

"Seven Buildings"  
1901 - 1913 Penna., Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-59

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Washington 25, D.C.

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Present Owner: Woodward & Norris, Agent-723-20th St., N. W.

Present Occupant and Use: Commerical and Apartments, Demolished 1959

Description:

Brick, Discernable as originally 3-3½ storied. The corner building is the best preserved of the group and apparently is the most historic (see accompanying sketch). No. 1901 is distinguished by a 5-bay facade on the avenue, rounded at the 19th street corner, a delicate wood cornice, and Aquia stone trim. Close analysis of other row buildings points to 3-bay design and 3-story height, with or without dormers (#1907 exhibits a single specimen with pilaster treatment, #1911 a pair; six-over-six pane sash occurs in all these examples). Normally windows seems to have had flat arches to Aquia stone with keystones. Appearing in the group of buildings are three arched doorways (1905, 1907 and 1911) exhibiting impost blocks and keystones, both elements of "Coad" or composition stone. The latter featuring faces and heads, are significantly important details.

Historical Data

Year of erection: Before 1800

Built for (first owner): Morris and Nicholson Syndicate

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Notable events and occupants

Important as homes of Government Officials, ministers and private citizens, reported to have been erected soon after Washington became the capital city. Corner building (1901) housed the State Department when John Marshall was secretary. Later during the period 1815-17, it was occupied by President and Mrs. Madison; subsequently by Vice-Presidents Ellridge Gerry and Martin Van Buren. Maj. General George B. McClelland had his headquarters here in 1861.

References: W.P.A. Wash., Guide, p. 641, HABI form, prepared by T. Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service.

Approved Dick Sutton Date Feb. 17, 1959  
Chief Architect