


DC Builders & Developers Directory

| Edgar Sumter Kennedy | | | |  <i>Source: "Best Addresses," 179.</i> |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Biographical Data | | | | |
| Birth: 12/13/1864 | | Place: Elmwood, Virginia | | |
| Death: 8/21/1953 | | Place: Washington, D.C. | | |
| Family: wives, Alice & Evelyn; daughter, Mary Powell; brother, William Munsey | | | | |
| Education | | | | |
| High School: unknown | | | | |
| College: n/a | | | | |
| Graduate School: n/a | | | | |
| Career | | | | |
| Permit Database (through 1958) | | | | |
| As Builder | | Earliest Permit: 1889 | Latest Permit: 1944 | Total Permits: 98 Total Buildings: 423 |
| As Owner | | Earliest Permit: | Latest Permit: | Total Permits: Total Buildings: |
| *Note: In many instances, the subject is both the builder and owner. The permit counts also include permits issued to the individual and any company with which he was affiliated. | | | | |
| *As a part of nineteenth century building regulations, building permits were required for the first time in 1872 and were often not archived until 1877. | | | | |
| Practice | | Position | | Date |
| Kennedy & Davis Co. | | President, Founder | | 1892–1910 |
| Kennedy Bros. Co. | | President | | 1908–1925 |
| Kennedy-Warren, Inc. | | Co-Founder | | 1930–1931 |
| Kennedy-Chamberlin Development Co. | | President | | 1953–1955 |
| Professional Associations | | | | |
| Societies or Memberships: Kenwood County Club, Columbia Country Club | | | | |
| Buildings | | | | |
| Building Types: Apartments, Hotels, Row-houses, Suburban dwellings | | | | |
| Styles and Forms: Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival | | | | |
| DC Work Locations: Northwest: Capitol Hill, Columbia Heights, Dupont Circle, Kalorama, Mt. Pleasant, Washington Heights, Woodley Park. Southwest: Anacostia. Maryland: Kenwood. | | | | |
| Notable Buildings | | Location | Date | Status |
| Meridian Mansions/Hotel 2400/Envoy | | 2400 16 th Street NW | 1916 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site |
| Kennedy-Warren Apartments | | 3133 Connecticut Ave NW | 1931 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site |
| Westmoreland | | 2122 California Street NW | 1905 | Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District |

DC Builders & Developers Directory

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------|-------------------------------------|
| Alden, Babcock & Calvert Apartments | 2618, 2620, 2622 13 th Street NW | 1904 | Alden, Babcock & Calvert Apartments |
| Row-houses | 1740–1752 S Street NW | 1892 | Dupont Circle Historic District |
| Row-houses | 308–314 7 th Street NE | 1892 | Capitol Hill Historic District |

Significance and Contributions

Edgar Kennedy was an architect and prominent builder of row-houses and elaborate apartment buildings in the early twentieth-century. By 1930, he was considered by the *Evening Star* to be one of the leaders in Washington D.C.'s construction industry. His name is associated in the development of Washington, D.C. alongside those of Harry Wardman, Monroe & R. Bates Warren and Morris Cafritz (see directory entries).

Edgar Sumter Kennedy was born on December 13, 1864, to parents James Fontaine Hume Kennedy and Ellen Smith in Elmwood, Virginia. As the middle-child of seven children, little is known about Kennedy's youth in rural Virginia. According to his obituary, Kennedy moved to Washington, D.C. to pursue construction of row-houses in 1884. An "Edgar K Kennedy" and an "Edgar A Kennedy" appear in separate years of the city directory under occupations of painter and grainer—but it is not until 1892 when the name "Edgar S Kennedy" is listed as a D.C. resident.

Before Kennedy's name appears in the city directory, he is developing row-houses in Northeast, as early as 1887. By 1892 he is partnered with architect Isaac N. Davis, advertising builder and real estate services of Kennedy & Davis Co. at 112 Mass Avenue NE. Kennedy & Davis specialized in two and three-story row-houses in Northwest and Northeast Washington, D.C. The duo operated as the architect and builder of their projects, with Kennedy serving as the main designer. By 1905, the company more commonly commissioned architects to design their projects. Well-known architect Alexander H. Sonnemann was used most frequently. A number of Kennedy & Davis projects include: 1740–1752 S Street NW (1892); 308–314 7th Street NE (1892); 1808–1842 Lamont Street NW (1910). 1905 also marked the year Davis passed away and Kennedy made his brother William vice-president of the firm. The two continued Kennedy & Davis Co. until 1910, when their newly formed firm Kennedy Brothers Co. built a strong enough reputation to succeed on its own.

Some of the earliest row-houses completed by the Kennedy Brothers include: 2614–2622 Woodley Place NW (1908); 401–415 6th Street NE (1910); 1801–1811 Irving Street NW (1914). Almost exclusively, the Kennedy Brothers employed architect Sonnemann. Washington-area historian, Kent Boese reported in a paper written for the 36th Annual Conference on Washington D.C. that Kennedy and Sonnemann most likely collaborated on every project, resulting in the architect's permanent relocation to the office of Kennedy Brothers Co. at 1336 H Street NW in 1913.

Growing in demand all across the city was the need for apartment buildings. Kennedy, having completed his first apartment building in 1901 at 106 Massachusetts Avenue NE (nonextant), began to



Row-houses 214–220 Woodley Place, NW. Builder, Kennedy Brothers Co. Architect, A. H. Sonnemann, 1908. Photo by EHT Tracerries, September 2012.

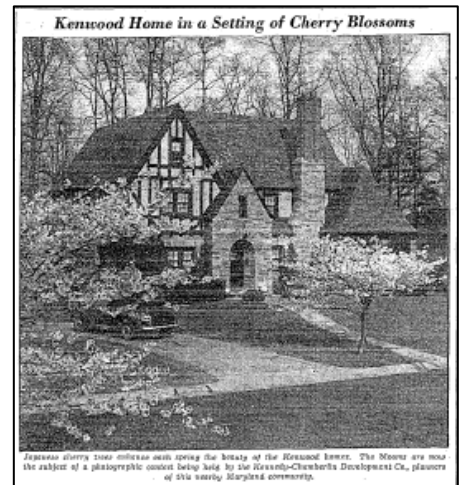


Image of 2400 16th Street, NW. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs, 1947.

more frequently construct five, six and even eight-story apartments houses. With an eye for aesthetic concerns, many of Kennedy's apartments were garden apartments featuring courtyards. In fact, a 1911 *Washington Post* article ran a story on landscape gardening being a significant feature to the Kennedy Brothers' business. Some examples of Kennedy's apartments constructed at this time include: 3220 17th Street NW (1913), 2400 16th Street NW (1916) and 2901 Connecticut Avenue NW (1923). Unfortunately for the partnership, William, serving as the secretary and treasurer of the firm died on June 17, 1927.

