.

The north elevation of Building 4 is largely concealed by the 1944 laboratory extension (Building 5).

The interior of Building 4 was not accessible during the site visit due to security restrictions.

*Building 5—Extension to Building 4 (1944; Contributing)*

Building 5 is one of the buildings in an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwest quadrant of the complex.<sup>8</sup> Erected in 1944 by the U.S. Navy Public Works as an extension to the north side of the 1943 laboratory building (Building 4), Building 5 is currently used to house administrative offices for the DHS.

Building 5 is a one-story building originally laid out in a square with an interior courtyard, which was enclosed in 1975.<sup>9</sup> The building sits atop a brick foundation and brick laid in common bond with glazed headers covers the exterior walls of the building. Six-over-nine light, double-hung, aluminum windows topped with segmented brick lintels light the building, which is capped by a flat gravel roof. Acrylic glass block replaces the window sash in the basement level windows. Some of the former window openings in the south and west elevations have been in-filled with brick. Brick vents are visible below the window openings in the west elevation.

Five poured-concrete steps with an iron railing lead to a one-bay-wide concrete block landing situated on the south elevation of the building. Two aluminum posts support a gabled-front roof, the gable of which is clad in aluminum siding, which shelters the landing. The landing provides access to a single, steel door set into a concrete block surround. An additional entry consisting of a pair of steel doors is situated in the west elevation of the building. The entry is topped by a one-light transom.

Due to security restrictions, the interior of the building was not accessible during the site visit. However, documentation reports that the interior of the building was extensively renovated in 2004 using industrial

<sup>8</sup> Other buildings in the administrative building cluster include Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, 17, 20, 43, and 100.

<sup>9</sup> Douglas C. McVarish, Donna J. Seifert, and Richard Meyer, *An Intensive Level Architectural Survey and Phase IA Archeological Survey of the Naval Security Station, Washington, D.C.* Prepared for TAMS Consultant, Inc. and the Department of the Navy by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1994.

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carpeting, drywall and gypsum board partitions, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting.<sup>10</sup>

*Building 6—Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel (1924; Contributing)*<sup>11</sup>

Building 6 is located in the northwest corner of the campus, adjacent to the east side of Nebraska Avenue. The building was constructed in 1924 for use as a chapel for the Mount Vernon Seminary and was later used from 1943 until 2003 as a ceremonial chapel for the U.S. Navy. A sign which reads, “The Navy Chapel,” and an associated brick gate are located off of Nebraska Avenue, adjacent to the building. The chapel was deconsecrated in 2004 and is currently used as a conference center and auditorium for the DHS.<sup>12</sup>

The building is a rectangular, two-story, brick, gabled-roof building that features a projecting pedimented portico on the south elevation. The building sits atop a brick foundation and brick, laid in a combination of Flemish bond alternating with rows of continuous running stretchers, covers the exterior walls. The north and south elevations feature limestone quoins at the corners. A cornerstone, which reads “A.D. 1924,” is located in the southwest corner of the building. The gabled roof is sheathed in slate shingles and features a dentiled, wood cornice. A square wood-framed bell tower with arched wood louvers in the belfry projects from the south end of the roof ridge.

A brick sidewalk leads east from Nebraska Avenue to three granite steps that provide access to the wide granite landing sheltered by the building’s tetrastyle portico. The portico features four fluted Doric columns, a dentiled cornice, and an oval window featuring wood cardinal point blocks centered in the tympanum. A bronze electric lantern hangs on four bronze chains from the ceiling of the portico. A pair of ten-paneled, wood doors is centered in the south elevation and stretch the full height of the first story. Pilasters flank the massive doors and an eight-paneled blind transom crowned by a dentiled lintel surmounts them. Six-over-six light, double-hung, wood windows with architrave surrounds flank the entry. Blind transoms, each containing a single wood panel, are situated above each of the three openings in the south elevation of the building.

The east and west elevations feature tall, evenly spaced window openings. The upper portions of the windows are arched with semicircular and radial muntins, underneath of which are twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung, wood sashes. Operable arched, louvered, wood shutters flank each window opening. A seven-panel, wood door is situated in the south end of the east elevation. A poured-concrete ramp provides access to the entry.

The northernmost bay of the building is slightly recessed from the rest of the west elevation and marked by quoins at each corner. Three brick and concrete steps, flanked by a wrought-iron railing, lead to a single, eight-

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10 Jacobs, Inc., *Level IV Web-Based Building Condition Assessment and Building Engineering Report (BER)*. Prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration and on-file at the U.S. General Services Administration, National Capital Region Resource Room, Washington, D.C., 2006.

11 The Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel was also previously determined individually eligible by the DC SHPO under National Register Criterion C for its notable representation of the Neo Classical Revival architectural style.

12 Jacobs Inc., *Level IV Web-Based Building Condition Assessment and Building Engineering Report (BER)*.

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panel, wood door located in the northernmost bay of the west elevation, providing access to the area adjacent to the nave.

A Palladian window with stained glass in the central section is centered in the north elevation. The stained glass depicts the profile of three Naval soldiers and a destroyer topped by the words “Eternal Father” and featuring the words “Strong to Save” underneath. Varying shades of blue glass representing the ocean surround the central portrait. Six-over-nine light, double-hung, wood windows, each featuring a set of operable arched, louvered, wood shutters, flank the central section and provide light to the choir stalls.

A one-story, one-bay, brick-clad, gabled addition extends from the northeast corner of the building. A poured-concrete ramp, which leads to a single, wood door, provides access to the addition. A single, arched, six-over-six light, double-hung, vinyl window is located in the east elevation. The addition was erected in 1995 to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.

The interior of Building 6 is notable for its boxed pews, raised pulpit, and Georgian Revival woodwork. The vestibule of the building, accessed through the main entry in the south elevation, features black and white marble floor tiles. A spiral staircase located to each side of the vestibule and featuring polished oak risers, banister, and handrail, provides access to the balcony.

The former sanctuary features a central aisle flanked to either side with boxed pews that leads to the chancel and altar located in the north end of the building’s interior. Wood-framed organ cases and choir stalls flank the chancel. A raised pulpit with a hexagonal sounding board and canopy is located on the west side of the chancel. The centrally located Palladian window in the north elevation is set into decorative wood paneling. The rear (south) wall of the former sanctuary is composed of a five-bay arched louvered wood screen separated by fluted pilasters with decorative capitals. A pedimented gable tops the central arched doorway with wood keystone. A paneled balcony balustrade with globe finials crowns the walls. Simple brass and frosted glass chandeliers hang by brass chains from the vaulted plaster ceiling.

*Building 7—Dispensary (1943; Non-contributing)*

Building 7 occupies the western end of the complex, adjacent to Nebraska Avenue. Building 7 was erected in 1943 for use as a medical dispensary for the U.S. Navy. The exterior and interior of the building were significantly altered circa 1980 to accommodate various offices for the U.S. Navy. The exterior and interior of Building 7 were again altered as part of a campus-wide perimeter security upgrade completed in late 2013. The building now serves as the Visitor Center for the campus on the ground and first floor, with offices on the second floor.

The wood-framed building was originally constructed in a C-shape, with the closed portion facing Nebraska Avenue and the opening between the two wings facing east. Building 7 sits atop a concrete block foundation containing the ground floor and has one additional story in height at the north, west, and south elevations and, due to change in grade, two additional stories in height at the east elevation. The walls of the building, which were originally fiber cement board, were sheathed in stucco on metal lath over plywood circa 1980. The walls are painted brown. The hip roof is clad in asphalt. Circa 2013, to create a secure visitor reception and badging

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facility, a new entry plaza, bridge connecting the two wings of the “C”, and stair/elevator core, connecting all levels of the building, were constructed on the east side of the building. Designed to be contemporary in appearance, the addition features a flat roof and walls clad in stucco, metal panel and glass.

The circa 2013 addition created new visitor reception areas, and badging and security offices with modern finishes at the east end of the building, leaving the remainder of the building untouched. The interior of the 1943 section of the building was altered circa 1980 to accommodate additional office spaces and it retains finishes from that period. Vinyl tile covers the corridor floors and industrial carpeting office floors. The walls are comprised of gypsum board, plaster, and wood paneling. The ceilings consist of dropped acoustical tiles featuring inset fluorescent lighting.

### *Building 8—Gatesley House/Quarters A (1921; Contributing)*

When the complex was conveyed to GSA for use by the DHS, the U.S. Navy retained Building 8/Gatesley House, which is located to the south of Building 7 and outside the chain-link fence. The property that includes Building 8 remains under the ownership of the U.S. Navy and is used as a residence for the U.S. Navy flag officer. The two-and-one-half-story, L-shaped, Colonial Revival dwelling was erected in 1921 for use as the headmistress’ house. The house has Flemish bond brickwork. Six-over-nine light, double-hung windows light the first story in the west (front) elevation, and the second story consists of six-over-six light, double-hung windows. Each window features a jack-arch lintel and operable, wooden louvered shutters. The classically inspired entrance features a one-story, one-bay, portico consisting of a pair of fluted ionic columns supporting a gabled pediment with dentiled cornice and decorative urn. A fanlight surmounts the paneled wood door.

The building is located inside its own perimeter fencing and was not accessible during the site visit.

### *Building 10—Chiller Plant (1997; Non-contributing)*

Building 10 is located to the south of the south wing (1S) of Building 1. Erected in 1997 as a chiller plant and still serving that purpose, the building consists of a small one-story, rectangular block that sits on a poured-concrete slab. Brick, laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers, sheaths the exterior walls, and a gabled-roof, clad in slate shingles, caps the building. An aluminum louvered oculus is situated in the western gable. Two overhead, aluminum garage doors and a single, steel pedestrian door are located in the south elevation. A single steel door is located in the north elevation.

### *Building 12—Gymnasium (1929; Contributing)*

Building 12 is located near the center of the complex and is the western anchor for the series of interconnected buildings that include Buildings 13 and 14. The building was erected in 1929 as an open-air gymnasium and was enclosed circa 1951. The building currently houses an indoor basketball court and other recreational activities.

Building 12 is a one-story, rectangular, gabled-roof building, the exterior walls of which are sheathed in metal shiplap siding and feature evenly spaced brick buttresses at the corners and along the side (north and south) elevations. The building sits atop a concrete block foundation and is capped by a moderately pitched, gabled-front roof clad in asphalt shingles.

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One-over-one light, double-hung, aluminum windows and tall, narrow, fixed-sash, aluminum windows surmounted by four-light transoms are the typical window type for the building. A single-bay, shed-roof addition adjoins the northeast corner of the building, and a wood deck adjoins the north end of the east wall. Two primary entries are located in the northern and southern ends of the west elevation of the building and consist of paired, glass and aluminum, storefront doors, each topped by four, four-light transoms and flanked by fixed, single-light windows. An additional pair of glass and aluminum, storefront doors is located in the west elevation. Rectangular louvered metal vents are situated in the gables.

This building was renovated in 1988 but its original historic appearance and features were preserved.<sup>13</sup> The interior basketball court comprises most of the interior space. Support services, including several peripheral offices for the gym staff and sports equipment storage are located to the south of the basketball court. The floor of the basketball court is hardwood, and the walls consist of strips of hardwood. Mats are attached to the lower portion of the wall to lessen the chance of injury during activities. The ceiling consists of wood trusses, which comprise the underside of the wooden roof deck. The ceilings in the support area consist of dropped acoustical tiles with inset fluorescent lighting. A pair of aluminum and glass, storefront doors located in the east wall provides interior access directly to Building 13.

*Building 13—Recreational Services (1943; Contributing)*

Constructed in 1943, Building 13 connects Building 12 located to the east and Building 14 located to the west. The rectangular building measures one story in height on the west side and two stories in height on the east side. The lower east exterior wall is constructed of brick, while the upper exterior walls of the building are sheathed in metal shiplap siding. The building is capped by a hipped roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles, with a cross gable on the northern slope. A triangular, louvered, metal vent is located in the peak of the cross gable.

Paired, one-light, fixed-sash, aluminum windows topped by eight-light transoms in the south elevation and one-over-one light, double-hung, aluminum windows in the north elevation are the primary window types lighting the building. A pair of glass and aluminum, storefront doors is situated in the south elevation, and two steel doors are situated in the basement level of the north elevation.

The interior of the building consists of ancillary offices on the first floor and an exercise room and fitness facility in the partial second floor, which is located on the northern end of the east side of the building. Metal stairs lead to the second-floor exercise area. Vinyl tile and industrial carpeting covers the floors. The walls are comprised of plaster, wood paneling, and gypsum board. Dropped acoustical-tile ceilings featuring inset fluorescent lighting conceal the building's original plaster ceilings.

*Building 14—Cafeteria (1929; Contributing)*

Building 14 anchors the eastern end of the series of three interconnected buildings that include Buildings 12 and 13. The building, originally called the "Field House," was constructed in 1929. The massive fireplace and

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<sup>13</sup> Douglas McVarish, "Historic Property Inventory Form, Building 12," Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., for TAMS Consultants, Inc., and the Department of the Navy, January 1994.

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chimney of Building 14 are features typical of the Adirondack style of architecture, a common style for lodges and meetinghouses in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The 1929 building consists of a tall gabled-roof central block with lower east and west wings. The building sits atop a poured-concrete slab foundation. The exterior walls are sheathed in stucco, brick, and metal shiplap siding. A cross-gable featuring a massive exterior brick chimney projects from the center of the south elevation. Hipped-roof eaves project from the junctions of the north elevation and flanking wings. Gabled-roof dormers, each featuring a one-light, fixed-sash window, protrude from the northern and southern roof slopes. Slate shingles cover the roof.

The north elevation features a centrally located glass and aluminum door that replaced the original paired wood doors in the 1990s in order to comply with ADA regulations. A pair of fifteen-light, wood doors is located to the east of the central entry, and a single, fifteen-light, wood door is located to the west. A variety of replacement window types, including one-light, fixed-sash, wood; one-light, casement, hung singly or in pairs; and one-over-one light, double-hung, wood light the building.

The interior layout of the building consists of a centrally located open area with small flanking ancillary areas. The most notable interior feature is the fireplace alcove, which retains the original blue slate flagstone flooring. The south wall is comprised of brick laid in continuous stretcher bond and features the centrally located arched fireplace, which is accentuated by a jack-arched brick surround. Two smaller arched alcoves, topped by segmented arch lintels, flank the fireplace. A decorative brick medallion is situated above the fireplace, in the peak of the chimney wall. Two long built-in oak benches featuring decorative metal fronts and padded seats are located on each side of the fireplace alcove. These benches conceal the radiators that once supplied the heat for the building.

