

2147

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

RECEIVED

JUN 13 9 24 PM '89

NATIONAL REGISTER  
National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Morrison and Clark Houses  
other names/site number Soldiers', Sailors', and Marines' Club  
Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' and Airmens' Club

2. Location

street & number 1015 and 1013 L Street, N.W.  not for publication N/A  
city, town Washington  vicinity N/A  
state District of Columbia code Columbia county N/A code DC 001 zip code 20001

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official David J. [Signature] Date 11-26-90  
D.C. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official David J. [Signature] Date 12-7-90  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 3/19/91  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
SOCIAL/Clubhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)
italiante

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick and Stone
walls Brick
roof Tin
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Morrison and Clark Houses, 1015-1013 L Street, N.W. are a pair of attached Italianate houses (long perceived as a detached double house) on the northeast corner of the intersection of 11th and L Streets and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., formerly owned by the Soldiers', Sailors', Marines', and Airmens' Club, and long used as a service club and hostel for transient servicemen and women and as headquarters of the organization (the Women's Army and Navy League) of women who operated the club.

Used as a single building since 1930, the houses are in excellent condition; the result of their recent conversion as the entrance, lobby, restaurant, meeting, and twelve bedrooms of a Victorian theme luxury hotel. At the rear of the Morrison House is a five-story addition built in 1987-88.

B. SITE

The Morrison and Clark Houses, located on the north side of L Street between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, face Massachusetts. The property address is 1015 L Street, N.W. [Figures # 1 & # 2]

The property, built circa 1865 and located in Washington's old "Fort Royal Tract." Roundabout are Washington Historic Districts: Logan Circle to the north; Dupont Circle, northwest; Lafayette Square, southwest; and Pennsylvania Avenue to the south.

The neighborhood is a combination of apartments, condominiums, private residences and commercial office buildings. Distinguished neighbors include the Central Library of 1902 by Ackerman and Ross at 8th and K Streets, N.W., Franklin School of 1968 by Adolph Cluss at 13th and K Streets, N.W., Luther Place Memorial Church of 1870 by Judson

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1865-1923

1923-1945

Significant Dates

1865

1923

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

A. INTRODUCTION

The Morrison and Clark Houses are significant for Architectural (1865-1923) and Social History (1923-1945) reasons. The houses are significant local examples of the Italianate town house form and are representative of a quality not commonly seen in Washington. Their early owners and residents were prominent businessmen, instrumental in the economic life of the capital city. Purchase by the Women's Army and Navy League, a charitable organization of socially prominent Washington women, for use as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Club, associated the buildings with the social, political and military elites of the city and nation. The club served the entertainment and recreation needs of thousands of enlisted servicemen and women each year--a significant civilian response to military needs. Actively operated by an organization of socially prominent women, for half-a-century the houses were visited by both prominent national and international political and military figures.

B. HISTORIC CONTEXT

1. HISTORY of the PROPERTY

Today's Morrison-Clark Hotel was built circa 1865 as a pair of houses. By 1876 the houses were clearly differentiated from each other when one of the relatively simple pair, the Morrison House, received an elaborate facade reorienting the house from L to 11th Street. No longer would the Morrison House be perceived as simply one of a pair of attached houses but as a grander house facing west. The new symmetrical facade and centrally located entrance, was made possible by the construction of a one bay wide addition to the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

INTERVIEWS:

- 1. MASSONI, Albert; Vice-President, DEC Development Corporation; at Morrison-Clark Hotel, Washington, D.C. December 2, 1988.
- 2. QUARTEY, Ian K.; Architect, DEC Architects; at Morrison-Clark Hotel, Washington, D.C. December 2, 1988.
- 3. LANIER, Royce; Architect, DEC Architects; Washington, D.C. Mar. 14, 1989.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

D.C. Gov't Historic Preserv. Div.  
National Archives  
Library of Congress  
Columbia Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.213 Acres

UTM References

A 18 | 324 | 210 | 430 | 7880  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Square 341, Lot 70 at the NE corner of the intersection of 11th and L Streets N.W. The rectangular lot measures 124 feet on its east and west sides and 75 feet on its north and south sides.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The present boundaries of the lot encompasses the 3 original lots which have historically been associated with by the Morrison and Clark Houses. For the chain of titles of the 3 original lots refer to 9. Bibliography, Published Materials 2.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By John C. Haggard, Arch. Historian & Charles Szoradi AIA Architect  
 name/title Reviewed by Russel V. Keune AIA Architect and Arch. Historian US/ICOMOS  
 organization Charles Szoradi, AIA Architect date May 25, 1989  
 street & number 128 G Street, S.W. telephone 202/488-1557  
 city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20024

DEC 14 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetMorrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.Section number 7 Page 2

York at 1226 Vermont Avenue, N.W. and National City Christian Church of 1930 by John Russell Pope at 14th and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The latter two, both churches, face Thomas Circle. The White House is seven blocks to the southwest of the property. Across the street from the Morrison and Clark Houses on Massachusetts Avenue is the Samuel Gompers Memorial Park. [1]

The property is equidistant between Thomas Circle and Mount Vernon Square, in a mixed use neighborhood greatly affected by the new Washington, D.C. Convention Center two blocks to the south. The property is adjacent to the District governments's hotel incentive zone and new construction is anticipated throughout the entire area.

## C. BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The three story building is 41 ft. 8 in. from ground to cornice. The principal three bay facade (along 11th Street) measures 43 ft. 6 in.. [Figure #3] The seven bay south facade is 65 ft. 6 in. [Figure #4] Ten years after completion of this pair of circa 1865 houses, the Morrison House was extended across its 11th Street side by a compatible Italianate addition one room deep. In 1894, when fire destroyed the cupola on the 1015 side, the brick party wall was carried up through the cupola, leaving only the 1013 side standing. It remains this way today. The two story side porch with its Chinese-inspired mansard-like roof was added to 1015 L Street in 1917, and in 1923, a ground floor entrance on the 11th Street side was added under its existing first floor entrance. [2]

The houses are quite eclectic in appearance, a characteristic of the Picturesque movement which inspired the nineteenth century Italianate style. "Italianate styling, along with the related Second Empire style, dominated urban housing in the decades between 1860 and 1880. Italianate town houses are characterized by wide, projecting cornices with typical brackets; the cornice conceals a flat or low-pitched roof behind." [3] The buildings display such typical Italianate features as the heavily bracketed cornice (consisting of a corona and cyma supported by enriched modillions and console brackets), a cupola (a portion of which was lost in an 1894 fire), bracketed bay windows, hood moldings, and triple-hung windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetMorrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.Section number 7 Page 3

With architectural detailing reminiscent of the work of Calvert Vaux, the houses are united by a consistent window treatment and continuous roofline and entablature. Number 1015, the Morrison House, is given prominence by its 11th Street entrance and flanking bay windows--all of 1876. Such details as the 19th century cast-iron railings and border fence add distinction. Inside, of particular interest are the marble fireplace mantels; and the original window valences and matching pier mirrors. [4]

## D. SPECIFIC FEATURES

Exterior walls of the houses are constructed of red brick laid in common running bond. Foundation walls are of red brick and display a rusticated sandstone facing. A sandstone belt course extends across the base of the 11th Street addition. Above the foundation walls the structure consists of 1 ft. 8 in. brick bearing walls supporting wood floor and ceiling joists and rafters. [5]

All windows in both houses on the L Street side have segmental heads. 1015's 11th Street entrance is flanked by narrow semicircular headed windows, and the second and third floors above the entrance have a pair of segmentally headed windows.

The corona and cyma cornice is supported by single console brackets located between each bay of the L street facades and matching paired brackets on the later 11th Street facade. The entablature of the L Street facade is segmentally arched--one spanning each bay.

The two story, three bay porch of 1917, is an addition to the L Street facade of 1015, the Morrison House. The rock-faced sandstone base has first floor sandstone pedestals which support Tuscan columns. Between the pedestals are wood fretwork railings of Chinese inspiration. The second floor is similar to the first--except that the columns are supported by wood pedestals. The red barrel tile mansard-like roof, supported by exposed wood rafters, forms a hip to the east.

A brick party wall joins the houses and their six brick chimneys. The chimneys project through a low-pitched gable wood structured roof. Painted standing-seam metal covers the

DEC 14 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.

Section number 7 Page 4

---

roof surface.

The building is enclosed from the street by a decorative cast iron spike fence, supported by a red sandstone base.

Reconstituted as the Morrison-Clark Hotel, the buildings offer elegant rooms and suites, such amenities as porches and marble fireplaces. All the rooms are furnished with antiques from the Victorian era. [Figures #5, 6, 7, 8 & 9]

The architects for the adaptation of the houses have left most of 1013's elaborate plaster work and mantels and remodeled the stripped down 1015 to match, moving a staircase from 1013 to 1015 to make the joined houses function as a hotel. The main floors of both houses have copies of the extensive original plaster wall and ceiling moldings. Both have the original carved bird and cornucopia embellished white marble mantels and ornate floor to ceiling red mahogany gilt-edged pier mirrors. [6]

The setting created is end-of-the-century, with a carved neoclassical front desk and drawing room which leads to the two dining rooms. The main dining room, formerly the Clark House parlor, displays Chinese art objects (as would such a parlor in its day). Floor-to-ceiling windows are framed in elegant gilt-accented wood. Overall the effect is of well-bred hominess rather than glamor. [7]

The hotel restaurant has been provided with a solarium created by the addition of a glazed bay at the east of 1013. The porch (employing the cast iron columns of the much deteriorated original) and courtyard at the rear of 1013 and the terrace added to the street side of 1013 provide additional dining space.