Once again left without a partner to run a business, Kennedy teamed with successful developer Monroe Warren (1895–1983, see directory entry) on the Kennedy-Warren Apartment Building at 3133 Connecticut Avenue, NW in 1930. The Kennedy-Warren, completed in 1931 (addition in 1935), stands among the most significant luxury apartment buildings constructed in the Art Deco style in Washington, D.C., and arguably the first to have “cooled air.” At the time of its construction, it was considered to be the largest and architecturally most important apartment building in the city. Its exterior, which is intact to its original design, embodies the geometric and jazzy characteristics of the grand architecture of that age. Its majestic siting—set back from Connecticut Avenue, NW, just north of the National Zoo entrance and abutting Rock Creek Park—sets the building apart from others and adds to the building's distinctive presence on Connecticut Avenue, one of the important apartment building corridors in the city. It is the best-known and most significant work of local architect Joseph Younger, beset by financial difficulties incurred by the Depression, Younger committed suicide only a few months after the Kennedy-Warren was completed.

Many Washington developers encountered financial difficulties with the onset of the Depression, and Kennedy and Warren were no exception. As the Depression hit during construction of the Kennedy-Warren, they were only able to construct and fully furnish half of the building; a large H-shape section proposed for the southern end of the building was not constructed. The financing for the completion of the building collapsed and, following a series of unfortunate incidents, Kennedy and Warren lost their ownership interests in the building and their brokers, the B. F. Saul Company, assumed ownership. The B.F. Saul Company has remained the Kennedy-Warren's owner and manager to this day. Despite the fact that only half of the original plan was completed at the time and that the original owners/builders/namesakes filed bankruptcy as a result of the Depression, the Kennedy-Warren became a financial success.



Washington Post, April 3, 1938.

As a result of the Depression, Kennedy lost most of his capital and after Kennedy-Warren Inc. declared bankruptcy, he struggled to retain his remaining real estate holdings. The Meridian Mansions (1916) had one of the highest apartment rents for the time, and with vacant units Kennedy could no longer maintain ownership, it was lost to the holder of the first trust, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, in 1936.

Although slow to recover from the financial set-backs, at the age of 89, Kennedy partnered with D. L. Chamberlin to form the Kennedy-Chamberlin Development Co. in 1953. Acting as president, Kennedy oversaw predominate construction in the Southwest quadrant of Washington, D.C. Semi-detached dwellings on Joliet Street and South Capitol were erected to develop the Anacostia neighborhood. In addition, the firm developed the Kenwood community in Bethesda, Maryland.

Before Kennedy-Chamberlin Development Co. could further expand its development projects into Maryland, Kennedy died on August 21, 1955, in the comfort of his home at 2901 Connecticut Avenue NW. His remains were returned to Elmwood, Virginia, where he was buried in the same cemetery as his parents.

A history of the Kennedy family described Kennedy's personality as “quiet, observant and conservative.” He married Alice Helen Grady in 1900 and had one daughter. After the passing of his wife, Kennedy re-married at the age of 87 to Evelyn Hawley. Having originally sought a career in the construction of row-houses— Kennedy recognized a need for apartments to address the upper and middle class residential boom the City was experiencing. Thus, Kennedy's

DC Builders & Developers Directory

row-houses and apartments contribute to the urban identity of the District of Columbia and showcase a bygone era of elegance in urban architecture.

Sources

Vertical Files ☐ HSWDC ☐ MLK Library

Other Repositories: DC Building Permits Database, Ancestry.com

Obituary: Publication: Date:

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|-------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions | 1903 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Past and Present | 1932 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital | c. 1924 | |


Other Sources:

"\$40,000 Note Sale Asked by Receiver," *Washington Post*, August 4, 1934, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"\$5,000,000 Hotel Soon to Be Begun: Mammoth Kennedy-Warren Structure Will Have 442 Apartments," *Washington Post*, October 19, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"Attractive Homes of Colonial Type," *Washington Post*, June 15, 1909, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"Bankruptcy Notices," *Washington Post*, July 25, 1932, Proquest Historical Newspaper
Kent C. Boese, "Houses With Novel Points: Kennedy Brothers, Princeton Heights, And the Making of Northern Park View," paper written for the 36th Annual Conference on Washington D.C. (D.C. Historical Studies, 2009).
William Everett Brockman, *History of the Hume, Kennedy and Brockman Families: In Three Parts* (Washington, D.C.: Self Published, 1916).
"Edgar Kennedy, 87, to Wed Mrs. Evelyn Hawley," *Washington Post*, October
"Edgar Kennedy, 91, Built Many Homes, Apartment Buildings," *Evening Star*, August 22, 1955.
"Edgar S. Kennedy Dies at 92; Developed Kenwood Section," *Washington Post*, August 22, 1955, Proquest Historical Newspaper.
James M. Goode, *Best Addresses* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988).
"Kennedy-Warren Apartments As Designed," *Washington Post*, October 19, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"Kennedy-Warren Ready in October," *Washington Post*, June 21, 1931, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"Leaders In Apartment House Construction Industry," *Evening Star*, August 30, 1930.
"May Lay Out Gardens: Real Estate Agents Must Adopt the Idea, Experts Say," *Washington Post*, November 12, 1911, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
National Register of Historic Places, Alden, Babcock, Calvert Apartments, Washington, District of Columbia, National Register #414203.
National Register of Historic Places, Apartment Buildings in Washington, D.C. 1880-1945, Multiple Property Listing, Washington, District of Columbia, National Register #433852.
National Register of Historic Places, Kennedy-Warren Apartment Building, Washington, District of Columbia, National Register #421894.
National Register of Historic Places, Meridian Mansions, Washington, District of Columbia, National Register #391677.
National Register of Historic Places, Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, Washington, District of Columbia, National Register #412856.
"New Kenwood Home Reflects Williamsburg," *Washington Post*, September 6, 1936, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"Obituary 1— Kennedy, Edgar S.," *Washington Post*, August 24, 1953, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"Thousands View Kenwood Bloom," *Washington Post*, April 14, 1936, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"Widow Acts to Get Share in Estate of Edgar Kennedy," *Evening Star*, October 9, 1956.
"William M. Kennedy is Dead," *Washington Post*, June 18, 1927, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
"W.M. Kennedy Estate To Widow and Sons," *Washington Post*, June 25, 1927, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

