Gordon E. MacNeil **Biographical Data** Birth: 10/7/1882 Place: Fort Reno, Oklahoma Death: 3/24/1945 Place: Washington, DC Family: Brothers Donald and V.V. MacNeil **Education** High School: College: Columbian College (now GWU), The Corcoran School of Art Graduate School: Source: Leaves of Wesley Heights, April 1945, p 5. From Apprenticeship: MLK Library, Washingtoniana Division. **Architectural Practice** DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: Exempted Date Issued: 1925 Latest Permit: 1944 Total Permits: 557 Permit Database Earliest Permit: 1905 Total Buildings: 604 **Practice Position** Date W.C. & A.N. Miller 1914-1945 Architect, later Director **Professional Associations American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: n/a Fellow of the AIA: Other Societies or Memberships: **Awards or Commissions: Buildings** Building Types: Houses, stores, civic buildings Styles and Forms: English Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Classical Revival DC Work Locations: Cleveland Park, Wesley Heights, Spring Valley Notable Buildings Location Status Date Wesley Heights Neighborhood NW Washington 1925 NRHP DC Historic Site ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site Spring Valley Neighborhood NW Washington 1929 Wesley Heights Community 3301-05 45th Street NW ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site 1927 Club Pine Crest Manor 2323 Porter Street NW 1929 NRHP DC Historic Site NRHP DC Historic Site Grocery Store & Gas Station 4860, 4866 Mass. Avenue NW 1936 Garfinckel's, Spring Valley ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site 4820 Mass. Avenue NW 1942 Store

MacNeil, Gordon E. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

Gordon Earl MacNeil was born in Fort Reno, Oklahoma, on October 7, 1882. He moved to Washington as boy and later studied architecture at Columbian College, now George Washington University. He also studied art at the Corcoran School. He joined the W.C. and A.N. Miller Company, a leading Washington-area real estate development firm, in 1914 and later became a lead architect and a director in the company.

The first building permit that lists MacNeil as architect was issued on October 4, 1905, for a detached dwelling on Wade Road, SE. He was issued three permits in 1912, and then no others until 1923 when he was issued permits for W.C. and A.N. Miller buildings. During World War I he worked as a draftsman in the office of the Surgeon General, U.S. War Department.

The communities of Wesley Heights and Spring Valley in upper Northwest Washington are MacNeil's most enduring legacies. As a lead architect and community builder on behalf of the Miller Company during the 1920s, he designed nearly all of the dwellings and community buildings in the two neighborhoods. With these communities, the Miller Company followed nation-wide trends in twentieth-century suburban development of community building. Real estate developers designed whole neighborhoods instead of just individual dwellings. Wesley Heights was developed in 1925 and Spring Valley was developed in 1929.

Wesley Heights and Spring Valley are communities of single-family detached dwellings with large private yards on lushly landscaped streets. The neighborhoods also incorporated community centers and parks. These were exclusive residential communities planned as cohesive entities. Wesley Heights is located southwest of American University. It is bordered by Nebraska Avenue to the north, New Mexico Avenue to the east, Garfield Street to the south, and Battery-Kemble Park to the west. Spring Valley is a very affluent neighborhood with large houses and tree-lined streets. It is bounded by Massachusetts Avenue to the north, American University to the east, Nebraska Avenue and Loughboro Road to the south, and Dalecarlia Parkway to the west.

The neighborhoods comprise houses built in various revival styles, including Colonial, Dutch Colonial, Spanish Colonial, and Tudor. Most of the dwellings are two-story, five-bay, brick- or stone-faced structures with gabled roofs. MacNeil varied the materials and building styles within each block to create a harmonious community that was not homogeneous. Not all of his designs were original, however, and he sometimes used published plans as foundations for his own designs.

MacNeil also designed the Wesley Heights Community Club, located at 3301-05 45th Street, NW. The Club, constructed in 1927, was, for many years, the social and commercial center of the neighborhood. The building is English Revival in style with modest ornamentation and is typical of early-twentieth century neighborhood community centers. The building is two stories and is faced with red brick and stucco. It has multiple gables, limestone quoins, a Chippendale balcony, and three-sided commercial bay windows. It originally housed clubrooms, a grocery, a pharmacy with a small post office, and the Miller Company real estate office and was listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites in March of 1997.

In 1936, MacNeil designed the grocery store (originally Spring Valley DGS Market) and gas station (originally Esso) located at 4860 and 4866 Massachusetts Avenue. These brick buildings were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in August, 2003. His last major project was the Garfinckel's satellite department store in Spring Valley, constructed in 1942.

MacNeil lived in Hyattsville, Maryland with his brother, Donald. Gordon E. MacNeil worked for the Miller Company until his death in 1945.

MacNeil, Gordon E. Page 2 of 3



Colonial Revival-style house in Wesley Heights. From "Models of Beauty and Predictability, p. 68.



Tudor Revival-style house in Wesley Heights. *From 'Models of Beauty and Predictability, p. 68.*



Store and gas station, 4860 and 4866 Massachusetts Avenue, 1968. Emil A. Press Slide Collection, 1587A, Washington Historical Society.



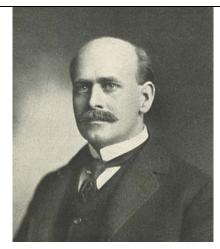
Garfinckel's Spring Valley, 4820 Massachusetts Ave, 1968. Emil A. Press Slide Collection, 1586A, Washington Historical Society.

Sources				
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	HSWDC	☐ MLK Library	
Other Repositories:				
Obituary:	Publication: Leaves of Wesley Heights	Date: April 1945	Page: 5	
Biographical Directo	ories	Year/Volume	Page	
American Architec	ts Directory – not in it			
Avery Index to Arc	chitectural Periodicals – not in it			
Dictionary of Ame	rican Biography – not in it			
Directory of Distri	ct of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	178	
Macmillan Encyclo	ppedia of Architects – not in it			
☐ Who's Who in the	Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39			
☐ Withey Biographic	al Dictionary of American Architects – not in it			
Other Sources: "Gordon E. MacNeil." Leaves of Wesley Heights 19, no 4 (April 1945): 5. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 record for Gordon Earl MacNeil. Ancestry.com Notes:				
Prepared by: EHT Tra	ceries	Last U	pdated: October 2010	

MacNeil, Gordon E. Page 3 of 3

William Johnston Marsh

Biographical Data Birth: 1864 Place: Washington, DC Death: 01/23/1926 Place: Washington, DC Family: Married Margaret Lamond (1899); two daughters Education High School: DC Public Schools College: Private Instruction in DC and Boston Graduate School: Attended Art School under E. C. Messer Apprenticeship: Hornblower and Marshall (1880-1882?)



Source: Slauson, History of the City of Washington

Architectural	Practice
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DC Architects' Registration Registra		tration Number: 29 Date Issued: 04/27/1925		04/27/1925
Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 1887	Latest Permit: 1926	Total Permits: 81	Total Buildings: 96
Practice		Position		Date
Hornblower and Mar	shall	Architect/Head Draft	sman	ca. 1884-1892
Private Practice		Architect		1893-1898
Peter and Marsh		Partner/Architect		1898-1926

Commissions:

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: 1895 Fellow of the AIA: 1895

Other Societies or Memberships: Member of the Washington Chapter of the AIA, the Washington Architectural Club, and the Cosmos Club.

Awards:

Buildings

Building Types: Residences, Commercial Buildings, Hospitals, Schools, Churches

Styles and Forms: Beaux Arts, Georgian Revival, Colonial Revival, Neo-Classical

DC Work Locations: Downtown, Georgetown, Southwest

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Evening Star Building	1101 Pennsylvania Ave., NW	1898	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
William Syphax School	1360 Half Street, SW	1901	NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site
Elizabeth G. Randall School	65 I Street, SW	1906	NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site
Strong John Thomson School	1200 L Street, NW	1910	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Takoma Branch Library	416 Cedar Street, NW	1911	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
First Church of Christ, Scientist	1770 Euclid Street, NW	1912	Designation Pending
Farmers and Mechanics Bank	3068-3072 M Street, NW	1921-22	Georgetown Historic District

Marsh, William J. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

William J. Marsh attended D.C. public schools and, subsequently, studied under private instructors in Boston and with the artist E. C. Messer in Washington. Marsh gained experience in architecture and construction at the prominent firm of Hornblower and Marshall, where he served as the head draftsman for eight years. He established a private practice in 1892, but five years later entered into a partnership with Walter C. Peter. Both architects were native to Washington and mostly likely met while working in the offices of Hornblower and Marshall.

One of the Marsh & Peters' earliest commissions, The Evening Star Building (1899) was also one of its most notable. The elegant 13-story Beaux Arts-style building was constructed of white marble and offered scenic vistas of the Capitol Building. Ornamented with decorative details, it is one of the most exuberant office buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue. The grand interior two-story vaulted lobby also featured marble walls and floors. The building was constructed for the newspaper company and served as its headquarters for nearly sixty years. Following the construction of the Evening Star Building, Marsh & Peter became one of the city's most prominent architectural firms.



Evening Star Building, 1101 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington Business Journal, June 2010

They designed a number of large residences for the city's elite including Colonial Revival-style houses for Aldis B. Browne (1908) and John S. Flannery (1915) in the Sheridan-Kalorama and Kalorama Triangle neighborhoods.

The firm was also responsible for several commercial buildings including the "banking house" of the Union Trust Company (1900, demolished) and the Farmers and Mechanics Branch of Riggs Bank (1921-1922). Marsh and Peter designed the Farmers and Mechanics Branch building to address its prominent corner location at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, NW in Georgetown. The Neo-Classical building features a dramatic gold-leafed dome and an entrance flanked by Corinthian columns, leading architectural historians Pamela Scott and Antoinette J. Lee to describe it as "one of the most effective corner buildings in the District of Columbia."



William, Syphax School, 1360 Half St., SW Tanya Edwards Beauchamp, NR Nomination, 2003

In addition to their residential and commercial work, Marsh and Peter designed a number of public, institutional, and religious buildings. They were responsible for a remodeling and expansion of Walter Reed Hospital in 1908, the Takoma Branch Library (1911), and the First Church of Christ Scientist (1913). Marsh and Peter also designed several schools in the District including the Syphax School (1901), the Edmonds School (1903), the Randall School (1906), and the Cardozo School (1907), among others. These buildings were "temples of education" that incorporated the latest advances in school design and facilities planning.

The biographical directory The History of the City of Washington summarized Marsh and Peter's successful practice: "Few firms that have been launched in

Marsh, William J. Page 2 of 3

business but ten years can turn and point out the many noble structures that have been planned, designed, and erected under their supervision as can the Messrs. Marsh & Peter, whose success has been little short of phenomenal. As compared with many competitors in this and other cities, while young in years, their work stands boldly forth, bearing all the characteristics of the combined talents of members of this most progressive firm." Marsh suffered a stroke and died at the age of 62 in 1926; however Peter continued to practice under the name of Marsh and Peter until 1932.

Sources					
Vertical Files		НРО	⊠ HSWDC	MLK Library	
Other Repositories:					
Obituary:	Publication: Evening Star		Date: 01/28/1926	Page:	
Biographical Directo	ries		Year/Volume	Page	
American Architect	ts Directory – not in it				
🛚 Avery Index to Arc	chitectural Periodicals – 1 article				
Dictionary of Amer	rican Biography – not in it				
Directory of Distric	ct of Columbia Architects: 1822-1	1960	2001	181	
☐ Macmillan Encyclo	pedia of Architects – not in it				
Who's Who in the Nation's Capital			1908-09 1923-24	313 58-59	
Withey Biographica	al Dictionary of American Archite	ects	1970	392	
Other Sources: Beauchamp, Tanya Edwards. Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Great Falls, VA.: Tanya Edwards Beauchamp Associates, 2001. Beauchamp, Tanya Edwards. William Syphax School, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2003. "Home is Nearly Finished." Washington Post, 1 November 1908, R6. "Plan Fine Buildings." Evening Star, 11 December 1902. Scott, Pamela and Antoinette J. Lee. Buildings of the District of Columbia. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. Slauson, Allan B., ed. A History of the City of Washington, Its Men and Institutions. Washington, D.C.: The Washington Post, 1903. Notes:					
Prepared by: FHT Tra	oorios		Loct II	Indated: October 2010	

Marsh, William J. Page 3 of 3

James Rush Marshall

Biographical Data				
Birth: 10/30/1851	Place: Carlisle, PA			
Death: 06/02/1927	Place: Washington, DC			
Family:				
Education				
High School: Rutgers Grammar School (1866-1868)				

Graduate School:

Architectural Practice

College: Rutgers College (left in 1870)

Apprenticeship:



Source: Library of Congress

Architectural Fractice		
DC Architects' Registration	Registration Number: 74	Date Issued: 10/15/1925

Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 1883	Latest Permit: 1920	Total Permits: 108	Total Buildings: 138
Practice		Position		Date
Supervising Architect of the Treasury		Draftsman/Architect		1871-1883
Hornblower and Marshall		Partner/Architect		1883-1923

Commissions:

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: 1892 Fellow of the AIA: 1892

Other Societies or Memberships: Member of the Cosmos Club, the Army-Navy Club, Chi Phi Fraternity, and the Chevy Chase Club. Marshall was a founding member of the Washington Chapter of the AIA and served as its President seven times between 1890 and 1910.

Awards:

Buildings

Building Types: Residences, Government Buildings, Institutional Buildings

Styles and Forms: Queen Anne, Romanesque, Georgian Revival, Colonial Revival

DC Work Locations: Dupont Circle, Sheridan-Kalorama, Downtown

Notable Buildings Location		Date	Status
Lucius Tuckerman House	1600 I Street, NW	1886	Demolished in 1967
George S. Fraser House	1701 20th Street, NW	1890	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site
William J. Boardman House	1801 P Street, NW	1890	☐ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site
Holt House (alterations)	National Zoo Grounds	1890-1901	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site
Litchfield House	2010 Massachusetts Ave., NW	1892	Demolished in 1969
Duncan Phillips House	1612 21st Street, NW	1896-1897	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site
Marine Barracks Buildings	7th and I Streets, SE	1902-1906	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site
Natural History Museum	11th St. & Constitution Ave., NW	1903-1910	☐ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site

Marshall, J. Rush

Page 1 of 3

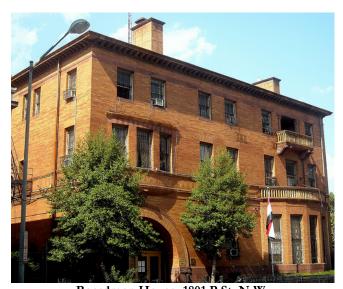
Lothrop House	2001 Connecticut Ave., NW	1908-1909	NRHP DC Historic Site
Army and Navy Club	1627 I Street, NW	1911-1912	☐ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site

Significance and Contributions

James Rush Marshall was born on October 30, 1851 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania to parents James William and Jane Stevenson Marshall. In 1862, the family moved to Leeds, England when James W. Marshall, a professor of Latin, Greek, and French, was appointed U.S. Consul. J. Rush Marshall returned to the U.S. to attend Rutgers Grammar School and then began studying architecture at Rutgers College, but left after his junior year. He spent some time traveling in Europe with his father before returning to the U.S. in 1871 to become a draftsman in the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury.

In 1883, Marshall entered into a partnership with Joseph C. Hornblower. Their firm was the most active in Washington from the mid 1880s through the first decade of the twentieth century. Edward Donn later wrote, "Hornblower and Marshall were the best architects in Washington in the nineties. They did a lot of work and it was all above average." The firm established a reputation designing houses for the social and political elite of the city. Many of Washington, D.C.'s well-known early twentieth-century architects trained under or worked for Hornblower and Marshall at some point during their careers.