Used as a single building since 1930, conversion of the houses to their present use as a luxury hotel further unifies the two houses both internally and from the street (e.g. In order to obscure a required loading dock for the hotel restaurant's kitchen, the entry steps to the Clark house have been moved and replaced by a terrace which continues the base of the Morrison House verandah across the face of the Clark House--and thus creates a new perception). The houses, which have functioned since 1930 as an entity, are now visually one.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

DEC 14 1990

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Morrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.

Section number 7 Page 5

---

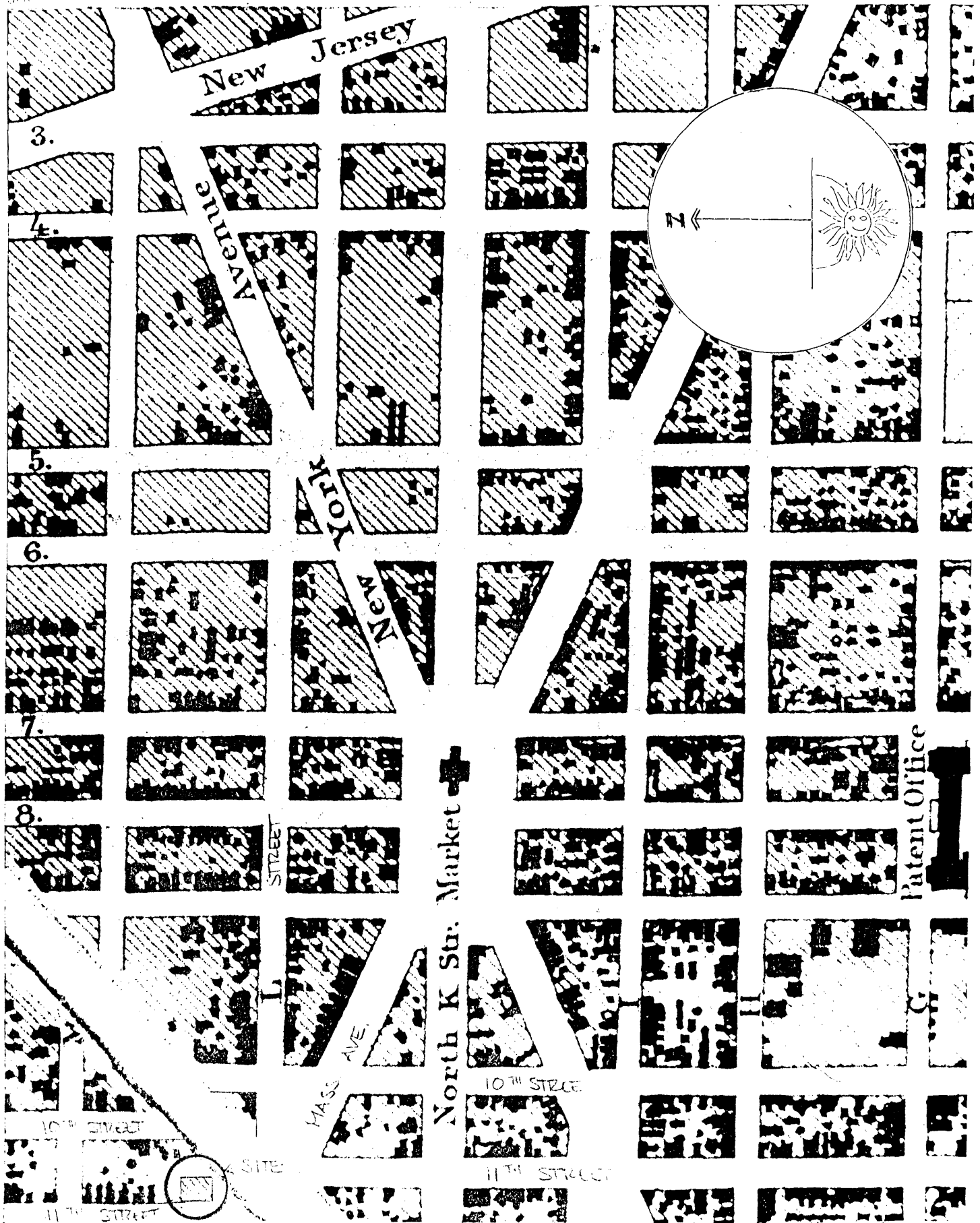
The basement of 1015 has been converted to hotel offices and the basement of 1013 to the hotel's kitchen. Spaces beneath the Chinese-inspired porch and its terrace extension function as conference rooms.

The courtyard at the rear of 1013 remains; now bounded at the west and north by a five story 20,000 square foot hotel room addition. The addition replaces the much remodeled stable and a post World War II bedroom addition to the Morrison house. DEC Development Corporation which was responsible for the development of the conversion of the houses has given a facade easement to the L'Enfant Trust so that the facade will be insured of preservation. [8]

**E. CONCLUSION: Integrity**

The houses have been historically joined together, and now converted to use for a hotel, their essential residential character and Italianate appearance has been preserved. At the rear north of the property is the new hotel addition of 1987. The guest rooms of the new addition were needed to make the old part function as a hotel. The 1987 addition was intended to be a part of the architectural context, but it is different in design, character, scale and materials. The changes to the Morrison and Clark Houses have not mitigated their architectural and historical character and integrity.





LOCATION MAP 1856-1859

Excerpt from the Map of the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1856, by A. Boschke, from the collection of the Library of Congress, Geography & Map Division, Wash. DC

DEC 14 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

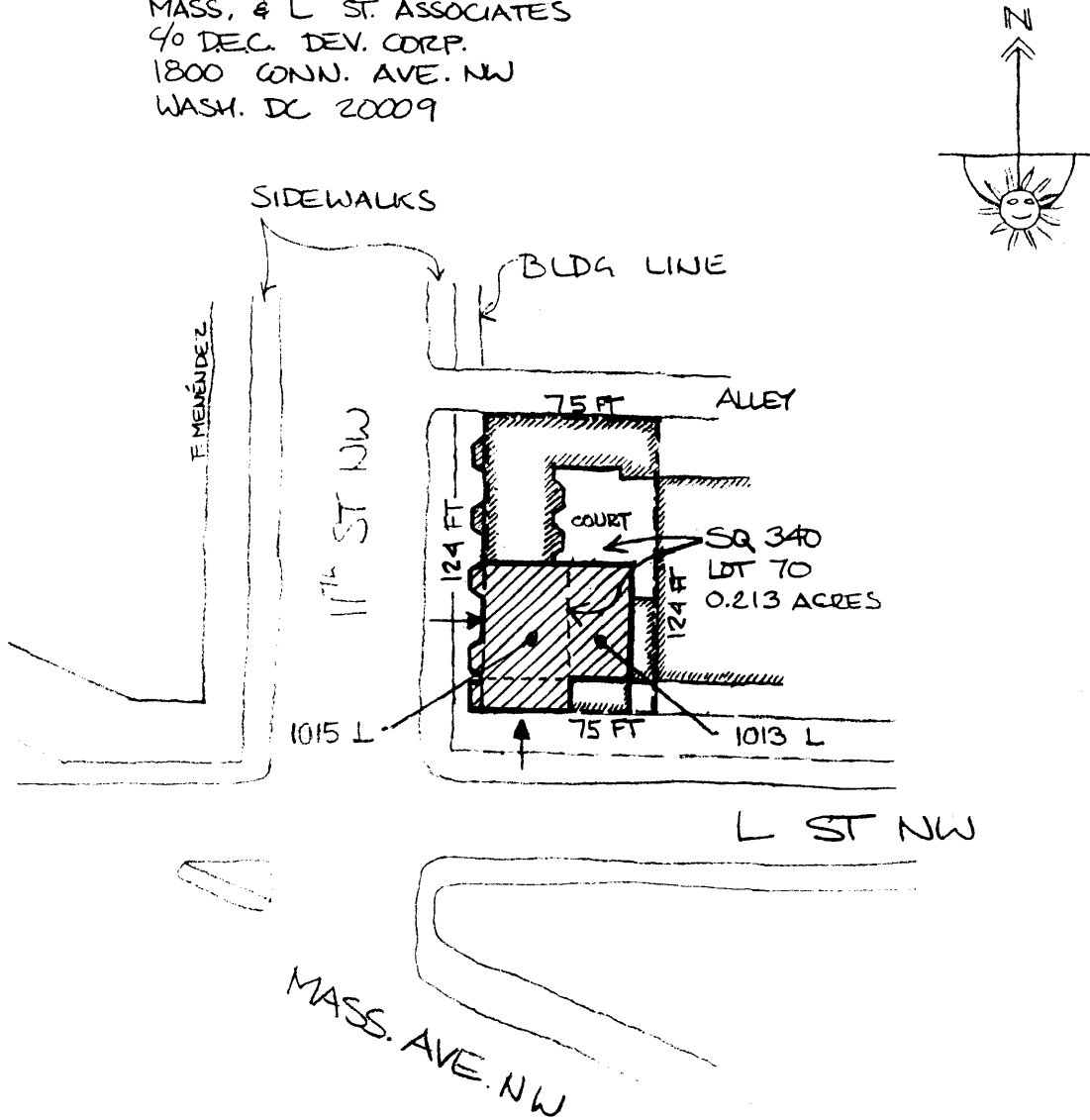
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 7 Page 7

OWNER OF LOT # 70 (1015 & 1013 L ST. NW):  
MASS. & L ST. ASSOCIATES  
c/o DEC. DEV. CORP.  
1800 CONN. AVE. NW  
WASH. DC 20009

FIGURE: #2



SITE PLAN 1989

1" = 30'

LOT SIZE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM DC SURVEYOR'S OFFICE.  
BLDG AREA INDICATED IS DERIVED FROM DEC. ARCHS. 1987 DWGS

DEC 14 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 7 Page 8

FIGURE #3



**MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987)** 11th St. NW  
 (west elevation)  
 11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS. 

