NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

773

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 5020 Cathedral Avenue, NW ☐ not for publication

city or town Washington ☐ vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county code 001 zip code 20016-2646

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:

_x_ national **___ statewide** **__local**

DAVID MALONEY / DC SHPO 12 September 2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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:)

for Patrick Andrus 11/2/2011
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence
Name of Property

Washington, DC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
SOCIAL/civic

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Colonial Revival

Materials

foundation: Concrete
walls: Brick
roof: Shingle
other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Dr. Franklin E. Kameny residence at 5020 Cathedral Avenue is a two-story, brick-faced-concrete-block, Colonial-Revival-style house with a square, side-hall plan, a side-gable roof, an attached one-story, single-car garage and a rear screened porch. Although the house has little architectural significance, it retains a high level of integrity from its construction and period of significance. Nearly all exterior elements, including windows, appear to be original. The modest house is most conspicuous for the flamboyant blue and white paint scheme applied to its trim and shutters, and the two-color pattern of the shingled roof, both decorative touches of Dr. Kameny. Located in the largely residential Palisades section of Northwest Washington, D.C., the house was built in 1955 and has a number of features common to homes of the period. The building is conventionally sited on a lot 60 feet wide and 100 feet deep, with the façade facing north to the street.

Narrative Description

Construction of the single-family detached house at 5020 Cathedral Avenue commenced in late 1954 and finished in 1955. It may have been the third attempt of the property owner, Julius W. Fletcher, to build here, at a lot originally numbered 5022 Cathedral. He subdivided the parcel just prior to construction; the remainder is now a pool belonging to a rear-yard neighbor. Fletcher, the proprietor of Fletcher's Boathouse on the Potomac River, likely served as his own general contractor, perhaps explaining the construction delays. He and his wife Mary Ann retained ownership of the house until his death in 1979. The property conveyed to the couple's daughter and then to Dr. Franklin Kameny in 1984, but Kameny had rented and occupied the property since 1962.

A concrete walk leads through a modest front yard, heavily planted with shrubs, to the main entry which is at the left as one faces the façade. The doorway is surmounted by a pediment supported by fluted pilasters and contains a six-panel wood door. To the right of the doorway on the ground level is a large, tripartite picture window unit. The center section is a fixed single pane of glass flanked by operable two-over-two-light sash similar to the windows elsewhere on the house. Over the picture window is a course of alternately projecting and flush headers, which contrasts with the American-bond, textured brick of the rest of the building.

The second story is organized in three bays, each with a shuttered two-over-two window with horizontal lights, typical of the 1950s. They are flanked by attached shutters and set into openings over rowlock brick sills.

A one-story brick garage is attached to the house on the west, but recessed slightly relative to the plane of the main facade. A straight concrete driveway leads from the street to the garage. The overhead door is wood, in a multiple-paneled configuration. Above the garage door opening is strip of decorative brickwork matching that over the picture window, forming a dentiled cornice. The garage roof is a concrete slab, which serves as a terrace accessed from a door on the second story. The terrace is surrounded by a metal railing running around the exposed three sides of the garage.

One of the most distinctive features of the facade is the alternating blue-and-white paint patterns of the shutters, door, and garage door, designed and executed by Dr. Kameny in the early 1980s. Even the fluting of the pilasters in the door surround is painted in an alternating pattern of blue and white.

At the rear of the building is an attached screen porch with a shed roof. The brick foundations for the porch and a portion of the house are visible from the rear yard as the ground slopes sharply toward the southwest of the lot. The rear façade features a single first-floor, two-over-two window next to the porch which allows light into the kitchen and affords a view of the fenced rear yard and several mature trees, including a maple and a persimmon. On the second story there are two two-over-two windows, one for each bedroom. A small concrete stairwell in an areaway running parallel to rear wall allows access to the basement. The garage also has a rear door. The western side of the square building features a brick chimney.

The side-gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles arranged in an unusual decorative pattern of light and dark shingles designed by the owner in 1991. Dr. Kameny had experimented with a similar roof pattern when he installed the porch roof. In the center of each of the front and rear slopes of the roof, within a field of light greenish-gray shingles, there is a dark gray lozenge shape surrounded by a rectangular band or box and dark squares or checks at the outer edges.

The interior of the house is divided into three bedrooms and one bathroom on the upper level. The front bedroom is used as Dr. Kameny's office. The entry hall and the living room take up the front portion of the ground floor, with the kitchen, a dining room, and half bathroom along the rear. The finished basement contains another bathroom, and the basement windows are set into exterior wells on the north, south and east sides.

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence
Name of Property

Washington, DC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

[x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[x] 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

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[x] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Social history
Law
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1962 to 1975

Significant Dates

1963, planning first regional conference; 1965, first gay picket protest, campaign against APA and security-clearance court cases; 1968, creation of "Gay Is Good" Slogan; 1971, campaign for Congress; 1975, Civil Service reform campaign succeeds

Significant Person

Kameny, Dr. Franklin E.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance of 1962 to 1975 begins with Dr. Kameny taking up residence at 5020 Cathedral Avenue and establishing there his office and that of the Mattachine Society of Washington (MSW). The end of the period is 1975, with the success of Kameny's campaign to reform the civil service laws to end formal discrimination against homosexuals in federal employment and his assistance with the first legal challenge to the discharge of homosexuals from the military. Within this timeframe he also forced the military to conduct the first public, security-clearance hearings. The work of the Mattachine Society of Washington and its use of the Kameny house occurred during this time. The period also includes Kameny's contributions to de-stigmatize homosexuality, with the first gay picket protests, the successful campaign to have the American Psychiatric Association remove its classification of homosexuality as an illness, Kameny's creation of the "Gay is Good" slogan, and his run for Congress.

