John H. Nolan

Biographical Data

Birth: 5/?/1861 Place: Washington, D.C.

Death: 2/17/1924 Place: Washington, D.C.

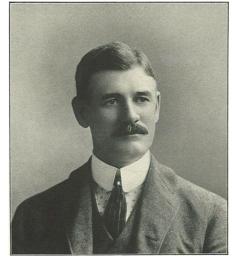
Family: father, James F. Nolan; first wife, Miss Williams (first name not known); second wife, Lida Anderson Nolan; sons, James and Charles M. Nolan; daughters, Helen R. and Bessie Nolan

Education

High School: St. John's College, Washington, D.C.

College: n/a

Graduate School: n/a



Source: A history of the city of Washington, Its Men and Institutions, 1903

Career

Permit Database (through 1958)

As Builder	Earliest Permit: 1891	Latest Permit: 1916	Total Permits: 93	Total Buildings: 258
As Owner	Earliest Permit: 1893	Latest Permit: 1913	Total Permits: 19	Total Buildings: 72

*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
Robert I. Fleming	Apprentice	c.1880-1891
Private Practice	Builder	1891-1922
John H. Nolan Construction Company	Trustee	1913-c.1919

Professional Associations

Societies or Memberships: St. Matthews Church Choir

Awards or Commissions:

Buildings

Building Types: Row houses, apartment buildings, office buildings

Styles and Forms: Late Victorian, Beaux Arts

DC Work Locations: Adams Morgan, Mount Pleasant, Columbia Heights, U Street, Trinidad, Capitol Hill

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Luzon (Westover) Apt. Building	2501 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.	1896	NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site
Westover (The Balfour)	2000 16th Street, N.W.	1900	Sixteenth Street Historic District
Bond Building	1404 New York Avenue, N.W.	1900	NRHP DC Historic Site
Gladstone and Hawarden Apartment Buildings	1419 and 1423 R Street, N.W.	1901	NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site

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Significance and Contributions

John H. Nolan was a distinguished builder in Washington D.C. whose work in the city during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries ranged from row house to commercial construction. Following in his father's footsteps, Nolan began forging his career in the building industry around 1880 as an apprentice under local master-builder, Robert I. Fleming (1842-1907, see Builders Directory entry). Nolan's exposure to the trade at an early age paired with his work under Fleming equipped the young builder with the necessary training to start his own company as a contract builder in 1891. Nolan's career as a builder in the District spanned from the 1890s to 1916 and today, his buildings stand in some of the city's finest historic districts including Dupont Circle, Capitol Hill, and Mount Pleasant. His most notable works include the Luzon (Westover) Apartment Building (2501 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.), the Bond Building (1404 New York Avenue, N.W.), the Gladstone and Hawarden Apartment Buildings (1419 and 1423 R

Street, N.W.), and a series of row houses on the 1900 block of S Street, N.W. and 1400 block of U Street, N.W.

John H. Nolan was born in Washington, D.C. in 1861 to John and Mary Nolan, both of his parents were immigrants from Ireland. Nolan's father worked in the construction business and at an early age Nolan was exposed to the intricacies of the trade. Primed to enter the building industry after attending St. John's College, Nolan began an apprenticeship in the office of Robert I. Fleming, a prominent builder in the District. While working under Fleming, Nolan was exposed to all aspects of the trade including craftsmanship and financial operations. Nolan continued to work for Fleming for several years until 1891 when he decided to start his own building company. In the midst of developing his career as a



The Luzon (Westover) Circa 1915

builder, Nolan married Miss Williams in 1885. His first wife died shortly after their marriage and according to 1900 census records, Nolan lived with his four children, James, Helen R., Bessie, and Charles M., at 1829 8th Street, N.W. Soon after the death of his first wife, Nolan remarried Lida Anderson in 1901.

Nolan experienced rapid success after going into business for himself in the 1890s. The first D.C. building permit on which Nolan is listed as the builder, was filed in 1891 and called for the construction of a two-story brick building located at 616 A Street, S.E. This row house located in the Capitol Hill area was designed by local architect Franklin T. Schneider (1859-1938, see Architects Directory entry). Nolan contracted with several other prominent architects in Washington over the course of his career including Nicholas T. Haller (1850-1917, see Architects Directory entry), George S. Cooper (1864-1929, see Architects Directory entry), and Wood, Donn and Deming (see Architects Directory entries). Nolan worked with Haller again in 1896 on the Luzon (Westover) Apartment Building located at the northwest corner of 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.). This apartment building was the first of several prominent apartment buildings constructed by the emerging builder.

