

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



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

New Designation x
Amendment of a previous designation
Please summarize any amendment(s)

Property name 3101 Albemarle Street, N.W.
If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.

Address 3101 Albemarle Street, N.W.

Square and lot number(s) Square 1194, Lots 839 and 840

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F

Date of construction 1926 Date of major alteration(s) 1931 (addition)

Architect(s) John A. Weber Architectural style(s) Colonial Revival

Original use Residential Present use Currently vacant

Property owner Embassy of the Polish People's Republic

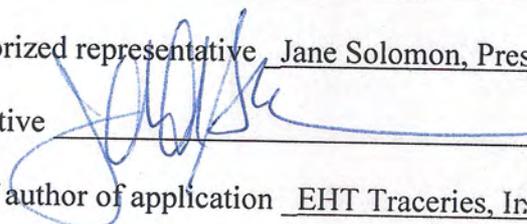
Legal address of property owner 2640 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance

If the applicant is an organization, it must submit evidence that among its purposes is the promotion of historic preservation in the District of Columbia. A copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, or by-laws, setting forth such purpose, will satisfy this requirement.

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 2935 Albemarle Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20008

Name and title of authorized representative Jane Solomon, President, FHNA

Signature of representative  Date 6/13/2014

Name and telephone of author of application EHT Traceries, Inc., (202) 393-1199

Date received
H.P.O. staff

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: 3101 Albemarle Street, NW

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 3101 Albemarle Street, NW

City or town: Washington State: D.C. County: _____

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

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
- Structure
- Object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals

Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone

Summary Paragraph

3101 Albemarle Street, N.W. occupies tax lots 839 and 840 in Square 2041 in upper northwest Washington, D.C.. The house was constructed in 1926 by owners Howard and Katie Fulmer, and was designed by Washington architect John A. Weber. The two-and-one-half story, three-bay, brick, compound-plan, Colonial revival-style dwelling is supported by a solid masonry foundation with a raised basement and side-gabled slate roof. The roof features front-gabled dormers clad in wood shingles on both the front and north (rear) elevations. The exterior of the dwelling is faced in stone. There are two rectangular chimneys with a plane cap on either gable end exterior. A one-story addition, built in 1931, extends from the east elevation, and joins with an enclosed, one-story, hipped-roof, rear porch. The addition has a flat metal roof, and like the main block is faced in stone. Set back approximately 150 feet from Albemarle Street on a large, wooded, 1.09-acre lot, the front elevation of the house faces south. It is constructed on a raised terrace bound by a low stone-faced retaining wall. From this terrace, an asphalt-paved walkway, with a low stone wall running along its west side, connects the house to Albemarle Street.

Narrative Description

Exterior

The primary entrance is located in the center bay of the south elevation. The six-paneled wood door features rectangular side lights and an elliptical Federal-style fanlight. The entrance is set behind a simple portico with square wood columns that is accessed from the east and west by a set of curving concrete and slate steps with iron railing. Two secondary entrances are located at the rear of the house. These consist of a French door sheltered by a canvas awning located in the westernmost first-story bay of the main block's north elevation, and a paneled wood door, set

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behind a wood and screen storm door, that is located in the center bay of the one-story enclosed rear porch.

The house is symmetrically fenestrated on all elevations. Window forms range from single to paired to three-part six-over-one double-hung sash with stone sills and lintels. In addition, the windows of the main block's front and side elevations feature paneled wood shutters. In the center bay of the front elevation's second story, a balconette is positioned over the first-story entrance portico. Wedge-shaped single-light attic windows are positioned to either side of the chimneys on both the east and west elevations.

The house is reflective of the Colonial Revival style, employing characteristic architectural elements in both traditional and new building materials expressed on a classically-inspired form. These elements, inspired by late Georgian and Federal precedents, include the dwelling's symmetrically balanced fenestration, molded wood front and rear elevation cornices, gabled dormers, front entrance fanlight, and entry portico.

Interior

3101 Albemarle Street, NW contains approximately 8,600 square feet of finished interior space. The front entrance of the house opens into a foyer and the dwelling's central stairwell. Much of the interior features contemporary finishes and details. All of the rooms on the first story have hardwood floors. With the exception of the bonus room, which features smooth plaster ceilings with wood beams and wood paneling, all of the rooms feature plaster walls with a contemporary paneled wainscot.¹

¹ This interior description is based on realty listing photographs taken c. 2015. Due to lack of interior access, EHT Tracerics was not able to verify this description through actual survey of the interior.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1926-1981

Significant Dates

1926

1931

1979

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Romuald Spasowski

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

John A. Weber/

Howard D. Fulmer

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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.)

