

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



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

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

Property Name: National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children
(Merriweather Home for Children)

If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.

Address: 733 Euclid Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Square and lot number(s): Square: 2884 Lot: 0836

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission: 1B

Date of Construction: ca. 1879 Date of major alteration(s): 1931 (rear addition)

Architect(s): Unknown
Architectural style(s): LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire

Original use: DOMESTIC/Institutional Housing Present use: VACANT/Not in Use

Property owner: Prime Realty LLC
Legal address of property owner: 41649 White Yarrow Court, Ashburn, VA 20148

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) DC Preservation League

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

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 1221 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 5A, Washington, DC
20036; (202) 783-5144

Name and title of authorized representative: Rebecca Miller, Executive Director

Signature of applicant representative:  Date: 4/8/2022

Name and telephone of author of application DC Preservation League, (202) 783-5144

Date received _____
H.P.O. staff _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children

Other names/site number: Meriwether Home for Children

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number: 733 Euclid Street NW

City or town: Washington State: DC County: _____

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
-

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Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Institutional Housing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/Not in Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The 2-1/2-story, Second Empire-style brick building at 733 Euclid Street NW was built ca. 1879 as the westernmost unit of a pair of duplex dwellings on the block. The two duplexes were two of the first buildings erected in Todd & Brown's Subdivision of "Part of Pleasant Plains and Mt. Pleasant," platted in 1868. For its first half-century of existence, the duplex remained two separate units occupied as private residences. In 1930, the entire duplex building became home to a Civil War-era organization called the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children (later called the Meriwether Home for Children and referred to here as the Association, or the Home). The Home remained at this site until 1971 and is the subject of this nomination.

The building is located on the north side of Euclid Street and sits high above the street with a tall retaining wall separating the sidewalk from the house with two sets of steep stairs ascending the hill between the wall and the front of the house. The building is six bays wide with single door openings located at either end bay, and is characterized by its tall, hipped mansard roof and its rusticated stone hood moldings over the round-arched windows of the first and second stories. A two-story addition, built in 1931 by the Home, projects from the north (rear) elevation of the

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building, while a single-story porch appears, stylistically, to have been added around that same time.

Despite the rear wing and front porch additions as well as other alternations, the building retains its original massing, design, workmanship and character as a Second Empire-style duplex dwelling.

Narrative Description

Site

The site upon which 733 Euclid Street sits is on high ground well above the level of Euclid Street. The building is located along the north side of the street where it and its adjacent pair stand out as the most sizeable and only freestanding dwellings with a collection of nineteenth and twentieth century rowhouses to either side. A contemporary condominium unit was recently built between the two duplexes. The property is located directly opposite from a municipal site occupied by Banneker High School and its fields and Banneker Recreation Center. A tall retaining wall separates the building from the sidewalk while a double set of stairs ascends the steep hill to it at the height of the hill. This same condition exists to the east of the property where the buildings are raised well above the grade of the street and are separated from it by tall retaining walls. To the west, as the topography descends, the berms upon which the houses sit get lower until they are at-grade with the street at the far western end of the block.

Mature shade trees are planted between the street and the sidewalk along the block. These shade trees and the street's striking topography contribute to the character of the site.

Exterior Description

The 2-1/2-story duplex building is a sizeable brick building set upon a raised foundation level and covered with a tall, hipped mansard roof and featuring a single-story porch spanning the façade. The building is perched upon a hillside looking south to Euclid Street. The front (south) elevation facing Euclid Street is six bays wide. On the first story, which is raised well above ground level, single entry doors are located in the two end bays and four single windows are located between them. On the second story, six single windows define the individual bays of the building with three windows devoted to each duplex. The brick wall space between the third and fourth windows is wider than between the others to visually delineate the two separate duplexes. Both of the entries have replacement doors, but both retain their original transom lights above the door and their original wood surrounds. The surrounds consist of plain wood side trim and a bracketed and projecting cornice typical of the Italianate and Second Empire-style of design.

The windows of the first and second stories are all segmentally arched openings with rusticated stone hood moldings above. The current 1/1 windows are all replacements; the architrave above the rectangular sash is filled with wood panels. It is likely that the original windows were arched and fit into the arched openings. The hood molds above the windows are cut stone with a central keystone that projects beyond the voussoirs. A flat and undecorated wood frieze board and

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projecting cornice rises above the second-story windows and extends across all elevations of the building. The building is capped by its mansard roof, lit with four dormer windows on the south slope of the roof. Three of these are single dormers with 1/1 sash and one is a pair of 1/1 sash, all within a pedimented surround. The dormers are located above the solid walls between the windows of the first and second stories.

The foundation of the house extends above ground level at the south façade where the site begins to descend but is on-level at the rear of the house. The floor of the one-story porch sits upon brick piers and is reached by two sets of stairs which in turn provide access to the front doors. Brick piers, square in plan, similarly support the porch's flat roof. The styling of the porch, and the way in which it sits directly atop the door cornices and cuts through the window hood moldings, indicates that the porch was added at a later date. It is likely that the porch was added after a 1928 fire at the building, or possibly in 1930 when the duplex was converted into the Home.

The brick of the façade has been painted red, but the peeling paint reveals a lighter colored brick. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney projects from the center of the mansard roof.

The west elevation of the original block of the building has a single bay of single windows on the first and second stories at the northern end of the wall. Altered brickwork around these two window openings indicate that they were reduced in width. The narrow width of the openings and the soldier course brick lintels on these windows are consistent with the windows in the rear addition, indicating that the original windows were altered at the time that the addition was constructed. Two single pedimented dormers are located at either end of the west slope of the mansard roof.

The east side elevation of the main block of the house has no window openings.

The north (rear) addition is a two-story flat roofed wing with an irregular arrangement of windows on either side elevation. The side walls extend above the main roof as parapet walls, obscuring a solar panel array atop the roof, while a shed roof covers an open porch at the back of the building. This rear addition opens onto a small parking area which is accessed from the I-shaped alleyway at the center of the block.

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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.

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE (Black)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1930-1971

Significant Dates

1930

1971

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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

The building at 733 Euclid Street NW was constructed ca. 1879 as one of a pair of Second Empire-style duplexes erected in a subdivision platted after the Civil War that is part of today's Columbia Heights neighborhood. The duplexes were two of the first buildings constructed in the new residential subdivision located beyond the original city in what was then rural Washington County. The subdivision was laid out just west of 7th Street (Georgia Avenue), an important transportation route that led into and out of the city. The building's siting at the height of the hill before the grading of Euclid Street, its freestanding form and its Second Empire-style design are indicative of this early period of development in the outskirts of the city.

