

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 19 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Moran Building

and/or common 501-09 G Street, N.W.

2. Location

street & number ⁵⁰¹⁻⁵⁰⁹ 501-09 G Street, N.W. n/a not for publication

city, town Washington n/a vicinity of congressional district Walter Fauntroy Delegate

state District of Columbia code 11 county N/A code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other Unoccupied

4. Owner of Property

name Fifth and G Street Restoration Company

street & number Suite 700, 600 Executive Boulevard

city, town Rockville n/a vicinity of state Maryland 20852

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number 6th and D Streets, N.W.

city, town Washington state District of Columbia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 7/31/81 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Division
Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The following description was included in the application for Historic Landmark status for the 501-09 G Street property submitted to the Joint Committee on Landmarks by the owner on May 12, 1980:

501-09 G Street, N.W. is a finely detailed example of Second Empire or Mansard Revival. The building is unaltered from its original appearance at the second and third floor levels, and the fourth floor/mansard roof element is unaltered since its construction two years after the building's erection. In addition, the entry to the upper floors and the westernmost show window retain much of their original appearance at street level.

Originally built in 1889 (Building Permit No. 1326, issued February 12, 1889), the building was three stories and a cellar, 36 feet high, with outside dimensions of 25 by 85 feet. The street facades, on G Street and 5th Street, are beige pressed brick; the once-solid party walls are red common brick. As first erected the building was topped with a decorative tin and brick cornice, still in evidence in its original form at the base of the mansard roof, and a flat tin roof.

The south, or main, facade is divided vertically into four groups of paired bays and a single bay at the western end, over the entry to the upper levels. The divisions are articulated by shallow flat pilasters of the same pressed brick, capped with small, simple capitals. The east facade, on 5th Street, is framed with the same pilasters, and is three bays wide. A masonry belt course, doubled on the pilasters, separates the building horizontally between the second and third floors.

The tin cornice, above a tin frieze with low relief panels and medallions over each bay, is supported by paired brackets above each pilaster, with intervening modillions. A second, far simpler tin cornice, with slightly sloping roof, supported by larger, simpler brackets, projects over the first floor storefronts. This is also very likely original to the building because of the manner in which the underside conforms to the shape of the one remaining original show window--that one which is the furthest west on the G Street facade. Additionally, no evidence has been found in researching building permits to account for its later addition.

The second and third floor windows are double hung, one-over-one, with wood sash, and set within relatively tall, narrow openings with segmentally arched heads. The windows are capped with shallow hood molds of the same beige pressed brick as the facade.

The ground floor originally had four octagonal bay windows, projecting 2' 6" from the building line, and three entrances on G Street (it is conceivable that there were two more entrances on G Street, each next to the bay window of the shopfront spaces which may originally have been

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (Social history)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1889 **Builder/Architect** J.E. Moran -Builder

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capitol has designated the Moran Building a Category III Landmark of value which contributes to the cultural heritage or visual beauty and interest of the District of Columbia and its environs. The Moran Building is a distinctive commercial office building designed with exceptional verve in the Second Empire style and it is one of the last remaining commercial office buildings in that style in Washington. This small vernacular building architecturally expresses the prevailing spirit of expansive optimism in both Washington and the Nation in the 1880's.

The Moran Building is an integral part of the rich historical and architectural fabric of the mixed use downtown neighborhood near Judiciary Square. Indeed, the naive exuberance of the Moran Building's long G Street facade is similar in spirit to that of the nearby Pension Building, which links Judiciary Square with the surrounding neighborhood. The Moran Building has maintained a continuity of use throughout its history and is substantially unaltered from its 1889-90 appearance.

The following was included in the application for Historic Landmark status for the 501-09 G Street property submitted to the Joint Committee on Landmarks by the owner on May 12, 1980:

The building at the northwest corner of 5th and G Streets, N.W., known as 501-09 G Street N.W., is an architectural historical resource not only to its immediate Judiciary Square environs, but also to the District of Columbia. It represents one of the few remaining commercial structures in the Second Empire or Mansard Revival style. Other buildings in this style can be found in Washington, but as a rule they are more ornate, grand public buildings—notably the Renwick Gallery and the Old Executive Office Building—or were built as residences. This simpler, vernacular example, therefore, is significant largely in that it is and has been throughout its history a commercial structure, and because the facade, particularly above the first floor level, is largely unaltered from its late 19th century appearance.