Early in their partnership, Marshall focused on interior design. According to his obituary in the *Evening Star*: "The architect's [Marshall's] talents lay no less along the lines of stone, brick, steel, and mortar than of textiles, fabrics, woods, and all the materials which enter into interior decorations, His taste was as excellent as his knowledge was varied and extensive." The firm established a reputation designing houses for the social



Boardman House, 1801 P St. N.W. (Embassy of Iraq) NCinDC, July 24, 2008 http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2699732428

and political elite of the city. Prominent residences that they collaborated on include the Tuckerman House located at 1600 I Street, NW (1886, demolished), the Fraser House located at R and 20th Streets, NW (1890, demolished), the Boardman House located at 1801 P Street, NW (1893), and houses for several Supreme Court Justices. Marshall gained renown for his interior work and in 1901 he was asked to design the decorations for President William McKinley's inaugural ball in the Pension Building. As their practice flourished, Hornblower and Marshall employed several notable designers in their firm including William J. Marsh and Albert L. Harris. Indeed, many of Washington, D.C.'s best-known early twentieth-century architects worked for Hornblower and Marshall at some point during their careers.

Although the majority of their work was residential, Hornblower and Marshall were awarded two major public commissions in 1903-1904: the Custom House in Baltimore and the National Museum in Washington, D.C. These large commissions necessitated the hiring of new draftsman and several trips to Europe to study monumental public architecture. At the insistence of the Smithsonian Institution and the McMillan Commission, the National Museum (now known as the National Museum of Natural History) was executed in a grand neo-classical style and not the "French" style complete with a Mansard roof initially proposed by Hornblower and Marshall draftsman Arthur Brown. The plans were modified several times during the course of construction. Toward the completion of the National Museum on August 22, 1908, Hornblower died while studying museums in Europe. The cause of his sudden death is unknown.

Marshall, J. Rush Page 2 of 3



After his partner's death, Marshall continued to practice under the same name and to focus on residential commissions. Albert L. Harris joined Marshall as a partner in 1911 and designed many of the firm's major commissions, including the Army-Navy Club. Marshall designed a building for the United Masonic Temple with

architect Frank G. Pierson, but it was never constructed. Marshall died after a prolonged illness on June 2, 1927.

Duncan Phillips House, 1612 21st St., NW Library of Congress, HABS DC-447-1

Sources					
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	⊠ HSWDC	MLK Library		
Other Repositories:					
Obituary:	Publication: AIA Journal	Date: 1927 (Vol. 15)	Page: 266		
	Publication: Evening star	Date: 06/02/1927	Page:		
Biographical Director	ries	Year/Volume	Page		
American Architect	American Architects Directory – not in it				
Avery Index to Arc	hitectural Periodicals – 2 articles				
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☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it					
Who's Who in the 1	Nation's Capital – not in 08-09	1923-24	259		
Withey Biographica	l Dictionary of American Architects	1970	393		

Other Sources:

Bushong, William, Judith Helm Robinson, and Julie Mueller. *A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter*. Washington, DC: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987.

Eig, Emily. Lothrop Mansion National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Washington, D.C.: Traceries, 1988. "Hornblower and Marshall Documents at the Smithsonian." Smithsonian Preservation Quarterly Spring 1995.

Kohler, Sue A. and Jeffrey R. Carson. Sixteenth Street Architecture Volume 2. Washington, D.C. The Commission of Fine Arts, 1988.

Peterson, Anne E. Hornblower and Marshall: A Factual Investigation of the Individuals and the Office. Washington, D.C.: Unpublished Report, 1976.

Notes: See Joseph C. Hornblower biography for image of Lothrop House.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries Last Updated: October 2010

Marshall, J. Rush Page 3 of 3

No Photograph Available

James H. McGill

Biographical Data

Birth: 1853 Place:

Death: 05/22/1908 Place: Washington, DC

Family:

Education

High School:

College:

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:

1 C 1 1

Architectural Practice

DC Architects' Registration Reg		ration Number: n/a	Date Issued:	
Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 1872	Latest Permit: 1900	Total Permits: 41	Total Buildings: 60
Practice		Position		Date
Henry R. Seale (Seale & Clark)		Clerk/Architect		1867-1872
Private Practice		Architect		1873-1882
Private Practice		Architectural Iron Wo	rk/Building Supplier	1883-1908

Commissions:

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: n/a Fellow of the AIA:

Other Societies or Memberships:

Awards:

Buildings

Building Types: Cottages/Villas, Office and Commercial Buildings, Churches

Styles and Forms: Italian Villa, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Second Empire, and Italianate Styles

DC Work Locations: LeDroit Park, Downtown

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Northern Liberty Market	5th and K Streets, NW	1874	Demolished in 1988
LeDroit Building	800-810 F Street, NW	1875	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site
Dwellings	400 Block of U Street, NW	ca. 1875	LeDroit Park Historic District
Dwellings	500 Block of T Street, NW	ca. 1875	LeDroit Park Historic District
Birney Double House	1901-1903 T Street, NW	ca. 1875	LeDroit Park Historic District
Cooper House	201 T Street, NW	ca. 1875	LeDroit Park Historic District

McGill, James H. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

James H. McGill began his architectural career as a clerk at the firm of Henry R. Seale in 1867. In 1870, McGill and Seale were listed as partners, practicing under the name McGill and Seale. McGill apparently left the firm in 1872, but they may have continued to collaborate throughout the 1870s (according to city directories the two men both practiced as 'Architects, Civil Engineers, and Surveyors' and had offices next door to each other on the 700 block of E Street, NW) (Scott 2001, 185-186 & 254). In 1874, McGill was hired to design the Northern Liberty Market on 5th Street, NW between K and L Streets (demolished in 1988). McGill's plans employed 200 tons of steel and iron trusses manufactured by the Architectural Iron Works Company of New York to form the largest unsupported roof-span in Washington. The arched roof formed a cavernous space for the public market and was hailed as an architectural innovation.

In 1873, developers Amzi L. Barber and Andrew Langdon platted a new 55-acre subdivision called LeDroit Park in Washington County just north of

the city limits. Barber hired McGill to design houses for the "romantic suburb"—LeDroit Park was to be a bucolic retreat for wealthy whites. Between 1873



The Title Page of McGill's Catalog of Le Droit Park Houses Source: Library of Congress

and 1887, McGill designed more than 60 houses for prominent generals, professors, congressmen, businessmen and government officials in LeDroit Park. McGill advertised his work in the 1878 publication *Suburban Homes: A Collection of Sixty Cottage Designs.* The display of LeDroit park homes was intended to "serve as useful models to person



LeDroit Building, 800 F Street, N.W. EHT Traceries, 2003

contemplating building of suburban village homes." McGill's houses were handsome examples of romantic eclecticism, exhibiting elements of Italian Villa, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Second Empire, and Italianate styles (Carr, Lynch Associates). LeDroit Park presently contains 50 of the original 64 McGill houses. One block, the 400 block of U Street, NW, still retains its original McGill houses without any modern intrusions.

In addition to McGill designing their subdivision, Langdon and Barber also hired the architect to design a commercial office building in downtown. The LeDroit Building located at 800-810 F Street, NW, was constructed in 1875. The three-story Italianate building with a

McGill, James H. Page 2 of 3

raised basement of storefronts is a rare surviving example of a pre-elevator office building. The LeDroit Building features an exception façade design that reflects the civic aspirations of post-Civil War Washington. After the completion of the LeDroit Building, McGill relocated his practice to the office building.

Beginning in the 1880s, the character of Le Droit Park began to change as the remaining land was sold for rowhouse development. With demand for his cottages waning, McGill pursued a new, but related line of work as a building supply salesman. From 1882 to 1906, city directories list McGill as a purveyor of Architectural Ironwork and Building Supplies. It is possible that McGill was serving as a local subsidiary of the New York firm that had supplied the iron for the Northern Liberty Market. In this enterprise, McGill partnered briefly with James E. Clark. McGill died on May 26, 1908.

Sources		
Vertical Files	HSWDC	MLK Library
Other Repositories:		
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
American Architects Directory – not in it		
Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it		
Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
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☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it		
☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09		
☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it		
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Other Sources:		
Beauchamp, Tanya Edwards. <i>Downtown Historic District National Register</i> Washington, DC: Historic Preservation Division, Dept. of Cor		
Carr, Lynch Associates. <i>LeDroit Park Conserved</i> . Washington, DC: D.C. Development, 1979.	Department of Housin	ng and Community
Ganschinietz, Suzanne. Le <i>Droit Park National Register of Historic Places In</i> National Capital Planning Commission, 1973.	nventory Nomination Forn	w. Washington, D.C.:
Ganschinietz, Suzanne. "Le Droit Park." In Washington on Foot: A City Hodges, Editor. Washington, DC: American Institute of Plann		ation's Capital. Allan A.
Goode, James. Capital Losses. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution	n Press, 2003.	
McGill, James H. Suburban Homes: A Collection of Sixty Cottage Designs, wi DC: T. McGill & Co., 1878.	th Practical Plans Drawn	to Scale. Washington,
Notes:		
Prepared by: EHT Traceries	Last	Updated: October 2010

McGill, James H. Page 3 of 3

Thomas Milton Medford

Biographical Data

Birth: 8/9/1870 Place: Washington, D.C.

Death: 12/11/1942 Place: Washington, D.C.

Family: wife, Bessie Bomberger Medford; sons, Theodore L. Medford

and Charles M. Medford; daughter, Roma F. Medford

No Photograph Available

Education

Grammar School: Washington, D.C. (1876-84)

High School:

College:

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship: Edward Woltz, three year course and two years practice; received instruction from Glenn Brown, Special Course under Prof. E.J. Brasse, Philadelphia. Pa.

Source:

Architectural Practice

DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: 379 Date Issued: 1940?

Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 1901	Latest Permit: 1941 Total Permi	ts: 174 Total Buildings: 274
Practice		Position	Date
Private practice		Architect	1890-1917
D.C. Municipal Archi	tect's Office	Architect/ Draftsman	1917-1922
U.S. Navy Bureau of Y	Yards and Docks	Architect/ Associate Engineer/Spec writer	ifications 1922-1927
U.S. Public Buildings a Administration	and Grounds	Draftsman/ Architect	1928-1930
U.S. War Department, States Quartermaster (Mechanical Engineer/ Architect	1931-1935
Private Practice		Architect	1936-1942

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: n/a Fellow of the AIA:

Other Societies or Memberships: Washington Board of Trade, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Society of the Oldest Inhabitants of Washington, DC

Awards or Commissions:

Buildings

Building Types: School buildings, commercial buildings, residences (detached, rowhouses, and flats), apartment buildings, swimming pool, stables, warehouses

Styles and Forms: Colonial Revival, Modern Movement

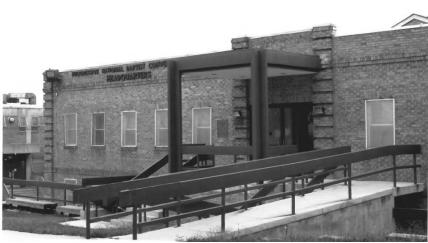
DC Work Locations: Capitol Hill, Mount Pleasant, Mount Vernon Triangle, 16th Street Heights, Bloomingdale, Chevy Chase, Glover Park, Petworth, Hillbrook, Greenway

Medford, Thomas M. Page 1 of 4

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
National Trades School for Women and Girls, Trades Hall (Nannie Helen Burroughs School)	601 50th Street, N.E.	1927-1928	☑ NHL ☑ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Rowhouses for James Martin	30-38 U Street, N.W.	1908	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Residence for Mrs. A. Anderson	1125 Fifth Street, N.E.	1914	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site
Residence for Leulla Whaley	1333 Gallatin Street, N.W.	1915	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Residences for Anton Koerber	5906 32 nd Street, N.W.	1925	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Addition to store	423 Eighth Street, S.E.	1928	Capitol Hill Historic District
Swimming Pool at McKinley High School	151 T Street, N.E.	1929	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site
Flats for Eugene H. Phifer	2224-2237 40th Street, N.W.	1935	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
People's Drug Stores, Inc.	4917-4949 Georgia Avenue, N.W.	1936	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site
Flats for Eugene H. Phifer	2300-2328 40th Street, N.W.	1936	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site
Store for J.E. Fowler	923 Fifth Street, N.W.	1936	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site
Rowhouses for Liberty Building Co.	4010-4036 7th Street, N.E.	1938	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site

Significance and Contributions

Thomas Milton Medford was a prolific Washington architect and engineer who served both the District and federal Governments for eighteen years. Native to Washington, D.C., Medford was born August 9, 1870 and attended District grammar schools. While in his youth, he was appointed one of four messengers for the 1885 inauguration of



Trades Hall of National Training School for Women and Girls 601 50th St., NE

Photo by D.K. Cannan, from National Register Nomination form, September 1989

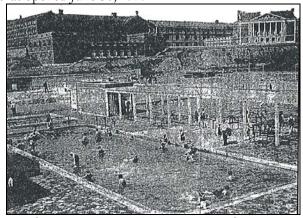
President Grover Cleveland and carried information about the line of march to the future president. Medford, in applying to register as an architect in the District, wrote that high school was not available to him. He described his architectural training as including a three-year architectural apprenticeship course under Edward Woltz and two years of office practice. He stated that he had also served an apprenticeship and worked as a journeyman carpenter. In addition he wrote that he had "received instruction" from Glenn Brown and had taken a special course with Professor E.J. Brasse in Philadelphia. Medford stated that he had been practicing architecture since 1890 and he listed

Medford, Thomas M. Page 2 of 4

dwellings he had designed in Kensington, Md. in 1900.

Medford was first listed as an architect on a District building permit in 1901. Medford designed numerous residences in Washington, D.C., including rowhouses at 30-38 U Street, N.W. (1908) and houses at 1125 Fifth Street, N.E. (1914) and 1333 Gallatin Street, N.W. (1915), before joining the District's Municipal Architect's Office in 1917 where he worked for the next five years. During this time, he continued to design residences, primarily two-story brick rowhouses along Georgia Avenue, N.W., and Spring Road, N.W., in the newly developing area of Petworth. In 1922, Medford transferred to the United States Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks where he worked as an architect and associate engineer. Then, in 1928, Medford worked two years for the United States Public Buildings and Grounds Administration.

Medford was the architect for the Trades Hall of the National Trades School for Women and Girls (Nannie Helen Burroughs School) at 601 50th Street, N.E., in northeast Washington. Constructed in 1927-28, the building served as the main classroom building at the school, replacing the original classroom building that burned in a 1926 fire. The school was founded in 1909 by Nannie Helen Burroughs (1883-1961), the African-American educator, orator, religious leader who was an advocate for African-American history and active in the Baptist Church. Offering a unique combination of academic training for African-American young women and girls, the first of its kind in the nation, the school emphasized strong scholastics with a religious background, as well as training in domestic arts and manual skills. In addition, Medford designed the swimming pool for McKinley High School in Washington, D.C., that opened June 30, 1929.



Swimming Pool at McKinley High School, Washington, D.C., 1929 "Swimming Pool Opened at McKinley High," Washington Post, June 30, 1929, pg. M2.

In 1931, Medford began work in the United States War Department's Office of the Quartermaster General where he worked as a mechanical engineer and architect for the next four years. In 1936, Medford, who had designed for some private commissions throughout his government career, went into private practice full time. The same year, Medford expanded into commercial buildings, when he designed the one-story brick People's Drug Stores, Inc. at 4917-4949 Georgia Avenue, NW., and a one-story brick store at 923 Fifth Street, N.W., for owner J.E. Fowler. In 1940, Medford applied for a seller's license to the D.C. Real Estate Commission.

Medford married Bessie Bomberger in 1927, with whom he had two sons, Theodore L. and Charles M., and a daughter, Roma F. Medford died December 11, 1942 at his Washington home at 1010 Urell Place, N.E.

Medford was a member of the Society of Oldest Inhabitants, the oldest civic organization in Washington, D.C., dedicated to preserving the District's heritage.