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

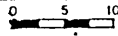
Section number 7 Page 9

FIGURE #4



**MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987)**

L St. NW  
(south elevation)

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC. MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS. 

DEC 14 1990

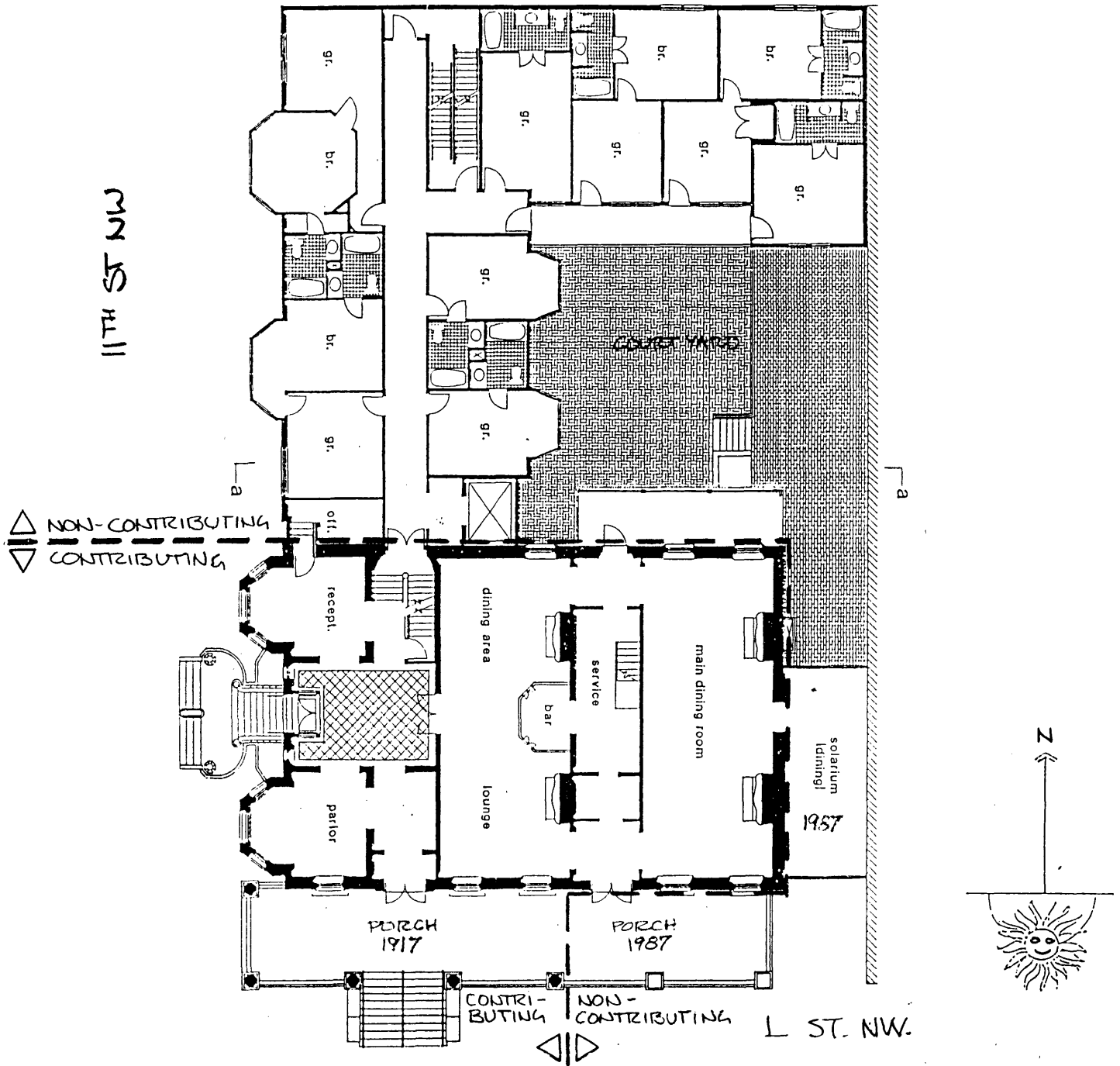
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 7 Page 10

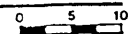
Figure #5



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987)

first floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC MODIFIED FROM DEC.ARCHITECTS' DWGS



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

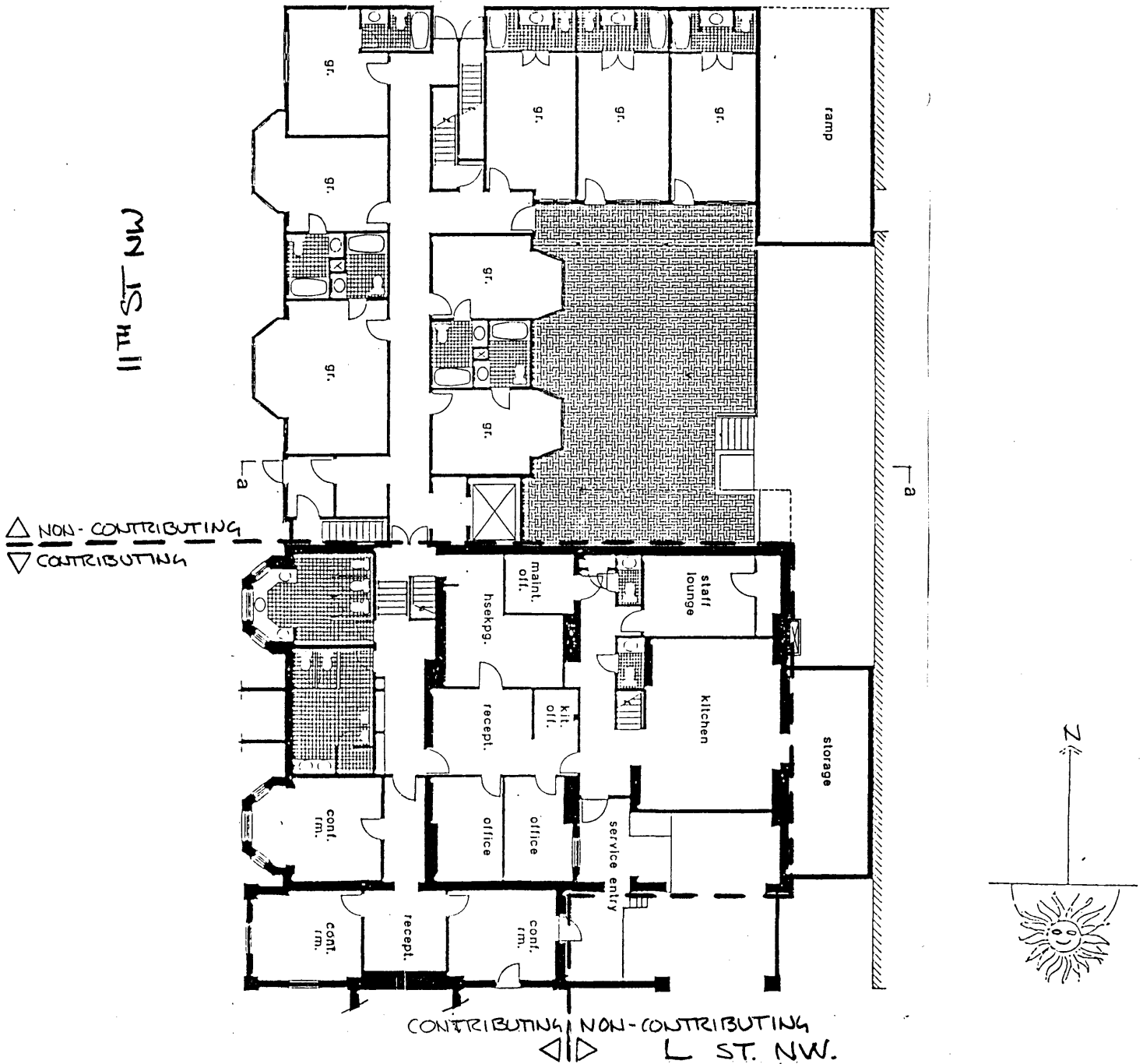
DEC 14 1990

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 7 Page 11

Figure #6



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987)

ground floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC, MODIFIED FROM DEC.Architects' DWGS. 0 5 10

