

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



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

New Designation  for: Historic Landmark  Historic District

Amendment of a previous designation

Please summarize any amendment(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Property name The University Club of Washington, DC

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

Address 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW

Square and lot number(s) 197/840

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Date of construction 1921 Date of major alteration(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Architect(s) Jules Henri de Sibour Architectural style(s) Classical, Revival/Beaux Arts

Original use Private Club House Present use Private Club House

Property owner The University Club of Washington, DC

Legal address of property owner 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) The University Club of Washington, DC

*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) same as above

Name and title of authorized representative Larry Marx General Manager

Signature of representative [Signature] Date 10/10/23

Name and telephone of author of application EHT Traceries/202.393.1199

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: The University Club of Washington, DC

Other names/site number: Racquet Club of Washington

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW

City or town: Washington State: DC County: USA

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this    nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A   X   B   X   C    D

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Signature of certifying official/Title:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</u></p>	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	_____
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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

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Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

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**Category of Property**  
 (Check only **one** box.)

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Building(s) | <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> |
| District    | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |
| Site        | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |
| Structure   | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |
| Object      | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0		buildings
<hr/>	<hr/>	sites
<hr/>	<hr/>	structures
<hr/>	<hr/>	objects
0		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (Sixteenth Street Historic District)

**6. Function or Use**  
**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Concrete, Stone (Limestone)

**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.)

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**Summary Paragraph**

The University Club building at 1135 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW is located on Assessment and Taxation lot 197 of Square 840 within the Sixteenth Street Historic District. The block is bound by M Street, NW to the north, Sixteenth Street, NW to the west, L Street, NW to the south, and Fifteenth Street, NW to the east. The lot itself is adjacent to public alleys at the south and east (rear) property lines. 1135 Sixteenth Street NW was constructed in 1921 as the clubhouse for the

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Racquet Club of Washington, which merged with the current occupants of the building, The University Club, in 1936. It is located across the street from the National Geographic Society headquarters building and adjacent to the Russian Embassy to the south. The roughly U-shaped, seven story, Classical Revival-style building was designed in 1920 by architect Jules Henri de Sibour for property owner and local developer Harry Wardman. The fenestration pattern is largely symmetrical with both eight-over-eight and six-over-six double-hung windows, and the Classical Revival style is emphasized by Ionic columns and limestone detailing. The second story features an engaged colonnade that serves as the façade for a large room that fills the center of the U-shaped building. The interior of the building has undergone multiple renovations to meet the changing needs of The University Club, while the exterior has remained largely unaltered since the original construction of the building.

### **Narrative Description**

The University Club, located at 1135 Sixteenth Street NW, was constructed in 1921 as the Racquet Club of Washington. The building was designed by the architect Jules Henri de Sibour in the Classical Revival style for an estimated cost of \$500,000. The building was constructed by Harry Wardman, owner of the property and local developer. The seven-story brick building is 118 feet wide by 115 feet deep. The building sits on a reinforced concrete foundation and is topped with a flat slag roof. The lower levels of the building are rectangular in plan, and the third through seventh stories are U-shaped in plan.

The building is clad with dark red brick laid in running bond. Limestone detailing, including stringcourses, lintels and an overhanging cornice adorns the west (front), north, and south elevations of the building. A prominent limestone belt course separates the first and second stories and the fifth and sixth stories. All windows are non-original; however, they follow the original muntin configuration.

The west elevation's fenestration is ordered symmetrically. The building's primary entrance is centered on the west elevation and is sheltered by an ornate wrought iron and glass canopy.<sup>1</sup> A small iron pediment sits above the canopy and features The University Club's crest. The entrance features three glazed doors with transoms, all with decorative grills. The first story window openings are fitted with eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood clad aluminum windows with a limestone sill and decorative lintels. A limestone water table serves as the base of the façade.

The second story has elongated window openings holding six-over-six, double hung, wood-clad aluminum windows framed with alternating circular arched and pyramidal lintels, wrought-iron balconies and wide limestone casings. The center of the U-shaped building, above the entrance, is filled with a large room faced with an engaged colonnade that emphasizes the *piano nobile*. The colonnade, which projects slightly, has paired Ionic columns supporting a limestone entablature. The frieze is ornamented with patera medallions spaced symmetrically over the engaged columns. The eight-over-eight double hung windows of the colonnade are wide and

<sup>1</sup> DC Building Permit #922, July 19, 1920, District of Columbia Building Permits, 1877-1949, The People's Archive, DC Public Library.

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framed with molding casings, keystones, semi-circular arched transoms, and a continuous belt course. Beneath the apron of the windows are interlocking round rosettes of limestone.

The top two stories of the building feature the same Ionic detailing. The engaged columns are of brick with limestone plinths and capitals joined with string courses and entablatures. The entablature that crowns the flat roof of the building has a wide frieze with triglyphs and round rosettes on the metopes.

The south elevation, which fronts onto an alley and the Russian Embassy, features an irregular fenestration with five window openings infilled with six-over-six double hung windows on the first story. The second story also has five six-over-six double hung windows, the western most of which is topped with a limestone pointed pediment. The third story has six window openings infilled with six-over-six double hung windows, and three additional window openings that have been infilled with brick. The remaining four stories have identical fenestration with two groupings of window openings infilled with eight-over-eight double hung windows, separated by single, wide, eight-over-eight double hung windows. There is a red brick addition on the rear of the building, with an irregular fenestration pattern on the south elevation. The addition lacks windows on the first story, with two six-over-six double hung windows on the second. The third story has a grouping of four double hung windows, above which is a group of square fixed windows.

The 2003 addition on the east (rear elevation), features a basement door opening accessed by a flight of concrete steps, and two door openings at the ground level, one of which is accessed by a raised platform. All are infilled with flat metal doors. There are four six-over-six double hung windows and one fixed window on the second story, with two groups of four double hung windows on the third story. Each of these groups has four square fixed windows above. The fenestration on the original east elevation is irregular, with a number of the original window openings infilled with brick. The remaining window openings are infilled with six-over-six and eight-over-eight double hung windows.

The north elevation has typical fenestration and detailing largely symmetrical to that of the south elevation. The addition on the north elevation does not have any window openings; the three window openings on the first story of the original building feature decorative iron grates.

## **Interior**

The interior finishes and minor partitions of the building have been remodeled multiple times to meet the changing needs of the club; however, the original layout of the building has remained largely unchanged. The basement is primarily used for recreation activities. It is situated half above ground to accommodate for light and ventilation and it is accessed from the lobby by a flight of stairs and two elevators. It was most recently renovated in 2003 to accommodate for a day spa and women's locker room. The original pool is located on this level; however, it has been refurbished multiple times since its original construction.

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The first and second floors contain dining and social spaces for use by club members. A small wood-paneled vestibule with terrazzo flooring provides access from the primary entrance of the building to the first floor, which sits several feet above ground level. The central reception lobby is flanked by the coatroom and reception desk to the south and by the Taft Dining Room to the north. A monumental staircase is prominently featured at the end of the lobby. A smaller elevator lobby is located off the main lobby, behind the reception desk, and provides direct access to the Keefer Library and a small sitting room. The second floor contains several meeting rooms, an informal dining room, and a pub.

The upper five stories are U-shaped in plan. The third floor consists of administrative offices, a gym, and some guest en-suite rooms, and the upper four floors consist entirely of en-suite guest rooms. There is also a small roof deck accessible to club members and guests.

### Integrity

The University Club retains a high level of integrity across all seven aspects, allowing it to convey its historical and architectural associations. The building occupies its original **location**, facing west along Sixteenth Street NW, and the **setting** of the Sixteenth Street corridor remains relatively unchanged. It retains its integrity of **design, materials and workmanship**, through its retention of primary physical characteristics and design features that existed at the time of its completion in 1921. These include the building's Classical Revival-style detailing, including the limestone string courses, belt course, overhanging cornice and engaged columns. The U-shape of the building has also been retained with the center occupied by a large room faced with an engaged colonnade, emphasizing the *piano noble*. Overall, the exterior of the building has undergone minimal alterations, largely reflecting the appearance it had at the time of its construction. The interior of the University Club has been retained to a large extent, with the exception of some renovations to meet the changing needs of the club. The layout of the building remains largely unchanged, with some alterations having been made to the basement level recreational spaces and updates to the guest rooms on the upper five stories. Intact elements such as the details and layout of the building, when taken together, convey the **feeling** of an early twentieth century urban social club. They also reflect the buildings **association** with prominent members of the Racquet Club of Washington and the University Club, and its status as a work of the architect Jules Henri deSibour.