Completed in 1927, 3101 Albemarle Street, NW is a historically significant dwelling that reflects early twentieth-century development patterns in the District of Columbia, and the emergence of a residential corridor just off Connecticut Avenue during the first half of the twentieth-century. Architecturally, the dwelling, designed by architect John A. Weber, serves as an example of the Colonial Revival style. The house was constructed for D.C. builder Howard D. Fulmer in 1926. Beginning in 1979, it was inhabited by the Polish Embassy, and was the residence of Romuald Spasnowski, the highest ranking diplomat to defect to the United States during the Cold War. 3101 Albemarle Street, NW's period of significance begins in 1926, when the construction of the dwelling began, and extends to 1981 and the Spasnowski defection.

Narrative Statement of Significance

3101 Albemarle Street has been determined to have sufficient significance to meet the designation criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under:

***Criterion A:** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;*

***Criterion B:** Property is associated with the lives of significant persons or past*

***Criterion 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 may lack individual distinction*

In addition to satisfying the National Register criteria, the dwelling also has sufficient significance to meet the following criteria for designation in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites:

***Criterion (b) History:** The property is associated with historical periods, social movements, group institutions, achievements, or patterns of growth and change that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture or development of the District of Columbia or the nation;*

***Criterion (c) Individuals:** The property is associated with the lives of persons significant to the history of the District of Columbia or the nation; and*

***Criterion (d) Architecture and Urbanism:** The property embodies the distinguishing characteristics of architectural styles, building types, or methods of construction, or are expressions of landscape architecture, engineering, or urban planning, siting, or design significance to the appearance and development of the District of Columbia or the nation.*

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3101 Albemarle Street, NW is significant under **National Register Criterion A and D.C. Inventory Criterion (b) History**, in the areas of Community Planning and Development. 3101 Albemarle Street, NW was constructed in 1926 in conjunction with the development of the Forest Hills neighborhood in northwest Washington, D.C.. The development of Forest Hills can be considered part of the fourth wave of suburban development within the District of Columbia. Following the Civil War, suburban expansion took place outside of the boundaries of Washington City in order to accommodate the Capital's growing population. Suburban villages grew alongside the District's major travel arteries, particularly those associated with the expansion of streetcar service. The suburban enclaves that arose in the early-twentieth century were characterized free-standing houses in profuse greenery. By the mid-1920s, suburban villages were increasingly constructed by developers, and were given names to add appeal for buyers.

3101 Albemarle Street, NW has been described as the "entrance to Forest Hills"² Though developed by a private architect and builder, its proximity to the neighborhood and its design lent the dwelling to be subsumed into Forest Hills. In contrast to the forty-five acres of land purchased with the intention of creating a modern subdivision by the real estate firm of Hedges and Middleton, Inc., 3101 Albemarle Street retained its large and secluded lot. In addition, the house was completed prior to any of the dwellings developed by Hedges & Middleton, Inc. Though the property was unique, fit with "unusual features of superior construction," it was used as a model home for the development.³ The house had twelve rooms, three bathrooms, a servant's quarter, a large deck, and a three-car garage.

While the dwelling retains the characteristics of suburban communities, many of which kept their natural settings to provide residents a lifestyle typically found in the country while living in close proximity to the City, the sheer size of 3101 Albemarle Street, NW breaks from the pattern of suburban growth that emerged in the 1920s. By this time, suburban development, particularly in the area west of Rock Creek Park, was driven by the formation of powerful real estate syndicates.

In 1954, 3101 Albemarle Street was described as an "embassy-type house."⁴ Though the dwelling was not converted into an embassy until 1979, this description emphasizes the grandeur of the house and its grounds, in comparison to the many suburban houses being developed at the time in Forest Hills and elsewhere. Paying homage to its proximity to Rock Creek Park, the property featured trees, shrubbery, a lily pond, and a bridge. Sited atop a hill in the middle of the lot, the residence was secluded without being isolated. Further, with Connecticut avenue only one block from the dwelling, residents were able to take engage with rapidly expanding "commercial zone."

By the turn of the century, the electric streetcar offered easy transportation to and from the city. Consequently, developers could purchase land up to the District line to create their suburban

² "Entrance to Forest Hills," *Evening Star*, 19 May 1928.

³ "Entrance to Forest Hills," *Evening Star*, 19 May 1928.

⁴ "3101 Albemarle St, NW Embassy-Type House," *Evening Star*, 31 October 1954.

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villages. Forest Hills has been classified as part of the fourth wave of suburban development, a wave characterized by an influx of government workers and automobile use.

