





DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BOARD OF EXAMINERS AND REGISTRARS OF ARCHITECTS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



# District of Columbia Architects Directory

HISTORYmatters
INTEGRATING THE HISTORY OF PEOPLE & PLACE

**Prepared for District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (Office of Planning)**
**By History Matters, LLC**
**November 2011**

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## District of Columbia Architects Directory

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This report and the associated data collection was financed with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. However, the contents and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

# ARCHITECTS

*(listed alphabetically by last name)*

**A**
Abel, Joseph H.
Adams, Percy C.
Allard, William C.
Archer, Romulus C., Jr.
Atkinson, Albert S.J.
Aubinoe, Alvin L.

**B**
Bagley, Marion L.
Barrington, Edward William S.C.
Baxter, Harvey P.
Beers, Albert H.
Bell, George N.
Beresford, Robert F.
Berla, Julian E.
Bibb, Albert B.
Bogardus, James
Bohn, Joseph A., Jr.
Brent, Calvin T.S.
Breuninger, Henry L.
Brown, Glenn
Brown, Leon

**C**
Cambell, Hugh A.
Cappelmann, Eimer
Chapman, Josephine W.
Chatelain, Leon, Jr.
Clark, Appleton P., Jr.
Cluss, Adolf
Cobb, Henry Ives
Cooper, George S.
Cooper, James E.
Corning, E. Burton

**D**
De Ladurantaye, Louis
De Sibour, Jules H.
Dessez, Leon E.
Didden, Clement A.
Dillon, Charles E.
Donn, Edward W., Jr.
Dreyfuss, Edmund W.
Dwyer, Philip N.

**E**
Edwards, Harry L.

**F**
Fleming, Robert I.
Fowler, Owen H.
Fraser, John
Friedrich, Emil

**G**
Germuiller, Julius
Giles, Lewis W.
Goenner, Albert
Graham, John Jr.
Gray, W. Bruce
Gregg, Charles
Grimm, Nicholas R.
Groff, Diller B.

**H**
Hadfield, George
Haislip, Thomas M.
Haller, Nicholas T.
Hallett, Marcus
Hardenbergh, Henry J.
Harding, Clarence L.
Head, Robert T.
Heaton, Arthur B.
Heister, Michael
Herbert, Joseph G.
Hill, James G.
Hornblower, Joseph C.
Howser, William E.
Hunter, Ernest C.

**I**
Ittner, William B.

**J**
Johannes, Dana B., Jr.
Johnson, Joseph C.
Justement, Louis

**K**
Kearney, John W.
Keferstein, Carl B.
King, Charles W.
King, Nicholas
Kirkhuff, Daniel
Kundzin, Arved

**L**
Lamar, William Russell
Landvoigt, Albert E
Leisenring, Luther M.
Lepley, Matthew G.
Lockie, Joseph A.
Locraft, Thomas H.
Luquer, Lynch

**M**
MacNeil, Gordon E.
Marsh, William J.
Marshall, J. Rush
McGill, James H.
Medford, Thomas M.
Melby, John A.
Meline, Louis D.
Mesrobian, Mihran
Meyers, B. Frank
Meyers, John G.
Milburn, Frank P.
Miller, O. Harvey
Mindeleff, Victor O.
Moss, Louis R.
Mullett, Alfred B.
Murphy, Frederick V.

**N**
Norton, Claude N.

**O**
Olmsted, Walter B.

# ARCHITECTS

(*listed alphabetically by last name*)

**P**
Page, Harvey L.
Palmer, William J.
Peaslee, Horace
Pelz, Paul J.
Peter, Walter G.
Phillips, Frank D.
Pittman, William S.
Plager, William S.
Plowman, Thomas M.
Poindexter, William M.
Porter, Irwin S.
Pyle, Frederick B.

**Q-R**
Ray, George N.
Robinson, Hilyard
Rodier, Gilbert L.

**S**
Santmyers, George T.
Schneider, Thomas F.
Scholz, Robert O.
Schulze, Paul
Simmons, B. Stanley
Smith, Delos H.
Smith, J. Wilmer
Smith, Robert K.
Smithmeyer, John L.
Speiden, Albert
Stead, Robert
Stern, David L.
Sullivan, Francis P.

**T**
Taylor, James Knox
Taylor, W. Waverley
Thornton, William
Tomlinson, Frank
Totten, George O., Jr.
Trumbauer, Horace
Turner, Samuel R.

**U-V**
Valentine, Walter
Volland, Edward O.
Von Reichenbach, Earl

**W**
Waggaman, Clarke
Warwick, Harvey H.
Webb, Charles Edgar
Weihe, Edwin A.
Wenig, Julius
West, Claughton
White, Clifton B.
White, Frank R.
White, George S.
Wilcox, Forrest G.
Williams, Lucian T.
Woltz, Edward
Wood, Waddy B.

**X-Y-Z**

# METHODOLOGY

History Matters, LLC prepared this portion of the **District of Columbia Architects Directory** (28 architects) as part of the Historic Research Program (Contract #RQ730982) for the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, Office of Planning. Work spanned the timeframe from July 2011 to September 2011.

History Matters utilized a number of standard reference works and resources for all the biographical entries. These were:

- The **American Institute of Architects Archives**, available online, which includes access to the three published volumes of *American Architects Directory* (1956, 1962, 1970) and digitized personal A.I.A. files for many architects who were members. The personal files usually include applications for membership, correspondence, and occasionally, newspaper clippings. The A.I.A. archives do not include information on architects who were not members. For architects being investigated who had no digitized files online, History Matters visited the AIA Archive at 1735 New York Avenue, NW.
- **Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals** was searched to identify articles about architects and their work. The number of articles found was noted. The online index can be accessed by the public in the Library of Congress reading rooms.
- ***The Dictionary of American Biography*** includes biographical information on select nationally known architects.
- Pamela Scott, ***Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960***, 2nd edition, 2001. The information derived from city directory and telephone book listings and from the D.C. architect registration records at the D.C. Office of Public Records.
- ***Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects.***
- ***Who's Who in the Nation's Capital.*** *American Biographical Directories: District of Columbia,* published in 1909 and selected volumes of *Who's Who in the Nation's Capital,* published between 1921 and 1939, were searched for architects active in those time periods. History Matters searched editions available at George Washington University's Special Collections (F193.W6), which included 1921-22, 1923-24, 1926-27, 1929-30, 1934-35, 1938-39. The Historical Society of Washington D.C. maintains a complete set, but their library was closed during the period of this project.
- Henry F. Withey, ***Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased).***
- Brian D. Kraft, ***Building Permits Database***, version 2009.2. This database, commissioned by the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office and funded in part by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, provides information from building permits issued for new construction between 1877 and September 1949.
- Dreck Spurlock Wilson, ***African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary 1865-1945***, 2004. This is a single-volume reference that includes 168

entries by more than 100 contributing authors. It was consulted for the single African American architect included in this phase of the directory: John Melby.

- John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, ***The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955, A Biographical Dictionary*** (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997) was useful for identifying architects who worked in Virginia as well as D.C.
- Other books that were referenced frequently included: Pamela Scott's and Antoinette J. Lee's ***Buildings of the District of Columbia*** (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), Lee's ***Architects to the Nation*** (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), Kathryn Schneider Smith's ***Washington At Home*** (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010, Second Edition), and James M. Goode's ***Capital Losses*** (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 2003).
- ***National Register Nominations*** for Washington, D.C. and other properties were consulted for biographical information on architects and their works.

Extensive online research included:

- The ***Historical Washington Post*** was searched through ProQuest for local architects.
- **Ancestry.com** was consulted for census data, World War I and II draft cards, death and marriage records, and other family and biographical data. Draft cards provide birth, residence, and occupation information for many men born in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.
- **The Internet** was searched for publications on nationally known architects and for information on architects about who little is known. Period texts and scholarly articles and books available through online sources were especially helpful, along with newspaper indexes and full-text articles. The primary online sources used were: Google Books (*www.books.google.com*), the Cornell University Library Making of America database (*http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/*), the Internet Archive (*www.archives.org*), and the Library of Congress' Chronicling America's full-text newspaper database.
- **DCPropertyQuest**, an online database of the Office of Planning which includes property information including building photographs, was used to visualize buildings and helped provide an overview of the work of lesser known architects.

Outside repositories consulted included:

- **Washingtoniana Division of the D.C. Public Library.** The resources in the Washingtoniana Room include vertical files, Historic Image Collection, *Washington Star* clipping files and microfilmed city directories. It also has late nineteenth and early twentieth century promotional publications on Washington, D.C., which contain descriptions of individual businesses, including architects.
- **Historical Society of Washington, D.C.** The society's Kiplinger research library ***was closed for the duration of this phase of the project,*** and thus; except for online indexes and limited online materials, its holdings were inaccessible to History Matters. The Historical Society collection contains a wealth of information useful for researching architecture and architects in Washington, D.C. This includes vertical files, the James M. Goode Architects in Washington, D.C. Collection, an

extensive photograph collection indexed by address, the *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, and numerous publications relating to Washington, D.C.

- **Library of Congress.** The online catalog was searched for information on some architects and the Prints and Photographs Division photographs were consulted. Architectural drawings or collections were located for a handful of the studied architects. In addition, several architect portraits and images of their buildings were located and used.
- **Office of Public Records, D.C. Archives.** The Records of the District of Columbia Board of Examiners and Registrars includes applications of all architects who applied for D.C. registration after registration was required in 1925. Individual files on each architect often include applications with basic biographical information, training background, and lists of works, along with correspondence between the architect and the Board. These files are stored at the D.C. Office Public Records archive located at 1300 Naylor Court, NW (DC Archives Accession #94-0006).
- **Catholic University of America Archives, George Washington University Special Collections, Howard University, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center** and other specialized repositories were consulted as needed for individual architects.

Kathryn Gettings Smith served as principal investigator, researcher and author for the project. Julia B. Claypool and student intern Rachel Kalthoff (Hillsdale College) conducted much of the research. Claypool authored most of the biographical entries, while Smith and Evelyn D. Causey, Ph.D. wrote the remainder of the entries.

History Matters would like to acknowledge the support and research assistance provided by Kim Williams, Patsy Fletcher, and Bruce Yarnall of the D.C. Historic Preservation Office. In addition, we thank the staff of the D.C. Office of Public Records (District of Columbia Archives) and Nancy Hadley, AIA Archives Archivist & Records Manager. We are grateful to Beth Hannold and Gene Larkin of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church for sharing their research on architect Emil S. Friedrich.

# Percy Crowley Adams



*National Photo Company Collection, 1916-1917*
*LC-DIG-npcc-32688*

## Biographical Data

Birth: 4/4/1869 Place: Randolph, NY

Death: 9/8/1953 Place: Washington, DC

Family: Married Amy Farmer in 1899; two children: Theodora Frances (b.1901) and Thomas Edwin (b.1910).

## Education

High School: Chamberlain Institute, Randolph, NY (1884-1888)

College: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (1889-1893); B.S. in Architecture

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 71 Date Issued: 9/24/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1909 Latest Permit: 1931 Total Permits: 21 Total Buildings: 22

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Percy C. Adams | Independent architect, Buffalo, NY | 1895-1897 |
| Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury | Draftsman | 1897-1909 |
| Averill, Hall & Adams | Architect | 1909 |
| Averill & Adams | Architect | 1910-1915 |
| Percy C. Adams | Architect, collaborated with Upman | 1916-1924 |
| Upman & Adams | Architect | 1924-1945 |
| Allied Architects | Architect | 1925-??? |
| Independent | Architect | 1945-1951 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1911-1953 Fellow of the AIA: n/a

**Other Societies or Memberships:** President of the Washington, DC Chapter of the AIA (1920-1921); President of the Washington Architectural Club (1909); Washington Board of Trade; Civitan Club; University Club; Cornell Club; Piney Branch Citizen's Assn.; National Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. and Chapel of the Transfiguration (Protestant Episcopal)

**Awards or Commissions:** Won the competition to design the "court of honor" and reviewing stands for Woodrow Wilson's 2nd Inauguration (1918).

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Schools, Banks, Courthouses, Residences, Apartment Buildings, Movie Theaters, Commercial, Manufacturing Facility, Office Buildings, Automobile Showrooms

**Styles and Forms:** Neo-Classical Revival;

**DC Work Locations:** Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Sixteenth Street, Capitol Hill, Mt. Pleasant, Brightwood, Shaw, Cleveland Park, LeDroit Park.

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Village Building | Village of Randolph, NY | 1898 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment Building | 1509 16th Street, NW | 1909 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Sixteenth Street Historic District |
| Robert Bowman Residence | The Plains, VA | 1917 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Court of Honor for 2nd Inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson | Near the White House | 1917 | Demolished (temporary) |
| Avalon Theater | 5612 Connecticut Ave., NW | 1922 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Chevy Chase Historic District |
| Rixey Mansion | Marymount U., Arlington, VA | 1919-1920 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Longworth H.O.B. (with Allied Architect, Inc.) | New Jersey Avenue SE | 1932 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Capitol Hill Historic District |
| Auto Show Room | 1365 (1367) H Street NE | 1927 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Mott Motors/Plymouth Theater |

## Significance and Contributions

Born in 1869 in Randolph, New York, Percy Crowley Adams became a successful and well-regarded architect in Washington, D.C. Between 1896 and 1951, he designed numerous buildings throughout D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. He and his long-time business partner, Frank Upman, specialized in the design of suburban schools, but throughout his career Adams designed all building types, most of which were in the Classical Revival style.

Adams was born to Theodore Edwin and Mary Lennett (Crowley) Adams in the small town of Randolph in far western New York State. His father was a merchant, and Adams was educated at the local public school and at the Chamberlain Institute. In 1893, he graduated from Cornell University's School of Architecture. He spent his early years in private practice in Buffalo, New York. His earliest known design was for a school building at his alma mater, the Chamberlain Institute (1896).

In 1897, Adams moved to Washington, D.C. to take a drafting position in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury (then led by Supervising Architect, Lyman J. Gage); he remained there until 1909. While with the Treasury, Adams worked on the design of courthouses and post offices.



**Apartment Building, 1509 16th Street, NW. Averill, Hall & Adams, 1909.**
*Photo courtesy of Google Street Views*

In 1909, Adams joined with two colleagues to form the firm of Averill, Hall & Adams, which was soon shortened to Averill & Adams (1910-1915). During his practice with this firm, Adams worked on a seven-story, Classical Revival-style apartment building on 16th Street in Northwest Washington (1509 16th Street NW; 1909), and a residence for Robert Bowman in The Plains, Fauquier County, Virginia. In addition, Averill & Adams executed two commissions for the Arcade Amusement Company, which converted a former trolley car barn at Park Road and 14th Street into The Arcade, an extensive, mostly indoor amusement complex with a 300-seat movie theater, 14 bowling alleys, and a ballroom.

In 1917, Adams won a competition to design the presidential and Lafayette Square reviewing stands for President

Woodrow Wilson's second inauguration ceremony. Known as the "Court of Honor," Adams designed the temporary structures in an elaborate Beaux Arts style. The committee in charge of the design, including prominent architects Appleton P. Clark and Ward Brown, praised Adams for his "untiring, unselfish, and conscientious labor." [Report of the Committee on the Court of Honor to Col. Robert N. Harper, Chairman Inaugural Committee, 28 March 1917. Published in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, Issue 7261 – Senate Documents, Vol. 7 (1918).]

Adams spent most of his career in partnership with Frank Upman in Washington, D.C. The firm of Upman & Adams was officially formed in 1924; however, the two had been collaborating for several years prior. The two maintained an office in D.C. designing many residences, school buildings, apartment buildings, and commercial structures until 1945, when the partnership was dissolved. One of their most prominent commissions was the Chevy Chase Theater (renamed the Avalon Theater in 1929, 5612 Connecticut Avenue NW). Erected for the Chevy Chase Amusement Company at a cost of $100,000, the brick building was carefully designed in a Classical Revival style. It remains as a significant example of 1920s motion picture theater architecture and the longest, continuously operating movie theater in Washington, D.C.



**Court of Honor, Pennsylvania Avenue near White House & Lafayette Square, 1917.**
*United States Congressional Serial Set, Issue 7261 – Senate Documents, Volume 7 (1918).*
*Online: Google Books*

Among the many single-family dwellings that Upman & Adams designed for upper- and upper-middle-class patrons was the Rixey Mansion, built in 1919-1920 in Arlington, Virginia for Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy, Dr. Presley M. Rixey. In 1948, the Religious Order of the Sacred Heart of Mary purchased the grand house and surrounding acreage; it now serves as the main building on the campus of Marymount University. Upman & Adams also designed more modest residences in Washington, D.C. mainly in the Colonial Revival style. One example is the house that Adams designed in 1922 for Mrs. Maud F. Gibbs at 4900 16th Street NW.



**Rixey Mansion, Arlington, Virginia. Built 1919-1920.**
http://virginiaroomarlingtonva.blogspot.com/2007/11/rixey-mansion.html

Upman & Adams executed several commercial commissions as well. Two distinct examples are the Eclectic Revival automobile showroom built at 1367 (now 1365) H Street NE (now the H Street Playhouse building) in 1927, and another showroom designed for owner Thomas E. Clark in Cleveland Park in 1930 (3407 Connecticut Avenue NW; recently housed a McDonald's restaurant). The latter is a modest, attached commercial building designed in the Art Deco style and clad in limestone.

Contemporary sources reported that Upman & Adams were best known for their design of many area school buildings. The 1930 book *Washington: Past and Present, A History* edited by John Clagett Proctor asserts that the firm had designed "practically all the schools in Arlington County, Virginia." Between 1924 and 1926, Upman & Adams completed commissions for at least six schools in Arlington County, including an addition to the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School (1601 Wilson Boulevard; 1925), the John W. Barcroft Elementary School at 625 South Wakefield Street (1924), the Robert E. Lee Elementary School (now Lee Community Center at 5722 Lee Highway; 1926), and the original Washington-Lee High School at 1300 North Quincy Street (1924). Upman & Adams also designed educational facilities in the Maryland suburbs, including the old Bladensburg High School. Built in two phases (1930 and 1936-1937) and funded through a local bond issue and Public Works Administration funds, Adams featured the project in his March 1937 "Verbal Senior Examination"

administered by the D.C. Board of Examiners & Registrars of Architects. The exam was administered for the purpose of updating the credentials of architects who were initially registered "by exemption" in 1925 when the registration law for architects was first implemented.



***Former Robert E. Lee Elementary School, 5722 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA (Upman & Adams, 1926)***
*History Matters, November 2011*

Along with partner Frank Upman, Percy Adams was a member of an innovative collaborative design firm established in D.C. in the mid 1920s. In 1925, Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) formed the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design.

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

In addition to his architectural practice, Adams remained active in professional and civic organizations. He served as president (1920 and 1921) and vice-president (1918) of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the AIA. He also led the Washington Architectural Club (1909) and was a member of the Washington Board of Trade, the Civitan Club, the University Club, the Cornell Club, and the Piney Branch Citizens' Association.



**Mott Motors/Plymouth Theater, 1365 H Street NE; 1927**
*Photo courtesy of Google Street Views*

Adams retired from practice in 1951; at the time he was the oldest practicing architect in Washington, D.C. He died two years later at age 84 in his home at 3319 Quesada Street NW. He was survived by his two children who both lived in D.C.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 1 article: "Low Cost Suburban House at Randolph, New York," *Building Age* | v. 42, no. 1 | pp. 40-41. |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 2, 10, 115 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☒ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 21-22; 23-23; 26-27 | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

| Obituary | Publication: | Date: | Page: |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Washington Post* | 9/9/1953 | 22 |
| | *Washington Star* | 9/9/1953 | |

**Other Sources:**


Barsoum, Eve Lydia (DC Historic Preservation Division). "Chevy Chase Theater" *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.* National Park Service, Prepared June 1996.

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

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Percy C. Adams Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Percy C. Adams correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Headley, Robert K. *Motion Picture Exhibition in Washington, D.C.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 1999.

Library of Congress, Digital Collections. *Chronicling America*: Historic American Newspapers.

Liccese-Torres, Cynthia and Laura Bobeczko. Arlington County Register of Historic Places Historic District Designation Form: "Fort Myer Heights School; Woodrow Wilson Elementary School." January 2009.

Proctor, John Clagett, ed. *Washington Past and Present: A History*, Volume IV. New York: lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1930.

Snyderman, Lois and the Couture/Denig Partnership. *Historic Resources Survey: 18 Early-Mid-Twentieth Century School Buildings in Arlington County, Virginia.* Prepared for the Arlington County Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development. December 1991.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955.* Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.


**Notes:** All of the building permits counted were issued when Adams was part of a partnership. Adams was registered also as an architect in Virginia from 1931-1949.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Hugh A. Campbell

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 5/1870 | Place: Maryland |
| Death: 3/10/1903 | Place: Baltimore (vic.), MD |
| Family: Married Mary M. (Mamie) West in 1897 at North Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: |
| College: |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1895 Latest Permit: 1902 Total Permits: 52 Total Buildings: 110

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Hugh A. Campbell | Architect | 1894-1903 |
| | | |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** none known

**Awards or Commissions:** Architectural Award: 1901 Eckington Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC.

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Apartments, Stores, Church Sunday School.

**Styles and Forms:** Queen Anne, Beaux Arts

**DC Work Locations:** Capitol Hill, LeDroit Park, Sheridan-Kalorama, DuPont Circle, Mt. Pleasant, Massachusetts Avenue, Greater U Street, 14th Street, 16th Street.

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Russia House | 1800 Connecticut Avenue NW, 2031-2033 Florida Avenue NW, 2101 S Street NW | 1896 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District |
| Eckington Presbyterian Sunday School | 0 Q Street NE (not extant) | 1895 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Row Houses | 27-55 U Street NW | 1902 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Row Houses & Apartment Bldg. | 1900-1908 3rd Street NW | 1902 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site LeDroit Park Historic District |

## Significance and Contributions

Hugh A. Campbell practiced architecture in Washington, D.C. from 1894 until his untimely death in 1903 at the age of 33. During his short career, he primarily designed row houses, but his work included several detached residences, a few apartment buildings, and one Sunday school.

Born in May 1870, Hugh Campbell was the fifth child of William and Susan Campbell. Campbell's father, William W. Campbell, was a Presbyterian minister, and the family moved frequently during Hugh's childhood. In 1894, at age 24, Hugh Campbell was living in Washington, D.C. and practicing architecture. No information about his training or education has been located. In 1897, he married Mary M. West, who was born in Maryland but moved to the District of Columbia before the age of six. Her father, William H. West, was a brick mason, and may have worked with Campbell.

Early in his career, Campbell completed several jobs for Samuel J. Prescott, a local builder and developer, and for J.H. Lane, another local architect and builder who was responsible for many of the original "villas" in Eckington. By 1896, Campbell was purchasing properties and building single row houses or blocks of row houses on spec. His affiliation with North Capitol Presbyterian Church led to work for Campbell. In 1895, he designed a Sunday school building for the Eckington church (no longer standing), and the following year, he designed a dwelling at 1825 2nd Street NE for Irwin B. Linton (see photo), the Sunday school superintendent.



**Irwin B. Linton House, 1825 2nd Street NE; 1896**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Probably influenced by J.H. Lane, most of Campbell's frame buildings were free-standing Queen Anne-style dwellings like the Linton House. Like many of his Queen Anne dwellings, the Linton House incorporated multiple projecting towers and bays, as well as a wraparound porch. The Linton House was described in detail in the *Washington Post* on July 26, 1896 (pg. 14); the newspaper article noted the "beautifully designed stairway," the interior archway between the parlor and library, the wraparound porch, the porte-cochere, the octagonal tower, and "ornamental gables."

The majority of Campbell's documented work in Washington, DC was row houses. He designed at least one group of modest frame row houses (1901-1905 Capitol Avenue NE) early in his career (1895), but most of his row houses were constructed of brick or brick and stone. Common features include rectangular projecting bays, mansard roofs, triangular pediments at the rooflines, towers capped by conical or pyramidal roofs, and the use of contrasting stone in window and door surrounds. Extant examples of masonry row



**1900-1908 3rd Street NW; 1902**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

houses designed by Campbell include 1309-1319 South Carolina Avenue, SE (1895); 1900-1908 3rd Street NW (LeDroit Park Historic District, 1902); and 27-55 U Street NW (1902). The U Street houses represent the largest block of row houses designed by Campbell, and were associated with the last building permit issued to him before he died.

Built in 1896, the block of buildings at 1800 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 2031-2033 Florida Avenue, NW, and 2101 S Street, NW are the most well-known of Campbell's D.C. buildings. Now known as Russia House, the three, four-and-one-half-story buildings stand in a U-shape at the intersection of the three streets. The Beaux-Arts-style, brick-and-stone buildings feature a rusticated stone ground-level story, a flat roof, and a prominent, modillioned-and-dentilled cornice. The S Street and Connecticut Avenue buildings are similar in design with turreted corners; oval cartouches on the second and third stories; a centered, round cartouche on the uppermost story; and applied stone swags between the center windows. The building at 1800 Connecticut Avenue features steps up to the first story, arched entrance with an arched window to its left, while the 2101 S Street dwelling features a rectangular, ground floor entrance with an arched balcony door and arched window on the first story. The five-bay dwelling at 2031-2033 Florida Avenue extends between and the end bays step back to join the other two buildings. Each story of the façade is architectural distinct. The ground story contains two, plain, square entrances. In the second and fourth bays, the first story features paired, arched windows, the second story features bay windows, and the third story features Venetian windows. The uppermost story includes a square cartouche, a round cartouche, and paired, rectangular windows in the middle bays.



**27-55 U Street NW; 1902**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*



**1800 Connecticut Avenue NW and 2031-2033 Florida Avenue NW; 1896**
*Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog*

Building permit records indicate that Campbell designed two apartment buildings; however, neither is extant. The block of row houses that he built and designed at 1900-1908 3rd Street NW in LeDroit Park (1902) included one apartment building, but from the exterior, it is

indistinguishable from the adjacent dwellings.

In December 1902, Campbell became ill with what his obituary described as "nervous prostration." In February 1903, he visited Hot Springs, Virginia in hopes of regaining his health, but grew no better. He then went to a sanitarium near Baltimore, Maryland, where he died on March 10. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery, in Washington, D.C.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 1 article | 1899 | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 45 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |
| **Obituary** Publication: *Washington Post* | 3/12/1903 | Page 9 |

**Other Sources:**

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1900. District of Columbia.

Society of Architectural Historians. American Architectural Competitions. Compiled by Pam Scott. Available online at www.sah.org.

**Notes:** The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November, 2011**

# Eimer Cappelmann



*Northern Virginia Sun*, August 30, 1958; "Church News," page 2.