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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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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ARCHITECTURE  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1921- 1973  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1936  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Taft, William, General John G. Pershing  
Fuller, Melville, Walcott, Charles,  
and more

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

de Sibour, Jules Henri / Wardman, Harry  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 University Club building, originally constructed for the Racquet Club, was completed in 1921. The building, which is located at 1135 Sixteenth Street, was designed by the accomplished Beaux Arts style architect Jules Henri de Sibour and constructed by the premier District of Columbia developer Henry Wardman, both of whom were founders of the Racquet Club. The

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building is a significant and intact example of the Classical Revival style of architecture within the District of Columbia. Unlike other social and professional clubs that were established within the District of Columbia, the Racquet Club, which was formally established in 1920, was organized to serve as an athletic club for men. As such, the purpose-built building was outfitted with state-of-the-art athletic facilities, including a swimming pool, bowling alley, and squash courts. The building remained in use by the Racquet Club of Washington until 1936, when the Club was forced to merge with The University Club of Washington, a men's club established in 1904. Both The University Club and the Racquet Club were struggling with membership retention and significant profit losses following the Great Depression. Through this merger, the University Club inherited the athletic-oriented membership of the Racquet Club as well as the clubhouse, which allowed the legacy of both clubs to continue through the present day. The University Club remained exclusively a men's club until 1984, at which point the bylaws were amended to allow women to become members in every category of membership. The first woman president of The University Club was elected in 2003.

The building at 1135 Sixteenth Street is a testimony to the establishment of national societies and associations in Washington DC and is significant for its association with the Racquet Club of Washington and The University Club. The building holds significance at the local level under DC Criteria B (History), C (Individuals), D (Architecture), and F (Work of a Master). It has significance under National Register Criteria A (Events), B (Person), and C (Architecture).

The building retains sufficient integrity to continue to relay its historic significance. The proposed period of significance extends from 1921, the year of the building's construction, through 1973, which is fifty years prior to the year this nomination was written. 1936, the year that the Racquet Club and The University Club merged, is identified as a significant date.

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

The University Club is located at 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW, between M Street NW and L Street NW in Washington, DC. The original building, designed for the Racquet Club, was the work of architect Jules Henri de Sibour in accordance with the Classical Revival style of architecture and was constructed by Harry Wardman. The building opened for use by the Racquet Club of Washington in 1921. In 1936, the Racquet Club of Washington and The University Club merged in an effort to save both clubs, which were suffering financially owing to the impact of the Great Depression. Following the merger, The University Club and its members moved into the Racquet Club's clubhouse at 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW, and the name was changed, responding to the overall character of the merged organizations.<sup>2</sup> The building has undergone interior renovations over the years to meet the changing needs of The University Club, which continues to occupy the building today.

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<sup>2</sup> Chris Winston, *The University Club: One Hundred Years of Fellowship* (Washington DC: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2004), 38.

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The property is significant under National Register Criteria A, B, and C (and corresponding DC Criteria B, C, D, and F) owing to its use as the headquarters of two prominent social clubs in the District of Columbia. Under Criteria A, the building conveys important information concerning the history of social clubs within the District of Columbia and the establishment of national societies and organizations along the historic Sixteenth Street corridor. Specifically, it reflects the evolving nature of urban clubs and their response and adaptation to economic and social changes in the city.

Under Criteria B, 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW is significant for its association with the many prominent members of the Racquet Club of Washington and The University Club. Originally established as a men's club, the early members represent Washington's "ruling" class. Founding members of the Racquet Club included Henry P. Fletcher, William F. Ham, J.S. Flannery, Charles Wheeler, George P. James and Joseph E. Davies. The first president of the club was Col. Henry May, with Jules Hendri de Sibour and William S. Reyburn acting as vice presidents. S. J. Henry served as club treasurer and John M. Biddle as secretary. Additional officers of the Raquet Club included Harry Wardman, John M. Biddle, George A. Garrett, Henry P. Fletcher, Isaac T. Mann and Fleming Newbold. Other prominent members and honorary members included General John G. Pershing, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, William Howard Taft, and Chief Justice William Douglass White. Founding members of the University Club included Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Melville Fuller, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, George Cortelypou, and Secretary of the Smithsonian and Charles Walcott.<sup>3</sup> President William Taft was also pivotal in The University Club's formation. Not only did he serve as the Club's first president, but he was also a member at the time of his election as President of the United States in 1908.

The building holds significance under Criteria C for its architectural elements that embody distinctive characteristics of the Classical Revival style, including its dominating front façade and engaged columns, among other distinctive design elements. The building is the work of Jules Henri de Sibour, who is recognized as one of the District of Columbia's most distinguished architects. It is representative of one of his post World War I designs, at a time when he was primarily designing commercial buildings. Similarly, Harry Wardman was responsible for many residential properties, primarily rowhouses and apartment buildings, that provide visual character to a number of historic districts within the District of Columbia today.<sup>4</sup> The period of significance spans from 1921, the year of the building's completion, through 1973, fifty years prior to the year that this nomination was written. 1936, the year that the Racquet Club and The University Club merged, is identified as a significant date.

### **Establishment of Private Clubs in the District of Columbia**

<sup>3</sup> "New Club Organized," *The Washington Post*, February 23, 1904, 3.

<sup>4</sup> Properties constructed by Wardman can be found in the Sheridan-Kalorama, Woodley Park, Bloomingdale and Dupont Circle historic districts.

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The establishment of private social clubs in Washington, DC during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was indicative of broader efforts to improve the social and intellectual atmosphere, as well as the physical appearance, of the nation's capital.<sup>5</sup> Like the private clubs of New York, London, and Paris, the private social clubs in Washington offered a place for prominent political, government, and military personnel, as well as local businessmen and other professionals, to gather with like-minded men to discuss and tackle issues related to social and civic reforms, as well as to promote advancements in areas such as science, literature, and art.

The earliest social club to form in Washington was the Metropolitan Club. Established in 1863, the Metropolitan Club was organized to "promote social and literary intercourse and enjoyment among the members."<sup>6</sup> Other early men's social clubs included the Washington Club (formed in 1872), the Cosmos Club (formed in 1878) and the Alibi Club (formed in 1884).<sup>7</sup>

Early members of the private social clubs found that club membership satisfied domestic and fraternal needs for its members. Not only did the clubhouses provide a convenient place to dine, read, and play billiards and cards, but they also provided members, many of whom were residents of other cities that were stationed in Washington for military or government purposes, with lodging.<sup>8</sup> Washington's early clubs moved into clubhouses (either adapted from residential use or purpose-built) that were strategically located close to the developing downtown, the White House, the U.S. Treasury, and, as Washington extended northwesterly, the surrounding upscale neighborhood of Dupont Circle.<sup>9</sup>

As the late nineteenth century American economy shifted from agrarian to manufacturing pursuits, many Americans began to rethink their lifestyles, especially with regards to leisure time. The growth of cities during the early twentieth century set the stage for organized sports and recreation, and encouraged the establishment of recreational clubs.<sup>10</sup> In Washington, various clubs, including the Arts Club, the Washington Canoe Club and the Potomac Boat Club, were organized during the first decades of the twentieth century to promote mutual interests, intellectual improvement, physical culture, and the art of sport.

### **The Racquet Club of Washington**

The Racquet Club of Washington, DC was organized in December 1919 as a professional club for businessmen that were interested in athletics. The founding members did not see the club as

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<sup>5</sup> National Register for Historic Places, Metropolitan Club, Washington, DC National Register #95000441.

<sup>5</sup> Carl Charlick. *The Metropolitan Club of Washington* (Washington, DC: Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1965), 5.

<sup>7</sup> A number of women's social clubs were formed in Washington DC at the end of the nineteenth, into the twentieth century: the General Federation of Women's Clubs (1890) was established as a branch of the woman's club Sorosis (1868), making it one of the oldest women's volunteer organizations; the Washington Club (1891-2014) was established for literary purposes, mutual improvement and social intercourse; and the Sulgrave Club (1932) was established to be a center of social, artistic, literary, and musical activities in the city.

<sup>8</sup> Charles C. Glover, III, "A Brief History of the Metropolitan Club," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, DC* 60/62 (1960/1962), 266.

<sup>9</sup> National Register for Historic Places, Alibi Club, Washington, DC National Register #94001221.

<sup>10</sup> National Register for Historic Places, Washington Canoe Club, Washington, DC National Register #90002151.

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being in competition with already established private clubs in Washington; instead, they hoped to fill a void within the private club sector, arguing that “none of the existing clubs in the city proper offer facilities for exercise to those engaged in sedentary occupations.”<sup>11</sup> While the Club was initially organized by twenty Washingtonians, by January 1920, the number of men interested in joining the new club had increased to 450 (with twenty-five members being “life members” and 425 being “resident-members”).<sup>12</sup> As the number of members increased, so too did the type of memberships offered; in addition to life and resident members, service, non-resident, honorary, and absent memberships were also offered.