Last Updated: August 2012

DC Builders & Developers Directory

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Harry Arthur Kite | |  <i>Source: February 4, 1931, Washington Post</i> | |
| Biographical Data | | | |
| Birth: 9/19/1881 | Place: Stanley, VA | | |
| Death: 2/4/1931 | Place: Washington, D.C. | | |
| Family: wife, Claire Wright; son, Paul C. Kite; son, Harry A. Kite, Jr.; daughter, Nancy Claire Kite | | | |
| Education | | | |
| High School: unknown | | | |
| College: Roanoke College, Salem, VA | | | |
| Graduate School: N/A | | | |
| Career | | | |
| Permit Database (through 1958) | | | |
| As Builder | Earliest Permit: 1909 | Latest Permit: 1931 | Total Permits: 267 Total Buildings: 1452 |
| As Owner | Earliest Permit: 1909 | Latest Permit: 1931 | Total Permits: 280 Total Buildings: 1489 |
| *Note: In many instances, the subject is both the builder and owner. The permit counts also include permits issues to the individual and any company with which he was affiliated. | | | |
| Practice | Position | Date | |
| Harry A. Kite, Inc. | President | 1910-1931 | |
| Professional Associations | | | |
| Societies or Memberships: Mortgage Bond and Guaranty Corp. (President), Peoples Life Insurance Co., (Treasurer), Board of Trade and City Club, Free and Accepted Masons, Congressional Country Club, Burning Tree Golf Club, Washington Golf and Country Club, and Rod and Gun Club | | | |
| Buildings | | | |
| Building Types: Apartments Buildings, Garden Apartments | | | |
| Styles and Forms: Georgian Revival | | | |
| DC Work Locations: Northwest, Northeast, Southeast | | | |
| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
| Kew Gardens | 2700 Q Street, N.W. | 1922 | Georgetown Historic District |
| Row houses | 527-633 Gresham Place, N.W. | 1912, 1913 | |

Significance and Contributions

Harry Arthur Kite was a well-known builder and realtor in Washington, D.C. during the early twentieth century. Kite began his career in D.C. as a young real estate agent for Moore and Hill, Inc., and quickly made a name for himself after starting his own building and real estate company, Harry A. Kite, Inc., in 1911. By the time of his death in 1931, Kite was responsible for the construction of over fourteen hundred houses and apartment buildings in the D.C. area, including his most notable development, Kew Gardens (2700 Q Street, N.W.). While the majority of Kite's work is located in D.C., his firm also partook in development in surrounding areas including Maryland.

Harry A. Kite was born on September 19, 1881 in Stanley, Virginia, a small town located in Page County. After attending public school, Kite enrolled in courses at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. Wanting to pursue business opportunities in Washington, D.C., Kite left Roanoke College before completing his degree. Arriving to the city around the age of twenty-one, Kite worked as a salesman and clerk at Barber and Ross, a hardware store located at 11th and G Streets, N.W. After working in retail for three years, Kite began working as a real estate agent for Moore and Hill, Inc. Moore and Hill, a well-known local real estate and brokerage firm, served exclusively as real estate agents for the Cleveland Park Company between 1904 and 1908. Kite sold several properties for the company during this time. With his career in real estate underway in D.C., Kite began to establish his family—he married his first wife, Virginia Chiswell, the daughter of Maryland senator William T. Chiswell, in 1905. According to their wedding announcement, Harry Wardman, a prominent local developer and close friend of Kite's, was an usher at the wedding. Prior to their marriage in 1902, the couple welcomed their first and only child, Paul Chiswell. After three years of marriage, Virginia Kite died in 1908 due to unknown causes. Kite remarried three years later to Claire Wright, daughter of Judge Daniel Threw Wright, and together they had two children, Harry A., Jr. and Nancy Claire.

Kite went into business exclusively for himself as a realtor and builder in 1909. Operating under the name Harry A. Kite, Inc., the firm was originally located at 1338 G Street, N.W. By 1913, Kite relocated to 1514 K Street, N.W., and again by 1928, to 1019 15th Street, N.W. to accommodate his growing business. Kite served as the president of the company, his brother, Samuel Kite, was the vice-president until his death in 1927, and J. Eugene Gallery served as the company's secretary and treasurer. In an effort to maintain design integrity with each of his projects, Kite worked with some of D.C.'s most prominent architects of the early twentieth century on projects ranging from row houses to luxury apartments. These architects included Albert H. Beers (1859-1942, see Architects Directory entry), Albert E. Landvoight (1892-1955, see Architects Directory entry), George T. Santmyers (1889-1960, see Architects Directory entry), and Alexander H. Sonnemann. Kite's earliest recorded permit dated November 10, 1909 called for the construction of three two-story brick dwellings, with Albert H. Beers listed as the architect. Located at 1641 Avon Place, N.W. and wrapping the corner to 3040-3042 Dent Street, these row houses in Georgetown were constructed for approximately \$7,500 and featured dentil cornices and pedimented dormers. Kite and Beers worked together on several other projects, the largest of which was the construction of twenty-nine modest two-story brick row houses located on 24th and F Streets, N.W. (no longer extant) in 1911. Beers was the lead architect for the majority of Kite's projects between 1909 and 1911.

Prior to World War I, the housing market in Washington favored moderately priced single-family dwellings that offered the latest modern amenities, including plumbing and ventilation. Kite and several other developers during this time flooded the market with new houses that fit the needs of potential buyers and, as a result, these properties sold rapidly. These small-scale developments provided reasonably priced housing for home buyers including middle-class African Americans during the early twentieth century. To keep up with market demands, Kite's office hired Albert E. Landvoight as their chief architect in 1911. Landvoight designed over four hundred buildings for Kite between 1911 and 1917 including two of Landvoight's most notable rows of houses located at 527-633 Gresham Place, N.W. (1912-13) and 207-259 14th Place, N.E. (1914). Many of the houses constructed by Kite at this time were two-story brick structures typically two or three bays wide and each often featured a front porch, a feature that later became a trademark of Kite's row houses.