During the early years of his career as an independent builder, Nolan's work comprised of mostly contracted residential structures. By the late-1890s, Nolan expanded his practice and partook in speculative development in D.C. and by the turn of the century, Nolan worked equally on contracted projects and speculative undertakings. The first notable example of Nolan's speculative work is considered to be a six-story apartment building located at 2000 16th Street, N.W., constructed in 1900. Designed by George S. Cooper, the Balfour, was lauded in the *History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions* of 1903 as "the handsomest apartment house in Washington." Nolan partnered again with Cooper on an office building for Charles H. Bond & John C. Davidson in 1900. Known as the Bond Building (712 14th Street, N.W.), this seven-story office building located just east of the White House, was constructed for an estimated cost of \$200,000.

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Following the completion of the Bond Building, Nolan's reputation as a builder greatly increased. Credited with on-time and quality construction, Nolan was contracted to construct several large-scale buildings including the following apartment and office buildings: the Davidson Building (formerly Nolan's office, 1899, 1413 G Street, N.W.), the Gladstone and Hawarden (1901, 1419 and 1423 R Street, N.W.), the Belmont (1904, 1821 Belmont Road, N.W.), and Airy View Apartments (1910, 2415 20th Street, N.W.). While Nolan's list of work included several large-scale projects, throughout the first decade of the twentieth century, Nolan also constructed several row houses and upscale dwellings in neighborhoods in the northwest and northeast quadrants. These dwellings included a series of row houses along the 1900 block of S Street, N.W. and the 1100 block of Staples Street, N.E.



The Balfour, 2000 16th Street, NW, Photo by EHT Traceries, August 2012

In 1913 following a series of successful construction projects, Nolan filed for bankruptcy after amassing \$380,000 worth of debt through real estate transactions. One year prior to filing for bankruptcy, Nolan invested heavily in the Columbia Heights neighborhood and constructed several row houses along the 1100 block of Columbia Road, N.W. Primed to start a new business with a clean slate, one month after claiming bankruptcy Nolan became a trustee of John H. Nolan Construction Company along with four other investors. Between 1914 and 1916, under his newly formed construction company, Nolan was listed on four building permits in D.C. These projects were some of Nolan's last projects in the city and consisted largely of residential structures in the Adams Morgan and Kalorama neighborhoods, including a three-story row house at 1918 S Street, N.W. (1915).

Nolan's work in D.C. came to a standstill around 1916; however he continued to work as a builder outside the city in Maryland in areas such as Forest Glen and Indian Head. Nolan died on February 17, 1924 in Walter Reed Hospital. According to his obituary published in the *Washington Post*, Nolan was taken to Walter Reed on a special order given by then Secretary of War, John Weeks. Referred to in the *Washington Post* as one of the District's "best known constructors of modern buildings," Nolan consistently provided the city with high-quality and prominent structures for over twenty-five years. Nolan's legacy remains in several neighborhoods throughout the city including: the downtown area, Adams Morgan, Mount Pleasant, U Street, Trinidad, and Capitol Hill.

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Henry B.F., Macfarland, American Biographical Directory, (The Potomac Press: Washington, D.C., 1908), 346.

"A Leading Architect: The Creditable Work of John H. Nolan," Evening Star, Washington, D.C., December 16, 1902, 12.

"Licensed to Marry," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., June 6, 1901, 3.

"Identified with Capital's Growth," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., July 26, 1905, 3.

"Air View Apartment House, Just Completed," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., August 27, 1911, 13.

"John H. Nolan Files Petition in Voluntary Bankruptcy," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., October 18, 1913, 5.

"New Construction Company," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., November 14, 1913, 5.

"Legal Notices: Philip H. Lenderking vs. John H. Nolan Construction Company," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., May 6, 1919, 13.

"Handsome Apartment Sold," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., May 23, 1920, 41.

"John H. Nolan Dead; Funeral Thursday," Washington Post, Washington, D.C., February 19, 1924, 5.



The Bond Building at 14th Street and New York Avenue, NW. Undated photo from the National Photo Co. via Streets of Washington blog.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries Last Updated: August 2012

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Herbert Glenn Phelps

Biographical Data

Birth: 9/21/1879 Place: Girard, Pennsylvania

Death: 5/29/1964 Place: Washington, D.C.

