


<b>Joseph Henry Abel</b>		 <p><i>The Architectural Firm of Berla &amp; Abel Abel is seated third from left Source: Best Addresses</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 05/20/1905	Place: Washington, DC		
Death: 11/28/1985	Place: Washington, DC		
Family: Married to Dorothy Abel; one son. Remarried to Marjorie B. Abel after Dorothy's death in 1956.			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: Central High School (DC) - 1923			
College: The George Washington University - 1932			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship: George T. Santmyers			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: 374	Date Issued: 05/31/1940
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1927	Latest Permit: 1943	Total Permits: 602    Total Buildings: 2,173
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
George T. Santmyers	Draftsman	1923-1928	
H. M. Bralove	Draftsman	1928-1931	
Arthur Heaton	Draftsman	ca. 1932-1935	
Dillon & Abel	Draftsman/Designer	1935-1939	
Berla & Abel	Partner/Architect	1939-1968	
Abel & Weinstein	Partner/Architect	1969-1974	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: 1941	Fellow of the AIA: 1968
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> Member of the Board of Trade and the Washington Building Congress; Served as Treasurer for the Washington Chapter of the AIA.			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b>			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Tudor Revival, Art Deco, International Style			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Kalorama			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
	2101 Connecticut Ave., NW	1927	Kalorama Triangle Historic Dist.
The Broadmoor	3601 Connecticut Ave., NW	1928	Cleveland Park Historic District
The Shoreham Hotel	2500 Calvert Street, NW	1930	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
	2929 Connecticut Avenue, NW	1936	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

Notable Buildings (Cont.)	Location	Date	Status
The Governor Shepherd	2121 Virginia Avenue, NW	1938	Demolished in 1985
	2100 Connecticut Ave., NW	1940	Sheridan-Kalorama Hist. Dist.

## Significance and Contributions



**The Governor Shepherd, 2121 Virginia Ave., NW  
(now demolished)** *Goode, Best Addresses, p. 347*

International Style to Washington. Their apartment building designs for 2929 Connecticut Avenue (1936) and the Governor Shepherd (1938) were early examples of this modernist style. These buildings were functionalist structures with severe facades that lacked ornamentation. Dillon & Abel designed numerous residences throughout the city, but gained recognition for their trademark light tan brick apartment houses that featured ribbon windows, unadorned facades, and glass block detailing around their entrances.

In 1938, Abel formed a partnership with Julian E. Berla, a renowned architect and expert in public housing design. The firm of Berla & Abel was known for its apartment buildings, commercial shopping centers, and many residences. Through their work, Berla & Abel gained a reputation as Washington's most notable modernist architectural firm. In partnership with Berla, Abel continued to design distinctive apartment buildings. In 2100 Connecticut Avenue (1939-40) the architects carved out a traditional C-shaped box to create a distinctively new architectural appearance for the city. The façade is comprised of strip windows, glass block and light brick, and the projecting bays and receding balconies establish a rhythm of solids and voids. Berla & Abel avoided ornamentation, instead making a statement with the pure volume of the building.

Joseph H. Abel was born in Washington, D.C. in 1905 and graduated from Central High School in 1923. He began his architectural career as a draftsman for George T. Santmyers. At the age of twenty-two, he contributed to the design of 2101 Connecticut Avenue (1927), which James Goode has deemed "the finest apartment house to appear in Washington between the two World Wars." Santmyers and Abel designed 2101 Connecticut Avenue for developer Harry M. Bralove at a cost of two million dollars. Although modernist in massing and façade composition, the building's architectural treatment is elegantly consistent with the historic styles of other nearby apartments and features whimsical gothic ornamentation and rooftop statuary.

When the D.C. law was changed to require architects to hold a college degree, Abel enrolled at The George Washington University. After graduating in 1932, he worked as a draftsman for Arthur Heaton. In 1932, he also joined the practice of architect Charles E. Dillon. Dillon & Abel were the first architects to introduce the



**2101 Connecticut Avenue, NW**

*NCinDC, May 25, 2008,*

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2591525285/>

Abel gained recognition as a national expert on apartment buildings. In 1947, he coauthored of a book called “apartment houses.” Abel also contributed articles on apartment buildings to the Encyclopedia Britannica. Although the firm’s most prolific work occurred during the boom years after World War II, Berla & Abel continued to practice together until Berla’s retirement following an automobile crash in 1972. Their later work included designing buildings for the Southwest Redevelopment Authority. In 1960, they designed The James—the first apartment building was a rooftop swimming pool. In 1969, Berla and Abel welcomed a new partner to the firm, Jesse Weinstein. After Berla’s retirement, the firm became known as Abel & Weinstein. Abel retired in 1974 and died at the age of 80 in 1985.



**The Broadmoor, 3601 Connecticut Ave., NW**

*Goode, Best Addresses, p. 274*

## Sources

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

### Other Repositories:

#### Biographical Directories

- |   | Year/Volume | Page |
|---|-------------|------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory                           | 1956        | 1    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 4 articles   |             |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it                       |             |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 | 2001        | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it                   |             |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who’s Who in the Nation’s Capital – not in 23-24, 29-30, 39-39     |             |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it  |             |      |

**Obituary**      Publication: *Washington Post*      Date: 11/30/1985      Page: F4


### Other Sources:

Abel, Joseph H. and Fred N. Severund. *Apartment Houses*. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corp, 1947.  
 “A Profile of Work by Berla & Abel.” *Architectural Forum* August 1946, 82-94.  
 Goode, James. *Best Addresses*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988.  
 Straight, Susan. “Small, Stable Neighborhood Near the Park.” *Washington Post*, 19 November 2005.

### Notes:

Prepared by: EHT Tracerics

Last Updated: October 2010

<b>Percy Crowley Adams</b>		 <p><i>National Photo Company Collection, 1916-1917 LC-DIG-npc-32688</i></p>
<b>Biographical Data</b>		
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).		
<b>Education</b>		
High School: Chamberlain Institute, Randolph, NY (1884-1888)		
College: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (1889-1893); B.S. in Architecture		
Graduate School:		
Apprenticeship:		
<b>Architectural Practice</b>		
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>	Registration Number: 71	Date Issued: 9/24/1925
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1909	Latest Permit: 1931
	Total Permits: 21	Total Buildings: 22
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>
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
<b>Professional Associations</b>		
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>	Date(s) Enrolled: 1911-1953	Fellow of the AIA: n/a
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> 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)		
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Won the competition to design the "court of honor" and reviewing stands for Woodrow Wilson's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Inauguration (1918).		
<b>Buildings</b>		
<b>Building Types:</b> Schools, Banks, Courthouses, Residences, Apartment Buildings, Movie Theaters, Commercial, Manufacturing Facility, Office Buildings, Automobile Showrooms		
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Neo-Classical Revival;		
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Apartment Building	1509 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW	1909	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site Sixteenth Street Historic District
Robert Bowman Residence	The Plains, VA	1917	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Court of Honor for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson	Near the White House	1917	Demolished (temporary)
Avalon Theater	5612 Connecticut Ave., NW	1922	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site Chevy Chase Historic District
Rixey Mansion	Marymount U., Arlington, VA	1919-1920	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Longworth H.O.B. (with Allied Architect, Inc.)	New Jersey Avenue SE	1932	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site Capitol Hill Historic District
Auto Show Room	1365 (1367) H Street NE	1927	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.

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 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Northwest Washington (1509 16<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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



**Apartment Building, 1509 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. Averill, Hall & Adams, 1909.**

*Photo courtesy of Google Street Views*

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.

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 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW.



**Rixey Mansion, Arlington, Virginia. Built 1919-1920.**

<http://virginiaroomarlingtonva.blogspot.com/2007/11/rixey-mansion.html>

*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"



**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*

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*

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 Longworth 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.

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.




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

# DC Architects Directory

Sources			
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC
<b>Other Repositories:</b>	<i>Washington Post</i> searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, <i>Property Quest</i> ; <i>Ancestry.com</i>		
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 1 article: “Low Cost Suburban House at Randolph, New York,” <i>Building Age</i>	v. 42, no. 1	pp. 40-41.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	2, 10, 115	
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who’s Who in the Nation’s Capital	21-22; 23-23; 26-27		
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it			
<b>Obituary</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i> <i>Washington Star</i>	Date: 9/9/1953 9/9/1953	Page: 22
<b>Other Sources:</b>			
Barsoum, Eve Lydia (DC Historic Preservation Division). “Chevy Chase Theater” <i>National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form</i> . National Park Service, Prepared June 1996.			
Bushong, William, Judith Helm Robinson, and Julie Mueller. <i>A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter</i> . 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. <i>Motion Picture Exhibition in Washington, D.C.</i> Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 1999.			
Library of Congress, Digital Collections. <i>Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers</i> .			
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. <i>Washington Past and Present: A History</i> , Volume IV. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1930.			
Snyderman, Lois and the Couture/Denig Partnership. <i>Historic Resources Survey: 18 Early-Mid-Twentieth Century School Buildings in Arlington County, Virginia</i> . Prepared for the Arlington County Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development. December 1991.			
Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. <i>The Virginia Architects 1835-1955</i> . Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.			
<b>Notes:</b> 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.			
<b>Prepared by: History Matters, LLC</b>		<b>Last Updated: November 2011</b>	



<b>William Clinton Allard</b>			
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 12/23/1866		Place: Baltimore, Maryland	
Death: 12/4/1945		Place: Takoma Park, Maryland	
Family: Married Elizabeth Carroll in 1898; two sons, one daughter			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: Baltimore			
College: Maryland Institute			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
 <i>Source: Washington Post, 2/24/1907</i>			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: Exempted	
		Date Issued: 8/8/1925	
<b>Permit Database</b>		Earliest Permit: 1902	Latest Permit: 1930
		Total Permits: 176	Total Buildings: 620
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
William C. Allard	Carpenter and builder	1897-1904	
Allard & Appleby	Architect, builder	1904-1912	
William C. Allard	Architect	1915	
William C. Allard	Contractor	1917-1928	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Row houses, low-rise apartment houses, small commercial buildings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Colonial revival, Classical revival, Queen Anne, Craftsmen			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Adams Morgan, Brookland, Capitol Hill, Columbia Heights, Dupont Circle, Eckington, Kalorama, Petworth, Shaw, Woodley Park			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Rowhouses	1850-58 Kalorama Road, NW	1910	Washington Heights Hist. Dist.
Rowhouses	1733-37, 1745-47, 1751-77, and 1742-1762 T St. NW	1905, 1906	Strivers' Section Historic District
Rowhouses	15-25 V Street, NE	1906	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Rowhouses	3521-43 13th St. NW	1909	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Rowhouses	2825-35 and 2813-23 27 <sup>th</sup> St., NW	1911, 1912	Woodley Park Historic District
Rowhouses	123-139 Randolph Place, NW	1910	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Woodbine apartment house	2839 27 <sup>th</sup> St., NW	1920	Woodley Park Historic District

**Significance and Contributions**

William C. Allard was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1866 and attended grammar school there. He studied architecture at the Maryland Institute's evening classes from 1887 to 1891. He began practicing as an architect in 1897 but was principally a contractor and builder. In the 1900 Census Allard described himself as a carpenter and builder residing on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E. Allard had not trained in an architect's office. When the District of Columbia began registering architects in 1925, Allard stated that he had not had any drafting experience in an office and could not supply any recommendations from architects because he had not worked for any. He qualified to practice architecture on the basis of his years of experience but he did not seek the higher qualification of registered architect. Over the course of his career, Allard designed numerous speculative rowhouses for investors John M. Henderson, F.A. Blundon, and George C. Pumphrey among others, and for himself.

Early in his career, Allard formed a partnership, Allard & Appleby, with W. Braden Appleby. Between 1904 and 1912 the firm constructed speculative dwellings, principally row houses, both on property it owned and for other developers. The firm advertised itself as builders and contractors and Allard did the design work for the firm. Among the properties the firm developed as owner, architect and builder were Nos. 123-139 Randolph Place, N.W. (1910) and Nos. 1-9 and 2-12 Girard Street, N.E. (1911). No permits were issued to the firm after 1912.

Allard listed himself as an architect in the 1915 *Boyd's Directory* but from 1917 to 1928 he listed himself as a contractor. However, he continued to design speculative housing, principally row and semi-detached houses, for other developers as well as for his own speculative developments. Much of his work was in northwest Washington neighborhoods including Kalorama Triangle, Adams-Morgan, Woodley Park, Cleveland Park, and Sixteenth Street Heights. Many of Allard's row houses were two-story, two- or three-bay dwellings with a front porch and relatively little architectural detail. Some, including 1343-1355 Shepherd St., N.W., owned and built by Allard & Appleby (1912) include ornamental architectural details in various classical revival styles. Allard employed neoclassical design motifs as well as Craftsman elements on two rows of Woodley Park houses he designed for George C. Pumphrey: 2825-2835 27<sup>th</sup> St., N.W. (1911) and 2813-2823 27<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. (1912).



**1106 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Store with two six-room apartments above, designed by W.C. Allard and constructed by Allard & Appleby, 1908.**

*D.C. Permit # 2315, 2-28-1908, National Archives, College Park, Md.*



*Washington Post, 2/24/1907*



**2800 Block 27<sup>th</sup> St., NW (East side)**  
*EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2010*

Allard designed only a few flats and apartment buildings, the largest of which was a four-story apartment building, the Woodbine, at 2839 27<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. (1920), inspired by the English classical tradition, with pedimented central pavilion and side wings. After 1925, Allard's work output, as reflected in D.C. building permits, declined sharply. His name appears on only six permits issued between 1925 and 1930. One of his last buildings was 1108 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. (1927), a two-story building with store and apartments, which he owned, designed and built. Although almost all the buildings Allard designed were residential, the two last buildings for which he received permits were gas stations.

Allard resided in Takoma Park, Maryland in the latter part of his career.. Because Montgomery County does not retain building permits it is not possible to determine whether Allard constructed housing in that area.

**WIDE PORCHES IN FRONT AND REAR ARE FEATURES OF FOUR ATTRACTIVE HOUSES IN FIFTEENTH STREET**



A row of four houses in Fifteenth street, near Webster street northwest, has recently been completed by W. C. Allard. They are at No. 4407, 4409, 4411 and 4413 Fifteenth street. The buildings are two stories high, and are built of light brick. There is a block style cement porch extending across the entire front of each building, and a double back porch inclosed in glass. The houses are 23 feet wide. An expenditure of about \$25,000 was made in erecting these dwellings.

4407-4413 15<sup>th</sup> St. N.W.  
*Washington Post*, 8 August 1915.

**Sources**

Vertical Files     AIA Archives     DC HPO     HSWDC     MLK Library

**Other Repositories:**

Obituary:                      Publication: *Washington Post*                      Date: 12/6/1945                      Page: 12

**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
- Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it
- Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39
- Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it

2001	4
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**Other Sources:**

District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. William C. Allard Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.  
 EHT Traceries, Inc. "Square 369: Development of Southeast Quadrant." Report prepared for Marriott International Design and Construction Services, Inc., June 2008.  
 Progressive Washington Edition, *Washington Post*, February 24, 1907.  
 Traceries, Inc. "Old Woodley Park Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1990.


## DC Architects Directory

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

**Notes:** W.C. Allard will on file at D.C. Archives, 1946 Box 1809

**Prepared by: EHT Traceries**

**Last Updated: October 2010**

<b>Romulus C. Archer, Jr.</b>		 <p><i>Source: JET Magazine, June 16, 1955, p. 21.</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 3/11/1890	Place: Norfolk, Va.		
Death: 11/29/1968	Place: Washington, D.C.		
Family: Father, Romulus C.; mother, Mary E.; sisters, Mary E. and Carrie V.; brothers, Eddie and Andrew E.; first wife, Louise Williams; second wife, Nettie Archer			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: Norfolk High School (grad. 1908)			
College: Norfolk Mission College 1908-10; International Correspondence School of Scranton, Pa., 1911-13; Columbia University 1913			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: 117	Date Issued: 1/15/1926
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1921	Latest Permit: 1949	Total Permits: 254 Total Buildings: 406
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Archer & Archer, Norfolk, Va.	Civil Engineer and Architect	1917-1920	
Office of the Supervising Architect (U.S. Treas.)	Draftsman	1921	
Individual Practice	Architect	1923-28	
Individual Practice	Architect	1931-60	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> Florida Avenue Baptist Church			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Award for Superior Design in Architecture, Washington Board of Trade, 1954; Citizen of the Year, Young Men's Christian Association, 1964			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Duplexes, semi-detached houses, detached houses, churches, apartments, commercial buildings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Colonial Revival, Modern Movement			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Mount Vernon Square, Cleveland Park, LeDroit Park, Greater U Street Historic Districts; all four quadrants of Washington			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
St. Paul AUMP Church	401 Eye St., S.E.	1924	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Eastland Gardens Houses	Eastland Gardens, S.E.	1936-49	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Rowhouses	617-631 21 <sup>st</sup> St., N.E.	1939	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Romulus Cornelius (R. C.) Archer, Jr., was an African American architect born and raised in Norfolk, Va. He was the oldest of five children and is listed along with his parents and his four siblings as living on Lee Street in Norfolk in the 1900 Federal census. His father, Romulus Archer, was a plasterer and probably sparked his interest in architecture. Archer attended public schools in Norfolk and graduated from Norfolk Public High School in 1908. He then went on to Norfolk Mission College for two years of study until 1910. He spent several years studying at the International Correspondence School in Scranton, Pa., and then went to New York for a final year of formal architecture education at Columbia University in 1913.

In the early 1910s, Archer was designing buildings in several parts of Virginia, including churches in Norfolk and Danville and a Baptist school in Lynchburg. He was based in Norfolk, and he worked as a civil engineer and architect as an owner of Archer & Archer from 1917 to 1920. He presumably ran this business with his father, who was listed as a self-employed plasterer and contractor in the 1920 census. In 1918 R. C. Archer enrolled in the U.S. army and, because of his late entrance into World War I, did not see combat. He was assigned to the regimental band and promoted to the rank of corporal; he was honorably discharged in April 1919. Archer worked briefly in 1921 as one of the few black architects at the U.S. Treasury Department in the Office of the Supervising Architect. He joined the Florida Avenue Baptist Church in the same year and was then a lifetime member of the congregation.

R. C. Archer was the second black architect to register in the District of Columbia, the first being John A. Lankford. When Archer applied for registration as an architect in 1926, Lankford wrote to the Board of Examiners and Registrars on his behalf, saying, "he has a reputation for truth and veracity, and splendid ability along architectural and building lines." Archer was also registered as an architect in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.