Criteria Considerations

Although the property was constructed more than 50 years ago, its entire period of significance is more recent. As with the first sites listed in the National Register for their association with the struggle for African-American civil rights, the Kameny residence should be considered of exceptional significance for its association with the struggle for human rights to employment and freedom from all types of discrimination for sexual orientation. While this battle has been long and difficult for the participants, compared to the long history of discrimination against and forced concealment of homosexuality, it has been a veritable revolution, remarkably rapid and—like women's liberation and other movements inspired by the black civil-rights cause—only in its initial stages a half century ago.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny, known to civil rights historians as "the father of gay activism," led a newly militant activism in the fledgling gay civil rights movement of the 1960s. Historians consider him a landmark figure in articulating and achieving gay civil rights in federal employment, criminal law and security clearance cases, and in reversing the medical community's view of homosexuality. Kameny's civil rights movement, modeled in part on African-American civil rights strategies and tactics, significantly altered the rights, perceptions, and role of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people in American society.

The home and office of Dr. Kameny since 1962, 5020 Cathedral Avenue, NW served as meeting place, *de facto* headquarters of the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., and planning center for much local and national gay civil rights activism, primarily from 1962 to 1971. Kameny initially rented the home but subsequently purchased it from its builders, the Fletcher family. From this site he created a militant gay civil rights campaign that transformed the status of American homosexuals.

The Mattachine Society of Washington, of which Dr. Kameny was the co-founder (with Jack Nichols) on November 15, 1961, was a new order of gay civil rights organization markedly different from those which advocated for tolerance of homosexuals in the 1950s. The Mattachine Society of Washington defined its mission as to secure for homosexuals all of the rights guaranteed to American citizens by the Declaration and the Constitution, to "equalize the status and position of the homosexual with those of the heterosexual," to inform the public about homosexuals and homosexuality, and to "assist, protect, and counsel the homosexual in need."

Kameny's activism led to major changes in federal and local civil rights and criminal laws affecting homosexuals, to the creation of national gay civil rights organizations and umbrella groups (particularly the East Coast Homophile Organization and the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations), reversal of the American Psychiatric Association's classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder, and development of gay civil rights strategies and tactics including picketing and political organizing. His home has served as a workspace, archives, meeting space, informal counseling center, headquarters of the Mattachine Society of Washington, and as home for visiting gay and lesbian activists. For years, countless numbers of gay women and men have found it a safe place to discuss, plan, confide, and dream.

The Kameny residence is unusual among properties nominated to the National Register in that the person for whom the property is significant still lives. In fact, Dr. Kameny still owns and occupies the property. His long tenure only increases the degree of the property's association with him and his career, and the continuity of occupation has retained a high degree of historic integrity from the period of significance. Kameny remains outspoken and serves on the board of directors of the Triangle Foundation, but at age 86, he is not as active as in years past. Most of his published work dates between the mid-1960s and the early 1990s. A substantial amount of time has passed since his greatest contributions, and he is not likely to produce additional work that would alter history's view of him, his importance, or his association with the property. Kameny's principal contributions were to the attainment of employment rights and altering the perception of homosexuality as a mental illness—victories, at least in law and the minds of most Americans, that were achieved years ago. Already in 1983, there was an effort to create a Franklin E. Kameny Foundation to support a national gay archive and resident study center at his property. Today, on the verge of achieving equal rights for homosexuals to marriage and in military service, we can look back at the struggle for homosexual rights and understand Kameny's role in the movement's formative period—protecting those who had been discriminated against once exposed—through its evolution into a "gay pride" movement, as homosexuals increasingly lived openly and even held public office, as Kameny did. The several honors of recent years—including humanitarian awards, the local historic designation of his home, and the acceptance of his papers by the Library of Congress—are a capstone to the career and lifetime achievement of a great man. His achievements can now be seen in a historic perspective.

Narrative Statement of Significance[i]

Kameny and gay civil rights

At the October 6, 2006 Library of Congress reception marking the transfer of over 70,000 documents, personal papers, and memorabilia from Dr. Franklin E. Kameny's personal archive to the Library's Manuscripts Division, Deanna Marcum, Associate Librarian for Library Services, remarked, "The Kameny Papers are a rich and valuable resource for researchers seeking to understand the gay rights movement's evolution into a significant social and political force and its impact on American life."[ii] Marcum added, "Further, the personal detail provided by the material on Mr. Kameny himself and those he assisted in similar circumstances is of unusual value. Abstraction is often the enemy of historical understanding. A comprehensive understanding of history requires that historians, and those who read history, see how government policies and public attitudes affected real individuals and how individuals reacted, adjusted and grappled with their position. The Kameny Papers give this individual context for Mr. Kameny himself and for others."[iii] At the event, Dr. Harry Rubenstein, head of the National Museum of American History's Division of Politics and Reform, also accepted Kameny's collection of signs and memorabilia from protests at federal government sites in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia.

Dr. Kameny and the Mattachine Society of Washington which he co-founded in 1961 are largely responsible for moving a gay rights movement into a position as a "significant social and political force" and removing many of the medical, employment, and civil rights restrictions which marginalized gay men and women. As historians Joyce Murdoch and Deb Price have noted, Kameny's history-making plea for equal treatment began with his 1961 petition to the Supreme Court in appeal of his 1957 dismissal from the Army Map Service on grounds of homosexuality: "just months after being rebuffed by the justices, Kameny became the driving force behind a more militant brand of homosexual activism – unapologetic, unwilling to accept anything less than full... [He] deserves enormous credit for an awesome portion of the social and

[i] Adapted with kind permission from "Franklin E. Kameny: America's First Gay Activist," Dr. David K. Johnson, from *Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay & Lesbian Rights in Historical Context*, (Haworth, 2002).

