

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 PropertyHistoric name: Sofia Reyes de Veyra ResidenceOther names/site number: 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)**2. Location**Street & number: 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NWCity or town: Washington State: DC County: n/aNot 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:

 A X B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Sofia Reyes de Veyra House
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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

☐

Site

☐

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Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

0

Noncontributing

0

buildings

0

0

sites

0

0

structures

0

0

objects

0

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1
(Contributing building in the Woodley Park Historic District)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Sofia Reyes de Veyra House

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(Enter categories from instructions.)

20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, wood, cast stone

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 Sofia Reyes de Veyra House at 2610 Cathedral Avenue NW, is a three-story with basement, brick rowhouse in the Woodley Park neighborhood of Washington, DC, near the intersection of Connecticut and Cathedral Avenues, NW. Built in 1909 and designed in a Colonial Revival style with Georgian influences, the dwelling is typologically and stylistically consistent with other rowhouses that characterize the neighborhood and is a contributing resource to the Old Woodley Park Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The dwelling faces Cathedral Avenue, NW (Figure 1), with access to the rear by an alley (Figure 2). It is the second building within a group of five attached, but architecturally distinct rowhouses designed by the same owner/builder and architect team of L.E. Breuninger and Albert Beers.

The three-story dwelling is set upon a raised basement, is faced with red brick laid in a Flemish bond with glazed headers and is covered with a low-sloped roof with a faux-mansard third story. The faux mansard features two paired and hipped dormers in its front slope and is sheathed with slate hexagonal shingles. The house is three bays wide and has a flat-roofed porch spanning two of the three bays on the first story. Three equally spaced round-arched windows with cast stone sills, impost blocks and central keystones characterize the second story.

A two-story wood frame sleeping porch at the rear of the house was enclosed in 1924.

Narrative Description

Site

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The three-story house is located along a tree-lined Cathedral Avenue that runs diagonally off the west side of Connecticut Avenue NW. The house is raised upon a slight berm with a small yard separating the house from the sidewalk. A short flight of two concrete steps leads from the sidewalk to a lead walk to another set of brick stairs leading to the front porch and entry door. Both sets of steps have simple iron hand railings with no pickets. Mature and newly planted street trees line the block between the sidewalk and the roadbed. Although just inside the heavily trafficked Connecticut Avenue, Cathedral Avenue is a tranquil residential street with rowhouses and mid-rise apartment buildings. An alley off 27th Street which connects to Garfield Street one block south of Cathedral Avenue, runs behind the house providing service access to the garages and parking pads at the rear of the houses at the interior of the square. A garage that was built behind 2610 Cathedral Avenue in the 1920s is no longer extant leaving an open parking pad in its place.

Exterior

Completed in 1909, the house at 2610 Cathedral Avenue is one of five attached, but differently designed and detailed dwellings. The architecturally distinctive, but speculatively built row is characteristic of the historic district's high-quality and handsome strings of large rowhouses and townhouses.

North Elevation

The façade, facing north to Cathedral Avenue, is three bays wide and characterized by its two-bay, single-story porch and its second-story round-arched windows. The house is arranged with a side-passage entry that opens onto a stair hall. This entry door, under and protected by the porch, occupies the eastern-most bay of the first story and has a wide single-leaf glazed door with twenty-eight panes. The door is framed on either side by long and narrow diamond-paned sidelights and a narrow transom, also with diamond panes, all set into moulded wood trim. To the right of the front door are two single one-over-one, double-hung wood windows—one under the porch, the other outside of it. The window openings are topped by flat gauged brick lintels with central cast stone keystones. The two-bay-wide porch is raised and set upon brick piers. Three Doric wood columns support a low-sloped hipped roof and have a wood railing with narrow, square wood pickets spanning the columns except for at the entry. The columns support a wood cornice and the roof above with exposed end rafters.

The second story has three arched windows equally arranged across the façade, where each arch extrados is formed by a double row of header bricks with a central keystone, imposts, and sills. The openings hold one-over-one wood sash windows. A broad and projecting cornice with modillions terminates the façade and visually supports the heavy false mansard roof above.

The third story, above the cornice line and defined by a false mansard front, has two hipped dormers with a pair of nine-over-nine windows in each. Like the cornice below, the dormer cornices are broad and projecting with modillions providing visual support. The roofs are sheathed in hexagonal slate shingles.

The basement, mostly obscured by the porch, holds one window opening infilled with glass blocks. This window opening features a jack arch.

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Figure 1: The main façade of 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW, facing southeast, in April 2024. *EHT Tracerics.*

South Elevation

The building's only other exposed elevation is the south (rear) elevation. It is accessible and visible from the rear alley. A three-story brick kitchen ell originally terminated with a two-story wood sleeping porch that was enclosed in 1924. Both the brick ell and the former porch span two of the three bays of the main block, leaving one bay of the main block exposed. This exposed bay has single window openings on all three floors with aluminum-clad replacement windows in each of the openings. The openings on the first and second stories are set beneath original segmentally arched brick openings with three rows of soldier course bricks forming the arches. The first story window has been elongated at the bottom. At the ground level, the opening is filled with glass block and in the false mansard, the opening is rectangular (not segmentally arched) with replacement windows. The west wall of the rear ell has a single window in the second story and three ganged windows in the mansard above, all of which are replacements.

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Figure 2: The rear elevation of 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW, facing northeast, in April 2024.
EHT Tracerics.

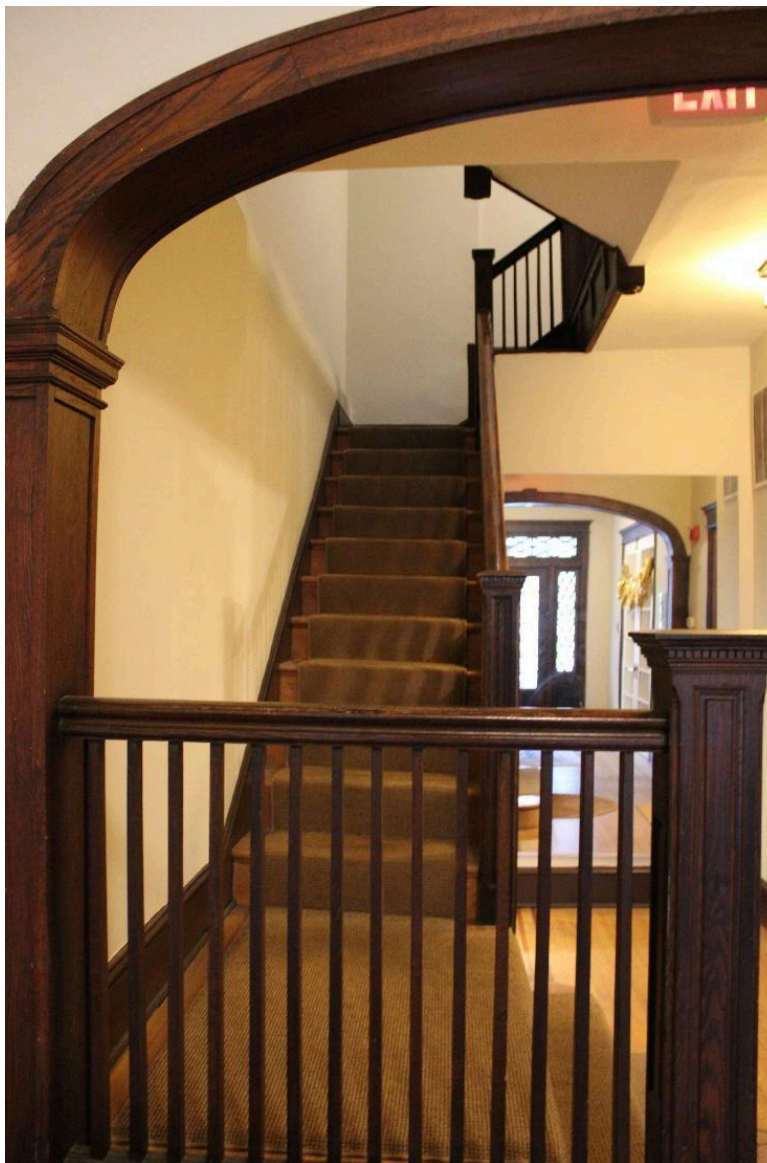
The former open porch that was enclosed in 1924 is clad with a stucco finish. A balustraded deck, accessed from the third story, sits atop the flat roof of the former open porch.