**St. Paul AUMP Church, 401 Eye St., S.E., 1924**  
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

Many of Archer's designs were for buildings in the northeast quadrant of the District, particularly in the Brookland neighborhood, bound by Taylor Street to the north, Rhode Island Avenue to the south, South Dakota Avenue to the east and Catholic University to the West. Permits indicate, however, that he worked in all four quadrants of the city and designed a variety of building types. He designed residential buildings including rowhouses, detached dwellings, and apartment buildings. He also designed several moderately sized commercial buildings, and the *Washington Star* credits Archer with designing one of the first motels built in the District of Columbia. He designed several religious buildings during his career, including the St. Paul AUMP Church in southeast Washington, D.C., dated 1924.



**Eastland Gardens house, 4425 Nash St., N.E., 1949**  
*District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004*

Between 1936 and 1949, Archer designed eight detached houses in the Eastland Gardens community. Eastland Gardens in northeast Washington was a neighborhood development of detached dwellings that was begun in 1928 and grew until 1955. Eastland Gardens, Inc., purchased the property bordered by Ord Street, Kenilworth Avenue, Lee Street, 40<sup>th</sup> Street, and Anacostia Avenue in 1928. African American architects and builders were preferred for the development and, by 1955, 16 black architects and seven black builders had designed and built over 100 of the 166 structures that stood in Eastland Gardens at that time. Archer worked with the development's most prominent

builder, Randolph Dodd, on four properties. One of the houses built by the Archer-Dodd team was demolished during the construction of I-295, but Archer's seven other Eastland Gardens houses remain extant on 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Meade St., Lane Place, and Nash St., N.E. Archer's houses are Minimal Traditional forms mainly in red brick.

Archer suspended his private practice in Washington during World War II when he returned to active duty for the U.S. as a mechanical drafting instructor. After the war he resumed his architecture practice and worked extensively with Master Builders, Inc. within the District. Between 1939 and 1947, Archer is listed as architect on over 100 permits for owner/builder Master Builders, Inc. The properties are all extant and are located on Oakwood St., Orange St., and Valley Avenue in Southeast Washington. These buildings are primarily duplexes and semi-detached houses, generally modest and built in brick and concrete block, though the Colonial Revival style duplexes on Orange Street have protruding central bays faced in stone.

In 1954, R. C. Archer was the recipient of the Washington Board of Trade Award in Architecture for Superior Design. Archer was known for the numerous apprenticeships he provided for young black architects in his office and, because of this, he received the "Citizen of the Year" award from the Young Men's Christian Association in 1964. He was involved with the American Art Society and with the National Trade Association, where he was Treasurer of the Washington, D.C., chapter for many years.



501 and 503 Oakwood St., S.E., 1940  
District of Columbia Office of Planning, 2004

Archer was married twice, and twice he became a widower. He did not have any children. R.C. Archer died of a heart attack at the age of 77 on November 29, 1968, at the Beverly Nursing Home in Washington. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sources			
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC
	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library		
<b>Other Repositories:</b>	<i>Washington Post</i> searched through ProQuest; District of Columbia Office of Planning, <i>Property Quest</i> ; Ancestry.com		
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: Dec. 1, 1968	Page: B6
	<i>Washington Star</i>	Dec. 1, 1968	unknown
<b>Biographical Directories</b>	<b>Year/Volume</b>	<b>Page</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory – not in it			
<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	6-7	
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it			
<input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 38-39			
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it			

## DC Architects Directory

**Other Sources:**

Eastland Gardens Flower Club History Committee. *Eastland Gardens Brochure*. Design by Megan Gilbert, 2009.

“D.C. Architect Cited.” *JET Magazine*, Vol. VIII, No. 6. June 16, 1955. A Johnson Publication, p. 21.

Romulus Cornelius Archer, Jr., Application for Registration to Practice Architecture. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C., 1925.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, Norfolk, Va., 1900, 1920.

Wilson, Dreck Spurlock, ed. *African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945*. New York: Routledge, USA, 2004.

**Notes:** The latest permit listed is 1949, but this is the final year included in the database so there may have been permits to Archer after 1949.

**Prepared by: EHT Traceries**

**Last Updated: October 2010**



# DC Architects Directory

<b>Biographical Data</b>				
Birth:		Place:		
Death:		Place:		
Family: .				
<b>Education</b>				
High School:				
College:				
Graduate School:				
Apprenticeship:				
<b>Architectural Practice</b>				
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number:		Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit:	Latest Permit:	Total Permits:	Total Buildings:
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Professional Associations</b>				
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled:		Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>				
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>				
<b>Buildings</b>				
<b>Building Types:</b>				
<b>Styles and Forms</b>				
<b>DC Work Locations:</b>				
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	

# DC Architects Directory

Notable Buildings (Cont.)	Location	Date	Status

**Significance and Contributions**

Sources			
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HSWDC <input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
<b>Other Repositories:</b>			
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 4 articles <input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960 <input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it <input type="checkbox"/> Who’s Who in the Nation’s Capital – not in 23-24, 29-30, 39-39 <input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it			
<b>Obituary</b>	Publication:	Date:	Page:
<b>Other Sources:</b>			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Prepared by:</b>			<b>Last Updated:</b>

# Albert Sidney Johnston Atkinson

## Biographical Data

Birth: 10/2/1878 Place: Selma, N.C.  
 Death: 11/17/1945 Place: Washington, D.C.  
 Family: First wife, Sarah Belle (d. 1921).; three sons, two daughters;  
 second wife, married Marie Dalzell, October 1925

## Education

High School: Smithfield, North Carolina  
 College: Soule College, New Orleans, La.  
 Graduate School: Y.M.C.A. Institute, Washington, DC  
 Apprenticeship:



Source: Washington Post, 12/17/1923, 16

## Architectural Practice

<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>	Registration Number: By exemption	Date Issued: 3/12/1926
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1903	Latest Permit: 1945
	Total Permits: 206	Total Buildings: 262
Practice	Position	Date
D.C. Building Inspector's Office	Superintendent of construction	1903-1905
D.C. Building Inspector's Office	Assistant Building Inspector	1905-1917
Board for Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings, D.C. Engineer Department	Inspector, secretary, executive officer	1917-1932
D.C. Building Inspector's Office	Assistant Building Inspector	1932-?
Albert S. J. Atkinson	Individual practice	1910-1945

## 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:** Warehouses, small stores, laundries, gas and service stations, public and private garages, apartments, row and detached dwellings

**Styles and Forms:** Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Modern

**DC Work Locations:** Downtown, Upper Northwest, Mount Pleasant, Capitol Hill,

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Garage	645 Maryland Ave. NE	1906	Capitol Hill Historic District
Nowell-Mayerburg-Oliver House	Johnston County, Selma, N.C.	1912	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Arcade-Sunshine Plant	735 Lamont St. N.W.	1925	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Manhattan Laundry, west building addition	1326-1346 Florida Ave. N.W.	1926	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Store and offices	500 K Street, N.W.	1931	Mt. Vernon Historic District

**Significance and Contributions**

Albert S. J. Atkinson was born on October 2, 1878, in Selma, North Carolina. His father was a farmer. He attended high school in the nearby town of Smithfield and then went to Soule College, a business and commercial school in New Orleans. The 1900 census recorded Atkinson as living with his older brother, a civil engineer, in New Orleans and working as a rodman (responsible for carrying the leveling rod used in surveying).

By 1903 Atkinson had moved to Washington, D.C. When registering as an architect in 1926, Atkinson said that he had studied architecture at the Y.M.C.A. in Washington D.C. The Y.M.C.A. Institute offered a range of academic, vocational, and professional courses including architectural drafting. In 1903, Atkinson became a superintendent of construction in the D.C. Building Inspector's Office. Two years later he was appointed an assistant inspector. Approximately eight assistant inspectors, working under the District's building inspector, were responsible for inspecting all new buildings under construction in the District in addition to inspecting existing buildings and condemning unsafe ones. In the 1911 annual report of the District Commissioners, Atkinson described the scope of his work. He was responsible for the territory bounded by Pennsylvania and B Street on the south, Connecticut Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Adams Mill Road and Rock Creek on the west, 14<sup>th</sup> Street, to Colorado Avenue and Georgia Avenue on the east and the District line on the north. During the year ending June 30, 1911 he made visits to 5,706 new buildings, 2,404 old buildings, 792 visits "of miscellaneous character" and condemned 30 buildings or parts thereof.

For most of his professional career, Atkinson worked for the District of Columbia's Engineer Department. He was an assistant building inspector from 1905 until 1917. He was then assigned to the Board for Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings within the Engineer Department. From 1917 to 1932 he served the Board in various capacities including inspector, secretary and executive officer. The Board had been created in 1906 in response to public concern about the seriously substandard living conditions in the city's numerous overcrowded and insanitary alley dwellings. Throughout the early decades of the twentieth century social reformers sought to find ways to condemn or improve alley dwellings without leaving the generally impoverished inhabitants homeless. In 1923 Atkinson conducted a survey of alley dwellings that found over 9,000 residents living in about 275 alleys in the District. In 1932, the District Commissioners proposed to eliminate Atkinson's position as an inspector for the Board for Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings in order to fund a different position in the Department. After protests from Members of Congress, the Federation of Citizens Associations, the Building Trades Employers Association and others, Atkinson was reassigned to a position as assistant building inspector in the Engineer Department. How long he remained in that position is unclear.

Atkinson was first listed in the D.C. permit database as architect in 1903, the year he was first employed by the District's Engineer Department and his last entry was 1945, the year of his death. He stated on his 1926 registration application that he had been practicing architecture since 1905. He first listed himself in the city directory as architect in 1910, using his home address at 3801 Macomb Street, N.W., and he remained at that address to the end of his life. Although for most of his architectural career Atkinson was also working full-time for the District of Columbia, he designed a large number of buildings. When he applied to register as an architect in the District on the basis of his twenty year career (rather than by examination), he estimated that he had acted as architect "on approximately four hundred different operations."

**EDGEMOOR MOTOR CO.**  
7411 WISCONSIN AVE. — BETHESDA, MD



Albert S. J. Atkinson



it., N.W.



1611 Decatur St., N.W. (1939)

*Washington Post, District of Columbia Office of Planning, PropertyQuest, 2004*

In the first years of his practice, Atkinson's work was predominantly residential. Two surviving Capitol Hill rows are the five Queen Anne style two-story brick dwellings with projecting bays at 1520-1528 E Street, S.E. (1907) and the five two-story flat-fronted dwellings with full width-front porches at 1318-1326 A Street, S.E. (1909). He continued to design dwellings throughout his career.

Beginning in 1911, Atkinson began designing commercial buildings and within a few years these dominated his practice. Many were one-story buildings to house small neighborhood stores, including laundries and dry cleaners. In 1913 he designed an addition to the White Cross Bakery (later the Wonder Bread factory) at 637 S Street, N.W. and he also designed steam laundries, warehouses, a machine shop and other industrial buildings. Atkinson's most important commercial building was the four-story Arcade-Sunshine dry cleaning and laundry plant at 735 Lamont Street, N.W. (1925) which Atkinson described in his registration application as probably the largest operation of its kind in the District. He also designed an addition in 1926 to the west building of the Manhattan Laundry, 3326-46 Florida Avenue, N.W. which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Over the course of Atkinson's career he designed many buildings for automotive uses. He designed his first garage in 1906 which, a century later, still survived as an automobile repair shop at 645 Maryland Ave., N.E. Its permit was the eighth permit issued for the construction of a garage in the District and it is the oldest public garage still in automotive use. Beginning in 1912, Atkinson was commissioned to build numerous private and public garages for the automobiles that were just coming into general use. In urban areas there was a demand for garages to house and service automobiles that, in the early years, were not designed to be stored outdoors. Over two decades he designed a number of public garages, few of which have survived. In 1924 he began designing gas stations and he built at least twenty-five more in Washington, D.C. over the course of his career along with repair shops, show rooms, tire stores, and car washes. He designed similar buildings in the Washington suburbs.



**Arcade-Sunshine Cleaning and Laundry Plant; 735 Lamont St., NW**  
EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2010

Sources		
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO
	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
<b>Other Repositories:</b>	Ancestry.com, Historical <i>Washington Post</i> searched through Proquest.	
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: 11/19/1945
		Page: 10
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
<input type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	8
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it		

## DC Architects Directory

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it     |  |


### Other Sources:

“Alley Law Evicts Only 92, He Finds.” *Washington Post*, May 16, 1923, 4.  
Commissioners of the District of Columbia. *Annual Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Year ended June 30, 1911*. Vol. 2, *Engineer Department Reports*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 191-193.  
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Albert S.J. Atkinson Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.  
“District Will Keep Pair after Protest.” *Washington Post*, February 3, 1932, 3.  
“News of the Personnel of the Government Departments, Washington Post, October 18, 1925, B10.  
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1910, 1920, 1930, District of Columbia.  
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1900, Louisiana.  
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1880, North Carolina.

### Notes:

Prepared by: EHT Tracerics

Last Updated: October 2010

<b>Alvin L. Aubinoe</b>			
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 2/12/1903	Place: Washington, D.C.		
Death: 6/20/1974	Place: Bethesda, Md.		
Family: Wife, Dorothy; son, Alvin L. Jr.; daughter, Dorothy Griffith			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: McKinley Technical High School			
College: University of Maryland (1922-24)			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>	Registration Number: 490		Date Issued: 1/18/1946
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1927	Latest Permit: 1949	
	Total Permits: 78	Total Buildings: 344	
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Rust Engineering Company	Engineer	1923	
Joseph Younger	Draftsman	1925-1928	
Washington Railway and Electric Company	Engineer	1926	
Cafritz Construction Company	Engineer, Draftsman, Architect	1926-30, 1932-38	
Alvin L. Aubinoe, Inc.	Engineer, Builder, Architect, Developer	1930-32, 1938-60	
Aubinoe, Edwards and Beery	Principal	c. 1945-1958	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>	Date(s) Enrolled: 11/15/1946	Fellow of the AIA:	
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> President and director of Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Washington, director of National Association of Home Builders, director of National Metropolitan Bank of Washington, director of Federal City Council, director of American Security and Trust Co., director of Washington Real Estate Board, Washington Building Congress, Washington Board of Realtors, Building Owners and Managers Association of Metropolitan Washington, Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland, Suburban Maryland Home Builders Association, D.C. Building Code Advisory Committee, Commissioners' Zoning Advisory Committee, Washington Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Republican Party of Montgomery County, trustee of Suburban Hospital, United Community Services of Washington, Bethesda Presbyterian Church			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Washington Board of Trade awards for the Wire Building, the Dupont Plaza Hotel, and the Abingdon Apartments in Arlington, Va.			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Apartment buildings, office buildings, industrial buildings, hotels, shopping centers, detached dwellings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Modern Movement, Streamline Moderne			
<b>Work Locations:</b> Sheridan-Kalorama, Capitol Hill, Sixteenth Street, Dupont Circle, Massachusetts Avenue; Arlington, Va., Bethesda, Md.			

Source: Goode, *Best Addresses*, p. 328.

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Apartment Building	2000 Connecticut Avenue, NW	1936	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site; Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District
Cafritz Residence	2301 Foxhall Road, NW	1937	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
The Majestic	3200 16 <sup>th</sup> St., NW	1937	Mount Pleasant Historic District
The Hightowers	1530 16th Street, NW	1938	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site; 16th Street Historic District
The Congressional	215 Constitution Avenue, NE	1939	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site; Capitol Hill Historic District
Winthrop House	1727 Massachusetts Ave., NW	1940	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site; Dupont and Mass. Ave. Hist. Districts
Dupont Plaza Hotel	1500 New Hampshire Ave., NW	1947	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site; Dupont and Mass. Ave. Hist. Districts
Wire Office Building	1000-1014 Vermont Ave., NW	1948	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Alvin Love Aubinoe was born in Washington, D.C., in 1903, the son and grandson of local builders. The developer, architect, and builder was educated as an engineer at the University of Maryland. He then joined Rust Engineering Company in 1923 where he worked in various capacities as engineer, architect, and builder. He was an engineer for the Dam, Filtration and Water Works of Patton, Pa., and the Ford Assembly Plant of Norfolk, Va., and he helped design Rust's Pittsburgh office. Aubinoe worked for the Washington Railway and Electric Co. for a brief period in 1926.

In 1926 Aubinoe joined the Cafritz Construction Company. Morris Cafritz was one of the most successful builders in Washington, D.C., during the twentieth century. His real estate office operated from 1920 to 1964, outlasting the Depression while many contemporary firms, like Wardman's, did not survive. While working for the Cafritz Company, Aubinoe worked as an architect in a team with fellow employee



**Apartment Building, 2000 Connecticut Avenue, NW.**  
*Library of Congress, LC-814-T-2391-046*



**The Majestic, 3200 16th Street, NW.**  
*Best Addresses, p. 343.*

Harry L. Edwards. James Goode calls Aubinoe and Edwards "one of Washington's most important teams of designers of Art Deco apartment houses in Washington during the 1930s and early 1940s." These men were responsible for the firm's large-scale apartment building designs and, between 1926 and 1938, completed six major buildings: 2000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, (1936); the Majestic (3200 16th Street, NW, 1937); Park Crescent (2901 18th Street, NW, 1937); Ogden Gardens (1445 Ogden Street, NW, 1937); Otis Gardens (1445 Otis Place, NW, 1937); and the Hightowers (1530 16th Street, NW, 1938). Cafritz was one of the most successful Washington builders of Streamline Moderne apartment buildings. Many of his buildings, like the Hightowers, focused the Moderne detailing on double entrance doors with large round windows framed by glass blocks and aluminum.



Edwards and Aubinoe also designed single-family dwellings, including a private residence for Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz, located at 2301 Foxhall Road, NW, in 1936 (now part of the Field School) and the neighborhood of Greenwich Forest in Bethesda, Maryland. Greenwich Forest, determined eligible for National Register of Historic Places, is a suburban neighborhood constructed largely between 1933 and 1941 by the Cafritz Corporation. The predominant architectural styles found in the neighborhood are Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival with limited illustrations of French Eclectic, Neoclassical, and the Modern Movement. Aubinoe designed many of the houses in the Greenwich Forest subdivision, and he chose to build a house there for himself at the northwest corner of the intersection of York Lane and Overhill Road (8000 Overhill Road) where he resided until his death. Aubinoe was listed as the engineer on all of the subdivision plats for Greenwich Forest from 1935 until 1938, when he left Cafritz Construction Company.