In 1930, the westernmost of the two duplex buildings (today's 733 Euclid Street), was purchased by the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children (later the Meriwether Home) as their new home when the association's purpose-built home on the opposite side of Euclid Street was taken by the government for the construction of Banneker Recreation Center and High School. The former duplex at 733 Euclid Street remained home to the Meriwether Home for forty years until it closed in 1971.

Although its association with the early development of the District of Columbia is notable, the house is most significant as the only surviving structure associated with the Meriwether Home. The property meets Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places with Social History and Ethnic Heritage (Black) as the areas of significance. The National Home grew out of efforts to provide relief for formerly enslaved women and children who migrated to Washington during the Civil War. As such, the Home was an institution of extraordinary significance to the development of social welfare and philanthropic organizations in the District of Columbia, particularly those serving the African American community and those managed and administered by African Americans. As the nomination details, this movement's early advocates included Elizabeth Keckley, confidant of Mary Lincoln and intimate of the Lincoln family, who sought the assistance of the First Lady in 1864. Like many social welfare organizations of the time, the Association that ran the home was chartered by and originally administered by affluent white trustees. However, African Americans became increasingly influential in its management. They included Helen Appo Cook, feminist, civil rights activist, and wife of civic leader John F. Cook, Jr., who first served as the organization's secretary, with responsibility for compiling reports that were successfully used to solicit funds from Congress, and later became president of the Association, serving until her death in 1913. During this period, many prominent African American community leaders, including Frederick Douglass, Dr. Charles Burleigh Purvis, John F. Cook, Jr., and hotelier James Wormley, became trustees of the Association. In 1919, African American educator Louise Meriwether became president. In the early 1950s, the home was renamed in her honor.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Home for Destitute Women and Children was one of only two in the District that cared for African Americans. By 1953, the Meriwether Home was

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the District's only private institution dedicated to the care of African American orphans. Its tenure at the Euclid Street property from about 1930 through 1971 represented over a third of the organization's existence and spanned several periods of social change and intense need. Its first decade corresponded with the Great Depression, a period in which the District's population grew by more than a third while its economy shrank. The 1940s brought a massive influx of new residents that temporarily swelled the city's population to more than 900,000 residents, and the 1950s saw increasing economic disinvestment in the face of white flight to the suburbs. While the home's number of residents at any one time was smaller than at its larger Eighth Street location, this figure is misleading. It accommodated children on a foster basis because of homelessness, family illnesses, or other temporary dislocation. Therefore, the total number of children aided on an annual basis was higher. Although the Meriwether Home was among a number of facilities closed in the early 1970s after reports of poor conditions and mismanagement, this marked only a brief period at the end of the organization's existence.

Following the closure of the Meriwether Home, 733 Euclid Street served as a daycare center before being donated to the Emergence Community Arts Collective in 2003.¹ Under the dynamic leadership of its founder, Sylvia Robinson (1961-2017).² ECAC provided workshop and exhibition space for a full spectrum of community-based art activities. While it played a notable role in the cultural life of its community, at this point there has not been sufficient time to allow a historical assessment of ECAC's significance under historic preservation criteria.

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

The National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children

Early History

The National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children was established in the middle of the Civil War as thousands of African Americans escaping slavery moved into the District of Columbia. They lived in what were referred to as contraband camps (the federal government classified escaped enslaved persons as contrabands), which generally formed around army camps and forts on the outskirts of the city. Many of these people came with nothing: no money, no land, no resources, and, in many cases, no family. Men and women alike tried to find jobs. For orphaned children and elder women, though, finding a job or a place to live was extremely difficult.

To address the issue of housing for incoming African Americans during the War, Congress incorporated the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Women and Children on

¹ Carlton Fletcher, "The Colored Home," *Glover Park History*, www.gloverparkhistory.com (accessed March 18, 2022).

² <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/sylvia-robinson-obituary?id=6101456>.

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February 14, 1863. It was a private charity which depended on both donations and federal funding. Congress defined its purpose as “supporting such aged or indigent colored women and children” and “to provide for them a suitable home, board, clothing, and instruction, and to bring them under Christian influence.”³ In later years, a chronicler of the organization’s history said the Home for Destitute Children’s mission was to help the “orphans of slavery and war.”⁴

The US government provided the organization with its first home, which was located in the present-day Burleith neighborhood, then commonly referred to as North Georgetown or Georgetown Heights. Specifically, in early 1863, the Association established its Home for Destitute Colored Women and Children in the estate called “Burleith,” which had been confiscated by the government after its owner, Richard Cox, joined the Confederacy. The federal government helped update the estate buildings to accommodate the organization’s needs and built some new structures. The Association’s 1865 annual report stated that, “[t]he new buildings erected by the Government being ready for occupation, a sufficient number of bedsteads, and a supply of new clothing, were prepared; the children, thoroughly cleansed and comfortably clad, were put in possession of the rooms. A complete change of diet was ordered—the children to have three good and sufficient meals each day...it became evident that this change was being attended by the happiest results.”⁵

At the start of 1865, the Home was caring for 47 children, including “13 of whom were confined to their beds by illness.”⁶ Throughout the entire 1865 fiscal year, the Home took care of 69 children and 4 women. Its leaders had hoped to secure additional funding to take in even more people in need, but from the start it received inadequate funding. In 1864 it had a \$458.92 deficit and in 1865 it had a \$155.78 deficit. Even with the donation of cash and materials from benefactors, especially from Massachusetts, the Home struggled to balance its budget.⁷

³ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, 1865* (Washington, DC: Chronicle Steam Print, 1866), 5. In regard to congressional funding, between 1869 and 1900, the federal government provided the Home for Destitute Colored Women and Children with between \$5,000 and \$24,500 per year. See, Homer Folks, *Monographs on American Social Economics: The Care of Destitute, Neglected, and Delinquent Children* (Albany, NY: J. B. Lyon Company Printers and Binders, 1900), 81.

⁴ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Fifty Years of Good Works of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children* (Washington, DC: National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, 1914), 3.

⁵ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, 1865* (Washington, DC: Chronicle Steam Print, 1866), 6.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, 1865* (Washington, DC: Chronicle Steam Print, 1866), 6-10.