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***Figure 3: The interior vestibule of 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW, facing south, in April 2024.
EHT Tracerics.***

Interior

The interior has a side-passage plan with stair hall built against the east side wall and a series of rooms to the west. The interior retains much of its historic fabric, including plaster walls and ceilings, molded wood door and window surrounds, decorative molded wood archways between rooms, and original balusters and stair paneling. Although historically a single-family dwelling, each floor is presently divided into separate apartment units. Original wood doors provide access to the individual apartments from the hallway. Rooms feature original wood paneling and inlaid wood floors. The basement is reached via a doorway within the side of the paneled stairs. The interior woodwork, heavy in character, features dark and unpainted wood—an increasingly

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rare phenomenon as historic interiors are being removed for a more contemporary and open floor plan.

INTEGRITY

The residence at 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW, retains a high degree of historic integrity. The building remains in its original **location**, and its **setting** amongst period rowhouses and somewhat later apartment buildings contributes to the character of a mature Woodley Park. The house itself retains its original design, minus the open sleeping porch at the rear, and much of its historic **materials**, including original wood sash, brick exterior with glazed headers, and interior woodwork and flooring. The house continues to convey integrity of **workmanship** and **design**, through its retention of Colonial Revival Style features, such as the brickwork, wood trim, columned porch and door surround with diamond-paned sidelights and transom. The building retains integrity of **feeling** as an early twentieth century rowhouse that contributes to the suburban development important to understanding the expansion of the City of Washington into the outlying areas of the District of Columbia and the transition of this area from a rural to an urban environment that marked Washington, D.C.'s growth into a twentieth-century city. Finally, the home conveys integrity of **association** from the period of significance, 1917-1919, as the residence and home to Sofia Reyes de Veyra and her husband.

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.)

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- ☐ 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.)

Social History (Women)

Ethnic Heritage – Philippines

Period of Significance

1917-1919

Significant Dates

1917 – The de Veyras move in

1919 – The de Veyras move to Connecticut Ave., NW

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Sofia Reyes de Veyra

Cultural Affiliation

Filipino

Architect/Builder

Albert H. Beers (architect)

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L.W. Breuninger (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 Sofia Reyes de Veyra Residence is a 1909 rowhouse in the Woodley Park Historic District. The house, designed and built by the notable Washington DC developer and architect team of L.E. Breuninger and Albert E. Beers, is considered a contributing resource to the Woodley Park Historic District for its architectural significance. It is, however, independently significant for its historical connections to an influential and internationally recognized suffragist, Sofia Reyes de Veyra, who lived at the house from 1917 to 1919. Although de Veyra and her husband only lived in the house for two years, those years were pivotal in catapulting de Veyra into what would become her lifelong role as a suffragist for her own country of the Philippines. The property is thus eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion B** for its association with influential suffragist Sofia Reyes de Veyra with Social History (Women) and Ethnic Heritage (Philippines) as the Areas of Significance. Although the property is being recognized for Sofia Reyes de Veyra and her role in Women's history, only, it is important to note that her husband, Jaime Carlos de Veyra, and his career as a diplomat and his tenure in Washington were critical in exposing and elevating de Veyra in her pursuit of women's suffrage.

Sofia Reyes de Veyra, a resident of the Philippines, was an active suffragist for women's rights in both the Philippines and the United States. She worked with American suffragists to secure their right to vote during her residency in the rowhouse at 2610 Cathedral and beyond. Later, she was a major force in earning Filipina women the right to vote and even earned a coveted spot in the room when female Filipina suffrage was signed into law. While this house was only rented by the de Veyra family for two of their six years in the city, it was the site of several events in which Sofia Reyes de Veyra's influence and her social caché strengthened. Further, it is the only residence that remains from the family's time in Washington, DC.

De Veyra is included in a list of influential DC suffragists in the historical context study, *The Women's Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC: 1848-1973* (District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office, 2024) under the theme of intersectional activism and its role in earning women the right to vote during the Women's Suffrage Movement. The context study further lists de Veyra's residence at 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW as a notable site relating to the international suffrage movement; her work in the American women's suffrage movement enabled her to bring the same activism to her homeland of the Philippines, in which she helped secure women's suffrage in 1937.

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

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The de Veyra family consisted of diplomat husband, Jaime Carlos de Veyra, suffragist wife, Sofia Reyes de Veyra, and their four children, Manuel, Jesus María, Lourdes Josefina, and Maria Rosario. Jaime Carlos de Veyra was selected to serve his native country of the Philippines in Congress in 1917, though as a nonvoting delegate to the US House of Representatives as the Resident Commissioner of the Philippines. The de Veyras made their home in Washington, DC, in 1917 shortly thereafter. While not having voting power, this position guaranteed Philippine representation and thus, the ability to advocate for Philippine interests in America. At the time, the Philippines were an American colony, so the role was important in terms of Philippine autonomy. Jaime Carlos de Veyra was one of the first men elected to this position; the role having originated only ten years before. The position was dissolved in 1946 after Philippine independence was formally recognized internationally. Following her early efforts to enfranchise Filipina women, Sofia Reyes, who had married de Veyra around 1907, moved with her husband and young family to the United States to serve as the wife of the only Philippine diplomat to the United States. In America, and especially during her residency at the 2610 Cathedral rowhouse, De Veyra was noted several times in Washington DC newspapers as being a popular hostess, which was an essential trait as the wife of a diplomat.