In addition, the dwelling is locally significant under **D.C. Inventory Criterion D (Architecture and Urbanism)** and **National Register Criterion C** in the area of **Architecture**. 3101

Albemarle Street was designed by architect John A. Weber. Active in the early twentieth century, Weber designed detached, single-family houses in a variety of revivalist and eclectic architectural styles throughout the northwest quadrant of the city, particularly in the Chevy Chase area. Embodying character-defining elements that include a main entry surround and portico derived from late Georgian and Federal precedents, symmetrical fenestration, and a reflection of traditional building materials, the house serves as an example of the Colonial Revival style, which was locally prevalent in the 1920s.

Remaining distinct from the surrounding Forest Hills neighborhood, the property typifies the large and unique country estates constructed on large plots of land that stood as an exception to the standard patterns of suburban development during the 1920s. 3101 Albemarle Street, NW was conceived and built during the early-20th century Eclectic Period, a period in which suburban houses were being designed, with great skill, in a variety of revivalist styles, often constructed in authentic materials, and exhibiting superior craftsmanship.

Finally, 3101 Albemarle Street, NW is significant under **D.C. Inventory Criterion C** (Individuals), and **National Register Criterion B** in the areas of **Diplomacy**. By 1979, the Polish People's Republic had purchased the property at 3101 Albemarle Street, NW. The first ambassador to live in the dwelling was Romuald Spasowski. Spasowski was born in Warsaw, and was active in the Communist party during his youth. He began his diplomatic career as the head of the Polish Foreign Ministry's German section. Later he was named the head of the Polish legation in Argentina, and in 1955 he was named ambassador to the United States.⁵ Following Communist imposed martial law against Poland in 1981, Spasowski applied for political asylum in the United States in December 1981. He was granted asylum, and became the highest ranking communist official to ever defect to the West.

Integrity

This historic dwelling maintains excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association corresponding to its 1926-1981 period of significance. On its exterior, 3101 Albemarle Street retains its original stone cladding and entry portico. The dwelling also retains its original landscape. In addition, the building contributes to the historic feel and architectural character of the Forest Hills Neighborhood.

Historic Context

Following the Civil War, many suburban subdivisions grew up just outside the original city limits, but within the boundaries of the District. In contrast to L'Enfant's planned city, the earliest suburban subdivisions were developed with narrow and winding roads that reflected the contours of the landscape. The 1898 Highway Act sought to provide order to Washington City's

⁵ Marie Arana-Ward, "F. Romuald Spasowski Dies; Polish Ambassador, Defector," *The Washington Post*, 11 August 1995.

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suburban expansion, requiring that new subdivisions conform to the L'Enfant street plan. Around the turn of the century, the first group of suburbs – those developed north of Florida Avenue (historically the Georgetown to Bladensburg Road and later Boundary Street) – had been occupied, and the growing population of Washington necessitated additional suburban development. This second wave of suburban growth led to the creation of subdivisions such as Woodley Park, Cleveland Park, Petworth, Trinidad and Brightwood. In order to accommodate Washington's growing population after World War I, a third wave of suburbanization, which coincided with increased automobile usage during the mid-1920s, occurred in more "rural areas," and included subdivisions such as Wesley Heights, Chevy Chase, and Manor Park. Suburb formation in the Washington region continued into the 1930s, and was enabled in part by federally-backed loans provided through the Federal Housing Authority. The Forest Hills subdivision arose during this interwar period of suburban development, and its romantic name was typical of those created by developers to attract home buyers.⁶

These suburban developments were attractive to the growing populous of Washington for several reasons: the land was higher, cooler in the summer, and more of it was available. The area that had been Washington County offered residents a country atmosphere with access to the city, particularly following the extension of the electric streetcar lines into the District. Additionally, many of the dwellings constructed were detached, allowing ample sunlight and ventilation, in contrast to the row houses of the city.⁷

The 3101 Albemarle Street property was once contained within the land holdings of Pierce Shoemaker. Following his death in the mid-1920s, George Bryan acquired much of Shoemaker's property, which he subdivided to create the Forest Hills subdivision.⁸ By 1925, the eastern portion of the square had been subdivided. Remaining un-subdivided were a 2.4-acre parcel in the northwest portion of the square, owned by F. A. & H. Preston, and a 1.3-acre parcel in the southwest corner of the square owned by Charles F. Kincheloe.⁹ By 1926, however, this land had been transferred to Katie D. Fulmer, wife of prominent D.C. builder Howard D. Fulmer. As confirmed by the initial build permit, the lot was initially part of Square 2040; however, by 1931, the lot had been reassigned to Square 2041.¹⁰

According to records of the D.C. Office of the Surveyor, 3.92 acres from the Shoemaker estate were dedicated to the opening of Albemarle Street between Connecticut Avenue and Broad Branch Road as public highway on October 14, 1904. On September 27, 1909, Audubon Terrace, beginning near Connecticut Avenue and extending to 29th Street, NW was opened as a

⁶ C. Harold Gray, "Washington, the Planned City, Is Really a Collection of Old Villages," *The Washington Post*, 30 May 1937; Frederick Gutheim, *Worthy of the Nation: The History of Planning for the National Capital* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1977), 102-09, 153-55.