In 1938, Aubinoe began designing and developing apartment buildings independently, often retaining ownership and managing them. These include the Congressional Apartments (215 Constitution Avenue, NE, 1939), the Winthrop House (1727 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 1940), the Dupont Plaza Hotel (1500 New Hampshire Ave., NW, 1947), Parkside Apartments in Bethesda, Maryland, and the Abingdon Apartments and Washington and Lee Apartments in Alexandria, Virginia. He also acted solely as a developer on some projects, organizing construction and managing the properties but commissioning other architects to design the buildings, as with 4801 Connecticut Avenue, NW (1938 by David Stern and Joseph Abel) and the Commonwealth Building at 1625 K Street, NW (1941 by Harvey H. Warwick, Sr.).

After World War II, architects Harry L. Edwards and Edgar Carroll Beery, Jr., were associated with Aubinoe and practiced as Aubinoe, Edwards and Beery. The firm designed the Wire Building at 1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W.



**Wire Building, 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW.**  
*Paul H. Bolton. "A Finger Pointing to the Sky!"*  
*Home Builder's Monthly 7, no. 1 (January 1950): 15.*

(1948) and a luxury apartment building in Leopoldville (1951) commissioned by the Belgian Government in the Belgian Congo, now Zaire. After Edwards' death in 1958 Aubinoe and Beery continued to practice together. Aubinoe served as a director and as president of the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Washington and was also a director of the National Association of Home Builders. He designed the Association's headquarters at 1625 L St., N.W. He also served for many years on the D.C. Commissioners Zoning Advisory Committee.

In the early 1950s, Aubinoe began development of the Wildwood Manor subdivision in Bethesda, Maryland, with his son Alvin Jr. Aubinoe designed and built this 300-unit neighborhood with a shopping center and office building on 155 acres. It still exists as a community of mostly one-story frame and brick contemporary houses on Grosvenor Lane and Berkshire and Cheshire Drives. Wildwood Shopping Center and Medical Center, both on Old Georgetown Road, are still active as well. Aubinoe also developed, designed, and built Decatur Homes at 8<sup>th</sup> and Decatur Streets, NE.



## DC Architects Directory

“Modern Apartment Project of Cafritz Co.” *Washington Post*, June 14, 1936.

“Several New Developments Starting Here.” *Washington Post*, June 17, 1951, R1.

Sullivan, Leo. “Builder Aubinoe Helped Give New Look to District.” *Washington Post*, November 27, 1955, C9.

**Notes:** Permit statistics are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2, by Brian D. Kraft and only include permits until 1949. They do not include Aubinoe’s work in the latter part of his career.

**Prepared by: EHT Traceries**

**Last Updated: October 2010**

<b>Marion Leroy Bagley</b>			
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 1/22/1902		Place: David City, Nebraska	
Death: 1/30/1990		Place: Bethesda, Maryland	
Family: Wife, Dorothy S.; daughters Norma and Lois			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: Lincoln, Nebraska public school			
College: University of Nebraska, 2 years in architectural engineering			
Graduate School: University of Pennsylvania, 2 years (1926-27) of a 3 year special course in architecture			
Apprenticeship:			
<i>Source:</i>			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: 375	Date Issued: 6/25/1940
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1938	Latest Permit: 1949	Total Permits: 212      Total Buildings: 1340
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Davis & Wilson, Lincoln, Nebraska	Draftsman, Supt. of Construction	1922-1926	
Brown & Whiteside, Wilmington, Delaware	Draftsman, Designer	1928	
Edmund B. Gilchrist, Philadelphia, Pa.	Chief Draftsman	1929-1932	
Chevy Chase Land Company	Architect	1933-1940?	
Kirkhuff & Bagley	Partner, Architect	1938-1947 (?)	
M. Leroy Bagley	Principal, Architect	1942-1958	
Bagley-Soulé & Associates	Partner, Architect	1958-1984	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: 3/7/1941	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> D.C. Zoning Advisory Comm, 1947			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Washington Board of Trade award, 1946 for G. W. Carver apartments, awards from the <i>Washington Star</i> , Bethesda Chamber of Commerce, and Federal Housing Administration merit award for single family housing, Georgetown South, Manassas, Va., 1964.			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Single family, semi-detached and rowhouses, apartment buildings, planned developments.			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Colonial revival, modern			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Cleveland Park, upper Northwest, Kent, Kingman Park, Marshall Heights, Southeast			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
The Hamlet	Chevy Chase, Md.	1933-36, 1940	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Yates Gardens	Alexandria, Virginia	1940-41	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
George Washington Carver Apt	East Capitol and 47 <sup>th</sup> St., S.E.	1944	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Chevy Chase Bank & Trust Co.	Chevy Chase, Md.	1969	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Marion Leroy Bagley was born and raised in Nebraska. He graduated from high school in Lincoln Nebraska and studied architectural engineering at the University of Nebraska for two years. He then went to work for a local architectural firm, Davis & Wilson, where he was a draftsman and superintendent of construction. The firm was impressed with his work and helped to finance Bagley's studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 1926-1927. From 1929 to 1932 Bagley worked for the Philadelphia architect Edmund B. Gilchrist. Bagley described his work for Gilchrist as architectural practice because, although his title was chief draftsman, he was given full charge of many projects including residences ranging in cost from \$50,000 to \$400,000 and a downtown women's club.

In 1933 Bagley moved to Maryland to accept a position with the Chevy Chase Land Company. There he worked closely with architect Dan Kirkhuff who had been brought in from Nevada where he had worked on affiliated Newlands family projects. Bagley was still in the company's employ in 1940 when he applied to register as an architect in the District of Columbia and described his responsibilities there, writing that, "since 1933 I have been retained in an architectural capacity by the Chevy Chase Land Company, carrying on research, planning and supervision of the Company's interests as related to the aspects of community planning, subdivision and land use as well as construction in connection with their holdings....Its policy of devoting especial attention towards improving the quality of residential architecture in the unfortunate speculative field is well known and the results though modest have been commended by members of the Architectural profession. The 'Hamlet,' a group of nine houses in Chevy Chase built by the Company in 1934-5-6 was one result of this policy." Bagley and Kirkhuff designed the Hamlet and then also designed three houses on Reno Road, N.W., (Nos. 4600, 4610, 4618) for the Chevy Chase Land Company.



Bagley and Kirkhuff, in addition to working for the Chevy Chase Land Company, formed a partnership and went into practice as Kirkhuff & Bagley. Their first District building permits were issued in 1938. From 1938 through 1941 they worked for a number of different developers in upper northwest, including Barkley Brothers and the Barnaby Woods Development Company, designing single family dwellings. Kirkhuff and Bagley also designed some of the rowhouses in Yates Gardens in Alexandria, Va. In the same time period some permits were issued to Bagley in his own name.

In 1942 and 1943, after the United States had entered the Second World War, Kirkhuff & Bagley shifted to designing low-cost apartment housing. The federal government had allocated scarce building materials to projects that would meet the great need for modestly priced housing for Washington's burgeoning population of war workers. Two of



5171 Manning Place, N.W. Kirkhuff & Bagley 1941  
EHT Traceries, 2010

the firm's wartime apartment complexes were the Colonial revival style Ordway Village in the 2700 block of Porter Street, N.W., and Halley Gardens at First and South Capitol Streets, S.E. The firm also designed the 1944 George Washington Carver apartment complex at East Capitol and 47<sup>th</sup> Streets. In 1946 Bagley received an award from the Board of Trade for these apartments. In 1944 the firm also began designing large developments of low-cost, semi-detached, single-family housing in Northeast and Southeast Washington, principally for East Hills Inc., and Shipley Corp.

The duration of the Kirkhuff & Bagley partnership is unclear. Bagley, in his 1956 entry in the A.I.A.'s *American*

*Architects Directory* gives the partnership's dates as 1933-1941 and states that he began practicing under his own name in 1942. However, D.C. building permits were issued to Kirkhuff & Bagley as late as 1947. Kirkhuff definitely was not involved in the firm's work in the final years. In October 1945, Kirkhuff wrote to the American Institute of Architects from Reno, Nevada, to say that he was discontinuing the practice of architecture and resigning from the A.I.A.

Bagley continued to design developments of modestly priced housing developments in the District of Columbia through the end of the 1940s and into the early 1950s at a time when the Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration mortgage insurance programs were facilitating construction to address the housing shortage that had developed during World War II and to meet the housing needs of returning veterans. At the same time Bagley was designing both residential and commercial projects in suburban Maryland and Virginia. The principal works he listed in the 1956 *Directory* included the Glenayr Apartments (1945) in Arlington, Va. and the Lake Apartments (1948), Lake Shopping Center (1952), and Chevy Chase Shopping Center (1954) in Chevy Chase, Md.


In 1958, Bagley entered into a partnership, Bagley-Soulé & Associates with Charles Beckler Soulé with offices in Chevy Chase, Maryland. The firm later became Bagley, Soulé and Lee. In his 1970 entry in the *A.I.A. Directory*, Bagley's list of his principal works included the Fenwick Apartments, Baltimore, Md. (1963); the Fairmont Office Building, Bethesda, Md.

(1964); the Gaithersburg Square Shopping Center, Md. (1966); and the Chevy Chase Bank & Trust Co. (1969). Other works included the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, the Preston Place town houses and the Hamlet Place commercial building in Chevy Chase. Bagley retired in 1984. After World War II Bagley lived in Dickerson, Md., and he raised cattle in addition to conducting his architectural practice. He died in 1990.



# DC Architects Directory

Sources		
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO
	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
<b>Other Repositories:</b> <i>Washington Post</i> searched through Proquest		
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: 1/30/1990
		Page: D6
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory	1956	21
	1962	27
	1970	36
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 1 article		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 23-24, 29-3-, 38-39		
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it		
<b>Other Sources:</b>		
“A Model Block of Houses.” <i>Architectural Forum</i> 53, No. 5 (November 1935): 526-527.		
“Antique House Reproductions.” <i>Architectural Forum</i> 74 No. 5 (May 1941) 378-380.		
Display Advertisement, <i>Washington Post</i> , May 19, 1935, R5.		
Display Advertisement, <i>Washington Post</i> , April 10, 1949, R7.		
District of Columbia, Board of Examiners and Registrars. Marion Leroy Bagley Application for Registration. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C.		
Von Eckardt, Wolf. “SW Project a Winner for Design Excellence.” <i>Washington Post</i> , October 23, 1964, B8.		
<b>Notes:</b> See entry for Dan Kirkhuff.		
The permit statistics included both 63 permits issued between 1938 and 1949 for 453 buildings listing Bagley as architect and 149 permits issued between 1938 and 1947 for 887 buildings listing Kirkhuff & Bagley as architect.		
<b>Prepared by: EHT Traceries</b>		<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>

<b>Edward William St. Cyr Barrington</b>				 <p><i>Source: Washington Post, 10/31/1934, p. 11</i></p>
<b>Biographical Data</b>				
Birth: 2/22/1894		Place: Washington, D.C.		
Death: 6/24/1976		Place: Washington, D.C.		
Family: Niece, Emily Reichard				
<b>Education</b>				
High School:				
College: Lythicum Institute, Georgetown (1913-1915)				
Graduate School:				
Apprenticeship: Jules Henri de Sibour				
<b>Architectural Practice</b>				
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: 817	Date Issued: 1/17/1952	
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1924	Latest Permit: 1942	Total Permits: 45	
			Total Buildings: 108	
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>		<b>Date</b>	
Jules Henri de Sibour	Draftsman		1907-1919, 1933-35	
William St. Cyr Barrington	Principal		1920-1929	
B. Stanley Simmons	Draftsman		1929-1931	
Home Construction Corporation	Designer		1938-39	
<b>Professional Associations</b>				
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>	Date(s) Enrolled: n/a		Fellow of the AIA:	
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> Holy Trinity Church, Georgetown; Vincent B. Costello Post of the American Legion				
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>				
<b>Buildings</b>				
<b>Building Types:</b> Attached and detached dwellings, rowhouses, duplexes, condominiums, apartment buildings, night club interiors				
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Art Deco				
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Dupont Circle Historic District, Georgetown Historic District, Anacostia Historic District				
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	
Office Building	1332 Wisconsin Avenue, NW	1924	Georgetown Historic District	
The Spanish Village Night Club Interior	1304 G Street, NW	1925	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	
Stanley Arms	1125 12th Street, NW	1925	Shaw Historic District	
The Bari-Arms	1727 R Street, NW	1939	Dupont Circle Historic District	
Rowhouses	116-138 53rd Street, SE; 5333-5361 Astor Place, SE	1939	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	



Rowhouses/Semi-detached	4815-4845 Reservoir Road, NW	1939	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Rowhouses	4814-4836 MacArthur Blvd, NW	1939	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Edward William St. Cyr Barrington was an architect best known for his night club interiors and the houses he designed in the Washington, D.C., neighborhoods of Georgetown and Kalorama. A native Washingtonian, he went by William or Billie St. Cyr Barrington. He began practicing as an independent architect in Washington, D.C., in March 1920. As a child, his family friend Jules Henri de Sibour, prominent Washington, D.C., architect, encouraged his artistic tendencies and Barrington flourished under the master’s tutelage. Barrington worked as a draftsman for de Sibour from the age of thirteen to twenty-five—de Sibour’s grand dwellings and embassy buildings in the Beaux-Arts style influenced Barrington’s aesthetic.

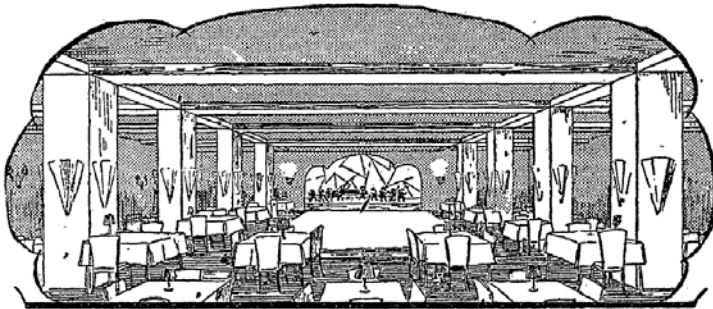
From 1917 to 1918, Barrington spent six months in the armed forces during World War I. The first building permit that lists Barrington as architect was issued in 1924 for the office building at 1332 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. The design of this two-story brick building was influenced by the Classical Revival style; the building is an early and relatively modest example of Barrington’s work.



**1332 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, 1924.**  
*Historical Society of Washington PR 1150.A.*

In 1925, Barrington began working in the field which would define his career. He designed the interior of the Spanish Village night club at 1304 G Street, NW. Barrington went on to design elaborate interiors of other clubs and restaurants including the Lotus Restaurant, Heigh-Ho Tap Room, the Press Grill, Lucky Strike Tap Room, and the Press Grill. These interiors were all elaborately ornamented in keeping with the themes of the institutions.

From 1929 to 1931, Barrington worked for prolific Washington architect B. Stanley Simmons, gaining experience in designing large apartment buildings and hotels. He then worked independently for most of the 1930s, designing buildings like the Art Deco styled Bari-Arms in 1939 (1727 R Street, NW) in Dupont Circle. Also in 1939, Barrington was working with the Home Construction Corporation to move the houses along Conduit Road when it was widened and renamed MacArthur Boulevard. He designed many of the rowhouses along the new boulevard, including 4814-4836.



**The Press Grill, National Press Club, 529 14th St, NW, 1930.**  
*Washington Post 4/10/1930, p. 4.*

Barrington’s work represents a diversity of styles and forms. The last building for which he was issued a permit was 1612 Van Buren Street, NW, in 1947. This is a modest, one-story brick mid-Century Modern dwelling. While his last permit was issued in 1947, Barrington was listed in the DC architects directory through 1960. He died of a heart attack on June 27, 1976, at Georgetown University Hospital.



**Bari-Arms, 1727 R Street, NW, 2008.**

*NCinDC, July 21, 2008,*

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2690688742/>



**1417-1415 Whittier Street, NW, 2004. DC PropertyQuest.**

Sources		
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO
	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
<b>Other Repositories:</b>	Flickr.com, DCPropertyQuest.com	
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: 6/27/1976
		Page: 26
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
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<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 23-24, 29-30, 38-39		
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it		
<b>Other Sources:</b>		
"Apartment Building Under Construction." <i>Washington Post</i> . Aug. 20, 1939. R3.		
"3 Homes Sold From Blueprints." <i>Washington Post</i> . Mar. 12, 1939. R4.		
Display Advertisement. <i>Washington Post</i> . Apr. 10, 1930. 4.		
"Medical Science Building Sold." <i>Washington Post</i> . Apr. 6, 1952. R14.		
"Pastry Animals First Models Of Decorator." <i>Washington Post</i> . Oct. 31, 1934. 11.		
World War I U.S. Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Ancestry.com.		
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Prepared by: EHT Traceries</b>		<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>

<b>Harvie (Harvey) Paul Baxter</b>			
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 8/4/1892		Place: Petersburg, Virginia	
Death: 2/4/1964		Place: Washington, D.C.	
Family: Married: Ruth Dreher			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: Petersburg High School, graduated June 1912			
College:			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship: R.A. Munden, Petersburg, Va., 1913-1916			
<i>Source:</i>			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: 152	
		Date Issued: 11/26/1926	
<b>Permit Database</b>		Earliest Permit: 1927	
		Latest Permit: 1949	
		Total Permits: 320	
		Total Buildings: 974	
<b>Practice</b>		<b>Position</b>	
		<b>Date</b>	
Harrison Construction Co., Petersburg, Va.		Chief draftsman, designer, supervisor	
Navy Department, Bureau of Yards and Docks		Draftsman	
C. Gilbert Humphrey, Winston-Salem, N.C.		Designer, supervisor	
Parks and Baxter, Washington, D.C.		Partner/Architect	
Harvey P. Baxter		Architect	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	
		Fellow of the AIA:	
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Washington Board of Trade Certificate for Meritorious Design in Architecture, 1940.			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Dwellings, apartment buildings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Upper Northwest, Petworth, Anacostia			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>		<b>Location</b>	
		<b>Date</b>	
		<b>Status</b>	
Tilden Gardens		3000 Connecticut Ave., N.W.	
		1927-1929	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	
Residence – <i>Washington Post</i> model home		4517 28 <sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.	
		1933	
		<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	
Hampshire Gardens, landscape design		4912 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.	
		1929	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	
Fairlawn Village		Anacostia, north of Good Hope Road	
		1938-1940	
		<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	

## Significance and Contributions

Harvie Paul Baxter was born in Petersburg, Va., graduated from the local high school in 1912 and then worked for three years in the office of Petersburg architect R. A. Munden. In 1916 he started work at the Harrison Construction Company, also in Petersburg. There he was the chief draftsman and was also a designer and supervisor. From 1917 to 1919 he worked as a draftsman in the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks. For the years 1919-1922, Baxter listed several employers in his 1926 application to register as an architect in the District of Columbia: draftsman for R.H. Hunt, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1919; designer and supervisor for Harrison Construction Co., Petersburg, Va., 1919-1920; draftsman for C. Gilbert Humphreys, Winston-Salem, N.C., 1920-1922 and also draftsman for Milburn, Heister and Co. and George Ray in Washington, D.C., 1921-1922.