Sources					
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	⊠ HSWDC	MLK Library		
Other Repositories:	The Washington Post (1877-1990). Proquest Historic Newspapers.				
Obituary:	Publication: Washington Post Washington Times-Herald	Date: 12/13/1942 12/13/1942	Page: R3 unknown		
Biographical Directo	ries	Year/Volume	Page		
American Architect	ts Directory – not in it				

Medford, Thomas M. Page 3 of 4

Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it					
Dictionary of American Biography – not in it					
Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	188			
☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it					
☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39					
☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it					
Other Sources: "Architect Delivered Messages to Cleveland Fifty Years Ago." Washington Star, January 20, 1937. "Building Permits Issued Show Start of the Spring Activity." Washington Post, March 29, 1914, Pg. R3. District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Thomas M. Medford Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C. "M'Gill Terrace Home Approved By Council." Washington Post, May 13, 1928, pg. R2.					
Miller, Dr. Page Putnam. Trades Hall of National Training School for Wome National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Washington, I the Promotion of History, 1990. "Rites for T.M. Medford to be Held Here Monday." The Washington State "Ten Applicants Given Permits To Build Here." Washington Post, Febru "T.M. Medford Funeral Rites Set Tomorrow." Washington Post, Deceming the National Post of the	D.C.: National Coordina ar, December 12, 1942. ary 16, 1936, pg. R1.	<i>'</i>			
"T.M. Medford Funeral Rites Set Tomorrow." <i>Washington Post</i> , December 13, 1942, pg. R3. Notes: Medford applied to register as an architect in the District of Columbia on October 1, 1925 but his registration number, 379, indicates that it was issued much later. His registration file includes correspondence from Medford dated March 30, 1940 requesting to apply for a Senior examination for registration. His application form has penciled					

notations indicating that he was examined but does not show the date the registration was issued.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

Last Updated: October 2010

Medford, Thomas M. Page 4 of 4

John A. Melby					
Biographical Data					
Birth: 9/20/1880 Place: Toronto, Canada					
Death: 1943 Place: W	Vashington, DC	2			
Family: Married Viola Ragland in William, Paul, James, Catherine)	n 1914; six chile	dren (John, Jr., Franci	s,		
Education					
High School: South Division Hi	sh School, Chi	cago. IL			
College: Clark University, Atlan					
Graduate School: University of					
Apprenticeship:	,	, , ,			
Architectural Practice					
DC Architects' Registration	Registr	ration Number: n/a	Da	te Issued: 1	n/a
Permit Database Earliest	Permit: 1925	Latest Permit: 1939	Total Perm	its: 136	Total Buildings: 199
Practice		Position			Date
Macdonald Engineering Compa: IL	ny, Chicago,	Draftsman			1902-1906; 1915-1918
John A. Melby (Gary, IN) Architect				1918-1921	
Samuel M. Plato (Louisville, KY) Draftsman and Archi			nitect		1921-1922
John A. Melby (Washington, DC	2)	Architect			1923-1943
Professional Association	s				
American Institute of Archite	cts Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fel	low of the	AIA:
Other Societies or Membersh	ips:				
Awards or Commissions:					
Buildings					
Building Types: Dwellings, ch	ırches, gas stat	ions, stores			
Styles and Forms: Bungalow (Craftsman, Colo	onial Revival			
DC Work Locations: Capitol	View, Capitol l	Hill, Northeast			
Notable Buildings	Location		Date	Status	
Dwelling	66 53rd Place	e SE	1925	NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Dwellings	2422-2424 N	Newton Street NE	1927	□ NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Row houses	1937-1949 (Capitol Avenue NE	1928	□ NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Store	1209 13th St	reet NW	1929		IP DC Historic Site
Store & Apartment	723 & 725 8	8th Street SE	1930		IP ☑ DC Historic Site Hill Historic District

Melby, John A. Page 1 of 4

Significance and Contributions

John Alexander Melby was an African-American architect who came to Washington, D.C. in 1923. His work in the city includes numerous one-story, frame dwellings and brick row houses in the northeast quadrant, particularly in the Capitol View neighborhood and in the vicinity of Howard and Gallaudet Universities. In addition, he designed two churches, two gas stations, and several stores and small apartment buildings.

Born in Toronto, Canada on September 20, 1880, John A. Melby was the son of an American father, Perry Melby, and a Canadian mother, Catherine Elizabeth Melby. Catherine Melby died in childbirth, and Perry

Melby soon moved to Chicago, Illinois with his infant son.

From 1898-1899, John Melby attended Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia, returning to Chicago in the summers to work as a draftsman for Macdonald Engineering Company. In 1899, he became the second African American to enroll in the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 1904, he left the university before completing the architecture degree, and returned to work at Macdonald Engineering Company.

From 1906 to 1909, Melby was an instructor of Mechanical Drawing and Architecture at Tuskegee



District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004

Institute in Alabama. In April 1910, he worked as an engineer in Gary, Indiana, where he lived with his wife, Viola Ragland Melby. In 1915, he again returned to Macdonald Engineering Company in Chicago, remaining there for three years before establishing his own firm in Gary, specializing in "practical engineering, house plans, concrete block [construction], contracting, [and] estimating." (Wilson, p. 278) Melby's firm was unsuccessful, and he took jobs at U.S. Steel and the U.S. Post Office in Gary before moving to Louisville, Kentucky in 1921. In Louisville, he worked as an architect and draftsman in the office

2422-2424 Newton Street NE; 1927 District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004

of architect Samuel Plato. In 1922, Melby served as principal architect for a brick church in Louisville.

Melby began practicing architecture in Washington, D.C. on June 17, 1923. His first documented commissions in the city date to 1925, when the Capital View Realty Company hired him to design the first of more than forty dwellings in the Capitol View neighborhood. Located on either side of East Capitol Street just east of the Anacostia River, Capitol View was developed in the 1920s by African-American businessman John Whitelaw Lewis. Lewis developed the neighborhood as a residential suburb for African Americans. To construct the houses, Lewis hired both white and

African-American architects; other African-American architects who worked in Capitol View included the

Melby, John A. Page 2 of 4

Vaughn & Ferguson Company, Hestle H. Brooks, and Milton Dorsey. Most of Melby's houses stand within the DePriest Village area of Capitol View and are modest, one- or one-and-a-half-story, frame houses. Several take the form of vernacular bungalows, and feature full-width porches supported by wood columns

that rest on masonry piers.

The Capitol View Realty Company also hired Melby to design a building for the Antioch Baptist Church (later known as the Capital View Baptist Church) at 17 Division Avenue NE. Built in 1928, this frame church was demolished sometime before 1947. Melby designed two other churches in Washington. In 1929, he received a building permit for a \$16,000 edifice at 1107 (now 1105) 50th Street NE for a different Antioch Baptist Church. The building permit indicated that it was constructed of concrete block; the current church building has a brick veneer and may contain all or part of the original church building. Melby also



1209 13th Street NW; 1929
District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004

designed the Glendale Baptist Church at 4504 Gault Place NE in 1933. This frame sanctuary is no longer extant.

From 1927-1931, Melby designed several two-story, brick row houses and duplexes for John M. King, a developer and builder who worked in northeast Washington. Many of these houses are located in the vicinity of Howard and Gallaudet Universities. One notable block of surviving row houses designed by Melby is located at 1937-1949 Capitol Avenue NE, just west of Mount Olivet Cemetery. These two-bay, two-story, brick row houses display variations in the parapet rooflines and the decorative, contrasting brick work on their flat-front facades. Another notable block is located on the west side of the 1800 block of Corcoran Street NE (constructed 1928). He also designed at least one duplex in nearby Alexandria, Virginia (113 and 113A Hume Avenue).

Melby designed a few small apartment buildings and stores throughout his career, and worked for individual property owners as well as developers. In the early 1930s, Melby designed three automobile-related buildings: two gas stations and a public garage.

Melby's last building permit was issued in 1939, for a two-story, brick building with stores on the first floor and living space above. He died four years later, in 1943, at his home in Washington.



723 8th Street SE; 1930
District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004

Sources				
Vertical Files	AIA Archives	DC HPO	HSWDC	MLK Library
Other Repositories:	Washington Post searche	d through ProQuest	; District of Columbia Of	fice of Planning, Property
Quest; Ancestry.com				

Melby, John A. Page 3 of 4

Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page		
American Architects Directory – not in it				
Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it				
Dictionary of American Biography – not in it				
Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	189		
☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it				
☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it				
☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it				
Obituary Publication: Not found	Date:	Page:		
Other Sources:				
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. John Alexan	nder Melby Application fo	or Registration. District		
of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.				
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. John Alexan	ider Melby corresponden	ice with the Board.		
District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.				
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. Gary, Indiana.				
Wilson, Dreck Spurlock. African-American Architects: A Biographical Dict	ionary, 1865-1945. (Taylor	& Francis, 2004).		
Accessed through Google eBooks.				
Notes: The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project				
phase; only online records from the library were consulted.	C	• /		
Propagad by: History Matters LLC	Last Und	lated: November 2011		

Melby, John A. Page 4 of 4

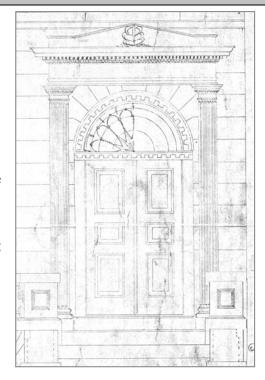
Louis D. Me	eline					
Biographical Data						
Birth: ca. 1852						
Death: 10/15/1905	Place: Washington	, DC				
Family: Married Manch	he Hosman		No	No Photograph Available		
Education						
High School:						
College: Georgetown (College					
Graduate School:						
Apprenticeship:						
Architectural Pra	ctice					
DC Architects' Regis	stration Re	gistration Number:	Date	e Issued:		
Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 18	90 Latest Permit: 1905	Total Permit	cs: 21	Total Buildings: 46	
Practice		Position			Date	
Private practice		Artist			1878-1890	
Private practice		Architect			ca. 1890-1905	
Professional Asso	ociations					
American Institute o	f Architects Da	ate(s) Enrolled:	Fello	ow of the A	AIA:	
Other Societies or M	emberships:					
Awards or Commissi	ons:					
Buildings						
Building Types: Resi	dences					
Styles and Forms: Qu	ueen Anne, Colonial	Revival, Federal Revival				
DC Work Locations:	Dupont Circle, Mas	sachusetts Avenue, Sherid	an-Karolama, C	hevy Chase	2	
Notable Buildings	Location		Date	Status		
	2208-2212	Massachusetts Ave., NW	1898-1899	Mass. A	ve. Historic District	
	2205-2207	Massachusetts Ave., NW	1902	Mass. A	ve. Historic District	
	2304 Mass	achusetts Ave., NW	1901	Mass. A	ve. Historic District	
	2324 Mass	achusetts Ave., NW	1901	Mass. A	ve. Historic District	
	2224 R Str	reet, NW	1902	Sherida	n-Kalorama Hist. Dist	

Meline, Louis D. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

Louis D. Meline was an artist turned architect. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Meline moved to Washington as a child when his father, Florant M. Meline, took a job with the U. S. Treasury Department. His brother, James F. Meline, would later serve as Assistant Treasurer of the United States. Unlike his brother, Louis Meline did not follow his father into managing the nation's finances. Instead, in 1867, he enrolled in Georgetown University to study music and drawing. Meline excelled at the fine arts, taking second place in an annual drawing class competition. Around 1878, Meline established himself as a professional artist in Washington, specializing in still life and genre works. A biographical sketch of the young artist in Historical and Commercial Sketches of Washington and Environs gushed "In Mr. Meline's work will be discovered a remarkable individuality and character that makes his work conspicuous, and which promised to place him among the leading artists of our country." In addition to painting, Meline taught art; some of his pupils reputedly included members of "leading families of the city and District."

It is unknown if Meline received any training in architecture, or if he simply relied on his abilities as an artist to design buildings. Regardless, by the turn of the twentieth century, Meline was listed as an architect in city directories. His first buildings, which he designed beginning in 1890, were rowhouses clustered around Dupont Circle. Meline often built the houses on speculation and funded their



Drawing, 2324 Massachusetts Ave., NW Louis D. Meline

construction himself. Beginning in 1898, Meline designed a number of investment properties along Massachusetts Avenue, NW including 2208-2212 (1898-1899), 2205-2207(1902), 2304 (1901), and 2324 (1905). The designs for these three-story brick rowhouses drew heavily on classical European precedents. Meline placed great emphasis on

2212 Massachusetts Avenue, NW EHT Traceries, Inc. photo

the buildings' entrances with elaborate door surrounds including ornate fanlights. In the late 1890s, Meline partnered with real estate salesman Henry Earle to promote home sales in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Meline contributed a number of plans for Chevy Chase houses which were printed in architectural trade magazines as examples of ideal suburban houses. The houses he designed in Chevy Chase included the Lieutenant Semly House at 4 Laurel Parkway (circa 1896).

In 1902, Meline designed a Colonial Revival-style house near Embassy Row as a residence for himself and his wife, Manche (nee Hosman) at 2224 R Street, NW. Built at a cost of \$16,000, the mansion was a testament to Meline's shrewd investments in the fast-growing and fashionable northwest quadrant of Washington and in Chevy Chase. Three years later, Meline fell ill and was taken to the Georgetown University Hospital where he died on or around October 15, 1905. His obituary reported that his death had been a shock to his friends in the city's prominent business and social circles. He was credited in the *Evening Star* as having done "much for the upbuilding of the northwest section of the city."

Meline, Louis D. Page 2 of 3

Sources						
Vertical Files	HSWDC	MLK Library				
Other Repositories: Georgetown University Archives	Other Repositories: Georgetown University Archives					
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page				
American Architects Directory – not in it						
Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it						
Dictionary of American Biography – not in it						
Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	189				
☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it						
☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it						
☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it						
Obituary Publication: Evening Star	Date: 10/16/1905	Page:				
Other Sources:						
Eig, Emily Hotaling and Julie Mueller, <i>Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District</i> Form. Washington, D.C.: Traceries, 1989.	National Register of Histor	ic Places Nomination				
Gilbert, Beth. "Eyesore to Asset: Reborn as a B&B." Washington Post,	, 21 April 2007.					
Historical and Commercial Sketches of Washington and Environs. Washington,	D.C.: E. E. Barton, 188-	4.				
Lampl, Elizabeth Jo and Kim Prothro Williams. <i>Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital.</i> Crownsville, MD: The Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998.						
McMahan, Virgil E. Washington, D.C. Artists Born Before 1900: A Biographical Directory. Washington, D.C., 1976.						
Notes:						
Prepared by: EHT Traceries	Last U	pdated: October 2010				

Meline, Louis D. Page 3 of 3

Mihran Mesrobian

Biographical Data						
D: .1	F /04 /4000	701	A C			

Birth: 5/24/1889 Place: Afyon Karahisar, Turkey

Death: 9/21/1975 Place: Chevy Chase, MD

Family: Married Zabelle Martmanian in 1914; Sons Nourhan

(James?), Ara, and Ralfe; granddaughter Caroline Mesrobian Hickman

Education

High School: Afion Armenian High School (1903)

College: Imperial Fine Arts School of Constantinople (1908)

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:



Source: Washington Post, 9/26/1975, C10

Architectural Practice

DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: 784 Date Issued: 8/14/1951

Permit DatabaseEarliest Permit: 1926Latest Permit: 1948Total Permits: 120Total Buildings: 508

		O
Practice	Position	Date
Wardman Construction Co.	Architect	1921-c. 1926
Wardman Construction Co.	Chief Architect	c. 1926-1930
Supervising Architect's Office, Procurement Division	Architect	1933-1939
Private Practice	Principal	1939-1956

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: n/a Fellow of the AIA:

Other Societies or Memberships:

Awards or Commissions: 1926, National Award for Excellence, AIA, for Carlton Hotel

Buildings

Building Types: Hotels, apartment buildings, garden apartments, stores, houses

Styles and Forms: Italianate, Renaissance Revival, Colonial Revival, Streamline Moderne, Art Deco, Byzantine

DC Work Locations: Woodley Park, Downtown, Dupont Circle, Cathedral Heights; Arlington, VA

Notable Buildings Location		Date	Status	
Fort Stevens Ridge	NW Washington	1922-36	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site	
Cathedral Mansions	2900, 3000, 3100 Connecticut Avenue NW	1922-25	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site	
The English Village	Woodley Park	1923-24	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site	
Carlton Hotel	923 16th Street NW	1926	Sixteenth Street Historic Dist.	
Hay-Adams Hotel	800 16th Street NW	1927	Lafayette Sq & 16 th St. Hist. Dist.	
Wardman Tower	2600 Woodley Road NW	1928	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site	

Mesrobian, Mirhan Page 1 of 4

Shoreham Office Building	806 15th Street NW	1928-29	15 th St. Financial Hist. Dist.
Dupont Circle Building	1350 Connecticut Avenue NW	1930-31	Dupont Circle Hist. Dist./ Massachusetts Ave. Hist. Dist.
Sedgwick Gardens	3726 Connecticut Avenue NW	1931-32	Cleveland Park Hist. Dist.