*Figure SEQ Figure *ARABIC 4: Sofia Reyes de Veyra, pictured in Washington, DC, on January 28, 1921. National Woman's Party Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.*

Areas of Significance: Social History (Women) and Ethnic History (The Philippines)

Sofia Reyes de Veyra

Sofia Reyes was born on September 30, 1876, in Arevalo, Iloilo City, Philippines, to Santiago Jaime Reyes and Eulalia Tiaozon. She grew up in an Iloilo private school run by the family of Philippine Chief Justice, Ramón Avanceña y Quiosay. She worked throughout school to pay for her tuition and board. At the time, Spain ruled over the Philippines, so her education was entirely in Castilian Spanish, of which she was fluent. Following several wars between the Philippines and America, Reyes also employed an American tutor to better educate herself in English. Her impressive education led her to an assistant deanship at the Philippine Normal University in Manila, where she pursued other educational pursuits. In 1907, Reyes banded together with American Mary E. Coleman to organize the first training school for nurses in the Philippines.¹

¹ M. R. Cornejo, ed., *Cornejo's commonwealth directory of the Philippines* (Manila: M. R. Cornejo, 1939), 2217.

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directly associated with Sofia Reyes de Veyra in the District of Columbia.

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When the de Veyras moved into Woodley Park, the neighborhood was entering a period of major expansion. The once rural area that would become the residential suburban neighborhood of Woodley Park was first platted in 1878 into a series of large suburban villa lots. Lot sales were initially slow to materialize. However, about ten years later, a new real estate investment team acquired the land, renamed it Woodley Park, appropriating the name of the nearby nineteenth century estate owned by Philip Barton Key, and replatted it with gently curving drives and lots for detached single-family dwellings.



Over the next decade with the arrival of the streetcar and the growing need for housing in the District, the original vision of detached dwellings was pushed aside for elegant attached townhouses and rowhouses.

Between 1900 and 1909, about 144 buildings were constructed, with the year 1909 alone, seeing the construction of 102 new buildings. The neighborhood today is known for its townhouses and rowhouses as well as its park-like setting and early-twentieth century architecture. Architectural styles derived from classical forms were the height of fashion during the development of the suburban neighborhood, and fine examples of Colonial Revival or Classical Revival are found throughout the neighborhood.¹⁰ One of these was 2610 Cathedral Avenue and its attached neighbors.

Sofia Reyes de Veyra: From Diplomatic Hostess to Women's Rights Activist

Like many diplomatic wives, Sofia Reyes de Veyra was responsible for entertainment and soft diplomacy. There are several newspaper accounts of de Veyras hosting dinners in the Cathedral Avenue house, which included many political and military leaders, such as the United State Secretary of Commerce William C. Redfield, senators, representatives, army officers, and other members of the Philippine Commission.¹¹ *The Washington Post* lauded Sofia de Veyra her for hosting "extensively in her handsome home in Washington."¹²

Sofia Reyes de Veyra was an active and popular political wife outside of her role as a hostess. She joined the Congressional Red Cross unit, knitted socks and sweaters for American

¹⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Old Woodley Park Historic District, Washington, District of Columbia, National Register #90000856, 8-4.

¹¹ *The Evening Star*, May 19, 1918, 31; "Society," *The Evening Star*, April 7, 1919, 8.

¹² "Hostess From Philippines," *The Washington Post*, **Figure SEQ Figure *ARABIC 6: Sofia Reyes de Veyra and family at their residence at 2610 Cathedral Avenue in 1917. Teresa de Veyra-Montilla, "A Journey In Time With My Grandma."**

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servicemen, hosted informational meetings and dinners, worked as her husband's personal secretary, and raised the de Veyra children. For her hard work, the Red Cross awarded her a medal and a certificate signed by President Wilson.¹³

De Veyra's proximity to influential political and social figures was crucial to her advocacy work. While she was a dutiful diplomatic wife and hostess, she was often witness to both Philippine and international politics. In America especially, she remained socially and diplomatically active. She was known to give speeches and presentations on topics related to or affecting the Philippines that were enlightening to influential foreign politicians.¹⁴ She also published her writings about the role of Filipina women in the Philippines, despite their lack of voting rights. One of these articles, titled "The Filipino Women [sic] in the Wide World," was published in *The Columbia Missourian*. She wrote of female lawyers, doctors, and generals in the Philippines – all of which, despite being in positions of local and national prominence, were prevented from the right to vote.¹⁵ De Veyra is often quoted for having said, "The Filipino woman is the best man in the Philippines."¹⁶ She also believed there was equality between men and women in Philippine society, despite their lack of voting rights.¹⁷

In 1917, Sofia Reyes de Veyra and her husband attended the National American Women Suffrage Association Convention in Washington, DC, where they represented Filipina women. De Veyra also served on the hostess committee for the convention, denoting her active role within the association.¹⁸

By December 1919, the de Veyras moved to another residence at 2618 Connecticut Avenue, NW. The building, now razed, was described as a "four-story residence... of a modified type of the Louis XVI style, and the entire front will be of Indiana limestone." The house had previously been leased by the Counselor of the Russian Embassy and his wife between 1915 and 1917, while the house's owners were serving in France during World War I.¹⁹

In 1919, she co-hosted a major fundraising tea at the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for women's suffrage. She also represented the Philippines at the

¹³ Carandang-Tiongson, "The Thoroughly Modern," 1.

¹⁴ Cornejo, *Cornejo's directory*, 2218.

¹⁵ Sofia R. De Veyra, "The Filipino Women in the Wide World," *Columbia Missourian*, May 7, 1920, sec. Evening Missourian Banquet Supplement.

¹⁶ Carandang-Tiongson, "Biographical Sketch," 1.

¹⁷ Carandang-Tiongson, "Biographical Sketch," 1.

¹⁸ "Secure Homes for Woman Delegates: National Suffrage Association Solves Housing Problem for Convention," *The Evening Star*, December 2, 1917, 17.

¹⁹ The style was also referred to as French Renaissance Style ("Connecticut Avenue Sales," *The Washington Post*, July 17, 1910, 17); "Porch To Be Like Arbor: Clarke Waggaman Plans Attractive Feature for Residence," *The Washington Post*, January 10, 1909, 1; "Society: With the Diplomats," *The Washington Herald*, October 3, 1915, 2; "Two Red Cross Workers Will Resume Studies: Misses Constance and Alberte Bicknell Were Decorated by Belgian Queen," *The Evening Star*, September 26, 1919, 18; "Happenings in Society: Miss Aguinaldo Visitor," *The Washington Times-Herald*, December 23, 1919, 13.

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conventions of the National Woman's Party in DC (1921), the Pan-Am Conference of Women in Baltimore, MD (1922), and the Pan-Pacific Convention of Women in Honolulu, HI (1928).²⁰



Figure 7: Delegation of Filipina Women, including Sofia de Veyra, meeting with First Lady Florence Harding at the White House (ca. 1922). De Veyra and Harding are facing each other in front. *Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.*

The Philippines and the Vote of Women

Following her family's return to the Philippines, de Veyra remained an active voice in Philippine politics. She advocated politically for the mentally ill, unwed mothers, tuberculosis patients, lepers, and other marginalized groups.²¹ Additionally, she was instrumental in teaching "American ways to Filipinos;" her time in the United States inspired her to help revolutionize change in the healthcare and sanitation efforts in the Philippines, an initiative aimed mostly at women.²²

De Veyra remained as determined as ever to secure the vote of women in the Philippines. In a 1926 article in *The Evening Star*, she was quoted as saying,

²⁰ Carandang-Tiongson, "Biographical Sketch," 1.