Baxter began practicing in 1922 in partnership with Granville H. Parks (c. 1864-1950) a longtime architect for the Department of Agriculture who continued to work there as a sanitary engineer until 1925. Baxter's association with Parks may have come through Parks' brother, Rear Admiral Charles W. Parks, who was chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks at the time Baxter worked there. The firm, Parks & Baxter, apparently produced little in its first five years. When Baxter registered as a D.C. architect in 1926, the buildings he listed as his work were constructed between 1916 and 1921 in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Petersburg, Va. (Although Baxter registered as Harvie P. Baxter, he shortly thereafter adopted the alternative spelling Harvey.)

No D.C. building permits were issued to Parks & Baxter until 1927 but in that year the firm, with Harry L. Edwards, associate architect, began work on an apartment project that would establish Baxter's reputation as an apartment architect. Brothers Monroe and R. Bates Warren, who pioneered the construction of cooperative apartment buildings in Washington, D.C., in the 1920s, selected Parks and Baxter and Edwards to design Tilden Gardens, a complex of six buildings, totaling 200 units, on a five-acre site bounded by Connecticut Avenue and Sedgwick and Tilden Streets, N.W. Its landscaped gardens occupy three of the site's five acres. James Goode, in his book *Best Addresses*, ranks the Tudor Revival style apartment complex among the five largest and most luxurious apartment houses of its era.

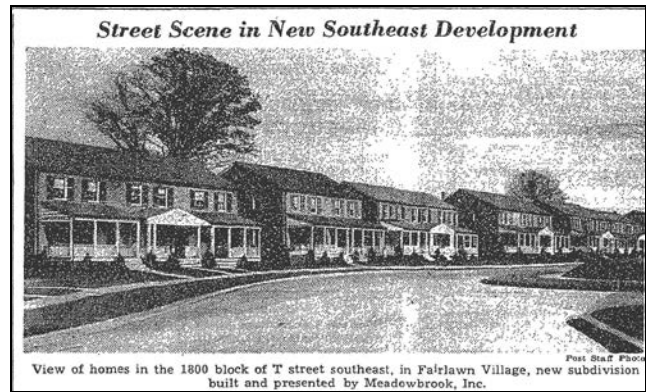


**Tilden Gardens, 1930**  
James Goode, *Best Addresses*

Parks and Baxter were also involved in the design of another innovative apartment building of the late 1920s, Hampshire Gardens, located at 4912 New Hampshire Avenue, and described by Goode as Washington's first true garden apartment complex. The Tudor Revival style complex was developed by J.B. Shapiro and Edmund J. Flynn in 1929 as a moderately priced apartment cooperative. Although, because of the Depression, only one block of the planned 25 was completed, it is nevertheless a notable, landmarked, complex of 9 buildings with landscaped grounds that occupy two-thirds of the site. Goode credits Parks and Baxter as associate architects for the landscape design. This project gave Baxter, early in his career, the opportunity to work with leading Washington architects James E. Cooper who designed the façades and George T. Santmyers who was responsible for the plan and interior design.

The Parks and Baxter partnership dissolved circa 1930 but Baxter's association with developer Monroe Warren was a productive one that continued until 1940. Warren was known for quality construction. After recouping from the Depression-caused bankruptcy of his Kennedy-Warren apartment house project, Warren formed a new company, Meadowbrook, Inc., in 1932. He selected Baxter as the architect for its first project of over 50 single family houses in Chevy Chase, Md., south of the Columbia Country Club. These six-room, Colonial Revival style dwellings with three

bedrooms and two baths on large lots were designed for a well-off clientele. Baxter was also the architect for Warren's Grasslands development at 44<sup>th</sup> and Yuma Streets in American University Park. Begun in 1935, it was offered as the "first highly restricted project of detached homes offered in Washington at moderate prices." The three-bedroom, two-bath Colonial Revival dwellings were modestly enough priced to qualify for mortgage insurance offered through the newly created Federal Housing Administration. In the same period Baxter also designed row houses and two-story flats for Warren developments in Petworth at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Meadowbrook was Baxter's principal client in the 1930s but he also designed numerous speculative single and multi-family dwellings for other major developers including Boss & Phelps, L.E. Breuninger & Sons, Madison Building Co., and Frank S. Philips, sometimes working in the same neighborhoods for different developers. In 1938 to 1940 Baxter designed Meadowbrook's Fairlawn Village in Anacostia, one of the largest FHA-insured low cost single-family housing projects in the Washington area. Both before and after World War II Baxter designed houses for developer Frank S. Philips and for individual owners in Kent and other upper income neighborhoods. He designed dwellings for developer Claude G. Johnson in Barnaby Woods and elsewhere.



**Fairlawn Village, 1939**  
*Washington Post, November 19, 1939*

Baxter's opus ranges from the luxury apartment buildings of Tilden Gardens to modest two-story, four family Colonial revival apartment houses and from a fourteen-room Tudor Revival *Washington Post* model home in Forest Hills to low cost housing in Anacostia. Working as architect for various successful developers, he weathered the Depression. In the post war boom years of the late 1940s and the 1950s he designed upper income housing in Northwest Washington and Bethesda.

**Sources**

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

**Other Repositories:** Office of Public Records, D.C. Archives; *Washington Post* searched through Proquest

**Obituary:**                      Publication: *Washington Post*                      Date: 2/7/1964                      Page: C 3

Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
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<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it		

**Other Sources:**

- “Deaths Reported.” *Washington Post*, 8 July, 1950, B2
- “Design Awards are Announced.” *Washington Post*, 24 March 1940, R8.
- “FHA Business Increase Shown.” *Washington Post*, 7 August 1938, R.4.
- Goode, James. *Best Addresses*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988.
- "Homes Sell Fast at Meadowbrook." *Washington Post*, 30 October 1932, R1.
- “Model Home, Opened by Post Today, Architectural Triumph.” *Washington Post*, 22 October 1933, R1.
- “Rear Admiral Parks Rites.” *Washington Post*, 27 June 1930, 5.

## DC Architects Directory

“New Post Home to Open today at Grasslands.” *Washington Post*, 1 March 1936.

**Notes:**

The statistics from the permits database include the 13 permits issued to Parks and Baxter between 1927 and 1930.

**Prepared by: EHT Traceries**

**Last Updated: October 2010**

<b>Albert H. Beers</b>		No Photo Available	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 1859	Place: Bridgeport, CT		
Death: 11/23/1911	Place: Baltimore, MD		
Family: Married with three children			
<b>Education</b>			
High School:			
College:			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number:	Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1899	Latest Permit: 1912	Total Permits: 609 Total Buildings: 2433
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Bridgeport, Connecticut	Architect	1886-1901	
Private Practice (DC)	Chief Architect for Harry Wardman	1903-1911	
<b>Commissions:</b>			
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>			
<b>Awards:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Private Residences, Row Houses, Apartment Buildings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Arts and Crafts, Mediterranean Style, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Georgetown, 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Mount Pleasant, Woodley Park, Capitol Hill, Dupont Circle, U Street, 14 <sup>th</sup> Street			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Wardman House	2640 Woodley Road, NW	1909	Demolished in 1928
Dresden Apartments	2126 Connecticut Ave., NW	1909	Sheridan-Kalorama Hist. Dist.
Northumberland Apartments	2039 New Hampshire Ave., NW	1909-1910	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Wardman Row	1416-1440 R Street, NW	1913-1914	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

**Significance and Contributions**

Born in 1859 to parents Henry and Cornelia Beers, Albert H. Beers began his architectural career in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1886. Although he only practiced in Washington for a short period, Beers had a profound effect on the development of the city; he was an extremely prolific designer. This was due to Beers employment as Chief Architect for developer Harry Wardman, the man largely responsible for introducing mass-produced residential development to Washington in the early twentieth century. Wardman converted large tracts of vacant land outside the old city into blocks of rowhouses, flats, and apartments. Beers first collaborated with Wardman in 1905 on a series of rowhouses from 1616-1626 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (now demolished). As chief architect for Wardman, Beers designed approximately a thousand dwellings between 1905 and 1911. Beers is credited with promulgating the front porch rowhouse design that is now ubiquitous in many neighborhoods beyond downtown such as Columbia Heights and Brightwood.

Beers also designed more than 70 apartment buildings for Wardman. These apartments represent the evolution of the building type in Washington: from three-story apartment houses that integrated into the single-family residential fabric to larger scale apartment buildings such as the Dresden (1909) and the Northumberland (1909-1910). Beers also designed Wardman's own Spanish-style house in Woodley Park in 1909. In addition to working with Wardman, Beers also collaborated with other prominent developers including Franklin Sanner, L. E. Bruening, Thomas H. Pickford, T. J. Kemp, Charles Sonne, Chester A. Show, Walter A. Dowd, and C. B. Hight. According to the DC Building Permit Database, Beers was responsible for more than 2,400 buildings in Washington. His fruitful career was cut short when Beers died suddenly of pneumonia at the age of 52 in 1911. He was buried in Mount Grove Cemetery in Fairfield, Connecticut.



**Entrance, Northumberland Apartments,  
2039 New Hampshire Ave., NW**  
NCinDC, June 27, 2008,  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2619709680/>



**The Dresden Apartment Building**  
*Source: Library of Congress/National Picture Co.*




**1620 G Street, SE with front porch rowhouse design**  
EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2010



# DC Architects Directory

Sources			
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HSWDC
<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library			
<b>Other Repositories:</b> Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division			
<b>Obituary</b>	Publication: <i>Evening Star</i>	Date: 11/24/1911	Page:
<b>Biographical Directories</b>	<b>Year/Volume</b>	<b>Page</b>	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	19	
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it			
<input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09			
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of Architects – not in it			
<p><b>Other Sources:</b></p> <p>Adams, Anne. <i>Wardman Row National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form</i>. Washington, D.C.: Historic Preservation Division, Dept. of Consumer &amp; Regulatory Affairs, 1984.</p> <p>Berk, Sally Lichtenstein and Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, Curators. <i>Wardman's Washington</i> (Exhibit at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.), 2005.</p> <p>Field, Cynthia, Emily Hotaling Eig and Katherine Grandine. <i>Old Woodley Park Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form</i>. Washington, D.C.: 1990.</p> <p>Goode, James. <i>Best Addresses</i>. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Books, 1988.</p> <p>Goode, James. <i>Capital Losses</i>. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2003.</p> <p>Helwig, Anne H. <i>The Northumberland Apartments National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form</i>. Washington, D.C.: D.C Historic Preservation Division, 1979.</p> <p>Hogan, William. "The First Tycoon: Harry Wardman Won and Lost a Fortune Changing the Face of Washington Real Estate." <i>Regardie's</i> (May/June 1981), 60-65.</p> <p>Harris, Laura. <i>The Apartment Buildings of Albert H. Beers 1905-1911</i>. Thesis for Master's in Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania, 1988.</p> <p>Trieschmann, Laura V., et al. <i>Washington Heights Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form</i>. Washington, D.C.: EHT Tracerics, 2006.</p>			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Prepared by: EHT Tracerics</b>		<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>	

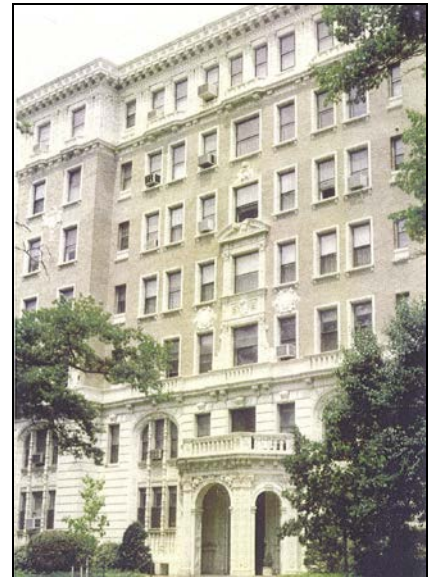
<b>George Neal Bell</b>		 <p><i>Source: Washington Post, 02/24/1907, 24.</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: Sept. 1879	Place: New Berne, N.C.		
Death: 11/10/1956	Place: Alexandria, Va.		
Family: wife: May A.; no children			
<b>Education</b>			
High School:			
College:			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: n/a	Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1902	Latest Permit: 1938	Total Permits: 338 Total Buildings: 924
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Hunter & Bell	Partner, architect	1902-1918	
Rich & Bell	Partner, architect	1919-1926	
George N. Bell	Variously listed as architectural designer, architect, carpenter and, according to 1930 census, worked for a construction company.	1926-1941	
Samuel S. Spruce (real estate company)	Clerk, office manager, office secretary	1942-1948	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Single family dwellings, principally row and semi-detached houses, and apartment buildings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Renaissance Revival, Colonial Revival, Spanish Mission Revival			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Adams Morgan, Lanier Heights, Kalorama Triangle, Woodley Park, Cleveland Park, Bloomingdale, Capitol Hill, Barney Circle, American University Park.			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Apartment	2029 Connecticut Ave. N.W.	1915	Kalorama Triangle Hist. Dist.
Norwood	1868 Columbia Road, N.W.	1916	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Netherlands	1852 Columbia Road, N.W.	1909	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Stafford	1789 Lanier Place, N.W.	1910	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Gainsborough (New Plaza)	1115 12 <sup>th</sup> St., N.W.	1905	Shaw Historic District
Twelve row houses	2617-2641 Garfield St., N.W.	1907	Woodley Park Historic District
Carthage	2301 Connecticut Ave., N.W.	1919	Kalorama Triangle Hist. Dist

## Significance and Contributions

George Neal Bell was born in North Carolina in 1879, probably in New Berne where his family lived at the time of the 1880 census. His father was a bank clerk. The family moved to Washington, D.C., sometime between 1884 and 1894 and Bell's father worked as a government clerk. At age 20 George Bell worked as a clerk at the [Naval] Observatory according to the 1900 Census. Two years later Bell began investing in real estate. He was both an investor and an architect. His name first appears in land records and the permit data base in October 1902 when he bought lots and obtained a permit for construction of 15 row houses, which he did not design, in the Moore and Barbour Addition to Bloomingdale. In the same year he and Ernest C. Hunter founded an architectural firm, Hunter & Bell, which was in business from 1902 until 1918. The partners became known as specialists in the field of apartment design although initially the firm designed only single family housing.

In 1903 and 1904 the principal work of the Hunter & Bell partnership was designing single family semi-detached dwellings on lots owned by Bell. However, they also designed a number of semi-detached and row houses for other investors, notably John L. Warren, to whom Bell was related by marriage. Both John L. Warren and his brother, Bates Warren, were lawyers who became prominent developers in Washington, D.C. Bates Warren had married Bell's sister Lisette in 1897 and the firm's connection with the Warren family shaped the course of its practice. In 1902 Bell and John L. Warren both invested in Squares 2886 and 2887 bounded by Girard Street on the south and Harvard Street on the north between Georgia and Sherman Avenues. Hunter & Bell designed all the dwellings constructed in the two squares. In 1904 Hunter & Bell designed the firm's first apartment building, a four-story brick apartment building at 1343 Clifton Street, N.W. (demolished), commissioned by John L. Warren. It was the first of a large number of apartment buildings commissioned by John L. Warren or Bates Warren. Between 1904 and 1917, Hunter and Bell designed 53 apartment houses ranging from luxury buildings to modest flats, most of which were commissioned by one or the other of the Warren brothers.

Among Hunter & Bell's early major apartment buildings was the Gainsborough (soon renamed New Berne and now New Plaza) at Massachusetts Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. (1905). It was the first building the firm designed for Bates Warren and its first mid-rise building. The seven-story building was described in the *Washington Times* as a "thoroughly modern seven-story apartment house containing twenty-eight suites of three, four and five rooms each." The two-story base of the Renaissance revival style building is faced with Indiana limestone and the upper stories are gray hydraulic press brick. Other notable Hunter & Bell apartment buildings include the Netherlands at 1852 Columbia Road (1909) and the Stafford at 1789 Lanier Place (1910). Most of Hunter & Bell's apartment buildings were two to four stories in height and John L. Warren commissioned the majority of them. Bates Warren commissioned Hunter & Bell to design only a few apartment buildings but they were the firm's largest ones, including the seven-story Norwood at 1868 Columbia Road (1916), built at an estimated cost of \$200,000.



**2029 Connecticut Ave.**  
HSW SPL 127.06

Hunter & Bell's most important apartment building was 2029 Connecticut Avenue, designed for Bates Warren in 1915 and built for an estimated \$300,000. It was constructed in an area already noted for having some of Washington's finest luxury apartment buildings, on Connecticut Avenue south of the Taft Bridge. It is included in James Goode's book, *Best Addresses*. The rusticated base and top floor of the tripartite façade are finished with terra cotta. Goode notes that its elaborate entrance porches are based on the Alwyn Court, "the most elaborate terra cotta New York apartment house ever built" and described both buildings as "Renaissance-inspired buildings with an overlay of Francis I ornament" including the "pilasters, spandrels, panels and salamanders." Interior decoration includes both Beaux Arts Classical revival and Tudor elements. The building attracted prominent residents including William Howard Taft (1917-18) and General John J. Pershing (1922-1926).



2301 Connecticut Avenue, NW

NCinDC, August 24, 2008,

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2794934716/>

While Hunter and Bell are best known for their apartment buildings, much of their design output consisted of row or semi-detached speculative housing in both expensive neighborhoods such as Lanier Heights, Adams-Morgan and Woodley Park and more modest areas including Bloomingdale and southeast Washington. They also designed detached single-family dwellings including a number of residences in Cleveland Park.

Building permits indicate that the firm was actively designing until August 1917. The United States' entry into World War I and the resulting limitations on building supplies may have curtailed its activities and led to the termination of the partnership. Only one permit was issued to Hunter & Bell after August 18, 1917: a permit dated June 15, 1918 for a single family dwelling commissioned by a builder.