The first six years of Kite's building and real estate practice focused largely on the construction and sale of modest single-family row houses. By 1915, Landvoight left Kite's company to pursue his own practice, although he continued to design for the firm sporadically. The void for a new chief architect was filled by architect George Santmyers

DC Builders & Developers Directory

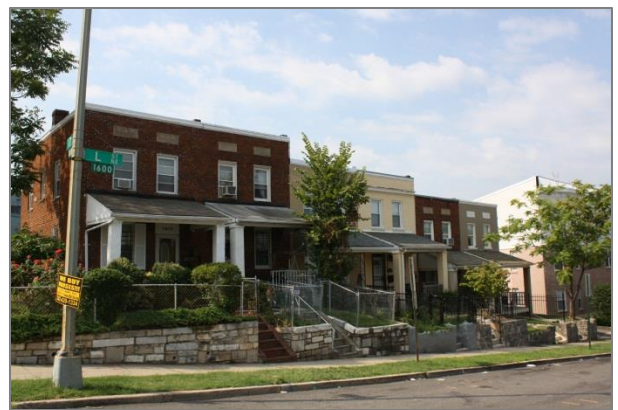
around the fall of 1915. Santmyers designed several single-family dwellings in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the city during his first year working for Kite. In 1916 the pair worked on their first apartment building project together, located at 1106-1114 D Street, S.E. (no longer extant). That same year Kite and Santmyers worked on two other apartment buildings and subsequent projects focused on row house construction.

In 1918, Kite, his brother Samuel, and Santmyers began another development called Armesleigh Park in Tenleytown. This neighborhood of single-family dwellings, constructed beginning in 1919, comprised bungalows and Colonial Revival-style houses including many foursquare forms. The houses in Armesleigh Park are characterized by almost universal granite foundations, fireplaces, and chimneys; slate roofing (originally); shingle or clapboard siding (originally); and front or side porches and second-story sleeping porches.

Santmyer's work with Kite was steady until around 1920 when local architect Alexander Sonnemann took over as Kite's chief architect. Sonnemann designed over one hundred buildings for Kite, approximately thirty of which were apartment buildings. Sonnemann also continued the development of Armesleigh Park with the Kite brothers. Harry Kite and Sonnemann's most noteworthy project together was the construction of Kew Gardens, located at 2700 Q Street, N.W., in 1922. Located in Georgetown, this luxury apartment was constructed for an estimated cost of one million dollars. In an effort to accommodate the growing government workforce and population increases in Washington during the 1920s, apartments quickly became an effective and popular way to allow for denser housing development. The expansive grounds of Kew Gardens illustrate this trend in Georgetown and its design reflects the trend of garden apartment design for luxury apartments during this time. Other apartment buildings designed by Kite and Sonnemann include 2530 Q Street, N.W. (1923) located just east of Kew Gardens, and 105 6th Street, S.E. (1924) located in Capitol Hill. Both apartment buildings feature elements associated with garden apartment design including slight setbacks and landscaped grounds.



Kew Gardens, 2700 Q Street, N.W., EHT Traceries, 2011



1633-1643 L St, NE, Photo by EHT Traceries, August 2012

Working alongside Sonnemann into the mid-1920s until 1926, Kite continued to develop at a rapid pace with a large percentage of his work concentrated in the northeast quadrant within what is now considered the Carver/Langston neighborhood. These properties included over one hundred and twenty row houses along either side of the 1600 to 1800 blocks of L Street, N.E. (1925) as well as twin style houses in the Deanwood neighborhood (4600 block of Hayes Street, N.E., 1926). A 1922 *Washington Post* article touts Kite's continued success in house construction and sales and at the time reported his success as a sign of sustained housing market demands. After 1926 Kite's office experienced a drastic decrease in work and by the early 1930s Kite's personal health took a turn for the worse. After suffering from an acute heart attack, Kite died on February 1, 1931.

For much of his career, Kite worked amongst the most prominent men in the city's building industry including Morris Cafritz, B.F. Saul, and his close friend, Harry Wardman. Kite's small-scale projects are readily identifiable by his signature porch-front row houses found in various forms throughout the city. Kite's work as builder and developer in Washington, D.C. during the early twentieth century left an imprint on the city that remains visible today in several

DC Builders & Developers Directory

neighborhoods throughout the northwest, northeast, and southeast quadrants including LeDroit Park, Kingman East, Caver/Langston, Capitol Hill, and Georgetown.

Sources

Vertical Files ☐ AIA Archives ☐ DC HPO ☐ HSWDC ☒ MLK Library

Other Repositories: DC Building Permits Database, Ancestry.com

Obituary: Publication: *Washington Post* Date: 2/4/1931 Page: 5

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|------------------|----------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 1921-22; 1929-30 | 220; 415 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions | 1903 | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Past and Present | 1930 | 247 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital | c. 1924 | |


Other Sources:

"Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia," (Washington, D.C.: William H. Boyd, 1902), 685.
 "Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia," (Washington, D.C.: William H. Boyd, 1904), 599.
 "Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia," (Washington, D.C.: William H. Boyd, 1905), 603.
 "Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia," (Washington, D.C.: William H. Boyd, 1913), 914.
 National Register of Historic Places, Georgetown Historic District Nomination (amended), Washington, District of Columbia, National Register #67000025.
 "Kew Gardens Nets \$384,176 at Auction," *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., January 19, 1934.
 "Rites for H.A. Kite to be at Residence," *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., February 4, 1931.
 "Sale of 12 Residences; Half Still Unfinished: Harry A. Kite's Transactions Show Demand for Homes Continues Great," *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., February 2, 1922.
 "Some Capitol Hill Architects and Builders," Capitol Hill Restoration Society, accessed August 24, 2012, http://www.chrs.org/Pages/2_Issues2_BTBTB/2_Issues_BTBTB4.html.
 Tenleytown Historical Society, "Tenleytown Neighborhoods & Subdivisions: Armsleigh Park," *TenleytownHistoricalSociety.org*.
 "Trinity Church Scene of Wedding at Noon," *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., October 26, 1905.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