⁷ Gutheim, 106-08.

⁸ Christine Sadler, "Citizens' Interest in Forest Hills Transcends Its Borders," *The Washington Post*, 12 November 1939.

⁹ As this trapezoidal plot of land was on the border of Square 2040 and 2041, it is unclear which square it initially belonged to. The initial build permit called for Square 2040; however, later alterations to the property call for Square 2041.

¹⁰ D.C. Build Permit #148336, pulled in 1931 for a one-story addition to the dwelling, lists the lot as belonging to Square 2041.

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public highway signed by Louis P. Shoemaker, Fred Rhodes, and William Hinds. Both Hinds and Rhodes owned land south of Albemarle Street, in Square 2042.

By 1928, the Forest Hills neighborhood was beginning to take form. In 1925, development group Hedges & Middleton, Inc. had taken over forty-five acres of land, which was then subdivided into 111 sites.¹¹ The development, known as “Forest Hills,” was laid out in a manner that carefully followed the natural contour of the land, which in turn preserved the forestry, knolls and valleys created by the proximity to Rock Creek Park.¹²

The Fulmer house at 3101 Albemarle Street represents the desire of Washington’s middle to upper-class residents to escape the old city in exchange for the wooded surroundings of the suburbs during the 1920s. Yet, the house predates the development of Forest Hills, and with its larger lot and grander residence, stood apart from the typical pattern of suburban residential development within the neighborhood.¹³

By 1960, the western portion of historic lot 807 was taken over by the city in order to form a boundary—32nd Street, NW—between the homes and the apartment buildings constructed on Square 2039.

Construction

On July 22, 1926, Katie Fulmer applied for a permit to erect one two-story plus attic brick and tile dwelling for an estimated cost of \$18,000. The dwelling, designed by John A. Weber, was to be approximately fifty feet by thirty-two feet. It was constructed with a pitch slat roof featuring front and rear dormers.¹⁴ Due to its proximity to Soapstone Valley, which would later become part of the Rock Creek Park System, there was a conscious effort to take advantage of and relate to the proximate natural landscape. Upon completion, the 3101 Albemarle Street was described as “a gentleman’s home in a naturally wooded setting just west of Connecticut Avenue.”¹⁵

On November 12, 1931, owner Charles Jacobson applied for a permit to build a one-story two-room brick addition. This addition, to extend off of the east façade, was to be designed and built by H. G. McQuary¹⁶.

In April of the following year, Jacobson applied for a permit to erect a “concrete wall on property line in back of lot.”¹⁷

Architect and Builder

¹¹ “Homes in Forest Hills About Ready for Sale,” *The Washington Post*, 29 January 1928.

¹² “Homes in Forest Hills About Ready for Sale,” *The Washington Post*, 29 January 1928.

¹³ While it was not unheard of to have large estates within neighborhoods of northwest Washington, D.C., many were a part of the subdivision. For example, 3134 Ellicott Street, a two-story stone and concrete dwelling constructed in 1925, was designed by Arthur B. Heaton. Heaton was a prominent architect in Washington, and designed several dwellings in the Forest Hills neighborhood.

¹⁴ D.C. Build Permit #763, 22 July 1926, Martin Luther King Memorial Library.

¹⁵ “Display Ad,” *The Washington Post*, 16 September 1928.

¹⁶ D.C. Build Permit #148336, 12 November 1931, Martin Luther King Memorial Library.

¹⁷ D.C. Permit #152872, 27 April 1932, Martin Luther King Memorial Library.

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3101 Albemarle Street, NW in Washington, D.C. represents the work of builder-architect team of Howard D. Fulmer and John A. Weber. While 3101 Albemarle Street was both Fulmer and Weber's first and only dwelling in the Forest Hills neighborhood, it was not Weber's first work for owner of the property, Katie Fulmer. Between 1915 and 1931, Weber practiced architecture in Washington, D.C., designing single-family homes in the northwest section of the city. Also in 1915, Weber had teamed up with Katie's husband Howard, a prolific builder particularly in the Chevy Chase area. Over the next several decades, the pair designed and constructed over a dozen dwellings together.