[ii] "Activist and Archivist: Library Acquires Papers of Gay Rights Pioneer," *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, November 2006, http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/0611/kameny.html.

[iii] Ibid.

political strides made by gay Americans since 1961."[iv] Similarly, Dr. Pedro Ruiz, chair of the American Psychiatric Association, while presenting Dr. Kameny and colleague Barbara Gittings the APA's first John E. Fryer award in 2006, recognized their having "crusaded for gay rights and fought against discrimination for decades."[v]

In the years between his 1957 job dismissal and his 1971 campaign for Congress, Franklin E. Kameny launched successful campaigns against the U.S. Civil Service Commission's denial of employment to gay men and women, against the American Psychiatric Association's classification of homosexuality as a psychiatric disorder, and against the denial of security clearances to gay men and women. During the decade from 1961 to 1971, Kameny and his Mattachine Society of Washington also launched their campaign for sodomy law reform and for retention of homosexuals in the military, and they created a series of regional and national gay consultative organizations and a Council on Homosexuality and Religion to educate local clergy.

Dr. John D'Emilio, a pioneer of gay historical studies, has written that it was Dr. Kameny who "spearheaded the new militancy in the gay movement."[vi] D'Emilio ranks Kameny among the pre-eminent activist leaders: "Harry Hay and the [California] Mattachine founders; Kameny, Gittings, and East Coast militants in the early 1960s; José Saría in San Francisco: all emerge as crucial players pushing the quest for freedom forward."[vii] Historian Dr. David Johnson, a key historian of gay activism in Washington, D.C., has written that, "In the process of fighting the federal government, Kameny and the MSW [Mattachine Society of Washington], formulated many of the tactics and strategies that were adopted throughout the movement."[viii] Kameny adopted traditional reform movement tactics—publicity, court suits, lobbying, public demonstrations—to launch the first challenge to anti-gay policies adopted by the federal government during the McCarthy era. Elsewhere Johnson judges that "By unabashedly proclaiming that homosexuality was neither sick nor immoral, [Kameny] helped move gays and lesbians out of the shadows of 1950s apologetic self-help groups into the sunlight of the civil rights movement."[ix] He was, in many ways, America's first gay activist.

Kameny's early life and career

Kameny was raised in the Richmond Hill area of Queens, New York with a sister three years his junior. At the age of six or seven, he decided he wanted to be an astronomer. A strong student, he skipped several grades and graduated from high school at sixteen. At Richmond Hill High School, he followed his interest in science studies and created the school's first astronomy club. Following graduation, he entered the city's new Queens College where, in the absence of a major in astronomy, he majored in physics. The Second World War intervened and Kameny enlisted in the US Army, eventually landing in Europe and participating in the Ninth Army's advance into Germany. Following the war, Kameny completed his degree and then entered Harvard's graduate program in observational astronomy. His career took off following graduation with a year of observational work in Arizona for his Ph.D.

At an early age, Kameny developed a habit of challenging accepted orthodoxies. As a teenager, he announced to his parents that he was an atheist. As a teaching fellow at Harvard, he refused to sign a loyalty oath without attaching qualifiers. "If society and I differ on something, I'm willing to give the matter a second look. If we still differ, then I am right and society is wrong," Kameny declared. "And society can go its way so long as it doesn't get in my way." Consequently, when he realized that he was attracted to men, he suffered little of the traditional guilt associated with "coming out." While working in Tucson in 1953 and 1954 and then Armagh, Ireland, he discovered the cities' "gay scene," taking to it, as he

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[iv] Murdoch, Joyce and Deb Price, *Courting Justice: Gay Men and Lesbians v. the Supreme Court*, (New York: Basic Books, 2002), pp. 60 – 61.

[v] "New Features Help Attract Record Crowd to APA Institute," *Psychiatric News*, January 5, 2007, Vol. 42, No. 1, p. 3.

[vi] D'Emilio, John, *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: the Making of a Homosexual Minority in the US, 1940-1970*, (University of Chicago, 1998), p. 150

[vii] D'Emilio, John, *The World Turned: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and Culture*, (Chapel Hill: Duke University Press, 2002), p. 228.

[viii] Johnson, David K, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004), pp. 212-213.

[ix] Johnson, David K., in David DeLeon, ed., *Leaders for the 1960s: A Biographical Sourcebook of American Activism*, (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing, 1994), p. 253.

says, like a duck to water." According to his philosophy, society had a problem with its long-standing homophobia; his sexuality was not a problem or fault.

Upon graduation from Harvard in 1956, Dr. Kameny moved to Washington, D.C., to accept a position as a research and teaching assistant in the astronomy department at Georgetown University. In the 1950s the federal government, engaged in an arms race with the Soviet Union, was sponsoring much of the nation's scientific and technical research. Within a year Kameny transferred to the Army Map Service, where Cold War pressures promised fast advancement.

Along with the government's scientific patronage came demands for political and sexual conformity. In 1957, Army security officials interrogated Dr. Kameny concerning alleged homosexual activity. When Kameny asserted that his private life was none of the federal government's concern, he was dismissed from his job, his scientific career ended. At the dawning of the space race, Dr. Kameny was jobless and depending upon charity.