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 7/27/1901 | Place: Charleston, SC |
| Death: 9/19/1965 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: Married Mary Beverley Dudley in 1924; four children | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: Charleston, SC 1914-1915 |
| College: Georgia Tech, 1920-1921 |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 310 Date Issued: 6/16/1937

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1930 Latest Permit: 1949 Total Permits: 149 Total Buildings: 162

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| David L. Hyer (Charleston, SC) | Draftsman | 1918-1922 |
| Herbert L. Cain (Richmond, VA) | Designer | 1922-1926 |
| Eimer Cappelmann (Richmond, VA) | Designer, draftsman, professional renderer | 1926-1931 |
| Eimer Cappelmann (Richmond, VA) | Architect | 1931-1934 |
| Cappelman (Washington, DC) | Architect | 1934-1938 |
| Cappellman & Hallett (Washington, DC) | Architect | 1935-1937 |
| Eimer Cappelmann (Richmond, VA) | Architect | 1938-1949 |
| Eimer Cappelmann (Arlington, VA) | Architect | 1949-1960 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Grace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC; President of Congregation, 1952-53.

**Awards or Commissions:** n/a

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Churches, dwellings

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Gothic Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Palisades, Spring Valley, Wesley Heights, Cleveland Park, Chevy Chase, Shepherd Park.

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reconstruction, Ampthill | 211 Ampthill Rd, Richmond, VA | 1929-1932 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Williamsburg Presbyterian Church | Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA | 1930 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 1860 Redwood Terrace NW | 1930 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| 1st Baptist Church | Arlington, VA | 1951 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Mount Olivet Methodist Church | Arlington, VA | 1952 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born in Charleston, S.C. on 27 July 1901, Eimer Cappelmann attended high school there from 1914-1915. Cappelmann worked as a draftsman for David L. Hyer in Charleston from 1918 to 1921, then he took a year of special courses in designing, architectural history, and building construction from Georgia Tech. In 1922, Cappelmann moved to Richmond, Virginia to work as a designer for Herbert L. Cain. In 1924, Cappelmann left Cain and set up his own office in Richmond to perform drafting, designing, and delineating.

In the second half of the 1920s, Cappelmann designed several two-story, brick, mostly Colonial-Revival style houses in Richmond. In 1926, he designed a two-bay, two-story, frame house as a model house for Better Homes in America at 2908 Northumberland Avenue in Richmond. His first large commission appears to be the 1929 relocation and restoration of the Georgian house, Ampthill, from its James River location to 211 Ampthill Road in Richmond and its restoration which was completed in 1932.

In June 1930, Cappelmann passed the State Board for the Examination and Certification of Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors' written examination to become certified as an architect in Virginia. In 1930-1931, his work took him to Williamsburg where he designed the Presbyterian Church on Richmond Road, the Theta Delta Chi Fraternity house, and a private residence. He continued to design residences in Richmond through the early 1930s, and designed a residence and farm buildings for a location near Queenstown, Maryland and one in Loudoun County, Virginia. In the 1930s, Ned Farrar of Warrenton, Virginia commissioned Cappelmann to design his house; the resulting two-story, frame Farrar-Gray House is Colonial Revival with a hipped roof and central chimney.



**Farrar-Gray House, Warrenton, VA. 1930s**
*A Pride of Place, page 194.*

In March 1930, the D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects became aware of several sets of building plans in D.C. that Cappelmann prepared as an architect; it notified him of the requirement to apply to the Board for registration as an architect in D.C. In May 1937, Eimer Cappelmann wrote to the Board, apologizing for his belatedness in sending in the application and pleading the financial necessity of making a living for his family as an excuse. In June, the Board approved his application based on the reciprocal transfer of his registration as an architect in Virginia.

In 1930, Eimer Cappelmann was issued his first permit in Washington, D.C. for a substantial dwelling to be constructed at 1860 Redwood Terrace NW, which was located north of the Shepherd Park neighborhood. Its eclectic mix of Tudor-Revival and French-Eclectic style elements is unusual for his body of work in D.C. Most of the residences designed by Cappelmann were Colonial Revival in style with varying degrees of formality. Some combine Colonial Revival elements with other styles such as Tudor Revival. In addition, most of the houses he built were two-story, brick dwellings three to five bays in width. The estimated construction cost for the dwellings generally ranged between $10,000 and $20,000, but a number of buildings exceeded that. Particularly in the 1930s, the higher costs represented significant investments by their owners.

Most of Cappelmann's work which included 162 buildings (149 permits) built in D.C. between 1930 and 1949 consisted of single dwellings designed for their owners. Most stand northwest D.C. between Rock Creek Park and the Potomac River in neighborhoods such as the Palisades, Spring Valley, Wesley Heights, Cleveland Park, and Chevy Chase. A few were located in Shepherd Park, east of Rock Creek Park, as well. Thirty-one of Cappelmann's projects were constructed by the firm of Korzendorfer & Brooks, which occasionally owned the property and built on speculation. Cappelmann also worked with builders O.T. & W.A. Carr, Inc., Wesmond Building & Investment Co., and Muhleman & Kayhoe on the same basis.



**1860 Redwood Terrace NW, 1930**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

In 1934, Eimer Cappelmann moved to Washington, D.C. and established his office at 1644 Connecticut Avenue NW. In 1936, his office relocated to 1147 Connecticut Avenue NW near Dupont Circle. From 1935 to 1937, Eimer Cappelmann also worked with architect Marcus Hallett on seven projects (See entry for Marcus Hallett). Hallett was a Richmond-based architect who Cappelmann may have known prior to Hallett's moving his practice to Washington, D.C. in 1926. During the late 1930s, Cappelmann also worked in surrounding areas such as Montgomery County, Maryland where he designed projects such as the "Wishmaker's House" model in the Indian Spring Village planned residential development. According to a 1940 advertisement, the model combined "the beauty of Traditional Colonial Architecture with the modern appointments so necessary in today's higher standard of living."

During World War II, Eimer Cappelmann worked as a civilian employee for the U.S. Navy at Solomon's Island, Maryland. No building permits were issued under his name during this period.

By 1945, Cappelmann's office had moved to Arlington, Virginia. In March 1945, Cappelmann applied for a permit to construct a church at 3200 S Street SE. The one-story, stone-faced church is Gothic Revival in style. Cappelmann would go on to design more than 150 churches in the Washington area during the remainder of his career. In 1949, Cappelmann designed the brick church at 1600 Taylor Street NE in the Colonial Revival style that he would repeat at the Fairlington Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church, both constructed in 1954 in Alexandria, Virginia. In the 1950s, Cappelmann also designed the First Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia, Mount Olivet Methodist Church in Arlington, and the Education Building for the Leesburg Presbyterian Church in Leesburg, Virginia. In 1963, Cappelmann contracted to design the Manassas Baptist Church in Manassas, Virginia, but his death in September 1965 forced the church to contract with another architectural firm.



**1600 Taylor Street NE, 1949**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** DCPropertyQuest.com; Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division; *The Washington Post* (1877-1990); ProQuest Historical Newspapers; *Ancestry.com.*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ American Architects Directory | 1956 | 82 |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 13 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Obituary** | Publication: *Washington Post*<br>*Washington Star* | Date: 9/21/1965<br>9/20/1965 | Page: n/a<br>n/a |

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Eimer Cappelmann Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Eimer Cappelmann correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.
Indian Spring Village, Montgomery County, Maryland; MIHP Form; Maryland Historical Trust website.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. Charleston, SC.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. Richmond, VA.
Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955*. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.
Williams, Kimberly Prothro. *A Pride of Place*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2003.

**Notes:**

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Eimer Cappelmann was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Owen H. (Henry) Fowler

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 8/20/1874 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Death: 1/3/1959 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: wife: Elizabeth M.; 2 children: Elizabeth L. and Granville L. | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: |
| College: |
| Graduate School: George Washington University (law degree, 1898) |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1907 Latest Permit: 1923 **Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1907

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| U.S. Patent Office? | Patent Attorney | 1900 (Census) |
| Private law practice (O'Farrell, Fowler & O'Farrell) | Attorney, Government practice | 1910 (Census) |
| Private law practice | Attorney | 1920 (Census) |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Kappa Sigma fraternity, Alpha Eta chapter; Incorporator of The American Marble Company, Inc. (Washington, DC; January 1904 listing); Secretary of the North Chesapeake Beach Land & Improvements Company (Washington, DC, 1909 Polk's Directory.)

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Grocery Stores, Social Hall, Dance Pavilion

**Styles and Forms:** Vernacular forms with Italianate, Colonial Revival & Craftsman influences

**DC Work Locations:** Deanwood, Brookland

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwellings | 4600-4700 Kane Place NE | 1907-1913 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwellings | 4407-4411 Sheriff Road NE | 1910 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 4300 Jay Street NE | 1912 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwellings | 910-922 45th Place NE | 1914 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 4304 Jay Street NE | 1912 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Store | 3301 12th Street NE | 1922 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

An attorney by training and profession, Owen H. Fowler played an active role in real estate speculation and residential development in the Deanwood neighborhood in Northeast Washington, D.C. A descendant of one of the early 19th-century owners of a Deanwood-area farm, Fowler made a living as a patent attorney and acted as builder and architect for many speculative houses in the neighborhood. During the 1910s, Fowler frequently collaborated with skilled craftsmen, builders, and other real estate developers, including Thomas H. Stokes, a prolific African-American builder, and with white real estate investor, John L. Tepper. Between 1907 and 1923, Fowler completed over 120 buildings, mainly modest single-family dwellings in the Deanwood neighborhood.



**4411 Sheriff Road NE; 1910**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Born in 1874 in Washington, D.C., Fowler completed his legal training at George Washington University in 1898. That year, he became a partner O'Farrell, Fowler & O'Farrell, which specialized in patent law. He continued to practice law through the 1910s and 1920s. During World War I, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps.

In 1907, Fowler began to design and construct single-family homes scattered throughout Deanwood. His houses are very modest, exclusively frame buildings with little-to-no architectural ornamentation. Fowler made use of standard, front-gable and hipped-roof vernacular house types. He designed and built houses for individuals and real estate speculators. Most of his houses cost between $300 and $1,000 to construct. They were purchased mainly by the skilled laborers, craftsmen, and federal employees that made up the majority of Deanwood's growing population.

Good examples of Fowler's modest, vernacular frame houses remain scattered throughout the Deanwood neighborhood. Between 1907 and 1913, he subdivided and built a variety of small houses on Kane Place, NE (Square 5097). The all-frame houses range from what appear to be two or three-room, front-gable cottages to narrow, two-story, detached row house-style houses with front gable or shed roofs. Fowler generally incorporated front porches in his houses; simple Craftsman-style elements began to appear on his buildings between 1910 and 1920.



**4701 Kane Place NE; 1911**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Fowler designed several neighborhood grocery stores (some paired with residences), a dance hall, and a social hall for the Ancient United Order of the Sons & Daughters of Moses, Mount Carmel Lodge No. 42 at 4407 Lee Street, NE (1909; razed 1950s); however, none survive. Fowler's only surviving non-frame building is also his only building located outside of Deanwood; it stands at the corner of 12th Street and Kearney Street in the Brookland neighborhood in Northeast D.C. The one-story, brick-and-tile structure was built in 1922 for owner Julius E. Albrecht.



**4304 Jay Street NE; 1912**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In addition to his Deanwood development activities, Fowler pursued other business opportunities. In 1904, he and other partners founded the American Marble Company, Inc. of Washington, D.C.; in 1909, he was an officer of the North Chesapeake Beach Land and Improvement Company that successfully developed the resort community now known as North Beach in Calvert County, Maryland.

Fowler died in January 1959. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



**3301 12th Street NE; 1922**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:**

| **Biographical Directories** | **Year/Volume** | **Page** |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory—not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☐ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: not in it | | |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: Not found Date: Page:

**Other Sources:**

*Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia.* 1897, 1898-1899.

Far East Community Services, Inc. "Final Report of Historical and Building Investigation of the Northeast Washington, D.C. Community of Deanwood, Phase I." September 30, 1987. On file at the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, D.C. Office of Planning.

**Other Sources (Cont.)**

Library of Congress, Digital Collections. *Chronicling America*: Historic American Newspapers.
Longstreth, Richard, ed. *Housing Washington.* Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
National Cemetery Administration. U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775-2006 [database online] (via Ancestry.com).
Overbeck, Ruth Ann. "Final Report of Historical and Building Investigation of the Northeast Washington, D.C. Community of Deanwood, Phase 1", September 30, 1987.
Overbeck, Ruth Ann and Kia Chatmon, "Deanwood," in *Washington At Home,* Kathryn Schneider Smith, ed. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.
Smith, Kathryn Schneider, ed. *Washington at Home.* Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1900, 1910, 1920. District of Columbia.
U.S. Veterans Gravesites. *Ancestry.com.*

**Notes:**
The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# John Fraser



*Harris & Ewing portrait of John Fraser, architect, ca. 1905. (Library of Congress, LC-H25-35157-E).*

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth:10/1825 | Place: Scotland |
| Death: 12/26/1906 | Place: Riverton, NJ |
| Family: wife: Sophia; son: Archibald A.; daughters: Sophia, Agnes, Julia | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: |
| College: |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1873 Latest Permit: 1889 Total Permits: 27 Total Buildings: 39

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| John Fraser | Independent practice (Philadelphia) | 1850s |
| Fraser & Palles | Partner | 1856-ca. 1860 |
| John Fraser | Independent practice (Philadelphia) | ca. 1860-1867 |
| Fraser, Furness, & Hewitt, Philadelphia, PA | Architect | 1867-1871 |
| John Fraser, Architects, Civil Engineers & Surveyors (Philadelphia & Washington, DC) | Principal | 1872-1888 |
| U.S. Department of the Treasury | Acting Supervisory Architect | ca. 1878-1879? |
| John Fraser & Son (Philadelphia & Washington DC) | Principal | 1888-1904 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: March 1869 Fellow of the AIA: 1869

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Founding member of Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA (1869); American Institute of Architects; T-Square Club (Philadelphia); Franklin Institute; St. Andrews Society.

**Awards or Commissions:** 1854 – Academy of Music, Philadelphia, PA; 1866-1867—War Department Building, Washington, DC; 1867—Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, PA; 1868 Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA; 1868—Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, Philadelphia, PA; 1873—Library of Congress, Washington, DC

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Retail Stores, Social Club, Churches & Synagogues, Monuments, Dwellings, Fire Houses, Row houses

**Styles and Forms:** Second Empire, Italianate

**DC Work Locations:** Dupont Circle, Scott Circle, Downtown, Logan Circle

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Burnett, Sexton and Swearingen Store | Philadelphia, PA | 1854 | ☒ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Union League Building | S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA | 1865 | ☒ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Rodef-Shalom Synagogue | Philadelphia | 1869 | Demolished |
| Competition drawings for Library of Congress | Washington, DC | 1873-74 | Not built. |
| First British Legation | Connecticut Avenue and N Street NW (NW corner) | 1872-1874 | Demolished in 1931. |
| Citizens Building Company Row houses | 914-926 French Street NW | 1877 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Greater U Street Historic District |
| Truck Company No. 1, D.C. Fire Department (attributed to Fraser) | East side of N. Capitol St. NE betw. C St. & Constitution Avenue | 1878 | Demolished ca. 1916. |
| Truck Company No. 2, D.C. Fire Department (attributed to Fraser) | New Hampshire Avenue & M Street NW | 1878 | Demolished ca. 1960. |
| James E. Blaine Mansion | 2000 Massachusetts Ave.nue N.W. | 1881-1882 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Kann's Department Store, first building (Saks & Co. building?) | 701 Market Space between 7th & 8th Streets NW | 1884 | Burned 1979. |

## Significance and Contributions

Born in 1825 in Scotland, architect John Fraser immigrated to the United States at the age of nineteen, landing in Philadelphia in 1845. His career spanned nearly 50 years and included important buildings in both Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. It is not known where he trained, but by the 1850s, he was practicing independently as an architect in Philadelphia. Fraser's early work in Philadelphia includes two commercial buildings and a major remodeling of the important Pine Street Presbyterian Church (1857). Beginning in 1856, Fraser formed a short-lived partnership with civil engineer, Andrew Palles. After returning to independent practice in 1861, Fraser received one of his most significant commissions—the Union League Building on Philadelphia's South Broad Street (1862-1865). Executed in a grand Second Empire style, it was an important example of the newly popular style in the city.




**19th century image of Union League Building, 140 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA (John Fraser, 1865)**
*Historic American Buildings Survey*
*(http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/PA0938/)*

Fraser was an influential and well-connected practitioner. In 1869, he was among the six prominent Philadelphia architects who founded the city's chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Two of the other founders were Fraser's partners, one a former apprentice, Frank Furness. Furness went on to develop a distinctly robust, American architectural style and practice in Philadelphia during the last three decades of the 19th century; he is recognized as a major American architect of the Victorian era whose designs influenced the work of later, early modern architects including Chicago's Louis Sullivan. In 1867, after working for Richard Morris Hunt in New York, Furness returned to Philadelphia and joined with his former instructor, Fraser, and another young Philadelphia architect, George Hewitt, to form the firm of Fraser, Furness, & Hewitt. One of the firm's early commissions, the Rodef-

Shalom Synagogue in Philadelphia (1869) helped establish the tradition of brightly-colored, Saracenic-styled synagogues in eastern U.S. cities.

Circa 1870, Fraser began consulting with the federal government in Washington, D.C. An 1870 letter from Thomas U. Walter, the former Architect of the Capitol, indicates that Fraser worked with the federal Committee on Public Buildings & Grounds on the design of a jail in Washington, D.C. By 1872, Fraser had established an office in Washington, D.C., while retaining his Philadelphia office. In addition to securing several important commissions in D.C., Fraser pursued two architectural competitions for public commissions, the first of which was an 1873 design competition for the Library of Congress. Fraser's competition drawings are preserved at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division (ADE – UNIT 2424). The second was an 1879 submission for a redesign of the unfinished Washington Monument.



**916 French Street NW (1877)**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

During the 1870s, Fraser won several important commissions in this city. In addition to his designs for the rectory (1875) for the Benjamin Henry Latrobe-designed St. John's Episcopal Church on Lafayette Square across from the White House, and the now-demolished British Legation on Connecticut Avenue near Dupont Circle (1872), by 1875, Fraser had designed what *The National Republican* newspaper described as "decidedly the most beautiful buildings in the District" (11 February 1875). These included residences for local residents identified by the newspaper as Mr. Lowrie, Mr. Pollock, and Walter S. Cox. Vernon Row on Pennsylvania Avenue was also listed among his important buildings. In 1877, Fraser designed the three-story, brick, Second Empire-style residence at 1433 Q Street NW for local real estate mogul, developer of the Eckington neighborhood, and, later, D.C. Commissioner, Col. George H. Truesdell (1842-1921). That same year, Fraser also designed an elaborate, Second Empire-style, brick residence for scientist and U.S. Patent Office examiner H.H. Bates at 1700 13th Street NW. In 1878, Fraser designed a corner row house located at the corner of 13th Street and K Street NW for businessman, politician, and long-time clerk and business manager of the *The National Republican* newspaper Lewis Clephane (permit #13, 10/20/1876). Fraser's perspective drawing of the Clephane House was published in the September 1878 issue of *The American Architect and Building News (see image below).* The house has since been demolished.



**British Legation near Dupont Circle (Connecticut & N Streets NW), photo ca. 1920 (Built 1872-1874).**
*Library of Congress LC-DIG-npcc-00219*

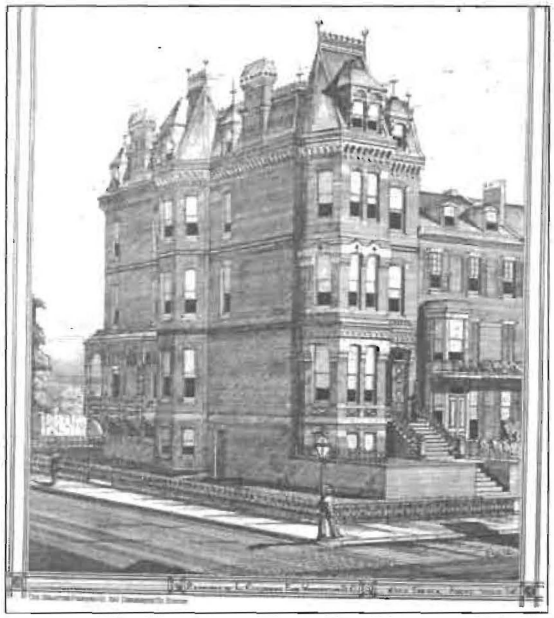
Circa 1878, Fraser's connections with federal officials led to his appointment to the position of Superintendent of Construction for the new building designed to house the Bureau of Engraving & Printing (now known as the Auditor's Building at Independence Avenue & 14th Street SW, listed in the National Register in 1978) for the Supervising Architect of the Treasury's office. While working as Superintendent of Construction, Fraser's boss, Supervising Architect of the Treasury, James G. Hill, was suspended while being investigated for fraud. During Hill's suspension, Fraser was appointed "Acting Supervising Architect of the Treasury," a position he held from December 1878 to May 1879. Hill was reinstated, and Fraser left; however, in 1883, Fraser's name appeared on a list of men vying to succeed James G. Hill as Supervising Architect of the Treasury (*The National Republican,* 25 September 1883). The position eventually went to another architect.

Fraser continued to practice in both Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. through the 1880s. Three important residential commissions that Fraser completed during the decade were the Italianate villa-style C.B. Tanner Mansion at 1501 16th Street NW (1881), the James G. Blaine Mansion at 2000 Massachusetts Avenue NW (1881-1882), and a residence for Nebraska Senator Charles Van Wyck (served 1881-1887) at 1800 Massachusetts Avenue NW. The Blaine Mansion at DuPont Circle is probably the best known of Fraser's Washington, D.C. designs. Built for then U.S. Secretary of State and three-time Republican presidential candidate, James G. Blaine, the house was later home to George Westinghouse, founder of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The building is an exuberant example of the High Victorian Second Empire Style. According to Frank Furness' biographer, the portico decorations were copied from Furness' famous Guarantee Trust & Deposit building in Philadelphia (1872-1875).

In addition to his residential commissions, Fraser's practice included commercial and public work. In 1884, Fraser designed a five-story, brick store for Saks & Company (predecessor company of Saks Fifth Avenue) in the heart of Washington's downtown retail district at 7th Street and Market Space NW. The eclectic Romanesque-style building at 7th & Market Space was the birthplace of the famous Saks Fifth Avenue chain; in 1932, the building was incorporated into Kann's Department Store which burned and was demolished in 1979.

Two municipal buildings also have been attributed to John Fraser. They were the D.C. Fire Department's Truck Company No. 1 (near Union Station on North Capitol Street NE) and Truck Company No. 2 (at New Hampshire Avenue and M Street NW). Erected between 1878 and 1879, their stylistic connections to Frank Furness' contemporary work may account for historian James M. Goode's attribution to Fraser who had worked closely with Furness. They shared architectural similarities, including their relatively planar facades, and simplified, almost modern Romanesque arches and other adornment. Both buildings were razed in the 20th century.

In 1888, Fraser brought his son, Archibald Fraser, into his practice and renamed it John Fraser & Son. The firm maintained offices in Washington until 1890; after that, it appears that John Fraser returned to Philadelphia. Records suggest that Archibald Fraser may have predeceased his father in 1895. Their firm, however, stayed in business in Philadelphia until 1904, when Fraser retired to his home in Riverton, New Jersey. He died in 1906.



**Residence of L. Clephane, Esq., Washington, DC (13th & K Streets NW; Erected 1877)**
*Illustration from The American Architect and Building News, 7 September 1878, Pl. 141.*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – "House of L. Clephane, Esq., Washington, D.C.," *American Architect and Building News* | 1878 Sept 7/v.4 | 85 |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 102, 149 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects –not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: Not found Date: Page:

**Other Sources:**


Clephane, Walter C. "Lewis Clephane: A Pioneer Washington Republican," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* (Washington, DC: Vol. 21, 1918), pp. 263-277.

Dennin, Richard. *John Fraser: Nineteenth Century Architect*, Thesis prepared under James O'Gorman, University of Pennsylvania, 1971.

Goode, James. *Capital Losses*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2003.

Jennings, J.L. Sibley, Jr., Sue A. Kohler, and Jeffrey R. Carson. *Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Volume II*. Washington, D.C.: The Commission of Fine Arts, 1975. (See pp. 119-121.)

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**Notes:** Fraser's drawings for the Library of Congress are located in the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Emil S. (Sophus) Friedrich

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 1828 | Place: Dankerode, Saxony, Prussia |
| Death: 1886 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: wife: Caroline Maria A. Gebhardt (married 1852); 5 children | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: |
| College: |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |




*Plaque from Friedrich's Burial Monument at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC*
*Photo courtesy of Ron Roberson & www.findagrave.com.*

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1877 Latest Permit: 1885 Total Permits: 27 Total Buildings: 41

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Thomas U. Walter | Draftsman, U.S. Capitol building extension | 1855- ca.1860 |
| Washington Navy Yard, Constructing Engineers Office | Draftsman | 1868-1869, 1873-1874 |
| Emil S. Friedrich | Architect | 1875-1886 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Member of the Concordia German Evangelical Church, 20th & G Street, NW (Foggy Bottom); stockholder in the German-American National Bank (1880)

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Educational, Religious, Dwellings, Dwellings/Stores

**Styles and Forms:** Second Empire, Italianate

**DC Work Locations:** Dupont Circle, Capitol Hill, Shaw, Logan Circle, Sixteenth Street, Anacostia

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rowhouses | 321-323 E. Capitol Street SE | 1870s | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Old Primary Dept. and College Hall (rear wing) | Gallaudet University | 1862-66 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Gallaudet College Historic |
| Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church | 201 4th Street, SE (4th & Independence Ave., SE) | 1869-1872 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Capitol Hill Historic District |
| House for Rear Adm. John H. Upshur, U.S. Navy | 1721 Rhode Island Avenue NW | 1877 | Demolished. |
| Dwelling & Milk Dairy for Mrs. Elisabeth Wagener | 403 East Capitol Street SE | 1882 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rowhouse for D. J. Partello | 5 Logan Circle | 1883 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| House for Theodore D. Wilson, U.S. Navy | 1631 16th Street NW | 1883 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born in Dankerode Prussia (now Germany) in 1828, Emil Sophus Friedrich arrived in Washington, D.C. in 1851 where he practiced architecture (and possibly engineering) until his death in 1886. Friedrich's notable works include several campus buildings that he designed in the 1860s for Gallaudet University. Little is known about his early life and training. In 1852, Friedrich married Caroline Maria A. Gebhardt at Concordia Lutheran Church in Foggy Bottom (1920 G Street, NW). The couple had five children before 1860, but only two sons survived (Leon and Albert).