A pair of heavy wood trusses supports the roof and divides the large open space into three equal areas. The long lower chords of the trusses have a natural finish, and the upper members are stained dark brown.<sup>14</sup>

Other interior floor cladding includes vinyl and ceramic tile, industrial carpeting, and laminate. The interior walls are clad in vertical pine boards of random width, with a natural finish. The walls of the canteen area located in the east end of the building are comprised of drywall. The interior of the building was rehabilitated and reopened as a cafeteria and recreational facility in summer 2008.

*Building 15—Powerhouse (1916; Non-contributing)*

Building 15 is located to the east of Building 3 near the northeastern border of the campus. The building, erected in 1916, continues to serve its original purpose to provide heat to most of the complex via a high-temperature water heating system installed in 1952; however, the original 1916 brick section is concealed and overwhelmed by a 1943 concrete block addition. Due to extensive cumulative alterations, the building does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its association with the period of significance.

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<sup>14</sup> Edmund C. Sonnenschein, AIA, "Historic Preservation Consultant's Report: Building 14, Food Service Facility, Proposed Renovations," prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration and the Department of Homeland Security, February 2008.

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This single-story, concrete block and brick building consists of a 1916 shed-roof main block and a 1943 shed-roof ell adjoining its south elevation. The building is banked into a hill that slopes downward from west to east so that the concrete block foundation is partially visible on the north and south elevations and completely visible on the east elevation. Brick, laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers comprises the walls of the 1916 section. The original exterior wall cladding also included weatherboard and the 1916 building had a wood-framed cupola. However, these features most likely were removed in 1943 when the concrete block ell was constructed. Concrete block also was used to extend the height of 1916 shed-roof main block. The flat roof is built-up and consists of metal and gravel. A large circular, metal smokestack, believed to date to 1952 or later, adjoins the north elevation of the building.

A pair of steel doors sheltered by a shed hood is located in the south elevation of the main block, and a secondary entry is situated in the east elevation of the ell. An overhead metal loading dock door is situated in the north elevation. Fenestration consists of a variety of window types, including four-over-four light; six-over-six light; and twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung sash. Several areas of brick infill at door and window openings within the concrete block walls provide evidence of continuing alterations after the 1943 expansion of the building.

The interior of the building contains vinyl tile and unfinished concrete flooring. The walls are brick and concrete in the mechanical areas and plaster in the break room area. The ceiling consists of the exposed underside of the roof. The interior also contains a prefabricated glass and metal structure that serves as the operator station for the building.

*Building 17—Office Building (1944; Contributing)*

Building 17 is one of several buildings in an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwestern quadrant of the complex.<sup>15</sup> The appearance of the east and south elevations of the building are similar to that of Building 3. Building 17 connects directly to Building 3, at its northeast corner, and Building 43, at its northwest corner, by small contemporary passageways. The building, erected in 1944, continues its original function as an office building.

The 1944 building consists of a rectangular, three-and-one-half-story, side-gabled, central block with projecting cross gables at the east and west ends. The building sits atop a poured concrete foundation and has brick walls laid in a running bond. A brick beltcourse separates the first and second stories. The gabled roofs of the building are clad in slate shingles. Continuous shed-roof dormers, clad in slate shingles and featuring evenly spaced six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows, extend the length of each of the roof slopes at the north and south elevations. Single hipped-roof dormers, each featuring a six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum window, are located in the roof slopes at the east and west elevations. Interior brick chimneys, oriented perpendicular to the roof ridge, are located throughout the central block.

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<sup>15</sup> Other buildings in this administrative cluster include Buildings 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 43, and 100.

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The main entrances to the building are located in the south elevation of each of the end blocks. A one-story, one-bay entry porch shelters the easternmost entry into the building. The porch features tapered wood columns set into brick piers and topped by a wood pediment. The ghost of the original copper-clad bellcast porch roof, replaced circa 2000, is visible in the south elevation. The easternmost entry consists of a pair of aluminum and glass, storefront doors. A flat metal roof shelters a pair of aluminum and glass, storefront doors that comprise the westernmost entry.

Six-over-nine light, double-hung, aluminum windows in the first and second stories and six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows in the third story and dormers light the building. Some of the former window openings in the second story have been in-filled with brick for security purposes. Circular metal louvers are situated in the gable peaks.

The interior of Building 17 includes vinyl tile- and industrial carpeting-clad floors in the corridors and office areas and ceramic-tile flooring in the restrooms. The interior retains the original plaster walls; however, movable fabric-covered wall partitions are located throughout each floor to accommodate additional office space. Dropped acoustical-tile ceilings featuring inset fluorescent lighting conceal the interior's original plaster ceilings.

*Building 18—Code and Signal Laboratory (1944; Contributing)*

Building 18 is located along the southern edge of the complex's administrative area and adjoins Building 19 to the east. The U.S. Navy constructed the narrow rectangular building in 1944 to house additional code and signals (cryptanalysis) laboratories. The building currently houses offices for the DHS and GSA.

The two-story building sits atop a raised concrete-slab and pier foundation. The building is set into a hill that slopes downward from north to south so that the basement is fully visible on the south and west elevations. The exterior walls of the building are clad in vinyl-coated plywood siding with a clapboard profile. The current siding replaced the original cement asbestos board siding. Brick, laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers, covers two sets of two bays in the north elevation. A flat built-up gravel roof tops the building. A square brick tower, which houses mechanical equipment for the building, protrudes from the eastern end of the roof.

The main entry into the building is situated towards the western end of the north elevation. Five poured concrete steps lead to a pair of aluminum and glass, storefront doors. A poured-concrete ramp set into a concrete block landing and flanked by metal pipe railings adjoins the west side of the entry steps. The ramp was added in the late 1990s in order to comply with ADA regulations. A flat aluminum hood shelters the main entry. Six steel steps lead to a landing situated in front of a secondary entry located near the eastern end of the north elevation. The entry consists of a single steel door.

The connector between Buildings 18 and 19 largely conceals the two stories of the east elevation of Building 18. A pair of steel doors is located in the southern corner of the basement level. The rest of the elevation features paired six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows.

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Additional entrances into the building are located in the south elevation. A poured-concrete loading dock leads to a one-story, one-bay loading area situated in the center of the south elevation. A metal shed roof, supported by metal poles, shelters the loading area.

A two-and-one-half-story metal fire escape is located in front of the southernmost bays in the west elevation. A single aluminum and glass, storefront door in each story provides interior access from the fire escape.

Six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows, hung singly or in pairs, light the building.

Due to security restrictions, access to the interior was limited to corridors and several offices. The corridors are clad in vinyl-tile flooring. The first-floor corridor has beaded wood wainscoting and chair rail. Dropped acoustical tiles inset with fluorescent light fixtures conceal the original plaster ceilings. The office spaces contain industrial carpeting, plaster walls, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings. The first floor appears to retain the original wood doors. The basement level contains some original doors, including a steel security door, possibly associated with the Code and Signal Laboratory.

*Building 18-19—Connector (1946; Contributing)*

Erected in 1946, the two-story building connects Buildings 18 and 19. The connector rests on a poured-concrete foundation. Brick, laid in common bond, covers the exterior walls. A flat metal and gravel roof caps the connector.

The first story of the connecting building is marked by a brick arcade with concrete imposts. Six concentric courses of brick headers form each of the five arches. A one-story rectangular block addition extends from the south side of the easternmost arch and adjoins the west elevation of Building 19. The central arch of the connector serves as a vehicle passageway, or sally port, used to control entry into the complex. A pair of nine-panel-over-three-panel, wood doors is situated in the east elevation of the central arch.

The remaining arches are enclosed with brick and are pierced by windows, louvered vents, or doors. The second story of the connector is lit by six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows. A poured-concrete beltcourse forms the lintels for the second-story windows.

The interior of the connector was not accessible during the site visit due to security restrictions.

*Building 19—Office Building (1946; Contributing)*

Building 19 is located along the southern edge of the complex's administrative area and was erected in 1946 to house offices for the U.S. Navy. The building was rehabilitated circa 2008.

The rectangular building consists of a long, three-and-one-half-story central block with three-story, flat end wings at the rear connected by a one-story block. The building is banked into a hill that slopes downward from north to south so that the basement is fully visible on the south elevation. The end wings feature four-story, two-bay stairwell towers centrally located on the south elevations.

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The building sits atop a poured-concrete foundation. Brick, laid in common bond, covers the exterior walls. A poured-concrete water table delineates the basement level and a poured-concrete beltcourse divides the first and second stories. Slate shingles sheath the side-gabled roof of the central block. Evenly spaced hipped dormers, each featuring a single six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum window, are located throughout the northern and southern roof slopes.

The two main entries into the building are situated in the north elevation and are marked by pedimented projecting bays, which feature dentiled cornices and a central oculus in the tympanum. Sandstone panels clad the first-story walls of each projecting bay and smooth sandstone covers the second- and third-story walls. Brick pilasters separate each bay in the second and third stories. Six poured-concrete steps set into a poured-concrete landing and flanked by metal-pipe railings provide access to each entry. A sandstone surround accentuates each entry, which consists of a pair of glass and aluminum storefront doors. A single, one-light, wood door provides secondary entry into the basement level of the south elevation of each wing. A two-bay loading dock is situated at the northeast corner of where the west wing adjoins the central block.

Six-over-nine light, double-hung, aluminum windows in the first story and six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows in the upper stories light the building. Each window sits atop a sandstone sill and is topped by a segmented brick lintel. Several window openings in the second and third stories of each elevation are set into smooth sandstone surrounds. The sandstone surrounds in the north elevation are arched.

Due to security restrictions, the interior of Building 19 was not accessible during the site visit.

*Building 20—Operations Building (1946; Contributing)*

Building 20 is one of an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwestern quadrant of the complex.<sup>16</sup> Erected in 1946 to house administrative offices for the U.S. Navy, Building 20 connects to the southeast corner of Building 5. The building is similar in appearance to Buildings 3 and 17 and currently houses office space and a secure operations center.

Building 20 is two stories in height and rests on a full reinforced-concrete foundation. The exterior walls are comprised of brick laid in a common bond featuring Flemish headers. A moderately pitched, gabled roof, sheathed in slate shingles, caps the building. An oculus featuring wood louvers is located in each gable. Seven hipped dormers pierce the western roof slope and ten hipped dormers pierce the eastern roof slope. Each dormer features a six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum window.

The main entry into the building is centrally located in the south elevation. Poured-concrete steps and a poured-concrete ramp, each set into a brick landing, provide access to the entry, which consists of a pair of steel doors. A limestone surround accentuates the entry. A flat aluminum roof shelters the entry and westernmost bays. A former loading door, located in the westernmost bay of the south elevation, has been in-filled with brick.

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<sup>16</sup> The central building to this administrative building cluster is Building 1 (Main Building). Other buildings in this cluster include Buildings 2, 3, 4, 5, 17, 43, and 100.

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Six-over-nine light, double-hung, aluminum windows light the first story of the building, and six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum windows light the upper stories. Some of the former window openings in each elevation have been in-filled with brick.

Due to security restrictions, the interior of Building 20 was not accessible during the site visit.

*Building 21—Public Works Maintenance (1953; Non-contributing)*

Building 21 is located in the center of the complex. Completed in 1953, the building housed a public works maintenance building, but was converted to the press and media building in 2003.

The rectangular building measures one story in height and rests on a poured-concrete slab. The exterior walls are clad in brick laid in common bond. Asphalt shingles sheath the building's moderately pitched gabled roof. A large roof ventilator is situated in the roof ridge, alluding to its former use.

Two sets of paired steel doors are located in the west elevation. An additional entry, accessed by poured-concrete steps set into a brick landing and sheltered by a shed-roof hood, is located in the easternmost bay of the north elevation. A former window opening in the east elevation has been in-filled with brick.

Four-light, awning-sash, aluminum windows located in the north and south elevations light the building. An aluminum louvered vent is situated in each gable.

Due to security restrictions, interior access to Building 21 was not available during the site visit.

*Building 43—Administrative Building (1944; Contributing)*

Building 43 is one of several buildings in an interconnected series of administrative buildings clustered in the northwestern quadrant of the complex.<sup>17</sup> The U.S. Navy erected the building in 1944 to house administrative offices. As part of a campus-wide perimeter security upgrade completed in late 2013, portions of the interior of Building 43 were rehabilitated to serve as an electronic command center for the campus.

Building 43 is a two-story, brick block that connects Building 1 on the north with Building 17 on the south.<sup>18</sup> The building sits atop a fully exposed basement, and is capped by a flat metal and gravel roof, which dates to circa 2000. The exterior walls are comprised of brick laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers.

The west elevation (facade) has a centrally located projecting entrance bay. The entrance bay consists of a brick foundation topped by metal panels and elongated multi-light, rectangular-shaped, aluminum windows. The entry vestibule is capped with a metal-clad bellcast roof. The main entry is through a pair of aluminum and glass, storefront door. The words, "STRATEGIC SYSTEMS PROGRAMS, NAC SECURITY, BUILDING 43,"

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Although traffic through the building is restricted, Building 43 could serve as a connector between these two larger buildings (Building 1 and Building 17).

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are painted in white on an aluminum lintel situated directly above the entry. Two, one-light, fixed-sash windows are centered above the lintel.

The windows of the building are primarily one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum windows. The east (rear) elevation has a projecting five-bay central block. Two flights of brick and concrete steps lead to a central metal door centrally located in the east elevation.

The interior of Building 43 generally consists of vinyl tile-clad and industrial carpeting-covered floors, plaster walls, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings. The restrooms retain the original ceramic tile flooring and walls. The interior doors of the building include original oak and replacement fire doors. The circa 2013 alterations were confined to the interior of the building. The basement and first floor now house a campus-wide command center and associated equipment and were not accessible for security reasons.

*Building 49—Public Works Storage (1953; Non-contributing)*

Building 49, completed in 1953, is one of several maintenance and storage buildings located in the eastern quadrant of the complex.<sup>19</sup> The long, narrow, one-story building sits atop a poured-concrete slab. The building is comprised of concrete block and is topped by a shed roof, clad in metal. The interior is accessed through single and paired, steel, pedestrian doors, and a metal overhead garage door, all situated in the west elevation. Six-light, fixed-sash, aluminum windows light the interior.

*Building 59—Classified Waste Destructor (1958; Non-contributing)*

Building 59 is located to the southeast of Building 15. The U.S. Navy erected the long, narrow building in 1958 for the purposes of destroying classified waste.

Building 59 is a one-story, flat-roof building with a taller block to the west and a lower block to the east. The building rests on a poured-concrete slab, and brick comprises the exterior walls. The flat, built-up roof features a poured-concrete cap around the edge and several metal roof ventilators.

Two single, steel doors, sheltered by aluminum awnings, are situated in the south elevation. The former window openings visible in the south elevation have been in-filled with brick. There are no openings in the west and east elevations. Building 94 conceals the north elevation.