According to U.S. Civil Service policy, Kameny's homosexuality made him "unsuitable" for federal employment. Although hundreds of federal employees had been similarly dismissed since the McCarthy era—which linked homosexuality to communism as a threat to national security—Kameny was the first to challenge this policy. When administrative appeals failed and the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled against him, his attorney abandoned the case. Forced to write his appeal to the Supreme Court himself, Dr. Kameny outlined a strategy that served him for most of his career in activism. In the brief he charged that the government's anti-gay policies were "no less illegal and no less odious than discrimination based upon religious or racial grounds." He asserted that because of his homosexuality he was being treated as a second-class citizen. Moreover, based on the 1948 Kinsey study finding that approximately ten percent of the population is homosexual, Kameny charged that fifteen million Americans were being subjected to the same treatment. Dr. William Eskridge, Jr., professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School, considers Kameny's petition for a writ of certiorari "an announcement that the objects of the postwar antihomosexual *Kulturkampf* were insisting on equal citizenship—not just an easing of persecution."[x]

In 1961, when the Supreme Court refused to rule on his unprecedented claims, Kameny decided to enlist others in the cause and founded the Mattachine Society of Washington. The idea of a gay organization was not new. The first Mattachine Society had been founded in California in 1951 as a kind of gay fraternal order, providing social services to gays and lesbians. But the Washington group rejected the internal focus and secretive nature of the earlier group and adopted a politically activist approach. Mattachine of Washington's main goal was no less than to change the homosexual's place in society. It sought "to act by any lawful means to secure for homosexuals the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."[xi] Elected the group's first president, Dr. Kameny was soon one of the few homosexuals in America willing to appear publicly on its behalf and use his own name.

After being fired from the federal government in 1957, Dr. Kameny held a number of temporary jobs using his scientific background, but never again worked in the field of astronomy. Since 1968 Kameny has managed to integrate his full-time activism and the need to make a living by serving as a paralegal, offering counsel to gay and non-gay military personnel, civil servants, and contractors having problems with the federal government. Much of that counseling was given at 5020 Cathedral Avenue. Otto Ulrich, whose case for a security clearance helped overturn a Civil Service ban on homosexuals in 1973, recalled in an oral history first consulting Dr. Kameny at the residence in the late 1960s.[xii]

With an eye on the black civil rights movement, Kameny quickly set about recasting homosexuality—traditionally considered a moral or, more recently, a mental health problem—into a civil liberties issue. "It is time that considerations of homosexuality were removed from the psychoanalyst's couch and taken out of the psychiatrist's office," he argued. "The average homosexual... is far more likely to have employment problems than emotional ones."

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[x] Eskridge, William Jr., "January 27, 1961: The Birth of Gay Legal Equality Arguments," *NYU Annual Survey of American Law*, Vol. 58, No. 1, 2002, p. 42.

[xi] Mattachine Society of Washington constitution, 1962.

[xii] Ulrich oral history, Rainbow History Project, Washington, D.C., recorded July 27, 2001.

Because they were fighting for what they believed were basic American rights, members of Mattachine of Washington, an organization independent of and distinct from the earlier Mattachine Society in California, used traditional methods—distributing press releases printed in Dr. Kameny's home, testifying before committees, lobbying government officials. A significant amount of the planning and organization of these took place at 5020 Cathedral. Pioneers now recognized as the leaders of the modern gay rights movement often met there. These include Barbara Gittings of the lesbian advocacy organization the Daughters of Bilitis; Donald Webster Cory (Edward Sagarin), author of the groundbreaking work *The Homosexual in America*; Kay Tobin Lahusen; Lige Clarke; Randolfe Wicker; and Jack Nichols, who gathered with Kameny to discuss strategies for the fledgling gay rights movement. These meetings and the mimeographing of Mattachine Society press releases and fliers took place at 5020 Cathedral, ordinary tasks perhaps, but part of an extraordinary movement.

Where earlier gay organizations had shunned publicity, the Mattachine Society of Washington sought it out. Where earlier groups had brought various authorities in to speak to their membership, Mattachine sent speakers to educate the non-gay population about homosexuality. Kameny, convinced that the prejudice they were facing was based primarily on emotion, not reason, put little faith in attempts to educate and persuade. As he wrote in 1964, "The Negro tried for 90 years to achieve his purposes by a program of information and education. His achievements in those 90 years, while by no means nil, were nothing compared to those of the past 10 years, when he tried a vigorous civil liberties, social action approach." In the spring and summer of 1965 Dr. Kameny led the organization of a series of gay pickets in front of the White House and other government buildings in Washington. He also launched a series of test discrimination cases in the courts, all signaling a new period of militancy. Also organized out of 5020 Cathedral Avenue in 1969 was the Gay Speakers Bureau. Its contact number was Kameny's second phone line.

The office at 5020 Cathedral Avenue was never officially listed as the headquarters of the Mattachine Society of Washington; most often a post box was given as its primary address. In fact, the Mattachine Society leased office space for less than a year, meeting in homes, churches and borrowed space. Dr. Kameny's residence served as *de facto* headquarters and appeared as a secondary contact point: press releases from 1969 and 1970 reference the house and Kameny's personal telephone number as contacts for further information regarding security clearance cases. The second phone number at Cathedral Avenue was maintained by the Society for individuals wanting information about activities and for information on security clearances and blackmail, entrapment and harassment issues. By the late 1960s, the Mattachine Society's newsletter, *The Insider*, listed this second phone line as its contact number. This number was also provided by the *Gay Blade*, Washington, D.C.'s newspaper for the gay and lesbian community, as the contact for the organization.