While there is not an abundance of information on Weber, we know he was born in Maryland in 1889 to German parents. He is listed in the 1910 federal census as a government draftsman.¹⁸ In 1911, Weber's work was featured in an exhibit of student work in a competition held by the Washington Society of Beaux Arts Architects.¹⁹ Between 1915 and 1931, Weber practiced architecture in the District, designing single-family homes in the northwest section of the city. These homes were by and large designed in either the colonial revival or craftsman style. In addition, he designed over a dozen homes in conjunction with Fulmer. One such home stands at 3901 Jenifer Street, NW. The two-story stone house, constructed in 1918, is an example of a larger colonial revival home. The home was built by Howard Fulmer for relative Louisa Fulmer for an estimated cost of \$7,000.

John A. Weber spent much of his career in the service of the federal government. He worked at the U.S. Treasury Department during the 1920s and 1930s; as a draftsman from 1921 to 1925, and as an architect between 1926 and 1938. He later worked as a technical assistant for the Public Building Administration in 1941 and 1942 and for the Federal Works Agency in 1943.²⁰

Charles Jacobsen

In 1931, Charles Jacobsen purchased the property. Born in Baltimore in 1860, Jacobsen was a diverse and successful businessman and a prominent citizen of Washington. After moving to Washington in 1880, he worked for his uncle, Christian Heurich. Following a few years at his uncle's brewery, the Christian Heurich Brewing Co., Jacobsen founded his own bottling business. In 1901, he became the first dealer in Ford automobiles in the District, and for a time he was one of the owners of the Washington Senators baseball club. Jacobsen was one of the earliest members of the Washington Stock Exchange, joining in 1907. He was also the owner of the Sterling Hotel before he sold it to Henry Ford. Jacobsen retained ownership of the property until his death in 1953.²¹

Polish Government Ownership and the Spasowski Defection

¹⁸ 1910 US Census Bureau, Washington City, District of Columbia, population schedule, 173 (stamped), dwelling 518, family 160, John Weber; digital image, Ancestry.com, accessed June 12, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>.

¹⁹ "Humor in Exhibit," *Evening Star*, 21 September 1911.

²⁰ Pamela Scott, *A Directory of District of Columbia Architects* (Washington, 2011), 10.

²¹ Donald Hadley, "91 and Active, Charles Jacobsen Receives Friends on Birthday," *Evening Star*, April 30, 1951, <http://infoweb.newsbank.com> (accessed June 16, 2016).

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Most recently, 3101 Albemarle Street has been inhabited by the Polish government, to be used for the Embassy. In 1979, the Polish People's Republic purchased the dwelling from private owners. The first ambassador to inhabit the residence was Francis Romuald Spasowski. A career diplomat, Spasowski was born in Warsaw in 1920. He studied physics at the University of Warsaw, and was active in Communist youth groups. He was arrested by the Nazis following their 1939 invasion of Poland, and went into hiding after his release in 1941. Following the war, Spasowski began his diplomatic career as head of the Polish Foreign Ministry's German section, and later was posted to London as first secretary to the Polish embassy there. He was named head of the Polish legation to Argentina in 1953, and in 1955 was appointed ambassador to the United States. When the Soviet Communist Party imposed martial law against the Solidarity Movement in Poland in December 1981, arresting beloved labor leader Lech Walesea, Spasowski applied for political asylum in the United States. Following President Reagan granting him asylum, the Warsaw government sentenced Spasowski to death and took his citizenship and property. Though at one time a member of the Communist party, Spasowski spent the remaining years of his life were dedicated to exposing what he regarded as the "moral bankruptcy of Soviet-style communism."²² Spasowski was the highest ranking communist official ever to defect to the West.²³ In a statement read to reporters at the State Department in 1981, Spasowski declared that, "a state of war has been imposed upon Poland, a state of war against the Polish people...I cannot be silent."²⁴

Spasowski formally requested asylum during a December, 1981 telephone call to John D. Scanlon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. His defection was later publically announced by Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig during an interview on the CBS news program "Face the Nation." As events unfolded, neighbors of 3101 Albemarle Street reported seeing cars belonging to the "FBI or Secret Service" parked outside of the residence, and "several agents" entered and exited the house. The dwelling remained vacant for some time while the Ambassador stayed in the Washington area in a "safe house" in Virginia, provided by the FBI, and later in a small apartment in D.C.²⁵

Conclusion

3101 Albemarle Street, NW in Washington, D.C. was built in 1926 as a rural country house for Washington developer Howard M. Fulmer and his wife. Designed by Washington architect John A. Weber, the Colonial Revival dwelling and its exceptional wooded grounds, while associated with the Forest Hills neighborhood, remained distinct from it, and the patterns of suburban development that occurred in the Washington region during the first half of the twentieth century. The dwelling was home to prominent Washington businessman Charles Jacobsen from 1931 to 1953. In 1979, it was acquired by the Polish government, and as a former embassy property, the house is also significant for its association with ambassador Romuald Spasowski, and his defection to the United States in 1981.