At its organizing meeting of February of 1920, nearly 200 men paid \$1,000 each to become lifetime members of the Club. This income, along with the membership fees of subsequent new members enabled the eventual construction of the club house at 1135 Sixteenth Street NW.

The Club was officially chartered on January 27, 1920.<sup>13</sup> Col. Henry May was elected to serve as the first President of the Racquet Club. Other officers elected were Jules Henri de Sibour as Vice President, William S. Reyburn as Secretary, Major Guy T. Scott as Treasurer, and Major William C. Marrow as Resident Manager.

Even before the incorporation papers for the Racquet Club were filed with the city, the founding members of the Club began to plan for the construction of a purpose-built building. The proposed seven-story building was designed by local architect Jules Henri de Sibour, who was elected to serve as the first Vice President of the Raquet Club. Recognized as one of Washington’s most distinguished architects, de Sibour was well-established in his prominent thirty-year career in both New York and Washington DC when he designed the club building. The son of a French father and American mother, de Sibour was born in Paris and immigrated to the United States as a child. He attended Yale University and returned to Paris in 1899 to attend a sixteen-month course in the Atelier of architects Daumet and Esqui of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. De Sibour returned to New York in 1900 and began working in the office of the architect Bruce Price, joining him as partner in 1902, forming the firm Bruce Price and deSibour. Following Prices’ death in 1903, de Sibour maintained the office in New York until 1909. During this time, the office produced plans for the Georgian Revival-style Freedmen’s Hospital in Washington. That year he moved to Washington DC and began work in the Nation’s Capital. During de Sibour’s thirty-year career he produced designed in three distinct groupings including elegant townhouses and apartment buildings for wealthy clientele, commercial designs after World War I and later in his career, architecture for the United States Government, including the military. Some of de Sibour’s most prominent works include the Investment Building, McCormick Apartments (now American Enterprise Institute), Hotel Hamilton, and the Hammond Residence (French Embassy).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> “First Steps Taken for Incorporation of Raquet Club,” *The Evening Star*, January 16, 1920, 2.

<sup>12</sup> “First Steps Taken for Incorporation of Raquet Club,” *The Evening Star*, January 16, 1920, 2.

<sup>13</sup> “Interior Planned for Racquet Club,” *The Evening Star*, April 21, 1921.

<sup>14</sup> EHT Tracerics, “Jules Henri de Sibour,” *DC Builders and Developers Directory* (Prepared for the DC Historic Preservation Office, October 2010).

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In January 1920, a site was formally selected for the construction of the clubhouse. The site chosen was unimproved and located on the east side of Sixteenth Street, NW between L and M Streets, NW (a site that consisted of Lots 33 to 40 of Square 197). The site was considered ideal because it was “within easy walking distance of the government departments, the downtown section and the northwest residential section.”<sup>15</sup>

The design that de Sibour created for the Racquet Club was Classical Revival in style and included details such as white limestone string courses, belt course, overhanging cornice, and engaged columns. The second story of the building reads as a *piano nobile* and features elongated window openings with pedimented and semi-circular arched lintels, wrought-iron balconies and wide casings of limestone. The second-story colonnade fills the center of the U-shaped building, emphasizing the *piano nobile*. The colonnade, which projects slightly, has paired Ionic columns that support a limestone entablature. The Classical Revival style of 1135 Sixteenth Street NW is further emphasized by the ornamentation of the prominent entablature with round patera medallions, symmetrically spaced over the engaged columns.

A permit for the new building was issued on August 11, 1920. Per the permit application, the new building was to measure approximately 118 feet wide by 115 feet deep. The building was to be constructed of brick and concrete and was to feature limestone and terra cotta detailing, and it was estimated that the building would cost approximately \$500,000.00 to construct.

The Racquet Club commissioned Harry Wardman, one of Washington’s most prolific developers of the early twentieth century, as its contractor. As with de Sibour, Wardman was a founding member of the Racquet Club of Washington. Born in England in 1872, Wardman immigrated to the United States at the age of 17 and held a variety of occupations in New York and Philadelphia before moving to DC around 1892.<sup>16</sup> Wardman worked as a carpenter for several years before he began building independently around 1898. Wardman constructed an astounding number of rowhouses in the first decade of the twentieth century and continued practicing speculative development through the 1920s. In addition to row houses, he also focused on apartment building and hotel construction. His early constructions were more modest in size, however by the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, his constructions shifted to a grander style to serve more affluent residents. Towards the end of the 1910s, Wardman continued to take on increasingly large ventures, and in 1920, he worked with architect de Sibour to construct 1135 Sixteenth Street NW. By the end of his career, Wardman was responsible for the construction of over 400 apartment buildings and more than 5,000 dwellings. On Sixteenth Street alone, he constructed the Lealand at 1830 Sixteenth Street, the Howard at 1842 Sixteenth Street, the Brittany at 2001 Sixteenth Street and the Somerset House at 1801 Sixteenth Street. Wardman was also responsible for two hotels along the street including the Carlton (1925) and

<sup>15</sup> “Racquet Club Formed Here,” *The Washington Post*, December 10, 1919, 18.

<sup>16</sup> Sally Lichtenstein Berk, “The Richest Crop: The Rowhouses of Harry Wardman (1872-1938), Washington, DC Developer,” 1989.

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the Hay-Adams (1927). Wardman left a significant impact on the building industry of DC by setting a high standard for craftsmanship and design of buildings throughout the city.<sup>17</sup>

A few days after the building permit was issued, an article was published in *The Washington Post* that described the building in detail:<sup>18</sup>

The exterior of the building is to be of colonial design, and will be developed by the use of limestone, colonial brick and terra cotta. The clubhouse will be entirely detached.

The level of the first floor will be 5 feet above the grade level, thus allowing for windows above the grade in the basement, which together with areas around the basement, will supply ample light and ventilation for the athletic department located on that floor.

On the left of the members' lobby there will be a visitors' room, manager's office, club office, taxi starter and telephone booths. On the right of the lobby there will be the toilet room, members' letter boxes, the bulletin of sporting events, ticker and coatroom.

The members' lobby will communicate directly with the first story stair hall, from which there will be a monumental staircase to the second floor. On the right of the stair hall will be a lounge with windows to the south and west. On the left will be the grillrooms and large kitchen. The grillroom is to be patterned after the one in the Yale Club of New York City.

The basement or athletic floor will be reached by two elevators and a wide staircase from the first floor. In the center of this floor will be located the dressing room in which there will be dressing cubicles with dressing tables, etc., and around this room, and immediately accessible to it, will be the athletic features of the club, including gymnasium, bowling alleys, swimming pool and Turkish bath, and four squash courts.

On the second floor surrounding the main stair lobby will be the reading room off from which will be two private card rooms. Special attention will be given [to] the lighting and ventilation of the library. On the left will be the billiard room of sufficient size for five tables. In the rear will be two dining rooms so arranged that they can be turned into one.

Across the front of the Sixteenth Street side, between the billiard room and the card room and facing the reading room, will be a large covered loggia which in favorable weather will be kept open and in the winter will be enclosed in glass. The roof over this at the level of the third floor will provide an open terrace for summer dining rooms or roof garden.

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<sup>17</sup> EHT Traceries, "Harry Wardman," *DC Builders and Developers Directory* (Prepared for the DC Historic Preservation Office, August 2012).

<sup>18</sup> "Racquet Clubhouse Ready Next Year," *The Washington Post*, August 15, 1920, 40.



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The five upper floors will be laid out in accordance with the most modern arrangement for bachelor apartments and there will be on each floor 23 rooms and sixteen baths, making each a total of 115 rooms and 80 baths. Each room will be equipped with a telephone. The general interior finish of the club will be simple and of keeping the colonial style and the furniture in keeping throughout.

Excavation for the building began shortly after the permit was issued, and a groundbreaking ceremony for the building was held on September 4, 1920. General John J. Pershing, a member of the Club, laid the cornerstone for the new building during an official ceremony on February 12, 1921. Within the cornerstone, Pershing sealed several artifacts including: pennies from 1921, copies of Washington newspapers, a copy of the Club's charter; seal; constitution; and by-laws, photos of the prospectus signed by the architect de Sibour and builder Harry Wardman, the first reports of the Club, a photograph of President-elect Harding, and a scroll containing the names of the 750 members of the club.<sup>19</sup>

The Racquet Club building opened for members on October 1, 1921. The final construction and furnishing costs for the building, which was regarded as being "a handsome addition to the really fine structures of this city [that was] on a par with the finest clubhouses throughout the United States," was estimated at around \$1,000,000 (double the original estimate).<sup>20</sup>

### *Notable Members*

Many prominent Washingtonians were members and honorary members of the Racquet Club, including General John G. Pershing, who officiated the laying of the cornerstone of the building at 1135 Sixteenth Street in 1921. President Warrant G. Harding was an honorary member, as well as Vice President Calvin Coolidge, William Howard Taft and the thirty-four members of the diplomatic corps. Before his death in 1921, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court William Douglass White was also granted honorary membership to the Club.