²¹ "67. Sofia Reyes De Veyra," Carandang-Tiongson, "The Thoroughly Modern," 1.

²² The Associated Press, "Teaches American Ways to Filipinos: Mrs. de Veyra, Well Known Here, Improves Health Conditions," *The Evening Star*, May 9, 1926, 27.

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Filipino women [already] have equality with men in everything except the ballot... while the men handle the work and the employees, the women attend to the finances, act as cashiers, pay the workers, and oversee much of the business. Several Filipino women are practicing lawyers, and there are a number of successful women physicians.²³

In 1937, she actively campaigned to amend the Election Law which secured the right of women to vote and run for office in the newly independent Philippines. She was one of the women present when this bill was signed into law.

De Veyra pursued other interests outside of politics. She authored a book on housekeeping and cooking in 1932, became Dean and then Vice President at Centro Escolar University, served as a private presidential secretary, and held positions in several other socio-civic organizations aimed at minority groups.²⁴

Only around 1951, when she was in her early seventies, did she begin “slowing down.” In these later years, she lost one of her closest friends and her nephew. On New Year’s Day, 1953, she, herself, passed away at the age of seventy-six. She received accolades from presidents, religious leaders, and journalists alike for her life of service. President Elpidio Quirino, whose administration she had served in as the role of diplomatic hostess following the death of his wife, wrote that she was “the Maria Clara of the present-day Philippines,” a reference to an idolized and virtuous woman from the beloved Philippine novel, *Noli Me Tángere*. Father John Hurley, SJ, who had formerly served as the Superior of Philippine Jesuits, commented that “the most effective things she did were unknown to the general public. She had a deep, genuine and abiding love for the Church and for the country. And her services to both can never be properly recorded. She was one of the finest women that I ever met.”²⁵ A memorial statue of her was unveiled in her hometown of Iloilo City on January 10, 2023.²⁶



Figure SEQ Figure *ARABIC 8: Sofia Reyes de Veyra (n.d.). Presidential Museum and Library of the Philippines.

Jaime Carlos de Veyra

²³ The Associated Press, “Teaches American,” 27.

²⁴ Carandang-Tiongson, “Biographical Sketch,” 1.

²⁵ Carandang-Tiongson, “The Thoroughly Modern,” 1.

²⁶ Sheila Mae Gomez [shemaegomez], “Iloilo City Cultural Heritage: Sofia Reyes De Veyra Marker,” *SheMaeGomez* (blog), February 21, 2023, <https://shemaegomez.com/sofia-reyes-de-veyra-marker/>.

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Jaime Carlos de Veyra was born in Tanauan, Leyte, which is in the Philippine Islands, on November 4, 1873.²⁷ He was educated in both public and private schools before graduating from the College of San Juan de Letran in Manila in 1893.²⁸ Like his wife, he continued his education throughout his life, including the study of law, philosophy, and letters at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. The Philippine Revolution of 1896 interrupted his postgraduate studies as he left school to fight against the Spanish, where he quickly rose ranks to serve as the secretary to rebel commander General Ambrosio Mojica. On June 28, 1907, de Veyra married Sofia Reyes, who had grown prominent in the Philippines for her social work.²⁹

Following the revolution, de Veyra began working as a newspaper editor and founded a local newspaper with a former classmate titled *El Nuevo Día (The New Day)*, the name of which was inspired by their political beliefs. The newspaper was vocal about local politics and the dissolution of Spanish rule and subsequent American colonization. American diplomats were wary of de Veyra's Philippine republican beliefs and criticism of the transfer of power to America. However, de Veyra's partner was diplomatic in dealings with local politicians, which prevented political censure. He became a member of the municipal council in Cebu before being elected the Governor of Leyte in 1906. He was then a member of the Philippine assembly between 1907 and 1912. This earned him a membership on the Philippine Commission, which was appointed by the President of the United States, between 1913 and 1916, before serving as its executive secretary.³⁰

In 1917, he was appointed as a Nationalist to be one of the Resident Commissioners of the Philippines in the United States – one of the few means of Philippine representation during the American colonization of the country. De Veyra's radicalism regarding Philippine independence was popular in his country and articles about his election noted his aptitude for the position.³¹

De Veyra quickly began following the duties of the role. Before his official arrival in Washington, in fact, he began developing political initiatives and creating projects that would benefit the Philippines. For example, de Veyra made a stop in Honolulu, Hawaii, another American territory at the time, on his way to Washington. There, he came up with the idea to develop a transportation line between the Philippines and solely American ports for ease of travel.³²

Despite a six-year term in Congress, de Veyra could only perform in a limited capacity. He was not able to serve on committees and he did not have voting power. However, he refused to be quiet, and though he had no legislative power, he vocally supported his political platform to promote Philippine sovereignty. After several years serving in the powerless position, he decided

²⁷ Sometimes anglicized in American newspapers as "James C. de Veyra."

²⁸ *Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress* "Jaime C. de Veyra (1873-1963): Resident Commissioner (1917-1923); Nacionalista from The Philippines," (Washington, DC: U.S. House of Representatives, n.d).

²⁹ "Jaime C. de Veyra," 164.

³⁰ "List of Nominations Made By President," *The Times-Herald*, October 16, 1913, 13.

³¹ "Jaime C. de Veyra," 164-166.

³² "Ship Line to Philippines: New Project for Pacific Service Being Urged at Manila," *The Washington Post*, April 29, 1917, 2.

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not to seek re-election following his second term in the 66th Congress (1919-1923). In 1923, he once more made an appeal to Congress, requesting immediate independence of the country in line with the Jones Law (1916), which stated that Philippine independence would be granted upon the foundation of a stable government.³³ In the years after leaving office, he maintained his advocacy for Philippine independence. Despite his activism, Philippine independence would not be passed until 1946.³⁴

Jaime de Veyra returned to private life, despite a political appointment to the head of the Institute of National Language between 1936 and 1944. He also served on the national Philippine Historical Committee and the Real Academia Española de la Lengua, until his death in 1963.³⁵

Conclusion

The rowhouse at 2610 Cathedral Avenue NW was the home to Sofia Reyes and Jaime de Veyra from 1917 through 1919. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, Ms. de Veyra was a major figure in the fight for women's suffrage in the United States and the Philippines. As the wife of Jaime Carlos de Veyra, the Resident Commissioner to the US House of Representatives from the Philippines Islands from 1917 to 1923, Ms. de Veyra was hostess to a considerable number of major American and international political leaders and forces. Their home at 2610 Cathedral Avenue was an extension of the hospitality and, thus, a tool of diplomacy, of the de Veyra family during their residency. De Veyra lived in the house while actively working to aid the American women's suffrage movement, meanwhile acting as a dutiful hostess for her diplomatic husband and bringing awareness to social issues of her own, both in America and her native Philippines. Her experience during her years in Washington, DC contributed significantly to her ability to influence the women's suffrage movement in the Philippines, and, in turn, benefitted the international suffrage movement. The house appears architecturally to how it would have looked throughout the de Veyras' residency.