Family: wife, Mae; son, Everett; brothers, George & Earl; sister:

Edith

Education

High School: unknown

College: Wood's Commercial College

Graduate School: n/a



Source: Washington Post, August 28, 192

Career

Permit Database (through 1958)

As Builder	Earliest Permit: 1916	Latest Permit: 1942	Total Permits: 125	Total Buildings: 624
As Owner	Earliest Permit: 1916	Latest Permit: 1942	Total Permits: 136	Total Buildings: 656

^{*}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
Arms & Drury	Clerk	1896–1901
Columbia Title Insurance Co.	Realtor/clerk	1901–1904
Moore & Hill, Inc.	Settlement Clerk	1904 –1907
Boss & Phelps, Inc.	Vice-President, President, Chairman of Board	1907–1964

Professional Associations

Societies or Memberships: Columbia Country Club, Columbia Historical Society, Director of District Title Insurance Co., Kiwanis Club of Washington, Director of Mt. Vernon Savings Banks, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Racquet Club, Director of Realty Appraisal Title Co., Washington Real Estate Board

Buildings

Building Types: Row-houses, Apartments, Condominiums, Duplexes, Attached and Semi-detached Dwellings

Styles and Forms: Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Vernacular

DC Work Locations: Northwest quadrant: Foxhall Village, Cleveland Park, Colony Hill, Georgetown, Mt. Pleasant, Washington Heights; Northeast; Maryland: Chevy Chase

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Gloucestershire Group	Westside of 44 th Street between Q and Greenwich Parkway	1928–1930	Foxhall Village Historic District
Row-houses	1839–1843 Newton Street NW	1922	Mount Pleasant Historic District
Row-houses	3720 & 3722 35th Street NW	1920	Cleveland Park Historic District
Apartment	320 Constitution Avenue NE	1917	Capitol Hill Historic District

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Significance and Contributions

H. Glenn Phelps, as founder and vice-president, then president, and chairman of the board for Boss & Phelps, Inc. actively worked in residential and commercial sales and property management in Washington, D.C. during the first half of the twentieth century. He was actively involved in the design, development and sales of dwellings within the District of Columbia and its immediate vicinity. His background was in business and finance, but his work experience and exposure to the building industry was gained through real estate and insurance companies.

H. Glenn was born in Girard, Pennsylvania in 1879. He was one of four children born to James O. and Mary E. Phelps. The family moved to Northeast Washington, D.C. when Phelps was ten and James ran the Phelps & Co. store located at 1001 H Street NE. Enrolled in local District of Columbia schools, Phelps graduated from Wood's Commercial College in Washington, D.C. with a business degree in 1896. Having received an honorable mention award from the College in arithmetic, Phelps began his career as a clerk immediately following graduation, working for Arms & Drury real estate, loans and insurance company on the 800 block of F Street NW. Five years later, Phelps then transferred jobs to the Columbia Title Insurance Co. on 500 5th Street NW, where he remained until 1904.

In 1904, Phelps began work as a settlement clerk for Moore & Hill, Inc. It was through Moore & Hill that Phelps met Harry K. Boss, and together the two left the company and formed their own partnership, Boss & Phelps, Inc. in 1907. The new firm was announced in the *Washington Post* on September 1, 1907 and the article predicted a "prosperous career" for the experienced businessmen.

The earliest years of the firm specialized in general real estate and sales, but by 1914 the firm began purchasing lots with the intent to develop the land themselves. Examples of these early Boss & Phelps development projects are 2324 & 2326 California Street NW (1914) and 1784 & 1786 Lanier Place NW (1915). Both of these projects were A. H. Sonnemann's designs, an architect Boss & Phelps repeatedly employed along with Harvey Baxter, James E. Cooper, Albert E. Landvoight, Horace W. Peaslee and George T. Santmyers. The venture was a financial success, and the company soon outgrew their initial office located at 1910 14th Street NW. Eventually expanding to include mortgage, financing and fire insurance services, the company moved multiple times before relocating to 1417 K Street NW in 1923.

The scope of Boss & Phelp's developments included row-houses, duplexes, condominiums, and both detached and

semi-detached dwellings. Typically working in the Northwest quadrant, the firm developed brick row houses such as 1109-1175 3rd Place, NE and a number of single-family dwellings like 26 West Irving Street (1920) and 4004 Thornapple Street (1926)in Chevy Chase, Maryland. development in Chevy Chase was most likely a result of Phelps relocation to the area with his wife Mary Louise Smith and son Everett as the family lived at 1 Primrose Street Chevy Chase, Maryland from 1929 until the early 1940s. Most famously, the firm is associated with the development of Foxhall Village, the 29-acre community bounded by Reservoir road to the north, Glover-Archbold Park on the east, P Street to the south, and Foxhall Road to the west. Boss & Phelp's efforts with Foxhall Village were a result of Harry Boss's visit to England in the early 1920's, where he was inspired by English Tudor-style architecture.