DEC 14 1990

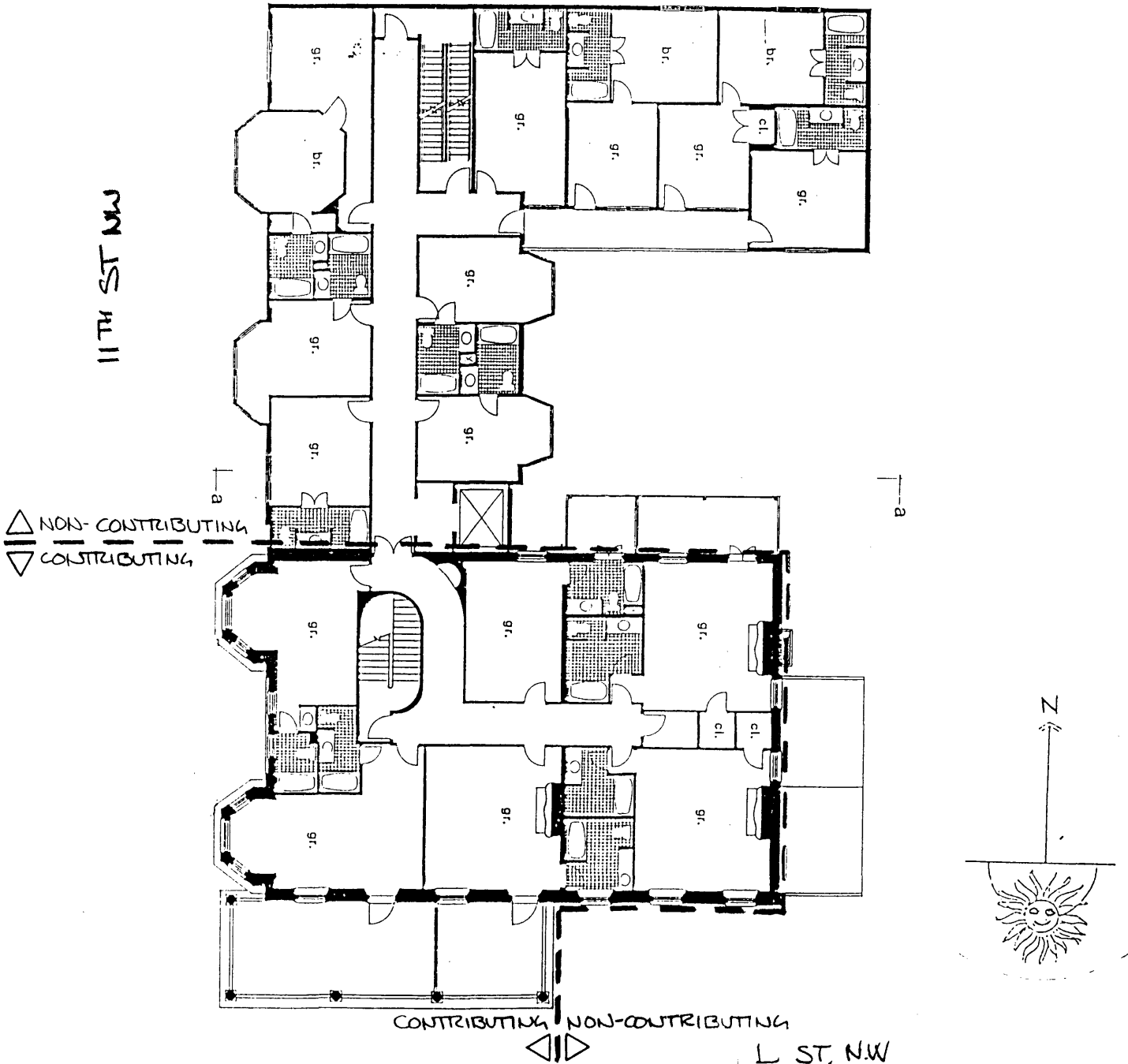
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 7 Page 12

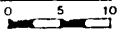
Figure #7



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987)

second floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC. MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS'DWGS.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

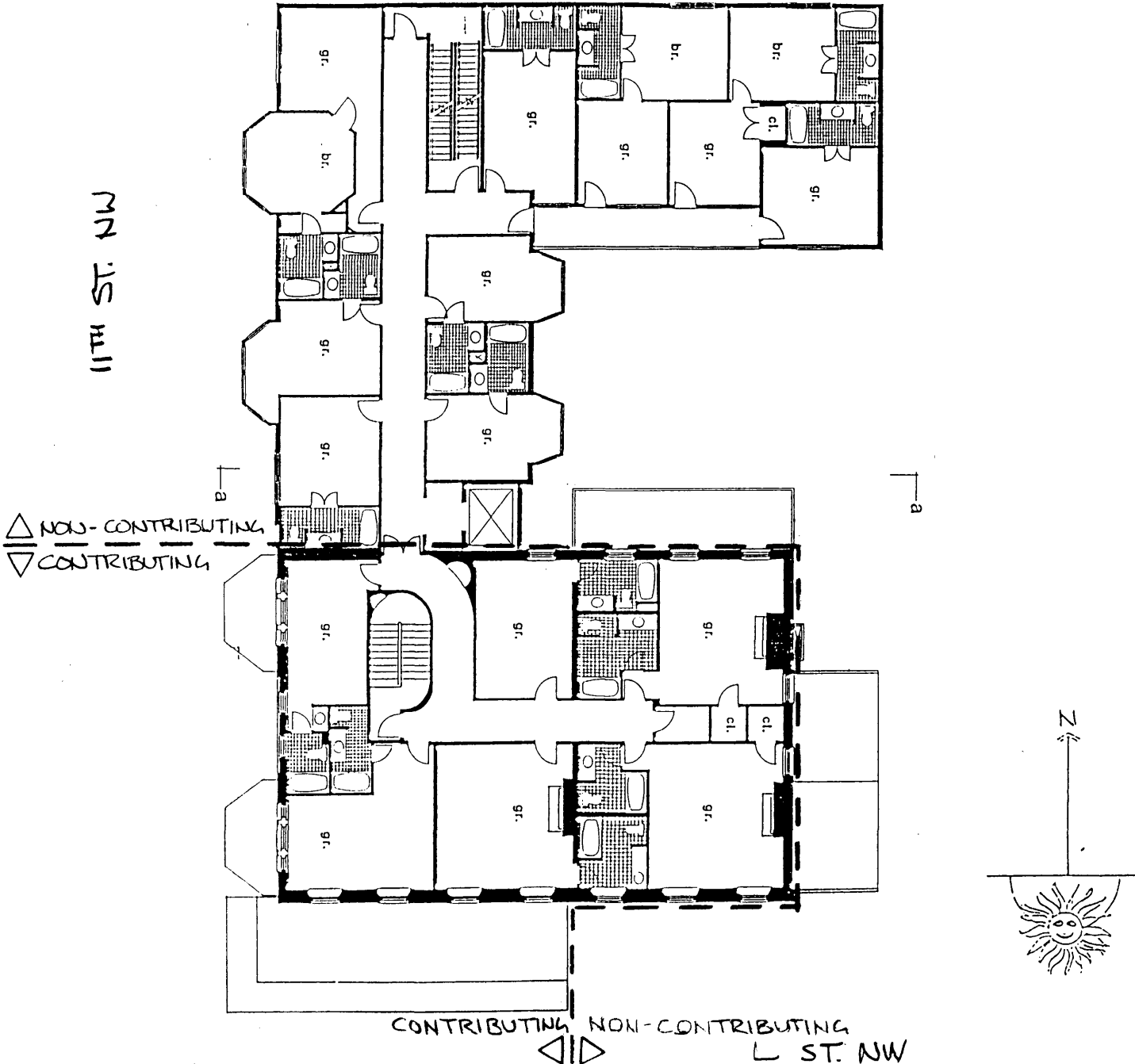
DEC 14 1990

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 7 Page 13

Figure #8



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987)

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC. MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS

0 5 10



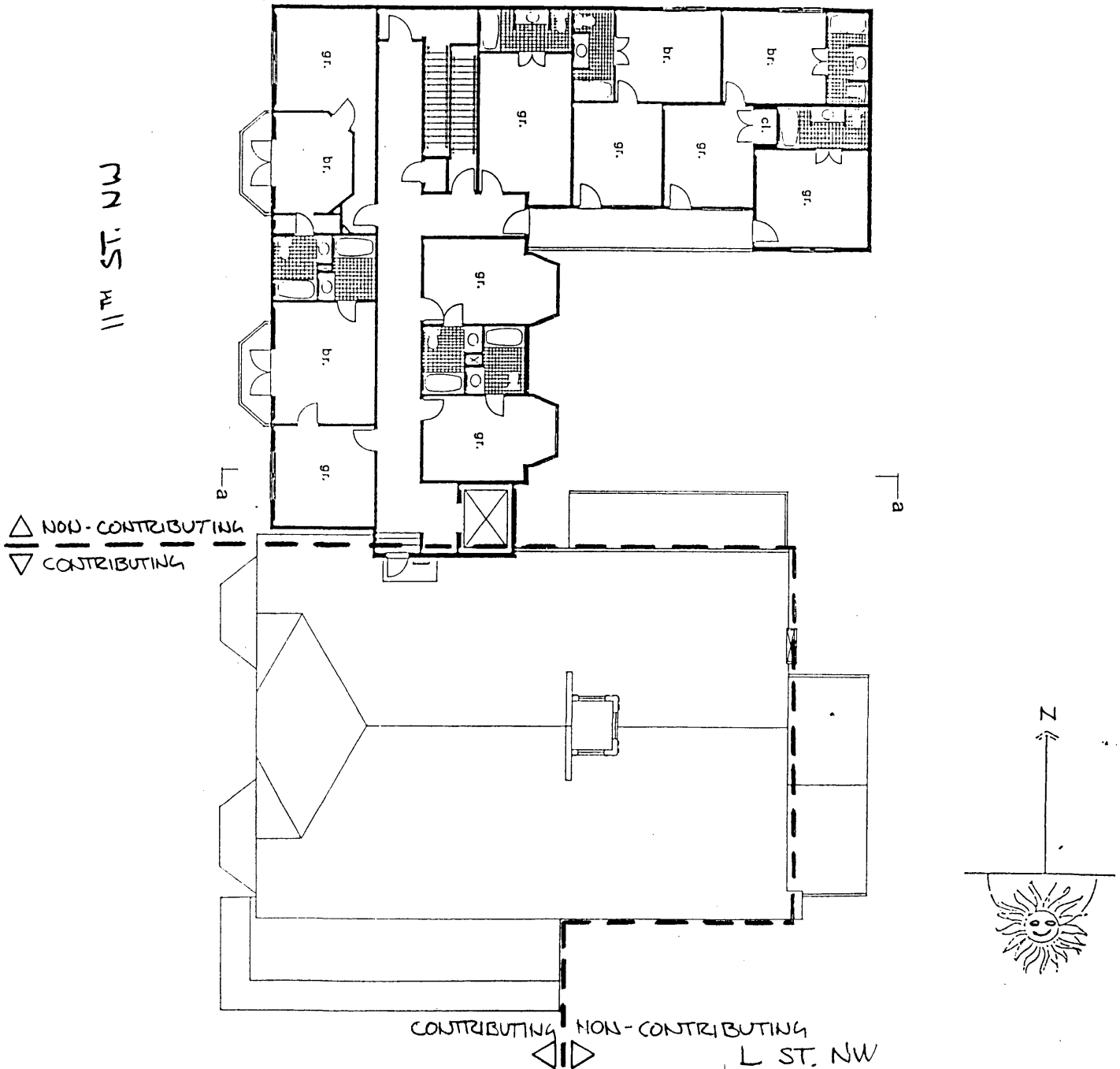
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC  
Section number 7 Page 14

Figure #9



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987)

fourth floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC, MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS.

1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 7 Page 15

Figure #10



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1987) Rear section a-a

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS 0 5 10

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetMorrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.Section number 8 Page 2

Morrison House's 11th Street side. [Figures #11, 12, 13 & 14]

The addition to the Morrison House provided two additional rooms on each floor--one above and to either side of the new entrance. The spatial interest of the new rooms is enhanced by incorporation of the bay windows to either side of the entrance.

Differentiation of the two houses was made complete with the 1917 addition of a two story Chinese-inspired verandah across the L Street facade of the Morrison House. The effect created thoroughly obscures the former entrance facade of the Morrison House and thus completes a process begun by the circa 1876 addition and its new 11th Street entrance. Ironically thirteen years after the houses were fully differentiated externally, they were joined internally when the houses received a new and joint function as the Soldiers and Sailors Club.

The Morrison and Clark Houses predate building permits. Early permits show a structure on the lot in 1851 but not in 1857 when the land was subdivided and sold by its owner, Caleb Cushing. Tax records used to fix a date for the houses predate the earliest available building permits. The tax book for 1865 shows the first improvements on lots A, B, and C in Square 341, at which time lot A and the west half of lot B were owned by Clark. Consequently, the Commission of Fine Arts' Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Volume II suggests that the houses were built in 1865. The 11th Street addition came about 1876. [9]

A fire destroyed the cupola of the 1015 side in 1894. It was never rebuilt and evidenced today by a red brick wall adjacent to the remaining cupola. Windows and a new entrance were added to the 11th Street side of the 1015 house in 1896, when an additional bay containing a new entrance with flanking rooms was added. In 1917 the verandah with its Chinese-inspired mansard-like roof gave a major new feature to the house. [10]

The Morrison House, which had functioned since 1865 as a house, was purchased by the Women's Army and Navy League for its headquarters and hostel in 1923. The facility was doubled in size when in 1930 the Clark House was purchased and doors were cut to connect the two houses. [11]

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 14 1990

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.

Section number 8 Page 3

DEC Development Corporation's late 1980's adaptation of the houses to a luxury hotel continues the tradition of hospitality and building usage offered by the League in the Morrison house, following its conversion to their club in 1923. Adaptation to use as a luxury hotel, gave DEC the opportunity to adapt the houses as the entrance, lobby, restaurant and kitchen, meeting rooms and hotel offices. A dozen of the hotel's guest rooms are located on the upper floors.

An additional forty-two rooms have been attached to the rear of the Morrison House and wrap around the rear of the site thus creating a courtyard behind the Clark House. The rooms are contained in a five story 20,000 square foot building which replaces the much altered 19th Century stable and the club's utilitarian post World War I additions at the rear. [12]

## 2. CRITERIA "A": HISTORIC EVENTS

After the Women's Army and Navy League bought the houses, they became not only the headquarters of that service organization of "dowagers with clout, but also a hostel for military men. "For twenty-five cents a night, the sub-altern set could rest their duffels at what came to be known (by the 1950's) as the Soldiers', Sailors' Marines' and Airmens' Club." [13]

From 1923-1945, the Club performed an important function and was a popular spot from its beginning. Relocated to the Morrison house in 1923, the League, through its club, provided:

	Lodgings	Meals	Dance Attendance
1924	2,204	1,600	500
1925	3,440	2,744	1,800
1926	4,567	2,742	2,000

The peak year was 1943 when 45,645 lodgings were provided. [14]

"...the club became a gathering point for first ladies and other women of social-register caliber...." While the rank-and-file shot pool or slapped ping-pong balls, the ladies [the likes of Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Mrs. Admiral Dewey,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetMorrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.Section number 8 Page 4

Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, and Mary McCalla McArthur] hosted silver teas for such guests as Lady Mountbatten..., General John J. 'Blackjack' Pershing..., and Eleanor Roosevelt.... Their rummage sales, horse shows, and benefit concerts always drew presidents and made headlines in the society pages." [15] Their involvement was occasional, but is indicative of the overall commitment of American society to the war effort and to the significant function charitable institutions played in the lives of the socially prominent women of the period. Following the end of the war, around 1945, use of the club gradually declined until it closed in 1983.

The Morrison House served from 1865 through 1923 as a residence. David L. Morrison was the original owner of the 1015 house. It had four owners before sale to the "Women's Army League" in 1923. Reuben B. Clark was the original owner of 1013. He gave it to his daughter in 1880 who in turn sold it to the League in 1930. [16]

David L. Morrison, the 1015 owner, sold flour and feed to the government during the Civil War. In the postwar boom, he turned to real estate and became well known as a developer willing to sell on installments. A widower when he died in 1887, he left a large estate to relatives and charities. The house and furnishings went to Marie E. Byington, described in his will as "an attentive, considerate and faithful friend." [17]

Ten-thirteen L Street's original owner, Reuben B. Clark, a land investor, was a grocer as well as D. C. jail commissioner and a director of the Anacostia and Potomac railroad. He gave his house to his daughter Ida Mrs. William C. Wood in 1880 when he moved to 1501 Massachusetts Avenue. [18]

Both Clark and Morrison came to Washington as young men, and in addition to their business interests, invested in land and numerous properties in Washington. [19]

During the following four to five decades, a variety of people occupied the houses. Residents were generally middle class workers or professionals with occupations including patent attorney, government clerk and hardware merchant. Two Congressmen, Mason Summer Peters and William Craig Cooper, were later residents. Peters, a Kansan, lived at 1013 in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SEP 4 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetMorrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.Section number 8 Page 5

1898. Cooper, an Ohio representative, lived at 1015 in 1891.  
[20]

Frank Rupert, who gave 1015 its most prominent feature--the Chinese-inspired side porch and metal stairs, was the owner of a hardware store and a real estate firm.