³³ "Offers Philippine Plea: Resident Commissioner Presents Request for Independent Rule," *The Evening Star*, February 16, 1923, 30.

³⁴ "Jaime C. de Veyra," 167-169.

³⁵ "Jaime C. de Veyra," 167-169.

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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):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.042 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.928015 | Longitude: -77.054752 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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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 boundary for the de Veyra House includes the boundaries of Lot 42 within Square 2107, plus the public space area to its north where the front porch extends beyond the lot line in accordance with historic building regulations for the District of Columbia. The lot encompasses the historic residence and surrounding landscape, representing 1,863 square feet or 0.04 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the property corresponds with the historic property boundary that would have been in place during the de Veyra residency.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Neale Grisham, Researcher
organization: EHT Traceries
street & number: 440 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20001
e-mail: neale.grisham@traceries.com
telephone: (202)393-1199
date: May 2024

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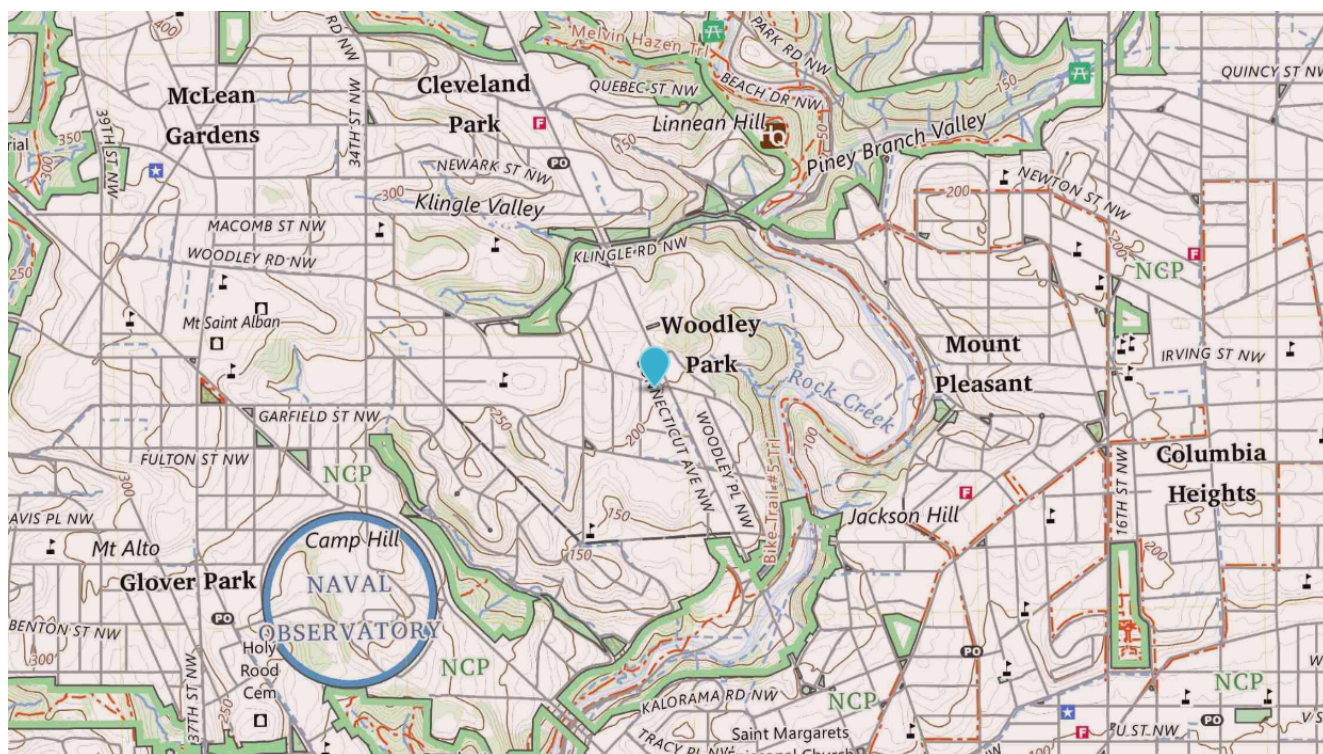
Washington, DC

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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.)



Locational Map showing of 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW.
(US Topographical Map of Washington West Quadrangle, 7.5-Minute Series)
Latitude: 38.928015 Longitude: -77.054752

Sofia Reyes de Veyra House

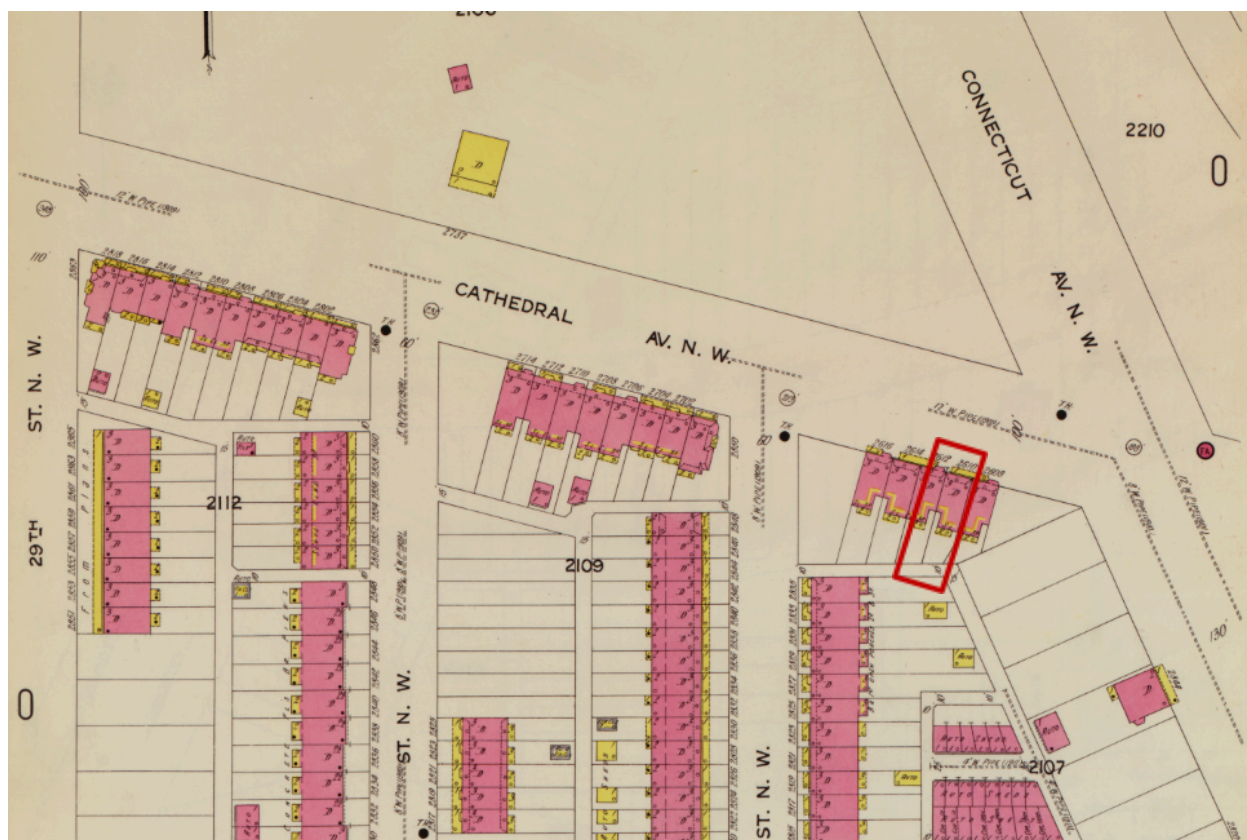
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Location of 2610 Cathedral Avenue, NW, as displayed on Hopkins Map (1894), Volume III, Page 18. Approximate location marked by star.