1719 Hoban Road NW, received the award of merit in the meritorious building contest conducted by the Washington Board of Trade, Photo by EHT Traceries,

August 2012

The middle-class row-house neighborhood of Foxhall Village offered clusters of charming "old-world" houses of stone, brick, half-timber, and stucco finishes on high tracts of land, away from the bustling noise of the City Proper.

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After selling their first group of houses, designed by James E. Cooper in 1925— Foxhall Village, in continuous construction phases, became one of the largest development undertakings in Washington, D.C. with several hundred row-houses. Boss & Phelps' success with Foxhall Village attracted other developers to encroach on the area, inspiring the firm to construct Colony Hill of Foxhall Village, designed by Horace W. Peaslee in 1931. Most significantly, Foxhall and Colony Hill marked the transition from independent speculative row-houses to planned residential neighborhoods.

In order to expand their clientele, while maintaining their current reputation among middle class and upper middle class clients, the firm created a side company named Madison Building, Co. in 1933 to handle simpler and less detailed projects. Phelps served as the vice-president and under the Madison Building, Co. name, erected apartments, rowhouses, and attached and semi-detached dwellings. Harvey P. Baxter served as the architect for most Madison

Building Co.'s projects, the majority of which consisted of two-story apartment houses, such as 921 Aspen Street NW, 4020–4034 Calvert Street NW 3918–3932 W Street NW.

In addition, the real estate firm was in the business of restoring older dwellings. *The Washington Post* reported in 1941 that Boss & Phelps restored and then resold twenty-two houses in Georgetown for that year alone. With the addition of this enterprise, Boss & Phelps successfully partook in all aspects of the building industry. In 1942, on their 35th anniversary, the *Washington Post* reported the firm's involvement amounted to over a quarter of a billion dollars in sales. Interestingly, 1942 is the last year the permit database lists Boss & Phelps as either owners or builders of projects, though both partners remained active in the company until their deaths.



4020-4034 Calvert Street NW. Photo by EHT Traceries, August 2012

It is hard to separate Phelps's individual accomplishments from that of the firm's, since the two were deeply entwined. However, it can be said that Phelps offered the understanding of finances and knowledge of business operations to Boss & Phelps, Inc. Within financial circles, Phelps had an esteemed reputation, serving as director of the Mount Vernon Savings banks, director of the District Title Insurance Co., and director of the Realty Appraisal Title Company. Phelps' involvement in these organizations and his knowledge of all financial matters of the real estate business earned respect for the firm. Additionally, it was recorded in *Washington Past & Present* that he was "an abled supporter of all campaigns and projects of community progress and welfare."

In 1958, Phelps became president of Boss & Phelps, Inc. when Harry K. Boss died at age 76— one year after the firm celebrated their half century anniversary. Phelps remained president until his retirement in 1961, when his son Everett, who had begun working for the firm in 1931, took over the helm of the company. Phelps died just three years later in his home of 4500 Connecticut Avenue NW at the age of 84.

Boss & Phelps's real estate firm which included property management, insurance and loans continued for 74 years. As a result of the real estate market's decline in the early 1980's and an uncovered bank fraud scheme, the company closed operations in 1981. Although the firm's reputation may have been damaged by subsequent owners of Boss & Phelps, the company's founders established one of the longest running and leading firms paramount in the early to mid-twentieth-century development of the District of Columbia.

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Phelps, H. Glenn Page 4 of 4

Franklin T. Sanner	
Biographical Data	
Birth: ca. 1853 Place: Baltimore, Maryland	
Death: 10/15/1916 Place: Washington, D.C.	No Image Available
Family: wife, Laura; daughters, Bertha, Edna, Laura	
Education	
High School: unknown	
College: n/a	
Graduate School: n/a	Source:
Career	

Permit Database (through 1958)

As Builder	Earliest Permit: 1884	Latest Permit: 1916	Total Permits: 80	Total Buildings: 238
As Owner	Earliest Permit: 1884	Latest Permit: 1916	Total Permits: 87	Total Buildings: 259

^{*}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
Barr & Sanner	Founder	1889–1897
Sanner & Hill	Founder	1909–1916
Moore & Hill, Inc.	Affiliate/Builder	1909–1916

Professional Associations

Societies or Memberships: Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14; F. A. A. M; Washington Arch Chapter, No. 2; Columbia Commandery, No. 2; Knights Templar; Almas Temple of the Mystic Shrine; Board of Trade; Commercial Club

Buildings

Building Types: Apartments, Duplexes, Garages, Semi-Detached & Attached Dwellings, Row-houses, Stores, Offices

Styles and Forms: Multi-story brick structures; Queen Anne, Colonial Revival

DC Work Locations: Northwest Quadrant: Columbia Heights, Dupont Circle, Georgetown, LeDroit Park