Significance and Contributions

Mihran Mesrobian was a prolific architect best known for the lavish residential hotels he designed in the 1920s and 30s for Harry Wardman, president of the Wardman Construction Company. Mesrobian blended conventional elements of the Colonial Revival style with design elements and materials of the Art Deco, Streamline Moderne, and Byzantine styles to create often luxurious and ornate structures that have come to represent Washington, DC.

Mesrobian was born in Afyon, Turkey to Armenian parents in 1889. At age fifteen, he took the entrance exams and was placed into the second year class at the Academie des Beaux Arts in Istanbul because of his drawing ability; he completed the five year course in four years, graduating in 1908. He took the position of Municipal Architect in Smyrna where he met Zabelle Martmanian, also from Afyon—they were married on May 23, 1914. After working in Smyrna, he served as an architect to the Ottoman Sultan Mehmed V in Istanbul until 1914 when he was drafted as a



Cathedral Mansions Ad, 1922. Washington Star April 2, 1922

Cathorhal thank

3100 Connecticut Ave., NW, Detail
NCinDC, May 30, 2008,
http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2595037331/

military engineer for the Turkish Army during World War I. After the war, increasing hostilities of the Turks toward Armenians prompted Mesrobian to immigrate to the United States—he settled in Washington in 1921. That same year, at the age of thirty-two, he began working as a draftsman for Harry Wardman, one of the city's most prolific and well known developers.

One of Mesrobian's first projects for Wardman was Cathedral Mansions, the first apartment house in

Washington, D.C., modeled after a resort hotel. Wardman and Mesrobian went on to pioneer this trend in Washington apartment housing in the 1920s and 30s. Cathedral Mansions is a complex of three large buildings (Cathedral Mansions South, Cathedral Mansions Center, and Cathedral Mansions North) constructed from 1922 to 1923, located at 2900, 3000, and 3100 Connecticut Avenue, NW—it is the largest apartment house that Wardman constructed between 1905 and 1929 and, at the time of its completion, was the largest apartment complex south of New York. The complex contained 492 apartment units in three adjacent buildings and was designed in the Colonial Revival style. The buildings are faced with red brick and feature limestone quoins; they are capped by side-gabled and hipped roofs with dormer windows.

Some of Mesrobian's other early designs for Wardman were for semidetached houses, like those in Fort Stevens Ridge. Fort Stevens Ridge was planned as a 50-acre neighborhood of six-room brick semidetached dwellings. The neighborhood is located east of Georgia Avenue at Rittenhouse Street and is roughly bounded by Peabody, Fifth, Underwood, and Ninth Streets. Wardman constructed the first section between 1922 and 1927, and it appears that the Capitol Contracting Company took over development of Fort Stevens Ridge

in 1931 after Wardman went bankrupt. Other firms were also involved in developing Fort Stevens Ridge from 1931 to 1936, including the Schneider Company, the Federal Construction Company, Taylor & Van Vranken, and most prominently, the D.C. Developing Company. Mesrobian stayed on with each firm to design rowhouses, duplexes, and

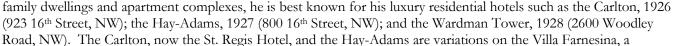
Mesrobian, Mirhan Page 2 of 4

detached houses in the neighborhood.

Mesrobian was also instrumental in designing English Village in the Cathedral neighborhood (c. 1923-24), bounded by

Woodley Road, 29th and 34th Streets, and Cleveland Avenue. The units in this neighborhood were attached in threes and unified by rooflines and facades to create the impression of one large dwelling. The buildings were designed in the "English vernacular," with irregular massing, employing mostly Colonial and Tudor Revival styles.

By 1926, Mesrobian had become the chief designer for Wardman's firm. While his original designs were for single-



architectural training.

Carlton Hotel, 16th and K Street facades, 1926.

Mesrobian Family Architectural archives, reprinted in

DCPL document

Triplex in the English Village, 2002. Washington Post, September 5, 2002. H1.

In 1928, Mesrobian completed plans for the Wardman Gardens, Harry Wardman's last big development concept. The ambitious project involved a large apartment complex of 747 units to be built on a site south of the Wardman Tower. However, financial problems resulting from the construction of the Wardman Tower made it impossible for Harry Wardman to construct the Wardman Gardens project. By 1930, Wardman was forced to declare bankruptcy and Mesrobian opened a private practice, occasionally working for Wardman until the latter's death in 1938.

Roman Renaissance palazzo and reflect Mesrobian's classical

In his private practice, Mesrobian's commissions included the Dupont Circle Building at 1350 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. (1931), a rug store

at 1214 18th Street, N.W. (1931), Sedgwick Gardens (1931-32), and several garden apartment complexes in Arlington, Virginia. The Dupont Circle Building was an apartment-hotel designed between 1930 and 1931. This wedge-shaped structure is ornamented with bas-relief and stylized friezes but is also reminiscent of modern design in its geometry and simplicity. This was a difficult project because of the triangular of the site and the need to incorporate an earlier one-story building already located on the site. The Dupont Circle Building reached the maximum zoning height at the

time and was one of the tallest buildings on Dupont Circle. The building is also significant because it marked Dupont Circle's transition from a largely residential area to one dominated by commerce and businesses.

Sedgwick Gardens, designed in 1931-32, illustrates Mesrobian's skill in combining styles-Mesrobian architectural utilized Byzantine, Medieval, and Islamic elements and united them under an Art Deco scheme. Mesrobian also designed several apartment buildings and complexes in Arlington. His first Virginia apartment project was Court House Manor (or Garden), 1233 N. Court House Road (1940), and 1301 N. Court House Road (1941, demolished 1981), followed by Wakefield Manor



Sedgwick Gardens, 3726 Connecticut Avenue, NW Goode, Best Addresses, p. 314

Mesrobian, Mirhan Page 3 of 4

(1943) and 1925-27 North Calvert Street (1948). Mesrobian's work also included Lee Gardens (now Sheffield Court on North Wayne Street) and several Arlington shopping centers.

Mesrobian officially retired in 1956 at the age of 67, but designed the Armenian Apostolic Church of St. Mary's (4125 Fessenden Street, NW) the same year. He died in 1975 of a heart attack.



Mesrobian, Wardman, and associate c. 1925 Mesrobian Family Architectural archives, reprinted in DCPL document



Dupont Circle Building 1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 1931-35. Library of Congress 12359-6D.

Sources					
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	HSWDC	MLK Library		
Other Repositories:					
Obituary:	Publication: Washington Post Washington Star-News	Date: 9/26/1975 9/25/1975	Page: C10 unknown		
Biographical Directo	ories	Year/Volume	Page		
American Architec	ts Directory – not in it				
Avery Index to Arc	chitectural Periodicals – not in it				
National Cycloped	ia of American Biography	59	53		
Directory of Distri	ct of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	190		
Macmillan Encyclo	ppedia of Architects – not in it				
☐ Who's Who in the	Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39				
☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it					
Other Sources:					
	ue. "St. Regis Hotel, Washington, DC." Preservation				
Dietsch, Deborah K. "	The Man Who Built Washington; More Than 5,0	000 Houses Show the Si	gnature Style of Harry		
	ington Post, September 5, 2002. H1.				
Goode, James M. Best Addresses. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1988.					
Mesrobian Hickman, Caroline. "Mihran Mesrobian (1889-1975): Washington Architect." Design Action 2 no. 3					
(May/June 1983): 1-4.					
Mesrobian Hickman, Caroline. A Selection of the Architectural Oeuvre of Mihran Mesrobian: Beaux-Arts Architect, Washington,					
D.C. Thesis, Tulane University, 1978.					
Notes:					
Prepared by: EHT Tra	ceries	Last U	pdated: October 2010		

Mesrobian, Mirhan Page 4 of 4

B. Frank Meyers Biographical Data Birth: 1865 Place: Nazareth, PA Death: 7/2/1940 Place: Washington, D.C. Family: Father John Granville, brother Louis H., wife Nina L.D. **Education** High School: College: Graduate School: Source: The Washington Post, 2/24/1907, p. 24. Apprenticeship: **Architectural Practice** DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: **Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1892 Latest Permit: 1931 Total Permits: 143 Total Buildings: 298 **Practice Position** Date B. Frank Meyers Principal 1892-1933 **Professional Associations American Institute of Architects** Fellow of the AIA: Date(s) Enrolled: n/a Other Societies or Memberships: **Awards or Commissions: Buildings** Building Types: Theaters, rowhouses, houses Styles and Forms: Classical Revival DC Work Locations: Downtown, Kalorama Triangle, Mount Pleasant, Dupont Circle, Park View, Capitol Hill Notable Buildings Location Date Status Rowhouses 1910-1956 Calvert Street, NW 1904 Kalorama Triangle Hist. Dist. 1961-1979 Biltmore Street, NW Rowhouses 1905 Kalorama Triangle Hist. Dist. NRHP DC Historic Site Empress Theater (demolished) 416 9th Street, NW 1910 Georgia Theater (demolished) 3318-3324 Georgia Ave., NW ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site 1912 103-107 11th Street, SE NRHP DC Historic Site Carolina Theater (demolished) 1913

Meyers, B. Frank Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

Benjamin Franklin Meyers (1865-1940), known as B. Frank Meyers, contributed many rowhouses and theaters to the Washington, D.C., area. Meyers was born in 1865 in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. He moved with his family to Washington, D.C., as a child and attended school there. He also received his architectural training in Washington, D.C., but it is not known where. His father, John Granville Meyers, was a local builder and architect.

The first building permit that lists B. Frank Meyers as architect was issued on August 1, 1892, for two dwellings located at the corner of Monroe Street and Morgan Avenue, NW. He is said to have assisted his father, John Granville Meyers, in drawing plans for the Christian Heurich House (1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW) in 1892 and the Mount Pleasant Congregational Church (demolished) at 1410 Columbia Road, NW in 1896. No other permits were issued to B. Frank Meyers until 1895, when he began designing for L.E. Breuninger, a prolific Washington-area real estate developer. Meyers designed the dwellings located at 1237-1251 Irving Street, NW for Breuninger between 1895 and 1896. In 1897, Meyers began working with his brother, Louis H. Meyers, a builder. Louis Meyers, then working with a partner named Anderson, commissioned B. Frank to design duplexes at 3553-3563 11th Street, NW.

In 1904, Meyers again worked with his brother, this time partnered with a man named Wunderly, to construct rowhouses in the Kalorama Triangle neighborhood. In 1904, Meyers designed the rowhouses at 1910-1956 Calvert Street, NW, and 1701-1715 Euclid Street, NW. He also designed the rowhouses located at 2711-2735 Ontario Road, NW, and 1721-1733 Columbia Road, NW. In 1905, he designed the dwellings at 1961-1979 Biltmore Street, NW. Altogether he designed over thirty houses in the Kalorama Triangle area.

In 1906, Meyers worked with another speculative building firm, Schmidt and Brandt, to design the rowhouses at 1502-1518 E Street, SE. He designed most of his rowhouses for speculative builders and attached or semi-detached houses for both builders and a number of individual clients.

Meyers designed only a handful of detached dwellings during his career. These buildings include the houses at 3400-

3404 Macomb Street, NW, which he designed in 1914 for the W.C. and A.N. Miller Company. These houses are large, two-and-a-half-story, single-family dwellings influenced by the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles. He also designed the rowhouses at 17-29 Rock Creek Church Road, NW, in 1916 for the Miller Company.

From 1910 to 1914, as movie theaters became popular throughout the city, Meyers embraced the design of these buildings. Between 1906 and 1913, ninety-seven movie theaters opened in Washington, D.C., of which Meyers designed at least nine. His first theater, constructed in 1910, The Empress, was located at 416 9th Street, NW (demolished). It was one story in height and embellished with classical ornament. The theater was marked by Ionic columns that flanked the entrance and supported a wide segmental pediment. Rows of bare electric lights, spaced at regular intervals, accentuated the frieze and cornice.

Empress Theatre (on right), 416 9th Street, NW. ca. 1922. Library of Congress.

Other theaters designed by Meyers, all demolished, include the Georgia Theater (1912) at 3318-3324 Georgia Avenue, NW, the Carolina Theater (1913) at 103-107 11th Street, SE, the Liberty Theater (1914) at 1419-1423 North Capitol Street, NE, the Belmont Theater (c. 1914) at 2114 14th Street, NW, the Crystal Theater (1910) at 621 7th Street, NW, and the Stanton Theater (1913) at 513 C Street, NE. He also designed a theater in 1914 for the Bloomingdale area, but it was never built.

Meyers, B. Frank Page 2 of 3



Meyers retired in 1933 due to ill health and died of a heart attack in 1940 at the age of seventy-five.

Carolina Theatre, 103-107 11th Street, SE. August 7, 1949. 1478.30, John P. Wymer Collection, Washington Historical Society.

14/8.30, John P. Wymer Col	uection, w asnington Historical Society.			
Sources				
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	HSWDC	☐ MLK Library	
Other Repositories:				
Obituary:	Publication: The Washington Star The Times-Herald	Date: 7/3/1940 7/5/1940	Page: unknown	
Biographical Directo	ories	Year/Volume	Page	
American Architec	ts Directory – not in it			
Avery Index to Arc	chitectural Periodicals – not in it			
Dictionary of Ame	rican Biography – not in it			
Directory of Distric	ct of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	191	
Macmillan Encyclo				
☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39				
☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it				
Washington, D.C. Headley, Robert K. Me	nal Register of Historic Places Nomination for K 1987. otion Picture Exhibition in Washington, D.C.: An Illus ea, 1894-1997. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Com	strated History of Parlors, Pa	•	
Prepared by: FHT Tra	ceries	l ast U	Indated: October 2010	

Meyers, B. Frank
Page 3 of 3

John Granville N	/leyers				
Biographical Data					
Birth: 9/13/1834 Place: Na	azareth, PA				
Death: 12/12/1902 Place: Wa	ashington, DC				
Family: Wife Maria A., sons B. Fr	ank and Loui	s H.			
Education					
High School:					
College:					
Graduate School:					
Apprenticeship:				Son	urce:
Architectural Practice					
DC Architects' Registration	Regista	ration Number: n/a	Date	e Issued:	
Permit Database Earliest F	Permit: 1877	Latest Permit: 1900	Total Permi	ts: 79	Total Buildings: 128
Practice		Position			Date
John G. Meyers and Bro. Carpen	ters	Carpenter			1867-1868
John G. Meyers		Carpenter & Builde	r	1869-1874	
John G. Meyers		Architect			1875-1902
Professional Associations	;				
American Institute of Architec	ts Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fello	ow of the	AIA:
Other Societies or Membership	os:				
Awards or Commissions:					
Buildings					
Building Types: Rowhouses, dw	vellings, gover	nment buildings			
Styles and Forms: Romanesque	Revival, Rich	ardsonian Romanesq	ue, Queen Anne		
DC Work Locations: Northwes	t, Dupont Cir	cle, Columbia Height	s		
Notable Buildings	Location		Date	Status	
Christian Heurich House	1307 New Hampshire Ave		1892-1894	NRH	IP \(\sum DC Historic Site
Mount Pleasant Congregational Church (demolished)			1896		IP DC Historic Site
General Hazen House (demolished)	1601 K Stre	et, NW	1881	NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Rowhouses	1908-1920 S	Sunderland Pl., NW	1883	Dupont	Circle Historic District
Commercial Building	415 7th Stree	et, NW	1883	Downto	wn Historic District

Meyers, John Granville Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions



Christian Heurich House, 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW. 1895-1905. Christie Collection, 10, Historical Society. of Washington, D.C.