The campaign against federal employment discrimination

A victim of federal employment discrimination against homosexuals, Dr. Kameny responded by creating a national resistance to such discrimination. Kameny's judicial actions protesting his own dismissal were the first ever lodged against the U.S. Civil Service Commission's exclusion of homosexuals from federal jobs. John Macy, head of the Commission during the Mattachine's campaign, had written that "It is the established policy of the Civil Service Commission that homosexuals are not suitable for appointment to or retention in positions in the Federal Service."[xiii] From the earliest days of Mattachine's activities, Kameny led his colleagues in seeking to reverse the Commission's policies through judicial action, civil protest, and other active engagement.

A little over three years after Macy's letter, Kameny, writing for the Mattachine Society of Washington, presented the case against federal discrimination in a carefully constructed seventeen-page argument, drawing on many of the themes in his 1961 petition to the Supreme Court. The brief, requested by the Civil Service Commission, argues that "The Commission's policy against the employment of homosexual citizens, because it can be and has been defended on no other bases than the unpopularity of such citizens, is a discrimination in a class with, and as morally indefensible and odious at that directed toward the Negro minority and other of our American minorities."[xiv]

[xiii] Letter of John Macy to the Mattachine Society of Washington, September 28, 1962.
[xiv] "Federal Employment of Homosexual American Citizens," Mattachine Society of Washington, November 15, 1965, p. 16.

Dr. Kameny was convinced that the success of the gay movement hinged on de-bunking the psychiatric profession's assertion that homosexuality is a mental illness. Where earlier groups sponsored debates by medical and religious authorities on the causes and problems of homosexuality, Kameny took strong, unabashed pro-gay stands, proclaiming, "there is no homosexual problem, there is a heterosexual problem." As a scientist himself, Dr. Kameny pointed out the flaws in medical pronouncements based solely on the observation of psychiatric patients, not the millions of mentally healthy gay and lesbians beyond the medical gaze. He was appalled at what he found: "Shabby, shoddy, sloppy, sleazy pseudo-science. Moral, cultural, and theological value judgments cloaked and camouflaged in the language of science without any of the substance of science. Abominable sampling techniques. As psychiatrists, they only saw patients who, of course, were troubled people or they would not have been coming to a psychiatrist, so the psychiatrists never saw happy, well-adjusted homosexuals and assumed that we were all emotionally disturbed."[xv] In 1965, at the initial suggestion of Mattachine member Jack Nichols, the organization became the first gay organization to declare that homosexuality was not a sickness but "a preference, orientation, or propensity, on a par with, and not different in kind from, heterosexuality."

By the 1970s the American Psychiatric Association (APA) began to reconsider its definition of homosexuality. After appearing in numerous television debates with professional psychiatrists, Dr. Kameny succeeded in getting the APA itself to sponsor a panel of openly gay men and women at its 1971 annual convention in Washington, D.C. With Barbara Gittings of Philadelphia's Daughters of Bilitis, Kameny presented the case of healthy homosexuals at APA conferences in 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972.

At the 1971 conference, Kameny stormed the convention with members of the Gay Liberation Front, Mattachine, and anti-war protesters, grabbed the microphone and declared, "Psychiatry is the enemy incarnate... You may take this as a declaration of war against you." Kameny's home served as an organizing center for telephone and in-person planning of the campaign. Under such pressure from gay activists and a growing number of psychiatrists, the APA voted in 1973 to remove homosexuality from its *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Psychiatric Disorders* (DSM).

Using his knowledge of the federal bureaucracy, Kameny succeeded in 1974 in forcing the Department of Defense to conduct the first public security clearance hearing. His gay client, Otis Tabler, was later granted a clearance, marking a watershed in the Pentagon's program. Since then, gays have often been subject to special scrutiny and harassment, but they are generally granted the necessary clearance. Dr. Kameny succeeded in getting other federal agencies to liberalize their security clearance programs, including the National Security Agency, which first issued a security clearance to an openly gay man in 1980.

As the nation's foremost expert on homosexuality and the federal government, Kameny was also involved in the first legal steps to challenge the U.S. military's policy of automatically discharging gay and lesbian service members, including the much-publicized case of gay Air Force Sergeant Leonard Matlovich. Matlovich met with Kameny at 5020 Cathedral Avenue in March 1974 to gain Dr. Kameny's support and assistance. Although this suit, initiated in 1975, eventually led to an out-of-court settlement in Matlovich's favor, the Pentagon responded by strengthening its ban on homosexuals. With the Pentagon continuing automatically to discharge openly gay and lesbian soldiers, sailors and marines, Kameny, often acting as counsel, helped ensure that they at least received honorable discharges.

Kameny led the effort to repeal the District of Columbia's sodomy law. This effort began on August 9, 1963, when Kameny testified as president of the Mattachine Society of Washington before a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. "If it is objected that homosexual acts are against the laws of man in the District of Columbia, then we say that this committee makes the laws of man in the District of Columbia, and the remedy for the situation lies with the committee. Change the law and make the acts legal. I take this opportunity formally to recommend to this committee that section 22-3502 of the District Code, insofar as it applies to the District of Columbia, be repealed." His recommendation was not well received.

In October 1971, Kameny organized four members of the Gay Liberation Front to sue the D.C. Police to end their use of the sodomy law to harass gay men. The case was successful, but the decision applied only to the four plaintiffs.

[xv] Personal communication by Dr. Kameny to Rainbow History, email, July 8, 2006.