**321-323 East Capitol Street SE; 1860s**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1855, Friedrich took a position as a draftsman for the extension of the U.S. Capitol building under Architect of the Capitol, Thomas U. Walter. By 1860, he was advertising his services as an architect in the city directories. Between 1860 and 1870, Friedrich may have designed a pair of three-story, brick row houses on East Capitol Street, where he lived and worked through much of his career (321-323 East Capitol Street, SE). The paired row houses at 321-323 East Capitol Street are late examples of the Greek Revival style.

Among Friedrich's most important commissions were his works for the fledgling Gallaudet College (originally the Columbia Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind). In 1862, Friedrich designed a substantial addition to Gallaudet College's first academic building known as Primary Hall or the Primary Department Building. The addition was a three-story, brick, Italianate-style building set atop a raised foundation and featuring a square corner tower and a double-height "loggia" across the front. The building was demolished in 1916 when the present Fowler Hall was erected. Friedrich completed several other buildings for Gallaudet during the 1860s. In 1863-1864 he designed and refined plans for a new Main campus building. Only the east wing of his planned Main Building was erected (1865-66); it remains standing as a rear wing of College Hall, which was designed and built by architect Frederick C. Withers between 1874 and 1877. During the institution's early years, Friedrich also built a carriage house, a shop, and a gasworks on Gallaudet's campus.



**Emil Friedrich. Proposed design for Gallaudet College Main Building, 1864. Only the east wing was built.**
*Original at Gallaudet University Archives.*

During the late 1860s and early 1870s, Friedrich worked for the Constructing Engineers Office at the Washington Navy Yard. No information on his dates

of employment or works there.]

By 1875, Friedrich had begun his own architectural practice. Although he occasionally worked with other architects, including Paul J. Pelz, Friedrich executed most commissions by himself. The vast majority of his private work was residential design. In the 1870s and 1880s, he completed several large residences for prominent naval officers, including a three-story, red brick, Italianate-style residence for the Chief Constructor of the U.S. Navy, Theodore D. Wilson (1631 16th Street NW, 1883). In 1883, he designed a three-story, brick row house for diplomat and noted violin collector, Dwight J. Partello. Located at 5 Logan Circle NW, this was a fashionable, Italianate brick house at a prominent residential address.



**Main Building, Gallaudet College (now East Wing, College Hall). Photo: 1866. Designed by Emil Friedrich, 1864. Built 1865-1866. Incorporated as rear "ell" of Frederick Clarke Withers' Gothic Revival College Hall, 1874-1877.**

*Original at Gallaudet University Archives.*



**Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 201 4th Street SE, 1869-1872.**

*Photo courtesy of Steven Ainsworth, 2008 (PBase.com)*

During the 1880s, Friedrich worked for real estate speculators and also speculated for himself. In 1880, he erected three houses on P Street in Logan Circle; he sold or leased the two- and three-story brick dwellings for additional income (1303-1305 P Street, NW). The group of three dwellings is simple in character; they feature segmental arched brick lintels with keystones and bracketed cornices. His work for real estate developers included a row of four, two-story, brick row houses located on Capitol Hill at 707-713 S Street SE. The row repeats the same unit design, which consists of an entry bay next to a full-height, projecting window bay that terminates in a shallow-pitched pyramidal tower-like roof. Decorative brickwork and deeply, stepped brick cornices adorn each unit. Designed for Stancisi & Schneider, the buildings were completed in 1884.

Friedrich designed one church, the Anacostia Baptist Church at 13th and W Streets in Southeast. Designed in 1884, the church was a 42-foot by 55-foot, one-story, frame building set atop a brick foundation. Circa 1960, the congregation remodeled and expanded the building; it is now clad in brick, and most of its original features are obscured.

Friedrich appears to have been connected in the local German-American community in Washington, D.C. He was a member of the first German congregation established in the city and a stockholder in the German American National Bank. One contemporary source indicates that he collaborated with German-American architect Paul J. Pelz. Friedrich died at his home on East Capitol Street SE in 1886. He is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery, a historic German-American cemetery located on North Capitol Street in Northeast Washington, D.C.



**707-713 D Street SE; 1884**
*Photo courtesy of Google Maps; 2010*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*; Gallaudet University Library and Archives – Photos, Vertical File material, Archival/Manuscript material.

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 104 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects –not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: Not found Date: Page:

**Other Sources:**

Brown, Glenn. *History of the United States Capitol*, 1903 (reprint 1970), pp. 203-204.
Brown, T. Robins and Patrick Andrus. "Gallaudet College Historic District" *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*. National Park Service, June 1974.
Goode, James. *Capital Losses*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2003 (p. 6).
Kowsky, Francis R. "College Hall at Gallaudet College," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D.C.* Fiftieth Volume (1980), pp. 279-289.
Prospect Hill Cemetery (Washington, DC). "Interesting People at Prospect Hill Cemetery" Available online at www.prospecthillcemetery.org/Biographies.html.
Scott, Pamela and Antoinette J. Lee. *Buildings of the District of Columbia*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

**Notes:** The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# John Graham, Jr.

## Biographical Data

Birth: 12/26/1888 Place: Camden, NJ

Death: 5/07/1957 Place: Falls Church, VA

Family: Married Elizabeth McGilvary in 1931, one child: Milla Graham

## Education

High School: Norfolk Academy, Norfolk, VA; Chestnut Hill Academy, Philadelphia, PA

College: University of Pennsylvania, 1911 (Bachelor of Science in Architecture)

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship: Duhring, Okie & Ziegler, Philadelphia (2 years); Day and Klauder, Philadelphia (3 years)



***John Graham, Jr. Passport photo, 23 December 1920.***
*Source: NARA, Washington, DC; Passport Applications. NARA Series: M1490, Roll 1444. [available at ancestry.com]*

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a* Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1944 Latest Permit: 1945 Total Permits: 37 Total Buildings: 428

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Duhring, Okie & Ziegler | | 1911-1913 |
| Day & Klauder | | 1913-1916 |
| John Graham, Jr. | Independent architect | 1916 |
| U.S. Army Engineers | Captain | 1917-1919 |
| Thomas, Martin, Kirkpatrick & Graham | Architect | 1919-1921 |
| Folsom, Stanton & Graham | Architect | 1921-ca. 1929 |
| John Graham, Jr. | Independent architect | 1930-1938 |
| U.S. Housing Authority | Project Planner for Public Housing | 1938-1944 |
| John Graham, Jr. | Independent architect (Falls Church, VA) | 1944-1957 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1934-39, 1946-57 Fellow of the AIA:

**Other Societies or Memberships:** American Institute of Architects; Philadelphia: AIA Philadelphia Chapter; Philadelphia Cricket Club; T-Square Club; Franklin Institute; University of Pennsylvania Board. Washington, DC Metropolitan Area: AIA Washington Metropolitan Chapter; Committee on the National Capital (1954-1957); Episcopal Committee, Christian Association; Falls Church Planning Commission; Northern Virginia Regional Planning Commission; National Capital Regional Planning Commission; Falls Church Rotary Club.

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Single residences, housing complexes, apartment buildings; commercial buildings; schools

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival

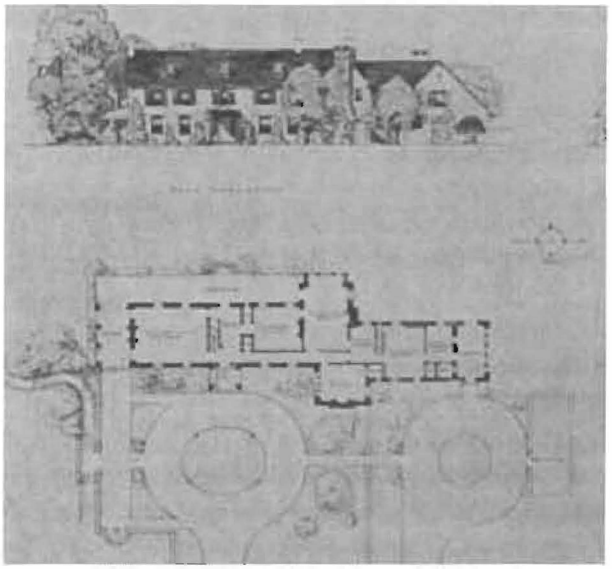
**DC Work Locations:** Deanwood

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| William C. Wetherill Residence | Laverock, PA | 1920 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| F.S. Whittaker Residence | Chestnut Hill, Emmaus, PA | 1923 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Chestnut Hill Post Office | 10 W. Gravers Lane, Philadelphia, PA | 1923 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Charles Gibbons Davis Residence (Windybrae) | Meadowbrook Lane, Philadelphia, PA (Chestnut Hill) | 1924 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Suburban Heights housing development | Deanwood area, Washington, DC | 1944-1945 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Mount Daniel Elementary School | Falls Church, VA | ca. 1955 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Oak Ridge Elementary School | Arlington, VA | Ca. 1950 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

*Note: Three John Grahams (including two who went by John Graham, Jr.) practiced architecture in DC during the period when the large-scale Suburban Heights development was designed and constructed in Northeast, DC. None of the available information on each architect definitely connects him to Suburban Heights. History Matters feels that John Graham, Jr. born in 1888 in Camden, New Jersey is the most likely designer. The Picturing America book on Deanwood identifies Seattle-born John Graham, Jr. as the architect of Suburban Heights.*

Born in Camden, New Jersey in 1888, the son of John and Florence (Bede) Graham, John Graham, Jr. trained to be an architect first at Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia and then at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a degree in architecture in 1911. He became a prominent architect in Philadelphia in the 1920s and, in the late 1930s, moved to Washington, D.C. to design public housing for the U.S. Housing Authority. In 1944, he returned to the private sector, practicing in D.C. and the surrounding areas.



**William C. Wetherill Residence (1916 drawing).**
*Charles Keefe. The American House. New York: U.P.C. Book Company, 1922. Plate no. 16.*

After graduating from college, Graham apprenticed for five years with two Philadelphia architecture firms. After launching a brief independent practice in that city in 1916, he became a Captain in the U.S. Army Engineers division for the duration of World War I. In 1919, Graham became partner in the Philadelphia firm of Thomas, Martin, Kirkpatrick & Graham. While there, Graham designed a lavish Colonial Revival-style country residence for William C. Wetherill, Esq. of Philadelphia. The designs for the large, two-and-a-half-story, whitewashed stone house were published in both the *Architectural Record* (1919) and in a collection of country houses published by architect Charles S. Keefe in 1922. The exterior and interior featured faithful

recreations of typical Georgian and Federal style architectural details and interiors. While with the firm of Folsom, Stanton & Graham (1921-1929), Graham went on to design several more dwellings for wealthy Chestnut Hill residents as well as the Chestnut Hill Post Office (1923).



**F.S. Whittaker Residence (1923 drawing)**
*Philadelphia Architects & Buildings database (online).*

In the mid-1930s, Graham worked as a technical advisor on housing for the State of Pennsylvania. In 1938, Graham moved to Washington, DC to take a position with the United States Housing Authority (USHA). Established in 1937 as part of President Roosevelt's "New Deal," the USHA loaned money to states and communities to fund low-cost housing for people who had lost their homes and jobs in the economic depression of the 1930s. Graham was a project planner for new public housing projects in Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Wilmington, Delaware. During World War II, he served as the USHA's technical advisor to the War Department on defense and war housing.

In 1944, Graham left the USHA to return to private practice with his home and office located in Falls Church, Virginia. That same year, he designed a large-scale housing development in northeast Washington, DC, in the Deanwood neighborhood. Designed as housing for African American soldiers returning from World War II, the project consisted of over 400 duplex units laid out on a series of curvilinear streets. The project cost the developer, Suburban Heights Development Company, approximately $1.7 million to construct. Graham's design for the duplexes emphasized economy. Each two-unit, two-story building was constructed of a combination of brick, frame, and concrete block. The buildings have a simple, side-gable form with each unit displaying a door and a window bay on the first story and a single window on the second. On some of the units, the second-story front window sits within a shallow wall dormer. The duplexes lack architectural decoration and could be described as minimal traditional in style.



**Standard Suburban Heights Duplex at 847-849 51st Street, NE**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Later in his career, John Graham, Jr. collaborated with two Arlington architects, A.J. Dickey and James M. McHugh. During the 1950s, he designed two elementary schools in Northern Virginia, Oak Ridge Elementary School in Arlington (circa 1950) and Mount Daniel Elementary School in Falls Church, Virginia (circa 1955).

Graham maintained membership in the A.I.A. throughout his career, except for the period during which he worked for the U.S. government (approximately 1938-1945). After leaving public service, he joined the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the A.I.A. and served on several committees, including the Committee on the National Capital (1954-1957). Graham never applied for registration as an architect in the District of Columbia, though he maintained registrations in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Graham also participated in local civic activities in and around his home in Falls Church, Virginia, and served on the Falls Church Planning Commission, the Northern Virginia Regional Planning Commission, and the National Capital Regional Planning Commission.




**Aerial view of Suburban Heights Housing Development in Deanwood neighborhood, Northeast Washington, DC. Rough boundary: Hayes Street, Sheriff Road, 50th Street, and Division Avenue**
*Google Maps.*

Graham authored two books. One was titled "Housing in Scandinavia" (1940) following a 1936 trip to Sweden, Denmark and Finland. The other was an edited volume of the *Letters of Thomas Carlyle to William Graham* (Princeton University Press, 1950), which included the 1820 to 1849 letters between Scottish writer, Thomas Carlyle, and Scottish merchant shipper turned sheep farmer, William Graham.

John Graham, Jr. died unexpectedly in May 1957.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ American Architects Directory | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals | | |
| "House at Laverock, Pa.," *Architectural Record* | 1919 Sept., v. 46 | 264-269 |
| Obituary, Michigan Society of Architects *Monthly Bulletin* | 1957 July, v. 31 | 13 |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | p. 114** |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |

| Biographical Directories cont'd. | | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | | |
| ☒ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects | | 1956 | p. 205 |
| **Obituary** | Publication: *Washington Post; Washington Star; Northern Va. Sun* | Date: 05/09/1957; 05/08/1957; 05/08/1957 | Page: n/a |

**Other Sources:**

Keefe, Charles S. ed. *The American House.* New York: U.P.C. Books Company, 1922. "Residence of William Chattin Wetherill, Esq., Laverock, Pa."

U.S. Passport Application for John Graham, Jr. *Ancestry.com.*

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955.* Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 record for John Graham, Jr.. *Ancestry.com.*

**Notes:** * John Graham, Jr. (b. 1888) never registered as an architect in Washington, DC. He was registered in Virginia and Pennsylvania.

** Note that the entry for John Graham, Jr. in *Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960* combines biographical information about John Graham, Jr. born in 1888 (profiled in this entry) and a second architect by the same name who was born in 1908 in Seattle, Washington. A third John Graham (John Hans Graham) also worked as an architect during essentially the same period in Washington, D.C. The John Graham who practiced primarily in Seattle was only a resident of D.C. briefly.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Charles Gregg

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 6/8/1872 | Place: Baltimore, MD |
| Death: 9/27/1950 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: Aimee B. Gregg (wife); Stephen L. Gregg (son) | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: Baltimore, Maryland |
| College: |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: Office Training 1891-1895 |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 21 Date Issued: 4/15/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1902 Latest Permit: 1927 Total Permits: 38 Total Buildings: 50

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Beecher, Friz & Gregg, Baltimore, MD | Architect | 1904-1907 |
| Charles Gregg | Architect | 1908-1910 |
| Gregg & Leisenring | Architect | 1910-1927 |
| D.C. Municipal Architects Office | Chief, Specifications Division | 1925-1943 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1920-1950 Fellow of the AIA: n/a

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Architectural Club of Baltimore

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Automobile Club Building, Firehouse, Dwellings, Stores, Churches, Apartment

**Styles and Forms:** Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Romanesque

**DC Work Locations:** Foggy Bottom, Greater U Street, Georgetown, Capitol Hill

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| M.A. Winter Company Office Building | 1436 U Street, NW | 1908 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Greater U Street Historic District |
| Apartment Building | 1416 Chapin Street, NW | 1903 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Alexander Memorial Baptist Church | 2709 N Street, NW | 1909 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Georgetown Historic District |
| Post Office | 1440 U Street, NW | 1912 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Engine Company No. 24 Firehouse | 3702 Georgia Avenue NW | 1911 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Charles Gregg was born on June 8, 1872 in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1891, Gregg began his architectural training in an unknown Baltimore architectural office; his 1925 application to the D.C. Board of Examiners records that the training lasted until 1895 while his 1920 application for American Institute of Architects (AIA) membership notes that it lasted until 1904. In 1896, Gregg won a prize for an architectural project from the Baltimore Architectural Club, and he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Club in 1898 and 1899.

In 1901, Gregg moved to Washington, D.C. to help with the design of the National Museum of Natural History, a Hornblower & Marshall project. From 1902 to 1904, Gregg obtained D.C. building permits for a variety of building types located on Capitol Hill and in the northwest D.C. areas of 16th Street, Georgetown, and Foggy Bottom. In the Columbia Heights area he designed two brick apartment buildings of four and five stories with narrow façades and deep sides. The building at 1416 Chapin Street NW featured a full-height, semi-octagonal bay that dominates half of the façade. The three-story townhouse he designed at 1923 16th Street NW featured a full-height, bowed bay. Other Gregg buildings from this period are no longer standing; they included a laundry, a lodging house, a stable and shop, and a row of houses on the 2600 block of Virginia Avenue NW that were replaced by the Watergate Complex.



**1416 Chapin Street NW, 1903**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

In 1904, Charles Gregg moved back to Baltimore to form the practice of Beecher, Friz & Gregg (1904-1907). In 1906, the firm designed "the most distinguished and expensive" of the automobile related buildings built along Mount Royal Avenue in Baltimore in the early decades of the 20th century—the building housed the headquarters of the Automobile Club of Maryland (Hayward & Shivers, p. 235). The three-story brick and concrete building included dining and entertainments for members.

In 1907, the firm dissolved, and, in 1908, Gregg opened his own practice in Washington at 1320 New York Avenue NW. In 1909, one of the residences that he designed was included in an exhibit sponsored by the Washington Architectural Club at the Corcoran Gallery. That year, Gregg designed the two-story, brick church at 2709 N Street NW for Alexander Memorial Baptist Church. The eclectic, late Italianate/Colonial Revival style church is located in the Georgetown Historic District.

In 1910, Gregg designed the nine-story brick, steel, and concrete storage building that still stands at 1420 U Street NW (now known as the Security Storage building) in the Greater U Street Historic District. The six-bay, Classical Revival-style building features a concrete façade on the first floor and concrete pilasters that extend the height of the building to a concrete cornice; red tapestry brick in a diamond pattern fills the bays between pilasters.



**1420 U Street NW (Security Storage Building), 1910**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

In 1910, Charles Gregg and Luther Morris Leisenring formed their architectural firm located at Gregg's 1320 New York Avenue NW office. In 1911 alone, the firm of Gregg & Leisenring designed a row of three, one-story, brick stores on Georgia Avenue (3312-3316 George Avenue NW); a one-story, frame dwelling in the Chevy Chase area (4123 Harrison Street NW); and three, Colonial-Revival style, brick row houses now located in the Mount

Vernon Square Historic District (455-459 Ridge Street NW), each of which contains two separate apartments. In addition, Gregg & Leisenring designed Engine Company No. 24 at 3702 Georgia Avenue NW in the Petworth area; a two-story, Italian Renaissance-style, brick building, it featured two vehicle entrances and a tile roof.

Between 1912 and 1927, Gregg & Leisenring designed the Neo-Classical style, stone U.S. Post Office at 1440 U Street NW (now 1438 U Street NW)(1912); the original section of the sprawling, Colonial-Revival style, three story, brick National Lutheran Home for the Aged (1913) in Brookland; the stone, Gothic Revival Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (1919) at 5101 14th Street NW; and the St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church and Sunday School (1927) at 1611 Brentwood Road NE. The firm also designed Colonial-Revival and Tudor-Revival style dwellings in the northwest and northeast areas of D.C.

In 1920, Charles Gregg was elected to membership in the AIA and was assigned to the Washington, D.C. Chapter. In 1925, Gregg applied for and received his registration with the D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects.



**Engine Company No. 24, 1911**
**3702 Georgia Avenue NW**
*Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division*

Luther M. Leisenring and Charles Gregg were members of Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc. In 1925, Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) formed the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design.

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

In 1925, Gregg became the chief of the specification division of the D.C. municipal architect's office. He retired from the position in 1943. Gregg died September 27, 1950 at his home at 1760 Euclid Street NW.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through *ProQuest*; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*; Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography-not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 117 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: *Washington Star* Date: 9/29/1950 Page: n/a

**Other Sources:**

*Architects and Builders' Magazine*, vol.1, No. 1, October 1899 [accessed through Google Books].
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Charles Gregg Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Charles Gregg correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.
Hayward, Mary Ellen and Frank R. Shivers. *The Architecture of Baltimore: An Illustrated History*. Accessed through Google Books.
Library of Congress, Digital Collections. *Chronicling America*: Historic American Newspapers.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1880. Baltimore, MD.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1900. Baltimore, MD.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. District of Columbia.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1920. District of Columbia.

**Notes:** The permits listed here include those issued to Gregg individually and in partnerships.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Joseph G. Herbert

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 1/1/1890 | Place: Mechanicsville (vic.), MD |
| Death: 9/9/1939 | Place: Washington, DC |

Family: Pearl M. (wife); two children – Mary E. (Herbert) McDaniel and Thomas M. Herbert.

## Education

High School: Central High School, Washington, DC (1905-1907)

College: International Correspondence School (1909)

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued:

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1916 Latest Permit: 1938 Total Permits: 146 Total Buildings: 341

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Warren Moore Company, Philadelphia, PA | Architect | 1907-1910 |
| Joseph G. Herbert | Builder/Architect | 1911-1939 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Mason; International Order of Odd Fellows

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** dwellings, stores, factories, gas stations, apartment buildings, warehouse

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, bungalow, four-square, row houses

**DC Work Locations:** Anacostia, Fairlawn, Dupont Circle, Park View/Pleasant Plains, Brightwood, Petworth, Trinidad,

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 1736 Webster Street, N.W. | 1923 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment Building | 1820 Swann Street, N.W. | 1927 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Dupont Circle Historic District |
| Dwellings | 5101-5239 New Hampshire Ave., N.W. | 1936 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartments/flats | 1300-1304 U Street, S.E. | 1937 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Anacostia Historic District |

## Significance and Contributions

A builder and architect, Joseph G. Herbert designed buildings in Washington, D.C. from 1911 until his death in 1938 at age 48. In the 1930s, he designed numerous apartment buildings and row houses that display Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival stylistic elements.

Joseph Gibbons Herbert was born near Mechanicsville in St. Mary's County, Maryland, on January 1, 1890. By 1900, he had moved to Washington, D.C. with his parents, James H. and Grace C. Herbert, and his younger brother, George. James H. Herbert worked as a day laborer in 1900, but by 1910 was employed as a carpenter and lived on Naylor Road, S.E., near 22nd Street.

From 1905-1907, Joseph Herbert attended Central High School in Washington, D.C. He learned carpentry, and in 1909, took courses in architecture through the International Correspondence School, but did not complete the degree. He first worked as a carpenter, and in 1911, he began designing buildings. He married in 1912, and his wife, Pearl, had a daughter in 1915. By 1920, Joseph G. Herbert had established his own building construction business.



**1736 Webster Street, NW; 1923**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In the 1910s and early 1920s, Herbert prepared plans primarily for buildings that he constructed himself. During this period, his Washington, D.C. work comprised mostly single dwellings in the Anacostia and Fairlawn neighborhoods, near his home at 1944 Naylor Road, SE. Few of these dwellings survive, but those that do remain are typically frame bungalows or four-squares with modest ornamentation that reflects either Craftsman or Colonial Revival stylistic influences. Prior to 1925, he also designed The Myers Apartments (2200 Minnesota Avenue, SE., 1923, demolished) and a couple of non-residential buildings, including the Thompson Furniture store in Anacostia (1911) and the Eagle Bedding Company factory at 1123 7th Street, NW (1914), both now demolished. He also completed work in Alexandria, Virginia during this period, including a furniture store at 618 King Street (1917) and an apartment house next door at 620 King Street (1918).



**5107-5111 New Hampshire Avenue NW; 1936**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

After 1925, row houses and apartment buildings made up a larger proportion of Herbert's work in Washington, D.C. By 1934, he described himself primarily as an architect or consulting engineer, rather than a builder; accordingly, the number of buildings he designed per year increased dramatically, while his construction work declined. Sometime between 1926 and 1934, he moved his offices to the Denrike Building (1010 Vermont Avenue, NW) at McPherson Square; he probably moved his residence to 1542 25th Street, NW in Foggy Bottom at about the same time. These moves are reflected in the geographical distribution of his work; although he continued to work in Southeast, his architectural practice increasingly focused on neighborhoods in the Northwest and Northeast quadrants of the city. In 1935, he designed several apartment buildings for the Washington Sanitary Improvement Company, an organization with the dual aims of providing affordable housing for workers and making money for its investors.

The apartment buildings and row houses that Herbert designed in the late 1920s and 1930s display consistent design preferences. The Colonial Revival style continued to influence his designs, though Tudor Revival influences are more evident in his use of cross gables and prominent chimneys on the façade. His row houses and apartment buildings display a preference for symmetry, and his blocks of row houses feature regular rhythms in the spacing and arrangement of architectural elements such as dormers, porches, and cross gables. A good example of Herbert's late 1920s apartment buildings is the two-story, red-brick Fihankra Place Apartments (current name) at 1301 Ridge Place SE (1927) in Anacostia. The building features U-shaped footprint, stone sills and string coursing, a shaped parapet, and roundels. The main entrance is distinguished by a wide, arched door surround.



**1300 U Street SE; 1937**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*



**1820 Swann Street NW; 1927**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

On September 9, 1938, at the age of 48, Joseph G. Herbert died of a heart attack at his home. He was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Maryland, near the Southeast Washington neighborhood where he spent most of his life.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography– not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 133 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |
| **Obituary** Publication: *Washington Post* | Date: 9/10/1938 | Page: 10 |

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Joseph G. Herbert Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Joseph G. Herbert correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. District of Columbia.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1920. District of Columbia.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. District of Columbia.