Mrs. Calvin Coolidge headed the receiving line when the Club relocated to the Morrison house in 1923. Purchase of the Clark House in 1930 was made possible by funds donate by Mrs. Jesse H. Metcalf, wife of the Rhode Island Senator. Mary McCalla McArthur, sister-in-law of General Douglas McArthur served Sunday coffee at the Club for forty-one years. [21]

## 3. CRITERIA "C": STYLE

## a. AESTHETIC VALUE of the PROPERTY

The Morrison and Clark Houses are an excellent example of a pair of attached Italianate houses. Considerable building in the Italianate style was done in Washington. (Virtually none of it is open to the public). Notable examples may still be found from Georgetown to LeDroit Park. Such examples include the Gatehouse at Oak Hill Cemetery, 30th and R Streets, N.W. of 1849 by de la Roche, the Woodhill House at the N.W. corner of 21st and "G" Streets, N.W. (now a part of the George Washington University Campus), the President's house at Gallaudet College at 7th Street and Florida Avenue, N.E. of 1867 by Vaux and Withers and houses in the 400 Block of T Street, N.W. (some perhaps by James H. McGill).

The handsome design of 1865, and the equally handsome and fully compatible expansion of the Morrison House of 1876, is enhanced by skillful detailing and sound nineteenth century craftsmanship found throughout each of the houses.

## b. DESIGN and STYLE of the PROPERTY

The property dates back to circa 1865 when two adjoining houses were built for David L. Morrison and Reuben B. Clark. The name of the architect is not known.

The original houses are the focal point of the overall structure and serve to define the buildings' distinctive Italianate character. Constructed of red brick, the houses

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetMorrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.Section number 8 Page 6

together are three stories tall above a raised basement. They are seven bays wide and three bays deep.

As originally constructed c. 1865, the houses together were only six bays wide. The westernmost bay of the Morrison House was added c. 1876. The earlier section is covered by a low-pitched gable roof, while the roof of the added bay is hipped. Both new forms' and the more ornate late Victorian Italianate detailing, transform the house to something far grander than its 1865 appearance. Two story semi-octagonal bay windows illuminate both floors of rooms created on either side of the facades's new center entrance doors. The roof is provided with gables above the bay windows. The gables skillfully draw attention from the roof's hipped portion, making it scarcely noticeable and add considerable interest to the 11th Street facade. [22] The segmental arches of the L Street facade's entablature closely resemble those of the Reeves Confectionery, 1209 F Street, N.W. by Rhodes and Simon (now demolished).

The buildings until recently consisted of 1) a pair of attached houses constructed in two phases, c. 1865 and c. 1876 (connected internally in 1930); 2) a rear addition constructed in 1961-62; and 3) a much altered stable dating from the 19th century. During adaptation of the club to a luxury hotel in 1987, the stable and the 1960's addition were demolished. A five story bedroom addition attached to the rear of 1015, replaces both structures.

Prior to the 1980's adaptation of the houses for use as part of a luxury hotel, few significant twentieth century changes took place. The exterior change which affected both houses most, is the 1917 addition of the Chinese-inspired porch to 1015. Indeed, only minor interior changes were made to convert the houses to a servicemen's club; the most notable and lasting change involved cutting connecting doors between the two houses in 1930.

The nineteenth and early twentieth century architects of the buildings and alterations to them are unknown. Not only is the architect of the Morrison and Clark Houses unknown, (the work however, resembles that of Calvert Vaux), but also the architects of the 1876 expansion of the Morrison House and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Morrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.

Section number 8 Page 7

---

the addition of its 1917 Chinese-inspired porch of are  
unknown. In the recent 1987 conversion, DEC Architects, Ian  
Quartey and Royce Lanier adapted the houses from service  
organization headquarters and hostel to luxury hotel use.  
[23]



DEC 14 1990

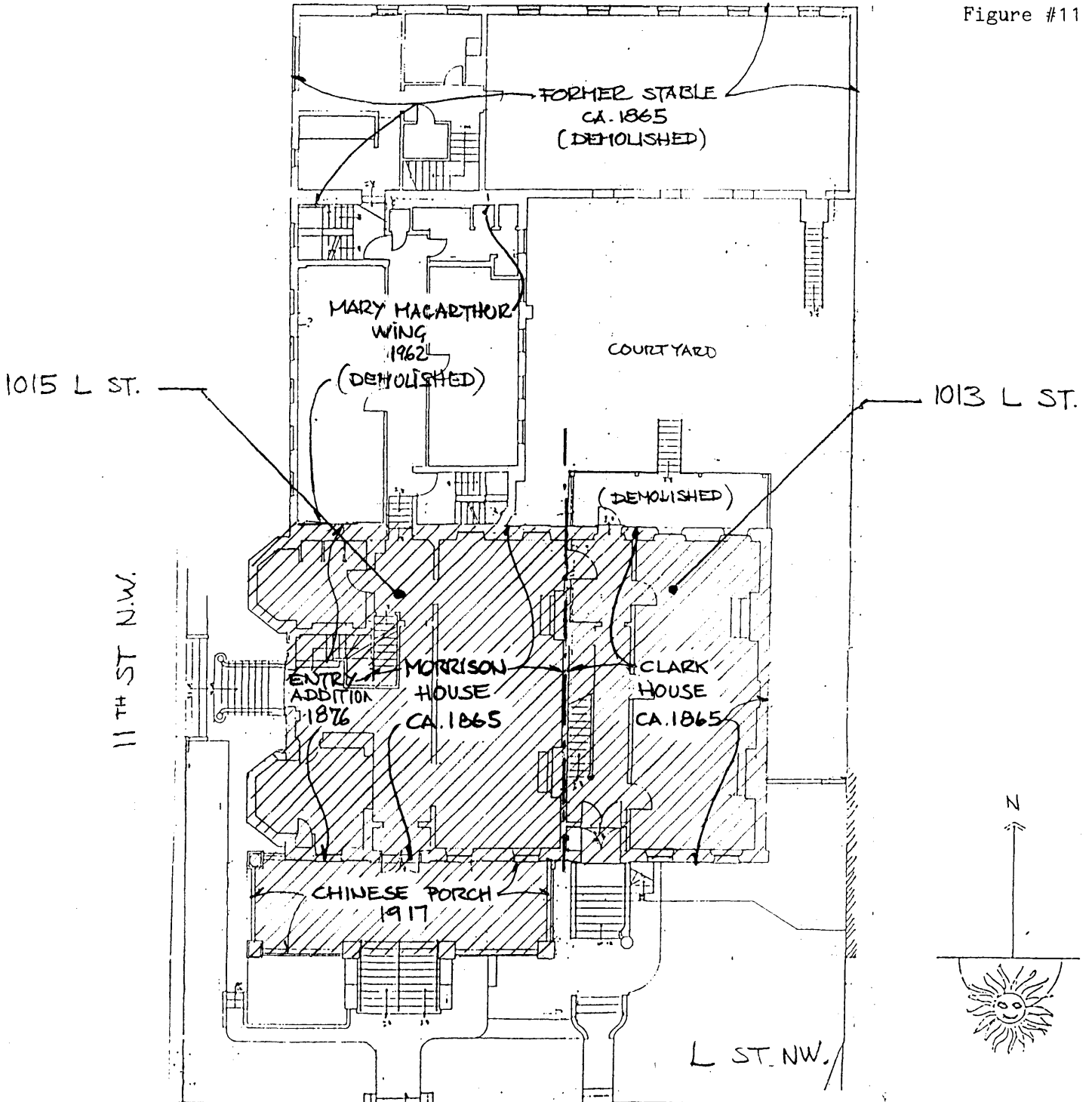
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

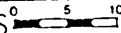
Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, D.C.

Section number 8 Page 8

Figure #11



**MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1984) Before Hotel** first floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC. MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS 