501-09 G Street was initially erected in 1889 as a three-story-and cellar office and store building by the local builder, J. E. Moran. It had a flat tin roof and a pressed brick facade with a brick and iron cornice. The ground floor originally had four octagonal bay windows, projecting 2' 6" from the building line, and three entrances on G Street, and another entrance on 5th Street, emphasizing the corner orientation toward Judiciary Square and the Pension Building diagonally opposite.

In 1890 the building was sold to George Bogus, a coal dealer, who added the fourth floor with its slate and tin mansard roof, embellished with decorative iron work and dormer window treatments, including a free-standing central pavilion. During Bogus' ownership, at least one of the upper floors was used by two chapters of the United Order of the Golden Cross, a Catholic men's social and benevolent club. From 1890 to 1903 the building was alternately known as Golden Cross Hall and Bogus Building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately .04 acres

Quadrangle name Washington West, D.C.-MD-VA.

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References

A

1	8	3	2	4	8	8	10	4	13	0	17	2	12	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated building occupies lot 800 in Square 486 in the northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia. The rectangular lot has an 85' frontage on G Street, N.W., a 24.50' frontage on 5th Street, N.W. and an area of 2083 square feet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tanya E. Beauchamp, Architectural Historian

Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

organization 1133 North Capitol Street, N.W. date (202) 535-1282

street & number Washington telephone D.C. 20002

city or town state

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Carol B. Thompson

Director

title Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs date 7/19/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Ardus

date 9/26/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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further subdivided--i.e., 501, 503, 505, and 507--but there is no evidence to support the closing or elimination of any additional doorways in building permits) for the two major shopfront spaces and the access to the upper levels, and another entrance on 5th Street. The estimated cost of construction was \$7,000.00 for the store and office building.

Building Permit No. 1015, issued to George Bogus on October 25, 1890, was for the construction of the fourth floor mansard roof, covered in slate and tin, as well as additional joists to support the new story. This mansard roof, completed early in the following year, with its paired eyebrow dormers in alignment with the fenestration of the lower two floors and central cupola above the main roofline retains its 1891 appearance. The cupola, faced in masonry closely matching the facade materials, rises vertically from the cornice above the center bay--slightly off center due to the narrower western bay--with two arched windows flanking paired rectangular windows at the fourth floor level, topped by a slate mansard element with three ocular dormers at the front and one at each side. A relatively simple tin cornice crowns the cupola.

The mansard roof itself is covered in slate, laid up in a rectilinear pattern with a band of diagonally-applied pieces around the middle of the roof. It is surmounted by a relatively simple cornice and an ornamental iron parapet. Fenestration at the mansard level is also double hung, one-over-one, but the eyebrow arched dormer window heads are decoratively incised tin and topped with free-standing foliations.

The Street level has undergone the most radical alterations. In December 1912, a building permit was issued to the first floor restaurant tenants (No. 2849) for alterations to show windows in their space (501-05 G Street, N.W.). This involved modification of the three easternmost show windows on G Street and addition of a matching window on 5th Street, which is still in place today. Each of these were 2' 6" x 8' wide, replacing the half - octagonal projections with rectangular windows. Plans and elevations are on file for this alteration with the permit, revealing details of these alterations which are still discernible, particularly from inside the space. These windows did not rise the full height the street floor, rested on marble bases, and were topped with three windows, closely spaced, with small panes in a six-by-four arrangement. The work was completed January 7, 1913.

It was not until 1946 that the street level of the building took on its present appearance. After twice being reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts under the Shipstead-Luce Act, Building Permit No. 286770 was issued July 2nd to allow for remodeling the show windows on G Street previously altered in 1912. This new work consolidated the three eastern show windows on the south side, overlaying across the facade one long show window, but without altering the interior openings from the three previous windows. It seems likely that at this time the gray aggregate material which presently covers the bases of this window and the window on 5th Street

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as well as the column at the corner, between the two doors, was added. Shipstead-Luce Case No. 1092 makes reference to the use of a light green stone as an alternative to the proposed structural glass; the present material may have had a greenish cast but if so it has weathered to gray.