²² Arana-Ward, "F. Romuald Spasowski Dies," *The Washington Post*, 11 August 1995.

²³ *Forest Hills*, 113.

²⁴ John M. Goshko, "Polish Envoy Here Seeks, Gets Asylum," *Washington Post*, December 21, 1981, <http://search.proquest.com> (accessed June 16, 2016).

²⁵ Goshko, "Polish Envoy Here Seeks, Gets Asylum."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Permit 148336, November 12, 1931.
Permit 152872, April 27, 1931.

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“Humor in Exhibit.” *Evening Star*. September 21, 1911.

Sadler, Christine. “Citizens’ Interest in Forest Hills Transcends Its Borders.” *The Washington Post*. 12 November 1939. <http://search.proquest.com> (accessed June 12, 2016).

Scott, Pamela. *A Directory of District of Columbia Architects*. Washington: 2011.

Washington City, District of Columbia. 1910 US Census Bureau, population schedule. Digital images. Ancestry.com. June 12, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>.

3101 Albemarle Street, NW
Name of Property

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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 1.09 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.948405 | Longitude: -77.063936 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot numbered (807), currently taxed as Lot 839 and Lot 840, in the square numbered two thousand and forty-one (2041), once part of the land grand Azadia.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

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

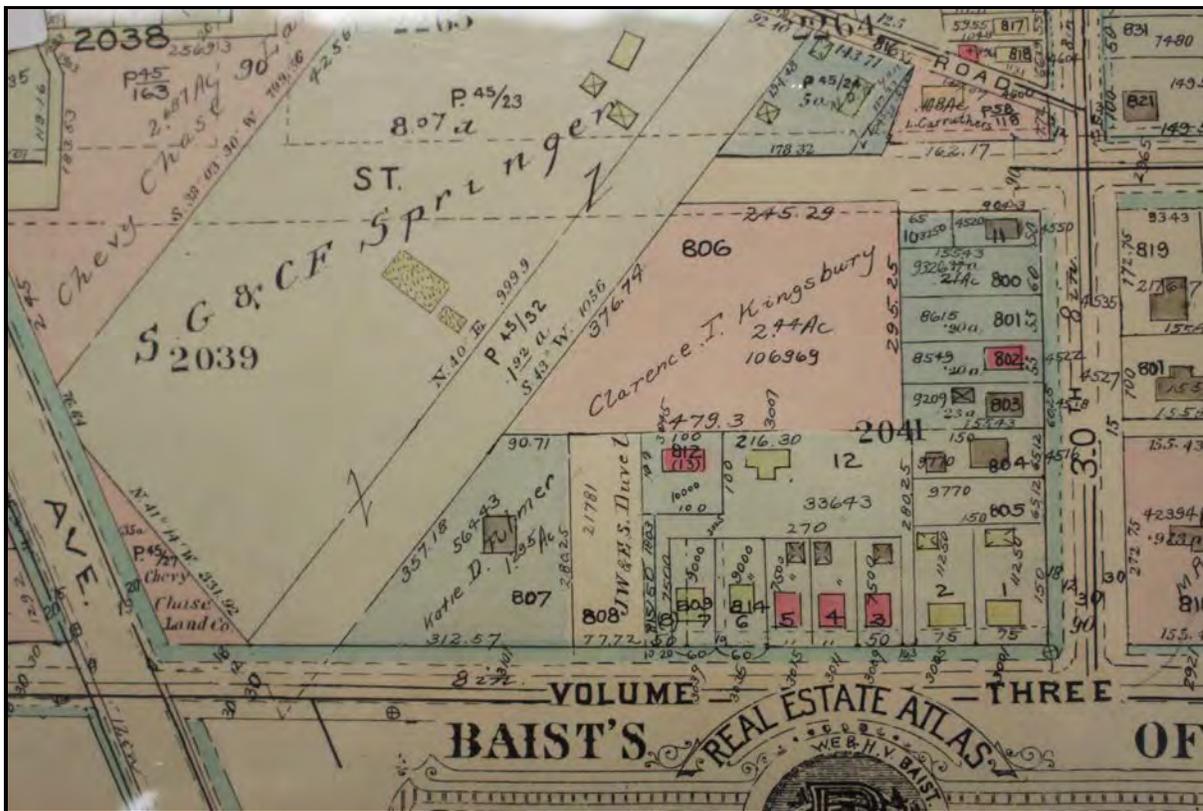
3101 Albemarle Street, NW
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alyssa Stein/Researcher
organization: EHT Traceries, Inc.
street & number: 1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW 6th Floor
city or town: Washington state: D.C. zip code: 20004
e-mail alyssa.stein@traceries.com
telephone: 202-393-1199
date: June 16, 2016