After the Hunter & Bell firm was dissolved in 1918, Bell continued to practice in Washington. In the 1920 census, he is listed as an architect with his own business and he was still single and living with his parents. In 1919 Bell had formed a partnership, Rich & Bell, with Alfred S. Rich which lasted until about 1926. In this period Bell is listed as architect on some permits as Rich & Bell. However, he is listed as Neal Bell on permits for several small apartment houses and some detached dwellings in Cleveland Park commissioned by

members of the Warren family. Bell's most notable building designed in partnership with Rich is the 8-story Carthage apartment building at 2301 Connecticut Avenue (1919). By 1922, Bell was designing for the second generation of Warren investors, Monroe and R. Bates Warren, and, in the early 1930s, for his nephew Earle L. Warren.

In 1925, when the District began requiring architects to register, Bell did not seek to qualify to practice as an architect rather than simply as a designer. Between 1925 and 1935 Bell's name was on no more than three D.C. permits a year. On the 1930 census Bell described himself as an architect working for a construction company. He had married by that time. In 1936, Bell started designing substantial detached Colonial Revival style dwellings in American University Park for developer and builder Samuel S. Spruce and he worked for Spruce in various capacities for the remainder of his career. Between 1942 and 1948, he was listed in city directories as clerk, office manager or office secretary for Spruce's firm. Bell's name does not appear on D.C. building permits after 1938. At the time of his death in 1956, Bell was living in Alexandria, Va.

**Sources**

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

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

**Obituary:**      Publication: *Washington Post*      Date: 11/13/1956      Page: B2

Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
<input type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	20, 144
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24, 29-30, 38-39		
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it		

## DC Architects Directory

**Other Sources:** "Architects Labor for City Beautiful." *Washington Post*, February 24, 1907, 24.  
Eig, Emily and Laura Harris Hughes. *Apartment Buildings in Washington, D.C. 1880-1945*. Washington, D.C.: Traceries, 1993.

"Gainsborough Apartment House." *Washington Times*, January 28, 1906.

Goode, James. *Best Addresses*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988.

"Obituary." *Washington Post*, November 13, 1956, B2.


U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Population Census, North Carolina, 1880*.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Population Census, District of Columbia, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930*.

**Notes:** See also biography of Ernest C. Hunter. The total number of permits given for Bell includes permits listing Hunter & Bell, Rich & Bell (also Bell & Rich), George N. Bell and Neal Bell as architect or designer.

**Prepared by: EHT Traceries**

**Last Updated: October 2010**

<b>Robert Francis Beresford</b>		 <p><i>Source: Washington Post, February 18, 1924, 9.</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: June 2, 1879	Place: Audenried, Pa.		
Death: Dec. 19, 1966	Place: Buffalo, N.Y.		
Family: Sister, Grace; wife, Jessie Grange Adams			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: Hotchkiss Preparatory School (Conn.), Grad. 1898			
College: Princeton University, 1898-1900			
Studied architecture at Boston Architectural Club, Washington Architectural Club Atelier, and Atelier Pietch. Also studied painting.			
Apprenticeship:			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: 22	Date Issued: 4/6/1925
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1920	Latest Permit: 1946	Total Permits: 47 Total Buildings: 98
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Jules Henri de Sibour		1909-14	
United States War Department	Draftsman	1918	
Appleton P. Clark, Jr.	Draftsman	1919	
Individual practice	Architect	1917-56	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: 1921	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects, 1928-48; American Institute of Architects, President of Washington-Metropolitan Chapter, 1927-28			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Board of Trade Award of Merit for Tower Building; Certificate of Award in Recognition of Distinguished Service, National Council of Architectural Registration Boards			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Rowhouses, detached houses, office building, hotels, apartments, commercial buildings, gas stations			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, Art Deco			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Petworth neighborhood, Downtown Washington, Jocelyn Street N.W., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street N.W., Georgia Avenue N.W.			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Petworth Gardens Apartments (Webster Gardens Apartments)	124, 126, 128, 130 Webster St., N.W.	1921	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Hotel Mayflower, associate architect to Warren and Wetmore	1127 Connecticut Ave., N.W.	1925	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
The Tower Building	1401 K St., N.W.	1928-29	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Fort George G. Meade Chapel		1934	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Robert Francis Beresford was born in Audenried, Pa., on June 2, 1879. He boarded at Hotchkiss Preparatory School in Connecticut for high school and graduated from Hotchkiss in 1898. Then Beresford studied at Princeton University for two years from 1898 until 1900. Following early advice, that an architect should build his technical skills upon a liberal arts foundation, he studied foreign languages and history as well as mathematics and science as an undergraduate. After his sophomore year Beresford left Princeton and did freehand sketching and watercolor work in Boston while taking two years of evening classes with the Boston Architectural Club. He then moved to Washington, D.C. and studied for two years in the Atelier Pietsch, two years in the Washington Architectural Club Atelier, and one year in evening classes at the Corcoran Art Gallery. Finally, he continued his study of watercolor for a year of evening classes from Professor Albert B. Bibb at George Washington University.

While continuing studies in Washington, Beresford also gained experience in several architectural offices. He worked in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1903 until 1905, when he moved to the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (then called the Office of the Superintendent of the Capitol Building and Grounds). From 1909 to 1914, Beresford worked for one of Washington's most prominent Beaux-Arts school architects, Jules Henri de Sibour. According to the *Washington Star*, Beresford had his own office as of 1915, but his World War I draft registration card from 1918 lists his occupation as a draftsman for the War Department, and he worked as a draftsman for Appleton P. Clark for a short time in 1919. Sources agree that he had officially established his own practice in 1920.



**Home for W. R. Meadows; Northwest corner of Jocelyn and 39<sup>th</sup> Streets, N.W., 1922**  
*Washington Post, August 27, 1922, 38*

In 1921 Beresford designed Petworth Gardens Apartments (now Webster Gardens Apartments) on Webster Street, N.W. Petworth Gardens was the earliest garden apartment complex in the District of Columbia, and was added to the National Register in 2008. Allan E. Walker Investment, Co. was the owner and builder for the project. Petworth Gardens was inspired by the small Tudor Revival rowhouse development named Pomander Walk, also from 1921, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, but the two developments are by no means identical. Pomander Walk was designed to resemble an English village within the city, and Beresford executed this same idea with a group of apartment buildings perpendicular to the street rather than rowhouses. Additionally, Beresford's design was not strictly Tudor Revival, as it also incorporated Craftsman and Mediterranean Revival styles.

Beresford designed many buildings for Allan E. Walker throughout his career. In addition to Petworth Gardens, he designed more than 50 rowhouses and detached dwellings owned by Walker Investment, Co. in Maryland and in the District. In 1921 and 1922 he worked on several houses in Chevy Chase that were developed and sold by Walker, including a large blue granite house on the northwest corner of 39<sup>th</sup> and Jocelyn Streets, N.W., that was purchased by W. R. Meadows, an officer in the US Department of Agriculture. In addition to residential buildings, Beresford designed commercial properties. He designed several gasoline filling stations in the northwest quadrant of Washington, including one in 1924 at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Ordway Street called "Lord Baltimore Filling Station No. 6." Most of the filling stations have been demolished.



**Lord Baltimore Filling Station No. 6, 1924**  
*Sborpy Historic Photo Archive, retrieved July 30, 2010*

From 1922 to 1925 Beresford was involved in designing the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. The property was originally owned by Walker, and it was advertised to open as Walker Hotel and Apartments. The New York architectural firm Warren and Wetmore was the primary design firm for the Mayflower, but Beresford worked as associate architect on the project and contributed considerably. When building costs exceeded \$11 million, mounting debts forced Walker to sell the property to the American Bond and Mortgage Company. The new ownership changed the name of the hotel to the Mayflower. It opened in February 1925 and the *Washington Post* reported it as the largest hotel or private building ever erected in Washington up to that time. The Beaux-Arts building was designed to fill the trapezoidal plot with two massive asymmetrical towers. The Mayflower was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.



**Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave., N.W., 1924**  
*Shorpy Historic Photo Archive, 1927*



**The Tower Building, 1401 K St., N.W., 1928**  
*National Register Nomination Form, 1995*

In 1928, Beresford's next major building design was the impressive Tower Building on K Street. It was Beresford's most significant project for which he was solely responsible, and it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. When the building was completed in 1929 it was the tallest office building in the District of Columbia, and it was the first office building in Washington designed in the Art Deco style. It is a 12-story building with an H-shaped plan, a limestone veneer façade, and a tiered pyramidal crown. It was featured in the *American Architect* periodical when completed.

Beresford's successful career in Washington led to his involvement in several architectural organizations. In 1927 and 1928 he served as the President of the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He had joined the AIA in 1921. From 1928 to 1948 he served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects of the District of Columbia. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards issued Beresford a certificate of award in recognition of distinguished service. Thomas H. Locraft was elected to succeed Beresford on the Board of Examiners and Registrars when he retired in 1948.

In 1905 Beresford married Jessie Grange Adams in Glen Ridge, N.J., but the couple did not have any children, and Jessie died in 1952. Beresford was living in Buffalo, N.Y., under the care of his sister, Grace B. Wells, when he died in December 1966 at the age of 87 after battling a long illness.



# DC Architects Directory

Sources				
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
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<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it				
<b>Other Sources:</b>				
Barsoum, Eve Lydia. <i>Tower Building National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form</i> . Washington, D.C.: Historic Preservation Division, 1995.				
Barton, Carrie and Laura Hughes. <i>Petworth Gardens National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form</i> . Washington, D.C.: EHT Tracerics, 2008.				
"Construction of First Unit of Petworth Gardens Begun." <i>Evening Star</i> , October 8, 1921, Business Section.				
Dennée, Tim, staff reviewer. <i>Petworth Gardens Apartments nomination</i> . Historic Preservation Review Board, Washington, D.C., 2008.				
Goode, James. <i>Best Addresses</i> . Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988.				
Maxwell, Shirley. <i>Mayflower Hotel National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form</i> . Alexandria, Va.: Massey Maxwell Associates, 1983.				
McClinsey, Keith. <i>Washington DC's Mayflower Hotel</i> . Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007.				
"New Residence Purchased by Official." <i>Washington Post</i> , August 27, 1922, 38.				
"R.F. Beresford, Was Architect for Notable Buildings." <i>Washington Star</i> , December 21, 1966.				
Robert Francis Beresford Application for Registration to Practice Architecture. District of Columbia Archives, Washington, D.C., 1925.				
Beresford, Robert. Princeton University Archives, Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. Nanci A. Young to Andrea Lowery, research correspondence, July 1995.				
<b>Notes:</b> The total number of permits and buildings combines listings for "Beresford, R.F." (43 permits, 94 buildings), and for "Beresford, Robert F." (4 permits, 4 buildings).				
<b>Prepared by: EHT Tracerics</b>			<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>	

<b>Julian Emerson Berla</b>		
<b>Biographical Data</b>		
Birth: 04/04/1902	Place: Newark, NJ	
Death: 02/16/1976	Place: Washington, DC	
Family: Married to Freda Berla; one son		
<b>Education</b>		
High School: Central High School (Newark, NJ)		
College: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1923)		
Graduate School: Harvard University (1924)		
Apprenticeship: Bertram G. Goodhue, New York (1922)		
<b>Architectural Practice</b>		
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>	Registration Number: 334	Date Issued: 07/29/1938
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1938	Latest Permit: 1949
	Total Permits: 94	Total Buildings: 876
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>
Edward S. Hewitt (New York)	Draftsman	1923-1924
Goodhue Associates	Job Chief	1924-1927
Mayers, Murray & Phillip, New York	Designer	1927-1929
New York University/Metropolitan Museum	Lecturer	1930-1932
U.S. Resettlement Administration	Architect	1936-1937
Kastner & Berla	Partner/Architect	1937-1938
Berla & Abel	Partner/Architect	1938-1969
Berla, Abel & Weinstein	Partner/Architect	1969-1971
<b>Professional Associations</b>		
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>	Date(s) Enrolled: 1939	Fellow of the AIA: 1954
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> Member of the Board of Trade and the Washington Building Congress. Chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Preservation of the Capitol; active in the National AIA and the Washington Chapter of the AIA; served as President of the Washington Chapter in 1946 and 1947. Member of the Cosmos Club.		
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Public housing consultant to various federal agencies; Member of the Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Authority design review committee; served as a visiting architecture critic at the University of Virginia and M.I.T following his retirement from private practice in 1971.		
<b>Buildings</b>		
<b>Building Types:</b> Apartment Buildings, Commercial Buildings, Public Housing		
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Modernist, International Style		
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Downtown, Upper Northwest		

*The Architectural Firm of Berla & Abel  
Berla is seated second from left  
Source: Best Addresses*

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Tiffany Townhouses	2100 Connecticut Ave., NW	1940	Kalorama Triangle Historic Dist.
The Boston House	4000-4100 Arkansas Ave., NW	1939	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Crestview Apartments	1711 Massachusetts Ave., NW	1951	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
	3601 Wisconsin Avenue, NW	1952	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Julian E. Berla graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1923 with a degree in site planning. After completing post graduate work at Harvard University, he was employed as a draftsman and designer in New York City. Between 1930 and 1932, he lectured at New York University. In 1936, Berla moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the New Deal's Resettlement Administration, designing the federally-planned town of Greenbelt, Maryland. He also served as a consultant to various public agencies including the Public Housing Information Office, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Housing Authority, and the National Youth Administration. Through his consulting work, Berla became renowned as an expert in public housing design. In the 1950s, he would also serve as a consultant to Denmark on public housing issues.



2100 Connecticut Avenue  
Source: EHT Traceries, 2009


In 1937, Berla joined the practice of German-born architect Alfred Kastner. Their brief partnership lasted until 1938, when Berla established the firm of Berla & Abel along with Joseph Abel, an early proponent of the International Style and a notable apartment building designer. The firm became known for its apartment buildings, commercial shopping centers, and many residences. In 1939, Berla and Abel designed 27 homes on the 4000 and 4100 blocks of Arkansas Avenue for developer J. B. Tiffany and Sons. The "Tiffany Townhomes" were envisioned as an affordable new housing type for Washington. The *Architectural Record* reported, "imagination, ingenuity, and experience make possible a group of most economical housing units that take full advantage of the interesting terrain and the sloping site.... Apartments are judiciously planned for modern living and tenants have access to outdoor terrace and garden areas." The three-story red brick townhouses featured architectural elements that distinguished them from the surrounding rowhouses, including large, open, second-story balconies, expansive windows, generous use of glass block, and trellises climbing up the front facades.

Through their work, Berla & Abel gained a reputation as Washington's most notable modernist architectural firm. The Berla & Able-designed apartment building at 2100 Connecticut Avenue (1939-40) was an early example of the International Style in Washington, D.C. The architects carved out a traditional C-shaped box to create a distinctively new architectural appearance for the city. The façade is comprised of strip windows, glass block and light brick, and the projecting bays and receding balconies establish a rhythm of solids and voids. The architects avoided ornamentation, instead making a statement with the pure volume of the building.

In 1969, Berla and Abel welcomed a new partner to the firm, Jesse Weinstein. Berla retired from private practice in 1972 following an automobile accident. Following his retirement, he served as a visiting architectural critic at the University of Virginia and M.I.T. Julian E. Berla died in Washington in 1976.

# DC Architects Directory

Sources				
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HSWDC	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
<b>Other Repositories:</b>				
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: 02/19/1976	Page:	
	Publication: <i>Evening Post</i>	Date: 02/18/1976	Page:	
<b>Biographical Directories</b>	<b>Year/Volume</b>	<b>Page</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory	1956/1962/1970	40/51/66		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960		22		
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it				
<input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 23-24, 29-30, 38-39				
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it				
<b>Other Sources:</b>				
“A Profile of Work by Berla & Abel.” <i>Architectural Forum</i> August 1946, 82-94.				
Bushong, William, Judith Helm Robinson, and Julie Mueller. <i>A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter</i> . Washington, DC: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987.				
Goode, James. <i>Best Addresses</i> . Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988.				
“Improved Housing for Washington, D.C.” <i>Architectural Record</i> Vol. 103 No.2 (May 1946), 132-134.				
Straight, Susan. “Small, Stable Neighborhood Near the Park.” <i>Washington Post</i> , 19 November 2005.				
<b>Notes:</b>				
<b>Prepared by: EHT Traceries</b>			<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>	

<b>Albert Burnley Bibb</b>		 <p><i>Source: Special Collections, Gelman Library, G.W.U.</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 6/8/1853	Place: Washington, D.C.		
Death: 12/23/1942	Place: Washington, D.C.		
Family: Married Julia Hanson circa 1880; four children.			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: First year of high school at Georgetown College's preparatory program.			
College: Georgetown College (now University), 1869-70			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: n/a	Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1886	Latest Permit: 1892	Total Permits: 10 Total Buildings: 11
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
U.S. Life-Saving Service	Topographer, hydrographer and presumably, initially, a draftsman	Ca. 1885-1890	
Individual practice	Architect (city directory listings)	1888-1894, 1900-1908, 1911-12	
George Washington University	Professor	1905-1933	
Catholic University of America	Instructor, professor	1913-1939	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> Cosmos Club, Architectural Club			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Benemerenti Medal, Catholic University, 1940			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Life-saving stations, townhouses			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Shingle style, vernacular Romanesque Revival			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Dupont Circle, Foggy Bottom			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Point Allerton Life-Saving Station	Hull, Massachusetts	1890	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Marquette Life-Saving Station	Marquette, Michigan	1890	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Klipsan Beach (Ilwaco Beach) Life-Saving Station	Klipsan Beach, Washington	1890	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Residence	2021 H Street N.W	1890	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
John Darzell Residence	1605 New Hampshire Ave. NW	1892	Dupont Circle Historic District

## Significance and Contributions

Albert Burnley Bibb was born in Washington, D.C., in 1853. Early in his career, in the 1880s, he designed Life-Saving Stations for the Treasury Department and these stations constitute most of his surviving work. For much of his long life he taught architecture at George Washington University and Catholic University and thus taught many of the architects who were educated in Washington, D.C., in the first decades of the twentieth century.

Bibb briefly attended Georgetown College where his step-father, John Caulfield, was a music professor in the Civil War era. At that time Georgetown College was both a preparatory school and a college. Bibb was a first-year preparatory student in the academic year 1865-66 and returned as a first year college student for the year 1869-70. According to the 1870 census he was residing at the College at that time but his family home was in Hyattsville, Maryland. He did not stay to earn a degree. Bibb was largely self educated. At the time of his appointment as instructor at Catholic University in 1913 he wrote that, "I have no degrees, and no academic record worth the printing" but his personnel files at both universities where he taught attest to his erudition.