Last Updated: August 2012

DC Builders & Developers Directory

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| Morton J. Luchs | | | |  <i>Source: Washington Area Realtor, July 1986.</i> | |
| Biographical Data | | | | | |
| Birth: 10/6/1885 | | Place: Washington, D.C. | | | |
| Death: 12/5/1938 | | Place: Washington, D.C. | | | |
| Family: wife, Ernestine; son, Frank J.; daughter, Frances; brothers, Sylvan J. and Arthur J. | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | |
| High School: unknown | | | | | |
| College: n/a | | | | | |
| Graduate School: n/a | | | | | |
| Career | | | | | |
| Permit Database (through 1958) | | | | | |
| As Builder | | Earliest Permit: 1913 | Latest Permit: 1932 | Total Permits: 90 | Total Buildings: 524 |
| As Owner | | Earliest Permit: 1910 | Latest Permit: 1941 | Total Permits: 92 | Total Buildings: 603 |
| *Note: In many instances, the subject is both the builder and owner. The permit counts also include permits issued to the individual and any company with which he was affiliated. | | | | | |
| *As a part of nineteenth century building regulations, building permits were required for the first time in 1872 and were often not archived until 1877. | | | | | |
| Practice | | Position | | Date | |
| Stone and Fairfax | | Vice President and Treasurer | | 1906-1938 | |
| Shannon & Luchs, Co. | | | | | |
| Professional Associations | | | | | |
| Societies or Memberships: Town and Country Club, City Club, Connecticut Avenue Citizens' Association, Masonic order Harmony Lodge | | | | | |
| Awards or Commissions: | | | | | |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building Types: Single-Family Dwellings, Row houses, Commercial Buildings | | | | | |
| Styles and Forms: Colonial Revival, Modern Movement | | | | | |
| DC Work Locations: Burleith, Chevy Chase | | | | | |
| Notable Buildings | | Location | Date | Status | |
| Burleith | | North of Georgetown | 1923-1928 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |
| Park and Shop | | 3501 Connecticut Avenue, NW | 1930 | In Cleveland Park HD | |
| Wrenwood | | Quesada Street, Rittenhouse Street, Broad Branch Road, and 6000-6010 34th Place, N.W. | 1928-1931 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |
| Shannon & Luchs Building | | 1435 K Street, NW | 1926 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |
| Capital Garage | | 1320 New York Avenue, NW | 1926 | Demolished 1974 | |

Significance and Contributions

Morton J. Luchs was the vice president of one of the most influential development firms of the 20th century, Shannon & Luchs. Since 1906, this firm has contributed significantly to the area's built environment as well as introduced innovative real estate concepts and significant residential developments to the Washington, D.C. area.

Morton Luchs was born in Washington, D.C. October of 1885 to Joseph and Fanny (Baum) Luchs. Morton attended public school in Washington and later went on to attend Business High School by 1900. By the early twentieth century, Luchs was employed as a real estate agent. During a chance encounter, while on a job site, Luchs met Herbert T. Shannon, a foreman. Luchs and Shannon found that they both shared a similar vision for future real estate development in Washington. Soon after this encounter, Shannon and Luchs formed a company, appropriately named, the Shannon & Luchs Company. Officially opening their doors for business in March of 1906, their offices were located at 704 13th Street, N.W. At the start of their business, the partners found themselves faced with a burgeoning housing market in Washington, D.C. While many other developers were simply flooding the market with new construction, Shannon and Luchs saw the need for a more holistic approach to the management of real estate in the city. The company added new services to the real estate business including: property appraisal, sales, leasing, and property management.

As housing market demands continued to grow during the 1920s, Shannon and Luchs engaged in the construction of several residential subdivisions. One of their most notable subdivisions was Burleith, constructed in 1923-28. This development broke the standard row house mold and consisted of two-story townhouses that sold for \$7,500. Architects Arthur B. Heaton (1875-1951, see Architects Directory entry) and W. Waverly Taylor, Jr. supplied the designs for over five-hundred single-family homes constructed as part of the Burleith subdivision. Subsequently, they went on to design many of the firm's buildings between 1917 and 1932. Other architects working for Shannon & Luchs were Harvey P. Baxter (1892-1950?), E. Burton Corning, and Harry Edwards (1902-1958). In 1923, Shannon & Luchs also started working on a series of detached homes along the 5200 and 5300 blocks of 14th Street, N.W. In addition to their subdivision developments during this time, the company was also involved with residential construction in Maryland within Rollingwood and Chevy Chase. The company also developed the subdivision of Wrenwood in the District in 1931. This innovative cul-de-sac development consisted of small Colonial Revival style houses located just off of Rittenhouse Street, N.W. While still directing their construction projects, Shannon & Luchs also pushed for changes in lending practices. Seeing the need for extended loan terms, the company worked with lenders to make this vision a reality. Their efforts eventually resulted in the widespread use of 15-year-30-year amortize loans.

In addition to their residential developments, Shannon & Luchs were also responsible for the construction of commercial buildings. One of the company's most notable commercial buildings was the Connecticut Avenue Park and

Shop constructed in 1930. Constructed during a time when the city was transitioning from trolleys to the automobile, this innovative development was extremely popular and is considered to be the earliest drive-in shopping center in the



3604-3610 T Street, NW in Burleith. Photo by EHT Tracerics, August 2012.



Capital Garage, 1930. The Book of Washington.

DC Builders & Developers Directory

area. Automobiles continued to transform development patterns and building forms throughout the city during the late 1920s and during this time Shannon & Luchs designed the city's first large-scale parking facility. This ten-story brick structure was known as the Capital Garage and was located at 13th Street, N.W. and New York Avenue, N.W. (demolished in 1974).

When the Great Depression hit in 1929, the company's holistic approach to real estate paid off as their property management division revenues kept the company afloat during this period. Ten years later, Shannon & Luchs stopped constructing new houses and instead focused on bolstering and fine-tuning their brokerage services. Morton Luchs died December 5, 1938 at his home in Washington, D.C. That year Morton's son Frank assumed his father's role as executive vice president of the company. The firm remains in existence today as Polinger Shannon & Luchs Company and Shannon & Luchs Insurance Agency, Inc.

Sources

Vertical Files ☐ HSWDC ☒ MLK Library

Other Repositories: DC Building Permits Database, Ancestry.com

Obituary: Publication: *Washington Post* Date: 12/5/1938 Page: 12

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 1921-2, 1929-30, 1934-5, 1938-9 | 244, 453, 571, 529 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions | 1903 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Past and Present | 1932 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital | c. 1924 | |

Other Sources:

James Goode, *Capital Losses* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2003).

"Influence of Burleith Felt Throughout Nation," *Washington Post*, September 18, 1927. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

Clare Lise Kelly, "Architects and Builders," *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2011), 322-335.

Richard Longstreth, "The Neighborhood Shopping Center in Washington, D.C.," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (51.1, March 1992) 5-34.

