

PH0001872

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington, D.C. COUNTY: District of Columbia FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY DATE: NOV 30 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: U. S. Capitol Gatehouses and Gateposts (former) AND/OR HISTORIC: Bulfinch Gatehouses and Gateposts

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Ellipse, 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Monument Grounds CITY OR TOWN: Washington CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY: Building, Structure, Object OWNERSHIP: Public, Private, Both STATUS: Occupied, Unoccupied, Preservation work in progress ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Restricted, Unrestricted, No PRESENT USE: Agricultural, Commercial, Educational, Entertainment, Government, Industrial, Military, Museum, Park, Private Residence, Religious, Scientific

4. AGENCY

Department of the Interior, National Park Service REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: National Capital Parks CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

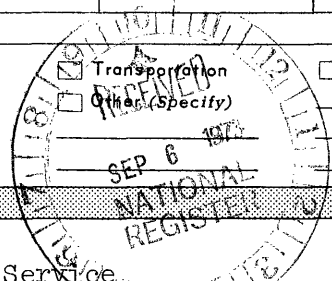
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: National Capital Parks STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W. CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C. STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: National Park Service Survey in compliance with Executive Order 11593 DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Capital Parks STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W. CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 30 1973 DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The design of the gateposts is generally attributed to Charles Bulfinch who in 1814 was commissioned to do the Capitol restoration. Until 1874, the gateposts stood at the foot of the west capitol grounds, but in that year were moved to their present locations. The gateposts are 4 sandstone pillars measuring 5' x 5' at the base and approximately 12' in height.

The design of the gateposts is classical. Horizontal bands, around the top of the pillars, are carved out of the posts and they are topped with a frieze relief matching the one atop the gatehouses. The design atop the posts is again a classical motif, voluted using the stylized acanthus leaf form.

Gatehouses

These are two gatehouses attributed to Charles Bulfinch, which formerly stood on the west Capitol grounds. They are now located on the Northwest corner of 15th Street and Constitution Avenue and on the Northeast corner of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue.

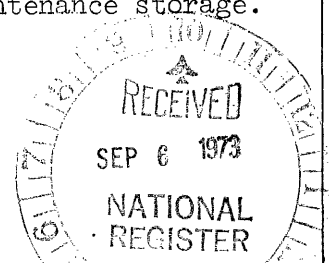
Basically, the two gatehouses are identical in design though there are slight differences. The gatehouses are one-room structures built of sandstone, measuring, at the base, 15'8" across the front and 15'7" across the sides. Twin stone pillars 3'7-1/2" in circumference and approximately 9-1/2' high frame the arched doorway. The rear wall is plain stone and there are single windows in each structure on the side walls.

The buildings are classical in design, using modified doric columns, and a Roman-Triumphal-arch styled doorway with curved molding. There is a frieze which is continuous around the top of the building, matching the frieze around the top of the gateposts. Atop the frieze is a heavily foliated scroll using the acanthus leaf and rosettes. The four corners of the gatehouses employ the same horizontal bands as the gateposts.

The two gatehouses differ in that the columns surrounding the doorway of the structure at 15th Street and Constitution Avenue rise directly out of the pavement whereas the columns on the other structure are set on cement block supports. The 15th Street and Constitution Avenue Gatehouse also uses only six horizontal bands at the corners, while the other gatehouse uses seven. The 17th Street gatehouse rests on a cobbled brick foundation with the 15th Street gatehouse resting on a cement foundation.

The 15th Street gatehouse has a temporary frame structure appended to its rear wall, apparently for use in construction and maintenance storage.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1825

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Capitol gateposts and gatehouses were designed to harmonize with the basement story of the Capitol. In 1834, in a guide to the Capitol, they were described as "...four grand entrances to these grounds, two from the north and south for carriages, and two from the east and west for foot passengers. The western entrance at the foot of the hill, is flanked by two stone lodges, highly ornamented for watch houses,..."

The two gatehouses and four gateposts are allegedly the work of Charles Bulfinch, the architect who planned the restoration of the Capitol and its grounds after its burning in 1814 by the British. Bulfinch was the first native American architect to have charge of the construction of the Capitol. He was appointed Capitol architect in 1817 and set out to complete the plans of his predecessors. Outstanding features of his completed design were the original low dome on the building, constructed of wood and covered with copper.

The gatehouses were originally part of Bulfinch's Capitol scheme but in 1874 were removed from their original location and in 1880 were reconstructed on their present sites. In 1940, at the instigation of the Fine Arts Commission, the gatehouses which had settled slightly due to continued flooding were raised and repaired in keeping with their significance in relation to the development of the Capitol of the United States.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

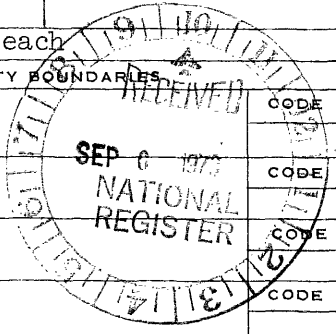


**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Olszewski, George, The President's Park South, N.P.S., Washington 1970  
Washington, City and Capitol, G.P.O., Washington, 1937  
 Historic American Buildings Survey, Capitol Gatehouses and Piers,  
 Washington, D.C.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		see continuation sheet		
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre each						
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES						
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Helen Dillon, Historian		DATE: November 27, 1972
BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Capital Parks		
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.		PHONE: 426-6957
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><i>James G. Ambler</i>          State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><i>Russ Dickerson</i>          Federal Representative Signature          Title: <i>Dir, Nat'l. Cap. Parks</i></p> <p><i>6-21-73</i>          Date</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><i>Robert W. Utley</i>          Associate Director, Professional Services          Date: <i>11/30/73</i></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><i>Charles H. King</i>          Acting Keeper of The National Register          Date: <i>11-29-73</i></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 30 1973

(Number all entries)

10. Geographical Data

	<u>LATITUDE</u>	<u>LONGITUDE</u>
Gatehouse-N.W. corner of 15th & Constitution	38°53'33"	77°02'03"
Gatehouse-N.E. corner of 17th and Constitution	38°53'33"	77°02'22"
Gatepost-N.W. Corner of 15th & Constitution	38°53'32"	77°02'03"
Gatepost-S.W. corner of 15th & Constitution	38°53'30"	77°02'03"
Gatepost-S.E. corner of 15th & Constitution	38°53'30"	77°02'01"
Gatepost-S.W. corner of 7th & Constitution	38°53'30"	77°01'28"