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Multi-story brick dwelling	1230 4th Street	1885	Mount Vernon Square Historic District
Allendale Apartments	2101 N Street NW	1909	Dupont Circle Historic District
Sanner & Hill Brick Dwelling	1709 New Hampshire Ave, NW	1910	Dupont Circle Historic District
Condominiums	1525 Q Street NW	1911	Greater Fourteenth Street Historic District
Apartment House	1930 New Hampshire Ave, NW	1914	Striver's Section Historic District

Sanner, Franklin T. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

Franklin T. Sanner operated as a builder and real estate businessman for over forty years in Washington, D.C. He began his career as a carpenter/bricklayer and gradually rose to the position of contractor, before partnering with prominent entrepreneurs in the building industry such as Lester A. Barr and William A. Hill. Sanner, both individually and through his association with Barr & Sanner, Sanner & Hill, and Moore & Hill, Inc. was involved in the purchasing, development, and sale of hundreds of properties in the Northwest quadrant of the City.

Franklin T. Sanner was born in Baltimore, Maryland, around 1853 to parents James and Maria Sanner. James, a local Baltimore carpenter trained and employed his son Franklin as a carpenter. Sanner moved to Washington, D.C. in 1878, where the city directory identifies the 25-year old as a bricklayer living next door to his older brother Thomas W. Sanner (clerk) at 1310 6th Street NW.

Sanner remains listed as a bricklayer in city directories until 1889, when he becomes a contractor. However, his first venture as an owner and builder of a project was in 1884 with the construction of a single brick row-house at 441 Q Street NW. After that initial development, he went on to develop five more dwellings between 1885 and 1888 including 405–411 Richardson Place NW. He then joined efforts with Lester A. Barr, also from Baltimore, Maryland, in 1889.



405–411 Richardson Place, NW 1887–1888. Architect & builder, F. T. Sanner. Photo by EHT Traceries, August 2012.

During the 1890s, the partnership of Barr & Sanner made some of the largest real estate deals in the history of the City, purchasing hundreds of thousands of dollars in property. Barr & Sanner, predominately working in Northwest, D.C., developed and built over 150 multi-story masonry dwellings from Connecticut Avenue, N.W. to 4th Street, NE. The majority of their row-houses were designed by B. Stanley Simmons, a noted Washington architect who later

continued to work on numerous projects with Sanner. The firm was also known to use architects T. Franklin Schneider and Nicholas T. Haller (the architect Sanner used for his first project). While appreciated for the semi-detached brick row-houses, Barr & Sanner was one of the first firms to develop the new urban building type, called the apartment house, in the District of Columbia. The now demolished Mount Vernon Apartment House at Ninth Street and New York Avenue, N.W. was constructed in 1893 and was considered one of the duo's earliest achievements.

The partnership of Barr & Sanner, one of Washington's most successful development companies, ended by the late 1890s. Examples of Barr & Sanner projects are 2910–2916 Olive Street NW (Georgetown Historic District) and 522 & 524 T Street NW (LeDroit Park Historic District). Their last collaborative project was a development of row-houses on Harvard Street in 1897. Sanner continued as an independent builder, working on a number of projects with B. Stanley Simmons and architect A. H. Beers.



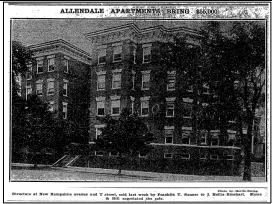
1773 Lanier Place, NW. Builder, F. T. Sanner. Architect, A. H. Beers. 1908. Photo by EHT Traceries. September 2012.

Simultaneous with his independent endeavors, Sanner teamed with William A. Traceries. September 2012. Hill, president of the reputable real estate company Moore & Hill, Inc. to form Sanner & Hill. According to Sanner's funeral announcement published in the Washington Post, Sanner and Hill began working together in 1906, although the earliest record of a Sanner & Hill project are the no longer extant semi-detached dwellings on Connecticut Avenye constructed in 1909. It is hard to separate Sanner & Hill's accomplishments from that of Moore & Hill, as the success of both firms was reliant on the other. Sanner & Hill purchased and developed properties which then Moore & Hill advertised and sold. It is also hard to separate the accomplishments of Sanner in the later years of his career from that of Moore & Hill, as it was rare for a Moore & Hill sale to be published in the Washington Post without Franklin T.

Sanner, Franklin T. Page 2 of 3

Sanner's name mentioned alongside it as the builder. In a 1912 *Washington Post* article, Sanner was directly mentioned in regards to his direct contribution to Moore & Hill's success with high-priced residences. An example of the upper-class clientele which Sanner's projects attracted can be seen with the sale of 1709 New Hampshire Avenue NW. The fifteen room, five bath, four-story brick dwelling was sold to L.F. Ruth, a Pittsburgh Millionaire for \$40,000 in 1911.