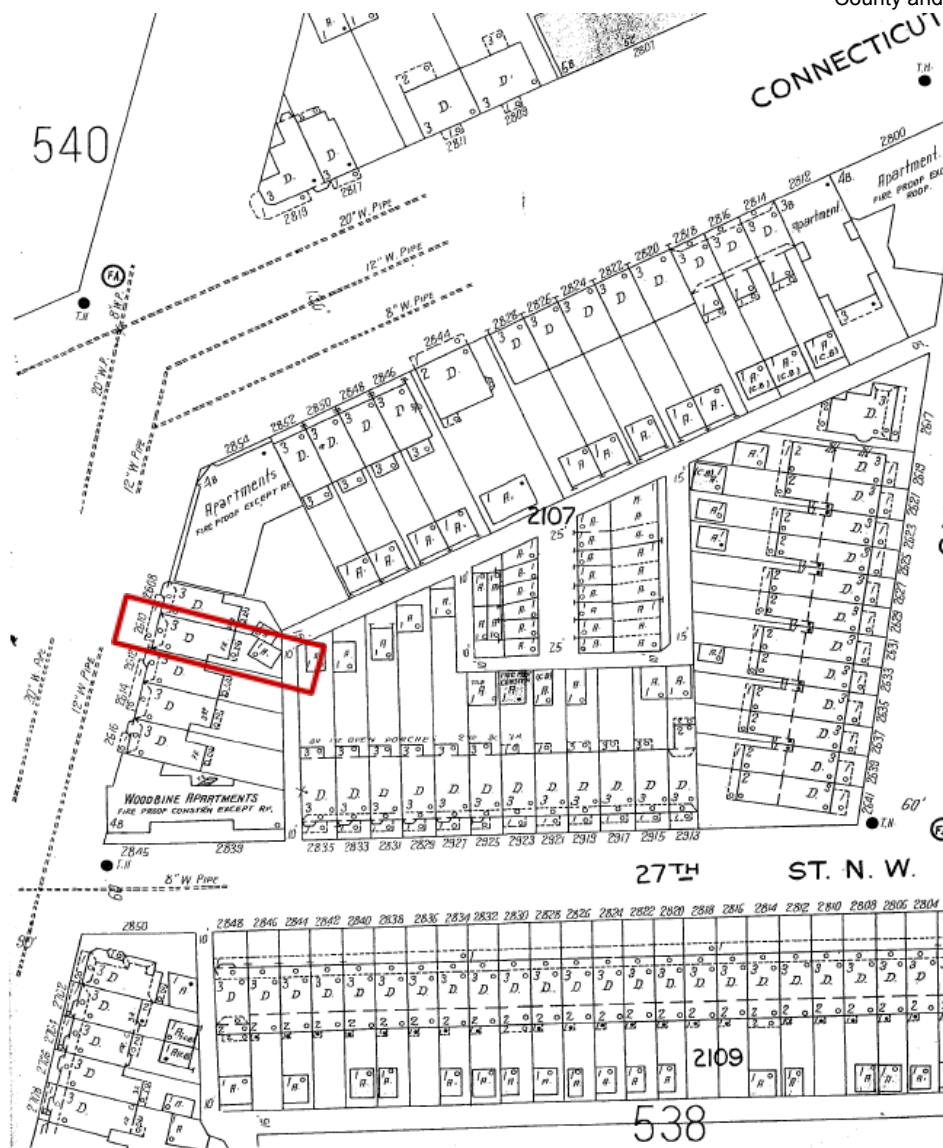
Sanborn Map (1916), Volume III, Plate 309. Location outlined in red.

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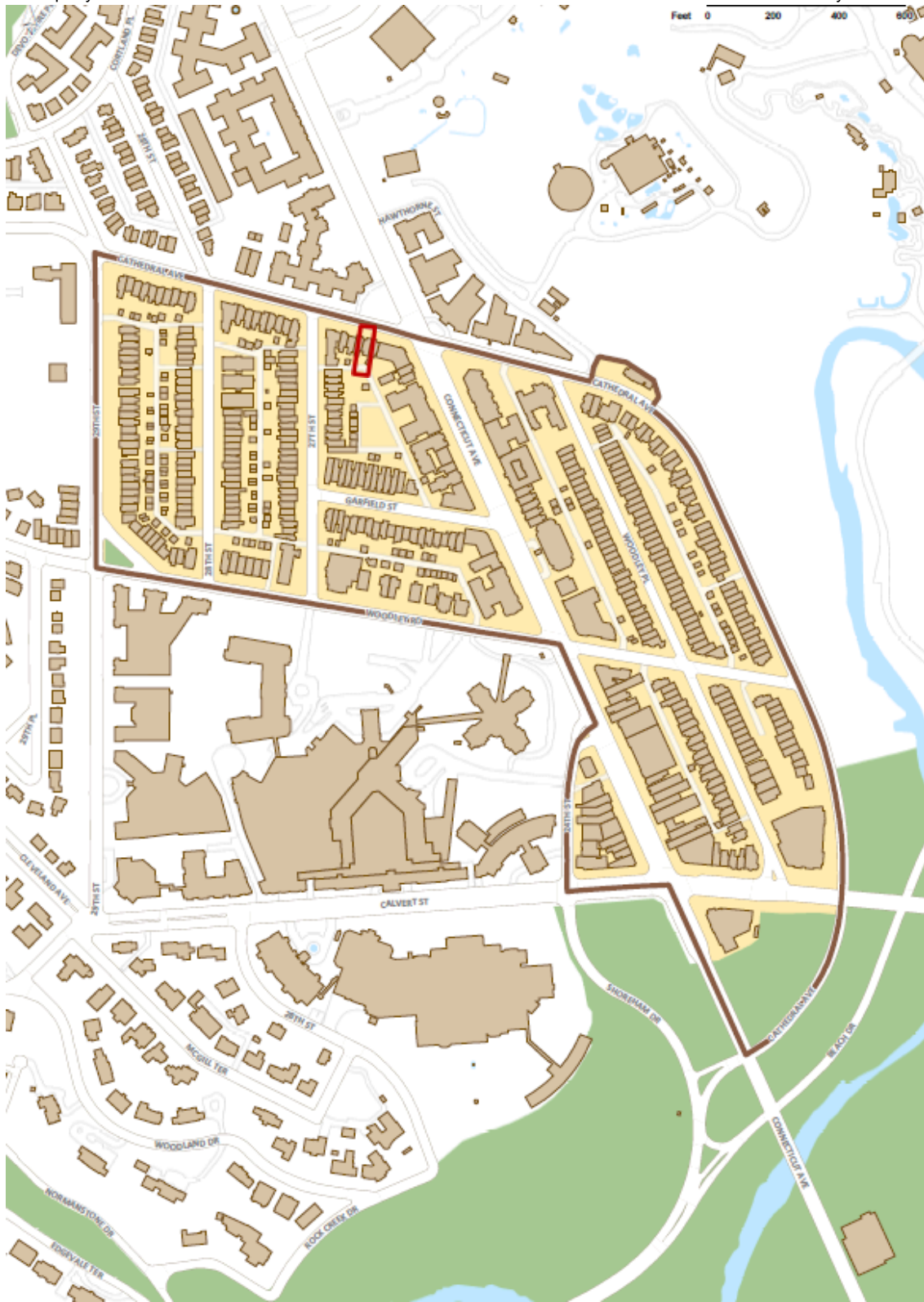
Sanborn Map (1927), Volume V, Plate 537. Location outlined in red.