The first officers of the club included Jules Henri de Sibour, William S. Reyburn, S. J. Henry and John. M. Biddle. Additional members on the board of managers included Harry Wardman, John M. Biddle, George A. Garrett, Henry P. Fletcher, Isaac T. Mann and Fleming Newbold.<sup>21</sup>

The first president of the Racquet Club was Colonel Henry May, who served in this role until February 1, 1928. May was the Colonel of the First Regiment, District of Columbia National Guard, and a member of numerous social and recreational clubs in Washington and Baltimore.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> "Harding Picture in Cornerstone," *The Washington Post*, February 13, 1921.

<sup>20</sup> "Racquet Clubhouse Ready Next Year," *The Washington Post*, August 15, 1920, 40; "Interior Planned for Racquet Club," *The Evening Star*, April 21, 1921.

<sup>19</sup> "New Racquet Club Home is Opened," *The Sunday Star*, October 2, 1921, 4.

<sup>22</sup> Henry Brown Floyd Macfarland, *District of Columbia: Concise Biographies of its Prominent and Representative Contemporary Citizens and Valuable Statistical Data, 1908-1909* (Washington, DC: The Potomac Press, 1908), 317.

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He was succeeded by the architect responsible for the design of 1135 Sixteenth Street NW, Jules Henri de Sibour, who presided until March 16, 1932. Arthur Hellen acted as president in 1932, until John C. Walked assumed the role in 1933, serving until 1935. In that year the presidency passed to Spencer Gordon, who would become the first president of the consolidated groups following the merger of the University and Racquet Clubs.<sup>23</sup> The terms of the consolidation stated that the Board of Governors would consist of twenty members, ten from each club.

### History of the University Club

The University Club of Washington was founded in February 1904 through the cooperative efforts of forty university and college alumni organizations in Washington, DC with the purpose of “promot[ing] science, literature, and art and to provide a club house to promote social intercourse and mutual improvement” amongst college-educated men.<sup>24</sup> The University Club of Washington was patterned after other University Clubs that had been established around the United States, including those located in New York (1865), Philadelphia (1871), St. Louis (1872), Chicago (1887), Baltimore (1887), Boston (1892), Detroit (1899), and Los Angeles (1903). Following its inaugural general meeting, *The Washington Post* reported that The University Club of Washington boasted “the largest and most enthusiastic initial meeting of a university club ever held in the United States, and already it is not only the largest university club in the world, but contains the greatest number of distinguished men and men of the greatest prominence.”<sup>25</sup>

As with other social and professional clubs, The University Club intended to one day build a purpose-built clubhouse. During its early years, however, the Club leased the building at 930 Sixteenth Street NW as its first headquarters. *The Evening Star* reported that the new club house would offer accommodations “for bachelor members who wish to make their homes there.”<sup>26</sup> The first large-scale social event hosted in the new club’s headquarters was a Fourth of July gala.

In 1909, the University Club purchased land at the northwest corner of Fifteenth and I Streets, NW with the intention of constructing a purpose-built clubhouse. Architect George Oakley Totten, Jr., one of the club’s founding members, was commissioned to design the clubhouse. The cornerstone for the new clubhouse was laid on April 10, 1912, and on December 31 of that year, the new clubhouse held its inaugural gala.

With the on-set of World War I, Washington’s population soared due to the increased number of government jobs. The influx of temporary workers resulted in a housing shortage. Seeing an

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<sup>23</sup> Wilkinson, *The University Club of Washington*, 89.

<sup>24</sup> Cecil J. Wilkinson, “Appendix II: The By-Laws of the Club,” *The University Club of Washington* (Washington, DC: The University Club of Washington, 1954), 134.

<sup>25</sup> “Taft in a New Role,” *The Washington Post*, March 13, 1904, 2.

<sup>26</sup> “The Plan Approved: University Club Formed with Large Membership,” *The Evening Star*, February 23, 1904, 18.

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opportunity to expand revenue, the Club offered temporary membership at \$7.50 for military men and civilians stationed in Washington and engaged in the war effort.<sup>27</sup>

Following the conclusion of the War, social festivities resumed; however, The Club found itself in financial difficulty, particularly with the introduction of Prohibition laws. In 1920, the Officer's Club of Washington moved from its Dupont Circle home and merged with the University Club. In 1922, a group of ninety surgeons and physicians formed a group within the Club that they called Wapiya, the Sioux Indian name for "Medicine Men", which resulted in the Club gaining a reputation as a doctors' club.<sup>28</sup>

Over the next several years, despite increasing financial troubles, The University Club continued to operate unabatedly, and prominent politicians, including William Taft, who by then served as Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, and General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War I, amongst others, were invited guests of The Club. In 1926, in an effort to acknowledge the suffragette movement, women were for the first time allowed to dine in the main dining room (albeit only on Sundays), and in 1929, women were invited to participate in The Club's social and educational programs.

The University Club took steps to enlarge its clubhouse beginning in July 1929. The Great Depression, coupled with The Club's financial woes and a suit filed by a club shareholder to stop the expansion, thwarted the proposed expansion project. Thus, in May 1936, The University Club Board voted to merge with another Washington-based social and professional club – the Racquet Club of Washington. As part of the agreement, the University would move out of their clubhouse at Fifteenth and I Streets, NW and into the Racquet Club's newer and more modern clubhouse located at 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW. The University Club's clubhouse was subsequently sold to the United Mine Workers of America in November of 1936 for \$275,000.<sup>29</sup>

### *Prominent Members*

Many prominent Washingtonians were members of The University Club. Some of the earliest prominent members included: Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court Melville Fuller, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury George Carteylou, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute Charles Walcott, politician Proctor L. Dougerty, General Ellis Spear, architect George Oakley Totten Jr., and builder Isaac R. Hitt Jr.<sup>30</sup>

In 1904, William Howard Taft, who had been newly appointed to serve as the U.S. Secretary of War, accepted the role of President for The University Club. Taft, who served as The Club's first president, retained the post until 1906. Taft remained a member of the Club, and in 1908, he was elected to serve of the twenty-seventh President of the United States. Taft remained involved

<sup>27</sup> Winston, *The University Club of Washington, DC*, 22.

<sup>28</sup> Wilkinson, *The University Club of Washington* (Washington, DC: The University Club of Washington, 1954), 65.

<sup>29</sup> "Miners Buy University Club for \$275,000 to House Union," *The Washington Post*, November 17, 1936, XI.

<sup>30</sup> "New University Club," *The Washington Post*, January 10, 1904, 2.

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with The University Club until 1913, when he relocated to New Haven, Connecticut to teach at Yale Law School.

### The University Club's Second Life

The Great Depression brought financial hardship to both The University Club of Washington and the Racquet Club of Washington. The University Club suffered a significant decline in membership following the crash of the stock market as tens of thousands were out of work within the District. Compounding issues, government salaries were reduced and many banks remained in receivership. In 1934, as The Club gathered to celebrate its thirtieth anniversary, then Club president T. Howard Duckett announced that membership was at its lowest in club history. On May 22, 1936, a specially appointed committee tasked with investigating the club's financial situation announced that two hundred new members would be needed to balance the books. This was deemed an unrealistic goal, resulting in The Club's Board members seeking an alternative solution.<sup>31</sup> Similarly, declining membership and rising operation costs brought financial troubles to the Racquet Club of Washington. In 1935, under Section 77-B of the Bankruptcy Act, the Racquet Club of Washington reincorporated as the Washington Racquet Club in an effort to reduce some of the club's outstanding debts. While this course of action eliminated the Club's debt (except for a bond issue of \$575,000), the systemic issues effecting the Club's revenue were not resolved.<sup>32</sup>

At a board meeting of the University Club on June 26, 1936, the financial committee announced that it had met with the Racquet Club to discuss the possibility of consolidation. The University Club held a special meeting on August 21, 1936 to vote on the merger, and a resolution providing for the consolidation of the clubs was formally adopted. The Racquet Club held a vote on the September 23, 1936, with a majority of its members voting in favor of the merger.<sup>33</sup> Thus, the clubs entered into an agreement, whereby The University Club would occupy the Racquet Club's clubhouse, located at 1135 Sixteenth Street, under a lease with the option to purchase, and would cover all operating costs for the building. Additionally, members of the Racquet Club would be offered membership into The University Club (non-college men would be taken in as "special members"), and the consolidated club would operate under The University Club's name.<sup>34</sup> Though some members of both clubs were opposed to the merger, proponents argued that the clubhouse at 1135 Sixteenth Street was designed to accommodate the number of members of the combined clubs, and that the merger would allow for improved use of the facilities without a substantial increase in overhead costs.<sup>35</sup> Ultimately, Board members determined that the merger was the only viable way to ensure the longevity of the legacy of both clubs.