On the morning of Sunday, October 15, 1916, Sanner died suddenly at the age of 63 at his 1808 Adams Mill Road NW residence. Sanner's legacy as a prolific builder remains visible today with his extant buildings contributing to multiple historic districts within Washington, D.C. Ultimately, Sanner's buildings shaped the identity of an expanding Northwest Washington and his career was propelled by the great housing boom at the turn of the twentieth century.



Advertisement for apartments on New Hampshire and T Street, Washington Post, September 17, 1911. Builder, Franklin T. Sanner. Example of collaborative project with Moore & Hill.

Sources ☐ HSWDC Vertical Files ☐ MLK Library Other Repositories: DC Building Permits Database, Ancestry.com Publication: Baltimore Sun Date: 10/17/1916 **Obituary:** Page: 6 **Biographical Directories** Year/Volume Page Who's Who in the Nation's Capital History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions 1903 | | Washington Past and Present 1932 Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital c. 1924

Other Sources:

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- "Buys A \$40,000 Home: Rear Admiral Harris Takes Over Massachusetts Ave. Property," Washington Post, February 6, 1916, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Buys Washington Home: Pittsburgh Millionaire Pays \$40,000 for New Hampshire Avenue House," Washington Post, May 21, 1911, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Conducted by Young Men: Facts About the Real Estate Firm of Moore&Hill," Washington Post, April 17, 1904, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Divorce For Mrs. W. L. Post: Washington Woman Is Granted Divorce and Custody of Her Child," Washington Post, January 3, 1915, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "F. T. Sanner Is Busy: Building a Colonial Residence and a New Apartment House," Washington Post, April 11, 1909, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Moore & Hill, Inc.: Real Estate, Loans, and Insurance, 1420–1422 H Street Northwest," Washington Post, June 12, 1912, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Mortuary Notices," Baltimore Sun, October 17, 1916.
- "Mrs. McCallum Buys Home: Gives \$40,000 for Four-Story Residence on Massachusetts Avenue," Washington Post, June 29, 1913, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Peculiar Case of Mr. Sanner," Washington Post, April 19, 1904, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- 'Sanner Buys H Street Plot: Plans to Build Business Building Across from Shoreham," Washington Post, October 20, 1912, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Sanner Buys Real Estate: Improved Property at Fourteenth and Corcoran Streets Changes Hands," Washington Post, October 13, 1912, Proquest Historical Newspapers.
- "Two Fine Residences: Sanner & Hill Erect Homes for Person Who Entertain," Washington Post, May 11, 1913, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries Last Updated: September 2012

Sanner, Franklin T. Page 3 of 3

Herbert Thompson Shannon

Biographical Data

Birth: 3/18/1883 Place: Washington, D.C.

Death: 10/31/1946 Place: Leonardtown, MD

Family: wife, Ethel Louise Foster; sons, William Edward and Herbert, Jr., Foster; daughters, Marylou and Lillian; brothers, William Edward and J. Preston

Education

High School: unknown

College: n/a

Graduate School: n/a



Source: Prominent Personages in the Nation's Capital

Career

Permit Database (through 1958)

As Builder	Earliest Permit: 1913	Latest Permit: 1932	Total Permits: 90	Total Buildings: 524
As Owner	Earliest Permit: 1913	Latest Permit: 1941	Total Permits: 90	Total Buildings: 601

^{*}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
Shannon & Luchs, Inc.	President	1906-1946
Shannon & Luchs Construction Co.	President	1918-Present

Professional Associations

Societies or Memberships: President of Washington Investment and Transactions Co., Director of the National Metropolitan Bank, Founder of the Home Builder's Association of Washington, Governor of the Columbia Country Club, Member of the City and Racquet Clubs

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

2 5 World 2000 Street, Shely Share					
Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status		
Burleith	Development North of Georgetown	1923-1928			
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, NW	1928-1931			
Shannon & Luchs Building	1435 K Street, NW	1926-			
Capital Garage	1320 New York Avenue, NW	1926	Demolished 1974		

Shannon, Herbert T. Page 1 of 3

Significance and Contributions

Herbert Thompson Shannon was the founder and 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.