**Notes:** The building counts include permits issued to Joseph G. Herbert or J.G. Herbert. However, investigation of the building permits indicated that some permits for buildings designed by "Joseph J. Herbert" and "Joseph A. Herbert" were actually designed by Joseph G. Herbert.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# John W. Kearney

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 7/24/1873 | Place: New York City, NY |
| Death: | Place: |
| Family: Married Mary K. circa 1908 (d. before 1930); children – Margaret M. and Robert T. | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: Stevens High School, Hoboken, NJ (1889-1892) |
| College: Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ (1893-1894; did not complete degree) |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 128 Date Issued: 3/29/1926

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1923 Latest Permit: 1932 Total Permits: 80 Total Buildings: 116

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Benson & Brockway, New York City | General Office & Drafting | 1894-1899 |
| York & Sawyer, New York City | Drafting Superintendent | 1899-1903 |
| Trowbridge & Livingston, New York City | Drafting Superintendent & Office Man | 1903-1908 |
| John W. Kearney | Architect | 1908-1915 |
| Warren & Wetmore, New York City | Specifications Writer | 1915-1917 |
| U.S. Army | Draftsman | 1917/18 – 1920? |
| John W. Kearney | Architect | 1923[?]- ? |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1923-1926 Fellow of the AIA:

**Other Societies or Memberships:**

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** schools, churches, dwellings, stores

**Styles and Forms:** bungalows, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, French Eclectic

**DC Work Locations:** American University Park, Deanwood, Friendship Heights, Chevy Chase, Tenleytown,

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| St. Walburga Academy | 630 Riverside Drive, New York City | 1911 | ☒ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment Building | 2920 Ontario Road NW | 1924 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 2716 Chesapeake Street NW | 1925 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1734 Poplar Lane NW | 1930 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 2842 Allendale Place NW | 1927 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

**Significance and Contributions**

John W. Kearney was born on July 24, 1873 in New York City; his father was an immigrant from Ireland, and his mother was a native of New Jersey. He attended high school in New Jersey, and studied mechanical engineering at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey for one year. In 1894, Kearney left school and began work as a draftsman and office assistant at the architectural firm of Benson & Brockway in Manhattan. He acquired his architectural training by working for several New York architectural firms, including York & Sawyer and Trowbridge & Livingston.

In 1908, he married a woman named Mary (maiden name unknown), who had immigrated from Ireland five years earlier. In 1908, he began to work on his own as an architect. Three of his early commissions were for the Catholic Church. In 1909, he designed an eight-story dormitory for the Home for Girls at the Convent of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary in New York City. In 1911, the same year that he qualified as a registered architect in New Jersey, he completed designs for two more church-related projects: the four-story St. Walburga's Academy of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in New York City (630 Riverside Drive), and the Church of the Sacred Heart on Roosevelt Island, New York (demolished).



**St. Walburga's Academy of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in New York City 1911**
*Flickr.com*

In 1915, Kearney returned to wage employment, accepting a position as a specification writer at the well-known architectural firm of Warren & Wetmore in New York City. In 1917, he left Warren & Wetmore, and moved to Washington, D.C. By September 1918, he was working as a draftsman for the U.S. Army's construction division. By that time, Kearney's wife had died. Kearney's two sisters, Florence and Isabella, came to Washington with him, and helped care for his two young children.

Business directories indicate that by 1919, John W. Kearney was practicing architecture independently, but census records indicate that he still worked for the U.S. government in 1920. The first D.C. building permit bearing his name as architect was issued in 1923 for three store buildings located at the corner of North Capitol Street and Randolph Street, NE. The extant buildings stand one story tall and are Tudor Revival in style. Whereas Kearney's early work in New York City focused on educational and ecclesiastical architecture, most of his D.C. buildings were dwellings or retail stores.

In 1924-1925, the Washington Modern Homes Company hired Kearney to design twenty Craftsman-style bungalows in the American University Park neighborhood in Northwest DC; many of these remain standing. Kearney designed a basic bungalow form, and then varied the dormers and porches to add variety among the dwellings. Craftsman-style elements on Kearney's buildings include triangular brackets under the open eaves and square porch columns, some of which rest on rock-faced concrete block piers. Kearney also designed several bungalows in the Deanwood neighborhood; most of these have been demolished or altered.



**2716 Chesapeake Street NW; 1925**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Many of Kearney's houses were constructed for speculative developers and typically cost between $8,000 and $15,000 to build. In the 1920s and 1930s, Kearney designed residences displaying a variety styles in the Friendship Heights and Chevy Chase neighborhoods. Kearney also employed a variety of house forms, including side-gable or pyramidal-roof, rectangular dwellings with symmetrical facades and those with irregular massing. Architectural styles evident among his works include Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and French Eclectic, as well as some such as 3217 Morrison Street NW (1925) that mix several styles. During this period, he secured commissions for four grand residences that cost between $20,000 and $40,000. Three (2716 Chesapeake Street, NW, 1734 Poplar Lane, NW, 2838 McGill Terrace, NW) were constructed in the Tudor Revival style, while one (2842 Allendale Place, NW) reflect the influence of the French Eclectic style.



**2920 Ontario Road NW; 1924**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Kearney designed two apartment buildings during this period. The Renaissance Revival-style apartment building located at 2920 Ontario Road, NW (1924) stands four stories tall, and features decorative brickwork and two projecting bays that are three stories tall. The apartment building at 200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW (1926) is no longer extant; Interstate 395 occupies its former location.

In 1930 and 1931, near the end of his career, Kearney designed fourteen dwellings for Boss & Phelps, who developed a small residential subdivision on Faraday Place, near Fort Bayard Park in American University Park. A *Washington Post* article described the dwellings as "early American homes" (December 21, 1930, p. R1). The two-story, Colonial Revival-style dwellings that Kearney designed for this development are typically three bays wide with a brick first story and a frame upper story.

John W. Kearney likely died or moved out of Washington, DC in or soon after 1932. His last building permit was issued in February of that year, and that was the last year he was listed in Washington, D.C. business directories.



**2842 Allendale Place NW; 1927**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 155 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: Not found Date: Page:

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. John W. Kearney Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. John W. Kearney Correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1900. New York City, NY.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. New York City, NY.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1920. District of Columbia.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. Arlington, VA.

World War I U.S. Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 record for John W. Kearney. *Ancestry.com.*

**Notes:** Kearney's architectural drawings for a four-story garage building located at 21st and L Streets NW are located in the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Arved Kundzin



*Washington Daily News*, June 2, 1941
DCPL Washingtoniana Division

## Biographical Data

Birth: 8/30/1891 Place: Dorpat, Estonia

Death: 11/27/1959 Place: Vienna, VA

Family:

## Education

High School: Dorpat High School (1902-1910)

College: University of Riga, Faculty of Architecture (1911-1920)

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 82 Date Issued: 4/12/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1924 Latest Permit: 1928 Total Permits: 31 Total Buildings: 78

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| T.G. Bahrdt, Moscow | Drafting | 1915-1917 |
| Pilot Department, Helsinki, Finland | Drafting & superintending | 1917-1918 |
| War Department, Reval, Estonia | Drafting & superintending | 1918-1919 |
| Lynch Luquer, Washington, D.C. | Drafting | 1922-1923 |
| Geo. Oakley Totten, Washington, D.C. | Drafting | 1923 |
| Rodier & Kundzin, Washington, D.C. | Architect | 1923-1927 |
| Allied Architects | Architect | 1932-1933 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1927-1935 Fellow of the AIA:

**Other Societies or Memberships:** University Club, Bannockburn Golf Club

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Church, Printing Plant

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, Spanish Eclectic, Gothic Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Mount Pleasant, Brightwood, Chinatown

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Voegtlin House | 2525 Belmont Road NW | 1924 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District |
| Stores | 517-521 8th Street SE | 1924 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Voegtlin House | 2450 Belmont Road NW | 1925 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment Building | 739 Newton Place NW | 1925 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| St. Columba's Protestant Episcopal Church | 4201 Albemarle Street NW | 1926 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| The Bulletin Building | 717 6th Street NW | 1928 | ☐ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born 30 August 1891 in Dorpat, Estonia, Arved L. Kundzin attended Dorpat High School from 1902 to 1910. His architecture course at the University of Riga from 1911 to 1920 included two years of construction and engineering, two years of the history of architecture, three years of design and practice, and physics, mathematics, geology, specification writing, and heating and ventilation. While still at school, Kundzin also worked as a draftsman for a firm in Moscow and for two government departments in Estonia.



**2525 Belmont Road NW, 1924**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

In 1921, Arved Kundzin moved to Washington, D.C. to work as the first secretary to the Latvian Legation. Kundzin left the Latvian Legation in 1922 to work for two Washington, D.C. architecture firms—Lynch Luquer and then George Oakley Totten. In 1923, Kundzin set up a private firm with Gilbert L. Rodier, an architect who had been in practice in D.C. since the early 1900s.

The firm of Rodier & Kundzin received 31 building permits for 78 buildings in D.C. between March 1924 and February 1928. Most of Rodier & Kundzin's work consisted of single dwellings, row houses, and duplexes. The brick, frame, and concrete block row houses and duplexes were designed in Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Spanish Eclectic styles and were two stories tall. Estimated construction costs ranged between $5,000 and $10,000. Most of these were designed for the Washington, D.C. builder, Robert Munro. Rodier & Kundzin also designed single dwellings for Munro in the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles; construction costs for these ranged from $12,000 to $18,000. Most of the 72 single dwellings were located in the northwest neighborhoods of Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Mount Pleasant, and Brightwood.



**739 Newton Place NW, 1925**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

Rodier & Kundzin designed slightly more costly houses for individual owners. Two distinguished examples are the two designed for Dr. Carl Voegtlin, which were built in the Sheridan-Kalorama area. The two-and-one-half-story, cinder block house located at 2525 Belmont Road NW was permitted in 1924. Constructed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, it features a stepped-back, tri-partite façade, smooth stucco walls, and molded door and window surrounds. The low-pitched, hipped, red-clay-tile, roof on the main block is flanked by wings surmounted by flat roofs with raised parapets. In 1925, Voegtlin obtained a permit to build at 2450 Belmont Road NW. This 50-foot-by-74-foot house was designed in the Spanish Eclectic style with asymmetrical massing, stucco walls, and rectangular and arched windows. The combination hipped-and-gabled roof is covered with red clay tiles.

In addition to dwellings, Rodier & Kundzin designed several commercial buildings and a church. In 1924, they designed a row of three one-story, brick and concrete stores that feature pilasters, plain friezes, and flat roofs (517-521 8th Street SE). The firm also designed one apartment building (1925) in




**The Bulletin Building**
**717 6th Street NW, 1928**
*CardCow.com*

Mount Pleasant; the three-story, brick and concrete building still stands at 739 Newton Place NW. St. Columba's Protestant Episcopal Church (1926) is the only church that Rodier & Kundzin designed; it still stands at 4201 Albemarle Street NW. The stone-clad, concrete tile church was designed in the Gothic Revival style. Rodier & Kundzin designed The Bulletin Building (1928), which is located at 717 6th Street NW and is listed on the D.C. Inventory of History Sites. The United Publishing Company constructed the three-story building to house its offices and printing operation. Both St. Columba's Protestant Episcopal Church and The Bulletin Building are notable buildings that stand out from Rodier & Kundzin's body of work.

In 1927, Kundzin joined the D.C. Office of the Municipal Architect as an associate engineer. Working as chief draftsman, the government of D.C. also made use of his ability to speak four languages to act as a translator of Latvian, German, and Russian. In 1931, Kundzin worked on the D.C. Municipal Center project.

In April 1932, Arved Kundzin left the D.C. government to work in private practice as a member of Allied Architects. In 1925, Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) formed the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design.



**The Bulletin Building**
**717 6th Street NW, 1928**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

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

*Architectural Designs for Washington, D.C., from the Library of Congress* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), pp. 36-38 and fn 39].



**4204-4206 38th Street NW, 1926**
*Google.com Street View.*

In September 1933, Kundzin once again left private practice and became the Chief of the Architectural Division continuing to work on the D.C. Municipal Center. In 1937, Kundzin bought land in the Great Falls area of northern Virginia and built his own house in what was then a sparsely occupied area. During World War II (1941-1945), Kundzin acted as a consultant in the planning and design of air raid shelters for the city. Working under Municipal Architect Nathan C. Wyeth, Kundzin became the Chief of the Architectural Division in the Office of the Municipal Architect in 1946. According to his obituary, among the buildings he helped design were the Municipal and Juvenile Courts, the Central Public Library, and Woodrow Wilson High School. Arved Kundzin remained in the position until his death in November 1959.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *The Washington Post* (1877-1990). ProQuest Historical Newspapers; Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals | | |
| "House of Robert Munro, Chevy Chase, D.C.," *American Architect* | 1926 May 20, v. 129 | 566-567 |
| "Spanish Bungalow, Seven Oaks, Md.," *American Architect* | 1926 May 20, v. 129 | 570 |
| "House of Dr. Carl Voegtlin, Washington, D.C.," *American Architect* | 1926 May 20, v. 129 | n.2497 |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | | 165 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☒ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 1926/27 | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: *Washington Star* Date: 11/28/1949 Page: n/a

**Other Sources:**
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Arved Kundzin Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Arved Kundzin correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

**Notes:**
The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011:**

# William Russell Lamar



*Washington Post,* May 4, 1947
DCPL – Washingtoniana Division

## Biographical Data

Birth: June 2, 1891 Place: vic. Hughesville, MD

Death: Nov. 28, 1974 Place: Washington, DC

Family: Married (1st) Mary L. Howser (2nd) Dorothy [?]; 3 children – Russell, Jr., William E., and Dorothy.

## Education

High School: Business High School, Washington, DC

College:

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued:

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1915 Latest Permit: 1933 Total Permits: 188 Total Buildings: 399

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| William Russell Lamar | Architect | 1915-1922 |
| Barber & Ross | Architect | 1931-1934 |
| Lamar & Wallace | Founder | 1935-1974 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:**
President of Mid-Atlantic Lumberman's Association (1954); Washington Board of Trade (1933-1974); Washington Home Builders Association; Washington Building Congress; Washington Hoo Hoo Club; Cosmopolitan Club; Columbia Country Club; Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda; charter member of Heroes, Inc.

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** dwellings, garages, stores, apartment buildings, factory, gas station

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman

**DC Work Locations:** Cleveland Park, Capitol Hill, Adams Morgan, LeDroit Park, Woodley Park, Brightwood, Takoma Park

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 1219 Fern Street NW | 1919 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 3121 33rd Place NW | 1922 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Cleveland Park Historic District |
| Row Houses | 5300 block 5th Street NW | 1925 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment Building | 4120 14th Street NW | 1925 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment Building | 524 Kenyon Street NW | 1927 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born in Maryland and raised in Washington, D.C., William Russell Lamar practiced architecture from 1915 to 1933, while at the same time working in the lumber and millwork industry. In his designs, Lamar most frequently employed the Colonial Revival style, but the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles also influenced his work. Despite his parallel career and limited tenure (less than twenty years) designing buildings, Lamar was a prolific architect. His surviving buildings suggest that, particularly in his early career, he employed a few basic designs that he altered or embellished for different clients.

William Russell Lamar was born near Hughesville, Maryland on June 2, 1891, but spent most of his youth in Washington, D.C. By 19●●, his father had died, and his mother, Nannie Lamar, had settled in Washington, D.C. His two older sisters, both in their teens, worked as clerks in a dry goods store. Lamar attended public schools, and graduated from the city's Business High School in 19●9.

After graduation, Lamar briefly worked as a clerk for a newspaper, and then took a job as a bookkeeper for the Otis Elevator Company. In 1912, he began working in the building industry, first as a clerk and later as a building materials estimator for a millwork company. At about the same time, he studied architecture, but it is not known where or how he received his training. Circa 1915, he married Mary L. Howser of Washington, D.C.; her father, Millard Howser, was an estimator for a lumber company. William and Mary Lamar had two children: Russell Lamar, Jr., and William E. Lamar.



**1219 Fern Street NW; 1919**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

From 1917 to 1931, Lamar worked as an estimator for the Barber & Ross Company, and simultaneously maintained an architecture practice out of his home. City directories indicate that he worked as an architect for Barber & Ross from 1931 to 1934. In 1935, he and William Wallace founded Lamar & Wallace, a lumber and millwork company with offices at 37 New York Avenue, N.E. Building permit records suggest that he ceased practicing architecture after founding the company.

Lamar's wife, Mary, died sometime between 1930 and 1938, when he re-married. He likely met his second wife, Dorothy, at Barber & Ross, where she worked as a bookkeeper. William Russell and Dorothy had one daughter, Dorothy, who was born in 1941. Sometime before 1947, the Lamar family moved to Chevy Chase, Maryland.



**3121 33rd Place NW; 1922**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Lamar was active in a wide variety of organizations related to the building and lumber industries. In 1954, he was the president of the Mid-Atlantic Lumberman's Association; that year, the Washington Board of Trade named him "Man of the Year." He was an active member of the Board of Trade, serving on its board of directors. In 1964, he joined other Washington area businessmen in founding Heroes, Inc., a charitable organization that supports the families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Many of Lamar's earliest buildings were brick row houses. Lamar largely drew on the Colonial Revival style in selecting architectural details for his row houses, but he sometimes incorporate elements characteristic of other styles such as Craftsman. Over time, the detailing on

his row houses became lighter and less elaborate. The row of two-and-one-half-story tall, buff-brick row houses at 1221-1227 Shepherd Street, NW (1921) is typical of Lamar's early row house designs.



**Portion of 5300 Block 5th Street NW; 1925**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Lamar's early detached dwellings were typically foursquare, two-story dwellings with centered dormers and Colonial Revival details. Good examples stand at 1416 Longfellow Street NW (1921) and at 3121 33rd Place NW in the Cleveland Park neighborhood (1922). In addition, he designed a few Craftsman-style bungalows, including one for Frances A. Marth at 1219 Fern Street NW (1919). In the late 1920s and early 1930s, near the end of his architectural career, Lamar's practice focused primarily on free-standing dwellings, several of which stand in the Cleveland Park Historic District. As in his other work, the Colonial Revival style prevailed in Lamar's work from this period. On occasion, he employed the Tudor Revival style.

Between 1923 and 1937, Lamar designed twelve apartment buildings in Washington. His apartment buildings display Colonial Revival influences, including fan lights above the doors, molded cornices, keystones in the lintels, and medallions and swags near the rooflines. Lamar frequently used brick soldier coursing and other mono-chromatic brick patterns to define window openings and adorn the facades, which were generally flat. The five commercial blocks that he designed display similar design characteristics as his apartment buildings, but have less elaborate Colonial Revival details. His largest apartment building, The Cedric, stands at 4120 14th St NW in the Petworth neighborhood of Northwest. Designed in 1925 for the Upshur Construction Company, the four-story, U-shaped building is constructed of buff-colored brick with a stone-clad basement level and quoining. Its shaped parapet contains circular and rectangular stone plaques containing bas-relief swag and rosette motifs. More typical of Lamar's apartment buildings is the Angels Gate Cooperative Apartments (current name) at 2023 4th St NE in Eckington. Built in 1924, it is a modestly sized, two-story, buff- brick building with a five-bay, flat façade; it is adorned simply with flush patterned brick panels, a soldier brick stringcourse, and an applied molded cornice.



**4120 14th Street NW; 1925**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

William Russell Lamar died on November 28, 1974 at the age of 83. At the time of his death, he was the chairman of the board of Lamar & Wallace, Inc.; his son, Russell Lamar, Jr. was the president of the company. Based in Landover, Maryland since 1962, Lamar & Wallace is still in business selling residential millwork.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 165 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: *Washington Post* Date: 12/1/1974 Page: D16

**Other Sources:**
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. William Russell Lamar correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

**Notes:**
The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Luther Morris Leisenring



*American Institute of Architects*
*Luther Morris Leisenring Member File*

## Biographical Data

Birth: 10/29/1875 Place: Lutherville, MD

Death: 10/3/1965 Place: Washington, DC

Family: Mathilde Meuden Leisenring (wife)

## Education

High School: Baltimore Polytechnic Inst.; Md. Institute (Night School)

College: University of Pennsylvania

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship: E.G. Lind, Architect (1894-1895)

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 3 Date Issued: 4/6/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1910 Latest Permit: 1935 Total Permits: 22 Total Buildings: 26

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Charles Barton Keen, Philadelphia & NY | Draftsman & Chief Draftsman | 1898-1902 |
| Cass Gilbert, NYC | Draftsman & Designer | 1902-1904 |
| Hornblower & Marshall, Washington, DC | Designer | 1906-1908 |
| N.C. Wyeth & Elliott Woods, Washington, DC | Designer | 1908-1909 |
| Gregg & Leisenring, Washington, DC | Architect | 1910-1925 |
| Quartermaster General's Office, War Dept. | Director, Architectural Design | 1918-1946 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1920-1965 Fellow of the AIA: 1951

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Alumni Society of American Academy in Rome, Univ. of PA Club, Cosmos Club, Washington Arts Club, Luther Statue Association, Dupont Circle Association, Maryland Historical Society, Columbia Historical Society; Thornton Society, Washington Architectural Club, Society of Architectural Historians, T-Square Club

**Awards or Commissions:** War Department Meritorious Service Award (1946)

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Stores, Churches, Government Buildings

**Styles and Forms:** Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical

**DC Work Locations:** Mall, Capitol Hill, Chevy Chase, Mount Vernon Square, Kalorama, Greater U Street, Cleveland Park, Brookland

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Museum of Natural History | Mall | 1908 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site |
| DC Court of Appeals | Washington, DC | 1908 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Engine Co. NO. 24 Firehouse | Washington, DC | 1911 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| U.S. Post Office | 1438 U Street NW | 1912 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Natl. Lutheran Home for Aged | Washington DC | 1916 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Trinity Lutheran Church | Dundalk, MD | 1920 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Lutheran Church of the Incarnation | Washington DC | 1922 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born in 1875 in Lutherville, Maryland, Luther Morris Leisenring attended one year of high school at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (1890-1891) and two years of night school at the Maryland Institute in Baltimore (1892-1894). From 1894 to1895, Leisenring worked as an apprentice in the office of architect E.G. Lind in Baltimore before working as a draftsman for Philadelphia architect John T. Windrim from 1895 to 1896. In 1896, Leisenring entered the University of Pennsylvania where he took a two-year architecture course and graduated with a certificate of proficiency in 1898.

In 1898, Leisenring began working as a draftsman in the architectural office of Charles Barton Kean of Philadelphia and, later, New York. In 1902, he left Kean's office as chief draftsman when he was awarded the T-Square Club of Philadelphia's Travelling Scholarship. Leisenring travelled in Europe for seven months under the scholarship. Upon return that year, he joined the firm of Cass Gilbert in New York as a draftsman and designer. In 1904, Leisenring won the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Travelling Fellowship which enabled him to study architecture for two years in Paris, Rome, northern Italy, and Brussels. Travel sketches that he made during this time are in the collections of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



**National Museum of Natural History, 1911**
*Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS); 2004*

In 1906, Leisenring joined the firm of Hornblower & Marshall in Washington, D.C. as a designer. While working for Hornblower & Marshall, Leisenring redesigned what is now the National Museum of Natural History (1908) in a Neoclassical style. In 1908, he moved to the firm of N.C. Wyeth & Elliott Woods (Architect of the Capitol, 1902-1923) as a designer for a year, working on such projects as the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington and the power house for the U.S. Capitol building. In 1909, he married Mathilde Meuden, an artist who would become well known in Washington and an instructor at the Corcoran Art School.

The first building permit recorded for Leisenring was dated 7 May 1910 for a two-story, brick flat on Capitol Hill that no longer stands. In 1910, Luther Morris Leisenring and Charles Gregg (see entry for Gregg) formed their architectural firm located at Gregg's 1320 New York Avenue NW office. In 1911 alone, the firm of Gregg & Leisenring designed a row of three, one-story, brick stores on Georgia Avenue (3312-3316 George Avenue NW); a one-story, frame dwelling in the Chevy Chase area (4123 Harrison Street NW); and three, Colonial-Revival style, brick row houses now located in the Mount Vernon Square Historic District (455-459 Ridge Street NW), each of which contains two separate apartments. In addition, Gregg & Leisenring designed Engine Company No. 24 at 3702 Georgia Avenue NW in the Petworth area; a two-story, Italian Renaissance-style, brick building, it featured two vehicle entrances and a tile roof.

Between 1912 and 1927, Gregg & Leisenring designed the Neo-Classical style, stone U.S. Post Office at 1440 U Street NW (now 1438 U Street NW)(1912); the original section of the sprawling, Colonial-Revival style, three story, brick National Lutheran Home for the Aged (1913) in Brookland; the stone, Gothic Revival Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (1919) at 5101 14th Street NW; and the St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church and Sunday School (1927) at 1611 Brentwood Road NE. The firm also designed Colonial-Revival and Tudor-Revival style dwellings in the northwest and northeast areas of D.C.



**1438 U Street NW; 1912**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1918, Leisenring became head of the architectural design group in the Quartermaster General's Office of the U.S. War Department and continued to practice architecture for private clients. At the War Department, he was responsible for the preparation of designs as well as overseeing commissions to private architectural firms. Among the first category of projects were: the original stages of the restoration of Fort McHenry in Baltimore (1926-1927); the restoration of Arlington House, its dependencies and furnishings (1928); U.S. Army officers' and enlisted housing, hospitals, and chapels; and the layout and architectural features at several newly established cemeteries throughout the U.S. During World War II (1941-1945), Leisenring acted as the consulting architect in design and construction of the Pentagon and worked to establish standards of construction and ways to expedite outside architectural and engineering contracts with the Army. He also wrote the competition programs for monuments such as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Wright Brothers' Monument at Kitty Hawk, N.C., and the memorial at Appomatox Court House.

Luther M. Leisenring believed strongly in improving, regulating, and protecting his profession by establishing standards for those who practice architecture. In 1919, Leisenring was appointed chairman of the American Institute of Architect (AIA) Washington, DC Chapter's committee to develop an architect registration law for the District of Columbia. After the collapse of the Knickerbocker Theater in 1922, urgency increased, and Leisenring worked with the U.S. Congress to pass an act in 1924 "to provide for the examination and registration of architects and to regulate the practice of architecture in the District of Columbia."
The law established a Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects; Leisenring was the third architect registered in D.C. and was appointed to the Board in 1925; he served as its President from 1938 to 1953.



**Lutheran Church of the Incarnation**
**5101 14th Street NW; 1922**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Luther M. Leisenring and Charles Gregg were members of the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc. In 1925, Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) formed the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture

in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design.

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

In 1946, Luther M. Leisenring received a Meritorious Service Award from the War Department in recognition of his years of service. After retiring that year, Leisenring remained active in groups such as the Arts Club of Washington, which he and his wife helped found shortly after their marriage in 1909. Mathilde Meuden Leisenring died in 1949. Leisenring's interest in historic buildings began with his travels in Europe and his restoration work on the 1742 house Bellefield in Croom, Maryland before World War I, and then grew during his government tenure. After retirement, Leisenring worked on other historic buildings such as Tulip Hill in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. As chairman of the AIA preservation committee, he worked to save Wheat Row (Washington's earliest row houses) in southwest D.C. and the historic buildings surrounding Lafayette Park including the Renwick Gallery.