<sup>31</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 36.

<sup>32</sup> Wilkinson, *The University Club of Washington*, 89.

<sup>33</sup> Wilkinson, *The University Club of Washington*, 85-87.

<sup>34</sup> Wilkinson, *The University Club of Washington*, 85.

<sup>35</sup> "Merger Voted of University Racquet Clubs," *The Washington Post*, September 24, 1936, XI.

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The University Club officially moved into the Racquet Club's facilities on December 1, 1936. It was anticipated that the building's interior would be renovated to incorporate a ladies' dining room and lounge (the Racquet Club, and the newly expanded University Club remained a men's-only club); however, it does not appear that any renovations were undertaken at this time.

On May 28, 1945, the Racquet Club of Washington, which was classified as an inactive organization following the Club's absorption into The University Club, filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission to officially transfer the title of its property to the University Club.<sup>36</sup>

In the early 1960s, The Club undertook a series of renovations, led by the DC based architectural firm Clas and Riggs.<sup>37</sup> The four-phase Club Improvement Program included:<sup>38</sup>

- Enlarging, remodeling, and refurnishing the main dining room;
- Remodeling the entrance foyer and main lobby;
- Creating a new cloak room and front desk;
- Relocating the manager's office;
- Refurbishing and redecorating the library and reading room;
- Designing a new conference and cocktail room;
- Redesigning the men's wash room;
- Renovating the main kitchen;
- Redesigning the bowling alley
- Redesigning the locker rooms and associated facilities;
- Redesigning the gymnasium and creating a massage room;
- Creating a new barber shop and athletic office; and
- Renovating the swimming pool.

On February 21, 1968, a bomb exploded within the Russian Embassy, (now the Russian ambassador's residence), The University Club's adjacent neighbor to the south that is addressed 1125 Sixteenth Street.<sup>39</sup> The explosion damaged 240 windows within The University Club. Although this was the costliest interaction that The University Club and the Russian Embassy, the two institutions had a storied history. The Russian Embassy Building was purchased by the Russian Czarist government in 1913. After the Russian Revolution in 1917, the building became the property of the Soviet Communist regime until the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1988. In 1933, the newly recognized Soviet Union remodeled their embassy building. Sensing the Racquet Club's financial troubles, the Russians offered to purchase the building, and even obtained a permit from the District of Columbia to construct a tunnel to the Racquet Club.<sup>40</sup> The

<sup>36</sup> "Racquet Club to Shift Title, Extend Bonds," *The Washington Post*, May 29, 1945, 12.

<sup>37</sup> "The 61st Annual Report," *The University Club*, February 5, 1965, 16.

<sup>38</sup> "The 61st Annual Report," *The University Club*, February 5, 1965, 3-4.

<sup>39</sup> Willard Clopton Jr. and Robert F. Levey, "Soviets Decry Bomb Blast at Embassy," *The Washington Post*, February 22, 1968, A1.

<sup>40</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 69.

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Club, however, declined the offer, and the tunnel was never constructed. Unusual interactions between the club and the embassy continued throughout the Cold War, as the embassy served as a location for espionage contact for the Soviet Union. This attracted the interest of American intelligence agencies, including the FBI, which rented eight rooms in the Club on four separate floors for use in surveillance of the embassy.

In the mid-1980s, another round of renovations were proposed to undertake routine maintenance and to provide facilities for women, who were allowed membership to The Club beginning in 1984. The resulting \$2.5 million improvement plan, known as the Red Book, was approved in January 1988. Most controversial was the plan's recommendation to replace the bowling alleys with a physical fitness center.<sup>41</sup>

Several smaller renovation projects occurred in the 1990s to improve the quality, efficiency, and use of the Club's facilities. In the early 1990s, The Club undertook some minor improvements (namely painting) in the dining rooms, library, and billiard room. Additionally, the third-floor card room was transformed into administrative offices, and the guest rooms were also redecorated.<sup>42</sup> Other work included: replacing the windows, installing bookcases in University Hall, staining the wood within the Lobby, painting the Library, and redecorating the Franklin room. The Club entryway and front driveway were improved with stone pavers, gas lanterns and new landscaping. The Pershing Grill was also extensively renovated to allow for more seating and for the creation of the Humidor Lounge. A new ASB international squash court was also built. The new court was the first regulation international court in Washington and helped to further solidify the Club's reputation as the preeminent squash center in the city.<sup>43</sup>

By the 1980s, in response to Supreme Court rulings on discrimination, EEOC rulings, and a general change in attitude related to inclusion, The University Club's members were prompted to rethink their membership restrictions. While women were allowed in the Taft Dining Room, the bowling alleys, and the women's lounge, they were not offered membership until June 14, 1984, when members voted to amend The Club's bylaws to allow women members in every category.<sup>44</sup> The first female member was Jo Anne Murphy, an architect, graduate of the University of Maryland, and the daughter and granddaughter of club members. In March 1992, Linda Woolley, Director of Public Affairs for ITT, became the first woman elected to the University Club Board of Governors. In 2003, Susan Neely, Special Assistant to the President and Director of Communications for the Department of Homeland Security, was elected as the president of the club, making her the first woman to hold the position.<sup>45</sup>

In 2000, following a generous endowment from Leona Keefer, the widow of one of The Club's longtime members, the library was renovated and retrofitted with the latest technology. The

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<sup>41</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 89.

<sup>42</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 103.

<sup>43</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 114.

<sup>44</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 88.

<sup>45</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 36.

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funds also help to support the library, the librarian's salary, and the cost of books and periodicals. Following the library's renovation, it was named in honor of the Keefers.<sup>46</sup>

*The Second Century Plan*, a 4.4-million-dollar renovation project brought additional changes to 1135 Sixteenth Street NW in the early twenty-first century. The improvements, designed by Hayes Architects, were completed in September 2003 and included the enlargement of the fitness center, which was outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, and the addition of the private day spa, a new ladies locker room, a sports lounge overlooking the pool, renovations several of the meeting rooms, and general upgrades to the building's systems.<sup>47</sup>

## Conclusion

Today, the University Club retains its historic significance through its continued use as a prominent urban social club in the District of Columbia. Constructed in 1921 for use by the Racquet Club of Washington, the building at 1135 Sixteenth Street NW is an intact example of a Beaux-Arts style building designed by the distinguished architect Jules Henri de Sibour and constructed by the prolific DC builder Harry Wardman. The building is now under the ownership of The University Club, following a merger of the organizations to overcome financial obstacles caused by the Great Depression. This merger allowed for the continued use of the building as a social club, enabling the building to reflect the evolving nature of clubs and their adaptation in response to the changing economic and social character of the city. It draws further significance through its association with the prominent members of the Racquet Club and University Club, many of whom held governmental positions, or were otherwise notable for their contributions to the District and the nation. The building reflects the establishment of national organizations and societies along the Sixteenth Street Corridor and a broader effort to improve the social and physical atmosphere of the Nation's Capital in the early twentieth century.

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<sup>46</sup> Winston, *The University Club*, 104.

<sup>47</sup> "History," *The University Club*, accessed September 6, 2023. <https://www.universityclubdc.com/history>

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

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 16,290 square feet

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.904870 | Longitude: -77.036100 |
| 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 University Club is located at 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW. The property encompasses the 16,290 square foot assessment and taxation lot 840 of Square 197. Lot 840 is bound to the north by tax lot 853 (on which the American Chemical Society building is located), to the east by a public alley, to the south by a public alley, and to the west by Sixteenth Street, NW.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the property's legal description, as delineated in the land records of the District of Columbia.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alyssa Stein, Emily Pelesky, Emily Hotaling Eig

organization: EHT Traceries

street & number: 440 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20011

e-mail: eht@traceries.com

telephone: 202.393.119

date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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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Figure 1: Detail from 2023 USGS Washington West quadrangle, showing the location of 1135 Sixteenth Street, NW (circled).

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Figure 2: 1857 Boschke map. Prior to construction of the University Club building. Library of Congress.