Shannon, a native Washingtonian, was born on March 18, 1883, to James and Mary Louise (Preston) Shannon. Little has been recorded about Shannon's early life, however, sources indicate that he attended school in Washington, D.C. By the early twentieth century, Shannon was employed as a homebuilding foreman. During a chance encounter, while on a job site, Shannon met Morton J. Luchs, a real estate agent. Shannon and Luchs 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



Shannon & Luchs' First Office at 704 13th Street, NW, 1906. Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

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



3604-3610 T Street, NW in Burleith. EHT Traceries, August 2012.

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

Shannon, Herbert T. Page 2 of 3

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 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. That same year, in 1938, Morton Luchs was succeeded by his son Frank and became the executive vice president of the company. The firm remains in existence today as Polinger Shannon & Luchs Company and Shannon & Luchs Insurance Agency, Inc.



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

Herbert Shannon died in November of 1946 while on his farm in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Through his

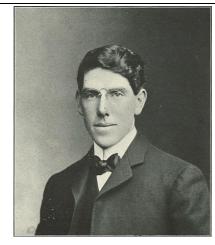
company and role as a founding member and first president of the Home Builders Association of Washington, Inc., Shannon greatly contributed to the city's real estate practices and its suburban developments.

Sources				
Vertical Files	HSWDC	MLK Library		
Other Repositories:	DC Building Permits	Database, Ancestry.com,	Library of Congress,	
Obituary:	Publication: Evening Star Washington Post		Date: 11/24/1964 11/24/1964	
Biographical Directo	ries		Year/Volume	Page
☐ Who's Who in the I	Nation's Capital			
History of the City	of Washington: It's Me	en and Institutions	1903	
☐ Washington Past ar	nd Present		1932	
Prominent Persona	ges of the Nation's Ca	pital	c. 1924	159
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Notes:				
Prepared by: EHT Trac	ceries		Las	st Updated: August 2012

Shannon, Herbert T. Page 3 of 3

William Edward Shannon

Biographical Data				
Birth: 4/22/1875	Place: Baltimore, Maryland			
Death: 1930	Place: Fort Myers, Florida			
Family: wife, Lillian; bi	rothers, Herbert T. and J. Preston			
Education				
High School: unknown				
College: Spencerian Business College, Washington, D.C.				
Graduate School: n/a				



Source: History of the City of Washington

Career

Permit Database (through 1958)

As Builder	Earliest Permit: 1900	Latest Permit: 1925	Total Permits: 151	Total Buildings: 855
As Owner	Earliest Permit: 1900	Latest Permit: 1925	Total Permits: 155	Total Buildings: 912

^{*}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
Middaugh & Shannon, Inc.	Vice-President and Treasurer	1900-1910
Middaugh & Shannon, Inc.	President	1910-1930

Professional Associations

Societies or Memberships: housing committee of Washington Society of Fine Arts, Washington Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Real Estate, Director and Vice-President of the Rotary Club, Director and Governor of Columbia Country Club, City Club, Racquet Club, Talbot Country Club, Old Commercial Club, Capital Yacht Club, Royal Palm Tarpon Club, Harmony Lodge, Columbia Historical Society

Buildings

Building Types: Row Houses, Semi-Detached Houses, Single-Family Dwellings, Duplexes

Styles and Forms: Colonial Revival

DC Work Locations: NW Quadrant—Woodley Park, Bloomingdale, Park View, Mt. Pleasant

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status		
Row Houses	1612- 1620, 1714-1744, 1824-1844 N. Capitol Street, NW	1900-1901	□ NRHP □ DC Historic Site		
Row Houses	2300-2330 and 2301-2333 1st Street, NW; 100 Bryant Street, NW	1902	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site		
Row Houses	431-453 Newton Place, NW	1911	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site		
Row Houses	1844-1864 Park Road, NW	1909	In Mt. Pleasant Historic District		
Dwellings	3000-3110, 3101-3105 Cathedral Road, NW	1923-1924	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site		
Dwellings	3101-3111 Garfield Street, NW	1925	☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site		

Shannon, William E. Page 1 of 4

Row Houses	2820-2828, 2846-2852 Connecticut Avenue, NW (only 2820-2822 and 2850-2852 still extant)	1922	In Woodley Park HD
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Significance and Contributions

William E. Shannon was a partner in the prolific development firm of Middaugh & Shannon. Together with Raymond E. Middaugh (1870-1910), Shannon constructed over 900 dwellings in Washington, D.C. The team was instrumental in developing the neighborhoods of Bloomingdale, Park View, Woodley Park, 14th Street Terrace, Petworth, Michigan Park, and part of Saul's Addition.

William Edward Shannon was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1875 and came to Washington, D.C. in 1881 at the age of six. He attended Washington, D.C. public schools and Spencerian Business College in Washington, D.C. His first job was as a page for the United Press, stationed on the floor of the Senate and House. Later, he worked as a messenger at the *Evening Star*, a printer, and then a real estate broker. He married Lilian A. Walingford in 1899.