*Building 60—Auto Repair Shop (1961; Non-contributing)*

Building 60 is situated in the far southwest corner of the complex, adjacent to the west employee parking lot. The building was erected in 1961 for use as an auto repair shop and is presently used as a visitor parking administrative office.

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<sup>19</sup> Other buildings in the quadrant include Building 98, 101, and 81. These buildings are separated from the rest of the NCA by metal chain-link fencing.

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The building measures one story in height with a taller garage block to the north and a lower administrative block to the south. The building rests on a poured-concrete slab, and brick comprises the exterior walls. A flat metal roof caps the building.

Two, three-light overhead garage doors are situated in the east elevation of the garage block. A bank of windows and a single steel door occupy the east elevation of the administrative block. The north, west, and south elevations are devoid of openings. A circa-1995, prefabricated, wood shed is located immediately to the north of the building.

*Building 81—Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (1965; Non-contributing)*

Building 81 is located to the northeast of Building 14. The building was erected in 1965 for use as housing for U.S. Navy employees and is presently used to house additional office space for the DHS.

The 1965 building is a rectangular, three-story, concrete block building capped by a low-pitched gabled roof. An aluminum awning shelters the poured-concrete sidewalk and steps that lead to the main entry situated in the southernmost bay of the west elevation. Primarily single-light aluminum, casement windows light the building.

*Building 88—Security Officers' Office (2012; Non-contributing)*

Replacing the rear gatehouse, which was constructed in 1970, the new Security Officers' Office was constructed in 2012 as part of the campus-wide perimeter security upgrade completed in late 2013. It occupies the northwest corner of the east parking lot. Designed to be compatible with the historic campus, the building has brick clad walls, paired windows and a hipped roof clad in synthetic slate shingles. The main roof extends beyond the building, on the front and rear elevations, for porches, while a hipped roof extension, also clad in synthetic slate shingles, covers the adjacent pedestrian turnstiles, which provide employee access to the campus from the parking lot.

*Building 89—Vehicle Screening building (circa 2013; Non-contributing)*

A vehicle screening building constructed as part of the perimeter security upgrade completed in 2013 is located at the northeastern corner of the east parking lot. It has a contemporary design with walls clad in metal panels, a flat roof and a floating metal canopy supported by round concrete columns covering vehicle inspection lanes adjacent to the building. This building replaced a large tent that previously served the same function in this location.

*Building 94—Special Purpose (1974; Non-contributing)*

Building 94 is situated to the north of Building 54 near the north-central border of the complex. The building is a one-story, gabled-roof, prefabricated metal shed used for storage. The only opening in the building is an aluminum overhead garage door situated in the west elevation.

*Building 98—General Warehouse (1986; Non-contributing)*

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Building 98 is one of several maintenance and storage facilities located in the eastern quadrant of the complex.<sup>20</sup> The building was erected in 1986 as a large, one-story, prefabricated, metal warehouse with a gabled center section and flanking shed wings. Single steel, pedestrian doors and overhead aluminum, garage doors provide access into the building.

*Building 100—Communications and Automated Data Processing Facility (1990; Non-contributing)*

Building 100 adjoins the interior (south and north) elevations of the north (1N) and south (1S) wings of Building 1. The construction of the building eliminated the former quadrangle created by Building 1 and its flanking wings. The large, rectangular, three-story building was erected in 1990. A gabled roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles, caps the building, and brick, laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers, covers the exterior walls. No window openings are located in the east elevation. A copper-clad bellcast roof, supported by decorative wood brackets, shelters a pair of steel doors that provide access into the east elevation of the building.

*Building 101—Supply Storage Building (1990; Non-contributing)*

The supply storage building is one of several maintenance and storage buildings located in the eastern quadrant of the complex. The large, one-story, rectangular, prefabricated, metal building was erected in 1990. An aluminum overhead garage door and single, steel, pedestrian doors are located in the south elevation and provide access into the building.

*Unnumbered Buildings and Structures (Non-contributing)*

A three-legged, latticed, steel antenna is located behind Building 5 adjacent to the northern boundary of the property. Due to its location, it is virtually inaccessible, although the upper portion is visible above Building 5 from various locations on campus. Its specific use and construction date are unknown, but it postdates 1952 and NCA occupation of the campus. A *circa*-1990 picnic shelter is located to the north of Building 13 and consists of an open-sided wood-framed, gabled-roof structure set on a concrete slab. A parking lot, converted from a tennis court *circa* 2007, is located to the northwest of Building 12 near the center of the property. Two large employee parking areas, accessed via the Nebraska Avenue Entry South and Massachusetts Avenue Entry, are located on the east and west sides of the southern edge of the property. Five guard booths, constructed as part of the campus-wide perimeter security upgrade completed in 2013 to replace three guard booths constructed in 1995, are located at key points along the perimeter of the property. Designed to be compatible with the architecture of the historic campus, the 6' x 8' guard booths have brick clad lower walls, a single half-glazed door and a continuous band of windows on all elevations below synthetic slate-clad, hipped roofs. The guard booth adjacent to Building 7 is flanked by pedestrian turnstiles, each sheltered by a standing-seam metal, hip roof.

### Exterior Landscape Features

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<sup>20</sup> Other buildings in the quadrant include Building 49, 101, and 81. These buildings are separated from the rest of the NCA by metal chain-link fencing.

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A series of vehicular and pedestrian circulation paths connect the buildings of the campus. Asphalt paved roadways featuring small parking lots are located throughout the campus. Several gravel ancillary maintenance roads are also located in the northern and eastern quadrants of the campus. The highly visible, Nebraska Avenue boundary of the campus features an ornamental metal fence with square brick piers capped with white sandstone globes. The northern portion of this ornamental fence dates to circa 1943 and includes the historic Navy Chapel Gate (contributing). This gate leads to the northern end of the original semicircular driveway which passes by the south side of the Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6). The brick gate, constructed circa 1943, is flanked by brick piers and topped by sandstone orbs. Metal lettering that reads "The Navy Chapel" hangs on the gate wall. The southern portion of the Nebraska Avenue fence line, from just north of the Nebraska Avenue Entry North continuing south past Building 7, was constructed as part of a campus-wide perimeter security upgrade and replicates the appearance of the historic fence. The newly constructed Nebraska Avenue Entry North, consisting of a pair of electronic gates and divided roadway with a guard booth in the median, is located in the same general vicinity as the original main entry to campus. Hensley Memorial Gate, erected in 1924 honor of the second headmistress of Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, Adelia Gates Hensley, flanked the entry until it was removed as part of the 2013 perimeter security upgrade. An original semicircular driveway (contributing), paved in asphalt, separates Building 1 from a grassy area, situated to the west of the building, which features the original centrally located metal flagpole (contributing) for the complex. A brick sidewalk borders the driveway to the north and leads to the chapel porch. The remaining sidewalks throughout the Mount Vernon Seminary are poured concrete and are located near the immediate areas of building entrances, facilitating pedestrian flow throughout the campus. Landscaping consists of mature shrubs and trees, including walnut, cherry, and pin oaks. Grass and planting borders are located adjacent to buildings and along fence lines. Additional plantings, including a line of crepe myrtles, were added in the vicinity of the Nebraska Avenue Entry North and Building 7 as part of the recently completed security upgrade project.

### Archeological Resources

Documentary evidence and observation suggest that the topography and soils of the property have been extensively disturbed, making it unlikely that archeological resources would be present.<sup>21</sup> However, a small site containing several artifacts that represent a single component Late Woodland campsite that also operated as a quarry and lithic workshop where quartz and to a lesser extent quartzite cobbles were collected and reduced, was discovered located near the Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6). The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224) (contributing) was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.<sup>22</sup>

### Alterations

21 Douglas C. McVarish, Donna J. Seifert, and Richard Meyer, *An Intensive Level Architectural Survey and Phase IA Archeological Survey of the Naval Security Station, Washington, D.C.*

22 The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224), was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office on September 16, 2008: David Maloney, Letter to Thomas McDowell, U.S. General Services Administration, from District of Columbia, Historic Preservation Section, September 16, 2008 and Charles Goode,. The site was determined eligible under Criterion D for the potential to yield information on Late Woodland life (1,000 B.C. to 1600 A.D.). Archaeological Survey Site Inventory Form, *The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224)*. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., for the U.S. General Services Administration, June 2008.

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The majority of the buildings of the complex retain their original massing, design, and wall and roof cladding. Exterior alterations to the buildings generally consist of window and door replacements. In order to accommodate the needs of the various occupants, extensive interior alterations have occurred to the buildings. Interior alterations include movable wall partitions, replacement flooring, and ceilings, as well as new floor plans in order to accommodate for the continuous use of the complex. Buildings 7 and 15, however, have undergone such extensive exterior and interior alterations that they no longer convey their historic appearance. Furthermore, as part of the campus-wide security upgrade project completed in 2013, Building 7 received an east end addition of a contemporary character that contrasts sharply with its original design.

An ornamental iron fence was installed around the perimeter of Building 8 circa 2003 when the remaining buildings and acreage of the complex transferred responsibility from the U.S. Navy. As part of the 2013 security upgrade, the original main entry, Nebraska Avenue Entry North, was realigned and rebuilt, removing the historic Hensley Memorial Gate, and the ornamental fence along Nebraska Avenue was extended to the south. As a result, only the northern segment of the fence, which includes the Navy Chapel Gate, is original. The security upgrade also added poles with lights and cameras at regular intervals and single and double layers of fencing around the entire perimeter.

Building 16, a 1920 greenhouse located to the north of Building 15, was torn down circa 2000. Building 11, a gatehouse/visitors center, constructed in 1943 but so extensively altered through the years that it was lacking in integrity, was demolished as part of the 2013 security upgrade. Building 61, a mechanical and storage building erected in 1959 to the south of Building 19, was razed in 2008. Building 88, constructed in 1970, and three guard booths, constructed in 1995, were demolished as part of the 2013 security upgrade.

### Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The property includes a total of forty-two extant buildings, structures, an object and a site. Twenty of the resources, including sixteen buildings, one object (flagpole), and two structures (the northern segment of the Nebraska Avenue fence including the Navy Chapel Gate and the semicircular driveway), contribute to the significance of the district for its association with Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and for its association with U.S. Naval cryptanalysis during the World War II and Cold War periods. Nine of these contributing resources, including six buildings, which were erected within the period 1916 and 1942, retain sufficient integrity to convey their association with the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls. The remaining eleven contributing resources, including ten buildings, which were erected within the period 1943 and 1952, retain sufficient integrity to convey their association with the use of the property for U.S. Naval cryptanalysis. Two buildings (Buildings 7 and 15) were erected during the period of significance, in 1943 and 1916, respectively; however, as discussed above, these buildings have lost sufficient integrity from the period of significance, including integrity of materials, design, and workmanship, and can no longer convey their historic appearance during the associated period of significance; therefore, these buildings are non-contributing. The remaining seventeen buildings and three structures (antenna, picnic shelter and southern segment of the Nebraska Avenue fence) were erected after the period of significance for the district and are therefore non-contributing. The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224),

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a Late Woodland archeological site, is a contributing resource, although it does not relate to the historic uses of the site. See Table 1 below.

**Table 1: List of Resources in the Nebraska Avenue Complex**

<b>Building/Structure</b>	<b>Date of Construction</b>	<b>Contributing Status</b>	<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Association</b>
Building 1: Main School Building (including 1N and 1S)	1916	Contributing	Building	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls
Building 2: Class and Recreation Building	1940	Contributing	Building	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls
Building 3: Office Building	1943	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 4: Laboratory Building	1943	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 5: Extension to Laboratory Building	1944	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 6: Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel	1924	Contributing	Building	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls
Building 7: Dispensary	1943	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to loss of integrity
Building 8: Gatesley/Quarters A	1921	Contributing	Building	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls
Building 10: Chiller Plant	1997	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 12: Gymnasium	1929	Contributing	Building	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls
Building 13: Recreational Services	1943	Contributing	Building	Naval Communications Annex
Building 14: Cafeteria	1929	Contributing	Building	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls

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Building 15: Powerhouse	1916	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to loss of integrity
Building 17: Office Building	1944	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 18: Code and Signal Laboratory	1944	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 18-19: Connector	1946	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 19: Office Building	1946	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 20: Operations Building	1946	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 21: Public Works Maintenance	1953	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 43: Administrative Building	1944	Contributing	Building	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Building 49: Public Works Storage	1953	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 59: Classified Waste Destructor	1958	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 60: Auto Repair Shop	1961	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 81: Bachelors Enlisted Quarters`	1965	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 88: Security Officers' Office	2012	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 89: Vehicle Screening Building	2013	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 94: Special Purpose	1974	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 98: General Warehouse	1986	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date

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Building 100: Communications and Automated Data Processing Facility	1990	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Building 101: Supply Storage Building	1990	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Antenna	Circa 1953	Non-Contributing	Structure	Non-contributing due to date
Picnic Shelter	1990	Non-Contributing	Structure	Non-contributing due to date
Guard Booth 1	2013	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Guard Booth 2	2013	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Guard Booth 3	2013	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Guard Booth 4	2013	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Guard Booth 5	2013	Non-Contributing	Building	Non-contributing due to date
Flagpole	1916	Contributing	Object	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls
Semicircular Driveway	1916	Contributing	Structure	Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls
Northern Nebraska Avenue Fence and Navy Chapel Gate	Circa 1943	Contributing	Structure	U.S. Naval Communications Annex
Southern Nebraska Avenue Fence and Nebraska Avenue Entry	2013	Non-Contributing	Structure	Non-contributing due to date
The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224)	1,000 BC to 1600 AD	Contributing	Site	Late Woodland Culture

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Historical Narrative:

Prehistoric and Contact Period, 11,000 B.C. – A.D. 1608<sup>22</sup>

The land that would include the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls was first inhabited by prehistoric Native Americans, who utilized the natural resources provided by the riverine environment of the Potomac River valley. Evidence from a documented site within the property and various additional documented sites from the region suggests that Native American tribes occupied the area. The lands along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers and along Rock Creek offered lithic resources, game animals, and a variety of plant foods. Algonkian-speaking Native Americans still occupied the region at the time of the first European contact during the seventeenth century.

The prehistoric cultural sequence for the Piedmont Plateau, the physiographic province within which the property is situated, as well as the adjacent Coastal Plain is divided into three major periods: Paleo-Indian (11,000 to 8,000 B.C.), Archaic (8,000 to 1,000 B.C.), and Woodland (1,000 B.C. to A.D. 1600). These periods are based on changes in material culture and socio-cultural organization.

Native American occupation of the Potomac River valley dates to the Paleo-Indian period. Several Paleo-Indian sites have been recovered in the adjacent Coastal Plain of the Chesapeake drainage. Although no habitation sites have been identified within the property, projectile points have been found within Washington, D.C.<sup>23</sup> Present understanding of Paleo-Indian culture suggests that these early Native Americans lived in small groups, which utilized a variety of flora and fauna and other natural resources for tools.