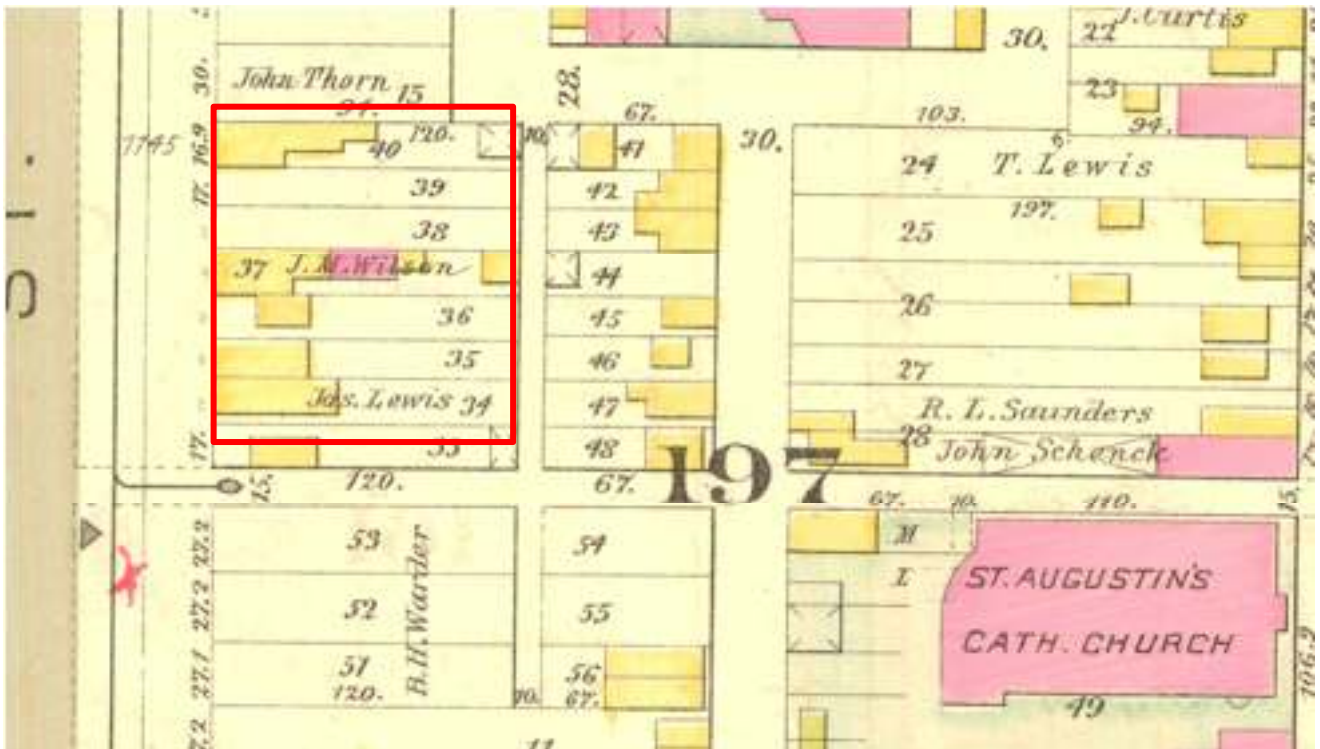


Figure 3: 1887 Hopkins map. Prior to construction of the University Club building. Library of Congress.



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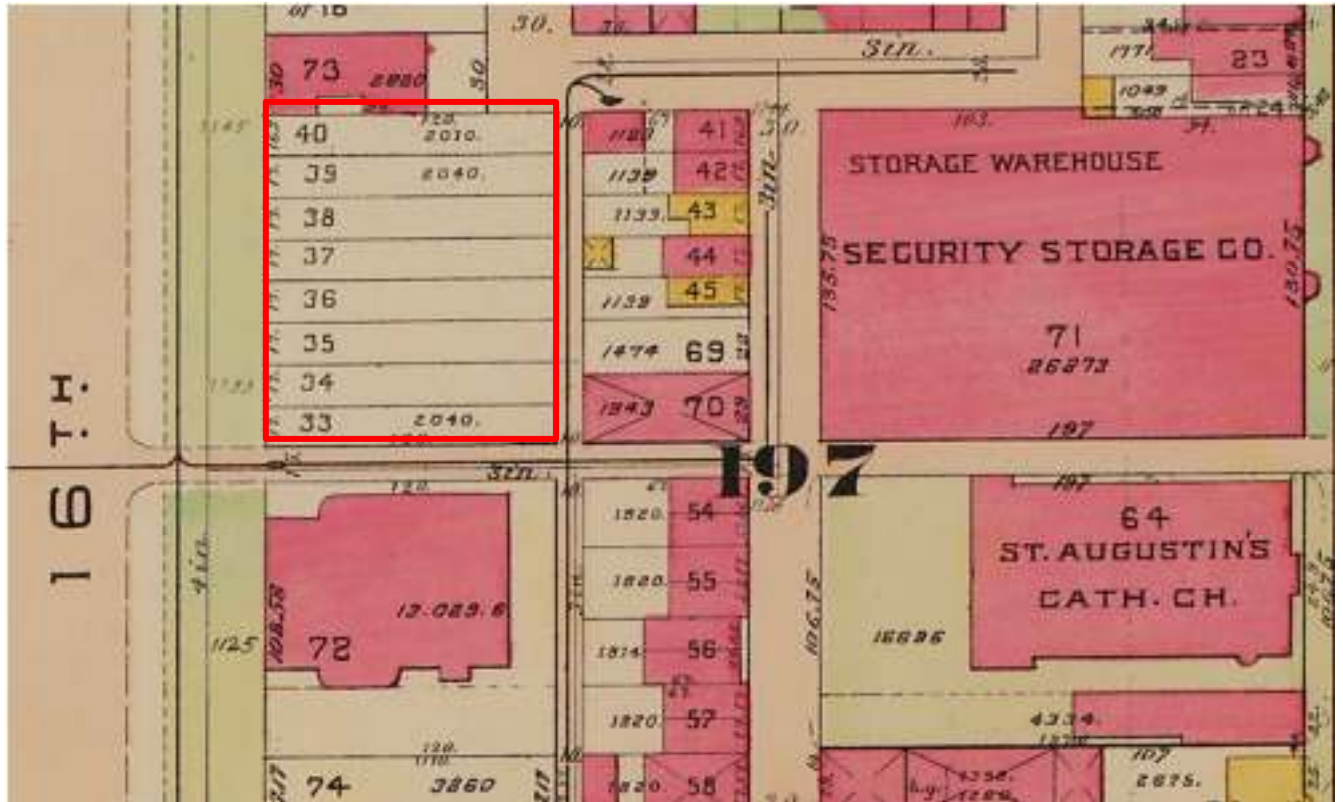


Figure 4: 1913 Baist map v. 1 plate. 21. Prior to the construction of the University Club building. Library of Congress.