John Granville Meyers was born in 1834 and was a native of Nazareth, Pennsylvania. As a young man, he worked as a stone mason and at the age of eighteen began work as a carpenter. He was also a contractor and builder in Pennsylvania before he moved to Washington, D.C. He established himself as an architect in Washington in the 1870s, where he designed a three-story office building at 1323 G Street for his practice.

The first known permit that bears Meyers's name as architect was issued in 1877 for two dwellings on 7th Street, NW.

Meyers designed many privately commissioned houses in Northwest Washington in last third of the nineteenth century, including residences for Judge C. Nott, Mr. Chris Ruppert, Mrs. E. Cullinan, Judge Lewery, Gen. Hazen (1601 K Street, NW, permit #1187, 1881), and others. Meyers designed homes in the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles, utilizing concrete, red brick, and rusticated stone.

In 1889, Meyers designed the ten three-story brick dwellings at 1803-1819 19th Street, NW, and 1843 S Street, NW, originally owned by Tyler and Rutherford.

While most of his buildings were masonry construction, Meyers designed several frame houses as well. For example, he designed a frame cottage for B.F. Martin at Brightwood Park in 1892 (demolished). The two-story dwelling with a

cellar and attic was located at 811 Jefferson Street, NW. It featured an octagonal bay with a pyramidal roof, gables, and wide verandas.

The same year, he and his son, B. Frank, designed and constructed the three-story brick dwellings at 1216-1220 New Hampshire Ave, NW, (demolished). In 1893, he independently designed and built the three-story brick dwellings at 2108-2116 Ward Place, NW (demolished).

Meyers's most recognized building is the Christian Heurich House or Mansion, also known as the Brewmaster's Castle, located at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW. Constructed from 1892-1894, the house was commissioned by Christian Heurich, a philanthropic German immigrant and owner of the Heurich Brewery. The building rises



Mount Pleasant Congregational Church, 1410 Columbia Road, NW. Images of America, p. 51.

three-and-a-half stories and was the city's first fireproof house, built of reinforced steel and poured concrete. This was



1601 K Street, NW. Residence of General Hazen. James Goode file, JG Meyers, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

a novel construction technique at the time and unheard of for residential construction. The elevations, however, were faced with brick and stone in keeping with the Richardsonian Romanesque style fashionable at the time. The dwelling features a heavy arched porte-cochere, a cylindrical corner tower with conical roof, turreted wall dormers, gargoyles, and round-arched windows. A two-story attached conservatory features a tiled mansard roof and an arcaded façade of copper. The building was listed on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites in 1964 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1969; the interiors were designated in the National Register in 2002. The Christian Heurich House was the home of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., from 1955 to 2003.

Similar in style and appearance to the Christian Heurich House was the egational Church, constructed in 1896. Meyers may have collaborated with his son, B. Frank

Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, constructed in 1896. Meyers may have collaborated with his son, B. Frank Meyers, on the design for the church. Now demolished, the building was located at 1410 Columbia Road, NW.

Meyers, John Granville Page 2 of 3

Meyers was a pioneer in the use of poured concrete for residential building. He devised and patented several processes and formulae for making "artificial stone blocks," as his obituary states. He also patented a process for building

mausoleums to facilitate sanitary interment for which he was awarded a medal by the Franklin Institute in 1890.

Between 1896 and 1898, Meyers worked as a speculative builder, designing and constructing at least fifteen dwellings in Northwest Washington.

In addition to his residential work, Meyers was a supervising architect of College Hall at the College for the Deaf and Dumb (now Gallaudet University). He also contributed to the construction of government buildings, including the State, War, and Navy Building (now the Old Executive Office Building) by Alfred Mullett next to the White House. Meyers died on December 12, 1902, of a kidney disease at the age of 68.



Rowhouses, 1900 Block Sunderland Place, N.W. EHT Traceries, Inc., 2010

Sources					
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	HSWDC	MLK Library		
Other Repositories:					
Obituary:	Publication: The Washington Post	Date: 12/14/1902	Page: 13		
Biographical Directo	ories	Year/Volume	Page		
American Architec	ts Directory – not in it				
Avery Index to Arc	chitectural Periodicals – not in it				
Dictionary of Ame	rican Biography – not in it				
Directory of Distri	ct of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	149, 191		
☐ Macmillan Encyclo					
☐ Who's Who in the	Nation's Capital – not in it				
☐ Withey Biographica	al Dictionary of American Architects – not in it				
Other Sources:					
	and Commercial Sketches of Washington and Environs.		Barton, 1884, 84.		
Cherkasky, Mara. Images of America: Mount Pleasant. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007.					
Shireman, Candace. "The Rise of Christian Heurich and His Mansion." Washington History vol 5 no 1 (1993): 4-27.					
"Thousands in New H	"Thousands in New Homes." Washington Post, October 9, 1892. 10.				
Notes:					
Prepared by: EHT Tra	ceries	Last U	pdated: October 2010		

Meyers, John Granville Page 3 of 3

Frank Pierce Milburn

Biographical Data					
Birth: 12/12/1868	Place: Bowling Green, Ky.				
Death: 9/21/1926	Place: Asheville, N.C.				
Family: Married Leonora Lyttle, two sons and one daughter					
Education					
High School: Fayetteville, Arkansas 1883-1887					
College: Arkansas Industrial University, Fayetteville, S.C. (one year)					
Graduate School:					
Apprenticeship: Worked with father, T. T. Milburn ca. 1889-1890					



Source: Vivian, A Practical Architect

Arc	hit	ectu	ıral I	Pra	acti	ce
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DC Architects' Registration Registra		ration Number: 10 Date Issued: 5/1/1925		/1/1925
Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 1909	Latest Permit: 1926	Total Permits: 64	Total Buildings: 70
Practice		Position		Date
F. P. Milburn, Kenova	a, W. Va.	Principal		1890-1893
F. P. Milburn, Winston, N.C.		Principal		1893-1896
F. P. Milburn & Company, Charlotte, N.C.		Principal		1896-1902
F. P. Milburn & Company, Columbia, S.C.		Principal		1902-1906
F. P. Milburn & Company, Washington, D.C.		Principal		1906-1909
Milburn, Heister & Co).	Partner/Architect		1909-1926

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: n/a Fellow of the AIA:

Other Societies or Memberships: Elks, Masonic Order

Awards or Commissions:

Buildings

Building Types: Railroad stations, courthouses and other public buildings (principally in early years in southern states), college buildings, office buildings, apartment houses, churches, banks, schools, residences.

Styles and Forms: Chicago School, Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival

DC Work Locations: Downtown, Upper Northwest, Capitol Hill

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Interstate Building	1319 F Street , N.W.	1912	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Real Estate Trust Building	801 14 th St., N.W. (now 1333 H St., N.W.)	1913	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site
American Federation of Labor	901 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.	1915	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site
Southern Railway Building	Pennsylvania Ave and 13th St., N.W., (southwest corner)	1916	NRHP DC Historic Site

Milburn, Frank P. Page 1 of 4

Powatan Hotel	1757 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.	1916	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Potomac Electric Power Company building	804 C St., N.W.	1923	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Lansburgh's Department Store	417 8th St., N.W.	1916, 1924	NRHP ⊠ DC Historic Site

Significance and Contributions

Frank Pierce Milburn was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 1868. He attended the Arkansas Industrial University in Fayetteville, Arkansas, for a year but his principal training was working with his father who specialized in designing and building court houses. He established his own practice in 1890, initially working principally on courthouses. First located in Kenova, W. Va., he moved his office to Winston, and then Charlotte, N.C. and then to Columbia, S.C. He expanded his practice to other public and commercial buildings and designed projects in numerous southern states. According to biographer Lawrence Wodehouse, in his first fifteen years of practice, "Milburn designed nineteen railroad stations for the Southern and other allied railway systems, twenty-six county courthouses, fifteen residences, nine college buildings, including five for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in addition to offices, churches, banks, schools, and jails." He designed additions to the South Carolina and Florida state capitols.

The Southern Railway Company, for whom Milburn had built a number of stations, offered Milburn the official position of architect for the company in 1902 which involved some work in Washington. In 1906, desiring to expand his practice, he moved his firm to Washington. He took the gifted designer who had headed his drafting department since 1903, Michael Heister, into full partnership in 1909 and the firm became Milburn, Heister & Co. Milburn's son, Thomas Yancy Milburn, who studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the firm in 1914.

Milburn's style was described by Wodehouse as "typical of nineteenth century eclectics, sometimes following the great American triumvirate of architects, Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886), Louis Sullivan (1856-1924), and Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), and at other times adopting the classical attitudes of the Neo-Classical Revival or Beaux Arts Classicism."

The major buildings of Milburn's early practice had been predominantly courthouses and other public buildings and railway stations in various southern states but after he moved to Washington, D.C, large office buildings became an important part of the practice. These included the American Federation of Labor building, the Southern Railway Building, the Potomac Electric Power Company building, the Interstate Building and the Real Estate Trust Building. The firm also designed the Washington Auditorium, the District National Bank, the Union Savings Bank, several other banks and various office buildings for government use. Many of these have been demolished but the Real Estate Trust Building, now known as 1333 H Street, N.W., the Interstate Building at 1319 F St., N.W., and the American Federation of Labor building at 901 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., are among those still standing. Other prominent buildings were the Powhatan Hotel (demolished) and the 1916 and 1924 Lansburgh's Department Store additions. The firm designed apartment buildings constructed at 2514 14th Street and 1016 16th Street, N.W., and at 307 S Street and 219 T Street, N.W., in Eckington. Milburn was a close friend of the University of North Carolina's president, Francis P. Venable, and the firm designed thirteen buildings for the Chapel Hill campus. Milburn's largest commission was to design the Bureau of Printing and other government buildings in Peking (Beijing) for thee Imperial Government.

John Clagett Proctor wrote in 1930 that Milburn's firm was said to have "designed more public buildings than perhaps any other architectural firm in America." His practice was unusual for its time both in that it was regional rather than local — he was said to have the largest practice in the South by 1900 — and in its specialization in certain types of buildings, beginning with courthouses and eventually progressing to large steel-frame office buildings.

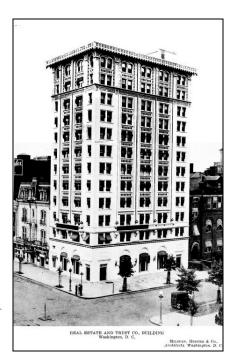
Milburn died in 1926 but Milburn's son Thomas Yancy Milburn, who had become Milburn, Heister & Co.'s president in 1925, and Heister continued to practice under the name Milburn, Heister & Co. until 1934, the last year the firm was listed in Washington city directories. The last District of Columbia building permit issued to the firm was dated May 10, 1933..

Milburn, Frank P. Page 2 of 4



Left: AFL building, 901 Massachusetts Ave., NW EHT Traceries, Inc., 2009

Right: Real Estate and Trust Co., 1401 14th St. (now 1333 H St., NW) Selections from the Latest Work of Milburn, Heister & Co., 1919



Sources			
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	⊠ HSWDC	MLK Library
Other Repositories:	North Carolina State University Library, Historical Society of Washington, D.C., and Library of Congress each have some editions of the promotional booklets Milburn and, later, Milburn, Heister & Co. published on their work.		
Obituary:	Publication: Washington Star	Date:9/21/1926	Page:
Biographical Directories		Year/Volume	Page
American Architects Directory – not in it			
☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 5 articles			
		Vol. 12	103
☑ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960		2001	101, 192
☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it			
₩ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09		1923-24	267
Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it			

Other Sources:

Bushong, William B. Update by Catherine W. Bishir. "Milburn, Frank P." North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary. Published 2009. Accessed October 2010. http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000085

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Milburn, Heister & Co. Selections from the latest work of Milburn, Heister & Co., Architects. National Publishing Co., printers, 1919. http://openlibrary.org/a/OL2423147A/Milburn_Heister_Co. Accessed April 30, 2010.

Milburn, Frank P. Page 3 of 4

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[Washington? D.C.: s.n.] http://www.archive.org/details/selectionsfromla00milb. Accessed May 17, 2010.

National Cyclopedia of American Biography, v. 12. New York: James T. White & Co., 1904. s.v. Milburn, Frank Pierce.

Proctor, John Clagett, ed. Washington Past and Present: A History. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company,
Inc., 1930, 646.

"Skilled Architects." Washington Post, 24 February 1907, p. 24.

"Some of the New Buildings and Men Interested in the "Greater Washington," *Washington Post*, 12 June 1912, L24. Vivian, Daniel J. "A Practical Architect': Frank P. Milburn and the Transformation of Architectural Practice in the New South, 1890-1925," *Winterthur Portfolio* (Spring, 2005).

Vivian, Daniel J. "Milburn, Frank Pierce (1868-1926)." In North Carolina State University Library, North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary, 2009. http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000085.

Wodehouse, Lawrence. "Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926), A Major Southern Architect." North Carolina Historical Review, vol. L, no. 3 (July 1973), 289-303.

Notes: Beginning in 1901, Milburn, published a series of booklets with designs and plans of his works, some of which are in the collections of the Library of Congress and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. Early editions were titles, "Designs from the Work of Frank P. Milburn." Later editions were published by Milburn Heister & Co. Some are undated.

The number of permits issued is only for those issued to Milburn & Heister in Milburn's lifetime. An additional six permits list the firm as architect in the years 1926-1933 before the firm was dissolved in 1934. For additional photographs of Milburn & Heister works, see biography of Michael Heister.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries Last Updated: October 2010

Milburn, Frank P. Page 4 of 4

Otho Harvey Miller

Biographical Data

Birth: 1/31/1878 Place: Bridgewater, Rockingham Co., VA

Death: 4/29/1951 Place: Washington, DC

Family: Unmarried

Education

High School: Bridgewater, VA (1892-1894)

College: Unknown.

Graduate School: International Correspondence Schools (1897-1903)

Apprenticeship: Washington Architectural Club Atelier (1910-1915)

Architectural Practice

DC Architects' Registration Registr		ration Number: 16	Date Issued:	Date Issued: 4/17/1925	
Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 1921	Latest Permit: 1929	Total Permits: 21	Total Buildings: 21	
Practice		Position		Date	
O. Harvey Miller, Sta	unton, VA	Architect		1909	
U.S. Department of the Treasury		Draftsman		1913	
U.S. Department of the Treasury		Architect		1914-1918	
O. Harvey Miller (Washington, DC & Bridgewater, VA)		Architect		1917-1951	

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: 1921-1950 Fellow of the AIA:

Other Societies or Memberships: Freemasons.

Awards or Commissions:

Buildings

Building Types: Banks, office buildings, dwellings, stores

Styles and Forms: Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival

DC Work Locations: Downtown, Capitol Hill, Shaw, Anacostia, Mt. Vernon Square

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
The Carpenters Building	1010 10th St./1001 K St. NW	1926	NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site
International Exchange Bank	477 H Street NW	1923	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site □ Downtown Historic District
American Building Association	300 Pennsylvania Avenue SE	1929	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site Capitol Hill Historic District
American News Company	1121 5th Street NW	1928	

Miller, O. Harvey Page 1 of 5

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
National Association of Letter Carriers Headquarters	100 Indiana Avenue NW	1951	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site

Significance and Contributions

Trained as a carpenter in his hometown of Bridgewater in western Virginia, Otho Harvey Miller moved to Washington, D.C. in 1910. He studied architecture through a correspondence school and with the Washington Architectural Club Atelier. He began his architectural career working for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and then established his own practice in 1917. Miller designed several dwellings and commercial buildings, but is best known for his bank buildings, and for The Carpenters Building at 10th and K Streets, NW. (National Register, 2003).

O. Harvey Miller was born on January 31, 1878, in the town of Bridgewater in Rockingham County, Virginia. The youngest of Samuel and Anna Miller's four children, as a young man, O. Harvey Miller worked as a carpenter like his father. Between 1897 and 1903, he completed a degree in architecture and engineering from the International Correspondence Schools. By 1909, he had moved to Staunton and set up his own office. The following year, he

moved to the nation's capital.