The Archaic period is characterized by mobile bands of tribes that foraged and hunted; as later populations became increasingly sedentary, focused resource exploitation and more complex social organization developed.<sup>24</sup> A greater variety of artifacts is associated with Archaic occupation, including heavy steatite (soapstone) bowls, which reflect the increased sedentariness of the tribes.<sup>25</sup> Stone mortars, pestles, and milling stones that reflect the gathering and processing of plant foods are found in the sites of the Potomac River valley.<sup>26</sup> Archaic sites reported within Washington, D.C. are near water sources that afforded access to a variety of resources.

The introduction of ceramics distinguished Woodland culture from its antecedents. A small site located near the Memorial Chapel (Building 6) contained several artifacts that represent a single component Late Woodland campsite that also operated as a quarry and lithic workshop where quartz and to a lesser extent quartzite cobbles

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22 The following is taken from McVarish, et al, 4-5, except where noted.

23 Robert L. Humphrey and Mary Elizabeth Chambers, *Ancient Washington. American Indian Cultures of the Potomac Valley*, *GW Washington Studies*, Number 6, Second Edition (Washington, D.C.: George Washington University, 1985), 7.

24 Elizabeth A. Moore and Joan Chase, "Prehistoric Context," in *Archaeological Survey of the Southwest Quadrant of the District of Columbia*, edited by Elizabeth A. Moore and Charles W. Nett, 1992, 49. Prepared by the Department of Anthropology, The American University, Washington, D.C. Submitted to the District of Columbia, Historic Preservation Division, Washington, D.C.

25 Moore and Chase, 49-50, 53.

26 Humphrey and Chambers, 11.

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were collected and reduced.<sup>27</sup> When Captain John Smith explored the Potomac River in 1608, he recorded the locations of two villages within the area that became Washington, D.C.: an unnamed village below Little Falls, on a narrow terrace north of the Potomac River (between the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and MacArthur Boulevard in Northwest Washington, D.C.); and Nacotchtanke, located on the east bank of the Anacostia River near its junction with the Potomac River.<sup>28</sup> Traders traveling through the area in the 1630s reported deer, buffalo, bear, and turkey as well as fertile soils, all utilized by resident Native American tribes.<sup>29</sup>

In 1632, the land that became Washington, D.C., was granted by King Charles I to George Calvert (Lord Baltimore) and to his heirs and successors. George Calvert died in 1632, and his son, Cecilius inherited the grant. Cecilius Calvert and the subsequent Lords Baltimore were empowered to grant land until the Revolutionary War; after which, the authority to grant land was vested in the State of Maryland. The earliest grants for land within the boundaries of the federal city were patented in the 1660s, when the land was still part of Charles County, Maryland. Most of the early patent holders lived in southern Charles County, not on the land they owned within the future Washington, D.C. boundaries, as this land was most likely purchased for tobacco cultivation to replace other lands depleted by the crop. In 1696, the land became part of the newly formed Prince George's County.<sup>30</sup>

The earliest occupation of the land in what would become Washington, D.C., began in the early eighteenth century. Thomas Fletchall's 1717 will lists a dwelling house on Widow's Mite (near present-day 19<sup>th</sup> and M streets, N.W.). Documents also record the leasing of land in present-day Southwest Washington, D.C. in 1714.<sup>31</sup>

Early Historic Period, 1713-1915<sup>32</sup>

Early Native American trails became footpaths and were later expanded to accommodate horse-drawn carts and coaches.<sup>33</sup> One of these early roads was Braddock Road, which became the first military road in Colonial America. The road was constructed in 1755 for British troop planning a campaign against the French at Fort Duquesne (present-day Pittsburgh).<sup>34</sup> Construction of this road provided access to the present Tenleytown and

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27 This site, known as The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224), was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office on September 16, 2008. The site was determined eligible under Criterion D for the potential to yield information on Late Woodland life (1,000 B.C. to 1600 A.D.); David Maloney, Letter to Thomas McDowell, U.S. General Services Administration, from District of Columbia, Historic Preservation Section, September 16, 2008 and Charles Goode, Archaeological Survey Site Inventory Form, *The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224)*. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., for the U.S. General Services Administration, June 2008.

28 Humphrey and Chambers, 23-24.

29 Kenneth R. Bowling, *The Creation of Washington, D.C.*, (Fairfax, Virginia: George Mason University Press, 1991), 107.

30 Priscilla W. McNeil, "Rock Creek Hundred," in *Washington History* 3(1), 1991, 35-37.

31 McNeil, 37-39.

32 McVarish, et al., 5-8, except where noted.

33 Judith Beck Helm, *Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood* (Washington, D.C.: Tennally Press, 1981), 6.

34 The campaign was to be led by General Edward Braddock for whom the road was named. Later, this road became known as the Georgetown to Frederick Road.

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American University areas of Washington, D.C., and consequently, led to the development of these areas. The southern section of the road approximated the present Wisconsin Avenue.

The construction of River Road by Jacob Funk in 1779 further improved access to the area. Funk's road began at Braddock Road and continued west until it paralleled the Potomac River on its way to Great Falls, Seneca, and Harper's Ferry.<sup>35</sup> Scattered farms were developed to take advantage of transportation links to Georgetown and other Potomac River ports. Intensive development within the area of the property did not occur until the construction of the Georgetown to Rockville trolley line in 1890.<sup>36</sup>

The land on which the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls is located was part of a 3,124-acre tract known as Friendship, which was patented in 1713 by Colonel Thomas Addison and James Stoddert. This patent included large portions of the present-day Cleveland Park as well as portions of Chevy Chase and Bethesda.<sup>37</sup> Thomas Addison controlled the southern portion of the patent, which included present-day Tenleytown as far south as Van Ness Street and Sidwell Friends School, and as far west as the Dalecarlia Reservoir. This southern portion also included the area that would encompass the future Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls.<sup>38</sup>

After Colonel Addison's death in 1727, his two sons, Anthony and Henry, inherited his portion of Friendship. The sons apparently used Friendship for corn and vegetable gardening, as well as for raising tobacco, as indicated by Anthony Addison's probate inventory of 1753. After Anthony Addison's death, his portion of Friendship was bequeathed to the sons of his sister Ann, who had married William Murdock, a member of the Maryland House of Burgesses. John Murdock purchased his brother Addison's portion of Friendship. Circa 1760, John Murdock became the first property owner to reside on the Friendship tract when he built a frame dwelling south of the present Massachusetts Avenue. His new home afforded a commanding view of the Potomac River to the west and south.<sup>39</sup>

John Murdock became deputy surveyor of Frederick County under Maryland Governor Horatio Sharpe and also served as a colonel in the Revolutionary War. Colonel Murdock divided his time between his town house in Georgetown and his country estate, still known as Friendship. Colonel Murdock died on August 3, 1790, and his holdings passed to his sole heir, his son, Captain William Murdock. Captain Murdock had married Jane Contee Harrison in 1783 and had three children, Addison, Kitty, and Eliza. Captain Murdock died only one year after his father, and his son, Addison, inherited a large portion of the Friendship tract when he turned twenty-one years of age; however, Addison died in his early twenties, and control of Friendship passed to his widow. The heirs of Addison Murdock sold portions of Friendship, including the area that would include the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, to Nathan Loughborough in two transactions that occurred on December 5,

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35 Judith Beck Helm, "Tenleytown Crossroads," in *Washington at Home*, edited by Rita Johnson (Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988), 81.

36 Helm, "Tenleytown Crossroads," 83.

37 Helm, *Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood*, 12.

38 Addison was a resident of the Oxon Hill plantation in Prince George's County, Maryland, and so, it is unlikely that he ever lived on Friendship.

39 This dwelling, the first substantial country house in the Tenleytown section of Washington, D.C., was eventually acquired by American University. The University's Chancellor's House was later erected on its site.

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1804, and July 12, 1805.<sup>40</sup> These two transactions conveyed approximately 250 acres of the original Friendship patent to Nathan Loughborough.

Loughborough constructed a two-story, five-bay, brick Federal-style dwelling on the tract, calling his country estate "Grassland."<sup>41</sup> A stone barn was also erected at the same time. Only one other nearby dwelling existed at the time of Grassland's construction: Rosedale, the home of General Uriah Forrest. Later, Joseph Nourse also constructed a mansion in the vicinity.<sup>42</sup> The house and barn of Grassland remained on the property to the east until circa 1955, when they were demolished during construction of the WRC-TV studios.<sup>43</sup>

Nathan Loughborough served for several years as Comptroller of the Treasury. He was an investor in several business enterprises, including the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank, as well as serving as a magistrate of the District of Columbia for several years. He was one of the chief proponents of the Rockville Pike and served as president of the company from its establishment until his death in 1852. Although his son, Hamilton, was residing at Grassland at the time of Nathan Loughborough's death, Nathan was buried at Grassland in 1852.<sup>44</sup>

Hamilton Longborough retained ownership of Grassland through the Civil War, after which, it was sold to Lewis E. Means. In the fall of 1885, Means leased the property to William C. Whitney for \$30,000, who subsequently acquired the property and spent an additional \$10,000 on improvements to the dwelling and outbuildings. Whitney, an attorney, was a supporter of Grover Cleveland, and upon Cleveland's election to the Presidency, he appointed Whitney as his Secretary of the Navy. Grassland became a favorite retreat of Cleveland and Secretary of the Treasury Fairchild. Cleveland's visits to Grassland purportedly inspired him to purchase his own country estate, Oak View, a 272-acre farm on the Tennallytown Road near Grassland.<sup>45</sup>

Whitney had initially hoped to build Grassland into a large country estate, but the subdivision and sale of the surrounding land halted these plans.<sup>46</sup> In December 1887, Whitney sold an approximate seventy six-acre parcel of Grassland, including the dwelling and outbuildings, to William K. and Martha A. Ryan and Arthur Barnwell.<sup>47</sup> William Ryan, a resident of Charleston, South Carolina, was listed in the 1899 Washington city directory as a cotton broker.<sup>48</sup>

Five years later, the Ryan and Barnwell sold a partial interest in the parcel to Robert E. Lee and H. Rozier Delaney, acting on behalf of Caroline Ryan Nash, for the sum of \$10.<sup>49</sup> In May 1913, Martha A. Ryan and

40 Margaret Loughborough, "Nathan Loughborough," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Volume 24: 1-7. 1922, 2fn.

41 Thomas Froncek, editor, *An Illustrated History: The City of Washington* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977), 287.

42 Loughborough, 2.

43 Helm, *Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood*, 63.

44 Loughborough, 2, 4.

45 Mark D. Hirsch, *William C. Whitney: Modern Warwick*, (New York: Dodd, Mead, and Company, 1948), 304.

46 Hirsch, 305.

47 District of Columbia Deed Book 1294: 242, 1887.

48 William H. Boyd, *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: William Ballentyne and Sons, 1889), 748.

49 District of Columbia Deed Book 1761: 112, 1892.

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Caroline Ryan Nash sold a fifteen-acre parcel to Elizabeth J. Somers, who acquired the property as the future site of her progressive Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls.<sup>50</sup>

Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 1875 – 1915

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls was the first non-sectarian female boarding school established in Washington, D.C. The school's founder, Elizabeth J. (Eddy) Somers, an Indiana native, established the school "for young ladies" in her home in 1875.<sup>51</sup> Throughout the next forty years, the school continued to grow and thrive under the guidance of Elizabeth Somers until its growth and popularity necessitated the construction of an entire campus.

*Elizabeth J. (Eddy) Somers*

Elizabeth J. Somers was born Elizabeth Jane Eddy in 1837 on a farm in Rush County, Indiana. Her father was a Methodist circuit-rider preacher, who traveled throughout the Western Reserve in the early nineteenth century.

In the early 1850s, Elizabeth Eddy attended the Ohio Wesleyan Female College, founded as Western Female Institute in 1832 by nineteenth-century women's educational and social reformers Catharine Beecher and her sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe. The school formalized the study of domestic work and enhanced this study with courses in mathematics, science, history, and languages. In addition, the Beecher sisters also advocated a regime of physical exercise for their students. Therefore, by the time Elizabeth Eddy graduated in 1855, the Ohio Wesleyan Female College was lauded as the "most demanding and innovative college for women in the west."<sup>52</sup>

Upon graduation, Elizabeth Eddy became a mathematics teacher at the Northwestern Female College in Evanston, Illinois. In 1859, she left Illinois for a teaching position at the Methodist Female College in Pittsburgh, which she held for two years.<sup>53</sup> She subsequently took a teaching position in Centerville, Indiana, where she met Attorney James W. Somers, who, two years later, would become her husband. In 1863, she and her husband, James, moved to Washington, D.C., where Mrs. Elizabeth J. Somers served as a tutor for the children of government officials.

*Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 204 F Street N.W. and 1103 M Street N.W.*

In the fall of 1875, Elizabeth Somers opened a "family and day school for young ladies," in her own home at 204 F Street N.W. in Washington, D.C.<sup>54</sup> However, because several families had asked that their daughters be

50 District of Columbia Deed Book 3632: 129, 1913.

51 Jean Brownell, "Mount Vernon Seminary to Mark Birth 100 Years Ago of its Founder" (Un sourced article, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr., Public Library, Washington, D.C.), 1937.

52 Nina Mikhalevsky, *Dear Daughters: A History of Mount Vernon Seminary and College* (Washington, D.C.: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Alumnae Association, 2001), 16.

53 Rebecca Dick, "Generations to Attend Centenary of School Founder" (Un sourced article, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr., Public Library, Washington, D.C.), 1937.

54 Jean Brownell, "Mount Vernon Seminary to Mark Birth 100 Years Ago of its Founder" (Un sourced article, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr., Public Library, Washington, D.C.), 1937.