**2715 31st Place NW; 1935**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1951, Luther Morris Leisenring was elected as a Fellow of the AIA. Among the achievements noted at the time of his election were his 28 years of public service in the War Department, his service to the AIA Washington Metropolitan Chapter by serving on a number of committees, his work for the passage of the Architects Registration Act in 1924, and interest and work in protecting "architectural monuments of the District."
Luther M. Leisenring died October 3, 1965 at the age of 90 and was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery in northwest D.C.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com.*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
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| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals | | |
| "Lament for Lafayette Square," AIA *Journal* | 1961 Feb., v. 35 | 23-32 |
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| Biographical Directories Cont'd. | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
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| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | | 170 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☒ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 1923, 1929, 1934 | 231, 436, 549 |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Obituary** | Publication: *Washington Star*<br>*Washington Post* | Date: 10/5/1965<br>10/5/1965 | Page: n/a<br>n/a |

**Other Sources:**
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Luther Morris Leisenring Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Luther Morris Leisenring correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.
Library of Congress, Digital Collections. *Chronicling America*: Historic American Newspapers.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1920. District of Columbia.
World War I U.S. Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 record for Leisenring. *Ancestry.com*.

**Notes:** Leisenring Collection is located at the AIA Archives.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# John A. Melby

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 9/20/1880 | Place: Toronto, Canada |
| Death: 1943 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: Married Viola Ragland in 1914; six children (John, Jr., Francis, William, Paul, James, Catherine) | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: South Division High School, Chicago, IL |
| College: Clark University, Atlanta, GA (1898-1899) |
| Graduate School: University of Illinois, Urbana, IL (1900-1905) |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1925 Latest Permit: 1939 Total Permits: 136 Total Buildings: 199

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Macdonald Engineering Company, Chicago, IL | Draftsman | 1902-1906; 1915-1918 |
| John A. Melby (Gary, IN) | Architect | 1918-1921 |
| Samuel M. Plato (Louisville, KY) | Draftsman and Architect | 1921-1922 |
| John A. Melby (Washington, DC) | Architect | 1923-1943 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:**

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, churches, gas stations, stores

**Styles and Forms:** Bungalow Craftsman, Colonial Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Capitol View, Capitol Hill, Northeast

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 66 53rd Place SE | 1925 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwellings | 2422-2424 Newton Street NE | 1927 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Row houses | 1937-1949 Capitol Avenue NE | 1928 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Store | 1209 13th Street NW | 1929 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Store & Apartment | 723 & 725 8th Street SE | 1930 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Capitol Hill Historic District |

## Significance and Contributions

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

Born in Toronto, Canada on September 20, 1880, John A. Melby was the son of an American father, Perry Melby, and a Canadian mother, Catherine Elizabeth Melby. Catherine Melby died in childbirth, and Perry Melby soon moved to Chicago, Illinois with his infant son.

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



**66 53rd Place SE; 1925**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

From 1906 to 1909, Melby was an instructor of Mechanical Drawing and Architecture at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. In April 1910, he worked as an engineer in Gary, Indiana, where he lived with his wife, Viola Ragland Melby. In 1915, he again returned to Macdonald Engineering Company in Chicago, remaining there for three years before establishing his own firm in Gary, specializing in "practical engineering, house plans, concrete block [construction], contracting, [and] estimating." (Wilson, p. 278) Melby's firm was unsuccessful, and he took jobs at U.S. Steel and the U.S. Post Office in Gary before moving to Louisville, Kentucky in 1921. In Louisville, he worked as an architect and draftsman in the office of architect Samuel Plato. In 1922, Melby served as principal architect for a brick church in Louisville.



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

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

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




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

The Capitol View Realty Company also hired Melby to design a building for the Antioch Baptist Church (later known as the Capital View Baptist Church) at 17 Division Avenue NE. Built in 1928, this frame church was demolished sometime before 1947. Melby designed two other churches in Washington. In 1929, he received a building permit for a $16,000 edifice at 1107 (now 1105) 50th Street NE for a different Antioch Baptist Church. The building permit indicated that it was constructed of concrete block; the current church building has a brick veneer and may contain all or part of the original church building. Melby also designed the Glendale Baptist Church at 4504 Gault Place NE in 1933. This frame sanctuary is no longer extant.

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

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

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



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

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 189 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |
| **Obituary** Publication: Not found | Date: | Page: |

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. John Alexander Melby Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. John Alexander Melby correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. Gary, Indiana.

Wilson, Dreck Spurlock. *African-American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945. (Taylor & Francis,* 2004). Accessed through Google eBooks.

**Notes:** The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Otho Harvey Miller

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 1/31/1878 | Place: Bridgewater, Rockingham Co., VA |
| Death: 4/29/1951 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: Unmarried | |

## Education

High School: Bridgewater, VA (1892-1894)

College: Unknown.

Graduate School: International Correspondence Schools (1897-1903)

Apprenticeship: Washington Architectural Club Atelier (1910-1915)

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 16 Date Issued: 4/17/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1921 Latest Permit: 1929 Total Permits: 21 Total Buildings: 21

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| O. Harvey Miller, Staunton, VA | Architect | 1909 |
| U.S. Department of the Treasury | Draftsman | 1913 |
| U.S. Department of the Treasury | Architect | 1914-1918 |
| O. Harvey Miller (Washington, DC & Bridgewater, VA) | Architect | 1917-1951 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Freemasons.

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Banks, office buildings, dwellings, stores

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival

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

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

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

## Significance and Contributions

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

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

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

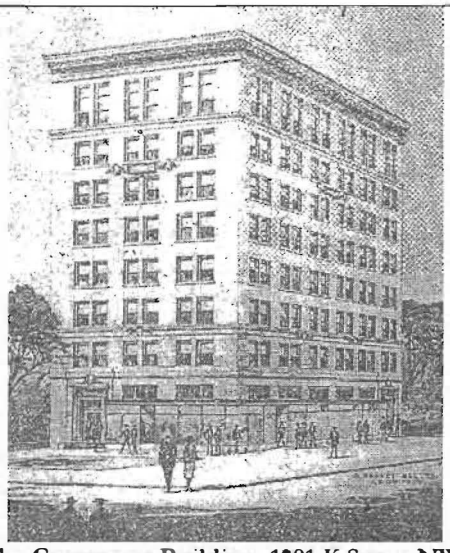


**3202 Ely Place SE; 1921**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

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

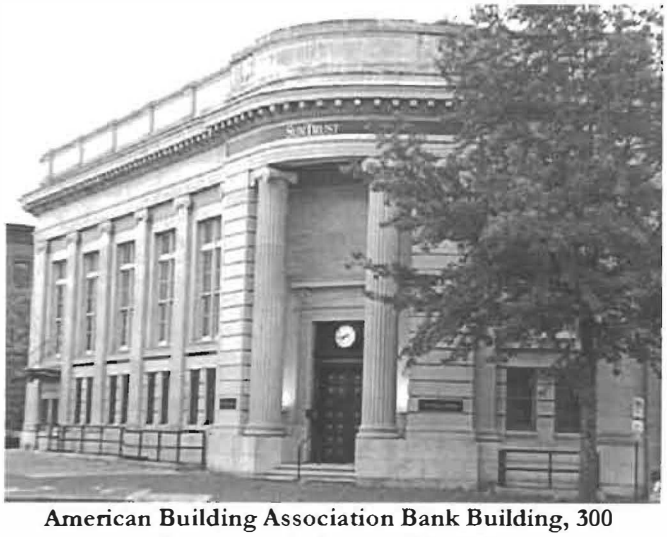
Building permit records indicate that between 1917 and 1925, Miller designed primarily dwellings and stores in the District. He completed designs for several small, vernacular dwellings for developer and builder Otho W. Hammond. The larger dwellings that Miller designed during this period generally reflect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

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



**The Carpenters Building, 1001 K Street NW. Designed by Miller, 1926.**
*Washington Post 06/27/1926, p. R5.*

Miller was also well-known for the office building he designed in 1926 for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Located at the northwest corner of 10th and K Streets, NW, this eight-story office building – also known as the Carpenters Building – was listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. In contrast to Miller's bank buildings, which display ornate Neoclassical details, the Carpenters Building features more restrained Colonial Revival-style architectural detailing. Another design mode is evident in Miller's American News Company building at 1121 5th Street NW. Built in 1928 and located in the Mount Vernon Square Historic District, the building is distinctly industrial in character. Its exterior is dominated by large, multi-pane factory-style steel windows separated by brick pilasters.



**American Building Association Bank Building, 300 Pennsylvania Avenue SE; 1929**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

The database for Washington, D.C. building permits indicates that no permits were issued to Miller after 1929, when he received a permit for the American Building Association bank building. However, he continued to practice architecture until his death in 1951. From 1930 to 1951, he appears to have worked primarily on government projects. In the 1930s, he worked for the U.S. Coast Guard designing the main buildings for the Washington Radio Station [now the Coast Guard Telecommunication and Information Systems Command (TISCOM)] on Telegraph Road in Fairfax County, Virginia. After Miller completed the designs and sometime prior to 1939, the Coast Guard terminated his appointment. In 1937, he was working as an associate architect for the Treasury Department; his exact dates of employment are not known. Business directories indicate that he retained his architectural office in the McLachlen building through the 1930s. The D.C. Office Buildings Survey (1991) indicates that at the time of his death in 1951, Miller was in the process of designing a new eight-story, limestone-clad headquarters for the National Association of Letter Carriers at 100 Indiana Avenue, NW; the building remains the group's headquarters today.

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



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

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

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

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals | | |
| "Refacing Old Buildings," *American Architect.* | 1925 Apr. 8, v. 127 | 347-348 |
| "The American Building Association Building, with banking floor, Washington, D.C.,"*Through the ages.* | 1931 June, v. 9 | 34-37 |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 194 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects - not in it | | |

| Biographical Directories (Cont.) | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it<br>☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |
| **Obituary** Publication: *Washington Post* | Date: 5/3/1951 | Page: B2 |

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. O. Harvey Miller Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. O. Harvey Miller correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Lampl, Elizabeth Jo. United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners – Local 132 (The Carpenters Building), *National Register of Historic Places Form.* April 1999; Updated July 2003.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955.* Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

**Notes:** The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Horace Whittier Peaslee



*The Washington Post;* 18 May 1959
*[Photo appeared with Peaslee's obituary.]*

## Biographical Data

Birth: 11/9/1884 Place: Malden Bridge, NY

Death: 5/18/1959 Place: Washington, DC

Family: Married Frances Monroe Hopkins, 12/28/1928; one child: John Rider Peaslee

## Education

High School: Chatham, New York High School 1898-1902; Cooper Union Arts & Sciences, NY, evening high school, 1902-1906

College: Cornell University, Bachelor of Architecture with minor in Landscape Architecture, 1906-1910

Graduate School: Fellowship, Cornell University, 1911

Apprenticeship: 1914 – traveled to Spain, France, Switzerland and Italy with director of the U.S. Office of Public Buildings & Grounds and Commission of Fine Arts to study gardens

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 32 Date Issued: 06/01/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1922 Latest Permit: 1948 Total Permits: 39 Total Buildings: 40*

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| University of Illinois | Visiting Instructor of Landscape Design | 1914-1916 |
| U.S. Office of Public Buildings & Grounds, Washington, D.C. | Landscape Designer, Landscape Architect, Architect | 1912-1922 intermittent service |
| Horace W. Peaslee, Architect | Architect | 1911-1959 |
| Captain of Engineers, U.S. Army (design, instruction) | Designer; Instructor | 1917-1919 |
| U.S. Public Works Administration | Assistant to Director of Housing | 1933-1934 |
| Central (U.S.) Housing Committee | Secretary | 1935-1942 |
| U.S. Housing Administration, PBA | Consulting Architect | 1935-1942 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1921-1959 Fellow of the AIA: 1936

**Other Societies or Memberships:** AIA:4-terms second vice-president (1930-1934), Chair, Committee on the National Capital(1924-1934), Chair of Committee on Cooperation with the Fine Arts Commission (1923-1924), Vice-chair, Committee on City Planning (1933-1934); President, Washington Chapter of the AIA (1930); founding member of Committee of 100 on the Federal City (1923); founding member of the DC City Planning Commission (1924); directed legislative campaigns for Planning Commission, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, the Shipstead-Luce Act, leader in campaign protesting the power development of the Potomac River; established Architects' Advisory Council (1922-1932); founder of Allied Architects of Washington, DC, Inc. (active 1925-1934); American Civic Association Citizens' Committee of 100 in the National Capital; Cosmos Club, Washington, DC; Columbia Historical Society (NY); University Club; Racquet Club; Cornell Club; American Legion (Augustus P. Gardner Post); St. John's Episcopal Church; DuPont Circle Citizens Association; Secretary of the Central Housing Committee (Federal interagency committee, 1935-1942); Honorary Member, American Association of Landscape Architects. Publications: "Park Architecture" series of 8 articles in Architectural Record and Park International.

**Awards or Commissions:** Medal in mathematics in preparatory school; valedictorian in college; design medals in college; 1911 – won design competition for Chatham, NY Town Hall; 5 awards for Excellence of Design from the Washington Board of Trade; appointed by Governor of Maryland as Associate Architect, Maryland Tercentenary Commission; 1926 award winner for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington, VA.

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Parks, Landscapes, Dwellings, Apartment Buildings, Schools, Stores, Filling Stations, Offices, Embassies, Memorial, Historic Building Restoration: Churches and Residences

**Styles and Forms:** Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Chateauesque, Italian Renaissance Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Meridian Hill, Dupont Circle, Van Ness, Cathedral Heights, Capitol Hill, Georgetown, Kalorama, Lafayette Square, National Mall, Fort Lincoln, Foxhall

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Meridian Hill Park | 16th Street NW, Washington, DC | 1917-1935 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| The Moorings Apartments | 1909 Q Street, NW, Washington, DC | 1927 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dr. W. Calhoun Sterling House | 2618 31st Street, NW | 1927 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Fort Lincoln Cemetery Chapel, Cloister & Garden | 3401 Bladensburg Road, Brentwood, MD | 1929 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Restoration, Dumbarton House | 2715 Q Street, NW | 1928 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| William LaRoe, Jr. Residence | 4600 Linnean Ave, NW | 1931 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Reconstruction of Maryland State House | St. Mary's City, MD | 1934 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Restoration, St. John's Church | Lafayette Square, Washington, DC | 1950s | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial) | Arlington, VA | 1954 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Between 1911 and 1959, Horace Whittier Peaslee practiced architecture in Washington, D.C., building a national reputation as an accomplished landscape architect, designer of public and private buildings of all types, and as a dedicated activist for architectural design and practice in the Nation's Capital. Born in 1884 in Malden Bridge, New York, Peaslee attended high school in Chatham, New York and later took classes at Cooper Union in New York City. He entered Cornell University in 1906 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in architecture and a minor in landscape architecture in 1910. The following academic year, 1911-1912, Peaslee completed a resident fellowship at Cornell. While at school, Peaslee won several awards, including a first place medal from the Beaux Arts Society. While a fellow at Cornell, he won a design competition for the Chatham, New York Town Hall which was later built and his designs appeared in the July 1913 issue of *American Architect*.



**Meridian Hill Park, circa 1930**
*Source: http://www.nps.gov/mehi/photosmultimedia/Historic-Photographs-Gallery.htm*

In 1911, Peaslee moved to Washington and took a position as a landscape designer and later as an architect with the U.S. Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, where he designed parks and park structures, including the Potomac Park Bathhouse and Field House (circa 1919-1920). In 1914, with a group of officials from his office and the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), Peaslee traveled to Europe to study garden and park design. In 1917, he took charge of the design and construction of Meridian Hill Park, located between 15th and 16th Streets and V Street and Euclid Streets. Inspired by the Italian Renaissance gardens, the urban park was completed over the course of three decades. During World War I, Peaslee joined the Army as a Captain in the Engineer's Corps, where he taught and designed some of the temporary office buildings erected on The Mall in Washington, D.C. and officers' quarters at Camp Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir) in Virginia.



**Former Maret School, 2118 Kalorama Rd. NW (1923)**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In addition to his public service career and involvement with Public Buildings and Grounds, around 1918 Peaslee established a private architectural practice in Washington, D.C. and became active in a variety of professional and civic affairs. His private commissions were diverse, ranging from residences for wealthy and well-known clients including aviation pioneer Henry Berliner (2829 Tilden Street NW, 1922) and construction tycoon Charles H. Tompkins (3001 Garrison Street NW, 1928), to private schools (first Maret School building at 2118 Kalorama Road NW, 1923) and automobile filling stations (Columbia Oil Company Filling Station, 200 (204) Massachusetts Avenue NE, 1924). In 1931, Peaslee designed a series of eleven, sizable, Colonial Revival-style brick houses for the developer of Foxhall Village (Harry Boss; Boss & Phelps construction); the enclave in the 1700 and 1800 blocks of Hoban Road NW (off Reservoir Road) was dubbed "Colonial Hill." Several contemporary design publications featured Colony Hill, including *House Beautiful* (December 1933), *American Architect* (July 1934), and *Architectural Forum* (September 1934).

Horace Peaslee was influential among his peers and actively advocated to promote architecture in Washington, D.C., and the preservation of Washington, D.C.'s natural, historic and architectural heritage.

As a member and officer of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Peaslee served four terms as second vice-president of the national organization and as president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the AIA. In the 1920s and 1930s, Peaslee organized and led many committees, including the AIA Committee on the National Capital and the Committee on the Cooperation with the Fine Arts Commission. He was a founding member of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, and he led successful legislative campaigns that led to the establishment of the D.C. City Planning Commission and the adoption of the Shipstead-Luce Act, which gave the Commission of Fine Arts authority to review the design of private buildings near federal sites in the District. He also championed legislation that authorized the construction of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and led a campaign that defeated a proposal to harness the Potomac River for power generation that would have destroyed Great Falls.



**House in Colonial Hill Development, 1700 Hoban Rd. NW (1931)**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Following the collapse of the Knickerbocker Theater roof in January 1922, Peaslee spearheaded a campaign to establish a design commission to review private construction throughout the city. In 1922, the Washington D.C. Chapter of the AIA authorized Peaslee to establish a committee to pursue his goal. He worked closely with members of the chapter and with the District's Engineer Commissioner, who had charge of establishing laws related to building construction. Late in 1922, Peaslee's Architects Advisory Committee (AAC), made up of volunteer architects drawn from the membership of the Washington Chapter, began to review all applications for building permits. The committee was made up of three architects who volunteered for three week stints. Acting as a jury, the AAC rated each application and provided comments to the applicants and their architects. Peaslee and the AAC promoted their endeavors extensively both within the city and outside. As a result, the AAC became a model for similar design review bodies established in cities throughout the nation. It operated until 1932; its demise can be attributed to both the positive effects of the D.C. architects registration law that went into effect in 1925 and the passage of the 1930 Shipstead-Luce Act, which extended the CFA's design review to more private buildings.



**Dr. Sterling Calhoun House, 2618 31st Street NW (1927)**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1925, Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) formed the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design.

The Allied Architect's most prominent commission was the design for the Longsworth House Office Building (first design submitted 1925; completed 1933). Other designs and studies pursued by the group included the never-built National Stadium on East Capitol Street; the D.C. Municipal Center; designs for a downtown Naval Hospital; the Naval Academy Memorial Gates; a D.C. National Guard Armory proposal;

design and planning studies of Georgetown; alleys in D.C.; and a study for the beautification of East Capitol Street. The Allied Architects disbanded in 1949. The known members of Allied Architects were: Horace Peaslee, Louis Justement, Gilbert LaCoste Rodier, Frank Upman, Nathan C. Wyeth, Percy C. Adams, Robert F. Beresford, Fred H. Brooke, Ward Brown, Appleton P. Clark, William Deming, Jules Henri deSibour, Edward W. Donn, Jr., William Douden, W.H. Irwin Fleming, Benjamin C. Flournoy, Charles Gregg, Arthur B. Heaton, Arved L. Kundzin, Luther M. Leisenring, O.Harvey Miller, Victor Mindeleff, Thomas A. Mullett, Fred V. Murphy, Fred B. Pyle, George N. Ray, Fred J. Ritter, Delos H. Smith, Alex H. Sonneman, Francis P. Sullivan, Maj. George O. Totten, Leonidas P. Wheat, Jr., and Lt. Col. George C. Will [member information from C. Ford Peatross, ed., *Capital Drawings: Architectural Designs for Washington, D.C., from the Library of Congress* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), pp. 36-38 and fn 39].

Although he designed many new buildings, parks, and landscapes, Peaslee was also known for his restoration work. Working with noted historian and architect Fiske Kimball, Peaslee's first major restoration work was the restoration of Dumbarton House (2715 Q Street NW) in 1928. Peaslee went on to work on a number of other high-profile restoration and preservation projects, including the reconstruction of the Maryland State House in St. Mary's City; the restoration of Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia; the restoration of The Maples at 619 D Street SE (1936); the restoration of two of Benjamin Henry Latrobe's Washington, D.C. churches (St. John's Church on Lafayette Square, 1954-1955; Christ Church at 620 G Street SE, 1954-1955); and the restoration of the Bowie-Sevier House (3124 Q Street NW, 1957). Peaslee actively salvaged architectural elements of demolished buildings and incorporated them into his new designs. In 1927, he reused elements of the John Hay and Henry Adams houses (built in 1884) that were demolished that year for the construction of the Hay-Adams Hotel on Lafayette Square. The new house, built for Dr. Calhoun Sterling at 2618 31st Street NW (near the U.S. Naval Observatory), incorporates the H.H. Richardson-designed arches from the former houses. Peaslee also reported using salvaged elements in the house he designed in 1925 for Col. Clarence O. Sherrill (2440 Kalorama Road NW). Near the end of his life, Peaslee waged an unsuccessful campaign to preserve the east front of the U.S. Capitol when the 1958 extension was planned; he succeeded in salvaging the portico's columns which were eventually re-erected as garden sculpture in the U.S. National Arboreteum.



**Col. Clarence O. Sherrill House, 2440 Kalorama Road NW (1925)**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Throughout his career, Horace Peaslee continued his dual practice of architecture and landscape architecture. In 1954, he completed the design and construction of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia (commonly called the Iwo Jima Memorial). Between 1954 and 1955, he completed landscape designs for President Eisenhower's estate near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



**Embassy of (South) Korea, 2450 Massachusetts Ave. NW (1952)**
*Google Streetviews*

Peaslee died of a heart attack on May 18, 1959, a few days after receiving a design award from the Washington Board of Trade for his work on the Episcopal Church Home at 1515 32nd Street NW. Obituaries appeared in all the local newspapers and in *The New York Times*. In addition, upon his death, both the American Institute of Architects and the Commission of Fine Arts issued resolutions praising Peaslee's contributions to architectural practice and the beautification of the Nation's Capital.

## Sources

**Vertical Files** ☒ AIA Archives ☐ DC PO ☐ HSWDC ☒ MLK Library

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory | 1956 | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals - 12 articles | various periodicals, 1913 - 2004 | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☐ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 221 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☒ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | (1921/22)(1923/24)(1926/27)(1929/30)(1934/35) | various |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

| Obituary | Publication: | Date: | Page: |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *The Washington Post*; *The New York Times* | 05/19/1959 05/19/1959 | B2 p. 33 |

**Other Sources:**


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

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District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Horace W. Peaslee correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Froncek, Thomas, ed. *An Illustrated History: The City of Washington.* NY: Wings Books, 1977.

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Goode, James. *Capital Losses.* Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2003.

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Houghton, Melissa. *Pioneers in Preservation: Biographical Sketches of Architects Prominent in the Field Before World War II.* Washington, DC: The American Institute of Architects, 1990.

Lee, Antoinette J. *Architects to the Nation.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

NRHP Nomination Forms: "Apartment Buildings in Washington, DC 1880-1945;" "Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Brentwood, Maryland;" "Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, Washington, D.C."

Peatross, C. Ford, ed. *Capital Drawings.* Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.

Scott, Pamela and Antoinette J. Lee. *Buildings of the District of Columbia.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.


**Notes:** * The building permits counts do not include the many public commissions that Peaslee executed in the district over the course of his career. Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Horace W. Peaslee was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Frank D. Phillips

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 12/7/1889 | Place: Beaufort, SC |
| Death: 3/17/1966 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: Ada (wife); Frank D. Phillips, Jr. (son); Margaret (Phillips) Troiano (daughter) | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: |
| College: |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1924 Latest Permit: 1940 Total Permits: 67 Total Buildings: 109

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Frank D. Phillips | Architect and Builder | 1924-1941 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:**

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Chevy Chase, Brightwood, Crestwood, Takoma, Tenleytown

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 3703 Legation Street NW | 1926 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 3534 Quesada Street NW | 1935 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 3500 Rittenhouse Street NW | 1936 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1603 Van Buren Street NW | 1937 | ☒ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site Rock Creek Park Historic District |
| Dwelling | 5929 16th Street NW | 1939 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

In 1889, Francis (Frank) DuBose Phillips was born in Beaufort, South Carolina. As a young man, he worked as an automobile electrician. By 1924, he had married his wife Ada, and they lived in Washington D.C. with his two children Francis and Margaret.



**3703 Legation Street NW; 1926**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Between 1924 and 1940, while working as a structural engineer, Phillips was also a prolific developer of single family houses. He designed and constructed 109 dwellings in D.C. and was listed as the owner of 127 buildings on D.C. building permits during the same period. Phillips employed the Washington, DC firm of Dillon & Abel and, later, Joseph H. Abel (see entry for Abel) as architects on the buildings that he did not design. From 1924 to 1936, he built houses exclusively in Chevy Chase, D.C. Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival in style, his dwellings were typically three-bay, two-story brick buildings with construction costs between $6,000 and $10,000. Houses that Phillips designed in the 1920s such as 3703 Legation Street NW often display Colonial Revival-style elements and vernacular house forms like the Four Square. Phillips occasionally repeated his designs, but more often varied them slightly with a different front entrance.



**5929 16th Street NW; 1939**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

After 1936, Frank D. Phillips worked mostly east of Rock Creek Park in the northwest DC neighborhoods of Brightwood, Crestwood, and Takoma with a few projects in Chevy Chase and Tenleytown. Although Phillips averaged two dwellings per permit, he often purchased several lots on the same street or within a tight area for development. For example, he constructed twenty-one houses on the 5900 to 6500 blocks of 16th Street NW in the Brightwood neighborhood and eight houses in the 4800 block of Blagden Avenue NW in the Crestwood neighborhood. In both neighborhoods, he mixed Colonial Revival-style and Tudor Revival-style dwellings to vary the streetscapes.

Phillips appears to have retired as the designer of his buildings in 1940. Between December 1949 and August 1950, eight D.C. permits for eight buildings were issued to Phillips as an owner; it is not known how long he continued to develop new properties. Phillips lived in the house he built at 3500 Rittenhouse Street NW. At the time of his death on March 17, 1966, Frank and his wife Ada were living in a condominium at 4740 Connecticut Avenue NW in Washington, D.C.