Soon after moving to Washington, Miller began studying with the Washington Architectural Club Atelier. In 1913, he took a position as a draftsman for the U.S. Department of the Treasury; the following year, he was promoted to the position of architect for the Treasury. In 1915, he completed his studies with the atelier. He worked for the Treasury Department until 1918, but at the same time, began practicing architecture independently. His earliest known buildings were located near his home in western Virginia. Between 1914 and 1917, he designed a "Colonial Residence" for R.R. Brown in Harrisonburg, Virginia (1914) and a Presbyterian church in Raphine, Virginia (1917).



3202 Ely Place SE; 1921
District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004

In 1917, Miller established an office in the McLachlen Bank Building at 1001 G Street, NW. At the same time, he maintained an architectural practice in his hometown of Bridgewater, Virginia. In 1921, he became a certified architect in Virginia, and successfully applied for membership in the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Four years later, in 1925, he was accepted as a registered architect in the District of Columbia.

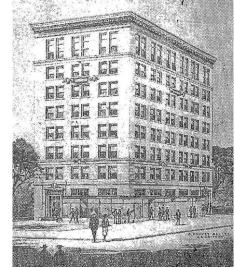
Building permit records indicate that between 1917 and 1925, Miller designed primarily dwellings and stores in the District. He completed designs for several small, vernacular dwellings for developer and builder Otho W. Hammond. The larger dwellings that Miller designed during this period generally reflect the Colonial Revival style. He designed four retail stores in Washington, D.C. during this period. Two are extant: 1133 11th Street, NW (1921) in the Shaw Historic District, and 500 13th Street SE. (1924). Both are two-story, brick commercial buildings with flat fronts and restrained architectural detailing on the upper stories. Drawings of Miller's design for the now-demolished Linger Bedding Store at 925 G Street, NW (1922) appeared in the *Washington Post* on April 9, 1922. The drawing shows more elaborate architectural embellishments on the upper stories, including three Palladian windows and intricate brick work.

Miller, O. Harvey

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In the early 1920s, Miller made a name for himself as a bank designer. He designed banks in the District of Columbia, as well as in Middleburg (Middleburg National Bank, 1925) and Strasburg, Virginia (Peoples National Bank Building, 1927). In 1923, he completed designs for the International Exchange Bank at 477 H Street, NW in the Downtown Historic District. Other notable bank buildings include the American Building Association bank building at 300 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE (1929) in the Capitol Hill Historic District, and the Franklin National Bank building at 10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

Miller was also well-known for the office building he designed in 1926 for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Located at the northwest corner of 10th and K Streets, NW, this eight-story office building – also known as the Carpenters Building – was listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. In contrast to Miller's bank buildings, which display ornate Neoclassical details, the Carpenters



The Carpenters Building, 1001 K Street NW. Designed by Miller, 1926.

Washington Post 06/27/1926, p. R5.

Building features more restrained Colonial Revival-style architectural detailing. Another design mode is evident in Miller's American News Company building at 1121 5th Street NW. Built in 1928 and located in the Mount Vernon Square Historic District, the building is distinctly industrial in character. Its exterior is dominated by large, multi-pane factory-style steel windows separated by brick pilasters.



American Building Association Bank Building, 300 Pennsylvania Avenue SE; 1929

District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004

The database for Washington, D.C. building permits indicates that no permits were issued to Miller after 1929, when he received a permit for the American Building Association bank building. However, he continued to practice architecture until his death in 1951. From 1930 to 1951, he appears to have worked primarily on government projects. In the 1930s, he worked for the U.S. Coast Guard designing the main buildings for the Washington Radio Station [now the Coast Guard Telecommunication and Information Systems Command (TISCOM)] on Telegraph Road in Fairfax County, Virginia. After Miller completed the designs and sometime prior to 1939, the Coast Guard terminated his appointment. In 1937, he was working as an associate architect for the Treasury Department; his exact dates of employment are not known. Business directories indicate that he retained his architectural office in the McLachlen building through the 1930s. The D.C. Office Buildings Survey (1991) indicates that

at the time of his death in 1951, Miller was in the process of designing a new eight-story, limestone-clad headquarters for the National Association of Letter Carriers at 100 Indiana Avenue, NW; the building remains the group's headquarters today.

Miller, O. Harvey Page 3 of 5

During the 1930s, Miller may also have done architectural work with the Allied Architects, a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Miller was one of the founding members of Allied Architects, which formed in 1925, under the leadership of Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the AIA. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design.



Headquarters of the National Association of Letter Carriers, 100 Indiana Avenue NW; 1951. District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004

The Allied Architect's most prominent commission was the design for the Longsworth House Office Building (first design submitted 1925; completed 1933). Other designs and studies pursued by the group included the never-built National Stadium on East Capitol Street; the D.C. Municipal Center; designs for a downtown Naval Hospital; the Naval Academy Memorial Gates; a D.C. National Guard Armory proposal; design and planning studies of Georgetown; alleys in D.C.; and a study for the beautification of East Capitol Street. The Allied Architects disbanded in 1949. The known members of Allied Architects were: Horace Peaslee, Louis Justement, Gilbert LaCoste Rodier, Frank Upman, Nathan C. Wyeth, Percy C. Adams, Robert F. Beresford, Fred H. Brooke, Ward Brown, Appleton P. Clark, William Deming, Jules Henri deSibour, Edward W. Donn, Jr., William Douden, W.H. Irwin Fleming, Benjamin C. Flournoy, Charles Gregg, Arthur B. Heaton, Arved L. Kundzin, Luther M. Leisenring, O.Harvey Miller, Victor Mindeleff, Thomas A. Mullett, Fred V. Murphy, Fred B. Pyle, George N. Ray, Fred J. Ritter, Delos H. Smith, Alex H. Sonneman, Francis P. Sullivan, Maj. George O. Totten, Leonidas P. Wheat, Jr., and Lt. Col. George C. Will [member information from C. Ford Peatross, ed., *Capital Drawings: Architectural Designs for Washington, D.C., from the Library of Congress* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), pp. 36-38 and fn 39].

O. Harvey Miller died on April 29, 1951, at age 73, at his home in Washington, D.C.

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"The American Building Association Building, with banking floor, Washington, D.C.," Through the ages.	1931 June, v. 9	34-37			
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☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects - not in it					

Miller, O. Harvey Page 4 of 5

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Obituary Pt	ublication: Washington Post	Date: 5/3/1951	Page: B2
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Notes: The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.			
Prepared by: History Ma	tters, LLC	Last Updated:	November 2011

Miller, O. Harvey

Page 5 of 5

Victor O. Mindeleff **Biographical Data** Birth: 06/02/1860 Place: London, England Death: 03/26/1948 Place: Southern Maryland? Family: Married Jessie Louis Randall (1883); two children **Education** High School: Emerson Institute (1874-1878) College: Graduate School: Apprenticeship: Source: Washington Post 02/11/1924 **Architectural Practice** DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: 7 Date Issued: 9/24/1925 Permit Database Earliest Permit: 1892 Latest Permit: 1932 Total Permits: 42 Total Buildings: 61 **Position Practice** Date Smithsonian Bureau of Ethnography 1885-1886 Geological Survey 1887-1891 Private Practice Architect 1892-1939 U.S. Life Saving Service Architect 1897- ca. 1920 Draftsman/Architect 1900- ca. 1906 U.S. Treasury **Professional Associations American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1920 Fellow of the AIA: 1926 Other Societies or Memberships: President of the Washington chapter of AIA (1925-1926); Member of the AIA Board Examiners; Member of the Contract Commission, the Lien Law Commission, and the Conference on Survey Bonds; Active in the Cosmos Club and the Cathedral Heights Association. **Awards or Commissions: Buildinas** Building Types: Life Saving Stations, Rowhouses, Apartment Houses, Stores, Residences Styles and Forms: Shingle Style, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival DC Work Locations: Greater U Street, Mount Pleasant, Strivers' Section **Notable Buildings** Location Date Status GW University President's Office 2003 G Street 1892 ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site Chicamacomico Life Saving Rodanthe, N.C. 1911 NRHP DC Historic Site Station NRHP DC Historic Site NRHP DC Historic Site NRHP DC Historic Site

Mindeleff, Victor O. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

Victor O. Mindeleff was born in London, England, but relocated to Washington, D.C., with his parents, Dimitri and Julia, when he was less than a year old. Mindeleff attended a four year high school program at the Emerson Institute. In 1885, he took a position with the Smithsonian Bureau of Ethnography. While at the Smithsonian, Mindeleff studied the culture of the American Southwest under famous explorer John Wesley Powell as a part of the United States Geological Survey. During his travels, Mindeleff surveyed prehistoric dwellings in New Mexico and Arizona. He later published a book, *The Study of Pueblo Architecture*, and produced models of the dwellings that are now housed at the Smithsonian Institution.



Chicamacomico Life Saving Station, Rodanthe, NC
North Carolina Dept. of Transportation, http://www.ncdot.org/programs/
enhancement/ProjectScrapbook/HistoricPreservation/

His survey of pueblo dwellings may have led Mindeleff to pursue a career in architecture after leaving the Bureau of Ethnography. He established a private practice in Washington around 1892. Mindeleff's early work consisted of rowhouses near Dupont Circle and the George Washington University campus, in the northeast quadrant of the city, and in the Petworth neighborhood. In 1897, Mindeleff was selected as an architect for the U.S. Life Saving Service (which later became the Coast Guard). He served in this capacity for approximately 20 years, apparently while still maintaining his private practice in DC. As an architect for the Life Saving Service, Mindeleff typically designed Shingle-style rescue station buildings with prominent lookout towers. Examples of his work are located Maine, North Carolina, Virginia, and Michigan. The Mindeleff-designed Chicamacomico Life-Saving

Station in Rodanthe, North Carolina, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mindeleff may have also designed other government buildings; city directories and the *American Art Annual* list him as an employee of the U.S. Treasury in the early 1900s.

Beginning in the twentieth century, Mindeleff expanded his work in DC to include flats, apartment houses, and stores. He most likely left the Coast Guard around 1920 as it underwent a reorganization and consolidation. Afterwards, he focused primarily on single-family dwellings in the District's interwar suburban neighborhoods. Designs by Mindeleff typically incorporated elements of the Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Colonial Revival Styles, resulting in eclectic buildings. In 1927, *Who's Who in the Nation's Capital* described his practice as consisting primarily of the design of detached residences with accompanying gardens, including the complete layout of country places, and community

planning adjusted to varied topography. Mindeleff credited his horticultural skill to his wife, Jessie Louis Randall, who he married in 1883.

In 1924, Mindeleff was elected as president of the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and held the position through 1926. Mindeleff was an artist as well as an architect. He painted in oils and watercolors and occasionally exhibited his work at the Washington Water Color Club, the Society of Washington Architects, and in New York galleries. After retiring from private practice, Mindeleff moved to Southern Maryland where he created lace-like brown ink drawings on cloth and tended his garden. He died on March 26, 1948.



7322 14th Street, NW
District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004.

Mindeleff, Victor O. Page 2 of 3



President's House, George Washington University 2003 G. St. N.W.

EHT Traceries, 2005

Sources					
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO	HSWDC	☐ MLK Library		
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Prepared by: EHT Traceries Last Updated: October 2010					

Mindeleff, Victor O. Page 3 of 3

Louis R. Moss **Biographical Data** Birth: 02/19/1883 Place: Wilson, N.C. Death: April 1959 Place: Alexandria, Va. Family: Wife, Wortley Montague Moss; son Howell Moss **Education** High School: Wilson, N.C., High School College: Graduate School: Apprenticeship: Ferguson and Calrow, Norfolk, Va. Source: Washington Post, 05/01/59, C2 **Architectural Practice** DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: 95 Date Issued: 10/28/1925 **Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1920 Latest Permit: 1949 Total Permits: 301 Total Buildings: 463 **Practice Position** Date Partner, architect Cutler & Moss 1921-23 1923-52 Individual practice Architect **Professional Associations** Date(s) Enrolled: n/a Fellow of the AIA: **American Institute of Architects** Other Societies or Memberships: **Awards or Commissions: Buildings** Building Types: Row houses, duplexes, apartments, detached residences, commercial arcade. Styles and Forms: Classical Revival, Colonial Revival DC Work Locations: Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, MacArthur Blvd., Hawthorne neighborhood Location Date Status **Notable Buildings** NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site Chevy Chase Arcade 5522 Connecticut Avenue 1925 3312, 3314, 3434, 3518, 3522, Cleveland Park Historic Cleveland Park houses 3526, 3530, 3534, 3538, 3542 1926-28 District Porter St., NW NRHP DC Historic Site Barnaby Woods development Northwest D.C. 1934-38 Shady Brook Development ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site Conduit Rd. (MacArthur Blvd.) 1939 ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site Yates Gardens development Alexandria, VA 1940

Moss, Louis R. Page 1 of 4

Significance and Contributions

Louis Rountree Moss was born in Wilson, N.C., on February 19, 1883, and attended both grammar school and high school there. He began studying architecture in 1905 at the International Correspondence School before starting an apprenticeship at the offices of Ferguson and Calrow in Norfolk, Va. After approximately three years with Ferguson and Calrow, Moss declined an offer to be a senior architectural draftsman for the U.S. government. The majority of his time in Norfolk was spent working in the office of John Kevan Peebles, but he did leave Peebles' office for a time to join the Board of Design for the Jamestown Exposition of 1907, where he gained valuable experience and exposure working with east coast architects of the era. These included James Ritchie of Boston and Otto Faelton (who later designed with James Gamble Rogers and taught at Yale and at the University of Pennsylvania). According to his application for registration as an architect in Washington, D.C., Moss worked in architectural offices in Norfolk from 1910 to 1917, and began practicing as an architect in October of 1913. He designed a shirt factory, an addition to the Freemason Street Baptist Church, and an addition to a bank in Norfolk in 1912, 1914, and 1915, respectively. While it is unclear during which years Moss worked for whom while in Norfolk, he worked both for Peebles and for Benjamin F. Mitchell.

Moss moved to Washington, D.C., between 1917 and 1919 and worked for J.H. Burton & Co., a timber company based in New York, designing portable housing for the United States government at the time of the First World War. He is listed as an architect in the 1920 and 1930 Federal Censuses for the District of Columbia. He practiced with Howard Cutler as Cutler & Moss in Washington, obtaining permits to build more than 20 detached houses in northeast and northwest Washington between 1921 and 1923. In a letter dated September 10, 1925, Moss told the D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars that he and his partner had won the Scottish Rite Cathedral competition in Washington, competing against "many of the local architects." Cutler & Moss did not own any of the properties for which they designed, and the firm was not issued any permits after 1923.

In 1925 Moss designed the Chevy Chase Arcade on Connecticut Avenue for developer Edward H. Jones. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, the arcade is Moss' most famous design. The building accommodates commercial space on the first floor and office space on the second, and was intended to serve as a model for further commercial development in the Chevy Chase suburb. The style of the building is Classical Revival, featuring a five-bay front elevation with Doric pilasters and a central arched opening that faces Connecticut Avenue. The front elevation also features large plate glass commercial windows. Inside the two-story arcade, store fronts on



Chevy Chase Arcade, 5522 Connecticut Ave., NW NCinDC, September 1, 2008, http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2819283486/



Interior, Chevy Chase Arcade
Chevy Chase Arcade, by M.V. Jantzen, 2007.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/mvjantzen/394474007/
license terms: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/deed.en

each side are separated by black marble pilasters that hold an ornate entablature and cornice. A barrel-vaulted ceiling extends above the clerestory of the second story. The distinctive arcade building type and the high artistic style make this building locally significant.