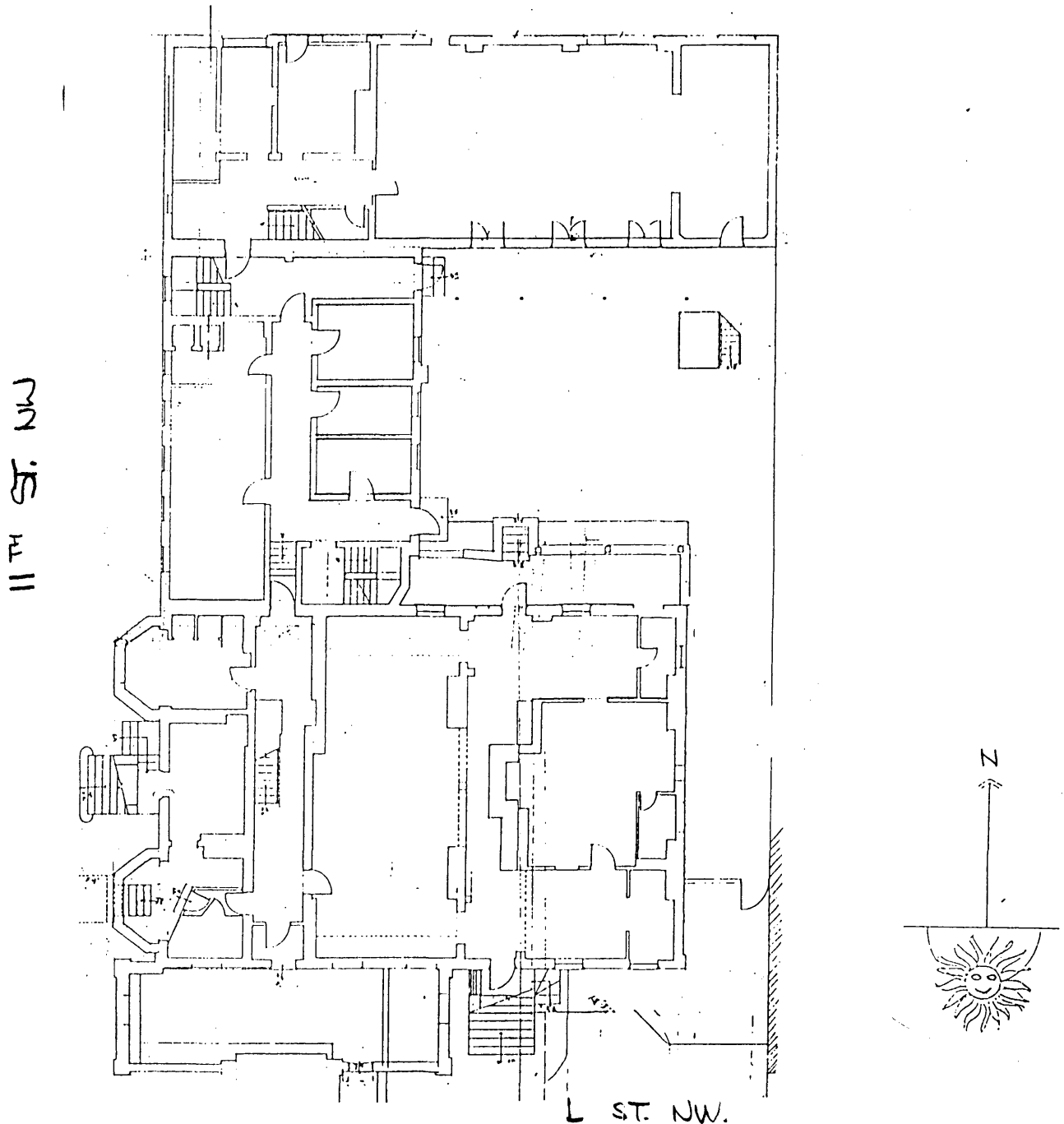
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC  
Section number 8 Page 9

Figure #12



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1984)

ground floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC. MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS. 0 5 10

DEC 14 1990

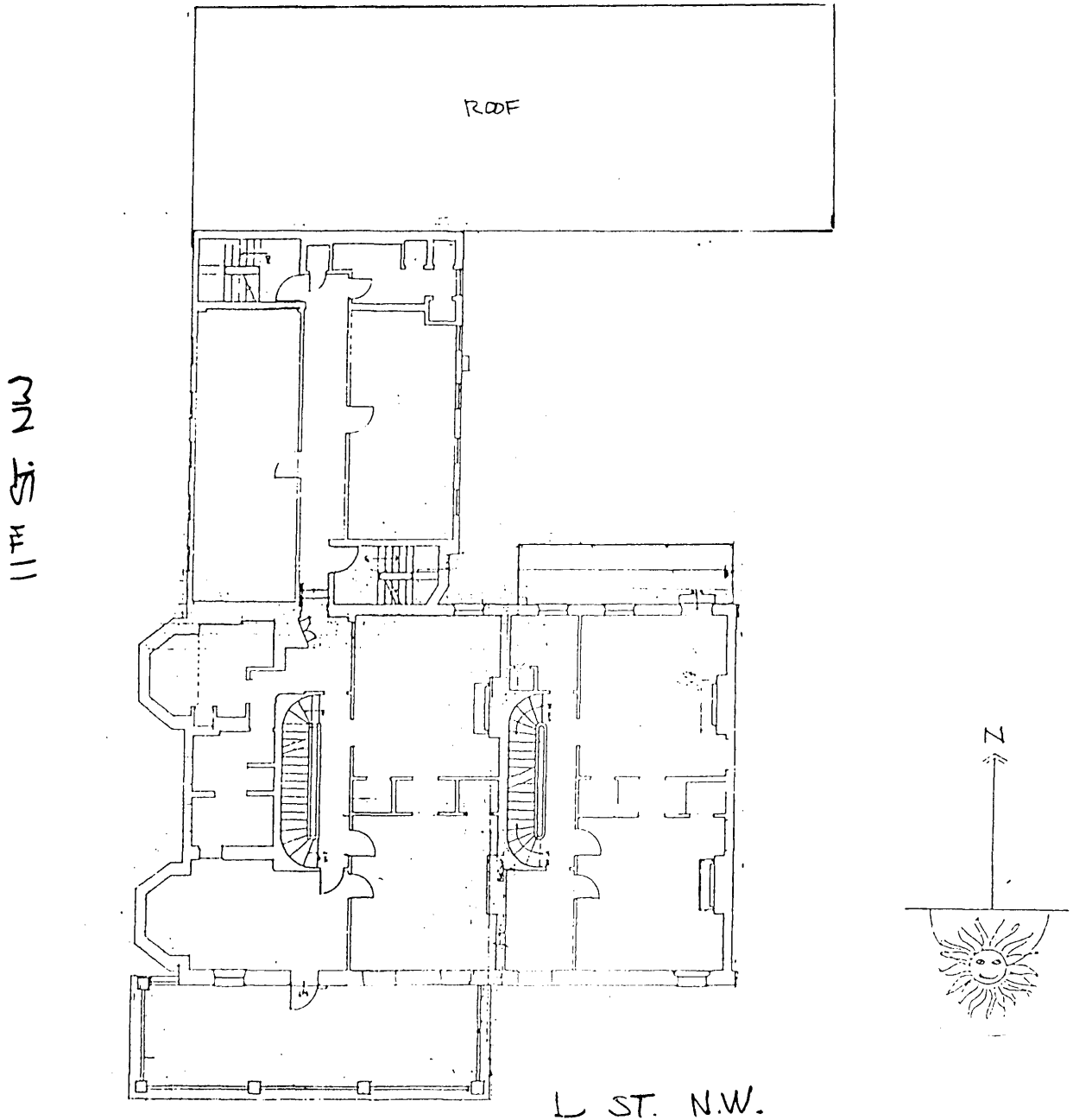
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 8 Page 10

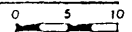
Figure #13



MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1984)

second floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS



FEB 14 1990

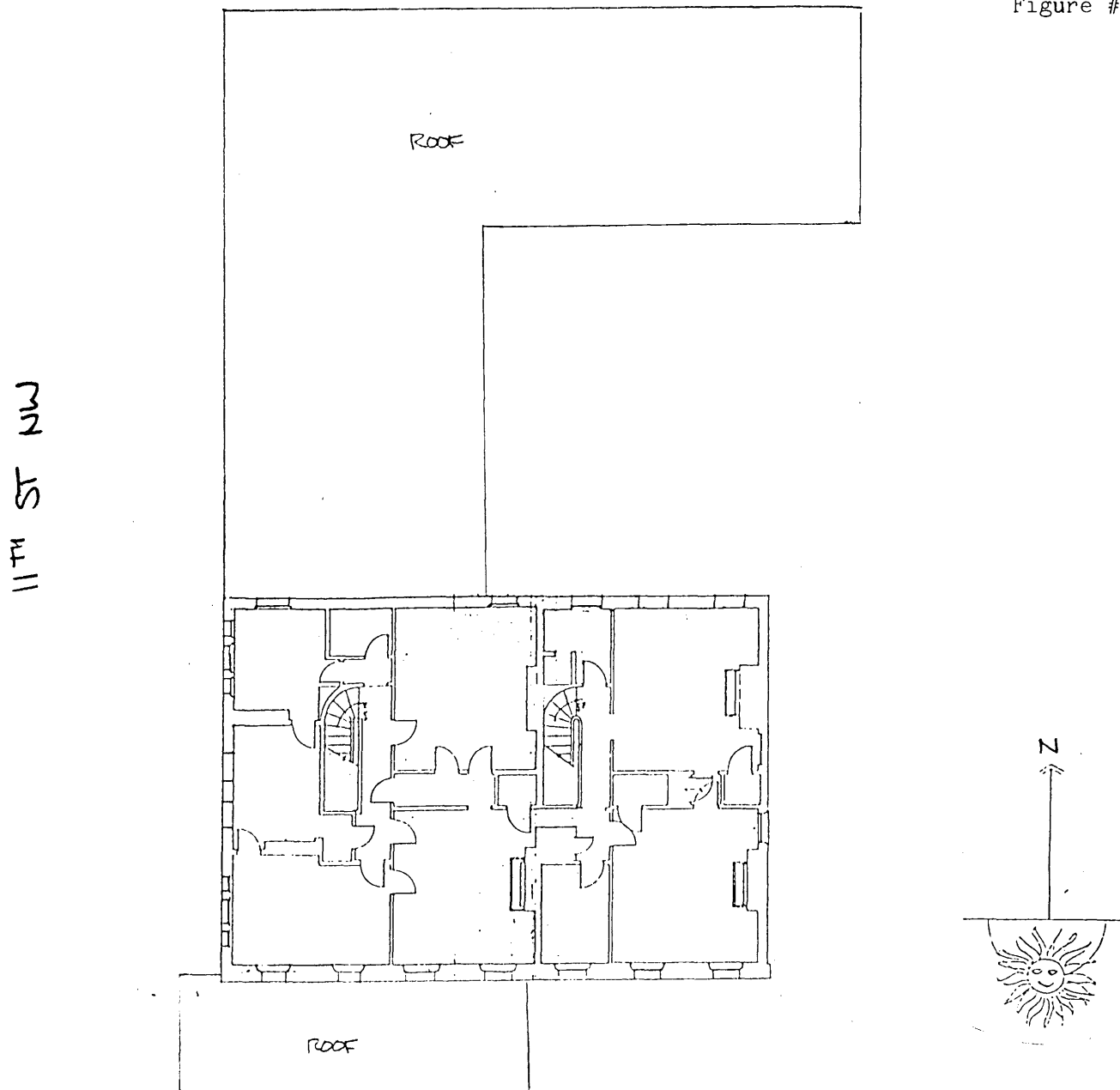
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, DC

Section number 8 Page 11

Figure #14

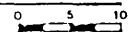


L ST. NW

MORRISON-CLARK HISTORIC INN (1984)

third floor

11th & MASS. AVE. NW WASHINGTON DC. MODIFIED FROM DEC. ARCHITECTS' DWGS



DEC 14 1990

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Morrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.