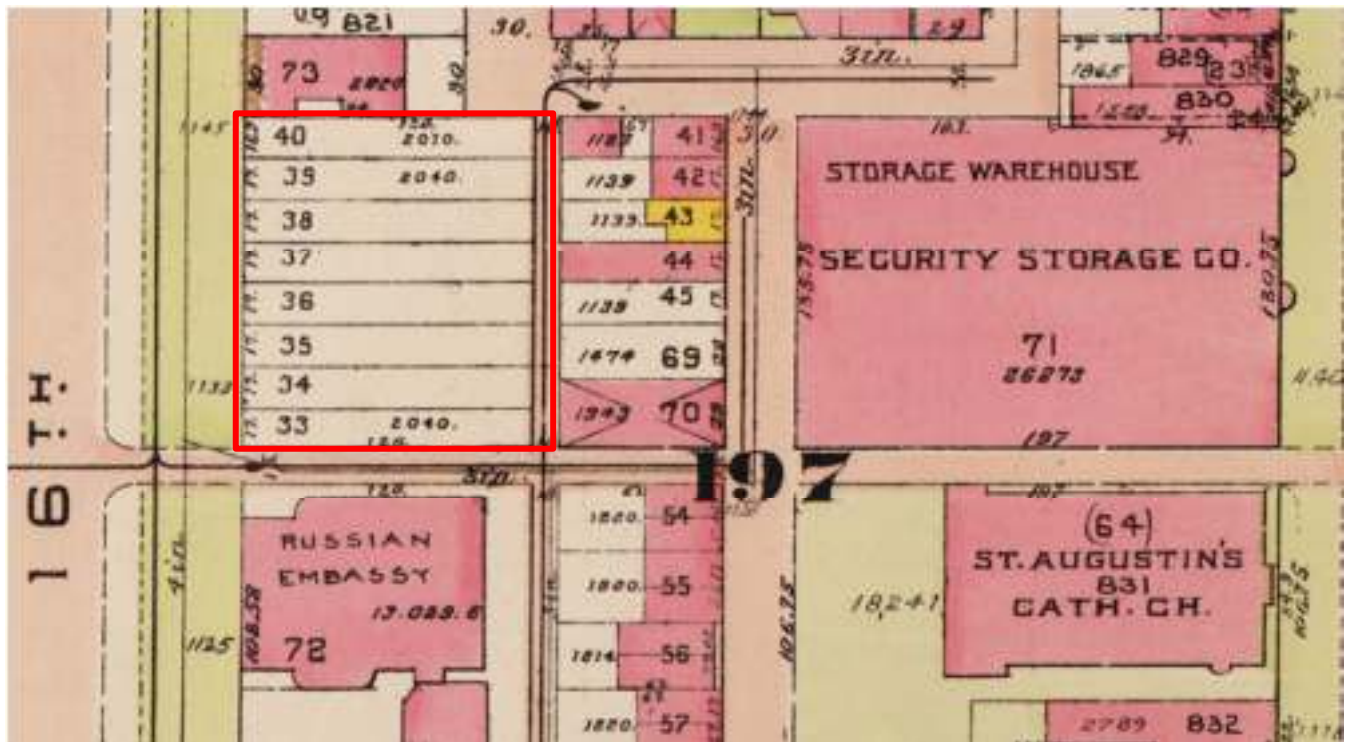


Figure 5: 1919 Baist map v. 1 plate. 21 Prior to the Construction of the University Club building (Library of



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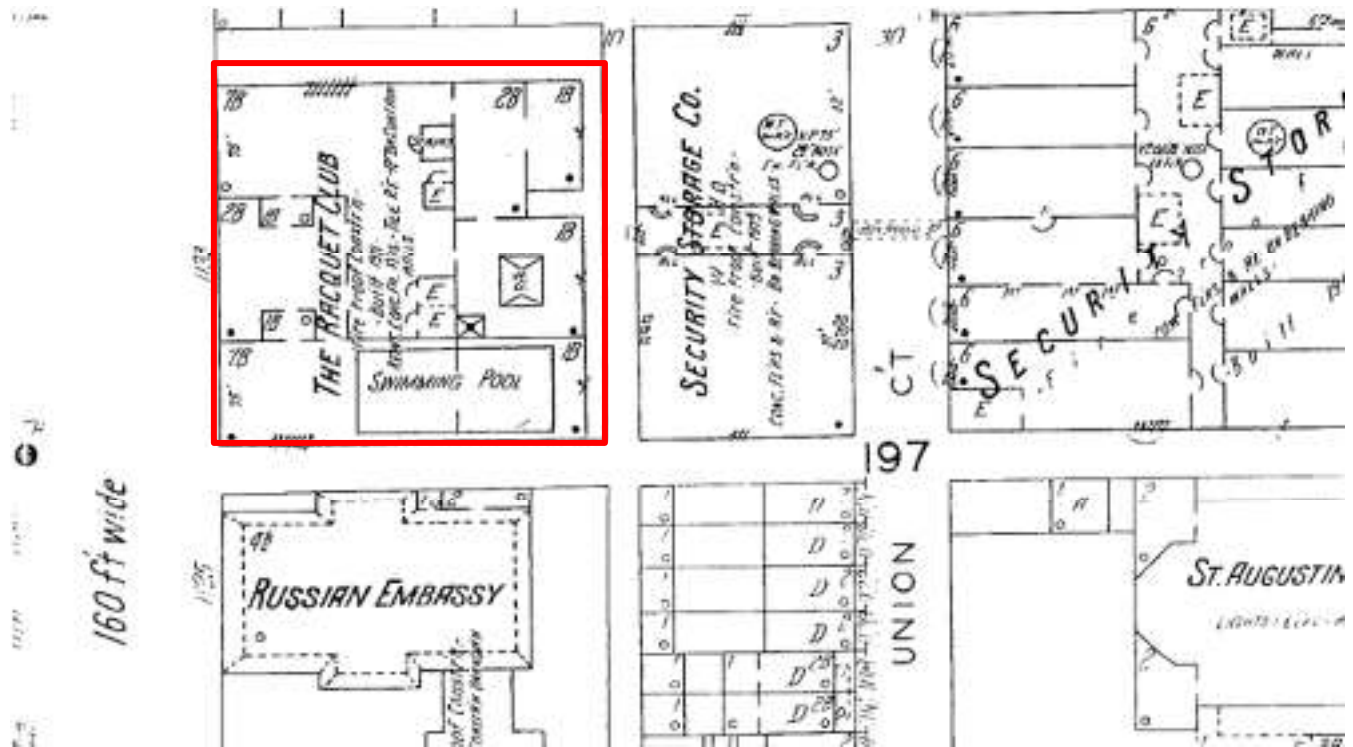


Figure 6: 1928 Sanborn, v. 1 sheet. 50a. Showing Racquet Club. Library of Congress.

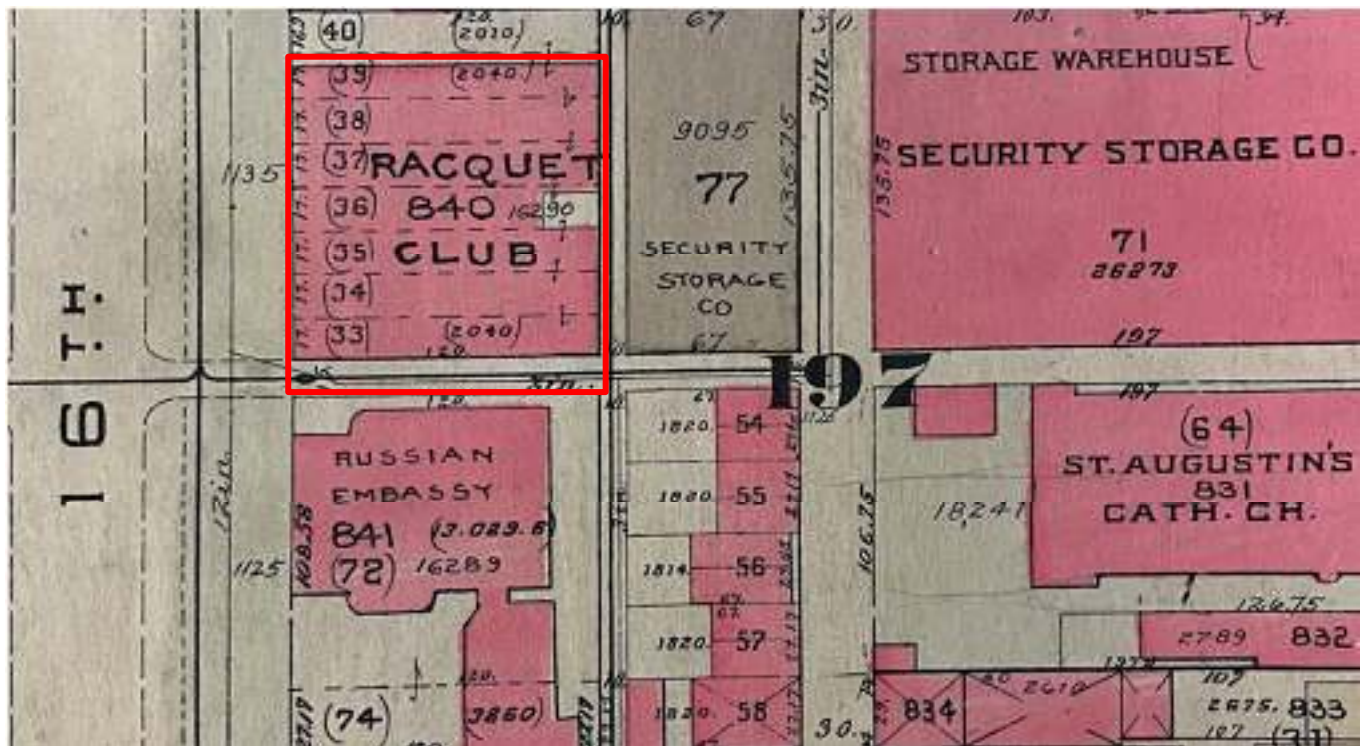


Figure 7: 1942 Baist map v. 1 plate. 21. Showing Racquet Club. Library of Congress.