The present owners of the building propose to restore the facade to its original condition above the first floor, and to incorporate the plan of the 1946 additions into a compatible alteration which will make the space attractive for restaurant purposes.

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Bogus' heirs sold the building in 1903 to the American Home Life Insurance Company, which had been a tenant in the upper levels of the building for a few years at that time. The building is subsequently referred to in City Directory listings as the American Home Life Insurance Company Building until 1918, although the insurance company had sold the building and vacated the premises in 1915.

After the insurance company vacated the upper levels of the building, it again took on use as a public meeting hall. From 1919 until 1930 City Directory listings indicate part of the upper floors was used as the Society Temple Hall--another title which has been used for the building itself. The third floor was home to the Communist Party from 1938 to 1941, and certificates of occupancy for this group indicate that the previous tenants had also used the building as a meeting hall. The Arcadia Restaurant occupied the second floor for approximately twenty years between the late 1940's and the building's final upper level vacancy in 1968.

The layout of the building has occasioned the use of three, or sometimes four, separate street addresses by the various tenants in different areas of the structure. The upper stories of the building, accessed by a single stair at the western end of the building, have generally been known 509 G Street, while the storefront tenants on the ground floor have been known individually as 501, 501-05, and 507 G Street, as well as 700 5th Street.

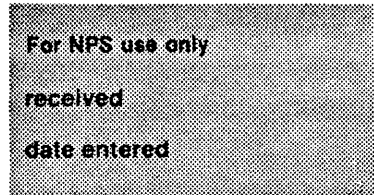
In 1912 a restaurant, White House Lunch, moved into the easternmost storefront space on the ground floor, 501-05 G Street. At this time the space was remodeled, and the show window on 5th Street was added. The eastern three show windows on G Street were altered as well. The restaurant remained in this location until 1928. The 1912 interior alterations and small windows above the new bay windows remain in place today.

Since 1928, the ground floor shopfront has housed a number of different uses, including restaurants, a billiard parlor, second hand furniture and pawnbrokers, and upholsterers. The smaller center shopfront, 507 G Street, was in use for the longest time--1919 to 1936--as a jeweler's shop, but has also housed a barbershop, a watch repair shop, and a printer. In 1946, when 501 was converted from a billiard hall to its most consistent final use as a second hand store and pawnbroker's, the building was altered at street level to consolidate the three eastern show windows on G Street into one large showcase. This appears to have been the last significant alteration to the building's exterior to date.

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Application and Case Record for Landmark Case No. 80-5 before the Joint Committee on Landmarks.

Building Permits: *

No. 1326,	2/13/89	No. 188289,	2/20/36±
No. 1015,	10/25/90	No. 286770,	7/2/46
No. 1812,	5/16/03		(S.L. #1092, 1085)
No. 2849,	12/5/12		

*Not all building permits listed for this address are for the building in question; errors seem to have been made in ascribing the addresses 501-09 G Street, N.W. to some rear (but separate) buildings which no longer exist. These include: No. 391, 7/20/11; No. 819, 8/12/12; no. 1238, 9/10/12.

+Notes on this permit indicate that work was never begun, and the application was withdrawn at the request of the owner.

Archived at National Archives and Records Center, Washington, D.C.

D.C. City Directories, 1890 to present; Washingtoniana Division Martin Luther King Library.

Certificates of Occupancy:

No. 40220	No. 88629	No. 2052
No. 42968	No. 88779	No. 29889
No. 46856	No. 101564	No. 34329
No. 54267	No. 117033	No. 34555
No. 56939	No. 117452	
No. 56963	No. 122897	
No. 57665	No. A-682	
No. 59068	No. A-8099	
No. 60931	No. A-13514	
No. 64675	No. A-17731	
No. 65613	No. A-21418	
No. 65728	No. A-22580	
No. 71490	No. A-29682	
No. 73020	No. B-6251	
No. 73035	No. B-26859	
No. 80749	No. B-59437	
No. 85215	No. B-60009	
No. 86676	No. B-66642	
No. 87556	No. B-66845	

Archived at D.C. Permit Office, Department of Economic Development.