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Woodley Park Historic District Map. Location outlined in red.

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Map showing National Register Boundaries of the de Veyra House at 2610 Cathedral Avenue NW

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Key to Photographs

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: Sofia Reyes de Veyra Residence

Sofia Reyes de Veyra House

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: n/a

State: District of Columbia

Photographer: Neale Grisham

Date Photographed: April 1, 2024



1 of 22. House's main façade, looking southeast.

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2 of 22. House's main façade, looking southeast.

Sofia Reyes de Veyra House

Name of Property

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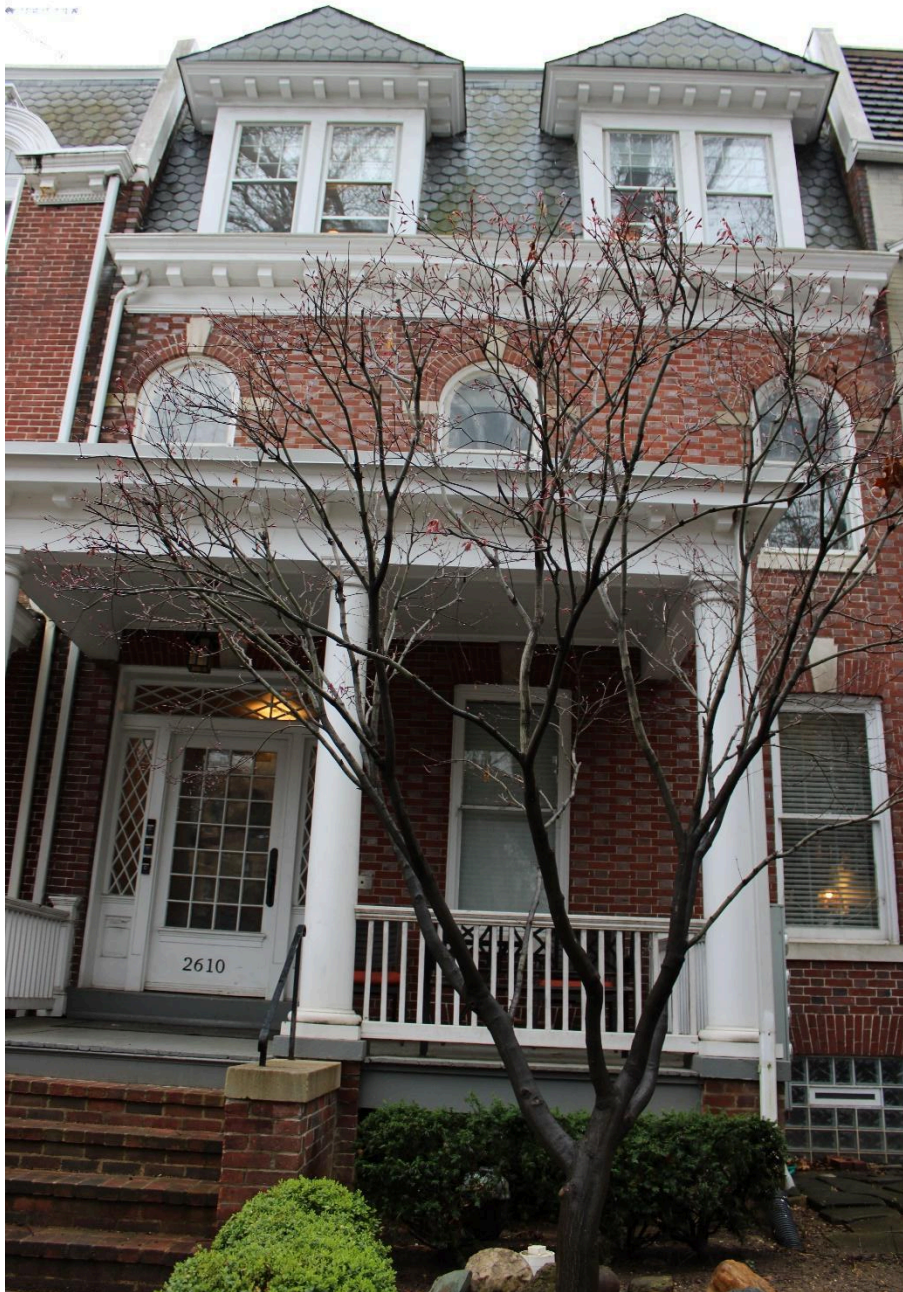
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3 of 22. House's main façade, looking southwest.

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4 of 22. House's main façade, looking south.

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5 of 22. House's rear elevation, looking north.

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6 of 22. House's rear elevation and addition, facing northeast.

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7 of 22. House's rear elevation, facing north.

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8 of 22. Original interior woodwork in the main hall, facing south.

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9 of 22. Original interior staircase.

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10 of 22. Original interior staircase.

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11 of 22. Original interior doors.