A report was issued in 1975 by rape-victim advocates for the reform of the sexual assault laws and the repeal of penalties against private, consensual sex. A task force was formed to study the reform of the sexual assault laws. Kameny attended every meeting and was consulted regularly, despite not being an official member. Based on the task force's work, the D.C. Council finally passed the Sexual Assault Reform bill in 1981. But the U.S. Congress—bowing to anti-gay sentiment in a national campaign—killed the bill. New legislation was introduced yearly starting in 1984, but it languished in the D.C. Judiciary Committee.

In 1993 a new sodomy law reform bill was introduced to the D.C. Council. The bill, written by Dr. Kameny at the request of the Council chairman, stated simply that "No act engaged in only by consenting persons 16 years of age or older shall constitute an offense under this section." As the first witness, Kameny testified that sodomy should be legalized and considered "good, moral, and rewarding." The bill passed the Council unanimously, and the mayor signed it in a public ceremony. This law, too, was repealed by Congress.

Kameny and the evolution of 1960s gay activism

Dr. Kameny spread his activist agenda through speaking engagements around the country, radicalizing existing gay organizations, such as the Mattachine Society of New York, and helping myriad new groups get started in other cities. He also succeeded in forming coalitions of gay organizations, first regionally and then nationally. He founded the East Coast Homophile Organizations (ECHO) in 1963 and was a prominent participant in the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations (NACHO). In 1968, NACHO formally adopted Kameny's slogan "Gay is Good" as the motto for the movement. The residence at 5020 Cathedral Avenue was the site of meetings connected with ECHO and NACHO conference planning and organizational matters between 1963 and 1968. By the late 1960s and early 1970s, as the counter-culture loosened moral strictures and respect for authority across the board, the gay rights movement entered a new stage.

As the cultural climate changed, much of the organizational and legal groundwork laid by Dr. Kameny and other early activists began to bear fruit. Throughout the decade Kameny had orchestrated a series of test cases brought by fired gay civil servants, many of whom were members of MSW. Several early victories were appealed or overturned. But in 1969, in *Norton vs. Macy*, the U.S. Court of Appeals demanded a proven connection between the off-duty sexual conduct of federal civil servants and their suitability for employment, establishing the "nexus criteria" later invoked in many federal employment situations. By 1975, after several similar court defeats, the Civil Service Commission relented and modified its regulations, expunging homosexuality as a disqualification for federal employment. The battle Kameny inaugurated eighteen years before had been won.

In 1971, when Congress permitted the District to elect a non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives, Dr. Kameny ventured into local politics and became the first openly gay person to run for Congress. Although he placed fourth in the six-way race, he succeeded in using the election to increase publicity for his "personal freedoms" platform and to politicize the local gay community. In announcing his candidacy, Kameny declared, "I am a homosexual American citizen determined to move into the mainstream of society from the backwaters to which I have been relegated. Homosexuals have been shoved around for time immemorial. We are fed up with it. We are starting to shove back and we're going to keep shoving back until we are guaranteed our rights." This was the opening salvo in announcing active gay and lesbian participation in District of Columbia politics.

The Kameny for Congress campaign opened the gates for active participation by gays and lesbians in national and local partisan politics. Kameny's campaign manager, Paul Kuntzler, actively involved in Democratic Party politics since the John F. Kennedy campaign, became one of a number of local activists urging inclusion of gay and lesbian delegates in local Democratic Party organizations and campaigns. Within a year, Washington's gay and lesbian community was campaigning for inclusion of planks at the 1972 Republican and Democratic conventions in Miami. Kameny was among those attending both conventions in Miami.

The Kameny campaign's measurable success in several key precincts drew the attention of local press and politicians to the existence of a gay bloc of voters. Recognizing the "gay bloc" as an important swing vote in city wards, aspirants to positions on Washington's school board, council, and for mayor actively courted gay and lesbian voters. This gay bloc was widely attributed a key role in the election of Marion Barry as mayor of the District of Columbia in 1978. Several years after

Kameny's campaign for Congress and local gay participation in local and national politics, the first local gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) Democratic Party organization, the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, formed.

After the election, Kameny's campaign committee reorganized into the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), a non-partisan group dedicated to securing "full rights and privileges" of citizenship for the gay and lesbian community of the District of Columbia through "peaceful participation in the political process." Kameny and GAA were instrumental in securing passage of the D.C. Human Rights Law in 1973, one of the nation's first laws to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Recognition and legacy

Kameny's prominence in the national gay civil rights movement waned following his campaign for Congress. However, in recognition of his ground-breaking local and national leadership as the 'father of gay activism,' he has held positions in local government service. Under the newly elected city government, local gay and lesbian activists and GAA petitioned Mayor Walter Washington to appoint Dr. Kameny to an official position. Washington appointed him to the fifteen-member Human Rights Commission. Serving on the commission seven years (1975-1982), Kameny was at first the only openly gay person serving in the government. Following his service on the Human Rights Commission, he was appointed to the city's Board of Appeals and Review, where he served six more years. An outspoken advocate of statehood for the District of Columbia, he was elected a delegate to the D.C. Statehood Constitutional Convention in 1981, where he helped draft a constitution for the proposed State of New Columbia. And since 1969 he has served intermittent terms on the Executive Board of the National Capital Area Civil Liberties Union.

When Bruce Voeller and a group of fellow New Yorkers founded in 1973 the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), the first truly national gay organization, Dr. Kameny was one of two long-time national activists asked to sit on its Board of Directors, where he served until 1982. As an NGTF board member, Kameny was among a group of gay rights leaders who met with officials of the Carter administration in 1977, the first such White House meeting in American history.