**3500 Rittenhouse Street NW; 1936**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:**
*Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☐ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 –not in it | | |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects- not in it | | |
| **Obituary** Publication: *Washington Post, Times Herald* | Date: 3/20/1966 | Page: n/a |

**Other Sources:**
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. Charleston, SC.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1920. Wilmington, DE.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. District of Columbia.

**Notes:**
Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Frank Phillips may have been active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Gilbert LaCoste Rodier



*Washington Star, January 10, 1971*

## Biographical Data

Birth: 4/29/1889 Place: Washington, DC

Death: 1/8/1971 Place: Washington, DC

Family: Ada Rebecca (wife); sons Gilbert L. Rodier Jr. & William B. Rodier

## Education

High School: Tech High School, Washington, DC

College: Corcoran School of Art, Washington, DC (1905-1908);

Graduate School: George Washington University School of Architecture (1912-1913)

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 83 Date Issued: 4/15/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1908 Latest Permit: 1948 Total Permits: 54 Total Buildings: 112

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Paul J. Pelz, Washington DC | Draftsman | May – Oct 1906 |
| Harding & Upman, Washington, DC | Draftsman | 1907-1908 |
| George O. Totten, Washington, DC | Draftsman | 1908-1910 |
| U.S. Quartermasters Dept., Washington, DC | Arch. Draftsman & Construction Engineer | 1910-1922 |
| George O. Totten, Washington, DC | Arch. Draftsman & Construction Engineer | 1922-1923 |
| Rodier & Kundzin, Washington, DC | Architect | 1923-1928 |
| Gilbert L. Rodier, Washington, DC | Architect | 1928-1961 |
| U.S. Public Housing Authority | Director of Technical Division | c. 1933-1961 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 3/5/1926 Fellow of the AIA:

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Washington Chapter, AIA

**Awards or Commissions:**
*Washington Evening Star* Model House Campaign (1926); architectural director of Ideal Homes Exposition of the Washington Real Estate Board (1928)

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Row Houses, Apartments, Printing plant, Church, Stores

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, French Eclectic, Spanish Eclectic, Italian Renaissance Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Capitol Hill, Georgetown, Brightwood, Takoma, Cleveland Park, Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Tenleytown

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Residence | 1014 Massachusetts Ave NE | 1908 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Capitol Hill Historic District |
| Warehouse | Signal Corps Reservation, Ft. Myer, VA | 1919 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Residences | 3200-3208 Porter Street NW | 1922 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Cleveland Park Historic District |
| Voegtlin House | 2525 Belmont Road NW | 1924 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District |
| Apartment Building | 739 Newton Place NW | 1925 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| St. Columba's Protestant Episcopal Church | 4201 Albemarle Street NW | 1926 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| The Bulletin Building | 717 6th Street NW | 1928 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site |
| Residence | 3140 Davenport Street NW | 1929 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born April 29, 1889 in Washington, D.C., Gilbert LaCoste Rodier graduated from Washington Technical High School in 1905 followed by three years of night school at the Corcoran School of Art from 1905 to 1908. During this period, Rodier worked as a draftsman in the D.C. offices of Paul J. Pelz and of Harding & Upman. From 1908 to 1910, Rodier worked as a draftsman for prominent D.C. architect George Oakley Totten.

In 1908 and 1909, Rodier was the architect of record for eight buildings and a private stable, most of which were designed for developer Robert Allen. His two- to three-story, Colonial Revival-style brick row houses were constructed on Capitol Hill and in Georgetown. In 1909, Rodier designed four two-story, frame, single dwellings in the Brightwood neighborhood.

In 1910, Rodier took a position in the U.S. Quartermaster's Department as an architectural draftsman and construction engineer. While working, he attended one year of night school at the George Washington University School of Architecture (1912 to 1913). By 1917, Rodier was married with two children; he and his family lived in East Falls Church, Virginia. During World War I (1917-1918), Rodier designed a network of roads at Arlington National Cemetery and completed measured drawings of Arlington House among other projects. When the war ended, Rodier was sent to Paris, France to oversee the cemeteries where American soldiers' were buried (Obituary, *The Washington Star*, 1/10/1971).



**1014 Massachusetts Avenue NE; 1908**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1921, Rodier began designing private dwellings while continuing his work for the War Department. In 1922, he left government service and worked for the firm of George Oakley Totten for a year as an architectural draftsman while continuing private work under his own name. During this period, Rodier designed Colonial Revival-style, two-story frame dwellings and two-story, brick row houses in the Tenleytown and Cleveland Park neighborhoods. These designs emphasized the front entrance which frequently incorporated side lights and a fan light or a pedimented front portico.



**3204 Porter Street NW; 1922**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1923, Gilbert L. Rodier started a private firm with Arved L. Kundzin, an architect trained in Estonia who had just left his position as the first secretary to the Latvian Legation in Washington. Between March 1924 and February 1928, the firm of Rodier & Kundzin received 31 building permits for 78 buildings in D.C. Most of Rodier & Kundzin's work consisted of single dwellings, row houses, and duplexes. The two-story, brick, frame, and concrete block row houses and duplexes were designed in the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Spanish Eclectic styles. Estimated construction costs ranged between $5,000 and $10,000. Most were designed for the Washington, D.C. builder, Robert Munro. Rodier & Kundzin also designed single dwellings for Munro in the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles; construction costs for these ranged from $12,000 to $18,000. Most of the 72 detached dwellings were erected in the northwest neighborhoods of Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Mount Pleasant, and Brightwood. During the same period, Rodier & Kundzin produced designs for Maryland houses such as the stone house for Mr. and Mrs. P.D. Poston of Woodside Park, Maryland that was illustrated in a June 13, 1926 *Washington Post* display advertisement.

Rodier & Kundzin designed slightly more costly houses for individual owners. Two distinguished examples are the two designed for Dr. Carl Voegtlin, which were built in the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood. The first was a two-and-one-half-story, cinder block house located at 2525 Belmont Road NW (1924). Constructed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, it features a stepped-back, tri-partite façade, smooth stucco walls, and molded door and window surrounds. The low-pitched, hipped, red-clay-tile, roof on the main block is flanked by wings surmounted by flat roofs with raised parapets. In 1925, Voegtlin commissioned another house at 2450 Belmont Road NW. Rodier & Kundzin designed this 50-foot-by-74-foot house in the Spanish Eclectic style with asymmetrical massing, stucco walls, and rectangular and arched windows. The combination hipped-and-gabled roof is covered with red clay tiles.



**2525 Belmont Road NW; 1924**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In addition to dwellings, Rodier & Kundzin designed several commercial buildings and a church. In 1924, they designed a row of three, one-story, brick-and-concrete stores that feature pilasters, plain friezes, and flat roofs (517-521 8th Street SE). The firm also designed one apartment building (1925) in Mount Pleasant; the three-story, brick and concrete building still stands at 739 Newton Place NW. St. Columba's Protestant Episcopal Church (1926) is the only church that the firm designed; it still stands at 4201 Albemarle Street NW. The stone-clad, concrete tile church was designed in the Gothic Revival style. The last building designed by Rodier & Kundzin was The Bulletin Building (1928), which is located at 717 6th Street NW and is listed on the D.C. Inventory of History Sites. The United Publishing Company constructed the three-story building to house its offices and printing operation. In 1928, Kundzin left private practice and joined the D.C. Office of the Municipal Architect as an associate engineer; the firm dissolved shortly thereafter.

Throughout his career, Rodier was active in professional organizations and a leader in his field. In 1923, Rodier became an associate member of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and was elected its secretary from 1925 to 1928. In 1926, Rodier became a full member of the AIA. In 1931, he was elected as Washington Chapter president.

Just after the District's architect's registration law was enacted in 1925, Rodier was registered as an architect by exemption with the D.C. Board of Examiners. Four years later, Rodier passed a verbal senior examination to become a fully registered architect in D.C. in order to gain reciprocal status with the state of Virginia.



**The Bulletin Building; 1928**
**717 6th Street NW**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Rodier was well known and respected among the community of D.C. architects. In July 1926, the *Washington Evening Star* established a model house campaign under the direction of noted D.C. architect, Horace Peaslee. Rodier was selected to design the brick Italian Community House on 5th Street NW near Longfellow Street. In 1928, the AIA appointed Rodier as architectural director of the Ideal Homes Exposition of the Washington Real Estate Board. That year, he also was selected as one of three judges for the first contest of outdoor lighting sponsored by the Electric League. In 1936, Rodier once again served as a judge—this time for the Fifth Annual Exhibit of works by federal architects sponsored by the Association of Federal Architects.



**Longsworth House Office Building; 1933**
*Architect of the Capitol (www.aoc.gov)*

In 1925, Gilbert L. Rodier joined Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the AIA to form the Allied Architects of Washington, DC, Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design. The group's most prominent commission was the design for the Longsworth House Office Building (first design submitted 1925; completed 1933). Other designs and studies pursued by the group included the never-built National Stadium on East Capitol Street; the DC Municipal Center; designs for a downtown Naval Hospital; the Naval Academy Memorial Gates; a DC National Guard Armory proposal; design and planning studies of Georgetown; alleys in DC; and a study for the beautification of East Capitol Street. The Allied Architects disbanded in 1949.

Circa 1933, Rodier accepted a position with the Public Works Administration (PWA) (later the U.S. Housing Authority) as director of the technical division. The PWA was created to raze slum housing and build new, low-cost housing. With the passage of the Wagner-Steagall bill known as the Housing Act of 1937, the PWA tasks were incorporated under the new U.S. Housing Authority. Among Rodier's nationwide projects as director was the planning for removal of substandard housing and construction of low-cost homes for families. Circa 1936, Rodier moved with his family to D.C. from Virginia; his residence and office were located in at 4515 Ellicott Street NW.



**3140 Davenport Street NW; 1929**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Gilbert L. Rodier continued to accept commissions from private clients in addition to working at PHA, but he produced fewer designs between 1928 and 1948. Only eleven permits were recorded under his name as architect; only one of those dates to after 1940. During this period, Rodier designed mostly single-family, detached dwellings that varied in size, style, and materials. His largest commission was a two-story, stone, French Eclectic-style house located at 3140 Davenport Street NW. With an estimated construction cost of $29,000, the house, built for J.O. Harrison, is the largest, single extant example of Rodier's residential work. Rodier also designed four row houses in Georgetown in the Colonial Revival-style. Located at 3225-3231 Reservoir Road NW, the two end row houses are three stories tall while the middle two are two stories tall. The three-bay, brick houses feature wide wooden cornices with either modillion blocks or dentils. The two-story houses feature elliptical fanlights over the front door and their faux mansard roofs are pierced by dormers. The three-story houses feature elaborate door surrounds capped by pediments.

In 1961, Rodier retired from the government. That year, he applied to the AIA for membership emeritus status, verifying that he was retired and no longer engaged in the practice of architecture. In 1971, Rodier died at the age of 81 and was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals | | |
| "Arlington House, Arlington Memorial Cemetery," *Architectural Forum* | 1924 March, v. 40 | 89-96 |
| "Arlington House," *Architectural Record* | 1924 Jan., v. 40 | 89-96 |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | | p. 240 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects-not in it | | |
| **Obituary** Publication: *Washington Star* | Date: 1/10/1971 | Page: n/a |

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Gilbert L. Rodier Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Gilbert L. Rodier correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Social Security Death Index. *Ancestry.com.*

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1900. Washington, DC.

**Other Sources (cont'd):**

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910. Washington, DC.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. Washington, DC.
U.S. Department of State. Passport Application, 1920.
Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955*. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.
World War I U.S. Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 record for Gilbert L. Rodier. *Ancestry.com*.

**Notes:**

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Gilbert L. Rodier was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# J. Wilmer Smith

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 9/9/1893 | Place: Burnt Mills, MD |
| Death: 1/1/1979 | Place: Bethesda, MD |
| Family: Donald K. Smith (son) | |

## Education

High School: McKinley High School, Washington, DC

College: George Washington University School of Architecture

Graduate School: Unknown.

Apprenticeship: Unknown.

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 28 Date Issued: July 1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1922 Latest Permit: 1949 Total Permits: 25 Total Buildings: 15

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Eugene Bradbury, Charlottesville, VA | General work | 1915-1916 |
| Waggaman & Ray, Washington, DC | Architectural draftsman | 1916-1918 |
| George N. Ray, Washington, DC | Architectural draftsman | 1919-1921 |
| D.H. Smith, Washington, DC | Architectural draftsman | 1921-1922 |
| A.B. Mullett & Co., Washington, DC | Designer | 1922-1925 |
| J. Wilmer Smith, Washington, DC | Architect | 1925-ca.1960 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1923-1935 Fellow of the AIA: n/a

**Other Societies or Memberships:** None known.

**Awards or Commissions:** None known.

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Flats, Stores

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Cleveland Park, Georgetown, Sheridan-Kalorama, Anacostia, Southwest, Gallaudet Univ. area

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 1101 Holbrook Terrace NE | 1926 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwellings | 1605-1613 West Virginia Avenue NE | 1926 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwellings | 1615-1621 34th Street NW | 1937 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Georgetown Historic District |

| Notable Buildings (cont'd) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 1827 24th Street NW | 1939 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site<br>Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District |

## Significance and Contributions

Born September 9, 1893 in Burnt Mills, Maryland, Joseph Wilmer Smith attended both grammar and high school in Washington, D.C. Between 1913 and 1914, Smith was enrolled at George Washington University's School of Architecture. While in school, Smith co-authored the book *Measured Drawings of Georgian Architecture in the District of Columbia, 1750-1820* with Harry Francis Cunningham and Joseph Arthur Younger. From 1915 to 1916, he performed general work in the architectural office of Eugene Bradbury in Charlottesville, Virginia. In 1916, Smith moved back to DC where he worked as an architectural draftsman and supervised construction projects for the firms of Waggaman & Ray, George N. Ray (see entry for Ray), and Delos H. Smith (see entry for Smith).

In 1922, J. Wilmer Smith became a designer with the prominent Washington, D.C. architecture firm of A. B. Mullett (see entry for Mullett) & Company. That year, the first building permit registered to Smith was for two, Colonial-Revival style, two-story, frame dwellings on Porter Street in the Cleveland Park neighborhood in Northwest D.C. (3010 and 3012 Porter Street, NW). In 1923, Smith became a member of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).



**3010 Porter Street NW; 1922**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1925, J. Wilmer Smith left the firm of A.B. Mullett & Company to start his own practice. He also joined the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C. In 1925, Horace Peaslee (see entry for Peaslee) and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the AIA formed the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design. The group's most prominent commission was the design for the Longsworth House Office Building (first design submitted 1925; completed 1933). Other designs and studies pursued by the group included the never-built National Stadium on East Capitol Street; the D.C. Municipal Center; designs for a downtown Naval Hospital; the Naval Academy Memorial Gates; a D.C. National Guard Armory proposal; design and planning studies of Georgetown; alleys in D.C.; and a study for the beautification of East Capitol Street. The Allied Architects disbanded in 1949.

In 1926, Smith designed two individual dwellings and five row houses for developer C. H. Small & Company that were part of the July 1926 *Evening Star of Washington*'s "Model House" campaign organized by Horace W. Peaslee. Known as the "Brick Georgian Row Group" and located in the Trinidad neighborhood of Northeast D.C., the brick and frame, Colonial Revival-style dwellings feature corner quoins (1605-1613 West Virginia Ave., NE). The two individual houses are end units attached to row houses of different styles and materials. They are notable for their decorative wood quoins and string course above the second floor windows.



**1611 West Virginia Avenue NE; 1926**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Smith executed few commissions between 1926 and the late 1930s. In 1937, he appears to have returned to active practice. That year, Smith designed four row houses in Georgetown and a detached dwelling in Cleveland Park. In Southwest D.C., he designed a three-story building that contained retail stores on the first floor with apartments on the second and third floors. In March 1938, Smith discussed details of these projects in his verbal senior examination with the D.C. Board of Examiners. The Georgetown row houses, located at 1615 –1621 34th Street NW, were three-story, Colonial Revival-style brick dwellings with seven rooms that included a kitchen with "plenty of room, with the modern equipment, to put two servants to work," a "colored" bathroom, and one "white" bathroom. Smith designed the Cleveland Park residence of William L. Breese (4634 30th Street NW) in the Colonial Revival-style; the house is a two-story brick building that incorporated three bathrooms, a "Garwood air conditioning plant," and slate roof. The three-story store and apartment building at 1129 4th Street SW no longer stands. According to the Smith's D.C. verbal examination, the first-story stores were constructed of concrete with brick cladding, while the four, four-room apartments in the upper stories were of frame construction with brick cladding.



**1619 34th Street NW; 1937**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1939, Smith's sole recorded permit was for a three-story cinder-block-and-brick house located at 1827 24th Street NW in the Sheridan-Kalorama area. Perhaps the most formal of his extant work, the Classical Revival-style house has stone quoins on the first-story corners and in the door surround, stone keystones on the first and two of the second story windows, and a stone string course above the first-story level. Built for Genevieve K. Ascheberg, the house features a three-bay façade with a centered "frontispiece" adorning the entrance. The stone frontispiece is composed of an arched entry surmounted by a pedimented window that is framed by consoles. A prominent cornice with dentils, parapet, and low-sloping hip roof cap the dwelling.

From 1940 through 1945, J. Wilmer Smith designed five flats for the S&R Building Company (also known as the S&R Construction Company). Located in Anacostia in Southeast D.C. as well as in the Southwest quadrant of the city, the flats were two-story, cinder-block-and-brick buildings. The two extant buildings—1124 3rd Street SW and 1706 28th Place SE— differ in design. Both are a marginally Colonial Revival in style. The Southwest D.C. building has a side-gable roof and contains four, two-story units, while the Anacostia building features a flat roof and a central entrance that provides access to garden-style apartments.

In 1953, J. Wilmer Smith became certified as an architect by reciprocity with Virginia. Though little is known of his work in the 1950s, Smith maintained his architectural practice in D.C. through 1960, when, at the age of sixty-seven he most likely retired. On January 1, 1979, at the age of eighty-five, Smith died in Bethesda, Maryland.



**1827 24th Street NW; 1939**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:**
*Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | | p. 264 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: *The Washington Post* Date: 1/3/1979 Page: C4

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. J. Wilmer Smith Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. J. Wilmer Smith correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. District of Columbia.

World War I U.S. Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 record for J. Wilmer Smith. *Ancestry.com.*

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955.* Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

**Notes:**

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. J. Wilmer Smith was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Robert K. Smith



*Kansas State Agricultural College 1929 Yearbook*
*Source: Google Books*

## Biographical Data

Birth: June 2, 1908 Place: Wichita, KS

Death: April 3, 1999 Place: Wichita, KS

Family:

## Education

High School: Unknown

College: Kansas State Agricultural College (majored in Architecture; graduated 1929)

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1935 Latest Permit: 1943 Total Permits: 153 Total Buildings: 256

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Private Practice | Architect | 1935-1943 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Kappa Sigma Fraternity; Gargoyle Club (Architecture Club at Kansas State)

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Flats, Apartments

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Colonial Village, Palisades, East Washington Heights

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 2927 Northampton Street NW | 1935 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 3249 Worthington Street NW | 1937 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 2331 Huidekoper Place NW | 1937 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 3210 Davenport Street NW | 1940 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 5151 Palisade Lane NW | 1941 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Flat | 432 33rd Street SE | 1942 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment | 5025 Hanna Place SE | 1942 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

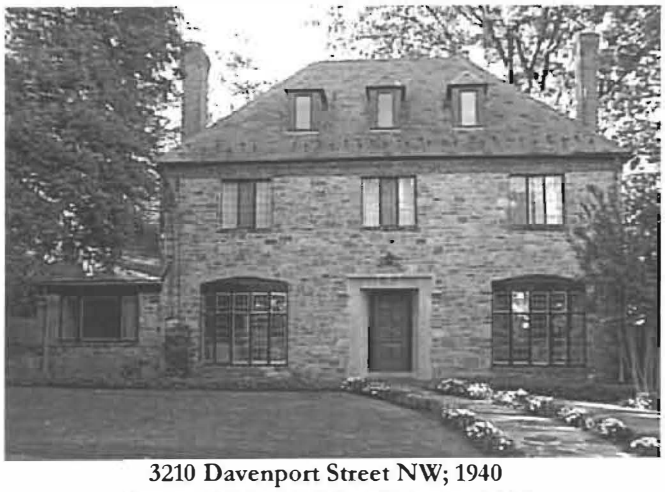
Born in Wichita, Kansas in June 1908, Robert Kenneth Smith attended Kansas State Agricultural College where he graduated with a degree in architecture in 1929. In the early 1930s, Smith moved to Washington, D.C.

D.C. issued Smith his first building permit in May 1935 and his last in July 1943. Most of his work consisted of house designs for Paul T. Stone and M.L. Stone, two prominent Washington area developers. The majority of the houses Smith designed for the Stones were located in the Chevy Chase area of D.C., with a few located in Takoma and Colonial Village in Northwest D.C. and in the Brookland area of Northeast D.C. Paul T. Stone developed large sections of the Colonial Village neighborhood of Northwest D.C. and the Middleton Lane area of Bethesda, Maryland. M.L. Stone acted as both owner and builder for his own projects.

Responsible for the design of over 190 dwellings between 1935 and 1943, Robert K. Smith designed two-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style houses. His designs ranged from Cape Cod cottages to three-to-five-bay, center hall Colonials with gambrel, gable, or hipped roofs. Construction costs ranged from $6,000 to $12,000, with the more expensive dwellings incorporating architectural details such as molded cornices with modillions and front porticos. One notable exception was the house at 3210 Davenport Street NW that Smith designed as a large, three-bay, Colonial Revival-style, stone house with a hipped roof pierced by three dormers. On the first story, the house had two multi-paned, bay windows that flanked a center door with a molded, stone surround.



**2927 Northampton Street NW; 1935**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*



**3210 Davenport Street NW; 1940**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In the 1930s and early 1940s, Robert K. Smith designed houses for private individuals and two other developers—the Wesmond Building & Investment Company and the Barnaby Woods Development Company. The houses that Smith designed during this period were very similar to those that he designed for Paul T. and M.L. Stone. One exception was the house at 5151 Palisade Lane that was designed for Barnaby Woods. Larger in size than most that Smith designed, the Colonial Revival-style, five-bay, brick house with a gable roof features a center bay with an elaborate door surround flanked by hexagonal windows on the first story and a recessed porch area on the second story.



**5151 Palisade Lane NW; 1941**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1942 and 1943, Smith designed a number of flats and garden-style, low-rise apartment buildings in the East Washington Heights neighborhood of Southeast D.C. For the South Washington Development Company, Smith designed Colonial Revival-style, two-story garden apartments with center entrances and low-pitched, hip roofs (432 33rd Street SE and 3301 Ely Place SE). The Bradbury Development Company (builder Harry P. Giddings) commissioned Smith to design duplexes (5100 blocks of Hanna Place SE and H Street SE; 740 & 742 51st Street SE). These two-story, brick buildings featured flat roofs and a header course above the second-story windows that extended the width of the building. Designed for H. P. Giddings, Smith's flats featured a decorative brick, dentilled, string course above the second-story windows; the duplexes and the two-story, garden-style apartments have center entrances and flat roofs (741 & 747 51st Street SE; 5000 blocks of Hanna Place SE and H Street SE). From Smith's designs, E.D.H. Construction Company built rows of two-story, brick, garden-style flats with flat roofs and simple, brick string course above the second-story windows (700 & 800 blocks of 51st Street SE; 5000 blocks of Hanna Place SE and H Street SE).



**5025 Hanna Place SE; 1942**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

After 1943, there is no known record of Robert K. Smith working as an architect in D.C. In 1999, he died in Wichita, Kansas.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:**
*Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
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| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☐ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 – not in it | | |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

| **Obituary** | Publication: Not found. | Date: n/a | Page: n/a |
|---|---|---|---|

**Other Sources:**
Kansas State Agricultural College Yearbook, 1929 (Google Books).
Social Security Death Index. *Ancestry.com.*

**Notes:**
Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. It is not known if Robert K. Smith was active as an architect after 1949. Any actual permit numbers after 1949 are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Francis P. Sullivan



*Francis P. Sullivan, ca. 1946 (AIA Archive; Roster File of Francis P. Sullivan)*

## Biographical Data

Birth: 6/25/1885 Place: Washington, D.C.

Death: 2/3/1958 Place: Washington, D.C.

Family: In 1911, married Villette Anderson (b. ca. 1888 in Norfolk, VA); Daughter Mannevillette Sullivan (b. 1913)

## Education

High School: Georgetown Preparatory School, 1900

College: Georgetown University (B.A., 1904)

Graduate School: George Washington University (GWU), School of Engineering (1903-1904); GWU, School of Architecture (1904-1908)

Apprenticeship: Office of Nathan C. Wyeth, 1904- ca.1909

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 125 Date Issued: 7/17/1925

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1912 Latest Permit: 1947 Total Permits: 33 Total Buildings: 44[i]

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Wyeth & Cresson | Intern/Apprentice | 1904-1909 |
| Nathan C. Wyeth, Architect | Designer, Principal assistant | 1909-1917 |
| Francis P. Sullivan | Independent work | 1912-1917 |
| U.S. Army | 1st Lieutenant, Ordnance Department | 1917-1918 |
| U.S. Army | Capt., Officers' Reserve Corps (O.R.C.; predecessor to the Army Reserve) | 1919-1920 |
| U.S. Army | Capt.; Major, Finance Department, O.R.C. | 1920-192?? |
| U.S. Post Office Department | Comptroller | 1922-1926 |
| Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc. | Member | 1925-19??49?? |
| Wyeth & Sullivan | Partner | 1924--1934 |
| Francis P. Sullivan | Independent architect | 1934-1955 |
| Sullivan, Smith & Burcham | Principal | 1955-ca.1958 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1920-51, 1955-58 Fellow of the AIA: 1939

**Other Societies or Memberships:** President, Washington, D.C. Chapter, AIA (1933); Chair of AIA's Committee on the National Capital; President, Cleveland Park-Cathedral Heights Citizens' Association; Secretary, Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc.; Central Technical Committee, Civil Defense, D.C.; District Engineer Air Raid Shelter Service; Chair of Committee on Cultural Development, Washington Board of Trade; Committee of 100 on the Federal City; Executive Committee, Washington Round Table; Member, D.C. Board of Examiners & Registrars of Architects; Member, Cosmos Club, Columbia Historical Society, and Society of Architectural Historians; Author, *The Portion of a Champion* (1915, fiction); Author of various journal articles on architecture & city planning.

**Awards or Commissions:** 1929 – Washington Board of Trade Merit Award for Design of Residence of Supreme Court Justice Harlan F. Stone, (24th & Wyoming Ave., NW); Delegate to International Congress of Architects, Paris, France, 1937.