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allowed to live with the Somers family during their education, the school served as a boarding school from the time of its founding. Elizabeth Somers named her small school “Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls” in memory of her late brother, Dr. Thomas Eddy, who had died suddenly in 1874. Dr. Eddy was a widely respected Methodist pastor and in the early 1870s led the efforts in building the Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland.<sup>55</sup>

The first Mount Vernon Seminary class at the home of Mrs. Somers included eight day students and two boarders.<sup>56</sup> In 1876, the first student graduated and the following year, the graduating class grew to five.<sup>57</sup> The number of students continued to grow throughout the next five years so that, in 1880, Somers relocated the school to 1103 M Street NW, which served as the school’s location for the next twenty-seven years.<sup>58</sup> During its location at M Street, the school enrollment generally ranged from forty to fifty day students and eighty to one-hundred boarders.<sup>59</sup> Consequently throughout subsequent years, neighboring buildings were acquired as dormitories, classrooms, faculty, and club rooms, as well as a Senior House.<sup>60</sup>

Atypical of nineteenth-century female boarding schools, Somers encouraged her students to participate in the cultural and political life of the community and was a pioneer in exposing young women to current events and issues. While the curriculum closely resembled the one she had studied at Wesleyan, Somers also focused on shaping the character, intellect, and femininity of her young pupils.<sup>61</sup> Somers started the youngest pupils on the traditional “three R’s,” as well as teaching them more “difficult” subjects including science and history. The older students were taught mathematics, history, art history, science, grammar, and literature. As part of their education, students also attended plays and concerts as well as Congressional sessions.<sup>62</sup> In 1887, Somers introduced a course titled “American Thought on Social and Political Questions of the Day” and in the 1890s invited leaders of both parties in Congress to present their views on current topics to her students.<sup>63</sup>

In the late 1880s, James Somers, Elizabeth’s husband, suffered a serious illness that left him deaf. The disability ended his law career and forced him to accept a minor position with the Pension Office. Forced to financially provide for her husband as well as her widowed mother-in-law, Elizabeth Somers subsequently engaged in a more ambitious plan for her school.<sup>64</sup>

In 1913, Somers purchased fifteen acres of the historic Grassland estate on the east side of Loughborough Road (currently Nebraska Avenue). This property was originally known as the Country Playground, with the

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55 Mikhalevsky, 16.

56 Faith Bradford, *Elizabeth J. Somers, November 5, 1837 -- June 8, 1924, A Memoir* (Washington, D.C.: Mount Vernon Seminary, 1937), 20.

57 Bradford, 23.

58 McVarish, et al., 17.

59 Bradford, 30.

60 Ibid., 26-27.

61 Mikhalevsky, 18.

62 McVarish, et al., 17.

63 Dick, 1937.

64 Mikhalevsky, 18.

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intention that seminary students would be bused from the downtown M Street campus to the playground.<sup>65</sup> The playground included two tennis courts, a basketball court, tetherball and volleyball facilities, and a six-hole golf course.<sup>66</sup> Subsequently, Somers set her sights on the Country Playground as the site of the new seminary campus.

Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 1916 - 1941

When the site of the new campus along Nebraska Avenue was chosen, what had previously been countryside was now the expanding outskirts of Washington, D.C. The new school grounds of the seminary were on a commanding ridge, facing Virginia. Massachusetts Avenue, the southern boundary of the campus, was paved as far as Ward Circle and the buildings across Nebraska Avenue were in use by American University. The area around Ward Circle and Tenleytown was being developed with large homes, and new businesses were constructed along Wisconsin Avenue to the north of the campus.

In June 1916, Elizabeth Somers sold her fifteen-acre Country Playground parcel to the newly created Mount Vernon Seminary, Inc. for \$72,000.<sup>67</sup> The seminary also acquired an adjoining 2.15-acre parcel from Adelia Hensley, who succeeded Elizabeth Somers in 1915 as the school's headmistress. The design of the buildings and layout of the new campus were awarded to New York-based Architect, Wesley Sherwood Bessell, whose previous work included a number of campus plans and educational buildings in addition to historic renovation projects and grand homes for the affluent. Bessell described the site of the new campus as, "unsurpassed in the District of Columbia."<sup>68</sup>

In 1916, Hon. Robert Lansing laid the cornerstone of the new school.<sup>69</sup> A year later, on October 3, 1917, in the midst of World War I, the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls new Nebraska Avenue campus officially opened with one-hundred students. A subsequent printed announcement in the *Washington Star* advertised the following:

Mount Vernon Seminary, familiarly known as Mrs. Somers' School, recognizing the demand of the present day for country schools, has purchased the most beautiful site in the immediate vicinity of Washington and is erecting upon it a building which will be in readiness of occupancy in October 1917... Fifteen and one-half acres of beautiful rolling land furnish space for hockey, golf, tennis, basket-ball, and other desirable sports. The three-story, fireproof building [Building 1], which will accommodate one hundred and twenty-five pupils, is of Georgian architecture, built around a quadrangle, three sides, to be completed now and the fourth to be added when the need arises. Attention has been given to comfort and perfect sanitary conditions rather than to luxury of

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65 McVarish, et al., 10.

66 McVarish, et al., 10.

67 District of Columbia Deed Book 3901: 415, 1916.

68 Mikhalevsky, 66.

69 The cornerstone for Building 1 (Main Building) was not located during the site visit.

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appointment... There are also ample living and recitation rooms, a gymnasium and swimming pool combined with as much luxury as is compatible with vigorous mental and physical life... While the ages of girls in the boarding department have usually varied from sixteen to twenty, provision will also be made for the classification and individual care of girls as young as fourteen... For those who desire to prepare for college a thorough and well-balanced course will be given, enabling pupils who have begun their preparation elsewhere to continue their work without loss.<sup>70</sup>

The Main Building (Building 1) on campus housed all functions of the new school. Aside from the “Shelter,” a temporary structure erected in 1915 that accommodated restroom and toilet facilities for the Country Playground, the Main Building was the first building erected on the complex.<sup>71</sup> The large Georgian Revival building, designed by Bessell, consisted of a centrally located classroom, refectory, and “Great Hall” area (Building 1) flanked by two wings, which housed the dormitories for the students, a swimming pool, and additional classrooms (Building 1N and 1S) around a quadrangle.<sup>72</sup> Bessell described the design of the original building:

The building is built on the U-shape plan with cloisters both sides and a quad, opened at one end, one hundred feet wide. This quadrangle and cloister permit the girls freedom for exercise, and are secluded from public view. All of the bedrooms at one time during the day receive sunlight, and these rooms are arranged in groups of two double rooms with a connecting bathroom and also a few double rooms without these connecting baths. There are twenty single bedrooms, a senior hall and a corresponding room called the optima. These rooms are clubrooms for the girl’s use.

On the third floor are sound-proof practice-rooms and an art studio.

In the lower end of the north wing above grade is located the swimming pool, which is built of reinforced concrete and finished in white cement... It contains also a visitor’s gallery and dressing-rooms. Back of the swimming pool is a gymnasium of ample size.<sup>73</sup>

In the south wing, lower end, is located the domestic science department and telephone-room. Here also is the kitchen with its necessary adjuncts such as the bakery, butcher shop, dairy, and ice-cream room.

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70 Mikhalevsky, 63.

71 The “Shelter” was razed in the 1920s when Buildings 12 (Gymnasium) and 14 (Cafeteria) were constructed.

72 Mikhalevsky, 66.

73 The swimming pool was filled in for use as additional office space after the U.S. Navy acquired the property in 1943.

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Just over the kitchen there is a large serving pantry...Next to the pantry is the main dining-hall with windows on both sides—that means sunlight at all meals. Next to this room are the French and private dining-rooms, and to the front of these connected by a hall is located what is known as the “Great Hall.” Across the entrance front are the necessary reception rooms and administrative quarters, and in the north wing, facing the north light, are all of the classrooms.<sup>74</sup>

In addition, the boiler house (Building 15) located to the east of the Main Building was erected in 1916.

On November 5, 1917, Elizabeth Somers’ eightieth birthday, Mount Vernon Seminary held a formal dedication of the new campus. Speakers included Mrs. Somers, Head Mistress Adelia Hensley, and Bishop John W. Hamilton, Chancellor of American University, who offered the formal dedication and blessing of the new campus. Dr. Philander Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, spoke about the initiation of the new campus during a time of war:

There is a passionate instinct in humanity for giving the next generation better opportunities, higher ideals, safer, surer path. That is the motive power of prayers, of education—sometimes of war.... This country is sacrificing everything in order that future generations may lead peaceful lives devoid of unrest and hate, and it is the part of education to see that the sacrifice is not in vain.<sup>75</sup>

At the request of Mrs. Somers, November 5 was designated as the school’s birthday, and from that day onward, November 5 has been celebrated as Founder’s Day.

In addition to the immense undertaking of moving to a new campus, the students, faculty, and staff of Mount Vernon Seminary were also involved with the ongoing national war effort. A Red Cross class, in which students learned basic first aid as well as bandage making, knitting, and sewing, became mandatory for all students. The Seminary students and faculty subsequently provided hundreds of knitted and sewn garments, bandages, and holiday boxes for troops stationed throughout Europe as well as those housed at American University and those wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital.<sup>76</sup>

In addition, the flagpole on the complex, situated to the west of Building 1, was given in honor of faculty member, Miss Reba J. Taylor, who volunteered for the American Red Cross as a nurse when war was declared. Miss Taylor died in 1916 after succumbing to an infection while serving in England.<sup>77</sup>

In December 1918, Mount Vernon Seminary offered a “War Service Course” to the community, which offered “Stenography, Business Arithmetic, Type Writing, Bookkeeping, Business English, Business Law, and

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74 Wesley Sherwood Bessell, “The Mount Vernon Seminary, Washington, D.C.,” *Architecture* 41 (February 1920): 32; as recounted in McVarish, et al., 11-12.

75 Mikhalevsky, 70.

76 Ibid., 73.

77 Ibid.

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Penmanship” in order to “meet the requirements of the government and the increasing demand on the part of our own students.”<sup>78</sup> The only requirement for admission was the completion of a high school course of study. In addition, students and faculty also bought hundreds of War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds. When Armistice Day was declared on November 11, 1919, Mount Vernon Seminary estimated its aggregate contribution to the war effort had reached more than \$42,000.<sup>79</sup>

Mount Vernon Seminary prospered during the postwar years. On May 22, 1918, the first Commencement took place at the Seminary. Increasing enrollments and tuition allowed the Seminary to initiate retirement annuities for faculty, upgrade salaries, and provide leaves of absence and summer scholarships for faculty. In addition, the Seminary also sponsored European summer trips for students.<sup>80</sup>

In 1921, Adelia Gates Hensley used her own private funds to construct a residence to be used by the headmistress of the Seminary. Headmistress Hensley hired Wesley Sherwood Bessell to design a residence that would harmonize with the Main Building (Building 1). The residence was completed in 1922 and was occupied by Headmistress Hensley until her death a year later. Known as the Gatesley House (Building 8), the residence, including an approximately 2.0-acre parcel, was bequeathed to the Seminary upon Headmistress Hensley’s death in 1923.

On May 28, 1924, the students of Mount Vernon Seminary dedicated the *Adelia Gates Hensley Memorial Gate* in honor of their late headmistress, which stood along Nebraska Avenue between Buildings 7 and 11 until the recent perimeter security upgrade. The gate was built of the same brick as the Main Building (Building 1), in a wide curve with square piers at the ends capped with white sandstone globes. The gate was inscribed, “Erected by students of Mount Vernon Seminary 1923-1924.”<sup>81</sup>

Jean Dean Cole succeeded Adelia Hensley as Seminary Headmistress, and subsequently lived in Gatesley House from 1923 until her retirement in 1936. The residence stood vacant for two years, after which it was occupied by Dr. George Lloyd, Seminary President, and his wife, Olivia, Seminary Headmistress, who lived in the residence until the U.S. Navy assumed ownership of the property in 1943.<sup>82</sup>

On June 8, 1924, Mrs. Elizabeth Somers, the school’s founder, died in her home on Newark Avenue. Her body was brought to the Great Hall in the Main Building (Building 1), where it laid “amid the masses of flowers that bore the loving messages and tributes of old pupils, teachers, and friends.” Later, her body was laid to rest in her home state of Indiana.<sup>83</sup>

Shortly before the death of Mrs. Somers, a committee of Seminary alumnae was formed to raise money to build a chapel to honor the school’s founder. A small groundbreaking ceremony took place in May 1924:

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78 Ibid., 75.

79 Ibid.

80 Ibid., 76-77.

81 Ibid., 80.

82 McVarish, et al., 12.

83 Mikhalevsky, 83.

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The little procession from the school to the site was headed by Dr. William Mather Lewis, President of the George Washington University, and Dr. Charles Wood, Mrs. Somers' own pastor, who gave a brilliant touch of color with their beautiful Academic Hoods...It was a very simple but very impressive ceremony.<sup>84</sup>

On Founder's Day, November 5, 1924, the cornerstone for the Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6), engraved with the date "1924," was laid in the southwestern corner of the foundation. A box was placed inside the cornerstone and included: portraits of Mrs. Somers and Mrs. Hensley, a photograph of Headmistress Cole, coins of 1924, a list of 1924-1925 pupils, *The Washington Post* for November 5, 1924, a Bible verse, the signature of servants who served Mrs. Somers, and a photograph of Seminary Alumnus Martha Pollard, who had spearheaded the construction of the chapel.<sup>85</sup>

Wesley Sherwood Bessell was chosen to design the chapel. Bessell employed a simple Georgian Revival style for the building. Bessell also employed the square bell tower in order to reflect the look of a Methodist meetinghouse in memory of Mrs. Somers' father and brother, both Methodist preachers. The construction of the building, which amounted to a cost of \$110,000, was undertaken by the Boyle-Robertson Company of Washington, D.C.<sup>86</sup>

On May 24, 1925, the Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel was dedicated during the Golden Jubilee celebration, which honored the school's fiftieth anniversary. The program of the jubilee also included bringing over 350 alumnae from all classes for the previous fifty years for a gala dinner at the Mayflower Hotel, a huge parade of all classes present on the quadrangle, Baccalaureate and memorial services, and Commencement.<sup>87</sup>

However, the highlight of the Golden Jubilee was the formal dedication of the chapel, which *Architecture* magazine described as one of the "finest examples of Georgian Colonial Revival architecture in Washington."<sup>88</sup> The magazine further described:

Four white entrance columns and two portal columns are memorials; the chapel is situated on the land to command the longest possible daylight through the chancel windows...White paneled interior with a recessed Palladian window behind the reredos...Pews have hinged doors and the pulpit is elevated with a hexagonal canopy. The manual Skinner pipe organ given in the name of Adelia Gates Hensley has golden pipes behind and above the choir stalls and in keeping with the church architecture. There are circular staircases on either side of the interior

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84 Ibid.

85 Mikhalevsky, 84.

86 McVarish, et al., 12.

87 Mikhalevsky, 86.

88 Ibid., 93.

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door...the colonial screen in the foyer is a memorial to students who did not graduate but who nevertheless retained an identity within the school.<sup>89</sup>

In the late 1920s, Mount Vernon Seminary acquired sixteen additional acres east of the original parcel, which brought the campus to a total of thirty-one acres. A new “Field House” (Building 14), designed by Bessell and made of stucco and brick, was completed in 1929 and included a massive fireplace at the south end. The building was used as an entertainment and recreational center for students and became the center of campus life.<sup>90</sup> An open-air gymnasium (Building 12), designed by Bessell and his colleague Allen de Hart, was also completed in 1929. The building, which included a full-size basketball court, consisted of low walls and curtains for sides and a slate roof, supported on brick columns.<sup>91</sup>

However, by the fall of 1932, the Seminary was suffering the effects of the Great Depression. Enrollment declined rapidly, and the planned construction of a new classroom building was halted. During this time, in 1936, Headmistress Jean Dean Cole was forced to retire due to failing health, and the school remained without a head for the next two years.<sup>92</sup>

As the nation slowly recovered from the Great Depression, Mount Vernon Seminary witnessed a new prosperity under the stable leadership of George and Olivia Lloyd, who continued to stress the importance of the personal as well as the academic development of Seminary students. Students were required to sit down to dinner at assigned tables with faculty and staff, learn the required sites of Washington, D.C., participate in political and cultural events, dress for the theatre and concerts, and visit art galleries in addition to fulfilling their daily rigorous studies.<sup>93</sup> The Lloyds also oversaw the construction of an additional classroom building (Building 2), designed by Bessell and constructed to the east of the Main Building (Building 1).