Bibb became a Post Office clerk in 1871 and by 1873 he was working as a clerk in the Fourth Auditors' Offices in the Treasury Department. At some point in the 1870s he went out west, worked for a mining company headquartered in San Francisco and he became the resident manager of a mine in Silver City, Idaho. At the time of the 1880 Census he was residing in Idaho and the *New York Times* reported May 28, 1880 that President Garfield had nominated him to be agent for the Indians of Malheur Agency, Oregon. According to subsequent censuses he married about 1880.

Bibb's earliest known architectural work was done for the Life-Saving Service in the mid-1880s. It is not known when or in what capacity Bibb began working for the Life-Saving Service of the Treasury Department which was created by Congress in 1878 to expand and improve upon shoreline lifesaving services on the nation's coasts and on the Great Lakes. In 1882 Bibb wrote an article, "The Life-Savers on the Great Lakes" for *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly*, and Life-Saving Service experts Ralph Shanks and Wick York speculate that he may have been an inspector. The 1887 *Official Register* of federal employees listed him as topographer and hydrographer, one of the five top positions in the Office of Life Saving-Service. Beginning no later than 1885 he had been working in the Office of Construction, designing life-saving stations and he designed stations throughout his career at the Service. These stations housed both lifesaving crews and their boats and were located along treacherous stretches of the coastline to rescue passengers and crews of shipwrecked vessels. Bibb's earliest known designs were remodelings of early 1870s buildings constructed by a predecessor agency. He adapted the Shingle Style, inspired by the shingled buildings of the New England coast and popularized by William Ralph Emerson and Henry Hobson Richardson, to the enlargement of older rectangular boat houses. As described by Wick, "Bibb is noteworthy in that his alteration plan was such a successful statement of the Shingle Style. By adding a storage lean-to on either side of the original boathouse and extending the main roof over each addition in a sweeping unbroken line from peak to eave, Bibb converted what originally had been a vertical structure into a low, horizontally massed building. Rows of long horizontal windows and the application of scallop-shaped and straight-edged shingles over the entire exterior surface completed the transition." Of these twenty-nine alterations, six survive. Bibb also designed new stations and his first known new design is known as Bibb #2 and at least 22 stations were built to this design between 1887 and 1892. As described by Wick, the buildings, "looking like a cottage residence," had a steep gabled roof with two hipped dormers while a lookout tower "topped an intersecting



**Point Allerton Life-Saving Station, Hull MA**

*U.S. Life-Saving Service, p. 56*

roof. Queen Anne detailing included clapboarding on the first floor, straight-edged shingles on the gables and roof, small-paned windows, molded four panel exterior doors and turned porch columns.” Bibb’s design #3, of which eleven were built on Lake Michigan, had a gable dwelling with a semi-detached boathouse. Bibb is thought to have left the Life-Saving Service in 1890 but buildings were constructed to his designs for another decade. He is credited with designing the 1890 Marquette, Michigan station and this design was used for twelve additional stations from Maine to Washington over the next twelve years. Of approximately fifty stations designed by Bibb, half survive, including the Point Allerton Life Saving Station in Hull, Massachusetts, which has become the Hull Lifesaving Museum and several others listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

While working for the Service, Bibb also designed dwellings for private clients. He was first listed on a District building permit in 1886 and he listed himself as an architect in Washington, D.C., city directories for the years 1888 through 1894. In this period Bibb was listed on ten building permits, almost all of which were for substantial city residences ranging in estimated cost from \$6,700 to \$23,000. His first was a three-story brick dwelling at 1028 16<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., with an estimated cost of \$15,000. The dwellings Bibb designed were located in fashionable residential sections of Washington near the White House and Dupont Circle and most have been replaced by subsequent development. Two that survive are the 1890 dwelling at 2021 H Street, N.W. and the 1892 John Dalzell residence at 1605 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., built at an estimated cost of \$18,000. One other surviving building is at 9 Hillyer Court, N.W., which originally was a large private stable constructed in 1892. Half the permits issued for Bibb-designed buildings date from 1892 and none were issued thereafter.



1605 New Hampshire Ave, N.W.  
D.C. Office of Planning, 2004



2021 H Street, N.W.  
D.C. Office of Planning, 2004

It is probable that Bibb went abroad in 1894 and remained there until about 1900 when he was again listed in *Boyd's* city directory as an architect. A friend, A.S. Riggs, wrote at the time of Bibb’s death that “he gave up his office to go abroad because of the health of his family. There, after residence in England and both wanderings and residence in Italy and other parts of the continent, always keenly observant and studious, he settled at Meran in the Austrian Tyrol.... Almost at once his professional qualities came to the fore, and more than one stately mansion on the snowy Tyrolean hillsides is the work of his brain and hands.”


Although Bibb is listed as an architect in city directories for all but one year between 1900 and 1907, no record has been found of work done in those years. In June 1905 he was appointed Professor of Architecture in the Division of Architecture at George Washington University and began a distinguished thirty-year teaching career. Later his title was Professor of Art and Architecture and he became Professor Emeritus in 1933. In 1913, Bibb was appointed as an instructor at Catholic University, rising to professor, circa 1926, in the Architecture Department headed by Frederick V. Murphy, and retiring in 1939. At both universities and also at Trinity College he taught the history of architecture and of art as well as occasional courses in drawing and historic ornament. As professor in two Washington, D.C., universities he taught many of the architects who were educated in the city before World War II. According to Riggs, Bibb once told his former student, architect Delos H. Smith, that, “he wished he had not given up the practice of his profession for teaching.”

Bibb published a number of articles in both the professional and general press on architecture and art. These included contributions, illustrated with his own drawings, to an *American Architect and Building News* series on Georgian architecture in 1900, articles in *House and Garden* on Mount Vernon, the remodeling of the White House and the Octagon, and articles in *Studio* (London) on various artists.

# DC Architects Directory

Sources			
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC
	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library University Archives, Catholic University of America		
<b>Other Repositories:</b>	Special Collections Research Center, Gelman Library, George Washington University Special Collections Research Center, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University		
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: 12/16/1942	Page: B4
<b>Biographical Directories</b>	<b>Year/Volume</b>	<b>Page</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 4 articles			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	24	
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in 08-09, 23-24	1938-39	74-75	
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it			
<b>Other Sources:</b>			
Albert B. Bibb file, RG0004, Vice President for Academic Affairs Records, Series 20, Box 6, Folder 7, Special Collections Research Center, Gelman Library, George Washington University.			
Albert B. Bibb Personnel Files. Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, RG 26, National Archives, Washington, D.C.			
Albert B. Bibb to James S. Forreus, 10 October, 1913. A.B. Bibb file, CUA Office of the Rector/President, University Archives, Catholic University of America.			
Miller, Elizabeth J. "The John Dalzell Residence, 1605 New Hampshire Ave., N.W." Typescript, 1980-1985. Pamphlet Collection, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.			
"Nominations and Confirmations." <i>New York Times</i> , May 28, 1880			
Riggs, Arthur Stanley. "The Post Impressionist: Arthur Burnley Bibb." <i>Washington Post</i> , December 31, 1942, 8.			
Shanks, Ralph C., and Wick York; Lisa Woo Shanks, editor. <i>U.S. Life-Saving Service: Heroes, Rescues &amp; Architecture of the Early Coast Guard</i> . Petaluma, CA: Costano Books, 1996.			
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1870, 1900, 1910, 1930, District of Columbia.			
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1870, Maryland			
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, 1880, Idaho			
U.S. Secretary of the Interior. <i>Official Register of the United States, 1887</i> . Vol. 1, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1887.			
U.S. Secretary of the Interior. <i>Officers and Agents, Civil, Military and Naval, in the Service of the United States on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 1873</i> . Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1874.			
York, Wick. "The Architecture of U.S. Life-Saving Stations. <i>The Log of Mystic Seaport</i> (Spring 1982), 3-20.			
<b>Notes:</b> Although Bibb stated that he was an A.I.A. member on at least one form in the Catholic University personnel file, the A.I.A.'s archivist could not find his name in a search of both national and Washington Chapter records.			
<b>Prepared by: EHT Tracerics</b>			<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>



<b>James Bogardus</b>		 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Source: from photo by E. W. Bogardus, Cole Thompson, "My Inwood: Street Names"</i></p>		
<b>Biographical Data</b>				
Birth: 3/14/1800	Place: Catskill, N.Y.			
Death: 4/13/1874	Place: New York, N.Y.			
Family: Married Margaret McClay, 1831				
<b>Education</b>				
High School:				
College:				
Graduate School:				
Apprenticeship:				
<b>Architectural Practice</b>				
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: n/a		Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: n/a	Latest Permit:	Total Permits:	Total Buildings:
<b>Practice</b>		<b>Position</b>		<b>Date</b>
James Bogardus		Machinist, inventor, architect, manufacturer		1825-1874
Bogardus & Hoppin		Partner		1850-53
<b>Professional Associations</b>				
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a		Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>				
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>				
<b>Buildings</b>				
<b>Building Types:</b> Fire towers, cast-iron building fronts, shot towers, printing plants, lighthouse				
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Cast-iron façades, cast-iron towers and commercial buildings				
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Pennsylvania Avenue, NW; 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW				
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	
Laing Stores	Washington and Murray Streets, New York, NY	1849	No longer extant	
Sun Iron Building	Baltimore and South Streets, Baltimore, Md.	1850	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	
Adams Express Office (iron facade)	514 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW	1851	No longer extant	
Iron Hall (iron facade)	925 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW	1851	No longer extant	
Coyle Warehouse	519 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW	1851	No longer extant	
Harper Plant	331 Pearl Street, New York, NY	1854	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site	

## Significance and Contributions

James Bogardus was born in Catskill, New York, on March 14, 1800. He received only his elementary education in a formal setting and then was apprenticed to a local watchmaker in Catskill. Bogardus moved to New York City about 1825, where he used his understanding of mechanics and engineering to excel as an inventor. As a young man he received patents for innovations in clocks, machinery for spinning cotton thread, sugar mill technology, mechanical pencils, an award-winning engraving machine, and various others. He continued with his diverse mechanical inventions until he began focusing on the structural arts in 1848. In this year he established a foundry in New York for casting structural, utilitarian, and decorative details for buildings.

In the 1850s, prefabricated units for cast-iron building fronts became popular on façades of commercial buildings, mostly those standing shoulder-to-shoulder on city blocks. They were usually made to look like stone richly carved in Classical, Renaissance, or Baroque Revival styles, and Bogardus completed several such façades during his career. His first architectural work was in 1848, constructing an iron front for John Milhau's drug store at 183 Broadway in New York. He obtained a patent in 1849 for the first building completely made of iron, but there is no evidence that the patented design was ever executed. Following the success of the Milhau store façade, Bogardus worked on the group of Edgar Laing stores on the corner of Washington and Murray Streets in New York City. Bogardus cast one iron front for the five individual stores at this location. The store front was four stories high and featured a simple design of windows separated by fluted Doric pilasters. This building was taken apart in 1971 to be later reassembled, but the components were stolen in the late 1970s.



**Laing Stores, Washington and Murray Streets, NY, 1849.**  
*Library of Congress HABS NY,31-NEYO,76-1.*

In 1850 Bogardus began working outside New York and was listed as a contractor for the famous Sun Iron Building, owned and occupied by the *Baltimore Sun*. At the southeast corner of Baltimore and South Streets in Baltimore, Md., the Sun Iron Building was thought to be the first iron-supported structure in the United States. Robert G. Hatfield of New York was the architect. This building was a milestone in the careers of those who worked on it, and contributed to the rapid expansion of Bogardus' business in 1850 and 1851. His major works appeared in New York, Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, and San Francisco.



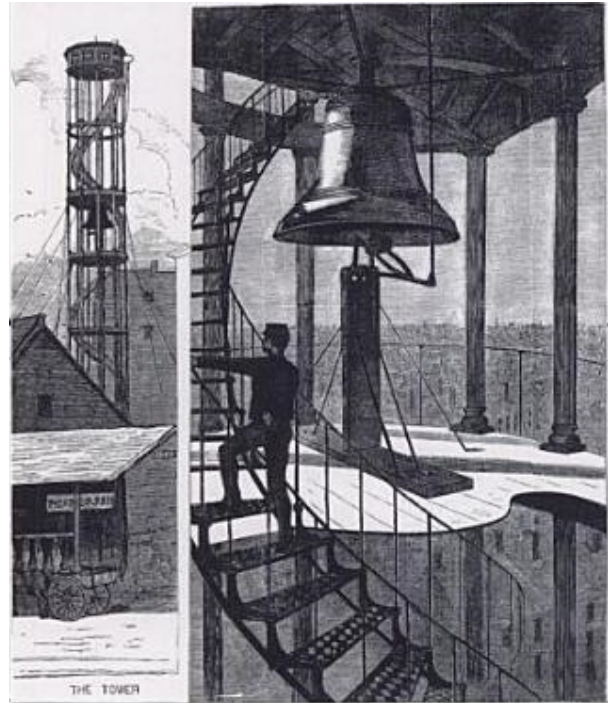
**Iron Hall, 925 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 1851.**  
*Cast-Iron Architecture in America, 109.*

While Bogardus was finishing his work on the Sun Iron Building in 1851, he received commissions for three buildings in Washington, D.C. He worked with his partner, Hamilton Hoppin, on all three buildings. The first commission was 514 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. He constructed the cast-iron façade of this building, which housed the Adams Express Office of downtown Washington. Bogardus & Hoppin's second Washington building front was for the Iron Hall, owned by Michael Shanks and located in the business district at 925 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Two store fronts occupied the first floor of the building, and the second story had high ceilings and an open plan to accommodate meetings or concerts. The façade appeared to be made almost entirely of glass – only delicate cast-iron columns

interrupted floor-to-ceiling casement windows. The second and third floors included cast-iron balconies. This building became known as Metzertott Hall, and was used for large events including concerts and speeches. Finally, Bogardus & Hoppin designed the front of 519 7<sup>th</sup> St., NW, between Pennsylvania Avenue and D Street. It was occupied by Fitzhugh Coyle, a hardware and lumber merchant. This was the third and final commission for Bogardus in Washington. He bid on a project to refit the interior of the Library of Congress with fireproof ironwork after a fire in the building at Christmas, 1851, but Janes, Beebe & Co. of New York won the job.

In 1854 Bogardus worked to erect the Harper and Brothers printing plant per the designs of architect John B. Corlies. This project is considered the most important work in which Bogardus was involved, as it was one of the most prominent commercial structures in Manhattan at the time it was built. It was erected at 331 Pearl Street and faced Franklin Square. The Harper plant was a glass shell held in a cast-iron frame of columns, arched lintels, and spandrels.

Bogardus emphasized his portfolio of cast-iron facades, but his influence on the course of American architecture arose from the engineering and design innovations of his iron towers. The exploitation of the use of iron in the structure of multi-story buildings is what set Bogardus apart from many other iron manufacturers involved in the structural arts. The concept of achieving building height through the use of iron structural elements is evident in Bogardus' collection of two fire towers, a lighthouse, and two shot towers. The fire towers and shot towers were located in New York, and the lighthouse was erected in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. These projects all clearly emphasize verticality, and Bogardus' construction of free-standing iron structures contributed to the development of the skyscraper in the United States.



**Bogardus' second fire tower, near the corner of MacDougal and Spring Streets, New York, 1853.**  
*Drawings by Winslow Homer, published in Harper's Weekly, 1874.*

Bogardus is listed as a "machinist" in the 1850 population census for New York rather than as an architect or builder. Then in 1870 he was listed as "architect." But despite these labels, Bogardus called himself an inventor. Labeling Bogardus as an architect does not fully, and often would not accurately, describe his role and contributions. Many of his commissions involved executing the designs of other architects using his capabilities with cast-iron.

Sources				
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC	<input type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
<b>Other Repositories:</b>				
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 22 entries				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography		Vol. I	Pt. 2 - 406	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects		Volume I	233-235	

## DC Architects Directory

<input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it		
<p><b>Other Sources:</b>            Bannister, Turpin C. “Bogardus Revisited, Part I: The Iron Fronts.” <i>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i>, XV, No. 4, pp. 12-            Bannister, Turpin C. “Bogardus Revisited, Part II: The Iron Towers.” <i>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i>, XVI, No. 1, pp. 11-19. March, 1957.            Bogardus, James. <i>National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Volume 8, p.193.</i>            Gayle, Margot and Carol. <i>Cast-Iron Architecture in America: The Significance of James Bogardus</i>. Pp. 107-108. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1998.            Gray, Christopher. “Streetscapes/James Bogardus; Inventor as an Architect and a Cast-Iron Pioneer.” <i>New York Times</i>, August 20, 1995.            Hall, Clayton Colman. <i>Baltimore: Its History and its People, Vol. 2</i>. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1912.            Historic American Buildings Survey. “Edgar Laing Stores, Washington &amp; Murray Streets, New York, New York, NY.” HABS NY,31-NEYO,76.            Schneider, Daniel B. “F.Y.I.: Architectural Gem Theft.” <i>The New York Times</i>, March 7, 1999.            Thompson, Cole. “My Inwood: Street Names.” <a href="http://www.myinwood.net">www.myinwood.net</a>, accessed 8/16/2010.            U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, New York, 1850.            Winston Weisman Collection of Architectural Photographs, depicting structures c.1850-1970. The New-York Historical Society. Call Number PR 073.</p>		
<b>Notes:</b> Image of Bogardus from photo by E.W. Bogardus		
<b>Prepared by: EHT Traceries</b>		<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>

<b>Joseph A. Bohn Jr.</b>			
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: January 1877		Place: Washington, D.C.	
Death: June 17, 1910		Place: Washington, D.C.	
Family: Unmarried			
<b>Education</b>			
High School:			
College:			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
<i>Source:</i>			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: n/a	Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1900	Latest Permit: 1910	Total Permits: 101
			Total Buildings: 449
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>		<b>Date</b>
Joseph Bohn Jr. (self-employed?)	Draftsman		1896?-1908
Joseph Bohn Jr.	Architect		1909-1910
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> Mason; National Union, Congressional Council			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Row houses, detached single family dwellings.			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Classical revival, Richardson Romanesque			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Bloomingdale, Capitol Hill, Mount Pleasant, Park View, Woodley Park			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Rowhouses	2300-1330 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, and 100 Bryant St., N.W.	1902	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Rowhouses	1919-1941 Calvert St. N.W.	1902	Kalorama Triangle Hist. Dist.
German-American Building Association	124 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street, S.E.	1908	Capitol Hill Historic District
McIntire residences	716-720 East Capitol St., N.E.	1908	Capitol Hill Historic District
Woodley Park row houses	2228-2242 Cathedral Ave. N.W.	1909	Woodley Park Historic District
Rowhouses	740-762 Newton Place, N.W.	1908	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

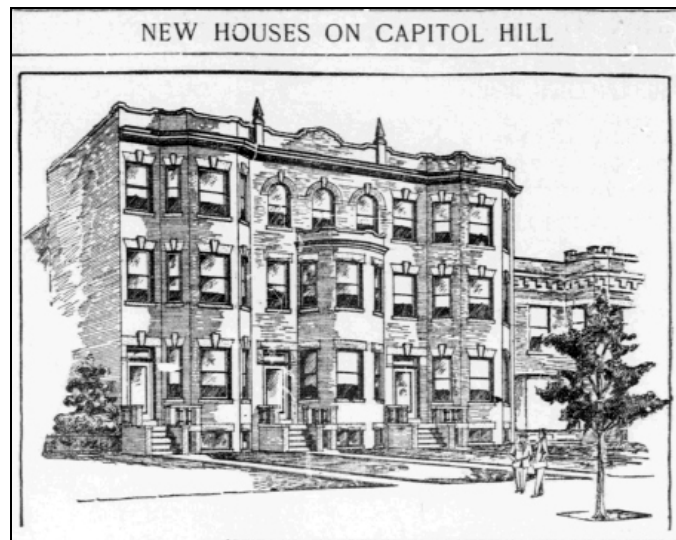
Joseph A. Bohn, Jr., was born in Washington, D.C., in December 1877. His parents were also natives of Washington. His father was a salesman who worked in a cigar store and later in a furniture store. His paternal grandparents had emigrated from Bavaria. The family resided at 215 D Street, N.W., and, according to the 1910 Census, Bohn, who was not married, continued to live with his parents on D Street. Bohn was listed as a draftsman as early as 1894 in *Boyd's Directory*. He did not list himself as an architect in the city directory until the years 1909 and 1910. From the 1900 Census it appears that Bohn was self-employed. He was first listed as architect on a D.C. building permit in 1900.