Shannon began working with Ray E. Middaugh in 1896 and the two formed the real estate firm of Middaugh and Shannon in 1900. Their first development project was the construction of row houses in Bloomingdale within the area bounded by R Street, North Capitol Street, Bryant Street, and 2nd Street, NW. From 1900 to 1901, architect B. Stanley Simmons (1872-1931, see Architects Directory entry) designed 47 of these row houses for Middaugh & Shannon. Beginning in 1902, however, the firm relied exclusively on Joseph Bohn Jr. (1877-1910, see Architects Directory entry) as its architect.

Middaugh & Shannon pioneered the development of Bloomingdale. The Washington Post's 1903 History of the City of Washington reported that as a result of Middaugh & Shannon's initial development in the neighborhood, there were 869 houses, accommodating 3,484 people, by 1903. As advertised in the newspaper, their houses were built to embody their ideals of what housing should be, not only of construction, but also of arrangement, i.e., their copyrighted plan for the perfect lighting of the dining room.

In 1906, the firm began developing the Park View neighborhood immediately west of the Old Soldiers Home. Joseph Bohn designed the row and semi-detached dwellings in this development, including virtually all the dwellings constructed in the two squares (3044 and 3036) between Park Place and Warder Street, N.W. and bounded by Newton Place on the north and Lamont Street on the south. Bohn's final works (1909) for Middaugh & Shannon were two rows in Mt. Pleasant at 19th Street (3201-3215) and Park Road (1844-1860) and a row of Colonial Revival dwellings along Cathedral Avenue in Woodley Park (2228-2242). Shannon & Luchs were the selling agents of many of Middaugh & Shannon's developments. Herbert T. Shannon

(1884-1946, see directory entry), co-founder of Shannon & Luchs, was the younger brother of William E. Shannon.



1102-1106 Monroe Street, NW (1908).

Photo by EHT Traceries, May 2007.

Middaugh & Shannon were the most prolific developers of

the Woodley Park neighborhood during the first decade of its construction as well. In 1908, they purchased two large tracts of land along 27th Street and Cathedral Avenue, NW and began to build two-story row houses. They also constructed a group of two-story semi-detached houses along Cathedral Avenue, advertising the innovative features of yards on three sides and a "living room" on the first floor.

Shortly after construction began in Woodley Park, Middaugh & Shannon published a promotional brochure that

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2236 Cathedral Avenue, NW (1909).

boasted that, besides being a good financial investment, "here is one spot in the city where a man who is able to purchase a fine house closed in between a succession of brick walls can afford, at no greater cost, a comfortable 'home', surrounded by a comfortable lawn and the beautiful things of nature that make life worthwhile." These homes were praised in newspaper advertisements for the innovation of "hundreds of ideas" which would make them copied throughout the city.

Ray E. Middaugh died in 1910, but Shannon continued working under the name Middaugh & Shannon, as the company had developed such an esteemed reputation. In 1911, prominent architect Claughton West (1885-1978, see Architects Directory entry) designed 41 row houses, like those at 431-453 Newton Place, NW for the firm.

During World War I, Shannon served as vice-director of the war savings stamps campaign in D.C. He was always very active in clubs and associations, as his obituary in the *Washington Post* states: "Held Many Important Posts, and Served U.S. in War Time. Prominent in Clubs." During his lifetime, he was a member of the Executive Committee of the D.C. Red Cross finance committee and the Liberty Loan Committee. He was manager of the real estate and commandeering division of the U.S. Housing and Transportation Bureau and director of the U.S. Housing

Corporation of Labor Department. He was a director and member of the advisory board of the American Security and Trust Co. and was in the directorate of the American National Bank.

Shannon continued to build in Woodley Park until 1922, building 2711-2725 Connecticut Avenue (a row of eight buildings constructed in 1918 of which two are extant); 2727-2737 Connecticut Avenue (constructed in 1921), and 2820- 2828 Connecticut Avenue (a row of five buildings of which two are extant). Some of these dwellings were designed by prolific architect George T. Santmyers (1889-1960, see Architects Directory entry), who constructed 34 dwellings for the company.

William Shannon died in 1930 after a brief illness. Upon his death, the firm of Middaugh & Shannon was dissolved. Middaugh & Shannon was one of the most successful building firms in Washington, D.C. in the first quarter of the 20th century. Their construction in Bloomingdale helped the neighborhood to thrive, and their influence in Woodley Park is still evident today.



3108 Cathedral Avenue, NW (1922).

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Prepared by: EHT Traceries Last Updated: August 2012

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