















streamline surfaces and the use of glass block. *Architectural Record* featured a two-page spread on the WJSV/WTOP Transmitter, in 1941; one year after the radio station began operation.

Technological advances in radio broadcasting demanded an appropriately futuristic architectural expression. When the WJSV began operating in 1927, the radio station had a 50-watt transmitter, and there were six million families in the nation with radios. In 1939, WJSV announced plans for a new transmitter to broadcast at 50,000 watts, the maximum power the FCC allowed. The nation's radio families had grown to 27½ million. WJSV was the principal station for the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Washington area's most powerful broadcasting station. The station's call letters were changed in 1943 to WTOP, representing the slogan "The Station at the Top of the Dial." WTOP is one of the oldest radio stations in the country. The station continues to be broadcast from this facility, operated remotely from offices in Northwest Washington.

### **31/10 Jenkins Broadcasting Station, 10717 Georgia Avenue**



Designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation of 1979  
Environmental Setting: 8757 square feet (Lot P9, Block 6)

This cottage was the center of operations for television pioneer Charles Francis Jenkins. From his television studio in this house, Jenkins directed teleplays enacted by his own staff and neighborhood children. Home viewers watched his soundless radiomovies with radio conversion kits invented by Jenkins and sold for \$7.50. In 1928, Jenkins received one of the first licenses in the country for simultaneous broadcasting. He set up a studio at 10717 Georgia Avenue and erected two 100-foot steel transmitting towers. A Quaker from Dayton, Ohio, Jenkins became a prolific and successful inventor. He held over 300 patents, including an 1893 patent for a movie projector prototype. The Jenkins Station broadcasted radiomovies from 1929 until 1932, two

years before Jenkins' death. His Radio Movie Broadcast Station provided one of the earliest regularly scheduled television services in the country.