The majority of Bohn's work consisted of row houses designed for Middaugh & Shannon (Ray E. Middaugh and William E. Shannon) who were developers and builders. They pioneered the development of Bloomingdale and were active in developing several other middle class neighborhoods, including Woodley Park. The firm obtained its first building permits for construction in Bloomingdale in 1900. Initially it used the services of noted Washington architect B. Stanley Simmons. However, beginning with a row of eight houses at First and S Streets, N.W., permitted December 17, 1902, the firm relied exclusively on Joseph Bohn Jr. as its architect. The firm, in its promotional entry in the *Washington Post's* 1903 *History of the City of Washington*, claimed that it had "taken advantage of every opportunity to raise the standard of excellence in the building of moderate priced private homes" and that it had originated and copyrighted an arrangement "for the perfect lighting of the dining room...completely overcoming the usual difficulty of the dark dining room, when built between party walls." In 1906-1907 Bohn designed the row and semi-detached dwellings in Middaugh & Shannon's Park View development immediately west of the Old Soldiers Home, including virtually all the dwellings constructed in the two squares (3044 and 3036) between Park Place and Warder Street, N.W. and bounded by Newton Place on the north and Lamont Street on the south. Bohn's final works (1909) for Middaugh & Shannon were two rows in Mt. Pleasant at 19<sup>th</sup> Street (3201-3215) and Park Road (1844-1860) and a row of Colonial Revival dwellings along Cathedral Avenue in Woodley Park (2228-2242).

Bohn also designed dwellings for individuals and for small scale speculative owners. He may have had an arrangement with the prominent local German-born builder, August Getz, who built many of the individual or small groupings of dwellings designed by Bohn. One of the most significant of Bohn's individual buildings was designed for the German-American Building Association at 124 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, S.E. Now known as the Germania, it was built by (August) Getz & Son in 1908. The building of Hummelstown brownstone and pressed brick had shops and offices on the ground floor and the second and third floors each had two apartments. Elwood McIntire commissioned Bohn to design and oversee the construction of three ten-room, brick and stone residences at 716, 718 and 720 East Capitol




German American Building Association, 124 3<sup>rd</sup> St., S.E.  
*Washington Times*, March 13, 1909, 3



716, 718, 720 East Capitol Street  
*Washington Times*, October 18, 1908, 7.



<b>Calvin Thomas Stowe Brent</b>		 <p><i>Source: African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary 1865-1945, p. 57.</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 1854	Place: Washington, D.C.		
Death: 1899	Place: Washington, D.C.		
Family: Father, John; mother, Elizabeth Edmondson; first wife, Alberteen; daughter, Margaret; son, Calvin; daughter, Emma; second wife, Laurelia Brown			
<b>Education</b>			
High School:			
College:			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship: Plowman and Weightman			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: n/a	Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1883	Latest Permit: 1898	Total Permits: 60 Total Buildings: 91
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>		<b>Date</b>
Individual private practice	Architect, draftsman		1875-1899
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	Fellow of the AIA:
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Churches, rowhouses, semi-detached dwellings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Gothic Revival, Queen Anne			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Strivers' Section Historic District, Dupont Circle Historic District, Capitol Hill Historic District			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
St. Luke's Episcopal Church (probably assisted in design)	1514 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.	1876-79	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Metropolitan Baptist Church	1225 R Street, N.W.	1882	Demolished
Mount Jezreel Baptist Church	501 E Street, S.E.	1883	Capitol Hill Historic District
Third Baptist Church	1546 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.	1893	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site



**Significance and Contributions**

Calvin Thomas Stowe Brent was born in 1854 at his parents' home near Dupont Circle in northwest Washington, D.C. Brent's mother, Elizabeth Edmondson, was the oldest sister of six siblings and attempted to escape enslavement on the Potomac River aboard the schooner *The Pearl* in 1848. The escape attempt was the largest in U.S. history, but it failed, and she gave birth to her son in the District six years later. Many contemporary sources agree that Calvin T.S. Brent was the first African American architect in the District of Columbia. He began practicing as an architect in 1875 and was the only black architect consistently working in the District in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Although Brent did not work alongside many other African Americans in his field, his legacy inspired many to pursue a similar path, and he is considered a pioneer.



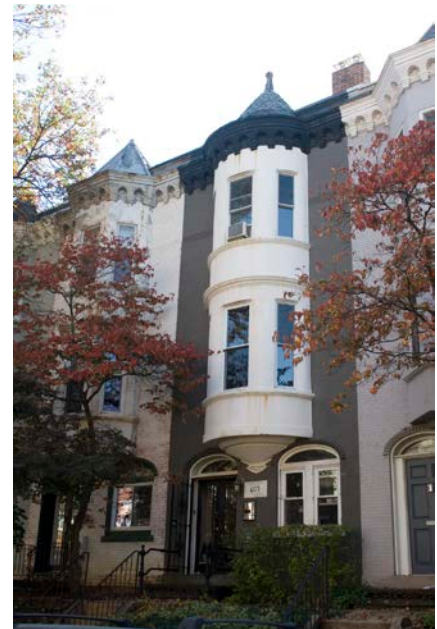
**Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, 1876**  
*Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Library of Congress, 1933.*  
 DC, WASH, 231

Calvin's father John Brent was born enslaved but earned enough money to buy his freedom and that of his wife, Elizabeth Edmondson Brent. Brent's father was one of the nine founders of the John Wesley AME Zion Church in 1847, thus establishing the Brent family as an integral part of the African American religious community. His father also purchased the land and built the house where Calvin was born, at 18<sup>th</sup> and L Streets, NW. Brent received a formal education and was serving as an apprentice to Thomas M. Plowman by about 1873. At the time, Plowman was the Inspector of Buildings for the District of Columbia. According to a 1909 article printed in the *Washington Post*, Brent took and passed the examination for draftsman in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury but was not

appointed.

The earliest extant building with which Brent is associated is Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, located at 15<sup>th</sup> and Church Streets, N.W. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in May 1976 and was designated a National Historic Landmark at the same time. It stands in the Fourteenth Street Historic District of Washington. The building is an early English Gothic-style chapel with a gable roof and rough-cut bluestone walls. Red and white sandstone trim boldly articulates the building's lancet windows. Brent probably drafted modifications of existing plans from England in cooperation with Reverend Alexander Crummell, the church's founder. Brent was 22 years old at the time.

There are approximately 100 permits in Brent's name from the 1870s through the 1890s. His work spanned all quadrants of the District, but very few of his buildings are extant. He is best known for the religious buildings he designed in Washington, but he also designed many residences, most of which were rowhouses. Many of the permits listing Brent as the architect also list him as the builder. This is true for seven rowhouses that he designed and built in the Queen Anne style in 1889 in the 400 block of E Street, N.E. Washington. These rowhouses are among his few surviving residential buildings, and are notable for the towers dominating the front elevations which are cantilevered out at the second floor. They now stand in the Capitol Hill Historic District, where much of his residential work was located. He also worked a considerable amount in what are now the Dupont Circle, Strivers' Section, and the Greater U Street Historic Districts



**409 E Street, NE**  
*EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2010*

of northwest Washington.

Brent's name has come up more than once since the last quarter of the twentieth century as churches he designed have faced demolition. The Metropolitan Baptist Church at 13<sup>th</sup> and R Streets, N.W., was a good example of Brent's red brick Gothic Revival design style. Brent designed this church in 1882. Just over a century later in the mid-1980s, the church was demolished despite opposition from community and congregation members who saw the church as a



**Third Baptist Church, 1893**

*Nomination for District of Columbia Historic Landmark, 2008, Third Baptist Church and D.C. Preservation League*

monument not only to Brent's pioneering career but also to the former slave hands who built it. Brent designed the Mount Jezreel Baptist Church at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and E Streets, S.E. in 1883. The church was nearly condemned in the 1980's because of extensive termite and water damage, and a *Washington Post* article from 1990 said, "it was just the kindness of the city government that kept it from being condemned."

The Third Baptist Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in November of 2008 and is the best remaining example of Brent's dark red brick Gothic revival designs. It stands at the southwest corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets, N.W., and is the dominant building amidst the surrounding two-story rowhouse streetscape. The church's salient features include the front corner bell tower and traceried Gothic stained glass windows. The church is also significant for being the home of one of the

oldest and most socially active African American congregations in Washington. The structure's only major alteration occurred in 1919 with prominent African American architect Isaiah Hatton's contributions of a new choir/organ loft and Baptismal pool. Third Baptist was the final church design of Brent's career, and is his most important surviving work.

Over the course of his career, Brent lived at 1038 18<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., 1006 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., and for a short time at 1700 V Street, N.W. The 1880 Federal Census for the District of Columbia lists Brent at the 19<sup>th</sup> Street location with his first wife, Alberteen, and his three children, Margaret, Calvin, and Emma. The V Street residence, where he lived with his second wife, Laurelia, is still extant. Brent died suddenly of unknown causes in 1899 at the early age of 45.

**Sources**

**Vertical Files**       AIA Archives       DC HPO       HSWDC       MLK Library  
**Other Repositories:**      *Washington Post* searched through Proquest; Ancestry.com; District of Columbia Office of Planning, DCPropertyQuest.dc.gov

**Obituary:**      Publication: *Colored American*      Date: December 2, 1899      Page: n.p.

Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
<input type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	31
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it		

## DC Architects Directory

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital – not in it                     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it |  |  |

### Other Sources:

Bonner, Alice. "A Landmark, or a Hazard? Congregation, Neighbors Argue Church's Fate." *Washington Post*, September 29, 1982, DC1.

District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites, alphabetical version, 2009, 142, 156.

Downey, Kirstin. "The Parishioners, the Pulpit and the Property." *Washington Post*, October 27, 1990, E1.

Fletcher, Patsy. *Third Baptist Church Historic Landmark Designation Recommendation*. D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board, meeting September 25, 2008.

Paynter, John H. "A Tribute to Mr. Brent – Obituary." *Colored American*, December 2, 1899, n.p.

Paynter, John H. "First Black Architect." *Washington Post*, October 10, 1909, 12.

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Schwartz, Nancy. "Calvin T.S. Brent." In *African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945*, ed. by Dreck Spurlock Wilson, 57-60. New York: Routledge, USA, 2004.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Census, District of Columbia, 1880.

**Notes:** Permit and building totals are a combination of listings in the Kraft database for "Calvin T.S. Brent" (49 permits, 76 buildings), "Calvin Brent" (7 permits, 9 buildings), "C. Brent" (2 permits, 4 buildings), and "C.T. Brent" (2 permits, 2 buildings). Additional permits may have been issued prior to 1883 that are not listed here.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

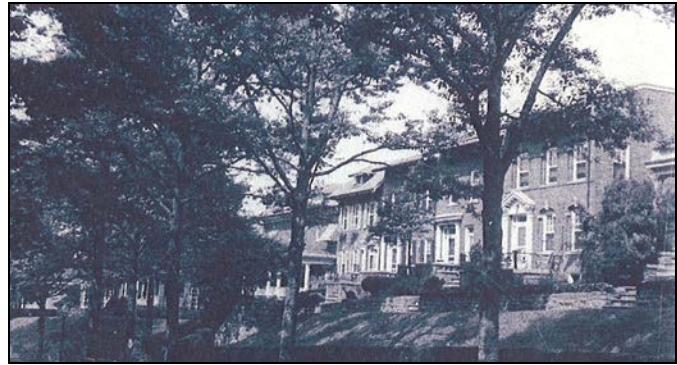
Last Updated: October 2010

<b>Henry L. Breuninger</b>			
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 9/20/1890		Place: Washington, D.C.	
Death: 5/4/1954		Place: Phoenix, Arizona	
Family: wife, Marion W., no children; brother, Lewis T. Breuninger			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: McKinley Manual Training, Washington, DC, 1908-11.			
College: George Washington University, 1911-1914			
Graduate School:			
Apprenticeship:			
<i>Source:</i>			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number: By Affidavit	
		Date Issued: 1925	
<b>Permit Database</b>		Earliest Permit: 1912	Latest Permit: 1935
		Total Permits: 277	Total Buildings: 513
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
H.L. Breuninger	Private practice working primarily for his father	1911-1917	
U.S. Army	Civilian, commissioned officer	1917-1919	
L. E. Breuninger & Sons	Partner, vice president (until 1930), president	1918-1950	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: n/a	
		Fellow of the AIA:	
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b>			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Detached, semi-detached and row houses.			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Colonial, Tudor, and Renaissance revival, Craftsman styles.			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Berkeley, Glover Park, Mount Pleasant, Columbia Heights, Crestwood, Park View, Shepherd Park.			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
14 dwellings	2200-2226 Hall Place, N.W.	1912	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
80+ Dwellings	Hobart and Harvard Streets west of 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.	1913-1914	Mt. Pleasant Historic District
14 Dwellings	1608-1634 Webster St., N.W.	1920	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
John Carter residence (now Royal Cambodian Embassy)	4500 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.	1924	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Colonial revival style dwelling	1300 Jonquil St., N.W.	1926	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Henry L. Breuninger was born in Washington, D.C., in 1890, the son of Lewis E. Breuninger, and his career as an architect was shaped by that of his father, a builder and real estate man. Lewis Breuninger, began his career in the dairy business but in 1894 he began investing, as an owner, in the construction of single-family dwellings and some apartment buildings. By 1903 he had founded a construction company which soon became very successful. He was also involved in the founding of two savings banks in the first decade of the twentieth century. In 1923 he founded the Real Estate Mortgage and Guaranty Corporation.

Henry L. Breuninger received his initial architectural training at McKinley Manual Training School in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1910. He started practicing architecture in September 1911. At that time he was living at home and had just entered George Washington University. The first building permit that bears his name as architect was issued on April 27, 1912 for a row of fourteen Colonial revival style two-story brick row houses in Glover Park on Hall Place, N.W., that were owned and built by his father. Thereafter, L.E. Breuninger, who had been using outside architects, relied on his son for the design of his buildings. Henry studied at George Washington University for three years during which time he designed numerous dwellings for his father, who was developing the 1400 block of Harvard Street, N.W., in Columbia Heights and the 1600 blocks of Harvard and Hobart Streets, N.W., in Mt. Pleasant. The latter development included detached houses, semi-detached two- and three-story houses and rows of two- and three-story dwellings valued at over one half million dollars on a five-acre parcel near Rock Creek Park.



North side of Harvard Street, N.W., 1600 block September 1949

*Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Wymer 2288.37*

In 1914, Henry L. Breuninger first appeared on a permit as owner and builder as well as architect. Although he was in business for himself in the pre-World War I years, most of his pre-War work was for his father. He designed his first apartment building, a three-story brick building at 1352 Longfellow Street, N.W., in 1916 but almost all of his work for his father and for himself was single family housing. In 1918, Lewis E. Breuninger reorganized his business as L.E.

Breuninger & Sons, formally bringing both of his sons into his company. Henry L. Breuninger's brother, Lewis T. Breuninger, was trained as a lawyer. Both became company vice presidents.



2200 Hall Place, NW

*DC Office of Planning, PropertyQuest, 2004*

During World War I, Henry L. Breuninger first worked as a civilian for the Army's Quartermaster Department on the plan for development of the buildings and grounds of Walter Reed Hospital and he designed temporary buildings for the site. After being commissioned in December 1917, he became an assistant construction officer at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in charge of the \$15 million development of the grounds and buildings. He served as a first lieutenant in the Army Ordnance Corps until February 1919.

After World War I, Breuninger continued to work for the family firm. Although he designed a few buildings for other owners and builders, most of the buildings he designed throughout his career were owned and built by L.



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“Photo Standalone.” *Washington Post*, January 31, 1926, R1.


Proctor, John Clagett, ed. *Washington Past and Present: A History*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1930. v. 3, s.v. Lewis E. Breuninger.

*Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital*, Washington, D.C.: Washington Times Co., n.d. ca. 1925-1928, s.v. Lewis E. Breuninger.

**Notes:** The statistics on permits listing H.L. Breuninger as architect do not include the four permits for five buildings listing L.E. Breuninger as architect and the 13 permits for 19 buildings listing L.E Breuninger & Sons as architect although it is probable that H.L. Breuninger was the architect for these buildings.