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During and following the Civil War, charitable organizations in DC grew in number and cause. This matched a general increase in charities across the country that coincided with increased urbanization. The Industrial Revolution caused more urban growth through the rest of the century, and rapidly growing cities saw increased density, pollution, and poverty. Charities formed around issues of concern, such as health and hygiene, orphaned children, and poverty-stricken women. However, as Washington historian Constance McLaughlin Green noted in *Washington: Capital City, 1879-1950*, “[w]hile the tremendous growth of charities was the most dramatic feature of Washington’s philanthropy, a second and equally significant feature was its lopsidedness.”⁸

That lopsidedness was especially true with regard to race. Very few of the District’s already limited number of orphanages accepted Black children. At one point, the Home for Destitute Women and Children was one of only two in the entire District that took in African Americans. As Green noted, the Home for Destitute Women and Children had “restricted resources” and could never accept as many children as it wanted or that the District’s population required. Overall, the District’s white orphanages received more government support than those devoted to African Americans. They also received far more private donations. Similarly, while many white orphans were placed in private homes, indentured, African American orphans were requested for domestic work at far lower levels by wealthy white families.⁹

This attitude of lopsided treatment was demonstrated to the Home for Destitute Women and Children very early on. At first, the government’s improvements to the site proved beneficial and conditions appeared favorable. However, after the Civil War ended, the original owner of the house, Richard Cox, started to lobby the government to return his house. He sought a pardon from President Andrew Johnson, which, if granted, would allow him to retake legal control of the Burleith estate. The Attorney General assured the leaders of the Home for Destitute Women and Children that, “no pardon would be granted until an arrangement satisfactory to the Association should be effected.”¹⁰ Despite this promise, in June 1866, Johnson pardoned Cox, forcing the Home for Destitute Women and Children to find a new home.

⁸ Constance McLaughlin Green, *Washington: Volume II, Capital City, 1879-1950* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1962), 66; National Register of Historic Place Nomination form for Episcopal Home for Children, District of Columbia, 2021.

⁹ Constance McLaughlin Green, *Washington: Volume II, Capital City, 1879-1950* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1962), 66-68.

¹⁰ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, 1865* (Washington, DC: Chronicle Steam Print, 1866), 6.

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A New Home and Neighborhood

General Oliver Otis Howard helped find and secure a new site for the association to build a new home. The site was located at approximately 2458 8th Street NW, near the soon to open Howard University. Once the site was secured, Cox forced the Home to leave its Burleith quarters earlier than expected, by removing its doors and windows and making as much noise as he possibly could. As a result, the already underfunded wood frame building's construction was rushed even further and the residents moved in before their new building was even finished.¹¹

The association did its best with the limited assistance and resources available. By 1883, the Home included 122 children and seven elder women, a large increase from its 1865 numbers. Still, the Home for Destitute Women and Children had reached a financial tipping point. Painful cuts were made. In its 1883 annual report, the association noted that, “[u]nless there should be a sudden and very great reduction in prices, the Association will, probably, at the end of the present year, be without means to fulfill its obligations.” All of the residents of the Home pitched in to help. Even the elder women, “though too old and infirm to maintain themselves in homes of their own,” noted the annual report, “are able to be very useful in assisting in the care of the younger children, in mending, knitting, ironing, &c., while many of the younger children above six years old are occupied during part of the day in such light housework as is suited to their age.”¹²

Desperate, the Association asked Congress for \$20,000, not only to balance its finances but to also provide the children with a new building. The rushed frame structure was not adequate and was not firesafe. Congress approved the request and appropriated the funds.¹³ Completed in 1883, the new building was described as a “fine and commodious brick structure” at the corner of 8th Street and Irving Street NW (present-day Euclid).¹⁴ The new building seemed to meet the Association's needs. Around that time, a small creek, known as the Reedy Branch, flowed near the Home for Destitute Women and Children, which possibly offered the children a place to explore and play. A former resident of the area later recalled, in an article in the *Evening Star* from 1929, that the “stream had its source somewhere to the north and flowed down the east side of Sherman avenue in a narrow deep cut it had made. At about Euclid street it turned almost

¹¹ Carlton Fletcher, “The Colored Home,” *Glover Park History*, gloverparkhistory.com (accessed March 18, 2022).

¹² National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Twentieth Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, For the Year Ending January 1, 1883* (Washington: West End Print, 1883), 10-11.

¹³ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Twentieth Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, For the Year Ending January 1, 1883* (Washington: West End Print, 1883), 12.

¹⁴ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Fifty Years of Good Works of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children* (Washington, DC: National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, 1914), 10.

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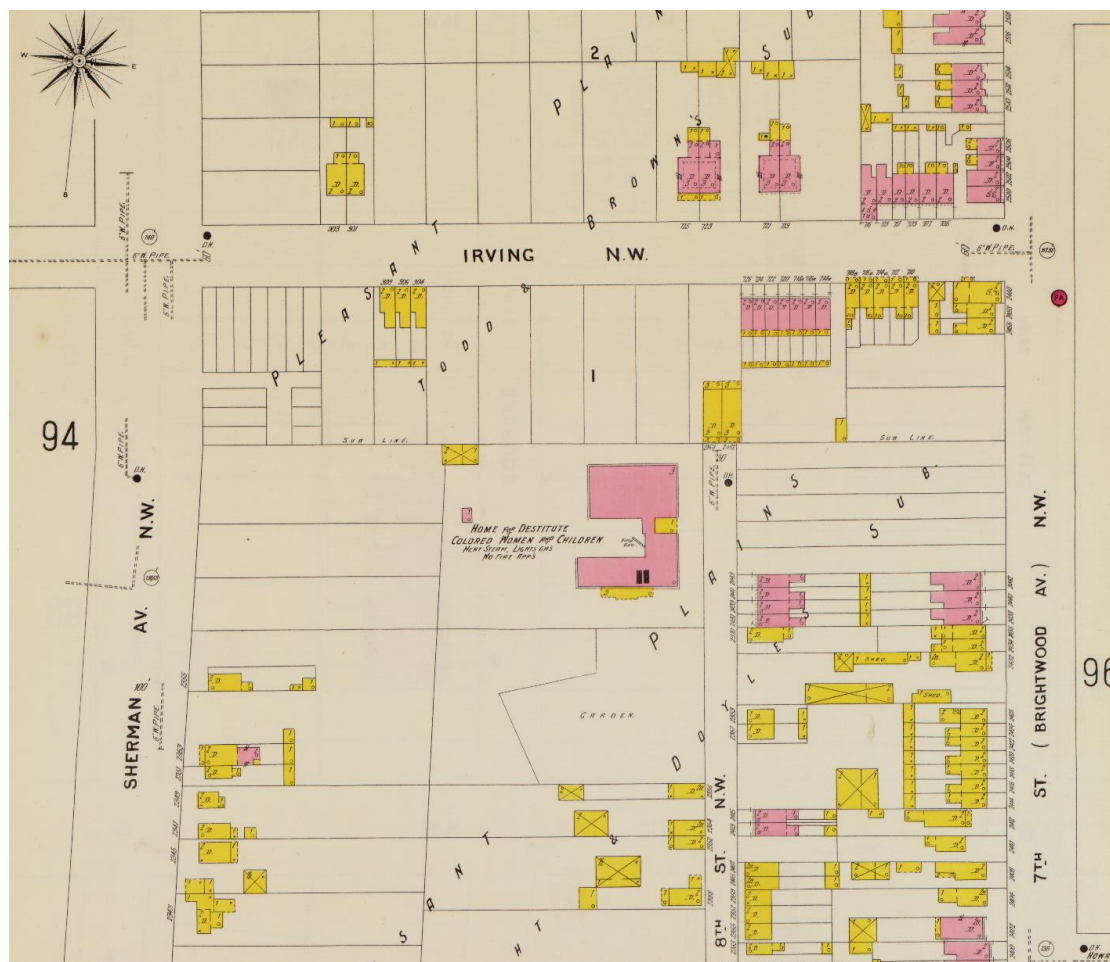
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abruptly into Eighth street, passing close to the National Home for Destitute Colored Women and Children.”¹⁵