Dr. Kameny's philosophy and tactics have remained remarkably consistent. Although his brashness may have increased over the years as the cultural climate changed, Dr. Kameny has always preferred to work through established legal and political channels. Rather than just protest from the outside, Kameny went inside and made the bureaucracy work for him. His ability to use the court system was recognized in 1988 when he received the Durfee Award for his contributions to the "enhancement of human dignity through the law." In one of his more recent creative attempts at employing existing structures, Kameny has formed a corporation in Washington, D.C., under the name "Traditional Values Coalition," preventing a California-based anti-gay organization of the same name from operating in the city.

Nonetheless, Dr. Kameny is not opposed to civil disobedience when necessary. His first dignified demonstration in front of the White House in 1965 preceded numerous arrests defending the rights of homosexuals. In his ongoing fight to overturn the District of Columbia's statue outlawing consensual sodomy, he has advocated and participated in sit-ins and other forms of organized harassment planned by new groups such as ACT-UP and Queer Nation and directed at specific members of the city council. Ultimately, he is a pragmatist. "If society becomes intransigent, you escalate the battle as necessary. You plan a strategy using 'small guns' before 'big guns' in a calculated fashion."

His ultimate goal has always been assimilation, to accord gays and lesbians the same rights and privileges enjoyed by all citizens. This has led to criticism from more radical elements in the gay movement that he has been co-opted by a system they feel is fundamentally oppressive not just to gays and lesbians but to all minority groups. But Kameny has felt that he is helping to alter society, giving gays and lesbians the choice of whether or not they want to participate in that society, a choice they should make for themselves. According to Dr. Kameny, the gay movement's ability to "get things done" rests on not becoming "isolated in ivory towers of unworkable ideologies." His ability to combine the enthusiasm of an activist with the pragmatism of a bureaucrat has lent a powerful force to that movement.

Kameny's contributions are today widely recognized. His work is cited in numerous books and articles. As early as 1983, there was an effort to create a Franklin E. Kameny Foundation to support a national gay archive and resident study center at his property. The Library of Congress acquired his papers in 2006, including those relating to the Mattachine Society, many produced at his residence. Some of these have been exhibited recently. In 2009, the director of the Office of Personnel Management apologized to Kameny on behalf of the federal government for the discrimination of years past

and presented him with the Theodore Roosevelt Award for his efforts to make federal employment fair. Dr. Kameny received the Durfee Award in 1988 for his contributions to the "enhancement of human dignity through the law." He and Barbara Gittings received the American Psychiatric Association's first John E. Fryer award in 2006, for having "crusaded for gay rights and fought against discrimination for decades." In 2010, the District of Columbia named a block in his honor, and the D.C. Commission on Human Rights presented him with the Cornelius R. "Neil" Alexander Humanitarian Award for his lifetime championship of civil rights. And in 2009, the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board designated the Kameny residence a historic landmark.

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Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence — Washington, DC
Name of Property — County and State

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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
_x_Other
Name of repository: **Library of Congress**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.14
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	3 17 745	43 10 883	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 968 in Square 1439 (formerly 1439E) of the District of Columbia, also known as 5020 Cathedral Avenue, NW, a 60- by 100-foot rectangular lot.

Boundary Justification

The present lot, Lot 968, is the historic extent of the house lot, subdivided just prior to construction and remaining the same through the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Meinke
organization Rainbow History Project date July 22, 2006
street & number 1225 I Street, NW, Suite 600 telephone 202-821-7532
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20005
e-mail mark@cancersupportcommunity.org

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 1

On October 11, 2011, Dr. Franklin E. Kameny died at the age of 86 at his house in Washington, D.C. Dr. Kameny's death came while the National Register nomination for the Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence was under review for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Continuation Sheets**

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Dr. Kameny Residence

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: August 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: North elevation looking south

1 of 2.

Description of Photograph(s) and number: South elevation looking north

2 of 2.

Property Owner:

name Dr. Franklin E. Kameny

street & number 5020 Cathedral Avenue, NW telephone 202-362-2211

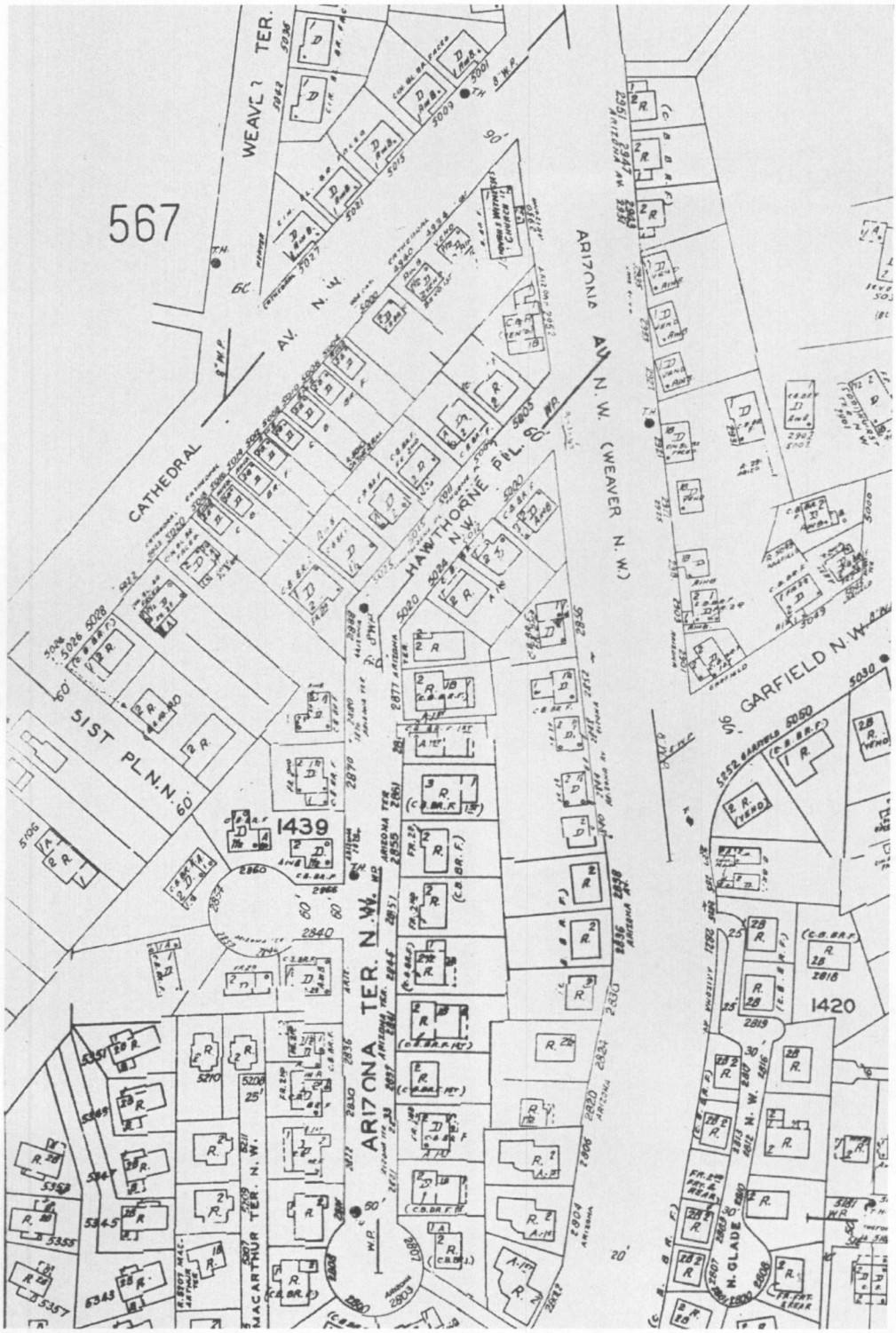
city or town Washington state DC 20016-2646

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number MAPS/PHOTOS Page 1



The Franklin Kameny House
5020 Cathedral Avenue, NW

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
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Section number MAPS/PHOTOS Page 2

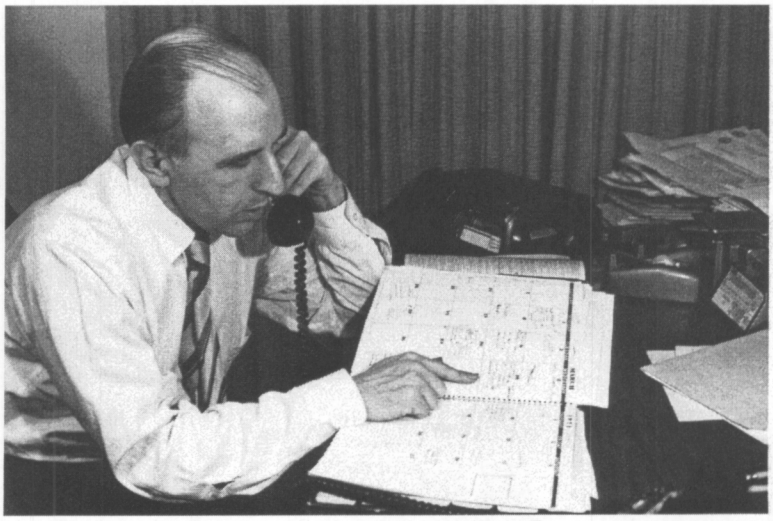
1971—Dr. Franklin Kameny and Barbara Gittings confer in Dr. Kameny's office at 5020 Cathedral Avenue, NW in preparation for appearing as counsels at a Pentagon security clearance hearing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

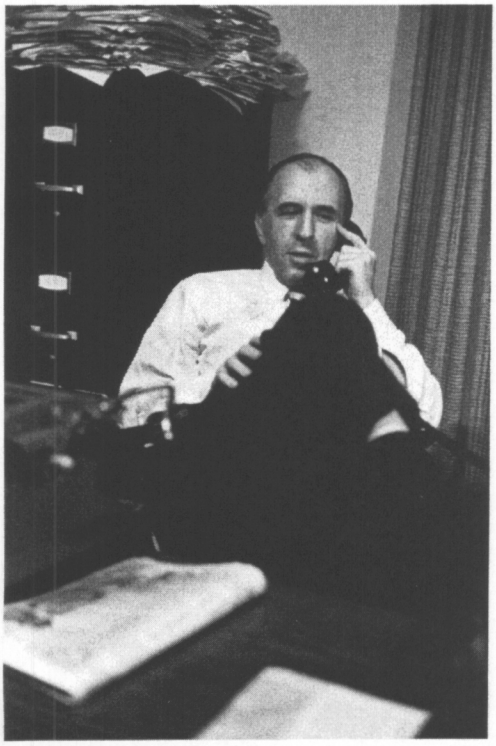
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number MAPS/PHOTOS Page 3



March 1971—Dr. Franklin Kameny in his home office consulting the Mattachine Society of Washington calendar.



March 1971—Dr. Franklin Kameny working the phone during the Kameny for congress campaign

5020
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