Crispin McDaniel, "An Industry—A City: A First-Hand Perspective of Washington Real Estate," *Washington Area Realtor*, July 1986.

"Morton Luchs, Civic Leader, Builder, Dies," *Washington Post*, December 5, 1938, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Edgard Farr Russell, *A Short History of Burleith* (Washington, D.C.: Courant Press, 1955).




Park and Shop, Connecticut Avenue between Ordway and Porter Streets, NW. 1931. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

Last Updated: June 2012

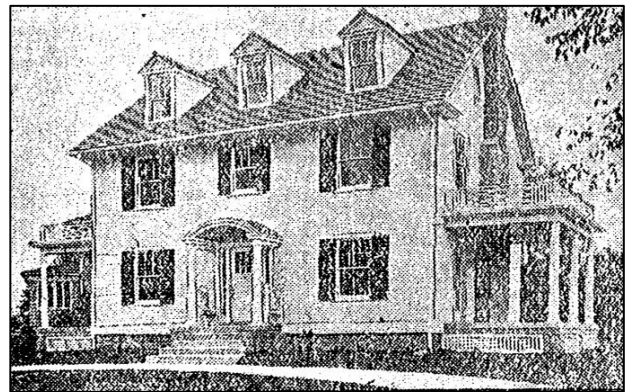
DC Builders & Developers Directory

| | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| Allison Nailor Miller | |  | | |
| Biographical Data | | | | |
| Birth: 2/25/1891 | Place: Washington, D.C. | | | |
| Death: 7/13/1951 | Place: San Francisco, CA | | | |
| Family: parents, John and Sarah (Pullman) Miller; siblings, John H. William C., Agnes, Frances J., Sarah B.; wife, Katharine Roth; sons, Allison N., Jr., Edward J.; daughters, Suzanne, Katherine, Rosemary | | | | |
| Education | | | | |
| High School: Western High School, St. Albans Cathedral School | | | | |
| College: George Washington University, Cornell University | | | | |
| Graduate School: n/a | | | | |
| <i>Source: Washington Past and Present, Vol. 3, 1932</i> | | | | |
| Career | | | | |
| Permit Database (through 1958) | | | | |
| As Builder | Earliest Permit: 1912 | Latest Permit: 1949 | Total Permits: 891 | Total Buildings: 1068 |
| As Owner | Earliest Permit: 1912 | Latest Permit: 1951 | Total Permits: 1003 | Total Buildings: 1169 |
| *Note: In many instances, the subject is both the builder and owner. The permit counts also include permits issued to the individual and any company with which he was affiliated. | | | | |
| *As a part of nineteenth century building regulations, building permits were required for the first time in 1872 and were often not archived until 1877. | | | | |
| Practice | | Position | | Date |
| W.C. & A.N. Miller (Development Co.) | | President/ Founder/ Treasurer | | 1912-1951 |
| Professional Associations | | | | |
| Societies or Memberships: Columbia Country Club, Connecticut Ave. Citizens' Association, American Legion, Theta Delta Chi, Freemason (Temple Noyes Lodge), K.T., St. Albans Episcopal, U.S.A Engineer Corps, (1918), Washington Securities Co. (President), Washington Brick Company (Director), Washington Real Estate Board | | | | |
| Awards or Commissions: Washington Board of Trade, 1939 (4941 Glenbrook Rd, N.W., Spring Valley) | | | | |
| Buildings | | | | |
| Building Types: Row houses, detached dwellings, commercial buildings | | | | |
| Styles and Forms: English Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Classical Revival | | | | |
| DC Work Locations: Petworth, Woodley Park, Cleveland Park, Wesley Heights, Spring Valley | | | | |
| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status | |
| Wesley Heights Neighborhood | NW Washington | 1925 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |
| Spring Valley Neighborhood | NW Washington | 1929 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |
| Wesley Heights Community Club | 3301-05 45 th Street NW | 1927 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |
| Pine Crest Manor | 2323 Porter Street NW | 1929 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | |

Significance and Contributions

During the early twentieth century, Allison Nailor Miller was considered to be one of Washington D.C.'s most renowned realty developers. Allison Miller's career as a realtor began in 1912 when he partnered with his brother William Cammack Miller to form W.C. & A.N. Miller Development Company. For roughly the first ten years of their business, the Miller Brothers constructed and sold residential properties, largely row houses, in neighborhoods such as Cleveland Park, Woodley Park, and Petworth. By the 1920s, Allison and his brother engaged in large-scale and comprehensive subdivision developments in some of the District's most verdant suburban areas. With their successful company, the Miller Brothers were responsible for constructing hundreds of detached houses and some commercial properties in the Wesley Heights and Spring Valley subdivision. Allison Miller worked as a realtor and developer alongside his brother for over twenty years until his brother's death in 1939. Miller continued to develop in Spring Valley and also spearheaded development of the Sumner subdivision in Bethesda, Maryland. The realty company founded by Allison and William in 1912, known today as W.C. & A.N. Miller Realty, has stood the test of time and continues to be an award-winning company under the precedent set by its founders.

A native of Washington, D.C., Allison N. Miller was born on February 25, 1891. Miller attended Western High School in D.C. and after graduation went on to attend George Washington University and later Cornell University. By 1912 Miller and his older brother, William Cammack, started their own construction and real estate firm in Washington. Their first project was the construction of two modestly sized brick dwellings in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood of Washington located at 757-759 Kenyon Street, N.W. designed by the architecture firm of Kendall & Smith. That same year, the Miller Brothers went on to construct a dwelling and grocery store designed by Benjamin F. Myers (1865-1940, see Architects Directory entry) located at 1147 22nd Street, N.W. (no longer extant). With Myers as their architect, after some contract work, the Millers engaged in speculative development and constructed row houses at a steady pace throughout the city between 1912 and 1917 in neighborhoods such as Petworth and Cleveland Park. By 1918 Allison and his brother halted construction to serve their country in World War I; Allison served overseas with the 437th Engineers and William enlisted in the Navy.