Landscape and hardscape features during this time included large areas of grass interspersed with walnut, maple, and oak trees. A series of poured-concrete pedestrian pathways and gravel roadways connected the individual buildings. Evergreen foundation plantings lined the classroom and recreation buildings on all elevations.

*Education at the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls*<sup>94</sup>

While the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls was located at the Nebraska Avenue campus, the school consisted of two academic divisions: the Preparatory School and the collegiate division, which later became the Junior College. The Preparatory School curriculum consisted of four years of high school, while the collegiate division consisted of two years of college.

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<sup>89</sup> Ibid.; The “colonial screen” refers to the screen that serves as the southern wall for the nave. Any inscriptions or memorial to students, as suggested in the article, were not found during the site investigation.

<sup>90</sup> Mikhalevsky, 101.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid., 106.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid., 114.

<sup>94</sup> The following is taken from McVarish, et al., pages 12-14, except where noted.

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During its first two years at the Nebraska Avenue campus, the seminary was intended to be “more systematic, thorough and modern than the typical boarding school, yet less severe and arduous than our women’s colleges.”<sup>95</sup> The Preparatory School included courses in English; American, world, and biblical history; arithmetic and algebra; and physical geography, as well as botany, physiology, and geology. Electives included languages, geometry, and music.<sup>96</sup>

During the seminary’s later years from 1918 through 1942, the Preparatory School consisted of two courses of study. The College Preparatory Course was designed to prepare students for College Entrance Board examinations, while the General Course allowed students to follow their main interests while obtaining general background knowledge in literature and history. In the General Course, academic credit was given for home economics, music, art, and in the departments of speech and dramatics.

Mrs. Somers was aware that the majority of her students came to her not for academic training but for an education that would prepare them to be wives and hostesses. Accordingly, the curriculum stressed the practical side of home-making, including child-rearing, management of servants, and planning of meals, as well as the chemistry, physics, and bacteriology courses. Economics courses emphasized budgets, investments, and other elements of personal finance, once thought to be too complicated and beyond the learning capabilities of young women.

In 1927, the Junior College of the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls was established at the Nebraska Avenue campus. At the time of its implementation, the concept of a Junior College was revolutionary. The purpose of the Junior College, as described in 1936-1937, was to “develop individuality and leadership, and to stimulate in the student a real intellectual interest...that will adequately meet the standard of work required in the first two years of university life.”<sup>97</sup> These “collegiate course” subjects included chemistry, geology, astronomy, physics, mathematics, political economy, mental philosophy (psychology), moral science, logic, as well as history, literature, languages, and art history. All of these subjects were taught in an environment that nurtured its students as “ladies.” The program that Somers created developed a nationwide reputation for the knowledge, cultural, and social skills of its graduates.<sup>98</sup>

Throughout its time at the Nebraska Avenue campus, the philosophy of the Mount Vernon School for Girls went beyond the training and education of women only within the realm of “domestic sciences” and duties. As summarized in the 1940-1941 yearbook:

It is the conviction of the school, as it always has been, that students who enjoy the opportunities which special educational advantages provide should serve their communities as leaders. Therefore, the aim of the school is to develop students who are

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95 Mount Vernon Seminary, *Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls: 1916-1917* (Washington, D.C.: Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 1916), 3.

96 Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 15.

97 Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, “The Junior College,” *Mount Vernon Seminary: 1936-1937* (Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, Washington, D.C., 1936), 9.

98 Mikhalevsky, 18.

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conscious of their responsibilities to the communities as citizens, who have some knowledge of the problems which will confront them in a changing world, and who can analyze their environment and react intelligently.<sup>99</sup>

Furthermore, the seminary attracted students from the political elite, including daughters and descendants of U.S. Presidents, senators, congressmen, cabinet members, and foreign diplomatic corps, who sought a rigorous and yet progressive education.<sup>100</sup> While most female seminaries conducted a thirty-two-week session, Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls kept a thirty-eight-week schedule. Many students graduating from the Seminary during this time went on to colleges and universities, although this was still not common for women. Students who graduated from the full six-year collegiate program at the Seminary continued their education at four-year colleges and universities, the majority of which were just slowly opening their doors to women. Thus, a significant number of Seminary graduates attended some of the most elite colleges and universities open to women, including Cornell, Swarthmore, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Vassar, University of North Carolina, and the University of Colorado.<sup>101</sup>

Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 1942-1943

With the beginning of the U.S. involvement in World War II, the Seminary again became involved with war activities. In addition to their volunteer work, all students were required to take a course in first aid or home nursing, practice air raid drills, engage in wartime conservation of metals and rubber, and adhere to rationing.<sup>102</sup>

Throughout the summer of 1942, Seminary faculty and staff watched anxiously as the military took over school campuses near Washington, D.C., including Arlington Hall Junior College in Virginia and National Park College in Forest Glen, Maryland. However, Seminary President George Lloyd later wrote:

Since we [Seminary] had not been approached directly or indirectly by any government agency...and since a neighbor of the school informed me that our plant had been considered but had been found too small for government purposes, I felt we could look forward to a long and uninterrupted operation of Mount Vernon Seminary.<sup>103</sup>

Nevertheless, on October 4, 1942, the U.S. Navy notified Mr. Lloyd that a team would be examining the property for possible military use. Several weeks later, on November 20, 1942, James V. Forrestal, the Secretary of the Navy, sent a message to the Seminary declaring:

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99 As quoted in McVarish, et al., 14.

100 Mary A. Evins, "Review of Mikhalevsky, Nina, Dear Daughters: A History of Mount Vernon Seminary and College," (H-Women, H-Net Reviews, July 2004), available from <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=9626>, (accessed 24 December 2008).

101 Mikhalevsky, 119.

102 Ibid.

103 Ibid., 123.

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The Navy Department has determined that in the interest of the war effort, it is necessary to acquire the fee simple title to the buildings and grounds of the Mount Vernon Seminary located at 3801 Nebraska Avenue, Washington, D.C....possession of the premises to be necessary on December 15, 1942.<sup>104</sup>

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls was to be taken over by the U.S. Navy for “special training,” the nature of which was secret.<sup>105</sup> This acquisition was authorized under the terms of the Second War Power Act of March 27, 1942.<sup>106</sup> The federal government offered the school \$800,000 for the site, which was then estimated to be worth about five-million dollars. The federal government eventually paid Mount Vernon Seminary, Inc. approximately \$1.1 million for the seminary campus in 1944.<sup>107</sup>

Consequently, Mount Vernon Seminary was faced with the decision to close for the remainder of the year, close permanently, or attempt to persevere at another location. The Seminary Board chose to continue the school at another location. Mr. Lloyd was able to convince the U.S. Navy to extend the time the school had to be off the campus only until January 15, 1943, while the Seminary faculty and staff scrambled to find another location. By December 1942, the Seminary had reserved the second floor of Garfinckel’s Department Store, at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and 49<sup>th</sup> Street, NW as well as other nearby buildings in the area of Spring Valley, for temporary use.

Subsequently, faculty, staff, and students began vacating the Nebraska Avenue campus on December 14, 1942, and the Mount Vernon Seminary was quickly transformed into the U.S. Naval Communications Station, which became the U.S. Naval Communications Annex.<sup>108</sup> The U.S. Navy then erected a double-wide six-foot chain-link fence around the site.<sup>109</sup> Over the next months, the entire refectory was gutted and the former classrooms, dormitory rooms, studios, library, Great Hall, and other areas of Buildings 1 and 2 were converted into offices. Trees and gardens were removed for the erection of Quonset huts.<sup>110</sup> Mr. David Brooks, staff at the Mount Vernon Seminary since 1921, helped Mr. Lloyd sneak into the Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6) one evening and remove all of the altar materials, including the Somers Bible, the altar cross and candlesticks, and a number of hymnals and prayer books, in addition to blackboards, stoves, chemistry equipment, and “all the things we felt the Navy could do quite well without, and we knew we couldn’t.”<sup>111</sup>

At the time of when the U.S. Navy assumed control of the campus, Mount Vernon Seminary consisted of approximately thirty-five acres, seven buildings, and a total indebtedness of less than \$160,000.<sup>112</sup> It took 120

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104 Ibid., 124.

105 “Mount Vernon Seminary to be Taken Over for Use By Navy,” *Washington Star* (Washington, D.C.), 25 November, 1942.

106 McVarish, et al., 14.

107 Spencer S. Hsu, “In NW Area, Another Secretive Agency,” *The Washington Post* (Washington, D.C.), 3 July 2003.

108 Mikhalevsky, 126.

109 David Brinkley, *Washington Goes to War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988), 117.

110 Mikhalevsky, 127.

111 Ibid.

112 The seven buildings were: Buildings 1, 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 15.

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vanloads to move all of the contents from the campus to Spring Valley and various storage locations throughout the area. The Nebraska Avenue campus was officially turned over to the U.S. Navy on January 15, 1943.<sup>113</sup>

### U.S. Naval Cryptanalysis through World War II<sup>114</sup>

#### *Early Naval Cryptanalysis*

The first U.S. Naval cryptanalysis effort took place during World War I, although the first formal code book of the U.S. Navy dates from 1848. However, the U.S. Navy had to wait for over six decades until other nations developed communication technologies. By World War I, Germany and Japan had developed the technology, and consequently, the Office of Naval Communications was organized. Four assistant communications officers coded and decoded messages in an office located in the State-War-Navy Department Building (Old Executive Office Building). However, the U.S. Navy's participation in cryptanalysis was minimal.

In January 1924, Lieutenant Laurance F. Safford set up a radio intelligence organization in the Code and Signal Section of the U.S. Navy Department. After a brief deployment at sea, Safford returned to Washington, D.C. and built up the U.S. Navy's communications intelligence organization. Safford subsequently improved and developed cipher machines suitable for the U.S. Navy's requirements of speed, reliability, and security.<sup>115</sup>

The U.S. Navy utilized Safford's discoveries and began setting up intercept stations to focus on enemy communications. Prior to World War II, the U.S. Navy operated intercept stations at Cheltenham, Maryland; Winter Harbor, Maine; Bainbridge Island, Washington; Oahu, Hawaii; and a blockhouse at Corregidor in the Philippines. Smaller "listening posts" were located at Guam; Imperial Beach, California; Amagansett, Long Island, New York; and Jupiter, Florida.<sup>116</sup> These intercept stations continued to operate after World War I and into World War II.

#### *Development of the German Enigma*

With the involvement of the U.S. Navy in World War II, efforts were expanded to include cryptanalysis of German communications. This cryptanalysis, which involved solving ciphers produced by the German Enigma machine, took place during World War II at the U.S. Navy's cryptanalysis facility located at the U.S. Naval Communications Annex (NCA), formerly the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls.

The German Enigma machine converted letters of the alphabet to other letters of the alphabet (ciphers) so that a coded message could be transmitted. Developed by Dutchman Hugo Alexander Koch and German Arthur Scherbius in the early 1920s, their machine, which based its cipher capabilities on a series of wired rotors

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113 In 1945, Mount Vernon Seminary moved to its present location on Foxhall Road, Washington, D.C. In 1969, the Seminary was dis-established, and the institution's name changed to Mount Vernon Junior College, which was later changed to simply Mount Vernon College. In 1999, the college was purchased by the George Washington University, and the campus officially became the present the George Washington University at Mount Vernon College.

114 The following is taken from McVarish, et al., 15-24, except where noted; Cryptanalysis refers to the solving of cryptograms or cryptographic system.

115 David Kahn, *The Codebreakers: The Story of Secret Writing* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1967), 388.

116 James Bamford, *The Puzzle Palace: A Report of America's Most Secret Agency* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1982), 158.

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wheels and a plugboard, caught the attention of the German military. In 1926, the German Navy, followed by the German Army three years later, began using an improved version of the Enigma. The Germans subsequently altered and complicated the machine to increase its secrecy. The Enigma was eventually also used by the Luftwaffe (German Air Forces) and the German Security Services (SS).

In basic terms, the Enigma was a transposition machine. The machine used a typewriter keyboard, mechanical rotors, and complex electrical connections to develop ciphers, or letter-for-letter substitutions for encrypting messages. Behind the keyboard, the alphabet was repeated on small round holes lit by flashlight bulbs. The heart of the machine was a series of pathways through which an electric current from a battery made its way from the depressed key on the keyboard to the lit-up bulb. Due to the maze-like nature of the pathways, the letter lit up by the bulb was never the same one that was pressed on the keyboard. The message remained the same length but became jumbled. Copying down the illuminated letters as they appeared gave the cipher team the encrypted message to transmit.

The problem faced by the cryptographers was to determine the interior workings of the transposition process so that the message could be read in its original language. In message transmission, the operator called out the letters as they were lit-up, and a second operator made note of them. The sequence was then transmitted in Morse code and was picked up by the receiver, who then took the letters and tapped them into their own machine. Provided that the receiver's machine was set the same as the sender's machine, the message would be converted back to German.

The setting of the machine for each day, called "the menu," was contained in a six-letter code that determined the rotor settings. This code was developed in one of two ways. In the Luftwaffe and German Army, the operator was able to choose their own code, which ranged from alphabetical progressions to names of movie stars to obscenities. The German Navy specified the rotor settings, which were to be changed three times per day, in a secret handbook.

*Early Attempts to Break the Enigma Ciphers*

Polish Mathematician Marian Rejewski and a group of associates sought mathematical solutions to decode the German ciphers. A French Intelligence Officer, Captain Gustave Bertrand, sought to crack the cipher by secretly obtaining technical information from an informant working in the German cryptology service. The informant provided Captain Bertrand with a series of documents, including an Enigma operating manual complete with drawings, a list of instructions for setting the machine, and a list of some of the machine settings.<sup>117</sup>

Rejewski combined his study of the encrypted messages with the information obtained by Bertrand and managed to determine the wiring of one rotor of the German Enigma machine. Within a few weeks, Rejewski had solved all three rotors as well as the reflector. These breakthroughs provided the Polish Cipher Bureau with enough knowledge to rewire a commercial Enigma to match the configuration of the secret German machine.