Prepared by: EHT Tracerics

Last Updated: October 2010

<b>Glenn Brown</b>		 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Source: Library of Congress</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 09/13/1854	Place: Fauquier County, VA		
Death: 04/22/1932	Place: Newport News, VA		
Family: Married Mary Ella Chapman (1876) two sons: Glenn Madison and Bedford.			
<b>Education</b>			
High School:			
College: Washington and Lee University			
Graduate School: Massachusetts Institute of Technology			
Apprenticeship: Norcross Brothers (Hartford, Conn.)			
<b>Architectural Practice</b>			
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>		Registration Number:	Date Issued:
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1879	Latest Permit: 1928	Total Permits: 69
		Total Buildings: 146	
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
N. G. Starkweather	Draftsman	1873-1875	
Norcorss Brothers (Hartford, Conn.)	Draftsman/Clerk	1876-1877	
Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad	Draftsman/Engineer	1876-1879	
Private Practice	Architect	1880-1925	
<b>Commissions:</b>			
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>		Date(s) Enrolled: 1882	Fellow of the AIA: 1887
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> National Academy of Design; President of the Washington Society of Fine Arts; Institute of Arts and Letters; Cosmos Club; Director of the Chamber of Commerce; Corresponding Secretary of the French and Belgian Architects and a Corresponding Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.			
<b>Awards:</b>			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Residences, Industrial Buildings, Office Buildings, Bridges			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Romanesque, Beaux Arts			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Downtown, Capitol Hill, Georgetown, Dupont Circle			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Simpson House	927 Massachusetts Ave., NW	1881	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
National Union Building	918 F Street, NW	1890	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Glenwood Cemetery Chapel	2219 Lincoln Road, NE	1892	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Joseph Beal House	2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW	1897	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Dumbarton Bridge	Q Street over Rock Creek Park	1914	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site



Notable Buildings (Cont.)	Location	Date	Status
Alderney Dairies Plant	929 D Street, NW	1884	Demolished in 1955

## Significance and Contributions

Glenn Brown, son of Bedford Brown II and Mary E. (Simpson) Brown was born in Fauquier County, Virginia on September 13, 1854. After the Civil War, the family moved to Washington, where Glenn Brown was educated in private schools. Brown studied medicine at Washington and Lee University, but returned to Washington in 1873 to begin a career as an architect with the firm of N. G. Starkweather. Brown left the firm in 1875 to complete courses in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After completing his studies, he worked as a clerk for the Norcross Brothers in Hartford, Connecticut, master builders for renowned architect H. H. Richardson. In 1880, Brown returned to Washington and opened his own firm.

Brown's principal works over his fifty year career included the Alderney Dairies Plant (1884; demolished in 1955), a six-story eclectic Victorian dairy plant in the center of downtown; the Romanesque-Revival National Union



The Joseph Beale House  
*Source: Historic American Buildings Survey - 1971*

Insurance Company Building (1890); landscape architecture and shelter buildings at the National Zoological Park (no longer extant); the renovation of the Holt House (1890-1901); the Beale House (1897); the Washington School (1900) and the Dumbarton Bridge which carries Q Street across Rock Creek Park (1914). In 1921, Brown became the architect for the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1926, he completed a master plan for the base at Quantico, although it was never implemented. Brown's son, Bedford Brown IV, joined his father's practice—renamed Brown & Brown—between 1907 and 1921.



**National Union Building, 918 F St., NW**  
*NCinDC, August 16, 2008,*  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncindc/2838291543/>

While Brown's work was equal with the best local talent, he was better known for his civic contributions and his leadership in the profession. An active historian, he authored a two-volume study of Capitol Building, and a historic structures report for the Octagon. He also served as correspondent for the *American Architect and Building News* and published hundreds of articles in professional journals and national magazines. Brown became a member of the national AIA in 1882 and was elected a Fellow in 1887. He served as the AIA's Secretary Treasurer from 1889 to 1913.

In 1887, Brown organized a meeting of all the national AIA members in Washington for the purpose of organizing a local chapter. The purpose of the Washington Chapter of the AIA was to "unite in fellowship the architects of the city and to combine their efforts so as to promote the artistic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession." Under Brown's leadership—he remained the driving force behind the Chapter even though J. L. Smithmeyer served as its first president—the organization promulgated professional standards and led a national campaign for the advancement of "fine art." This

# DC Architects Directory

effort ultimately led to the establishment of the Commission of Fine Arts by Congress in 1910. Through these efforts, Brown's was instrumental in remaking Washington in the "City Beautiful" image.

In 1925, Brown retired to write his memoirs. After his death in 1932, the following tribute was offered at the annual AIA convention: "His death marks the close of an era—a notable era in which the profession of architecture took the responsibility for leadership in the movement for a better civic art. He was the last of that devoted group of architects who started the movement for a harmonious development of Washington based on the needs of its founder [L'Enfant], yet modified to accommodate the needs of modern activities."

### Sources

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

### Other Repositories:

**Obituary**      Publication: *American Architect*      Date: June 1932      Page:

Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
<input type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – 14 articles		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects	Vol. I	296-7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital	1908-09	56
	1923-24	58
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects	1970	81-82

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Bushong, William. *National Union Building National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* Washington, D.C., 1988.

Bushong, William. *Glenn Brown, the American Institute of Architects, and the Development of the Civic Core of Washington, D.C.* Dissertation submitted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of the George Washington University, 1988.


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

### Notes:

Prepared by: EHT Tracerics

Last Updated: October 2010

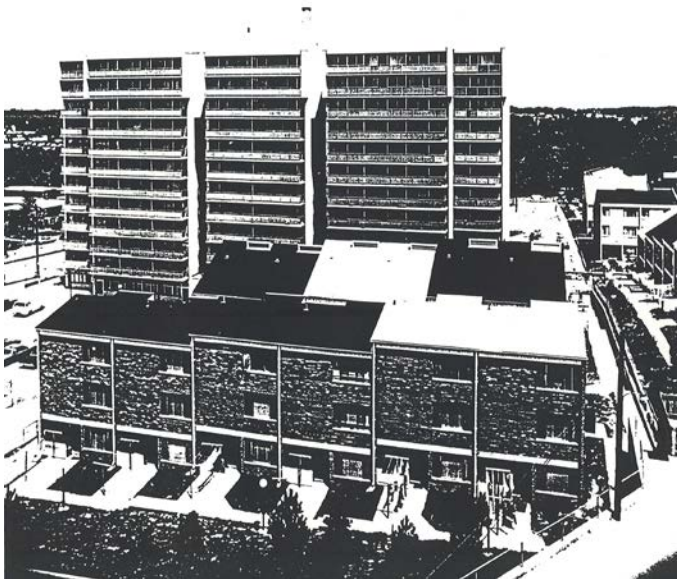
<b>Leon Brown</b>		
<b>Biographical Data</b>		
Birth: 9/25/1907	Place: Blackville, S.C.	
Death: 3/20/1992	Place: Washington, D.C.	
Family: Parents, Sadie and Isador Brown; wife, Peggy Kahn; son, Warren		
<b>Education</b>		
High School:		
College: Cornell University, 1924-25; Georgia School of Technology (B.S. Arch., 1929)		
Graduate School: University of Pennsylvania (Arch., 1932; M.S. Arch., 1933)		
Apprenticeship: R. Brognard Okie, 1929-31 & 1933-34; Thalheimer & Weitz Architects, 1934-42		Source: <i>Washington Post</i> , 6/21/1969, C12
<b>Architectural Practice</b>		
<b>DC Architects' Registration</b>	D.C. Registration Number: 487 (Also registered in Pa., Va., Md.)	Date Issued: 12/20/1945
<b>Permit Database</b>	Earliest Permit: 1947	Latest Permit: 1949*    Total Permits: 22    Total Buildings: 102
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>
Leon Brown	Principal	1946-50
Brown and Wright	Partner	1950-62
Brown, Chapman, Taher & Miller	Partner	1957-58
Brown, Chapman, Miller, Wright	Partner	1962-63
Brown, Wright, Mano	Partner	1968-70
Brown and Wright	Senior Partner	1970-80 (retired 1980)
<b>Professional Associations</b>		
<b>American Institute of Architects</b>	Date(s) Enrolled: 1942	Fellow of the AIA: 1969
<b>Other Societies or Memberships:</b> D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects, President 1967-69; D.C. Board of Appeals and Review, Licenses and Inspection, Chairman 1956-60; American Institute of Architects, Washington Chapter, President 1954-55; D.C. Opportunities Commission; Institute for Learning in Retirement, Lecturer at American University; Hillwood Museum, guide; Cosmos Club; Mended Hearts		
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Centennial Award from Washington Chapter, AIA, 1991; D.C. Meritorious Public Service Award; Appointed to American Arbitration Association's National Panel of Arbitrators; <i>Washington Star</i> Award in Residential Architecture, Residence for Dario G. Barozzi, 1957; <i>Washington Star</i> and Wash. Met. Chapter, AIA Award in Residential Architecture, Residence for Roy Britten, 1955; Wash. Met. Chapter, AIA Maryland Division Award in Architecture, Residence for Robert Black, 1954; Washington Board of Trade design award (to firm of Brown, Chapman, Miller & Wright), Sheridan Terrace Public Housing Project, 1962		
<b>Buildings</b>		
<b>Building Types:</b> Detached dwellings, tract housing, multi-family housing and apartments, schools, chanceries, correctional detention facility		
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> Modern, Japanese-inspired; large-scale unit housing		

**DC Work Locations:** Southeast quadrant, embassy row

Notable Buildings	Location	Date	Status
Glassmanor Apartments	Oxon Hill, Md.	1952	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Embassy of Israel	3514 International Drive, NW	1957	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Chancery of Ghana	3512 International Drive, NW	1971	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Sheridan Terrace Public Housing	Anacostia, D.C.	1961	Demolished 1997, rebuilt
Ketchum Elementary School	1919 15 <sup>th</sup> St., SE	1967	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Epstein Residence	Langley Forest, Va.	1956	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Alan Kander House	3550 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.	1957	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Capitol View Apartments	5901 East Capitol Street, SE	1973	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
D.C. Detention Facility (joint venture with Jack A. Thalheimer and McDonald and Williams)	1901 D Street, SE	1972	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

Leon Brown was a practicing architect in Washington, D.C., for more than 30 years, and a professor of architecture at Howard University for over 25 years. He was highly regarded as a professional, as a mentor to young architects, and as a community leader. Brown was instrumental in integrating the architectural profession in Washington when he began hiring black graduates from Howard in the mid-1940s. He also established himself on the cutting-edge through his firm's modern architectural designs and his sociological approach to housing solutions.



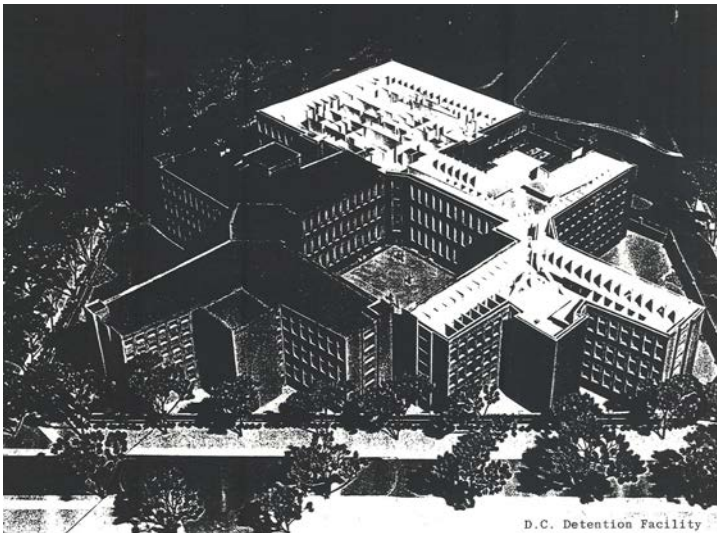
**Capitol View Apartment Complex, 5901 East Capitol St., SE**  
*ALA Archives, Leon Brown file*

Brown was born in Blackville, S.C., on September 25, 1907. He attended Cornell University (briefly, 1924-25), and earned a B.S. in architecture in 1929 from the Georgia School of Technology. He received his Master's degree in Architecture in 1933 from the University of Pennsylvania. While he was pursuing his advanced degree in architecture and living in Philadelphia, Brown worked for R. Brognard Okie. He worked as a draftsman and designer for Okie from 1929-34. In 1955, in the midst of his career, he co-authored the book "R. Brognard Okie, Architect of Philadelphia." After finishing school, Brown continued his training in Philadelphia as a designer with Thalheimer and Weitz, Architects. He left the practice in 1942 to enlist in the U.S. Army, and served as a Captain in the Corps of Engineers during World War II.

Brown began his own practice based in Washington, D.C., in 1946. He became affiliated with the

Department of Architecture at Howard University shortly after World War II, and was one of the first white professors appointed to the faculty at Howard. He was a valuable mentor to many students of architecture and employed several black graduates of Howard in his professional practice. In doing so, Brown was an important catalyst in the integration of architectural firms in the Washington metropolitan area. Additionally, he served as the

faculty advisor to the student chapter of the AIA at Howard and helped to foster the relationship between the Institute and the University. He was a professor at Howard until 1972.



**DC Detention Facility, 1901 D Street, SE, built 1972**

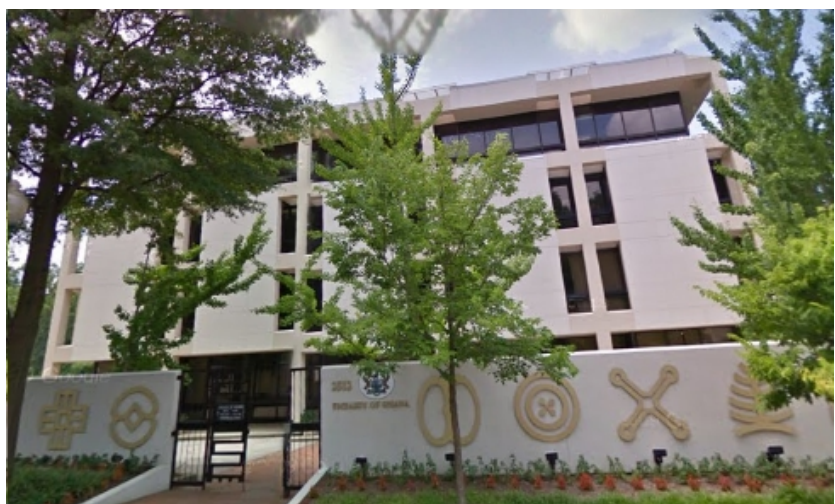
*ALA Archives, Leon Brown file*

Although Leon Brown started practicing architecture in Washington under his own name in 1946, he is best known for his 30-year partnership with Thomas W. D. Wright, FAIA. Brown and Wright formed a partnership in 1950 and, while several other architects joined them in the late 1950s and 1960s, they were once again the only partners in their firm from 1970 until Brown retired in 1980. Brown and Wright purposely kept their firm small so that they could remain active in the practice of architecture and mentoring rather than having to handle the administration of a large company. This approach worked well for small projects and most building types, but they formed joint ventures to handle larger commissions such as the D.C. Detention Facility.

Brown and Wright designed buildings of almost every variety. Some of their major works include: residences for Mr. Hans Adler (Langley Forest, Va.), Dr. Milton Harris (4104 Linnean Ave., N.W.), and Mr. Robert Black (MacArthur Blvd., Md.); housing projects such as Glassmanor Development (Oxon Hill, Md.), Capitol View Plaza (5901 East Capitol St., S.E.), and Sheridan Terrace Housing Project (Anacostia, built 1961); Embassy of Israel (3514 International Drive, N.W.); Chancery of Ghana (3512 International Drive, N.W.); and Bancroft School (1755 Newton St., N.W.). They worked as part of a joint-venture with Jack A. Thalheimer and McDonald and Williams to design the D.C. Detention Facility at 1901 D Street in Southeast Washington.

Brown and Wright won several awards for residential designs reflecting the influences of the Modern Movement. Brown and Wright designed a house for Dr. and Mrs. Max Fischer in Washington that incorporated many Japanese forms and materials. The firm also received acclaim for the Kander House, adjoining Rock Creek Park at 3550 Williamsburg Lane, NW, which also included Japanese styles like shoji screens as room partitions.

A sociological approach to low-income housing projects also set Brown and Wright apart from their peers. Their designs for projects like Glassmanor Housing and Capitol View Plaza were marked by an overarching concern for optimal livability, not just in square footage and functionality but also in a psychological sense. The firm's modern designs created large interior spaces and amenities included community facilities to allow for convenient health care, education and recreation.



**Chancery of Ghana, 3512 International Drive, NW**

*Photo from Google Maps, 2010*

Brown traveled extensively during his career, giving lectures in such locations as Liberia and Ghana. He published several scholarly articles in addition to co-authoring the 1955 book honoring R. Brognard Okie. He was a member

## DC Architects Directory

and leader in many civic organizations and is remembered as a dedicated civic leader in the field of architecture. He served as president of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the A.I.A (1954-55), President of the D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects (1967-69), Chairman of the Board of Appeals and Review, Licenses and Inspection, D.C. Government (1956-60). He was elected to the A.I.A.'s College of Fellows in 1969.

Brown received the Washington Metropolitan Chapter AIA Centennial Award in 1991. When Sara P. O'Neil-Manion, AIA, presented the award to Brown, she described him as "a person of unselfish, sterling character, with creative, restless spirit; rejecting the status quo and reaching beyond the average, to influence others through the built environment, as well as through example and experience." These words were still fresh in the minds of many when Leon Brown died in March 1992 of a heart ailment. He was 84 years old.

Sources		
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIA Archives <input type="checkbox"/> DC HPO <input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MLK Library	
<b>Other Repositories:</b>	<i>Washington Post</i> , searched through Proquest; EHT Tracerics architects files	
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: 3/23/1992    Page: C8
Biographical Directories	Year/Volume	Page
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Architects Directory	1956 1962 1970	67 85 110
<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals – not in it		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of American Biography – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directory of District of Columbia Architects: 1822-1960	2001	34, 35, 36
<input type="checkbox"/> Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects – not in it		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in America (not in Who's Who in D.C. 23-24, 29-30, 38-39)	1984-85/Vol. 1	418
<input type="checkbox"/> Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects – not in it		
<b>Other Sources:</b>		
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"House for Mr. and Mrs. Lionel C. Epstein." <i>Architectural Record</i> . Vol. 119, No. 3 (March 1956).		
Leon Brown, FAIA. <i>Personal Resume</i> , ca. 1980. Compiled in retirement. From AIA archives.		
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Senseman, Ronald S., Leon Brown, Edwin Bateman Morris, and Charles T. Okie. <i>The Residential Architecture of Richardson Brognard Okie of Philadelphia</i> . 1955.		
<b>Notes:</b> * Numbers are from the Building Permits Database, version 2009.2 by Brian D. Kraft, and only include permits until 1949. Leon Brown was active long after 1949, so his actual permit numbers are not reflected here.		
<b>Prepared by: EHT Tracerics</b>		<b>Last Updated: October 2010</b>