Between the time that the Association built its modest frame structure in 1866 and its new brick home in 1883, a pair of duplexes were built on the hill just above the Home and along the 700 block of Euclid Street, the first buildings of substance on the north side of the street. One of these pairs of duplexes (733 Euclid Street NW) would, in 1930, become the association’s final home and is the subject of this National Register nomination.



In 1883, the National Home for Destitute Colored Women and Children built the large red building shown at the center of this detail of the 1903 Sanborn Map. Just north of the Home, on the north side of Irving Street (present-day Euclid Street) are two brick duplexes. In 1930, the Home would move into the westernmost of the pair of buildings (present-day 733 Euclid Street NW).

¹⁵ John Claggett Proctor, “Cowtown Was Part of Suburban Washington in Days of Vigor,” *Evening Star*, January 27, 1929, page 2 of part 7.

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Even though the size and quality of their building improved, the Association's finances remained inadequate. In its 1887 annual report, the Association wrote that "the managers are...reluctantly obliged to turn away numerous and frequent applicants, although the necessities of the class which the institution is designed to benefit would impel them to increase rather than to diminish the number."¹⁶ In 1900, the Association wrote, "[t]he burning question of the year has been the financial question; how and where to economize so as to secure all the benefits without overstepping prescribed limits." It was noted that "[t]he children's outings have been almost entirely discontinued."¹⁷ Between 1870 and 1910, the District's Black population increased by almost 120 percent, from 43,404 to 94,446. Yet, during the same period, the total number of women and children living at the Home for Destitute Women and Children largely remained the same. Except for an initial increase from 69 children to 122 between 1866 and 1883, the Home's population hovered around 100-120 into the twentieth century.¹⁸

Trustees, Residents and Staff

The District's African American community was very active in keeping the Home for Destitute Women and Children running. Throughout the organization's early existence, its roster of leaders, trustees, and members became almost a Who's Who of Washington's most notable African American citizens. Dr. Charles Burleigh Purvis, one of the founders of Howard University's medical school, was a trustee after 1872, as was James Wormley, proprietor of the Wormley Hotel. Frederick Douglass became a trustee in 1879 and remained a member of the Association for the rest of his life. Noted civil rights activist John F. Cook, Jr., a former Washington councilmember and the first African American to win a citywide elected office in the city, became a trustee in 1885. Both white and African American women also helped run the Home, through teaching, managing finances, and taking on important leadership roles.¹⁹ Nearby Howard University, in conjunction with local churches, even helped donate the Home's

¹⁶ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, For the Year Ending January 1, 1887* (Washington: Judd & Detweiler, Printers, 1887), 10.

¹⁷ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Thirty-Seventh Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, For the Year Ending January 1, 1900* (Washington, DC: Smith Brothers, Printers, 1900), 6.

¹⁸ See National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children *Annual Reports* for the years 1865, 1883, 1887, 1895, 1900, and 1913 (all cited herein. The 1913 report is adjoined to the publication, *Fifty Years of Good Works of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children*).

¹⁹ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Fifty Years of Good Works of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children* (Washington, DC: National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, 1914), 8-11.

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Christmas tree each year.²⁰ It was a true community effort, even if much of the larger Washington community ignored those efforts.

One of the Home's early directors was Mary Louise (Robinson) Meriwether (1848-1942). Born in Wellington, Ohio, Meriwether was one of eight children born to a prominent Ohio businessman who could trace his lineage to a Scottish nobleman. She attended Oberlin College and was one of its first African American graduates in 1870. After graduation, she was appointed to the faculty of the Sumner School in Washington, where she met and married a successful lawyer, James H. Meriwether. By 1895, Meriwether would be listed as one of the wealthiest African Americans in the District of Columbia.²¹ As such, it was fitting his wife, a trained educator, would become deeply involved in the Home for Destitute Women and Children. In 1892, her efforts as a board member were instrumental in saving the institution, when continued congressional support was in jeopardy. She later became president of the organization.²²

Among the most famous residents of the Home was Elizabeth Keckly, who lived in the building at 8th and Euclid for the last years of her life (she did not live at 733 Euclid Street). Keckly (also spelled Keckley) was born enslaved around 1818 in Virginia. She learned the skills of a seamstress and made enough money through that trade to buy her own freedom. Later, she worked in the White House as First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln's personal attendant and dressmaker. During the Civil War, as so many formerly enslaved persons like herself came to the city, Keckly helped start the Ladies' Contraband Relief Association. She was also a founding member of the Home for Destitute Women and Children. In 1868, Keckly published her memoirs about working in the Lincoln White House. Mary Todd Lincoln did not approve of what Keckly wrote and caused enough controversy around the book to disrupt its sales and put Keckly in near financial ruin. In her later years, she moved into the Home for Destitute Women and Children, which she had helped establish. She died there in 1907.²³

Progressive Era Reform and the Move to 733 Euclid Street

As both the nation and the Home for Destitute Women and Children entered the twentieth century, new developments were occurring in regard to the care of orphans. The Progressive Era had begun and Americans were trying to improve the health, cleanliness, and appearance of their dramatically growing cities. As cities became increasingly clouded in industrial smoke and soot,

²⁰ National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, *Thirty-Seventh Annual Report of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, For the Year Ending January 1, 1900* (Washington, DC: Smith Brothers, Printers, 1900), 7.