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117 Thomas D. Parrish, *The Ultra Americans* (New York: Stein and Day, Briarcliff Manor, 1986), 46.

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The change of the daily keys to the machine, as well as additional changes to the rotors and settings by the Germans in 1938, forced the Polish Cipher Bureau to find some means of checking rotor and plug positions at high speed. Rejewski's solution was to hook a number of Enigma machines together and test possible cipher solutions. The resulting machine, which consisted of six linked Enigma machines, was known as the *bomba* or *bombe*.<sup>118</sup>

Although the bombe initially succeeded, additional modifications by the Germans proved to be too overwhelming for the Polish Cipher Bureau, alone. In the summer of 1939, British and French intelligence officers met with Polish intelligence officers and were shown the Polish-built Enigma along with the bombe. Although Poland, followed later by France, soon fell to the Nazis, their cryptanalysis technology had already been transferred to the French and British. After the United States entered into World War II, the British subsequently passed on their cryptanalysis technology to the United States.

### *American Cryptanalysis during World War II*

Prior to entering the war, the United States was not intercepting large volumes of Enigma messages and had not seriously worked to decipher the codes. With the United States entry into World War II in 1941, American ships soon became targets for German U-boats. Between January and March 1942, German U-boats sank 216 Allied ships off the east coast.<sup>119</sup> Therefore, the United States would need assistance from the British if it hoped to combat the U-boat coastal attacks.

The U-boat attacks in 1942 led to cooperation between the United States, whose ships were carrying troops and supplies to the Allied forces overseas, and British intelligence. The machines constructed by the British and the Americans to recover German Enigma codes were analog computers, which used a combination of high speed moving metal parts and hard-wired circuitry that had to be rewired with each attempt at a new combination. These computers were essentially improved versions of the Polish bombe. Subsequently, U-boat attacks against Allied ships slowly diminished for a brief period.

In 1943, the German Navy replaced the three-rotor Enigma machines used on U-boats with a new four-rotor model in order to complicate cryptanalysis. As a result, the flow of intelligence from the U-boats diminished, and U-boat attacks against allied shipping boats increased. Within a few months, new bombes were developed to recover the new keys. Because large numbers of new bombes were needed and the British were already at full war production, it was decided that the British would use their existing machines against the force of German fleets still using the old, three-rotor system, while the Americans would build and operate bombes directed at deciphering the new four-rotor system.

Due in significant part to the efforts of the personnel at the NCA, the four-rotor system was deciphered. The American bombes were manufactured by the National Cash Register (NCR) Company of Dayton, Ohio, and

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118 Parrish, 51.

119 National Security Agency Website, "Solving the Enigma—History of the Cryptanalytic Bombe," available from [https://www.nsa.gov/about/files/cryptologic\\_heritage/publications/wwii/solving\\_enigma.pdf](https://www.nsa.gov/about/files/cryptologic_heritage/publications/wwii/solving_enigma.pdf) (accessed June 26, 2015).

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were shipped to the cryptanalysis lab at the newly acquired NCA. Rows and rows of these new bombes, which would eventually equal 121 bombes, were located in the first and second stories of Building 4 at the NCA.<sup>120</sup>

Divided into bays of four bombes, each bay required four operators and a supervisor. All of the bombe operators were members of the WAVES, or Women's Reserve of the United States Naval Reserve. Operators conducted tests on the bombe before each run, set the bombes according to the menu, and passed the results back to the supervisors for checking. The supervisors assigned each menu, helped with the set-up, checked results, and covered during meals and breaks. Three different shifts covered twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week in order to keep the bombes in continuous use.<sup>121</sup>

By May 1944, American bombes routinely broke U-boat messages. The average delay in breaking the daily key settings was only twelve hours. Consequently, the U.S. Navy could read all of the Atlantic U-boat messages sent in the latter half of the day at the same time as the Germans. Intercepts translated at the NCA were forwarded to the Atlantic Branch of the Office of Naval Intelligence (F-21) at U.S. Naval headquarters. This information was used by the Convoy and Routing Section to direct the shipping in waters where U-boats roamed in large numbers.<sup>122</sup>

Once the bombes deciphered the daily U-boat keys, the machines were then free to search for non-naval settings. Approximately fifty-five percent of the operational time on an American bombe was dedicated to naval keys, the remaining forty-five percent, under direction of the British, was spent on non-naval keys, such as those transmitted by the German Army, Luftwaffe, and SS.<sup>123</sup>

The information learned from Enigma messages deciphered by the American four-rotor bombe in addition to the British three-rotor bombe significantly increased the U.S. Navy's ability to cripple the German U-boat fleet. The U.S. Navy's ability to locate U-boat fleets only improved as the war continued. Throughout the remainder of the war, as the Germans altered their Enigmas, the U.S. Navy and NCR kept pace.

McVarish, et al. provides a summary of the significance of the NCA to American cryptanalysis during World War II:

Scholars have cited the important role of cryptanalysis in turning the tide of the North Atlantic sea war. By providing intelligence concerning the locations and movements of the U-Boat wolfpacks, the cryptanalysts greatly aided in the North Atlantic Allied offensives in the middle portion of the war and reduced the loss of Allied shipping until improved weapons were developed that could better attack U-boat wolfpacks. Without the intelligence provided by cryptanalysis, the war

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120 Ibid.

121 Ibid.

122 George P. McGinnis, *U.S. Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association* (Nashville: Turner Publishing Company, 1997), 59.

123 Ibid.

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might have lasted longer and exacted a greater toll in Allied productivity and lives.<sup>124</sup>

U.S. Naval Communications Annex (NCA), 1943 - 1952

The U.S. Navy acquired the NCA to house its cryptanalysis activities, which had been previously located at the severely overcrowded Navy Department building on Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. The department chose the former Seminary campus for its location at one of the highest points in the capital city with clear lines of sight to the Pentagon, Fort Meade, and other military installations. The campus was located away from high-rise buildings, which could interfere with any transmissions, contained a group of existing buildings that could quickly be converted for military use, and included sufficient land area for expansion.<sup>125</sup>

On February 7, 1943, the U.S. Navy completed the move to the former Seminary campus and the campus's name was changed officially to the Naval Communications Activity, which later became the NCA. Buildings acquired by the U.S. Navy included Building 1 (Main Building), Building 2 (Classroom Building), Building 6 (Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel), Building 8 (Gatesley House), Building 12 (Outdoor Gymnasium), Building 14 (Field House), and Building 15 (Power House). The U.S. Navy undertook a program of rehabilitation to convert the existing buildings from classroom, dormitory, and supporting uses to office space. The Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6) remained unused.<sup>126</sup>

The U.S. Navy also quickly set about designing and constructing additional buildings to house the laboratories and support offices for their cryptanalysis activities. Building 3, located to the east of Building 1 and connected to it via passageways, was erected in 1943 to house additional offices. The Navy Public Works Department with Wesley S. Bessell as a consulting architect designed the building. During the same year, the U.S. Navy also erected Building 4 for use as a laboratory to house the bombe machines; Building 7 for use as a dispensary; Building 11 to serve as a gatehouse; Building 13, which connected Buildings 12 and 14, to be used as a mess hall; and Building 5, an addition to the laboratory building (Building 4).<sup>127</sup>

The facility was the center for many activities undertaken by the U.S. Navy, the most important of which was the recovery of keys of the German primary cipher system deciphered by the American bombe. By 1945, 121 bombes occupied the two floors of Building 4, all of them operated by over six-hundred WAVES. Banks of bombes operated twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week at the facility. These machines helped greatly to speed the reading of German Enigma-coded U-boat messages.<sup>128</sup> The WAVES who operated the machines were housed at Quarters "D," a complex of thirty buildings situated on forty acres of land located across

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124 McVarish, et al., 24.

125 Ibid., 21.

126 Ibid., 36.

127 Ibid.

128 Christopher H. Sterling, *Military Communications* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2007), 334.

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Nebraska Avenue, to the west of the NCA. At its peak, the Quarters D complex, the largest WAVES barracks in the United States, housed 3,700 women.<sup>129</sup>

In 1944, the U.S. Navy erected Building 17 to house additional offices and Building 18 to house a code and signal laboratory. Architects of the U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks designed Building 17, located to the south of Building 1. The staff of the Naval Public Works Department designed Building 18, located further south. Additional construction took place at the NCA during the final period of World War II. Building 43 was constructed in 1944 to connect Buildings 1 and 17 and was the last building erected on the property prior to the end of World War II in May 1945.<sup>130</sup> By August 1945, the NCA had assumed its current lot size of 38.6 acres through the acquisition of the Quebec Street right-of-way from the District of Columbia.<sup>131</sup>

The U.S. Navy destroyed the majority of the 121 bombs housed at the NCA following World War II in order to preserve their secrets.<sup>132</sup> Yet, the NCA remained the center for U.S. Naval cryptanalysis for the Atlantic region as targets changed with the beginnings of the Cold War. However, the cryptanalysis that took place was a much smaller scale than had previously been employed during World War II as American lives and goods were not immediately threatened. The personnel at the NCA increased with the relocation of the Registered Publications System (RPS) from the Navy Department Building to the NCA. The RPS, which was established in 1922, “distributed highly classified documents and equipment to the world-wide units of the Navy and Marine Corps” and was accountable for the materials until they were destroyed or removed from the RPS.<sup>133</sup>

Consequently, construction continued at the NCA to accommodate the continuous use of the complex and the increase in personnel. In 1946, an additional office building, Building 19, was constructed to the east of Building 18. The staff of the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks designed the large, Georgian Revival office building. That same year, a two-story, arched passageway (Building 18/19) was constructed to connect Building 18 and Building 19. In 1947, construction was completed on Building 20, known as the Operations Building. The building, designed by Washington, D.C.-based architect Leon Chatelain, Jr., was constructed to the east of Building 5 and was connected to it via a passageway.<sup>134</sup>

On July 1, 1948, the NCA became a separate field activity under a commanding officer, and its name was changed from the Naval Communications Annex to the U.S. Naval Communications Station. On September 21, 1950, the name of the NCA again was changed from the U.S. Naval Communications Station to the U.S. Naval Security Station.

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129 McVarish, et al., 21; In addition to the barracks, the complex included a mess hall, an administration building, officers’ quarters, a storage building, a recreation building, and a swimming pool building. At the end of War World II, the land was transferred to American University and all of the buildings, with the exception of the indoor swimming pool, were removed.

130 Ibid., 37.

131 Ibid., 24.

132 A few of the American bombs were saved and are currently on display at the NSA’s public National Cryptologic Museum in Fort Meade, Maryland.

133 McVarish, et al., 24.

134 Ibid., 36-37.

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The post-war role of the complex was influenced by efforts to coordinate and centralize United States military intelligence efforts. With the advent of the Cold War, cryptanalysis was oriented toward the Soviet Union and other Communist countries, including East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Albania. During and after World War II, U.S. Naval Communications located at the NCA worked in relatively close cooperation with the U.S. Army Security Agency, which shared similar cryptanalytic responsibilities. In 1949, the Secretary of Defense established the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA) with responsibilities for coordination of cryptanalytic activities of the two agencies. The mission of the AFSA was to conduct communications intelligence and communication security activities within the U.S. military. The first director of AFSA was Rear Admiral Earl E. Stone, U.S. Navy, who maintained his headquarters at the NCA.<sup>135</sup>

Due to its restrictive organizational structure and a lack of a central agency for cryptology efforts, the AFSA only became a military branch for cryptology and could not achieve its mission. The agency was therefore redesigned and all cryptology activities, both military and nonmilitary, were brought together to form the National Security Agency (NSA), established by President Harry S. Truman on November 4, 1952.<sup>136</sup> The NSA, which carries out all U.S. cryptology functions, continues to coordinate, direct, and perform highly specialized activities to protect U.S. government information systems and produce foreign signals intelligence information.<sup>137</sup>

### U.S. Naval Security Station, 1953-2003

In 1953, construction was begun on the first building for the NSA at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, located about halfway between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland. This building, along with several others completed in subsequent years at the NSA headquarters, provided for the centralization of defense cryptology activities, and consequently, computer cryptology was relocated from the U.S. Naval Security Station (NAVSECSTA) at the NCA to the NSA headquarters in Fort Meade, Maryland after 1963.<sup>138</sup>

The complex continued to house various federal agencies and departments during this time. Several offices of the NSA were housed at the NCA while additional support and operations buildings were constructed at Fort Meade. The RPS continued to have offices at the NCA, as well as the U.S. Army and Navy Electronic Evaluation Group (later became the National Technical Processing Center). By 1958, the NCA had a total personnel count of approximately 910, which included fifty NAVSECSTA officers, ninety tenant activity officers, 360 enlisted NAVSECSTA personnel, 180 tenant enlisted personnel, 145 NAVSECSTA civilian personnel, and 80 tenant civilian personnel.<sup>139</sup>

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135 Ibid., 25.

136 National Security Agency Website, "Frequently asked Questions about NSA" ([https://www.nsa.gov/about/faqs/about\\_nsa.shtml#about1](https://www.nsa.gov/about/faqs/about_nsa.shtml#about1)), accessed 1 July 2015.

137 National Security Agency, "About NSA: Mission" (<https://www.nsa.gov/about/mission/index.shtml>), accessed 1 July 2015.

138 Kahn, 676.

139 McVarish, et al., 26.

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In 1959, the mission of the NAVSECSTA was to “provide logistic support for activities designated by the Chief of Naval Operations” and other tenants of the facility.<sup>140</sup> In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the NCA still housed various cryptanalysis functions, and in 1968, it was reported that the U.S. Naval personnel, both at the NCA and on assignment at the NSA, processed over 1,169,586 messages annually.<sup>141</sup>

In 1968, major NSA operations vacated the NCA for their new offices at Fort Meade, which left the NCA with over 200,000 square feet of vacant office space. A year later, it was announced that the U.S. Naval Communications Command Headquarters would be relocated to the NCA. In February 1970, the headquarters moved into renovated office space in Building 19.<sup>142</sup>

Additional agencies and departments continued to relocate to the NCA throughout the 1970s and 1980s. These included the U.S. Naval Communications Security Materials Support Activity and a microfilm facility for the U.S. Naval Security Group. By 1985, the largest functions of the NCA were the U.S. Naval Security Service, the headquarters of the U.S. Naval Security Group Company, the headquarters of the U.S. Naval Telecommunications Command, and the U.S. Naval Electronics System Security Engineering.<sup>143</sup>

Consequently, several major construction projects occurred at the NCA during this time and into the 1990s. These included interior and exterior renovations to Building 7; interior renovations to Building 19; a security upgrade and renovation to Building 11, which included the removal of all Colonial Revival detailing; and the enclosure and renovation of Building 12 (gymnasium). Additional buildings were constructed at the facility, which included various maintenance and storage buildings (Buildings 49 and 101); an auto hobby shop (Building 60); a mechanical equipment building (Building 61); bachelor enlisted quarters (Building 81); a classified waste destructor (Building 59 and 94); an automated data processing facility (Building 100); a rear gatehouse (Building 89) and guard booths. With the exception of Building 100, these buildings, smaller in scale than their predecessors, were erected outside the historic core of the NCA.<sup>144</sup>

The 1993 Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) process resulted in the transfer of U.S. Naval and other federal departments into and out of the NCA. The Naval Security Group Command was moved to the NSA at Fort Meade in order to “collocate [the Security Group] with the principal agency with whom they deal on a daily basis.” Consequently, all communications intelligence offices remaining at the NCA were relocated to Fort Meade by 1995.<sup>145</sup> In order to fill the vacated space at the NCA, various U.S. Naval activities and associated offices were relocated from leased space in Washington, D.C. to the NCA.<sup>146</sup>

### Nebraska Avenue Complex, 2003-2015

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140 Ibid.