Sofia Reyes de Veyra House
Name of Property

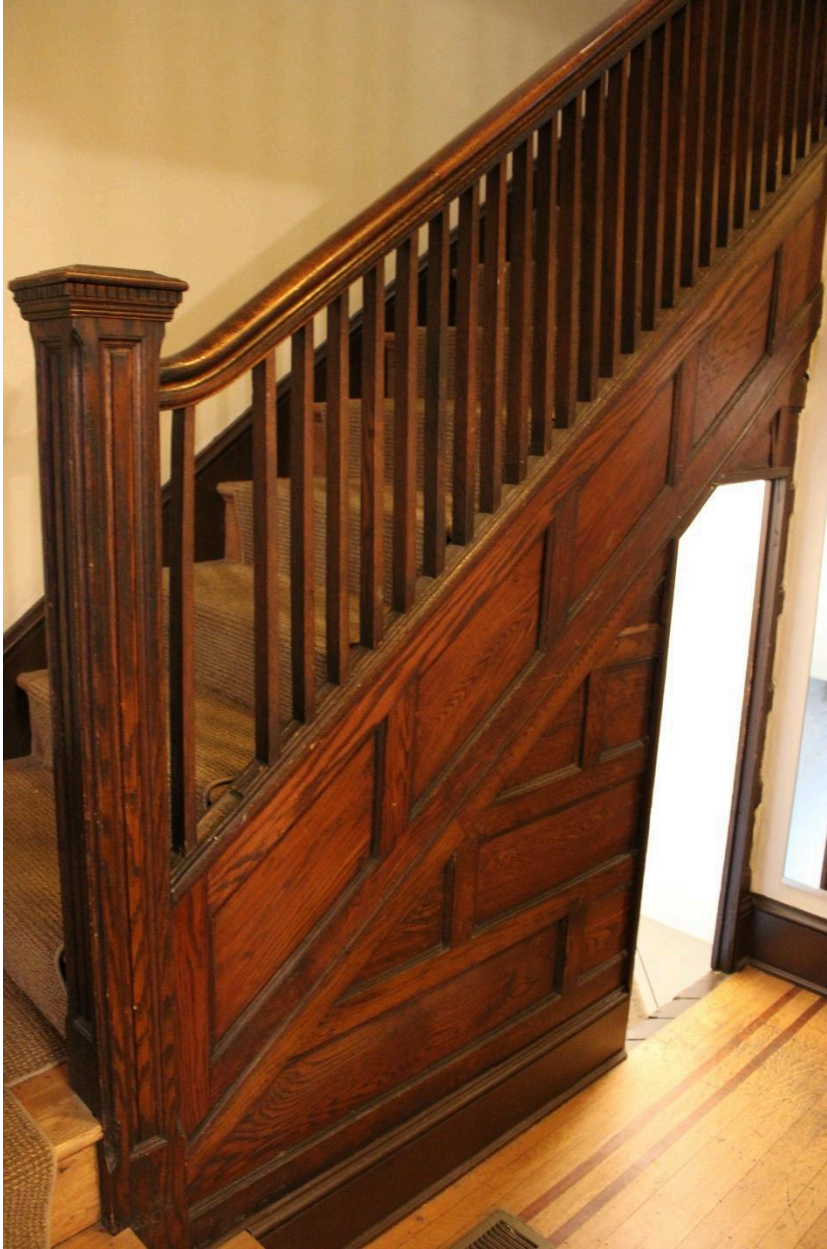
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12 of 22. Original interior inlaid floors.

Sofia Reyes de Veyra House
Name of Property

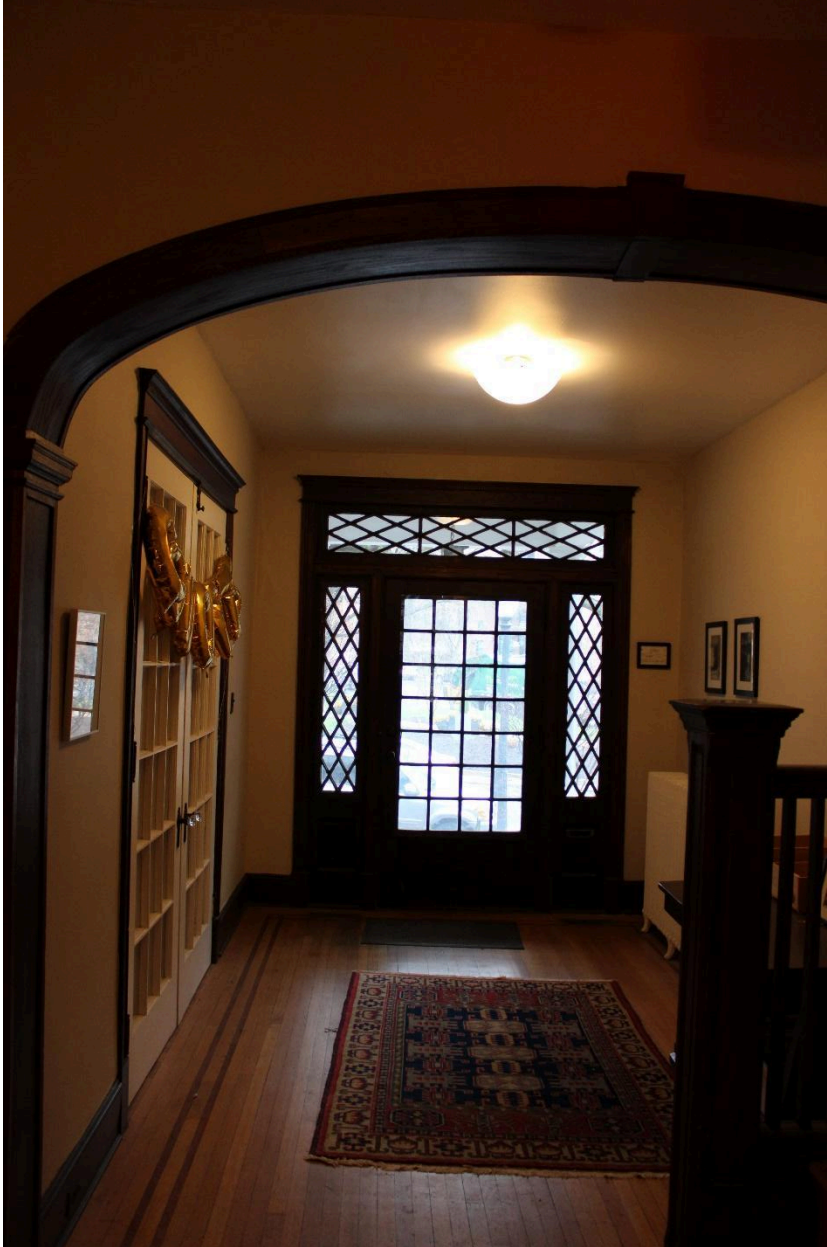
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13 of 22. Original staircase and basement access.

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14 of 22. Original hall and entry, facing north.

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15 of 22. Original entry.

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16 of 22. Original wood window sashes.

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17 of 22. Original entry details.

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18 of 22. Keystone and glazer header details. Note the wood sash.

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19 of 22. Rear window detail.

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20 of 22. Basement bathroom window detail.

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21 of 22. Porch details.

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22 of 22. Staircase details.

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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.