²¹ Willard B. Gatewood, *Aristocrats of Color: The Black Elite, 1880-1920* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1990), 44.

²² Merriweather Home for Children/Elizabeth Keckly, African American Heritage Trail, *Cultural Tourism DC*, culturaltourismdc.org (accessed March 18, 2022).

²³ Merriweather Home for Children/Elizabeth Keckly, African American Heritage Trail, *op. cit.*

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reformers pushed for more access to fresh air. New parks and greenspaces were created. Children were also encouraged to play on newly built playgrounds and in recreation areas. In the world of orphanages, reformers sought larger parcels to construct larger, more adaptable interior spaces, and to offer more outside areas for healthy fresh air and play. The landmarked Episcopal Home for Children in DC is representative of this era and these ideals. In 1912, the US Children's Bureau was established, which, for the first time, focused a federal agency on the wellbeing of children, including orphans. Conferences on the Care of Dependent Children were held at the White House in 1909, 1919, and 1930.²⁴

While some orphanages benefitted from Progressive Era reform movements, the Association fell victim to them. By 1930, the federal government – through the National Capital Park and Planning Commission – had plans to build a large recreational complex between Georgia Avenue, Barry Place, 9th Street, and Euclid Street, in accordance with the views of the day about safe outdoor play. The Commission expected to spend \$800,000 on the endeavor, which would include, according to the *Evening Star*, “the filling in of some 20,000 cubic yards of earth” and the creation of “foot ball [sic], base ball [sic] and tennis facilities.” These plans required the federal government to purchase several dozen private buildings and residences, including the Home for Destitute Women and Children.²⁵ The project came to be known as the Banneker Recreation Center, named after the African American surveyor Benjamin Banneker who was responsible for surveying the District of Columbia in 1790.²⁶

Unable to remain in its old building, in late 1930, the Association purchased the ca. 1879 duplex house at 733 Euclid Street NW and began making improvements to the property by early 1931.²⁷ It is unknown what amount or type of compensation the government provided the Home for Destitute Women and Children, which allowed for its purchase of the building, or when exactly the Association relocated to 733 Euclid. It was probably encouraged to move quickly. In May 1931, according to the *Evening Star*, an evidently impatient federal government told the last holdouts living on the future Banneker Recreation Center that if they didn't vacate their properties soon, “the Government planned to dump dirt in their yards as a means of compelling their departure.”²⁸ By June 1931, the federal government had slated twenty-eight houses along Georgia Avenue and 8th Street for demolition.²⁹

²⁴ National Register of Historic Place Nomination form for Episcopal Home for Children, District of Columbia, 2021.

²⁵ “Howard Park Land Prices Held High,” *Evening Star*, October 28, 1930, B1.

²⁶ “Banneker Chosen Name for Center,” *Evening Star*, November 24, 1930, B1.

²⁷ “Legal Notices,” *Washington Post*, September 13, 1930, 18; “Building Permits,” *Washington Post*, February 22, 1931, R2.

²⁸ “Play Site Clearing by Ouster is Denied,” *Evening Star*, May 29, 1931, B1.

²⁹ “Col. Grant Becomes Federal Landlord,” *Evening Star*, June 30, 1931, B6.

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Despite being on the site of the proposed recreation center, the Association's former home (2458 8th Street NW), was not among the buildings initially demolished. In fact, it stood for several years afterward. In October 1931, the government let the African American Boys' Club use a portion of the building, which a local newspaper described as "[a]n abandoned colored orphan asylum," for their activities.³⁰ The US government was then listed as the building's owner.³¹ In late 1932, the building was one of a number of federal properties which the government used to temporarily house "destitute families" during the Great Depression.³² By 1933, the building was known as the Banneker Building and hosted an emergency relief station for the District.³³ The building was finally demolished to make way for Benjamin Banneker Junior High School (later Banneker Senior High School), which opened at the site in late 1939.³⁴

It is unknown how the Home for Destitute Women and Children reacted to their forced move and new location. The relocation occurred during the Great Depression, which likely had a negative impact on the Home's finances. Also, at a time when similar orphanages were valuing increased indoor and outdoor space, 733 Euclid provided the Home for Destitute Women and Children with a smaller house on a far smaller lot. It no doubt seemed like a step down and a sign of the government's disinterest in the organization, especially considering that its former, larger location, directly across the street, still stood undemolished and occupied for years. After 1932, the Home stopped accepting women and only concentrated on children, which may provide clues about its situation at the time.³⁵

The Meriwether Home for Children

By the 1950s, the nearly century-long organization continued its mission but also continued doing it without significant help from District residents. The financial troubles and lack of general interest that had always plagued it continued. Following Mary Robinson Meriwether's death in 1942, the Home for Destitute Women and Children took her name as its own, being called the Meriwether (or Meriwether) Home for Children. In 1953, the *Evening Star* claimed the Meriwether Home was, at the time, the District's only private institution dedicated to the care of African American orphans but was "comparatively little known to most District residents." It described the organization's home as "an old fashioned double red brick house at 733 Euclid street N.W." In 1953, it had only 34 children in its care at a time when DC's African American

³⁰ "Colored Boys' Club to Get New Quarters," *Evening Star*, October 2, 1931, C9.

³¹ "Boys' Club of America Directors Elect Wells," *Evening Star*, October 16, 1931, A14.

³² "Federal Housing Ready for Poor of D.C. if Needed," *Evening Star*, October 22, 1932, A16; "Grant Transfers Six Buildings to Welfare Board," *Evening Star*, October 24, 1932, B1.

³³ "District Emergency Relief Stations Open," *Evening Star*, October 13, 1933, C8.

³⁴ "\$684,730 Banneker School is Opened to 700 Pupils," *Evening Star*, November 20, 1939, A2.

³⁵ Merriweather Home for Children/Elizabeth Keckly, African American Heritage Trail, *Cultural Tourism DC*, culturaltourismdc.org (accessed March 18, 2022).