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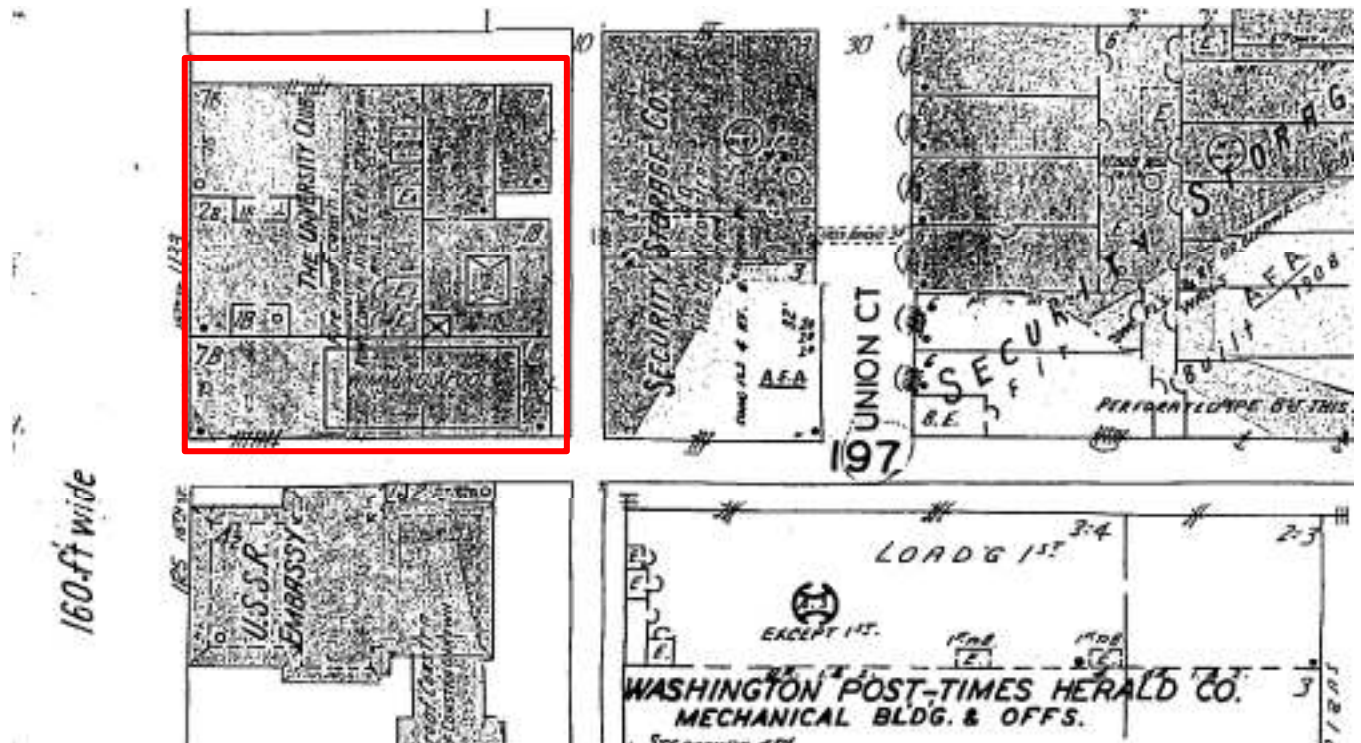


Figure 8: 1959 Sanborn map v. 1 sheet 50a. Showing University Club. Library of Congress.

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Figure 9: 1923 view of 1135 Sixteenth Street NW from Sixteenth Street looking NW. *DC History Center.*



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Figure 10: Undated view of detail on terra cotta on façade of 1135 Sixteenth Street NW, looking W. *DC History Center*.

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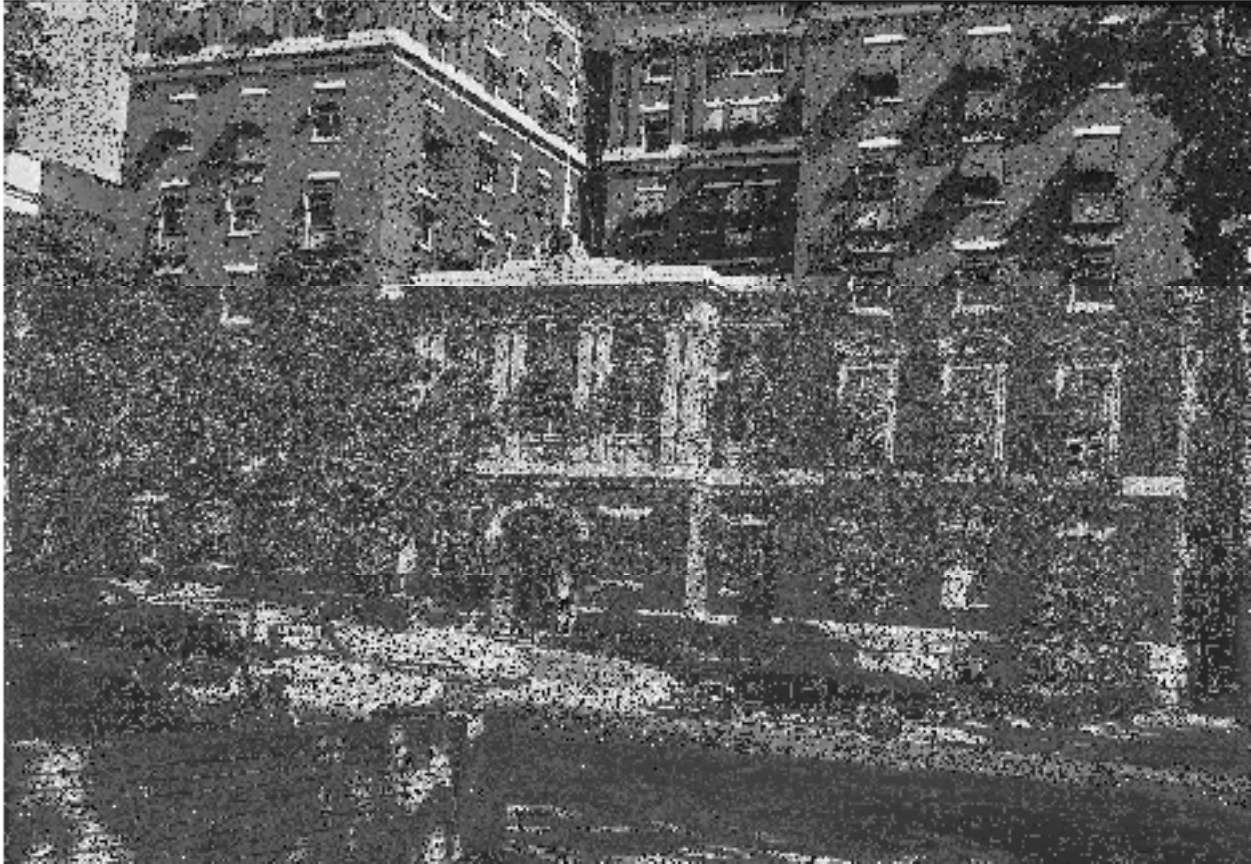


Figure 11: 1951 view of 1135 Sixteenth Street NW, looking W from Sixteenth Street. *DC History Center.*

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Figure 12: 1985 View of 1135 Sixteenth Street NW, looking W from Sixteenth Street. *DC History Center*.



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Figure 13: 1990 view of 1135 Sixteenth Street NW, looking W from Sixteenth Street. *DC History Center.*

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### **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: The University Club (1135 Sixteenth Street, NW)

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: State: DC

Photographer: Alyssa Stein and Emily Pelesky

Date Photographed:

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

1 of \_\_\_\_.



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Photo 01: Façade (west elevation), looking northeast

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Photo 02: South and west elevation, looking northeast

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Photo 03: South elevation, looking west



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Photo 04: North elevation looking east

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Photo 05: East (rear) elevation looking southwest

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Figure 06: East (rear) elevation looking southwest



Figure 07: Basement egress door on east (rear) elevation looking west

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Figure 08: Areaway in front of building, looking south



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Figure 09: Site, west portion of property, showing driveway, looking south

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Photo: 10: Close up of windows on façade (west elevation) looking west



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Photo 11: Primary entrance on west elevation, looking east

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Photo 12: First floor lobby looking west

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Photo 13: First floor lobby looking east towards main staircase



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Photo 14: Dining room on first floor looking west

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Photo 15: Taft Dining Room on the first floor looking northwest

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Photo 16: Library on the first floor looking southwest



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Photo 17: Lounge on the first floor looking east

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Photo 15: Second floor hall looking southwest

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Photo 16: Second floor dining room looking northeast



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Photo 17: Hallway on second floor looking south

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Photo 18: Private dining room on second floor looking east

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Photo 19: Hallway on seventh floor looking north

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Photo 20: Seventh floor guest room looking southwest



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Photo 21: View of rooftop looking northwest



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Photo 21: View of fitness center looking northeast

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Photo 21: View of pool at basement level looking east

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.