Moss, Louis R. Page 2 of 4

Moss designed rowhouses, duplexes, apartment buildings, and detached residences from the end of his practice with Cutler in 1923 until the 1940s. The majority of his work consisted of detached houses and rowhouses, which were mainly two story structures in colonial revival styles. These dwellings were located primarily in northwest Washington, D.C. Moss designed several houses in the Cleveland Park Historic District on Porter Street from 1926 to 1928. Between 1930 and 1934 he designed 12 detached houses for W.C. & A.N. Miller scattered in northwest D.C. on Foxhall Road, Fordham Road, Van Ness Street, McKinley Street, and 49th Street. He then designed over 60 detached homes for M.B. Swanson, and thus is responsible for the majority of the dwellings in the Hawthorne neighborhood defined by Beech Street to the south, Western Avenue to the west and north, and 32nd Street to the east. Included in his work in Washington were 25 houses in the Barnaby Woods development, north of Tennyson Street between Rock Creek Park and the Montgomery County line. His designs included frame structures, red brick, masonry, and tile, and often featured a steep front gable. Moss also designed dwellings for Shady Brook, Inc. in the 4800 block of MacArthur Boulevard in 1939.

Late in his career, Moss moved to Alexandria, Va. and appears to have moved his work there as well. In 1941 he became involved in a residential project in Alexandria known as Yates Gardens. He designed a subset of these contiguous homes that were meant to evoke the sense of Alexandria's colonial past while providing every modern luxury.

Moss married Wortley Montague of Virginia at the age of 22, and the couple had a son, Howell. Moss and his wife and son resided in Washington on 20th Street, N.W., on Eye Street, N.W., and then in Alexandria during the latter part of Moss' career. He lived and worked on Edsall Road in Alexandria, Va., and died there in 1959 at the age of 76.

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☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it				
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Othor Sourgeon				

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Moss, Louis R. Page 3 of 4

"Yates Gardens Development Opens Today; Alexandria Homes Possess Charm of Old Virginia." *Washington Post*, June 30, 1940, 3.

Notes: Permit and Building totals are a combination of listings for "Louis R. Moss" (275 permits, 437 buildings), "L.R. Moss" (4 permits, 4 buildings), and "Cutler & Moss" (22 permits, 22 buildings).

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

Last Updated: October 2010

Moss, Louis R. Page 4 of 4

Alfred Bult Mullett

Biographical Data				
Birth: 04/11/1834	Place: Taunton, Somerset Co., England			
Death: 10/20/1890	Place: Washington, DC			
Family: married Pacific	Family: married Pacific Pearl Myrick (1865)			
Education				
High School:				
College: Farmers College, Ohio				
Graduate School:				
Apprenticeship: Isaiah Rogers (Cincinnati, OH)				



Source: Historical Society of Washington, DC

Practice

1 11111 1 11111		
DC Architects' Registration Regis	tration Number: n/a Date Issued:	
Permit Database Earliest Permit: 1884	Latest Permit: 1892 Total Permits: 27	Total Buildings: 32
Practice	Position	Date
Isaiah Rogers (Cincinnati, OH)	Draftsman/Partner (ca. 1859)	1856-1861
U.S. Treasury Department	Assistant Supervisory Architect	1863-1866
U.S. Treasury Department	Supervisory Architect of the Treasury	1866-1874
A. B. Mullett & Co.	Architect	1884-1890
	<u> </u>	1

Commissions:

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: Fellow of the AIA:

Other Societies or Memberships:

Awards:

Buildings

Building Types: Government Buildings, Offices, Residences, Churches,

Styles and Forms: Second Empire, Italianate, Greek Revival

DC Work Locations: Downtown, Georgetown

Name	Location	Date	Status
State, War and Navy Building	17th Street and Penn. Ave., NW	1871-88	☑ NHL ☑ NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site
Baltimore Sun Building	1317 F Street, NW	1885-87	☐ NHL ☑ NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site
Central National Bank (add.)	7th Street and Penn. Ave., NW	1888	☐ NHL ☑ NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site
Mullett Rowhouses	2517-2525 Penn. Ave., NW	1889	☐ NHL ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site

Mullett, Alfred B. Page 1 of 4

Significance and Contributions

Born in England to parents Augustin Aish and Hannah Bult Mullett in 1834, Alfred Bult Mullett moved with his family to Glendale, now a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1845. He graduated from nearby Farmers' College and after returning to Cincinnati from travels in Europe he began his architectural career with the firm of Isaiah Rogers around 1856. Although Mullett began as a draftsman, Rogers quickly made him a partner in the business. In 1861, Mullett left the firm to organize a regiment in support of the Union war effort. Although he was appointed a lieutenant, Mullett was dismissed after the enlistment quota was met. In 1863, after competing for the position of Supervising Architect of the Treasury—Secretary Salmon P. Chase offered Isaiah Rogers appointment instead—Mullett joined the Architect of the Treasury staff. Mullett was initially hired as a clerk, a position that he felt was beneath his standing. By 1863, Rogers appointed Mullett Assistant Supervising Architect of the Treasury. During this period, all federal construction projects were supervised by the Treasury Department. Therefore, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury was charged with overseeing the design of important federal commission across the county. Rogers resigned in 1865, and Mullett was appointed as Supervising Architect, a position he would retain until 1874.

As Supervising Architect, Mullett oversaw federal construction projects worth more than \$50 million. Additionally, Mullett exercised his considerable architectural skill to personally design more than 40 buildings that would serve as prototypes for government buildings across the nation. These included the Courthouse and Post Office in Springfield, Illinois (1866-1869); the St. Louis Customhouse (1873-1884), and the San Francisco Mint (1869-1874). These buildings employed a range of styles including Second Empire with Italianate influences and Greek Revival. In Washington, Mullett received accolades for his design of the State, War, and Navy Building (now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building) at 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Erected between 1871 and 1888 at a cost of \$10 million, Mullett executed the building in a Second Empire version of the

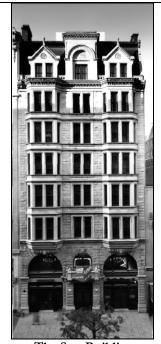


The State, War, and Navy Building - 1983 Source: Historic American Building Survey

French Renaissance style. Throughout his career as Supervising Architect, Mullett resisted the popular trend of Gothic-style buildings, which he considered too ecclesiastical for government buildings. Instead, he looked to classical styles for inspiration.

Following a dispute with Treasury Secretary Benjamin H. Bristow, and suffering from mental fatigue, Mullett resigned as Supervising Architect in 1874. He returned briefly to the Treasury Department to oversee certain projects, but clashed with his successors. He did not actively practice for a decade. No building permits list him as architect until 1884 nor was he listed in city directories as an architect. Then, around 1884, he was joined by his sons, Thomas A. and Frederick M. Mullett, and J. F. Denson, formerly of the Supervising Architect's office, in private practice. A. B. Mullett and Company made many notable contributions to the Washington cityscape including houses, offices, hospitals, and churches. The Sun building, constructed between 1885 and 1887, was one of the company's early works. Mullett designed the nine-story skyscraper with a tripartite design, one of the first tall buildings in the nation to feature this innovation. A. B. Mullett and Co. would often employ state of the art building technology in its designs. The Sun Building, built to house *Baltimore Sun* offices, is one of the earliest Washington, D.C., examples of a

Mullett, Alfred B. Page 2 of 4



The Sun Building 1317 F Street, N.W. National Register Nomination, 1982

new building form, the tall elevator building. It was of fireproof construction, with a skeleton frame and had a passenger elevator.

Mullett constructed his own residence with adjacent rowhouses at 2517-2525 Pennsylvania Avenue in 1889. However, he was unable to sell three of the dwellings, which compounded financial difficulties he incurred stemming from a longstanding dispute with the Treasury over his fees in designing the State, War and Navy Building. Mullett's wife, Pacific, was also ill. Several of Mullett's biographers contend that the architect suffered from an undiagnosed mental disorder; although the extent of his illness is unknown, it may have contributed to Mullett's taking of his own life on October 20, 1890.

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"Mr. Mullett's Bank Building: 150 Years on Pennsylvania Avenue." Streets of Washington: A Collection of Historic Images and Related Stories of Washington, D.C., Street Scenes. Posted March 18, 2010. Accessed October 26, 2010. http://streetsofwashington.blogspot.com/2010/03/mr-mulletts-bank-building-150-years-on.html

Mullett, Alfred B. Page 3 of 4

Mullett & Co. Architectural Drawing Archive. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

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Traceries. "The Sun Building." National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, prepared 1984. United States Public Buildings Service. *Executive Office Building*. Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1964.

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Washington D.C. With its Points of Interest. New York: Mercantile Illustrating Co., 1894. Historical Society of Washington DC Collection, 78.

Notes:

Mullett's role as Supervisory Architect led to feuding with the AIA, which disapproved of Mullett's repeated use of basic designs executed by unskilled draftsmen. Mullett later refused to join the AIA, calling them "a bunch of unprincipled men." See Lessoff, Alan. *The Nation and Its City: Politics, 'Corruption' and Progress in Washington, D.C., 1861-1902.* Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1994, Page 51.

The permits listed in the permit database include two permits issued after his death and are presumably the work of his firm rather than Mullett's work: an October 1891 permit for four dwellings and a June 1892 permit for two dwellings.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries Last Updated: October 2010

Mullett, Alfred B. Page 4 of 4

Frederick Vernon Murphy

Biographical Data					
Birth: 2/16/1879	Place: Fond du Lac, Wisconsin				
Death: 5/4/1958 Place: Chevy Chase, Md.					
Family: Married Marjor	rie Cannon 1936, three sons.				
Education					
High School: Chicago North Division High School, 1897					
College: Studied drawing, Chicago Art Institute, 1896-97					
Graduate School: Columbian University (now George Washington University), 1899-1901; Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, 1905-1909.					

Apprenticeship: Draftsman, Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Dept., 1899-1905.



Source: University Archives, Catholic University of America

Architectural Practice

Alcintectulari	Cticc			
DC Architects' Regis	stration Regis	tration Number: 34	Date Issued: 4	1/2/1925
Permit Database	Earliest Permit: 1912	Latest Permit: 1949	Total Permits: 102	Total Buildings: 113
Practice		Position		Date
Office of Supervising	Architect, Treasury	Architect		1909-1911
Murphy and Olmsted,	Architects	Partner/Architect		1911-1937
Frederick V. Murphy		Principal		1938-1940
Murphy & Locraft, Ar	chitects	Partner/Architect		1940-1957
Catholic University		Head of School of Ar	chitecture, professor	1911-1949

Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects Date(s) Enrolled: 1920 Fellow of the AIA: 1931

Other Societies or Memberships: Commission of Fine Arts, 1945-1950; Board of Examiners and Registrars, Washington, D.C. 1930-1945; Washington Chapter, A.I.A., president, 1937; Associate, National Academy of Design, elected 1951; Societé des Architectes Diplômés.

Awards or Commissions: Washington Architectural Club, Travelling Scholarship, 1905; Gold medal for Meritorious Design, Board of Trade, Washington, D.C., 1927; Medal of Societé des Architectes Diplômés par le gouvernement Français, 1929; Honorary LL.D. Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y., 1927; Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, 1929; Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory, awarded by Pope Pius XI, 1939.

Buildings

Building Types: Religious, educational, military, commercial

Styles and Forms: Classical and exotic revival styles, Romanesque, Collegiate Gothic

DC Work Locations: Catholic University, Northeast and Northwest Washington, D.C.

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Shrine of the Sacred Heart	16th St. and Park Road, N.W.	1922	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Mullen Memorial Library	Catholic University	1929	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site

Murphy, Frederick V. Page 1 of 4

Apostolic Delegation	3339 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.	1939	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception	4th St. and Michigan Ave, N.E.	1920	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
School of Foreign Service	Georgetown University	1958	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial	St. Avold, (Moselle) France	1958-60	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site

Significance and Contributions

Frederick Vernon Murphy was both an architect and an educator. He was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in 1879 but spent most of his early years in Chicago where he graduated from public school in 1897. He studied drawing at the Chicago Art Institute and in 1899 accepted a position as draftsman in the Office of the Supervising Architect, U.S. Treasury Department. He worked there for six years and, after being awarded the Washington Architectural Club's Travelling Scholarship in 1905, Murphy entered the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He received his diploma in 1909 and returned to the Office of the Supervising Architect. While there he designed the U.S. Barge Office in Dayton, Ohio, and several post offices.

In 1911, Murphy accepted the position of professor of Architecture at Catholic University and also entered into private practice with Walter B. Olmsted, a colleague at the Office of the Supervising Architect. For almost forty years he continued to teach while also maintaining an active private practice specializing in academic and religious buildings.

At Catholic University, Murphy was founding Head of the Department of Architecture. Under Murphy's leadership both the department and its students won numerous prizes. He retained the position as head until 1938 and continued to teach until 1950. Murphy's proposed design for the University campus was not implemented but his firm, Murphy and Olmsted, designed many of the University's buildings. Two of the firm's most notable campus buildings are the John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library and the Martin Maloney Chemical Laboratory (now Chemical Library). Other buildings on or near the campus included St. Paul's College (Paulist Fathers Novitiate); Ward Hall, the School of Liturgical Music; the 1913 dining hall and gymnasium; and St. Anselm's Abbey, 14th and D Streets, N.W.

Murphy and Olmsted designed numerous churches constructed in the Washington, D.C., area including the Sacred Heart Church, a District of Columbia Historic Site. According to Murphy's son, John C. Murphy, the Sacred Heart Church was Murphy's favorite project and he quoted his father's description of it: "The triumphal arch, visible immediately upon passing through the portico, into the interior, enclosing the sanctuary, recalls in scale and grandeur many churches of the early days of Christianity in the City of Rome itself." The Byzantine elements designed to evoke the early days of Church are also found in other churches designed by Murphy and Olmsted. The interior finish of exposed concrete aggregate, created John J. Early, was first used in this church and Early credited his subsequent success to this project. Murphy's churches in other cities include the St. Francis De Sales Church in Buffalo, N.Y., (a Buffalo landmark), Holy Family in Dayton, Ohio, St. Mary's Church in Mobile, Alabama, and the St. Charles College chapel in Catonsville, Md. Murphy was associate architect on the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Murphy also worked with Allied Architects, Inc., an organization of architects formed during the Depression to work on federal buildings. In that capacity he was involved in the design of the Cannon House Office Building. President Harry Truman appointed Murphy to the Commission of Fine Arts and he served from 1945 to 1950.

All D.C. building permits issued for Murphy's projects were issued in the name of his firm, Murphy and Olmsted or his subsequent firm, Murphy & Locraft, with the exception of about a dozen buildings in the period , 1937-1940, when his first partnership came to a close because of Olmsted's illness and death. The Apostolic Delegation (now the Papal Delegation) at 3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., is an example of Murphy's work in this interim period. After Olmsted's death Murphy formed a partnership with his former student, Thomas H. Locraft, who later also succeeded Murphy as head of he Department of Architecture at Catholic University. They worked together on Murphy's final major work, the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in St. Avold (Moselle), France. Other commissions included the School of Foreign Service and the Reiss Science Building at Georgetown University, the Schools of Nursing Education and of Social Service at Catholic University, and the John Carroll and Holy Cross High Schools.

Murphy, Frederick V. Page 2 of 4





Sacred Heart Church, ca. 1925-1935 Murphy and Olmsted

John K. Mullen of Denver Library Catholic University of America, ca. 1930 Library of Congress, LC-H824- 1317

Historical Society of Washington, D.C., BR 201

Sources					
Vertical Files	X AIA Archives	DC HPO	⊠ HSWDC	MLK Library	
Other Repositories:		•	nd University Archives, C and Photographs Division	-	
Obituary: Publication: Washington Post Washington Star			Date: May 5, 1958 May 5, 1958	Page: B2	
Biographical Directo	ries	Year/Volume	Page		
American Architects Directory			1956	396	
Avery Index to Arc	hitectural Periodicals – 8				
Dictionary of American Biography – not in it					
Directory of Distric	ct of Columbia Architects	: 1822-1960	2001	204	
Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it					
☑ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 23-24			1938-39	623	
Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it					
Other Sources:					

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Bushong, William, Judith Helm Robinson, and Julie Mueller. A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter. Washington, DC: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987.

Murphy, John C. "Frederick V. Murphy: the Catholic Architect as Eclectic Designer and University Professor." U.S. Catholic Historian, Vol. 15, No. 1 (Winter 1997), 91-104.