*Example of W.C. & A.N. Miller Colonial Suburban Home,
Washington Post Nov. 11, 1920*

By 1919, the company resumed their practice operating out of a small office in the Washington Brick and Terra Cotta Company building at 911 H Street, N.W. By this time the company transitioned from row house development to more elaborate detached residences in suburban areas of the city including Chevy Chase and North Cleveland Park. The company's continued success following the war forced the Miller Brothers to expand their team to include a sales force and in-house architect. As a result of their growing team, the company relocated to the Bond Building in 1920 and remained in that building for three years until they moved to their own building at 1119 17th Street, N.W. In 1920, the company bought two blocks in the Woodley Park neighborhood just north of the Wardman Park Hotel and constructed a row of elegant brick dwellings along the 2700 block of Woodley Road, N.W. and the 2700 block of 28th Street, N.W. By the 1920s, due to urbanization, residents seeking more privacy and less density flocked to areas just outside of the city and as a result, the properties constructed by the Miller Brothers in these areas sold quickly. These attractive residences brought the Miller Brothers great acclaim and, with this success, they set out on their next venture in what is known today as Wesley Heights. With business prospects on the rise, Allison married Katharine Roth in 1922 and together the couple had five children.

In 1923 the company bought several acres of undeveloped land just north of Foxhall Village and began developing their first subdivision in 1925, Wesley Heights. The subdivision included hundreds of detached houses designed in a variety of architectural styles as well as a club house each designed by the company's architectural department, headed by Gordon E. MacNeil (1882-1945, see Architects Directory entry). The Miller Brothers were lauded for seamlessly fitting the development into the lush surrounding landscape. With one successful subdivision in their portfolio, the

DC Builders & Developers Directory

firm went on to develop a second development known as Spring Valley beginning in 1925. The Millers constructed over two-hundred buildings in Spring Valley including detached houses and commercial properties. By 1927 the company controlled over three-hundred and fifty acres of real estate in the District and, by the 1930s, received accolades for their work in Spring Valley including the 1936 Washington Board of Trade merit award.

After the passing of his brother William in 1939, Allison continued to serve as the president of the company and business remained steady. Development continued in Spring Valley through the 1940s and 1950s and Allison also worked on the Sumner subdivision in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition his active professional career, Allison Miller was also active in numerous civic activities in D.C. including his role as the director of the Washington Real Estate Board and Washington Brick Company. Allison died in 1951 while on vacation in San Francisco on his way with his family to Honolulu. The W.C. & A.N. Miller company remains in operation today and recently celebrated their 100th anniversary.




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

Sources

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Vertical Files | <input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MLK Library |
| Other Repositories: | DC Building Permits Database, Ancestry.com, Library of Congress (ADE – Units, 1512,2876,839) | |
| Obituary: | Publication: <i>Washington Post</i> | Date: 7/14/1951 Page: B2 |
| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 1926-27; 1929-30; 1934-5;1938-9 | 403;503;639;595 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Past and Present | 1930 | 274 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital | | |
| Other Sources: "A.N. Miller Dies; Leader In Real Estate," <i>Washington Post</i> , July 14, 1951, Proquest Historical Newspapers. Hal, "Hoos Hoo and How: Allison Nailor Miller," in Martin Luther King Vertical Files, Washington, D.C. September 16, 1939. "The End of an Era," <i>Leaves</i> , Spring Valley, Washington, D.C., Vol.77 No. 2, Summer 2002. Diane Shaw Wasch, "Models of Beauty and Predictability: The Creation of Wesley Heights and Spring Valley, <i>Washington History</i> 1 (1989): 58-76. "Colonial Suburban Home Built by W.C. & A.N. Miller is Sold," <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, D.C., November 28, 1920. "Board of Trade Merit Awards Are Announced," <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, D.C., March 21, 1936. <i>Book of Washington</i> , (Washington: D.C., Cleland C. McDevitt, 1927), 450. <i>Book of Washington</i> , (Washington: D.C., Cleland C. McDevitt, 1930), 436-37. | | |
| Prepared by: EHT Tracerics | | Last Updated: June 2012 |

DC Builders & Developers Directory

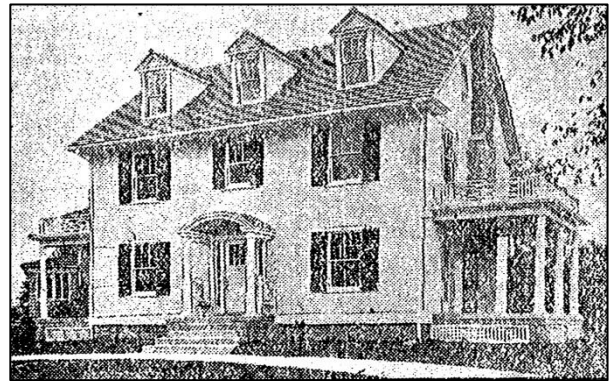
| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <h1 style="margin: 0;">William Cammack Miller</h1> | |  <p style="font-style: italic; font-size: small;">Source: Washington Past and Present, Vol. 3, 1932</p> | |
| Biographical Data | | | |
| Birth: 12/25/1886 Place: Washington, D.C. | | | |
| Death: 6/16/1939 Place: Washington, D.C. | | | |
| Family: parents, John and Sarah (Pullman) Miller; siblings, John H. William C., Agnes, Frances J., Sarah B.; wife Mabel Elizabeth Roberts; daughter, Sarah Booth; son William C., Jr. | | | |
| Education | | | |
| High School: Eastern High School | | | |
| College: Yale University (B.A., 1911) George Washington University (LL.B, 1918) | | | |
| Graduate School: n/a | | | |
| Career | | | |
| Permit Database (through 1958) | | *Totals for Firm | |
| As Builder | Earliest Permit: 1912 Latest Permit: 1939 | Total Permits: 891* | Total Buildings: 1068 |
| As Owner | Earliest Permit: 1912 Latest Permit: 1939 | Total Permits: 1004* | Total Buildings: 1170 |
| <small>*Note: In many instances, the subject is both the builder and owner. The permit counts also include permits issued to the individual and any company with which he was affiliated. *As a part of nineteenth century building regulations, building permits were required for the first time in 1872 and were often not archived until 1877.</small> | | | |
| Practice | Position | Date | |
| W.C. & A.N. Miller (Development Co.) | Vice President/Sales Director | 1912-1939 | |
| Professional Associations | | | |
| Societies or Memberships: Board of Trade, Real Estate Board, Columbia Country Club, University Club, Lions Club, City Club, Cathedral Heights Citizens' Assn., Zeta Psi, Phi Delta Phi, Masonic Order, Served in Navy (1918-19), Riggs National Bank (Treasurer), Washington Securities Co. (Director), District Title Co. | | | |
| Awards or Commissions: Washington Board of Trade, 1939 (4941 Glenbrook Rd, N.W., Spring Valley) | | | |
| Buildings | | | |
| Building Types: Row houses, detached dwellings, commercial buildings | | | |
| Styles and Forms: English Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Classical Revival | | | |
| DC Work Locations: Petworth, Woodley Park, Cleveland Park, Wesley Heights, Spring Valley | | | |
| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
| Wesley Heights Neighborhood | NW Washington | 1925 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site |
| Spring Valley Neighborhood | NW Washington | 1929 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site |
| Wesley Heights Community Club | 3301-05 45 th Street NW | 1927 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site |
| Pine Crest Manor | 2323 Porter Street NW | 1929 | <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site | | | |