Additional Documentation



Baist's Survey of the District of Columbia, 1931, Volume 3, Pt. 2, Plate 32

3101 Albemarle Street, NW
Name of Property

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Form 600 B. D. - 31-11-17-25

No. Brick Required 35 M. Permit No. 763

FILL OUT APPLICATION IN INK
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO BUILD

Washington, D. C., 1926

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS:

The undersigned owner hereby applies for a permit to build according to the following specifications:

1. What is the owner's name? Walter D. Palmer
2. What is the architect's name? Joseph H. Fisher
3. What is the builder's name? W. S. Fisher Address 5329-43rd St. N.W.
4. What is the house number? 3101 Albemarle St. N.W.
5. Has a plat been obtained from the Surveyor's office and building been located thereon as required by Sec. 29?
6. What is the number of lots? 23/116 Parcel 59716 2040
7. State how many buildings to be erected. one
8. Number of stories in height two Material Brick
9. If of frame, will the proposed structure be within 24 feet of any brick building?
10. Size of lot: Front 31.2'; rear 90'; depth 280'
11. Size of main building: Width of front 50'; No. of feet deep 32'
12. Size of back building: No. of feet wide _____; No. of feet long _____; No. of feet high _____
No. of feet in height from level of sidewalk to highest part of roof at front 70'
No. of feet in height from sidewalk to eaves at back 60'; average height 65'
13. What is the purpose of the building? dwelling If a dwelling, for how many families? one
If apartment house, how many apartments? _____ How many rooms? _____
14. Will there be a store in the lower story? _____ Nature of business to be conducted? _____
15. Will the building be erected on solid or filled land? solid; material of foundation tile (concrete)
Width of foundation 24"; thickness 12"
16. Thickness of external walls: To first floor level 12"; 1st story 9"; 2d story 9"; 3d story 9"
4th story _____; 5th story _____; 6th story _____; 7th story _____; 8th story _____; 9th story _____
17. Thickness of party walls: To first floor level _____; 1st story _____; 2d story _____; 3d story _____
4th story _____; 5th story _____; 6th story _____; 7th story _____; 8th story _____; 9th story _____
18. What will be the material of the front? brick If stone, what kind? _____
19. Will the roof be flat, pitch, or mansard? pitch; material of roofing slate; access to roof down
20. Will there be any projections beyond the building line? no; Have they been approved? _____
21. Projection of main steps from building line _____ cellar step projection _____ how projected _____
22. Are there any bay windows? _____; height _____; width _____; projection _____
23. Are there any oriels? _____; height _____; width _____; projection _____
24. Are there any tower projections? _____; height _____; width _____; projection _____
25. Are there any show windows? _____; form _____; width _____; projection _____
26. Are there vaults? _____; depth _____; length _____; width _____
27. Will there be an area? _____; width _____; projection _____; how projected _____
28. Will front wall of building project beyond front walls of other buildings in block? no
29. Are there any elevator shafts? no; how protected _____
30. How will the building be heated? water Will the building be wired for electric lighting or power? light
31. What is the height of first floor above sidewalk or parking? 35'
32. Has the curb grade been obtained from engineer of highways? applied for
33. Has all alley grades been obtained? no If alley grade has not been obtained, has it been applied for? _____
34. Has certificate of occupancy been issued? _____
35. Has a certificate for parking been obtained from Superintendent of Trees and Parking? yes
36. Is there a sidewalk, curbing, or improved roadway in front of proposed structure? yes
37. Have deposited \$ _____ as required by order of Commissioners to cover cost of any damage to public property.
38. Collector's receipt for above deposit, No. _____ date _____
39. What is the estimate cost of the improvement? \$ 18,000

A certificate must be obtained from the Plumbing Inspector before this application will be considered by the Inspector of Buildings. Application must be signed by owner of property.

RECOMMENDED FOR PERMIT
JUL 16 1926
A. R. MCCONEGAL
INSPECTOR OF PLUMBING

SIGNATURE OF OWNER Walter D. Palmer
APPLICANT W. S. Fisher
ADDRESS 5329-43rd St.
SUBJECT TO PLANS FILED 7/6 1926

200
17258
5816
R-36
Permit 763
Containing 12958 laws

Compl. w/pt. requirements of zoning regulations.