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Office Buildings, Hospitals; Public Buildings

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial and Classical Revivals; Tudor Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Foggy Bottom, Capitol Hill, Washington Heights, DuPont Circle, Massachusetts Avenue, Sheridan Kalorama

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Columbia Hospital for Women | 2425 L Street, NW | 1914 | ☐ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site |
| Loudoun County Hospital | Leesburg, Virginia | 1917-1918 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Residence of Supreme Court Justice Harlan F. Stone (now the Embassy of Afghanistan) | 2340 Wyoming Ave., NW | 1926 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District |
| Childrens' Country Home | 1731 Bunker Hill Road, NE | 1929 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site |
| East Wing Addition to Russell Senate Office Building | Constitution Avenue and 1st Street, NE | 1932-1933 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Carrollsburg Housing Project (for Alley Dwelling Authority) | SE – Squares 798-800; 824-825 | 1940 | Demolished post 2004 |
| Reconstruction of House and Senate Chambers, U.S. Capitol (with Architect of the Capitol) | U.S. Capitol Building | 1949-1950 | ☒ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Native Washingtonian Francis P. Sullivan practiced architecture in the city for more than 50 years. Over the course of his career, he worked closely with one of D.C.'s best-known architects, Nathan C. Wyeth, whom he joined in a partnership from 1924-1934. The firm of Wyeth & Sullivan designed numerous mansions for wealthy Washingtonians, mainly in Northwest Washington. In addition, the firm and Sullivan alone worked on hospitals, office buildings, and smaller dwellings.



**Thomas V. Sullivan House, 1851 Vernon Street, NW (1912)**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning: 2004*

Born in 1885 in Washington, D.C., Francis Paul Sullivan was the fourth child of Thomas J. and Mary Collier Sullivan. Thomas J. Sullivan (1845-1908) was a lawyer and accountant who served as the Assistant Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for 25 years and as Director for the last two years of his life. Francis P. Sullivan attended Georgetown Preparatory School and then entered Georgetown University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1904. Between 1904 and 1908, Sullivan studied first engineering and then architecture at George Washington University.

After completing college and while he attended graduate school, Sullivan worked as a draftsman and apprentice in the architecture firm of Wyeth and Cresson. Soon after completing his graduate studies, he was promoted to designer and principal assistant in the now independent office of Nathan C. Wyeth. He served as principal assistant to Wyeth in the design of the Swedish Legation (location unknown), the Franklin and Emily MacVeagh House (later the Mexican Embassy at 2827 16th Street NW, 1910), Emergency Hospital & Dispensary (1711 New York Avenue NW, 1914), and the Loudoun County Hospital in Virginia.[ii] While working for Wyeth, Sullivan completed independent work, most of which was designing buildings for family members, including a two-story, brick row house in the Kalorama neighborhood for his

brother, Thomas V. Sullivan, at 1851 Vernon Street NW (1912).

During World War I, Sullivan joined the U.S. Army and became a Captain in the Ordnance Branch of the War Department. After the war ended in 1918, he remained employed by the War Department where he was in charge of auditing war contracts. He left the War Department in 1922 to become Comptroller for the U.S. Post Office Department.

In 1924, Francis Sullivan returned to architecture and formed a partnership with Nathan C. Wyeth. Wyeth & Sullivan (1924-1934) executed many important residential and public commissions. Most of the residences were completed for wealthy clients and were executed in popular academic eclectic styles, such as Neo-Classical and Tudor or French Renaissance Revival. Among the firm's most important residential works is the large, Classical-Revival-style, brick mansion at 2340 Wyoming Avenue NW. Built in 1926 for Supreme Court Justice Harlan F. Stone, since 1946 the former dwelling has housed the Embassy of Afghanistan. Designs for several more residences for prominent Washingtonians followed, including a Tudor Revival house for Clarence A. Aspinwall executed in 1928 (2340 Kalorama Road NW); a 38-room mansion for Duncan Phillips, the founder of the Phillips Collection and influential modern art collector (near Foxhall Road across from GWU Mt. Vernon Campus; designed in 1928; completed 1930; demolished 1988[iii]); and a grand, Georgian Revival-style residence for Assistant Director of the Office of Naval Communications and later Rear Admiral Paul Henry Bastedo and his wife Helen 3055 Whitehaven Street NW (1929).



**Residence of Justice Harlan F. Stone (now the Embassy of Afghanistan) Designed Wyeth & Sullivan, 1926.**
*AIA "Questionnaire for Architects' Roster," Washington, D.C., 12 August 1946 (AIA Archive)*

During the same period, Wyeth & Sullivan executed some prominent non-residential commissions including the Children's Country Home, a school and residence for convalescent children located 1731 Bunker Hill Road NE (1929-1930; listed on the *National Register* in 2003), and several Sullivan-led hospital designs, including the Columbia Hospital for Women and the Loudoun County, Virginia Hospital. In 1931, the Washington Board of Trade recognized the Children's Home as the "Outstanding Building of the Year." In the 1930s, Sullivan acted as consulting architect for the Architect of the Capitol David Lynn; in this capacity, he designed the East Wing addition to the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill (1932-1933).

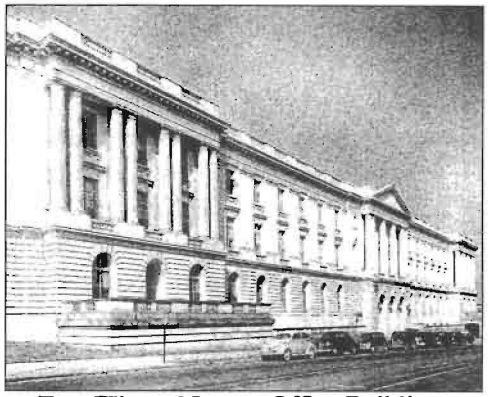


**Children's Country Home, 1731 Bunker Hill Road (Wyeth & Sullivan, 1929)**
*Wikipedia.org – Author: Farragutful, 15 October 2011.*



**Bastedo Residence, 3055 Whitehaven St. NW (1929)**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In addition to running his own firm, Sullivan was active with an innovative design collaborative called The Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc. In 1925, Horace Peaslee and other prominent members of the D.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) formed the Allied Architects of Washington, D.C., Inc., a loose confederation of prominent local architects who banded together to pursue large public and semi-public commissions in the city. Modeled on a similar architectural group started in Los Angeles in 1919, the Allied Architects worked collaboratively, sometimes holding internal design competitions and then selecting and combining the best elements of the winning designs. The group's bylaws provided for one-fourth of the corporation's net proceeds to be spent on efforts to advance architecture in the District of Columbia and to educate the public about good design.



**East Wing of Senate Office Building (1932-1933, Sullivan consulting architect)**
*AIA "Questionnaire for Architects' Roster," Washington, D.C., 12 August 1946 (AIA Archive).*

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

Sullivan was a respected member of the architecture profession in Washington, D.C.; he held several leadership positions in both the national AIA and the D.C. Chapter of the AIA. During his tenure as President of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the AIA in 1933, Sullivan focused attention on pressuring the D.C. Municipal Architects Office to contract with private architects to design municipal buildings. During the 1930s, Sullivan also chaired the AIA's Committee on Public Works where he and others argued that the Department of the Treasury should, likewise, employ private firms to both instill greater variety and creativity in federal design and to employ otherwise out-of-work architects. He succeeded in getting the Treasury to establish a joint committee on which he served to determine how the department's Procurement Division and the AIA could collaborate. In addition, Sullivan's AIA and professional advocacy activities included chairing the AIA's Committee on the National Capital, Committee on Public Works, and the Committee on Interprofessional Relations.

In 1937, the AIA selected Sullivan as its delegate to the International Congress of Modern Architecture (a.k.a. CIAM – Congres International d'Architecture Moderne), an organization of European architects founded in 1928 by prominent modern designers Le Corbusier and Sigfried Giedion to promote and disseminate the principles of the Modern Movement in design and city planning. The topic of focus at the 1937 conference held in Paris, France was "Dwelling and Recovery." Sullivan's trip to France and his exposure to Modern design and housing principles may have influenced his 1940 design of a public housing development for the D.C. Alley Dwelling Authority. Located in the Capitol Hill neighborhood at K Street and 4th Street SE, the Carrollsburg Housing Project incorporated a series of simple, brick-and-tile block , two- and three-story duplexes and apartment buildings with little to no architectural adornment. All of the buildings have been recently demolished and replaced by the EYA development company's "Capital Quarters" neighborhood development.



**Carrollsburg Housing Project, K & 4th Streets SE (Francis P. Sullivan, 1940).**
*www.jdland.com*

In 1939, Sullivan was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, one of the highest levels of recognition in the profession of architecture. He was recognized for his architectural and civic accomplishments, including his dedication to promoting the beautification of the Nation's Capital.

Sullivan was active in local civic organizations, including the Cleveland Park-Cathedral Heights Citizens' Association, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, and as chair of the Washington Board of Trade's Committee on Cultural Development. He was a published author of one novel and many articles. His writings covered architecture and city planning topics and were published in both professional and popular journals such as the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* and *House Beautiful.*

During World War II, Sullivan served on the Central Technical Committee for Civilian Defense in Washington, D.C. and as district engineer for the Air Raid Shelter Service. He continued to work during the war, designing an admissions department addition to Children's Hospital at 1216 W Street NW (former location of Children's National Medical Center). In 1947, he designed a modernist style residence for Robert Whitely in Woodley Park (2550 28th Street NW). According to one source, in 1955, Sullivan formed a new partnership with Delos H. Smith and Joseph W. Burcham called Sullivan, Smith & Burcham. Sullivan died in 1958 after a long illness; he is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ American Architects Directory – not in it (1946 Roster Questionnaire available online AIA Historical Architects Directory). | | |
| ☒ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – | | |
| Sullivan, Francis P. "A Conscientious Artist," in *Pencil Points* | v.16, Oct. 1935 | 521-522 |
| Sullivan, Francis P. "Present Status of the Public Works Program," in *Octagon* | 1938 Mar., v. 10 | 14-16 |

| Biographical Directories (Cont.) | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| Francis P. Sullivan Obituary, *AIA Journal* | 1958 Apr., v.29 | 181 |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it. | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | p. 279 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects-not in it. | | |
| ☒ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital | 1926/27;1929/30; 1934/35; 1938/39 | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |
| **Obituary** Publication: *The Washington Post* | Date: 2/5/1958 | Page: B2 |

**Other Sources:**

American Institute of Architects, "Questionnaire for Architects' Roster," Washington, D.C., 12 August 1946 (AIA Archive).

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

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Francis P. Sullivan Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Francis P. Sullivan correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Williams, Kim. Children's Country Home NRHP Registration Form, 2003.

**Notes:** [i]The permit counts include all permits issued to the firm of Wyeth & Sullivan and to Francis Sullivan alone.

[ii] Bushong, et. al., *A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, 1887-1987* (Washington, D.C.: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987), p. 167; Kim Williams, "Children's Country Home," *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form* (National Park Service, October 2003), Section 8, Page 5.

[iii] According to a 2005 Washington Post article, the 16-acre property is now an enclave of luxury estate homes known as Phillips Park. Sandra Fleishman, "The Future on Foxhall," *The Washington Post* 16 July 2005 (Real Estate Section).

Georgetown University, Special Collections: Francis P. Sullivan Papers (1825-1945; 4.00 linear feet): Includes file of proposals and related material, correspondence, printed ephemera, sketches, cyanotype photo prints of Washington, DC from end of the 19th century.

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Francis P. Sullivan was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Walter Valentine

## Biographical Data

Birth: 6/1/1901 Place: Nanticoke, PA

Death: 2/20/1969 Place: Washington, DC

Family: wife: E. Joyce Valentine; 3 children: James Walter, Dorothy (Valentine) Morrissette, Mrs. Louis Cattaneo

## Education

High School: Unknown.

College: Lehigh University (1922)

Graduate School: Catholic University of America

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1927 Latest Permit: 1949 Total Permits: 165 Total Buildings: 524

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Illinois Highway Department | Engineer | 1922-1924(?) |
| Catholic University, School of Engineering & Architecture | Associate Professor of Civil Engineering | 1924-1948 |
| Capital View Realty Company | Designer, Civil Engineer, Construction Engineer | ca.1930-ca.1947 |
| Evans, Goldstein & Valentine (Builders & Real Estate Development) | Partner | ca.1950-ca.1953 |
| Capitol View Construction Company (Seat Pleasant, MD) | Founder & Principal | 1955-1964 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Rotary Club; Lehigh Alumni Association

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Single Dwellings, Duplexes, Row Houses, Gas Stations, Restaurants, Stores

**Styles and Forms:** Craftsman, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Capital View, Capitol Hill

| Notable/Representative Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gas Station, Rock Creek & Potomac Parkways (at the Watergate) | 2708 Virginia Ave., NW | 1932 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Duplexes | Capital View; 5200-5300 Blocks, Ames Street NE | 1930, 1934-1936, 1938, 1940 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Duplexes | Capital View; 5000-5400 Blocks, East Capitol Street | 1935-1940 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Duplexes | Capital View; 5200 Block, Central Avenue SE | 1937, 1940, 1948 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Prolific residential developer and designer Walter Valentine was born in 1901 in Nanticoke near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Valentine attended Lehigh University, graduating in 1922. That same year, he began his career as an engineer for the Illinois Highway Department. In 1924, he moved to Washington, D.C. where he appears to have completed his graduate studies before joining the faculty of the Catholic University of America as an associate professor of civil engineering. In 1930, he lived in the Brookland neighborhood that surrounds the university; that year he reported his profession as "instructor" at a university.

During the late 1920s, Valentine began designing buildings for individual, private clients. His early buildings include several single-family dwellings and a gas station at 1101 18th Street, NW (1930 for National Oil Corporation). Starting in 1930, Valentine began working for real estate developers, often designing multi-unit duplexes and row houses. Notices in the local newspaper about the permits issued for his buildings, identify him as the "designer"; never as the architect. Trained as a civil engineer, Valentine never registered as an architect or advertised as such.



**5214 Ames Street NE; 1935**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1930, Valentine began his long association with the Capital View Realty Company when he designed a duplex for the company at 5214-5216 Ames Street, NE. The Capital View neighborhood occupies the far eastern edge of Washington, D.C. and straddles the Northeast and Southeast quadrants along East Capitol Street. In the 1920s, African American businessman, John Whitelaw Lewis established the Capital View Realty Company and began to develop the area between 49th, Blaine, 54th Streets and Central Avenue as a residential subdivision for African Americans, who were mainly excluded from purchasing property in the city's white neighborhoods by restrictive covenants. Between 1924 and 1947, the company erected 287 dwellings.



**5312 East Capitol Street NE; 1935**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

After 1930, Walter Valentine served as their designer.

Valentine's early Capital View dwellings include a few detached, single-family dwellings constructed of frame and brick in the Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival styles. However, the vast majority of his Capital View residences are two-story, brick row houses or duplexes. Common features include full-width, half-hipped roofed front porches supported on brick or stone-clad square posts. Rooflines vary from raised and shaped parapets to faux mansard roofs pierced by small front-gable dormers. Some of the units include stone accents or full stone veneers on their facades. One duplex, built at 15-17 53rd Street SE in 1931, displays a sloped roof hidden by a raised parapet and an applied gabled pediment attached at cornice level.

During the period that Valentine worked for Capital View Realty Company, he continued to teach at Catholic University and to execute other private commissions, including some for small-scale real estate developers like John M. King and Harry Sisk. Most of his commissions were for dwellings in Northeast either in the Capital View neighborhood or nearby. In addition, he designed several commercial buildings in locations scattered across the city. These included twelve gas stations that were built between 1930 and 1936. One of the few Valentine-designed gas stations that remain standing is the "Watergate" Exxon station at 2708 Virginia Avenue, NW. The one-story, concrete, brick and stone building features prominent front-facing gables and a slate-shingled roof.



**2708 Virginia Avenue NW; 1932**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

After 1938, Valentine pursued real estate development independently. Around 1950, he formed the real estate firm of Evans, Goldstein & Valentine, and in 1955, the Capital View Construction Company (based in Seat Pleasant, Maryland). Between 1939 and 1949, he designed and built over 240 dwelling units in the Capital View neighborhood. Most of the units were row houses or duplexes and constructed of brick; some featured full-width front porches. A common feature of Valentine's row house and duplex designs were raised and shaped front parapets adorned with simple square or circular decorative plaques at the apex.

Valentine's post-1949 designs have not been identified. Articles from *The Washington Post* indicate that, in the late 1940s he helped plan and build portions of the Berkshire subdivision in District Heights, Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1950, his real estate and construction firm of Evans, Goldstein & Valentine, obtained a permit to construct 14, two-story houses on 73rd Avenue.

In 1955, Valentine founded the Capital View Construction Company based in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. It is not known what work this firm undertook. Valentine retired in 1964 and died five years later; he is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suitland, Maryland.



**5200 Block of Central Avenue SE; 1940 & 1948**
*Photo courtesy of Google.com*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:**

*Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |

| Biographical Directories Cont'd. | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography– not in it<br>☐ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960– not in it<br>☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects –not in it<br>☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it<br>☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects –not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: *Washington Star* Date: 2/21/1969 Page:

**Other Sources:**

Capital View Civic Association, History Committee. Memories of Capital View [brochure], 2010.
Social Security Death Index. *Ancestry.com.*
*The Tower* (newspaper of Catholic University of America). http://tower.lib.cua.edu/Repository...
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. District of Columbia.
U.S. School Yearbooks. *Ancestry.com.*

**Notes:**

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Walter Valentine was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Kenneth Vieth

## Biographical Data

Birth: 11/30/1901 Place: Washington, DC

Death: 4/17/1932 Place: Washington, DC

Family: Mary F. Stamper Vieth (wife); William Henry Vieth (son); Barbara Ann Vieth (daughter)

## Education

High School: McKinley, Washington, DC

College: George Washington University (1919-1920)

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: Not issued Date Issued: n/a

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1919 Latest Permit: 1932 Total Permits: 100 Total Buildings: 181

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Woodward & Vieth | Architect | 1919-1932 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:**
Board of Directors: Woodridge-Langdon Savings & Commercial Bank; Member of Freemasons

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings

**Styles and Forms:** Craftsman-style bungalows and two-story houses.

**DC Work Locations:** Brookland, Woodridge, LeDroit Park

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 2608 Hamlin Street NE | 1919 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1403 Kearney Street NE | 1922 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling (duplex) | 3605 20th Street NE | 1926 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born in 1901 in Washington, D.C., Kenneth Vieth attended McKinley Technical High School from 1915 to 1919 and George Washington University from 1919 to 1920. His father, Henry A. Vieth, owned a real estate business, and, beginning in 1919, Kenneth designed houses for his father.

In 1922, Vieth formed a construction company with William W. Woodward, a 33-year-old carpenter. Woodward & Vieth constructed 109 buildings in D.C. between 1922 and 1931. The office of Woodward & Vieth was located in the Masonic Temple building at 2029 Rhode Island Avenue Northeast. Woodward & Vieth purchased land and built houses in the firm's name in addition to the spec houses constructed for Henry Vieth and houses that they built for other companies and individuals.

In May 1925, Kenneth Vieth applied to the D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars noting that "I have been designing small houses for the last four years, most of which have been built by my firm, and request that permission be granted to me to retain my title as 'Architect'." The Board replied that Vieth was "entitled to practice as an 'Architect' but not as 'Registered Architect'" and did not issue Vieth a registration number.



**2608 Hamlin Street NE; 1919**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Of the 180 dwellings that Vieth designed, most were modest, one-story, frame Craftsman-style bungalows with an estimated construction cost of between $2,000 and $5,000. Vieth also designed two-story brick rowhouses and duplexes that incorporated Craftsman elements such as full- or partial-width front porches supported on square or round columns set atop tall brick or molded concrete block piers. Built speculatively for the city's middle-class and working-class residents, most of the houses designed by Vieth are located in the Brookland and Woodridge neighborhoods of northeast D.C. with one development of two-story brick rowhouses located in the LeDroit Park area. While some of the buildings have been renovated through the years with new cladding, many of the houses designed by Vieth still stand.



**1403 Kearney Street NE; 1922**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1925, Kenneth Vieth married Mary F. Stamper of Drummond, Montgomery County, Maryland. The couple had two children, William Henry and Barbara Ann. In 1926, Vieth was elected to the board of the Woodridge-Langdon Savings and Commercial Bank.

On April 17, 1932, Kenneth Vieth died in an automobile accident. He was buried with Masonic rites in Fort Lincoln Cemetery in northeast D.C.



**3605 20th Street NE; 1926**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

Other Repositories:
*Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com.*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 295 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital –not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: Not found Date: Page:

**Other Sources:**
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1920. District of Columbia.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. District of Columbia.

**Notes:**
The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Earl Von Reichenbach

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 7/8/1905 | Place: Corinth, MS |
| Death: 11/1/1983 | Place: Washington, DC |
| Family: Alice I. (wife), Robert R. (son), Alice E. (daughter) | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: Birmingham, AL (1915-1919) |
| College: University of Alabama (1919-1922) |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 766 Date Issued: 5/31/1951

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1938 Latest Permit: 1949 Total Permits: 191 Total Buildings: 287

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Earl Von Reichenbach | Bricklayer, contractor | 1926-1937 |
| Earl Von Reichenbach | General administration & drafting | 1938-1950 |
| Earl Von Reichenbach | Architect | 1951-1983 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:**

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, apartments, offices, stores

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Many neighborhoods in Southeast, Upper Northeast, and Upper Northwest

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling ( duplex) | 4430 14th Street NE | 1939 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling & Office | 611 Raleigh Place SE | 1946 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Warehouse | 1950 Capitol Avenue NE | 1948 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment | 39 O Street SW | 1948 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 2001 Branch Avenue SE | 1939 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Earl Von Reichenbach was born in Corinth, Mississippi in 1905 and attended high school in Birmingham, Alabama, graduating in 1923. During the three years he attended the University of Alabama (1923 to 1926), he studied chemistry. After leaving college, Von Reichenbach moved to Washington, D.C. Although Von Reichenbach listed 1926 as the start of his architectural practice in his 1940 application to the District of Columbia Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects, Von Reichenbach did not actually start designing and supervising the construction of buildings in D.C. until 1932. Prior to then, Earl Von Reichenbach worked as a bricklayer and contractor.

In 1939, the DC Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects notified Von Reichenbach that his use of the label of architect in telephone directory listings was inappropriate, since he had not applied to and passed the entrance requirements of the Board. In 1940, Von Reichenbach applied to the Board of Examiners, but he failed the examination and was denied registration.



**2001 Branch Avenue SE; 1939**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

During the 1930s and 1940s, Von Reichenbach designed mainly two-story brick dwellings. Most of the houses were unadorned Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival in style with construction costs ranging from $4,000 to $7,000. Many of his houses were built in the Brookland and Deanwood neighborhoods of Northeast D.C. and in the East Washington Heights neighborhoods of Southeast D.C.

Von Reichenbach worked for a variety of private owners and construction firms such as Reliable Home Builders and Bolling Green, Inc. designing two-story, brick, individual houses, duplexes, and triplexes. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, he worked for Abshire Construction (listed under various members of the Abshire family) designing 74 buildings that ranged from single houses to triplexes. A large proportion of his dwellings are extant with few apparent exterior alterations.



**611 Raleigh Place SE; 1946**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In addition to dwellings, Von Reichenbach designed two- and three-story, brick and cinder block apartment buildings each with a small number of units; six of his nine apartment buildings were constructed after World War II. The buildings feature plain, boxy exteriors and flat roofs. Von Reichenbach's body of work also comprises commercial buildings including office buildings, stores, an auto laundry, and a mattress factory. These mostly one-story buildings were constructed of cinder block and brick; the few surviving commercial buildings are unadorned and have flat roofs.

In the 1940s, Von Reichenbach collaborated with other architects in D.C. In addition to working on single projects with architects James W. Adams and Gladys Lloyd, Von Reichenbach collaborated with E.P. Money on the design of fifteen commercial and residential buildings. Located in Anacostia, these buildings were one-story, brick-and-cinder-block stores and two-story cinder-block-and-brick dwellings with traditional forms and modest Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival style elements.



**1950 Capitol Avenue NE; 1948**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In the 1930s and 1940s, Earl Von Reichenbach's offices were located in the Anacostia area. From 1938 to 1943, he was located at 2106 and then 2111 Nichols Avenue SE (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard); in the 1945 City Directory, Von Reichenbach's residence was at 1518 W Street SE. In 1946 he moved his practice and residence to 1219 Good Hope Road, SE.



**9 O Street SW; 1948**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1950, the Board of Examiners once again notified Von Reichenbach that he was not entitled to label himself an architect. In December 1950, Von Reichenbach reapplied for registration, and in May 1951, registration was granted based on an affidavit certifying that he had practiced as an architect for at least five years as allowed under Section 19 of the Registration Act. In 1954, Von Reichenbach applied for registration in Maryland based on his D.C. standing.

In 1959, Von Reichenbach applied for membership in the AIA, but there is no record of his being elected to membership. The DC Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects Roster for 1956 and 1962 include his name as a registered architect.

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals— not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography—not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 296 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects—not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital—not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects—not in it | | |

| **Obituary** | Publication: *The Washington Post* | Date: 11/4&5/1983 | Page: |
|---|---|---|---|

**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Von Reichenbach Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Von Reichenbach correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Social Security Death Index. Ancestry.com.

**Notes:**

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Earl Von Reichenbach was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# C. E. (Charles Edgar) Webb

## Biographical Data

Birth: 4/19/1876 Place: Washington, DC

Death: 5/30/1964 Place: North Beach, MD

Family: Wife: Margaret Dorothy Webb; Son: Charles Webb.

## Education

High School:

College:

Graduate School:

Apprenticeship: May have worked with William James Palmer, DC Architect.

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: n/a Date Issued:

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1902 Latest Permit: 1921 Total Permits: 145 Total Buildings: 247

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Private practice (Washington, DC) | Draftsman | ca. 1894 – ca. 1922 |
| Engineers Section, Construction Division of the U.S. War Department | Architectural Draftsman | ca. 1917 – ca. 1919 |
| Unknown agency, U.S. Government | Civil Engineer | Pre 1930 - ?? |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:**

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Row houses, Detached Dwellings, Apartment Buildings, Movie Theaters (conversions), Stables, Stores, Social Hall.

**Styles and Forms:** Italianate, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival.

**DC Work Locations:** Capitol Hill, Deanwood, Congress Heights, Fourteenth Street, Anacostia, U Street, NW, Palisades, Georgia Avenue.