Significance and Contributions

During the early twentieth century, William Cammack Miller was considered to be one of Washington D.C.'s most renowned realtors. Miller's career as a realtor began in 1912 when he partnered with his brother Allison Nailor Miller to form W.C. & A.N. Miller Development Company. For roughly the first ten years of their business, the Miller Brothers constructed and sold residential properties, largely row houses, in neighborhoods such as Cleveland Park, Woodley Park, and Petworth. By the 1920s, William and his brother engaged in large-scale and comprehensive subdivision developments in some of the District's most verdant suburban areas. With their successful company, the Miller Brothers were responsible for constructing hundreds of detached houses and some commercial properties in the Wesley Heights and Spring Valley subdivision. William Miller worked as a realtor and developer alongside his brother for over twenty years until his death in 1939. Their company, known today as W.C. & A.N. Miller Realty, has stood the test of time and continues to be an award-winning company under the precedent set by its founders, William and Allison Miller, with properties throughout D.C.

A native of Washington, D.C., William C. Miller was born on December 25, 1886. After attending high school at Eastern High School in D.C., Miller matriculated at Yale University where he went on to receive his bachelor of arts degree in 1911. One year later Miller and his younger brother, Allison Nailor, started their own construction and real estate firm in Washington. Their first project was the construction of two modestly sized brick dwellings in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood of Washington located at 757-759 Kenyon Street, N.W., designed by the architecture firm of Kendall & Smith. That same year, the Miller Brothers went on to construct a dwelling and grocery store designed by Benjamin F. Myers (1865-1940, see Architects Directory entry) located at 1147 22nd Street, N.W. (no longer extant). With Myers as their architect, after some contract work, the Millers engaged in speculative development and constructed row houses at a steady pace throughout the city between 1912 and 1917 in neighborhoods such as Petworth and Cleveland Park. In the midst of expanding and keeping the business running, William enrolled at Georgetown University where he received his law degree in 1918. By July of 1918, William married his wife Mabel Elizabeth Roberts and together they had two children. That same year both William and Allison halted construction to serve in World War I; William enlisted in the Navy and Allison served overseas with the 437th Engineers during the war.

By 1919, the company resumed their practice operating out of a small office in the Washington Brick and Terra Company building at 911 H Street, N.W. By this time the company transitioned from row house development to more elaborate detached residences in suburban areas of the city including Chevy Chase and North Cleveland Park. The company's continued success following the war forced the Miller Brothers to expand their team to include a sales force and in-house architect. As a result of their growing team, the company relocated to the Bond Building in 1920 and remained in that building for three years until they moved to their own building at 1119 17th Street, N.W. In 1920, the company bought two blocks in the Woodley Park neighborhood just north of the Wardman Park Hotel and constructed a row of elegant brick dwellings along the 2700 block of Woodley Road, N.W. and the 2700 block of 28th Street, N.W. By the 1920s, due to urbanization, residents seeking more privacy and less density flocked to areas just outside of the city and as a result, the properties constructed by the Miller Brothers in these areas sold quickly. These attractive residences brought the Miller brothers great acclaim and with this success, they set out on



Example of W.C. & A.N. Miller Colonial Suburban Home, Washington Post Nov. 11, 1920



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

DC Builders & Developers Directory

their next venture in what is known today as Wesley Heights.

In 1923 the company bought several acres of undeveloped land just north of Foxhall Village and began developing their first subdivision, Wesley Heights in 1925. The subdivision included hundreds of detached houses designed in a variety of architectural styles as well as a club house each designed by the company's architectural department, headed by Gordon E. MacNeil (1882-1945, see Architects Directory entry). The Miller Brothers were lauded for seamlessly fitting the development into the lush surrounding landscape. With one successful subdivision in their portfolio, the firm went on to develop a second development known as Spring Valley beginning in 1925. The Millers constructed over two-hundred buildings in Spring Valley including detached houses and commercial properties. By 1927 the company controlled over three-hundred and fifty acres of real estate in the District and, by the 1930s, received accolades for their work in Spring Valley including the 1936 Washington Board of Trade merit award.

In addition to having an active professional career with his brother, Miller was also active in other civic activities in D.C. including his role as the president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards beginning in 1933. William died in 1939 after an appendectomy and was buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Prince George's County. After William's death, his brother continued to serve as president of the firm until his death in 1951. The W.C. & A.N. Miller company remains in operation today and recently celebrated their 100th anniversary.

Sources

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Vertical Files | <input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MLK Library |
| Other Repositories: | DC Building Permits Database, Ancestry.com, Library of Congress (ADE – Units, 1512,2876,839) | |
| Obituary: | Publication: <i>Washington Post</i> | Date: 06/17/1939 Page: 26 |
| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 1926-7;1929-30; 1934-5; 1938-9 | 405;505;643;599 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Past and Present | 1932 | 273 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital | | |
| Other Sources: "The End of an Era," <i>Leaves</i> , Spring Valley, Washington, D.C., Vol.77 No. 2, Summer 2002. Diane Shaw Wasch, "Models of Beauty and Predictability: The Creation of Wesley Heights and Spring Valley, <i>Washington History</i> 1 (1989): 58-76. "Colonial Suburban Home Built by W.C. & A.N. Miller is Sold," <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, D.C., November 28, 1920. "Board of Trade Merit Awards Are Announced," <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, D.C., March 21, 1936. <i>Book of Washington</i> , (Washington: D.C., Cleland C. McDevitt, 1927), 450. <i>Book of Washington</i> , (Washington: D.C., Cleland C. McDevitt, 1930), 436-37. "W.C. Miller's Rites Monday; Noted Realtor: Developer of Spring Valley Dies Here After Appendectomy," <i>Washington Post</i> , June 17, 1939, Proquest Historical Newspapers. | | |
| Prepared by: EHT Traceries | | Last Updated: August 2012 |