Murphy, John C. and Michael V. Murphy. "A Preliminary Listing of the Work of the Following Architectural Firms..." (Draft). American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives, Catholic University of America

Murphy, Michael V. and John C. Murphy. "The Architecture of the Vatican Embassy Building Washington, D.C." U.S. Catholic Historian 12, No. 2, (Spring, 1994), pp. 131-138.

Notes: See also entry for Walter B. Olmsted.

Murphy, Frederick V. Page 3 of 4

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

Last Updated: October 2010

Murphy, Frederick V. Page 4 of 4

Claude Nelson N	lorton					
Biographical Data						
Birth: 11/29/1889 Place: Washington, D.C.						
Death: 4/19/1957 Place: Hy	yattsville, Md.					
Family: Married Marie L., 1911; c (Buranich); 2 nd wife, Inez R Swee			n			
Education						
High School: Public schools, Wa	shington, D.C	., 1897-1905				
College: George Washington Uni	versity, 1907					
Graduate School:						
Apprenticeship: Wyeth & Cresso B. Stanley Simmons, 1/4" scale p		drawing and detailing	ς;		Son	urce:
Architectural Practice						
DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: 132						/1/1925, Lapsed 1933, denied 1950-1956
Permit Database Earliest 1	Permit: 1917	Latest Permit: 1946	,	Total Permits	s: 224	Total Buildings: 418
Practice		Position				Date
Clarke Waggaman		Design construction	n and	nd supervision (no date given)		
W. Granville Guss, civil engineer		Draftsman, superint	tende			
Donn & Deming		Draftsman, supervis	sion,	, Palmerton, Pa. (no date given)		
Frederick Pyle		Design/drawing for	: City	y Club compe	etition	(no date given)
Individual practice		Principal		1917-1928, 1939 _. 1948		1917-1928, 1939, 1948
Warren Shoemaker		Architect				1951-1956
Professional Associations	;					
American Institute of Architec	ts Date(s) Enrolled: n/a		Fello	w of the	AIA:
Other Societies or Membershi	ps:					
Awards or Commissions:						
Buildings						
Building Types: Detached dwel	lings, row hou	ises, apartment house	es.			
Styles and Forms: Colonial revi	val, classical re	evival, Craftsman, Art	Мо	derne		
DC Work Locations: Kalorama	Triangle, Catl	hedral Heights, Georg	getov	wn, Forest Hi	ills, Dupo	nt Circle, Edgewood.
Notable Buildings	Location		Da	ate	Status	
Residence		801 34th Place, N.W.			□ NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Residences	3001, 3005, Albemarle S	THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O			IP DC Historic Site	
Apartment house	2010 Kalora	ıma Road, N.W.			☐ NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Garage	2329 Champ	olain St. N.W			☐ NRH	IP DC Historic Site

Norton, Claude N. Page 1 of 4

Rowhouses	3211-3235, and 3216-3236 Walbridge Place, N.W.	1932	Mount Pleasant Historic Dist.
Apartment House	5301 New Hampshire Ave. NW	1939	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site

Significance and Contributions

Claude Nelson Norton was born and raised in Washington, D.C. He attended local public schools and studied architecture for one year at George Washington University. He then apprenticed for three years, 1907-1910, at the architectural firm, Wyeth & Cresson (Nathan C. Wyeth and William Penn Cresson). Over the next seven years, before establishing his own practice in August 1917, Norton worked briefly for a number of noted Washington, D.C., architects including B. Stanley Simmons, Clarke Waggaman and Donn & Deming. When listing these architects on his 1925 application to register as an architect in the District of Columbia, Norton said that he could not recall the dates he worked for them. From his description of his work for each of these architects it appears that he may have been hired for specific assignments. Although Norton began practicing on his own in 1917, this may not have been full time. In the 1920 census he was described as a draftsman working for wages in an architectural firm.

Throughout his career, almost all the buildings Norton designed were residential. His work includes detached and semi-detached houses, row houses and apartment buildings. His name first appears on permits in 1917 and many of his early dwellings are wood frame colonial revival style detached or semi-detached dwellings in suburban areas of northwest Washington. He also designed some modest brick rowhouses which featured Colonial revival details. Norton designed his first apartment house in 1921. The Colonial revival style two-story red brick apartment house at 1715 Swann Street, N.W., (1922) is an early example of Norton's apartment design. It was built for the real estate firm Boss & Phelps which commissioned Norton to design several apartment houses and numerous single family dwellings in the early 1920s. Most of Norton's designs were for speculatively built housing. In 1923 Norton designed several large groups of modest rowhouses in northeast Washington for developer Morris Cafritz including 2400-2438 2nd Street in the Edgewood neighborhood.

In the mid 1920s, when housing construction was booming in Washington, D.C., and nationally, many of Norton's commissions were for substantial detached houses in some of the city's more expensive neighborhoods including Cathedral Heights and Forest Hills. The estimated cost of these dwellings ranged as high as \$25,000. Designed for a number of different speculative builders, they were predominantly in the popular Colonial Revival style.

In the mid-1920s, Norton also designed several mid-rise apartment houses such as the Colonial Revival style building at 2010 Kalorama Road, N.W. (1924). In the same year he designed a large stone, brick and concrete garage at 2329 Chaplain Street, built at an estimated cost of \$70,000, which was one of the buildings he listed as an example of

2010 Kalorama Road, N.W., 1924

Washington Post, February 3, 1924, R4

his work at the time he registered as an

architect in 1925. Up through 1930 a large proportion of Norton's work was individually designed dwellings for a middle and upper middle class market.

Norton did not list himself as an architect in city directories in the years 1929 through 1938. It is probable that during some of that time he was in the employ of one or another developer. In the early 1930s he worked in some capacity for the Shapiro Construction Company and its affiliated company, Harvard Terrace Development Corporation, on a large development project in Mount Pleasant developing squares along Harvard, Hobart, Irving and Lamont



2801 34th Place, N.W. DC Property Quest, 2004

Norton, Claude N. Page 2 of 4

Streets and Walbridge Place. George T. Santmyers, Joseph Abel and Norton each designed sections of the project. Norton designed forty dwellings for the development, primarily on Walbridge Terrace with some dwellings on Lamont and Irving Streets. He published a signed promotional article on the development's exhibit house before the ones he designed had been built. The houses, priced between \$8,000 and \$10,000, were advertised as bargains in economically difficult times and were targeted to a comfortably-off clientele. Norton wrote that the living room was large enough for a piano and the dining room provided room enough for a maid to serve quickly. The basement boasted a large paneled ballroom with flooring suitable for dancing (sometimes referred to in later advertisements as a recreation room). The Shapiro firm claimed that it was the first in Washington, D.C., to make such use of basement space. The ballrooms designed by Norton were described as miniature nightclubs with built-in bar. Although the Walbridge Place rows designed by Norton were advertised as "colonial" they are eclectic in style both inside and out with Craftsman and Tudor elements on the exterior. The living room had either a "Georgian or Tudor type" corner fireplace (to leave more wall space for furniture) and a "Gothic" entrance into the dining room. Modern conveniences included mirrored "Hollywood" bathrooms and a built-in two-car heated garage. The permits were issued in 1932 and the construction was completed in 1933.

In subsequent years, Norton's work output, as measured by D.C. permits, dwindled to almost nothing. In 1933 four permits were issued for single family dwellings he designed for builder Alfred T. Newbold for whom he had designed quite a few dwellings in the 1920s. Between 1934 and 1938 he is named on only three permits. In 1939 he designed one apartment building which, stylistically, is very different from his previous work. The three-story, 43-unit building at 5301 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., has Art Moderne features including an entrance flanked by glass blocks. His next and final work in the D.C. permit



5301 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. DCPropertyQuest, 2004

database (except for a 1946 permit for three dwellings that were not built) was an apartment building at 4520 MacArthur Boulevard, N.W., minimally ornamented in the Art Moderne style.

Norton's personal life lacked stability and his personal problems contributed to the decline of his practice. In the years that he was listed in city directories as an architect (1918-1928) his business address changed almost every year. In 1927 his wife, mother of three of his children, formally charged him with desertion and neglect. Three years later the 1930 census shows him living with his second wife and their 7-year-old son and they claimed to have been married eight years. In 1933, Norton allowed his architect's registration to lapse. He developed a serious drinking problem and police reports submitted to the Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects showed that between 1938 and 1950 he was charged with drunkenness 27 times.

In 1950 Norton's second wife died and in that same year Norton sought to have his registration reinstated. However, the Board had been notified by a client that Norton had fraudulently assured her that his plans for remodeling a rental property had been approved by the city's building inspectors when in fact he had erased the changes the inspector had made to the plan. Norton arrived drunk at his subsequent interview with the Board. Over the next six years Norton unsuccessfully challenged the Board's refusal to reinstate his registration. Architect Warren Shoemaker took pity on Norton and hired him at a small salary. Norton greatly reduced his drinking but failed to show up when the Board agreed to reconsider his case in 1954. Finally, in 1956, the Board definitively refused to restore his registration. Norton died the next year.

Sources						
Vertical Files	☐ AIA Archives	DC HPO	HSWDC	☐ MLK Library		
Other Repositories:	Ancestry.com; Washington Post searched through Proquest.					

Norton, Claude N. Page 3 of 4

Obituary:	Publication: Washington Post	Date: 4/21/1957	Page: A14		
Biographical Direct	tories	Year/Volume	Page		
American Archite	ects Directory – not in it				
Avery Index to A	rchitectural Periodicals – not in it				
Dictionary of Am	erican Biography – not in it				
Directory of Distr	rict of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	211		
Macmillan Encycl	lopedia of Architects – not in it				
☐ Who's Who in the	e Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39				
☐ Withey Biographi	cal Dictionary of American Architects – not in it				
Other Sources: District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Claude N. Norton Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C. Norton, Claude N. "Architect Decides Numerous Details." Washington Post, June 12, 1932, R1 "Park Terrace Homes Opened for Inspection." Washington Post, January 28, 1934, R1. Shapiro, J.B. "Homes Projected for Park Terrace." Washington Post, March 26, 1933. Shapiro, J.B. "New Method Used in Selling Homes." Washington Post, June 19, 1932, R4 U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1920, 1930, District of Columbia.					
Notes:					
Prepared by: EHT Tr	aceries	Last U	Jpdated: October 2010		

Norton, Claude N. Page 4 of 4

Walter B. Olmst	ed				
Biographical Data					
Birth: 12/21/1871 Place: Spring Mills, N.Y.					33
Death: 12/9/1937 Place: W	ashington, D.0	C.			
Family: wife, Margaret J., one day	ıghter			200	
Education				A.	- T
High School:					
College: Alfred College, New Yor	rk, 1885-1889			10	-AR
Graduate School:					
Apprenticeship:			Source: W	ashington St	ar, 11 December, 1937
Architectural Practice					
DC Architects' Registration Registration Number: 109 Date Issued: 1/13/1926					/13/1926
Permit Database Earliest I	Permit: 1908	Latest Permit: 1937	Total Permit	s: 80	Total Buildings: 82
Practice		Position			Date
Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Dept.		Draftsman		Ca. 1889?-1911	
Murphy and Olmsted		Partner, architect			1911-1937
Professional Associations					
American Institute of Architec	ts Date(s) Enrolled: 1920	Fello	ow of the A	AIA:
Other Societies or Membership	ps: Washingto	on Architectural Club			
Awards or Commissions:					
Buildings					
Building Types: Religious, educ	ational, milita	ry, commercial			
Styles and Forms: Classical and	exotic revival	styles, Romanesque,	Collegiate Gothic	2	
DC Work Locations: Catholic U	Iniversity, No	rtheast, Northwest			
Notable Buildings	Location		Date	Status	
Bureau of Engraving and Printing	14th and C Streets, S.W.		1914	☐ NRHP ☑ DC Historic Site	
St. Peter's School	Baltimore, N	Md.	1917	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site	
Sacred Heart Church	16 th St. and Park Road, N.W.			□NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Martin Maloney Chemical Laboratory(now Library)	Catholic Un	iversity of America	1913	□NRH	IP DC Historic Site
Velati Mausoleum	Rock Creek	Cemetery	1916	□NRH	IP DC Historic Site

Olmsted, Walter B. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

Walter B. Olmsted was born in Spring Mills, New York. He attended Alfred College in New York state from 1885 to 1889 but did not graduate. As a young man he worked in the Office of the Supervising Architect in the Department of the Treasury. There he met Frederick V. Murphy with whom he shared a drafting table.

In December 1911 Murphy and Olmsted formed a partnership and went into private practice under the name Murphy and Olmsted. They practiced together until Olmsted's death, after a long illness, in December 1937. Virtually all building permits were signed in the name of the partnership and thus most of the firm's work cannot be specifically credited to either partner. However, when Olmsted registered as an architect in the District of Columbia, he listed four projects which he had designed and supervised. These were the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (1914); St. Peter's School, St.

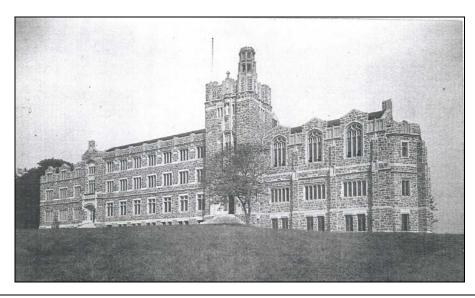


Bureau of Engraving and Printing, ca. 1914-1818. Library of Congress, LC-DIG-hec-08258v

Peter's Parish, Baltimore (1917), the Velati Mausoleum in Rock Creek Cemetery (1916); and the Charles J. Cassidy residence on Michigan Ave., N.E. (1915).

Olmsted's partner Frederick V. Murphy was the founding head of Department of Architecture at the Catholic University of America. Murphy and Olmsted designed many of the University's buildings. Two of the firm's most notable campus buildings are the John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library and the Martin Maloney Chemical Laboratory (now Chemical Library). Other buildings on or near the campus included St. Paul's College (Paulist Fathers Novitiate); Ward Hall, the School of Liturgical Music; the 1913 dining hall and gymnasium; and St. Anselm's Abbey, 14th and D Streets, N:.W.

Murphy and Olmsted designed numerous churches constructed in the Washington, D.C., area including the Sacred Heart Church which is a District of Columbia Historic Site. The firm's churches in other cities include the St. Francis De Sales Church in Buffalo, N.Y. (a Buffalo landmark), Holy Family in Dayton, Ohio, St. Mary's Church in Mobile, Alabama, and the St. Charles College chapel in Catonsville, Md.



Martin Maloney Chemical Laboratory (now Library) Catholic University of America Washington, D.C., ca. 1930-1934 Historical Society of Washington, D.C., CHS 09875B

Olmsted, Walter B. Page 2 of 3

Sources						
Vertical Files		DC HPO	⊠ HSWDC	MLK Library		
Other Repositories:	American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives, Catholic University of America, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress					
Obituary:	Publication: Washington Post Washington Star Washington Star	•	Date: 12/11/1937 12/10/1937 12/11/1937	Page: 25		
Biographical Directo	ries		Year/Volume	Page		
American Architect	s Directory – not in 1956 ve	ersion				
Avery Index to Arc	hitectural Periodicals – 7 arti	icles				
Dictionary of Amer	rican Biography – not in it					
Directory of Distric	et of Columbia Architects: 18	822-1960	2001	213, 204		
Macmillan Encyclo	pedia of Architects – not in i	it				
☐ Who's Who in the	Nation's Capital – not in 08-09	9, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39				
☐ Withey Biographica	l Dictionary of American Ar	rchitects – not in it				
Other Sources: District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Walter B. Olmsted Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C. Murphy, John C. "Frederick V. Murphy: the Catholic Architect as Eclectic Designer and University Professor." U.S. Catholic Historian, Vol. 15, No. 1 (Winter 1997), 91-104. Murphy, John C. and Michael V. Murphy. "A Preliminary Listing of the Work of the Following Architectural Firms" (Draft). American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives, Catholic University of America Notes: See also entry for Frederick V. Murphy.						
Prepared by: EHT Trac	ceries		Last U	pdated: October 2010		

Olmsted, Walter B. Page 3 of 3