141 Kahn, 680; McVarish, et al., 27.

142 McVarish, et al., 27.

143 Ibid.

144 McVarish, et al., 27-28.

145 Sterling, 334.

146 McVarish, et al., 28.

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Throughout the 1990s and into the twenty-first century, the NCA continued to operate as a Field Support Activity of the Naval District Washington (NDW), headquartered at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. Tenants at the NCA during this time period included: Naval Center for Cost Analysis, Naval District Washington Public Safety, Director of Strategic Systems Programs, Office of Civilian Personnel Management, and the Navy International Programs Office.

*Establishment of the Department of Homeland Security*

As a direct response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush established the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) in October 2001. The mission of the newly created OHS was to:

...develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks. The Office will coordinate the executive branch's efforts to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks within the United States.<sup>147</sup>

In June 2002, President George W. Bush proposed to create a new Department of Homeland Security from the OHS. President Bush's proposal was the most significant reorganization of the federal government in over fifty years by "largely transforming and realigning the current confusing patchwork of government activities into a single department whose primary mission is to protect our homeland."<sup>148</sup> The Department of Homeland Security was comprised of four divisions: Border and Transportation Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Countermeasures; and Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection.<sup>149</sup>

Five months after President Bush's initial proposal, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 officially established the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on November 25, 2002 in order to consolidate U.S. executive branch organizations related to homeland security into a single cabinet-level agency. The new department assumed a large number of services, offices and other organizations previously conducted in other departments, such as the U.S. Customs Service; U.S. Secret Service; U.S. Coast Guard; Federal Emergency Management Agency; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and the Transportation Security Administration. The DHS superseded, but did not replace the Office of Homeland Security, which retained an advisory role.<sup>150</sup>

*Nebraska Avenue Complex as Headquarters for the DHS*

In March 2003, offices of the DHS began relocating to the NCA.<sup>151</sup> Several months later, on May 11, 2004, a

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147 President George W. Bush, "The Department of Homeland Security," June 2002, Department of Homeland Security Website ([www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/book.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/book.pdf)), accessed 16 December 2008.

148 Ibid.; The last major government reorganization prior to the establishment of the DHS occurred when President Harry S. Truman passed the National Security Act of 1947 that placed the various military branches under one Secretary of Defense and created the National Security Council and Central Intelligence Agency.

149 Ibid.

150 Ibid.

151 Sterling, 334.

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bill, later amended, was introduced into the House of Representatives to “provide for the transfer of the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex in the District of Columbia to facilitate the establishment of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security...;”<sup>152</sup> therefore, the U.S. Navy would have to relinquish ownership of the property to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), which would, in turn, lease the property to the DHS. By the following month, Congress had approved the acquisition, and the former NCA officially became known as the Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC).<sup>153</sup>

In April 2005, ownership of the NAC was transferred officially from the Department of the Navy to GSA in order to accommodate the headquarters for the DHS. The U.S. Navy retained ownership of the Gatesley House (Building 8) and the parcel was fenced out from the rest of the complex. Furthermore, many of the buildings underwent substantial interior renovations for increased security measures; many first- and second-story window openings in the side and rear elevations of the administrative and office buildings were bricked in, including Buildings 1, 3, 4, 5, and 17. In addition, the former cryptanalysis lab (Building 4) was converted to house offices for the Secretary of the DHS, and the Public Maintenance Building (Building 21) was converted to a Media Center. Planning to upgrade the perimeter security of the complex began soon after it became DHS headquarters. The campus-wide perimeter security project, begun in 2010 and completed in 2013, involved upgrades to the boundary fencing, reconstruction of the entrances to the campus, new guard booths and the construction of a Visitor Center at Building 7. This project also entailed removing Building 11 and the Hensley Memorial Gate and replacing Building 88.

In 2007, DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff outlined a \$4.1 billion plan to consolidate most of its more than sixty offices located throughout the Capital Region into a massive headquarters complex to be built at the St. Elizabeths Hospital property in southeast Washington, D.C. The move, which began in 2013 with the completion of a new headquarters building for the U.S. Coast Guard, is continuing with the rehabilitation of the Center Building for the DHS National Operations Center. Presently, the former Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls continues to serve as the headquarters for the DHS, which also maintains offices throughout Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia.

Notable Architects of the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls

*Wesley Sherwood Bessell*<sup>154</sup>

Wesley Sherwood Bessell (1883-1967), a New York native, studied architecture at Columbia University, from which he graduated in 1908. He later practiced architecture in New York City and Washington, D.C. Most of Bessell’s works incorporate Colonial Revival exterior detailing. Bessell’s interest in the Colonial Revival is evident in a series of articles he wrote for the *Architectural Record* in 1915 entitled “Colonial Architecture in Connecticut.” The articles, which contained building histories, photographs, and measured drawings, reflected Bessell’s belief that study of these early buildings was useful for the contemporary architect.

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152 Library of Congress Website, “H.R. 4322” [http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc108/h4322\\_ih.xml](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc108/h4322_ih.xml) (accessed 3 November 2008).

153 Spencer S. Hsu, “Homeland Security to Remain in District,” *The Washington Post* (Washington, D.C.), 17 June 2004.

154 McVarish, et al., 10-11, except where noted.

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Bessell's identified works include the recreation of a vernacular Colonial farmhouse for attorney Herbert S. Gunnison in Purchase, New York; a Tudor-style wood and stone house designed for attorney H.C. Miner in Riverside, Connecticut; Christ Church Parish House, a Gothic Revival-style brick and stone structure in Hackensack, New Jersey; a Dutch Colonial Revival-style dwelling for Joseph H. Kinzley, Jr., in Teaneck, New Jersey; and the 1937 U.S. Post Office in Amboy, New Jersey. Aside from the Mount Vernon Seminary, Bessell's most notable work was Cunard Hall, which he designed for Wagner College on Staten Island, New York in collaboration with architect Herman E. Matz. Bessell retired from his practice in 1957. He died in Arlington, Vermont in 1967.

Bessell designed all of the buildings erected during the property's use as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls. These include Buildings 1, 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 15. The Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks also employed Bessell as a consulting architect for the designs of Buildings 4, 5, and 7 once the U.S. Navy assumed ownership of the property in 1943.

*Leon Chatelain, Jr.*<sup>155</sup>

Leon Chatelain, Jr. (1902-1979) studied architecture at George Washington University, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture in 1927. He worked for several years as a draftsman in various offices throughout Washington, D.C., including those of Philip M. Julien (1920-1923), Arthur B. Heaton (1923-1926), and Waddy B. Wood (1927-1930). In 1930, Chatelain, Jr. opened his own office and remained in independent practice until 1956 when he established the partnership of Chatelain, Gauger, & Nolan (after 1970, known as Chatelain, Samperton, and Nolan).

Chatelain, Jr.'s designs varied from residences and churches to office buildings. He was a pioneer in developing barrier-free buildings for the disabled in the 1960s, several decades before the establishment of the ADA. Among his major projects were the Washington Gas Light Company headquarters (1945); Westmoreland Congregational Church (1948-1955); the Kiplinger Building (1948-1964); McDonough Gymnasium at George Washington University (1952); and, the national headquarters of the Associated General Contractors of America (1958). Chatelain served as the national President of the American Institute of Architects from 1956 to 1958.

Leon Chatelain, Jr. was employed by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks to design Building 20, the Operations Building, which was constructed in 1947.

Statement of Significance and Integrity<sup>156</sup>

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls is locally significant under Criteria A in the area of Education as the first campus developed solely for use as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, the first non-sectarian female boarding school in Washington, D.C., whose curriculum was progressive and revolutionary for its time. The

<sup>155</sup> McVarish, et al., 24-25, except where noted.

<sup>156</sup> The Nebraska Avenue Complex (U.S. Naval Communications Annex) was determined eligible by the D.C. Historic Preservation Office in 1994 for its significant association as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls from 1916 to 1943 and as the site of World War II U.S. Naval cryptanalysis from 1943 until May 1945. The Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel was also determined individually eligible as a notable example of the Colonial Revival style.

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complex is also nationally significant under Criteria A in the area of Military for its use as the U.S. Naval Communications Annex, the site of U.S. Navy cryptanalysis of coded German U-boat messages during World War II, and as the center for U.S. Naval cryptanalysis for the Atlantic region during the immediate post-World War II and early Cold War period.

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls is locally significant under Criteria C in the area of Architecture. The similarity of massing, design, and classical detailing of the buildings erected during the ownership of the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls as well as the U.S. Naval Communications Annex and the interconnected series of pedestrian and vehicular circulation paths all contribute to the property's significance under Criterion C as a distinguishable unified entity. The campus includes interrelated residential, educational, and recreational buildings and areas for its students, the majority of which have persevered and contribute to the overall campus-like feel of the property. Furthermore, the new construction and infrastructure improvements that occurred from 1943 until 1952, during the property's occupancy by the U.S. Navy continued the campus-like feel of the property as it changed from an educational institution into the site of U.S. Naval World War II cryptanalysis.

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls is locally significant under Criteria D in the area of Archeology for its potential to yield information on Late Woodland life in the Potomac River Valley region.

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls includes two discrete prehistoric and historic periods of significance. The Navy Chapel Site (51NW224), located on the property and previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, dates to the Late Woodland Period (1,000 B.C. to 1600 A.D.). The next period of significance begins in 1916 with the construction of Building 1 for the Mount Vernon Seminary and the incorporation of the Seminary and ends in 1952, with the creation of the National Security Agency and the removal of the U.S. Naval Communications Annex and the cryptanalysis function from the property. The U.S. Navy assumed control of the property in January 1943 from the Seminary and, therefore, there are no gaps in the historic period of significance for the property.

*Integrity*

The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls retains a high degree of integrity on its exterior. The facility retains all primary buildings historically associated with the Mount Vernon Seminary. The greenhouse erected in 1920, as well as the Quonset huts erected in 1942, were ancillary buildings and, in the case of the latter two, were intended to be temporary structures; their demolition does not detract from the overall integrity of the complex. The interiors of the buildings were later adapted for U.S. Navy use as offices and laboratories, and several new buildings were constructed during and after World War II to meet the needs of the NCA. Each of the contributing buildings has undergone relatively minor alterations to the exterior, the majority of which, besides window replacement, are located on side or rear elevations. Only Buildings 7 and 15 have undergone alterations so extensive as to compromise their integrity. The construction of late-twentieth-century buildings to the east of the historic core does not detract from the campus-like feel of the site. The recently completed perimeter security upgrade, which resulted in the loss of the Hensley Memorial Gate and Building 11 (gatehouse) and the addition of fencing and security features, did impact the property. However, the property retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to convey its historic association with Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and the U.S. Naval Communications Annex. In addition, the contributing buildings retain their

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original location, and the immediate area around the complex is still predominantly residential and educational. Thus, the complex retains integrity of location and setting. The complex retains some of its original signage, pathways, and fencing and overall monumentality as an educational and military entity, all of which contribute to integrity of association. The complex's retention of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, and association results in the complex's retention of feeling as an early twentieth-century school that was converted to use as a military installation in the 1940s.

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Name of Property: Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls  
City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.  
County: Washington, D.C.  
State: DC  
Name of Photographer: B. Frederick  
Date of Photographs: June 2008  
Location of Original Digital Files: A.D. Marble & Company  
375 E. Elm Street, Suite 200  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

Photo # 1 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0001)  
Overview of Nebraska Avenue entrance into complex, looking southwest

Photo # 2 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0002)  
Overview of north side of complex from Nebraska Avenue entrance, looking northwest

Photo # 3 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_\_0003)  
Overview of west side of complex from Nebraska Avenue entrance, looking northeast

Photo # 4 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0004)  
Overview of southwest corner of complex from southwest corner of Building 18, looking northwest

Photo # 5 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0005)  
Overview of maintenance area to east side of complex, looking northeast

Photo # 6 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0006)  
Overview of south side of complex from main parking area, looking northeast

Photo # 7 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0007)  
Building 1 (Main Building), west elevation, looking east

Photo # 8 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0008)  
Building 1, west elevation, looking southeast

Photo # 9 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0009)  
Building 1, west elevation, looking east

Photo # 10 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0010)  
Looking southeast to west elevation of Building 2 (left) and north elevation of Building 1N

Photo # 11 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0011)  
Building 1 interior, looking southeast

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Photo # 12 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0012)  
Detail of decorative wrought iron fencing and Navy Chapel gate outside of Building 6

Photo # 13 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0013)  
Building 6 (Chapel), south elevation, looking northeast

Photo # 14 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0014)  
Building 6 interior, looking west, vestibule

Photo # 15 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0015)  
Building 6 interior, looking north from balcony

Photo # 16 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0016)  
Building 12 (Gymnasium), west and north elevations, looking southeast

Photo # 17 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0017)  
Looking southeast to north elevations of Buildings 14, 13, and 12

Photo # 18 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0018)  
Building 12, interior, basketball court, looking west

Photo # 19 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0019)  
Building 14, interior, looking south to fireplace alcove

Photo # 20 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0020)  
Building 17, south and east elevations, looking northwest

Photo # 21 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0021)  
Building 18, south elevation, looking northwest

Photo # 22 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0022)  
Building 18-19 connector, south elevation, looking north

Photo # 23 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0023)  
Building 19, north elevation, east end, looking southeast

Photo # 24 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0024)  
Building 20, south and west elevations, looking northeast; east elevation of Building 4; south elevation of Building 5

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Photo # 25 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0025)

Building 43, west elevation, looking southeast

Photo # 26 (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0026)

Looking to east elevation of Building 3 (to left), south elevations of Building 15 (background), and Buildings 59 and 94 (to right)

Photo # 27, (DC\_DC\_Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls\_0027)

Building #8, west elevation, Gatesley House (Navy)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Washington West Quadrangle

1	18	319461	4312299	3	18	319731	4312059
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18	319691	4311787	4	18	319256	4311986
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