Section number 9 Page 2

---

REFERENCE NOTES (refers to both Section 7 and 8)

1. Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, A Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C. New York: Frederick A. Praeger. 1965, p. 60.
2. Albert L. Massoni, "Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1-Evaluation of Significance," February 21, 1986.
3. McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1984, p. 212
4. Conroy, Sarah Booth. "The Inn Crowd Saves a Landmark," Washington Post, may 15, 1988, pp. F-1 and F-6.
5. Jennings, Jr., J. L. Sibley; Kohler, Sue A.; Carson, Jeffrey R. Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Vol II, The Commission of Fine Arts: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1975, p. 6.
6. Conroy, op. cit., p. F-6.
7. Richman, Phyllis C. "History in the making at the Morrison-Clark," The Washington Post Magazine, October 2, 1988, p. 101.
8. Conroy, op. cit., p. F-6.
9. McLennan, Marion, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form," August 1, 1979, p. 8-1.
10. Jennings, Jr., op. cit., p. 1.
11. Jennings, Jr., op. cit., p. 1.
12. Conroy, op. cit., p. F-6.
13. Leccese, Michael, "Nouvelle Victorian," Dossier, November 1988, p. 61.
14. -----, "The Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' and Airmen's Club." Washington: MS at Columbia Historical Society. p. 3.
15. Leccese, op. cit., p. 61.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.

Section number 9 Page 3

---

16. Jennings, Jr., op. cit., p. 4.
17. Conroy, op. cit., p. F-6.
18. Conroy, op. cit, p. F-6.
19. Massoni, op. cit.
20. Massoni, op. cit.
21. Nickens, Eddie, "The Morrison and Clark Inn," Mid-Atlantic Country, July 1988, p. 26.
22. Jennings, Jr., op. cit., p. 1-2.
23. Massoni, op. cit.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS:

1. Massoni, Albert L. "Historic Preservation Certification Application Part-1 Evaluation of Significance," February 21, 1986.
2. McLennan, Marion (Mrs. Kenneth McLennan). "National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form," August 1, 1979. Found in the offices of the D.C. Historic Preservation Office.
3. -----, "The Soldiers', Sailors' Marines' and Airmen's Club" MS at Columbia Historical Society.

PUBLISHED MATERIALS:

1. Conroy, Sarah Booth. "The Inn Crowd Saves a Landmark," Washington Post, May 15, 1988, pp. F-1 and F-6.
2. Jennings, Jr., J. L. Sibley; Kohler, Sue. A.; Carson, Jeffrey R. Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Vol. II, The Commission of Fine Arts: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975.
3. Leccese, Michael. "Nouvelle Victorian," Dossier, November 1988, pp. 58-61.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Morrison & Clark Houses  
Washington, D.C.

Section number 9 Page 4

---

4. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
5. Nickens, Eddie. "The Morrison-Clark Inn" Mid-Atlantic Country, January 1989, pp. 24-27.
6. Richman, Phyllis C. "History in the Making at the Morrison-Clark," The Washington Post Magazine, October 2, 1988, pp. 101-104.
7. Washington Metropolitan Chapter, The American Institute of Architects. A Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C., New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1965

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 1990

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, D.C.

Section number Photos Page 1

---

## INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Project: Morrison & Clark Houses
2. Location of project: Washington DC
3. Photographer: Charles Szoradi (unless otherwise indicated).
4. Date of Photos: February 1989
5. Location of negatives: In the office of the photographer.

<u>Photo number</u>	<u>Subject of photo</u>	<u>Direction in which camera is pointed</u>
1.	Morrison & Clark Houses, L Street elevation	North
2.	Morrison House, Chinese inspired porch	North
3	Morrison House, 11 th Street elevation	East
4	Morrison House, 11 th Street entrance	East
5	Morrison House, 11 th Street bay window	East
6	Clark House, L Street window railing	North
7	Morrison House, Dining area fireplace	East



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morrison & Clark Houses, Washington, D.C.

Section number Photos Page 2

Figure #15

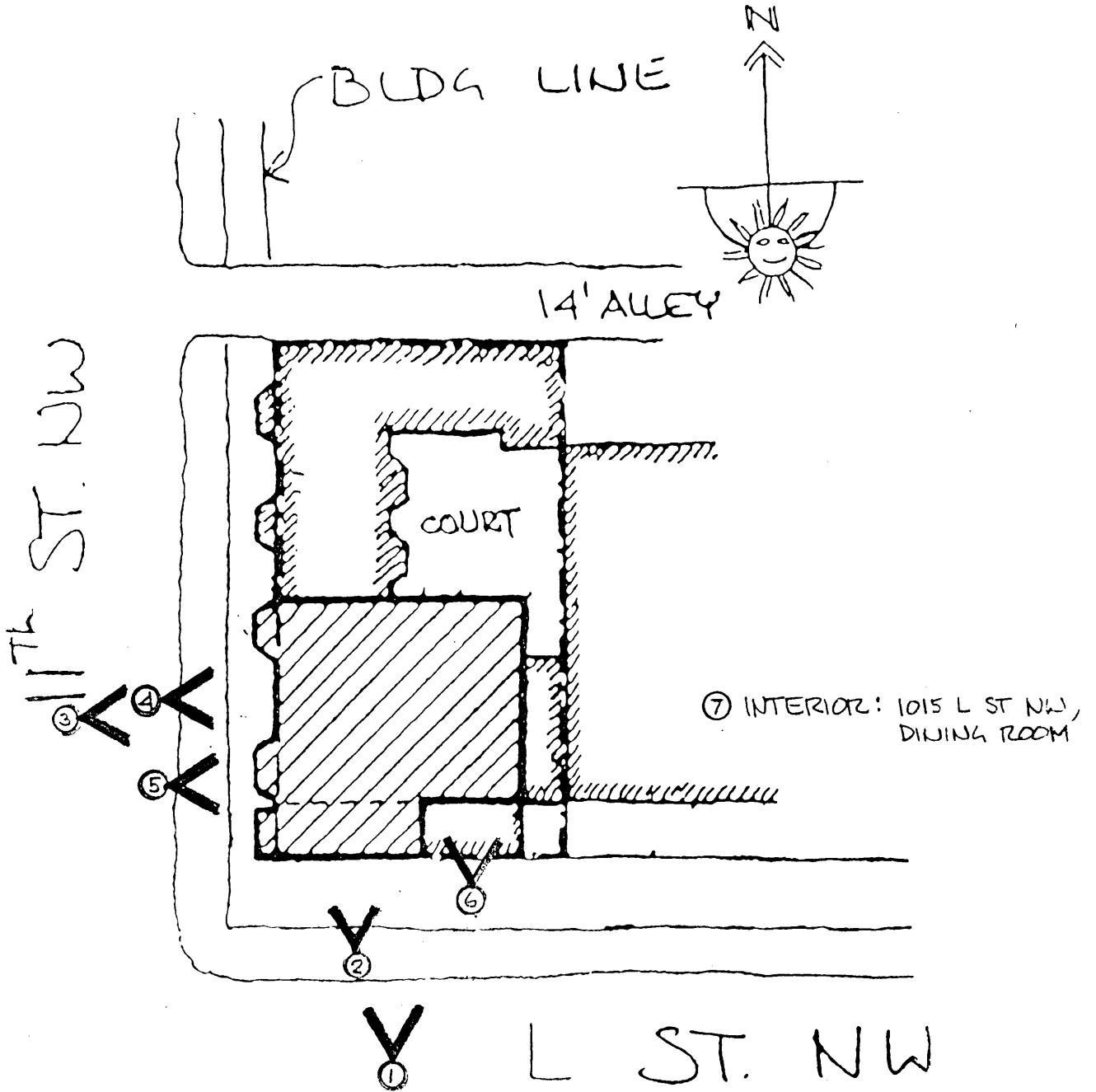


PHOTO LOCATION MAP