Application for Building Permit #763, dated July 22, 1926 (Martin Luther King Memorial Library)

3101 Albemarle Street, NW
 Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
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Form 500 (Answer all questions with ink)

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO BUILD *Addition*

(NEW BUILDING)

Owner's name *Charles Jacobson* Lot No. *255/126 807*
 Premises number *3101 Albemarle Street* Square No. *2040 2041*
 Purpose of building *Ad. & Rooms* Material of building *Stone*
 How many buildings? *1* Stories high? *One* Estimated cost \$ *1,600*
 Number of rooms *2* Number of families *one* Number of bricks
 Concrete *8* (cu. yds.) Cubic contents of each building *4280*

To the Inspector of Buildings:
 The undersigned hereby applies for permission to build by the following specifications:
 Name of builder *H.C. M. Quincy* Address *7601-12th St N.W.*
 Name of ~~architect~~ designer *H.C. M. Quincy* Address *7601-12th St N.W.*
 Have dimensions of all buildings and yards been properly indicated on plan? *yes*
 Will any part of building be used for commercial purposes? *No*
 Will there be any projections beyond the building line? *No*
 If so, check below:
 Main steps _____ Areas _____
 Porches _____ Marquises _____
 Bay windows _____ Vaults _____
 Show windows _____ Area steps _____
 Submit separate application for projections (see note on back).
 Size of lot: Width _____ Depth _____
 Wall bearing _____ Skeleton _____

TO BE FILLED IN BY CLERK

USE DISTRICT *20*
 HEIGHT DISTRICT *20*
 AREA DISTRICT *20*
 Fee \$ *2.00* (initials) *JS*
 Date received *11-4*

Height of building at front center, from sidewalk to highest point of roof *12 ft*
 Height of terrace above sidewalk _____ Height of first floor above sidewalk _____
 Give MATERIAL and THICKNESS of external walls: Foundation to 1st floor *18" Stone*
 1st to 2d *16" Stone* 2d to 3d _____ 3d to 4th _____ 4th to 5th _____
 Give MATERIAL and THICKNESS of party walls: Foundation to 1st floor _____
 1st to 2d _____ 2d to 3d _____ 3d to 4th _____ 4th to 5th _____
 Will the roof be pitch, mansard, or flat? *flat* Roof covering *Metal & Concrete*
 Will the front wall project beyond the front walls of other buildings in block? *No*
 Will building be wired for electricity? *yes* How will building be heated? *Hot water*
 Number and type of elevators _____ Have elevator plans been filed? _____
 Is there a sidewalk, curb, or improved roadway in front of proposed building? *yes*
 Has the curb grade been obtained from the Engineer of Highways? _____ Alley grade? _____
 Has a certificate of parking been obtained from the Superintendent of Parking? *no change*

Approval of plumbing plans must be obtained from the Plumbing Inspector before this application will be considered by the Inspector of Buildings.

I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application.
 _____ (Signature of agent)
 _____ (Signature of authorized agent)
 _____ (Address of owner)
 _____ (Address of authorized agent)

Be sure to read instructions on back of this application.

RECOMMENDED FOR PERMIT
 NOV 4 1931
 _____ (Signature of official)

The plumbing and gasfitting in this project will be done by a licensed Plumber and in conformity to the Regulations.

Application for Build Permit #148336, dated November 12, 1931 (Martin Luther King Memorial Library)

3101 Albemarle Street, NW
Name of Property

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23 December 1981. President Reagan comforts Wanda and Romuald Spasowski (*The Washington Post*)

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: 3101 Albemarle Street, NW

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: State: District of Columbia

Photographer: Washington Fine Properties, LLC

Date Photographed: 2015

3101 Albemarle Street, NW
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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Front and side (west) Elevations, looking northwest

1 of 4.



Name of Property: 3101 Albemarle Street, NW

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: State: District of Columbia

Photographer: Marjorie Share, MLShare Creative Solutions

Date Photographed: June 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Front and side (east) Elevations, looking north

2 of 4.

3101 Albemarle Street, NW
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State



Name of Property: 3101 Albemarle Street, NW

City or Vicinity: Washington

County:
Washington Fine Properties, LLC

State: District of Columbia Photographer:

Date Photographed: 2015

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

3 of 4.

3101 Albemarle Street, NW

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



Name of Property: 3101 Albemarle Street, NW

City or Vicinity: Washington

County:

State: District of Columbia

Photographer: Washington Fine Properties, LLC

Date Photographed: 2015

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

4 of 4.

3101 Albemarle Street, NW

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D.C..