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population had reached almost 300,000. The Home was caring for even fewer children than it had 90 years earlier.³⁶

Seven years later, the *Washington Post* echoed the words of the *Evening Star*, writing, “[t]o the passerby, the three-story red brick building at 733 Euclid st. nw. looks like the home of a large family.” By 1960, the population of the Home was 33. The *Post* described in 1960 how, “[t]he 33 children who run down the tall flight of stone steps every day on their way to school or to play-school are a transient group.”³⁷ In another article, the *Post* described how “[i]llness, desertion, marital difficulties, eviction, [and] poverty have brought...children to Meriwether. Some still stay for a few weeks, others for a year or longer. Some will go back to their families. Most will be placed in foster homes.”³⁸

The same article also described some of the house itself: “The grandmotherly portrait of the Home’s first director, Mary L. Meriwether, now stands on a lace-covered table in the living room, beside a vase of artificial red roses...Sunlight filters through the leaves of some flourishing houseplants in the big playroom. The little tables in the dining room are a cheery pastel and are brightened with flowers. Upstairs in the dormitories, dolls and bears will stand guard over beds.”³⁹ In 1958, the *Evening Star* noted that, “[b]y approximating the atmosphere of a true home, it prepares the children for a new life with foster parents.” Perhaps that was a benefit to moving from the old building at 8th and Euclid to 733 Euclid Street. The *Evening Star* also observed that the Home “offers a kind of temporary harbor for those who through neglect, divorce or illness have become castaways.”⁴⁰ It had not lost sight of its original mission.

However, by the 1970s, conditions at the Meriwether Home deteriorated dramatically. The ongoing financial woes that had been chasing the organization for over a century were about to result in its bankruptcy.⁴¹ Before that happened, though, the DC Family Welfare Rights Organization sued the Home over serious shortcomings in the Home and its services. On June 18, 1971, a judge ordered the Home closed. According to the *Washington Post*, “[t]he judge cited child beatings, inadequate food, fire and health hazards and general mismanagement as reasons...” By that time, the Home had care of only about 20 children. Most were sent there by the District government, which paid the Meriwether Home to care for the children under the charge of the city’s welfare department. Peter S. Ridley, who then served on the Home’s Board

³⁶ “Program to Mark 90th Year of Colored Children’s Home,” *Evening Star*, February 15, 1953, 4.

³⁷ “Children Find a Home at Meriwether,” *Washington Post*, November 27, 1960, B2.

³⁸ Rasa Gustaitis, “Meriwether Home Retains Cosy [sic] Air After 100 Years of Helping Children,” *Washington Post*, December 9, 1963, B1.

³⁹ Rasa Gustaitis, “Meriwether Home Retains Cosy [sic] Air After 100 Years of Helping Children,” *Washington Post*, December 9, 1963, B1. Note that Meriwether was not the home’s first director.

⁴⁰ “District Home for Children Near 96th Year,” *Evening Star*, June 8, 1958, 12.

⁴¹ Carlton Fletcher, “The Colored Home,” *Glover Park History*, gloverparkhistory.com (accessed March 18, 2022).

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of Directors and was also DC's Recorder of Deeds, said on behalf of the Home: "[w]e continue to believe that the evidence does not support numerous allegations concerning the home which were made at trial."⁴²

The Meriwether Home never reopened—its legacy tarnished, its ability to garner donations dashed, and its finances fully evaporated. Yet, a brief period of unfortunate actions cannot erase over a century of good deeds. The organization provided hope and a new life for thousands of African American children and women during its decades of service, and helped women like Elizabeth Keckly. Celebrated community leaders like Frederick Douglass, Dr. Charles Burleigh Purvis, and James Wormley proudly attached their names, time, and efforts to the Home. They believed in it, even when the government and most District residents did not. The Home did as much as it could with little resources.

Rebirth in the 21st Century

Following the Home's closure and years of neglect in the late-twentieth century, in 2003, the building at 733 Euclid was donated by Dr. Joseph McKinney, World Treasurer for the AME Church and co-founder of Key Day Care Center, to what would become the Emergence Community Arts Collective (ECAC). ECAC was founded by Sylvia Robinson in 2006. Over the next decade, ECAC would become a pillar of the Pleasant Plains and Park View communities.

As Robinson, the executive director, described in 2011 at the *In Her Honor* event: "We [ECAC] use arts and educational activities to get people out of their homes and engaged in positive activity with others.... We bring the services and talents of individual and organizations to the community at free or affordable rates. Because we were here, the community benefited from free tax preparation, census job training, HIV testing, after school and summer programs and many other activities that would not have found their way into Pleasant Plains."⁴³ Robinson continued, "We teach people 21st century survival skills." Further echoing the organization's support for the surrounding neighborhood, ECAC cofounded the Georgia Avenue Community Development Task Force. And, in 2011, 733 Euclid and the Home were added to Cultural Tourism DC's "Lift Every Voice, Georgia Ave./Pleasant Plains Heritage Trail.

Robinson had a strong sense of the property's history, and her care for individuals and communities was a 21st century version of the Home's efforts in the 19th and 20th centuries to

⁴² Philip A. McCombs, "D.C. Children's Home Needs Cash to Reopen," *Washington Post*, June 29, 1971, A21. See also, Philip A. McCombs, "Judge Shuts Youth Home, Scolds City," *Washington Post*, June 22, 1971, A1; Maurine Beasley, "D.C. Judge to Close Children's Home Unless Officials Respond," *Washington Post*, January 29, 1971, B7; William L. Claiborne, "Suit Alleges Child Beatings at Home," *Washington Post*, January 23, 1971, B1; Gus Constantine, "Court Orders Closing of Meriwether Home," *Evening Star*, June 22, 1971, 30.

⁴³ This section, including quotes, is derived from Sylvia Robinson's 2011 speech at the *In Her Honor* event.

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support those in need. As Robinson said in 2011, “This is the vision I have for the community – creating a place where world-class people can thrive.” Tragically, in 2017, Robinson passed away. In late 2022, under financial hardship, ECAC sold the building at 733 Euclid.

Building History of 733 Euclid Street

The building at 733 Euclid Street NW was the final home of the National Home for Destitute Colored Women and Children (Meriwether Home for Children). The Home moved from its purpose-built home just south of the site to the existing duplex in 1930 and occupied the building until 1971, when it closed. Although it was not purpose-built for the orphanage, the building is the only physical remnant of that organization, which devoted itself to African American orphans for over a century. The building is one of a pair of 2-1/2-story brick duplexes located between Georgia Avenue and Sherman Avenue, and one block west of Howard University in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood. The pair of duplexes (723-725 and 733 Euclid Street) are across the street from the Banneker Recreation Center and Benjamin Banneker Senior High School building, the site of the Association’s home from 1866 until 1930.