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Row houses for Walter F. Collins, 10th Street, SE | 210-228 10th Street, SE, Capitol Hill | 1904-1905 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site *Capitol Hill Historic District* |
| The Torraine Apartments | 424 E. Capitol Street, NE | 1905 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site |
| The Fairfax Apartments | 1200 E. Capitol Street, NE | 1907 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site |
| Jewel Hotel | 713-717 North Capitol Street NE | Unbuilt? | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dix & Eads Streets Cottages | Deanwood | 1919-1920 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Movie Theater conversions | Various locations, NE, NW, SE Washington, DC | 1909-1910 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Born circa 1874 in Washington, D.C., little is known about Charles Edgar Webb's early life or his architectural training. His father was a machinist. Webb first appears in the city directories working as a clerk in 1892-1893 on 4th Street, Southeast. By the following year, he had become a draftsman working at 521 4th Street, SE. He continued to report his profession as "draftsman" through 1904. By 1906, however, he is listed as an architect. For a short period around 1910, Webb appears to have shared an office with established D.C. architect, William James Palmer; however, it is not known whether Palmer employed him. Webb maintained a prolific private practice through the early 1920s; however, during World War I, he worked for the Engineering Division of the Construction Division of the War Department. That experience led to later full-time work with the U.S. Government. In 1920, his profession is listed as "Architect, Housing" in the U.S. Census; and by 1930 he reported working as a civil engineer for the U.S. government.

During his two decades in private practice, Charles Edgar Webb designed numerous buildings of various types across the District. The nearly 250 buildings attributed to Webb between 1902 and 1921 mainly stand in the Southeast and Northeast quadrants of the city in the neighborhoods that surround Capitol Hill; many of his later commissions were erected in the Deanwood neighborhood and other neighborhoods located east of the Anacostia River in Northeast. In addition to new construction, he designed additions and remodeled houses and commercial buildings for private clients. He executed much of his work for small-scale developers who commissioned small residential rows and individual houses in the city's expanding residential areas.



**210-228 10th Street SE; 1904-1905**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Much of Webb's early work consisted of rather formulaic, Italianate and Queen Anne Victorian style row houses that were constructed of brick and incorporated semi-octagonal, full-height, projecting bays on their facades and decorative, corbelled brick cornices. Webb's row houses typically incorporated rusticated stone lintels above their windows and doors. A good example stands at 210-228 10th Street, SE (1904-1905). Webb designed the ten-unit row of two-story, brick residences for local developer, Walter F. Collins. Webb also executed a number of modest, frame, Queen Anne-style dwellings in Southeast Washington, including the two-story, frame residence that he designed for R.H. Cowan in the Congress Heights neighborhood (3023 8th Street, SE, 1904).



**The Torraine, 424 East Capitol Street NE; 1905**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Webb designed several small-scale apartment buildings during the first decade of the 20th century. The Torraine apartment building near Stanton Park (424 East Capitol Street, NE; designed 1905) is typical of his work. Designed for Charles W. Newhouser, the three-story, brick building incorporates the same semi-octagonal projecting bays that Webb favored for his row houses. The Fairfax Apartments at 1200 East Capitol Street NE near Lincoln Park is Webb's most elaborate design. The Classical-Revival style, three-story, red-brick apartment building features an elaborate, paneled entry sheltered by a classical portico, bowed and square projecting bays, and a modillioned cornice. Erected for owner Katherine C. Holt, the building retains its elaborate interior decoration, including paneled wood wainscoting, carved wood mantels and door lintels, inlaid wood floors, pocket doors, and coffered ceilings.

Like his residential work, Webb's commercial commissions were generally small in scale. Between 1909 and 1910, Webb executed plans for remodeling seven buildings as movie theaters. One example of his movie theater remodeling work that remains standing is the former Meaders Theater at 535-537 8th Street, SE in the Barracks Row area. Now occupied by the National Community Church, the theater opened in 1910; it operated until 1961. The remodeling work described in the 1909 building permit (#2518, Oct. 11, 1909) included a complete gutting of the interior and the installation of a new galvanized iron front, at an estimated cost of $30,000. The Stanley-Crandall Company remodeled the theater again in 1927. Typical of Webb's store designs is the two-story, brick corner store located at 301 P Street, NW. Designed in 1914, the building incorporates a circular corner oriel window at the second story above the store entrance. In 1914, a group of investors lead by J.S. Dugan commissioned Webb to design a new hotel, to be called the Jewel Hotel, at 713-717 N. Capitol Street NE near Union Station. Although it was likely never built, a 1914 newspaper article describes an elaborate, four-story, 60-room hotel faced with stucco and white stone and topped by a Spanish tile roof.



**Interior of apartment in The Fairfax, 1200 E. Capitol Street NE; 1907**
*Photo courtesy of www.zillow.com*

Webb worked outside of Washington, D.C. as well. In 1904, working with architect C.N. Walker, he designed an eight-room school house and two small cottages in Hyattsville, Maryland. He also executed a suburban house for James McCauley near Oxen Hill, Maryland. A 1906 newspaper article praised Webb's design saying that he had incorporated "a number of very pretty incorporated ideas in suburban building which lend themselves to the charm of the surroundings." (*The Washington Times*, 16 September 1906).

Between 1917 and 1921, Webb worked almost exclusively for the real estate development firm of Irvin & Shank in the Deanwood neighborhood. Webb designed approximately 30 modest, one-story, frame cottages on scattered lots facing Eads Street, Dix Street, 44th Street, and Clay Street, Northeast. The simple cottages have pyramidal or hipped roofs, centered brick chimneys set at an angle, and one-bay, front-gable porches.

No information has been located to date regarding Webb's federal service. He worked for the military construction division for a period during and possibly after World War I. He appears to have continued to work for the federal government in architecture and engineering until he retired.

Webb retired to the town of North Beach in Calvert County, Maryland and died in 1964. He is buried at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.



**Lodge Hall, I.O.O.F., Langdon Lodge, 2020 Rhode Island Avenue NE; 1908.**
*Photo courtesy of www.Google.com*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory – Not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – Not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – Not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 303 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – Not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – Not in it | | |
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**Obituary** Publication: *Washington Post* Date: 6/1/1964 Page: B4

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World War I U.S. Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 record for Charles Edgar Webb. *Ancestry.com.*

**Notes:**
The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Clifton B. White

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 5/18/1905 | Place: Knoxville, TN |
| Death: 5/1985 | Place: Maryland |
| Family: | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: Maury High School, Norfolk, VA |
| College: Beaux Arts Institute of Design, NY (Correspondence Course) |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 496 Date Issued: 2/12/1946

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1930 Latest Permit: 1949 Total Permits: 214 Total Buildings: 249

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| George N. Ray, Washington, DC | Architectural Drafting | 1923-1926 |
| Bauman & Bauman, Knoxville, TN | Architectural Drafting | 1926-1927 |
| Flournoy & Flournoy, Washington, DC | Architectural Drafting | 1927-1928 |
| John J. Whelan, Washington, DC | Office Manager & Arch. Drafting | 1928-1932 |
| Private Practice, Washington, DC | Architectural work/Architect | 1932-1941, 1942-1966 |
| Engineer Board (U.S. Govt.), Belvoir, VA | Chief Architect & Draftsman | 1941-1942 |

## Professional Associations

**American Institute of Architects** Date(s) Enrolled: 1946-1966 Fellow of the AIA:

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Registered Architect in Maryland (#477-A) 7/27/1945.

**Awards or Commissions:** 1949 Certificate of Merit from Washington Board of Trade

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, apartments, stores, storage buildings

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Capitol Hill, Cleveland Park, Georgetown, Chevy Chase, Brookland (Northeast DC), Anacostia

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 2401 Foxhall Road NW | 1933 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 7717 17th Street NW | 1933 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling (duplex) | 525 Quackenbos Street NW | 1934 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Laboratory | 1236 Mount Olivet Road NE | 1937 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1856 Plymouth Street NW | 1938 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment Building | 1126 South Carolina Avenue SE | 1939 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment Building | 3715 2nd Street SE | 1945 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Mount Zion Methodist Church | 12430 Scaggsville Road, Highland, MD | 1961 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

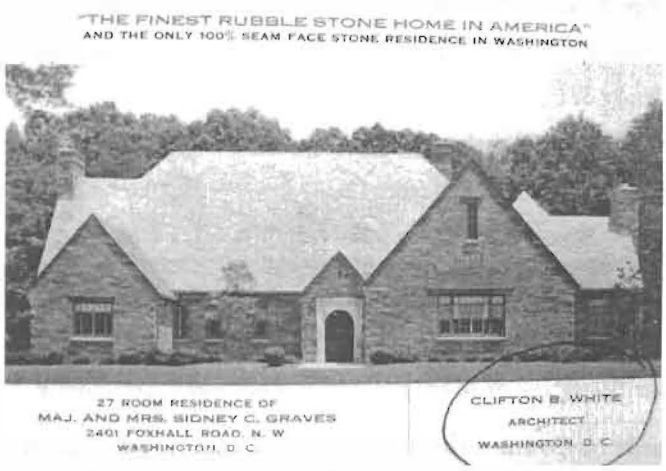
## Significance and Contributions

Clifton Bryan White was born in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 18, 1905. By 1919, his family had moved to Norfolk, Virginia where he attended Maury High School, graduating in 1923. That year, White started working as a draftsman for the Washington, D.C. architectural firm of George N. Ray while taking correspondence courses from the Beaux Arts Institute of Architecture in New York. White continued taking courses for the next four years while working for Ray until 1926, and then for the firm of Bauman & Bauman in Knoxville, Tennessee from 1926 to 1927. Clifton B. White moved back to D.C. in 1927; he worked as a draftsman for the firm of Flournoy & Flournoy for a year before moving to John J. Whelan's firm, where he worked as a draftsman and office manager from 1928 to 1932.

Although White did not set up in business as an architect until 1932, he was already designing buildings in 1930. That year, a building permit was issued with Clifton B. White's name as architect. In 1936, White moved his office out of D.C. to Silver Spring, Maryland where it remained for the rest of his career.

Through the 1930s, White seems to have had steady work designing single dwellings; approximately half of his work was done for individual owners and the other half for development and construction companies. He also designed a few stores and flats. Located mostly near Rock Creek Park in neighborhoods such as Cleveland Park, Chevy Chase, Brightwood, and Shepard Park, the buildings White designed are also located in Brookland, Deanwood, Capitol Hill, and Anacostia as well.

White's designs for dwellings most often took the form of two-story, three-bay brick houses usually in the Colonial Revival style and less often in the Tudor Revival style. Even when designing houses for developers such as H.G. Smithy Co. or Homesite Realty Corp. in the same neighborhood or nearby streets, White varied the layouts from center-hall to side-hall plans, and the architectural details of the doorways, window surrounds, and cornices. Most of the dwellings were estimated to cost from $7,000 to $10,000 to construct. White did receive larger single commissions as well. Among these were a two-story, brick house at 1856 Plymouth Street NW estimated to cost $18,000 and a two-story, stone house at 2401 Foxhall Road NW estimated to cost $45,000 for Mrs. Sydney C. Graves.




**Buchol'ston Quarries Advertising Card; 1933**
**2401 Foxhall Road NW**
*District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars*

In 1937, the D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects decided to make an example of White by issuing warrants against him. The warrants charged that he "engaged in the practice of architecture in the District" and assumed the title of architect without having qualified for and obtained a certificate of registration. White pleaded not guilty and sought a jury trial. In June 1937 at the trial, the jury found White not guilty. Results of the trial included suits and countersuits among the complainants and White, and a decision by the D.C. Board of Examiners to postpone issuing warrants to others.



**7717 17th Street NW; 1933**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Clifton B. White continued to design mostly dwellings until 1941 when he switched to war service as the Camouflage Chief Architect and Draftsman for the Engineer Board at Fort Belvoir, Virginia at the start of World War II. White stayed at Fort Belvoir through 1942, but he also designed a few dwellings in northwest D.C during this period. Among them are seven houses designed for the developer/contractor Jacobson Bros. and located between Rock Creek Park and Connecticut Avenue in Northwest. Six of the Colonial Revival-style dwellings were estimated to cost $12,000 to build a two-story, brick house over 2,000 square feet in size.

In July 1945, Clifton B. White was registered with the Maryland Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects after passing a four day written examination. White then applied to the D.C. Board of Examiners in January 1946. His registration was granted February 12, 1946 without having to take the D.C. examination on the basis of his having passed the Maryland examination. In January 1947, White applied for membership to the American Institute of Architects (AIA); membership in the Washington, D.C. Chapter was granted the following month and continued until its termination in 1966.



**525 Quackenbos Street NW; 1934**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In the later 1940s, White's received larger single commissions in D.C. for commercial buildings. Few of the stores, automotive repair, or storage buildings survive. Among the survivors is the heavily altered, two-story, concrete and brick garage and show room at 4800 Wisconsin Avenue NW. In 1946, White also received a commission to design a store at 1134 11th Street NW; the three-story, concrete, brick, and stone building has been converted into a church building. In 1945, White designed a three-story, International Style apartment complex at 3715 2nd Street SE. Located in the Congress Heights area, the complex consists of three, C-shaped buildings that feature alternating colors of brick in horizontal bands that wrap around the corners.

In March 1949, Clifton B. White was awarded one of twelve Certificates of Merit by the Washington Board of Trade for his work on the building at 1244 20th Street NW. White remodeled the three-story, brick, Italianate-style row house as an office building containing six offices. Removing the Italianate details, White introduced "Colonialized" elements to the building's façade such as large windows with multiple, small panes on the first story, a stringcourse, and a plain cornice.

In the 1950s and early 1960s, White's work included the 1954 Blair Station Post Office and Annex (1954) in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he designed additions to the 1949 building and inserted a brick incised with "Clifton B White/Architect" in the façade of the annex. In 1961, he designed the Mount Zion Methodist Church at 12430 Scaggsville Road in Highland, Maryland.

Clifton B. White died in May 1985 at the age of 80.



**3715 2nd Street SE; 1945**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com.*

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|---|---|---|
| ☐ American Architects Directory—not in it | | |
| ☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals—not in it | | |
| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography—not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001 | 308 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects—not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital—not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects—not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: Not found Date: Page:

**Other Sources:**

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District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Clifton B. White correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Social Security Index. Ancestry.com.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. District of Columbia.

**Notes:**

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Clifton B. White was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# George S. White

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 2/23/1898 | Place: Jacksonville, FL |
| Death: 6/1977 | Place: Palm Beach, FL |

Family:

## Education

High School: Riverside Military Academy Gainesville, GA, (1914-1916),; Chick Springs Mil.itary Academy, Chick Springs, SC (1916-1917)

College: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, (1917-1918) Columbia School of Drafting, Washington, DC (1924-1925); George Washington University School of Architecture(1925-1926)

Graduate School: Catholic University Architecture School (1927-1932)

Apprenticeship:

## Architectural Practice

**DC Architects' Registration** Registration Number: 795 Date Issued: 10/23/1951

**Permit Database** Earliest Permit: 1928 Latest Permit: 1947 Total Permits: 197 Total Buildings: 350

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| James E. Cooper | Architectural drafting | 1926-1927 |
| George T. Santmyers | Architectural drafting | 1927-1928 |
| P.H. Willis | Architectural drafting | 1928 |
| Volney O. Chase | Architectural drafting | 1928-1929 |
| George S. White | Architect | 1929-1977 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** None known.

**Awards or Commissions:** None known.

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Apartments, Flats

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Chevy Chase, Tenleytown, Barnaby Woods, Brightwood, Shepherd Park, Congress Heights, Trinidad, Anacostia

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwelling | 5524 39th Street NW | 1928 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

| Notable Buildings (Cont.) | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwellings | 5208-5216 4th Street NW | 1932 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1520 Kalmia Road NW | 1935 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1461 Holly Street NW | 1936 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment | 1235 Queen Street NE | 1936 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Apartment | 301 Hamilton Street NW | 1936 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 3408 Legation Street NW | 1939 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 4342 Bladgen Avenue NW | 1947 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

George S. White was born in 1898 in Jacksonville, Florida and graduated from Chick Springs Military Academy in Chick Springs, South Carolina in 1917. He attended the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill for almost a full year before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1918. Sometime after leaving the Army, White moved to Washington, D.C. where he attended architecture classes at George Washington University from 1926 to 1927 and Catholic University's Architecture School from 1928 to 1932.

During college, White worked as an architectural draftsman in the offices of James E. Cooper, George T. Santmyers, P.H. Willis, and Volney O. Chase and obtained design commissions under his own name. In 1928, White's first permit as an architect was for a two-story, brick dwelling located in Chevy Chase, D.C. With an estimated building cost of $14,500, the Colonial Revival-style house at 5524 39th Street NW was one of the more expensive dwellings that White designed during his career. The house was erected for Fred H. Gore.



**5524 39th Street NW; 1928**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1930, White started his own practice and worked almost exclusively for developers designing two-story, brick, three-bay Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival-style houses that varied slightly in architectural details and form. Even the five row houses that White designed for the developer P.H. Willis (for whom he had worked four years earlier) intermingled Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival-style buildings. Located at 5208-5216 4th Street, NW in the Petworth neighborhood, the two-bay row houses vary in porch roofline (from shed roof to front-gable roof), in cornice details, in chimney placement (side chimneys for the Colonial Revival houses and front chimneys for the Tudor Revival dwellings), and the presence of dormers.

White worked with Willis on detached, single family dwellings in Shepherd Park and Chevy Chase as well. A large proportion of White's designs were commissioned by the Jacobson Brothers who developed many lots in the Brightwood, Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Tenleytown neighborhoods. White worked in other neighborhoods of the city, including projects with Paul T. Stone of Stone Construction in the Barnaby Woods area, and with the Simpson-Peak Company in Northwest D.C. and Anacostia.



**5210 4th Street NW; 1932**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1932, White applied for registration as an architect with the D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars, but failed two of the four written examinations. In 1933, White repeated the two examinations, passed one, but failed the other and was again denied registration. He apparently never retook the failed examination.

From 1935 through 1942, White completed designs for larger developments as well as for individual dwellings. In the 500 block of Lebaum Street, SE in the Congress Heights neighborhood, White designed eleven, modest, one-story, brick houses for P.D. Crandall (1935) and Merrill Conner (1936). His work for the Jacobson Brothers included fourteen houses in the 1300 block of Tuckerman Street NW (1937-1938) in the Brightwood neighborhood. These brick, mostly Colonial-Revival-style houses were listed as three-story on the building permits; their attics were often lighted by dormer windows. At the same time, White and his assistants provided more than 100 individual house plans for The Simpson-Peak Company, which was developing areas of Montgomery County, Maryland. From 1939 on, White also worked for the Waggaman-Brawner Realty Corporation that constructed several two-story, brick houses in the Chevy Chase area of D.C (3300 & 3400 blocks of Legation Street NW; 3100 block of Tennyson Street NW; 6300 block of 31st Place NW; 6300-6400 blocks of 32nd Street NW; 3100 block of Upland Terrace NW; 5800 block of Nebraska Avenue NW).

During the 1935-1942 period, White designed two- and three-story apartment buildings. All of the buildings were variations of the same form with a Colonial Revival-style center entrance set in a five-bay, brick façade. The buildings had flat roofs, sometimes with a shaped parapet or false mansard on the façade, pilasters or quoins at the corners, and string courses. George S. White also co-owned and constructed four apartment buildings in the Brightwood neighborhood with developer P.H. Willis. For the apartment building at 1700 29th Street SE, White applied the stream-lined Moderne style to the same form.



**1461 Holly Street NW; 1936**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1937, White received notice from the Board of Examiners that he was not entitled to advertise as an architect. In 1941, White applied for senior registration as an architect in Maryland, but was informed that he needed to pass a written examination which he did not take. He continued to perform the "'functions' of an architect over the Maryland line" according to the Maryland Board of Examiners as he did in D.C. although terming himself a designer rather than an architect.



**3408 Legation Street NW; 1939**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

During World War II (1941-1945), George S. White worked in the Civil Engineer Corps (C.E.C.) at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. In 1945, White resumed his private practice designing single-family dwellings for developers. Two years later, he moved to Florida for health reasons but continued to maintain his architectural office in Washington. He returned occasionally to conduct business; this included preparing designs for almost 50 dwellings for the Waggaman-Brawner Realty Corporation.

In 1951, White applied once more for D.C. registration as an architect by exemption based on his more than five years of practice in the city. After providing proof of his continuing practice in D.C., White became a Registered Architect by exemption in October 1951.

White died in June 1977 in Palm Beach, Florida.



**301 Hamilton Street NW; 1936**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

| Biographical Directories | Year/Volume | Page |
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| ☐ American Architects Directory – not in it | | |
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| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | | p. 308 |
| ☐ Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it | | |
| ☐ Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it | | |
| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects- not in it | | |

**Obituary** Publication: Not found Date: Page:

**Other Sources:**

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District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. George S. White correspondence with the Board. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.

Social Security Death Index. *Ancestry.com.*

**Notes:**

Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. George S. White was active as an architect after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.

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**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**

# Forrest George Wilcox

## Biographical Data

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth: 10/20/1884 | Place: East Providence, RI |
| Death: 1945 | Place: Silver Spring, MD |
| Family: Helen H. Wardell (wife) | |

## Education

| |
|---|
| High School: |
| College: |
| Graduate School: |
| Apprenticeship: |

## Architectural Practice

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DC Architects' Registration** | Registration Number: n/a | Date Issued: n/a | |
| **Permit Database** | Earliest Permit: 1927 | Latest Permit: 1941 | Total Permits: 143 | Total Buildings: 231 |

| Practice | Position | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Private Practice | Architect | 1930-1933 |

## Professional Associations

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

**Other Societies or Memberships:** Masons and Shriners

**Awards or Commissions:**

## Buildings

**Building Types:** Dwellings, Apartments, Flats, Stores

**Styles and Forms:** Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival

**DC Work Locations:** Takoma, Shepherd Park, Brightwood, Deanwood, Chevy Chase, Tenleytown, Barnaby Woods, Woodbridge

| Notable Buildings | Location | Date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment | 228 10th Street NE | 1928 | ☒ NRHP ☒ DC Historic Site Capitol Hill Historic District |
| Dwellings | 5321-5331 Kansas Avenue NW | 1931 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 5370 27th Street NW | 1932 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1800 Birch Drive NW | 1932 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |
| Dwelling | 1615 Manchester Lane NW | 1934 | ☐ NRHP ☐ DC Historic Site |

## Significance and Contributions

Forrest George Wilcox was born October 20, 1884 in East Providence, Rhode Island. U.S. Census records indicate that he worked as a machinist in 1900 and as a chauffeur for a private family in East Providence in 1910. By 1918, his draft registration card recorded that Wilcox had moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a mechanical engineer for the Coombs Motor Company. In 1924, *The Washington Post* noted that Wilcox received a degree in the Almas Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (The Shrine), which also indicates that he was a Mason.

In 1927, Wilcox's name appeared on his first D.C. permit as the architect of two, two-story, cinder-block houses in the Chevy Chase area of Northwest; the dwellings are no longer extant. Wilcox's next project—a two-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style house still stands in the Barnaby Woods neighborhood in Northwest. Wilcox's other works of the late 1920s include a two-story, brick apartment building on Capitol Hill and three, one-story, frame dwellings in the Deanwood area of Northeast D.C.



**228 10th Street NE; 1928**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

The 1930 U.S. Census recorded Forrest G. Wilcox's occupation as a mill work salesman; however, on his 1933 marriage certificate, Wilcox listed his occupation as "architect." The D.C. city directories for 1930-33 list Wilcox as an architect living in and with an office in Washington.

Most of Wilcox's known work as an architect dates to the 1930s. During this period, Wilcox designed single and duplex dwellings and row houses for both private owners and developers such as J.N. Hughes, the Columbia Construction Company, Samuel Eig, Waple & James, Inc., and M.B. Swanson. Although the preponderance of Wilcox's designs was Tudor Revival in style, he also worked in the Colonial Revival style. Two of his Tudor Revival-style Takoma residences were published by the D.C. mail-order house company, Standard Homes Company, in its 1930 publication *Better Homes at Lower Cost.*



**370 27th Street NW; 1932**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

In 1931, F.G. Wilcox was architect of five building permits involving Sears, Roebuck & Company houses. In May 1931, Wilcox revised the Sears plans for houses at 2429 Hamlin Street, NE in Woodridge and for 3507 Brothers Place, SE in the Congress Heights neighborhood. The Hamlin Street house seems to be a brick-clad version of the Tudor Revival-style "Maplewood" model from Sears, Roebuck & Co. 1932 catalog (#3302). The Brothers Place is a front-gable, brick house with a prominent front porch similar to "The Walton" (Sears, Roebuck & Co. 1929 catalog # P13050). In June, Wilcox served as the architect with Sears Roebuck & Company listed as the builder for a two-story, front-gable, vernacular-style brick house in the Palisades neighborhood in Northwest D.C. (5430 Carolina Place NW) and a one-story, front-gable, brick house in the Hillcrest neighborhood in Southeast (2423 32nd Street SE). In August, Wilcox and Sears, Roebuck & Company received a building permit for a two-story, frame dwelling at 2324 33rd Street SE in the Hillcrest neighborhood' again the house resembles the Sears "Maplewood" plans.



**321-5323 Kansas Avenue NW; 1931**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

Wilcox generally designed dwellings with an estimated construction cost between $5,000 and $8,000. Two of his largest commissions for individual dwellings display the Tudor Revival-style and cost an estimated $17,500. The two-story, stone-and-brick house at 1800 Birch Drive NW (1932) stands in the Shepherd Park neighborhood, while the two-story, brick-and-frame house at 5370 27th Street (1932) is located in Barnaby Woods. Wilcox's largest Colonial Revival-style house cost an estimated $25,000 and stands at 1615 Manchester Lane NW (1934) in Brightwood. The hip-roof of the house is pierced by two stories of dormers, and the brick house is dominated by a two-story porte-cochere on the façade.

F.G. Wilcox's last building permit was recorded in 1941 for a dwelling located at 4309 46th Street, NW near American University. The three-bay, Colonial Revival-style, brick house is one of his plainest designs.

By 1942, Forrest G. Wilcox lived in Silver Spring, Maryland. His World War II draft registration card records his business as "self-builder—graduate architectural engineer" and noted that his office was located in his home. The 1958 obituary for Forrest's wife, Helen, indicates that he died in 1945.



**1615 Manchester Lane NW; 1934**
*District of Columbia Office of Planning; 2004*

## Sources

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

**Other Repositories:** *Washington Post* searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, *Property Quest; Ancestry.com*

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| ☐ Dictionary of American Biography – not in it | | |
| ☒ Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | | p. 310 |
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| ☐ Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects-not in it | | |
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U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1930. District of Columbia.
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**Notes:**

The Historical Society of Washington, DC's research library was inaccessible during the course of this project phase; only online records from the library were consulted.

**Prepared by: History Matters, LLC** **Last Updated: November 2011**