Based upon historical maps and assessment records, the brick duplexes appear to have been constructed between 1868, when the area was subdivided into Todd and Brown’s Subdivision, “Part of Pleasant Plains and Mt. Pleasant” and 1879, when two buildings appear on the site on the 1879 G.M. Hopkins Map.⁴⁴ The two duplexes occupy Lots 3,4 and 5 in Block 2 of Todd and Brown’s 1868 Subdivision and stand high on a hill above present-day Euclid Street. The houses may have been built by John B. Wright, or other members of the Wright family, who purchased multiple lots in both Blocks 1 and 2 of Todd & Brown’s Subdivision in the mid-1870s.⁴⁵ John B. Wright is undoubtedly the same Wright of the Wright and Cox Subdivision, platted in 1868, just south of Brown & Todd’s. In fact, the one-block stretch of 8th Street which ran in front of the Association’s Home is designated as Wright Road on historic maps.

⁴⁴ Two buildings on the eastern end of the 700 block of Irving (Euclid) shown on the 1879 G.M. Hopkins Map (Second Park of the District of Columbia) appear to correspond to the pair of duplexes at present-day 727-729 and 731-733 Euclid Street. Although no buildings appear on the site on the later 1881 Carpenter’s map, the architectural style of the houses corresponds with a late 1870s date of construction. The duplexes appear definitively on the 1887 G.M. Hopkins Map. See, B. D. Carpenter, *Map of the Real Estate in the County of Washington, D.C., Outside of the Cities of Washington and Georgetown, From Actual Surveys* (Washington: B. D. Carpenter, 1881), Plate 9; G. M. Hopkins, *A Complete Set of Surveys and Plats of Properties in the City of Washington, District of Columbia* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1887), Plate 42.

⁴⁵ A list of assessments in the June 1875 *Evening Star* identifies John B. Wright and other Wrights as the owners of lots in the subdivision.

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Detail of the 1879 G.M. Hopkins Map showing the site of the Home (Colored Orphan's Asylum) with Wright Road (8th Street) to the east. The two buildings on Irving Street, north of the site, correspond with the Euclid Street duplexes (present-day 723-725 and 733 Euclid Street NW).

Euclid Street, originally named Irving Street, was renamed in 1905 as part of a major street renaming process in the District.⁴⁶ In 1887, the street remained unimproved, thus explaining why the duplexes—built before the street improvements—are sited well above street level. In 1888, some of the early residents of the street petitioned the District Commissioners to install brick sidewalks on the street, starting from Georgia Avenue (then called Seventh Street and also often referred to as Brightwood Avenue) and proceeding along the north side of the street to their homes.⁴⁷ In 1889, residents requested that the District “[g]rade and regulate” the street.⁴⁸ After a request by the Columbia Heights Citizens’ Association in 1905, the District planted trees along Euclid Street.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ “New Street Names,” *Evening Star*, December 10, 1905, 12; “Understanding Street,” *Washington Post*, January 7, 1906, E1.

⁴⁷ “At the District Building,” *Washington Post*, May 17, 1888, 8.

⁴⁸ “The Needs of the County,” *Evening Star*, September 12, 1889, 3.

⁴⁹ “Planting of Trees,” *Evening Star*, November 21, 1905, 10.

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The duplex houses were built in Todd & Brown's Subdivision, one block west of Georgia Avenue. Before the Civil War, this was a rural section of Washington County, well outside the boundary of Washington City at present-day Florida Avenue. The rolling hills of the county hosted scattered, small-scale cultivated farms interspersed with undeveloped wooded areas. Transportation was largely over ungraded dirt farm roads. Within this area, the future Georgia Avenue became one of the District's earliest major thoroughfares. In 1810, Congress chartered the roadway as the Seventh Street Turnpike, extending north from Seventh Street in Washington City to Maryland; it was a principal trade and travel route into the growing capital city.

After the Civil War, the Holmead family, which owned a broad tract of land in this area, began selling portions of their land to create new suburban residential developments. Samuel P. Brown, who had established the subdivision of Mt. Pleasant in 1864, formed a real estate partnership with William B. Todd in 1868 to purchase a tract of the Holmead family farm for a new subdivision, in an area that would be called Pleasant Plains. The Todd & Brown subdivision retained that name until 1900 or so when the area was absorbed into Columbia Heights.

South of Brown & Todd's subdivision were a series of other subdivisions, including the Wright & Dole Subdivision, where the Association's first frame home had been built in 1866. By 1887, while Wright & Dole's subdivision was fairly well built out, with small frame dwellings, Todd & Brown's Subdivision remained sparsely developed at its southern end, with just the duplexes along Euclid Street and a couple more at the intersection of 7th and Euclid (Irving) streets.

More intensive development was spurred by the establishment of a streetcar route on the Seventh Street Road. Seventh Street in Washington City to Boundary Street (Florida Avenue) had been equipped with streetcars since 1862; in 1888, the Brightwood Railway was chartered to extend and electrify that route to the Brightwood neighborhood to the north. Residential development, including along Euclid Street, coincided with the expansion and improvement of streetcar service. Seventh Street in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood became Georgia Avenue in 1908.⁵⁰

An analysis of census records and maps shows that the house numbers along Euclid Street changed over time. Today's 733 Euclid Street NW was the duplex previously known as 723-725 Euclid Street, and before that as 723-725 Irving Street. Before 1930, when the Association for Destitute Women and Children purchased the property, the westernmost unit was occupied by a single family while the eastern unit had been divided into five apartments. The longest-term residents of the duplex were William and Eliza Moore, who lived in westernmost unit from 1881 until their deaths in 1924 and 1929, respectively. Born February 24, 1844 in Clark County, Illinois, Moore served in the Union Army during the Civil War with Company B. of the 121st

⁵⁰ "Pare District Budget," *Washington Post*, May 22, 1908, 4.

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Illinois Infantry. After the war, he moved to Washington. From 1875 to 1893, he worked as a clerk in the General Land Office, and from 1893 until his retirement in 1920, he worked at the Pension Office.⁵¹

Evidently proud of his military service, Moore wore the button of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) on his lapel.⁵² The GAR was a famous and powerful veterans' group akin to today's American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars. William Moore died in October 1924 at 733 Euclid Street. The funeral was held at his house and was run by Moore's veteran friends from Burnside Post Number 8, GAR. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.⁵³

Moore's long-time wife was Eliza Peironnet, the daughter of a prominent doctor in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.⁵⁴ Evidently a lover of art, she had a large collection of oil paintings which she left to her children and grandchildren.⁵⁵ William and Eliza had at least three children, including a son, William, Jr., and two daughters, Minnie and Maie. According to her will, Eliza spent the last days of her life living in Hyattsville, Maryland, near one of her daughters. The move may have been related to a chimney fire that occurred at 733 Euclid Street in May 1928, though Eliza still retained ownership of the property.⁵⁶ She died on November 11, 1929 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.⁵⁷ Upon Eliza's death, her daughter, Maie G. Shepherd, became executor of the estate. In September 1930, legal notices appeared which noted that, regarding the "Estate of Eliza Moore,...Maie G. Shepherd, executrix...reported to the court that she has received a private offer to purchase...premises [at] 733 Euclid street northwest...for the price of thirteen thousand five hundred dollars" and that the court "ordered and decreed that the said offer be accepted and that said sale be ratified and confirmed...on or before the 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1930."⁵⁸

The buyer of 733 Euclid referred to in that notice was the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children. A few months after the purchase, in February 1931, the Association received a building permit for a "one-story brick addition at 731-733 Euclid street" at a cost of \$20,000.⁵⁹

⁵¹ "W. A. Moore Dies at 80," *Evening Star*, October 27, 1924, 7.

⁵² "Found Unconscious," *Evening Star*, October 10, 1895, 2.

⁵³ "W. A. Moore Dies at 80," *Evening Star*, October 27, 1924, 7.

⁵⁴ "The World of Society," *Evening Star*, September 2, 1906, 5.

⁵⁵ *Last Will and Testament of Eliza Moore*, filed November 29, 1929, Washington, DC, US, Wills and Probate Records, 1737-1952, ancestry.com (accessed March 17, 2022).

⁵⁶ "Fire Record," *Washington Post*, May 10, 1928, 2.

⁵⁷ "Died," *Washington Post*, November 13, 1929, 3.

⁵⁸ "Legal Notices," *Washington Post*, September 13, 1930, 18.

⁵⁹ "Building Permits," *Washington Post*, February 22, 1931, R2.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .262

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.924280 | Longitude: -77.023740 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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

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

The building associated with the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children is located at 733 Euclid Street NW and occupies Lot 0836 in Square 2884. The lot was historically two lots that have been combined.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the property, Lot 0836 in Square 2884, was associated with the institution from 1930 to 1971.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Todd Jones, Kim Williams (HPO); Peter Sefton, John DeFerari, and Zach Burt (DCPL)

organization: DC Preservation League

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail _____

telephone: _____

date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

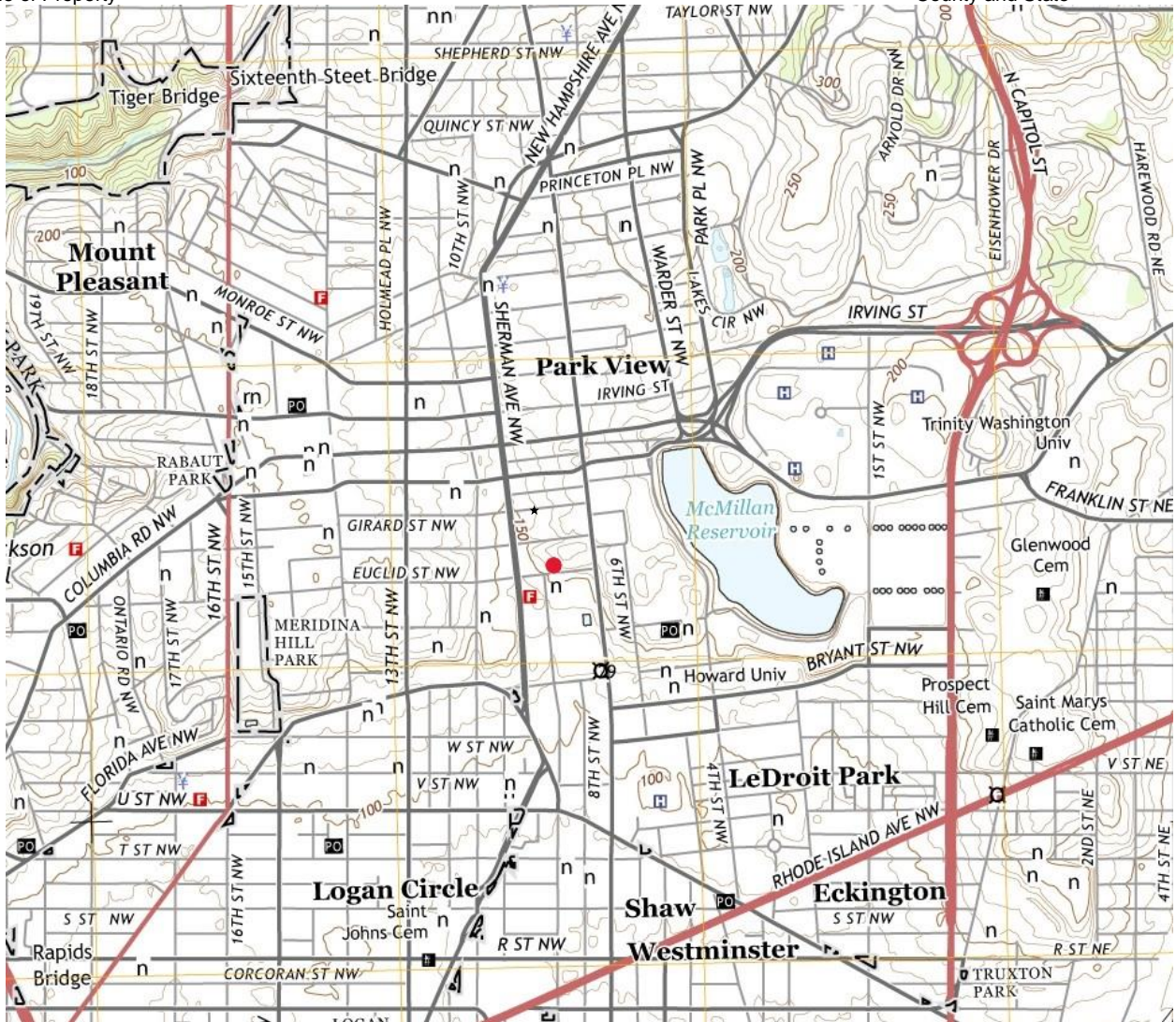
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any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

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Site Map showing location of property

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Site Map showing the boundaries of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children at 733 Euclid Street NW (Square 2884, 0836)

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children (Merrieweather Home)

City or Vicinity: 733 Euclid Street NW

County:

State: District of Columbia

Photographer: Zach Burt

Date Photographed:

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

1 of ____.

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Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State



National Association for the Relief of Destitute
Colored Women and Children
Name of Property

District of Columbia
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