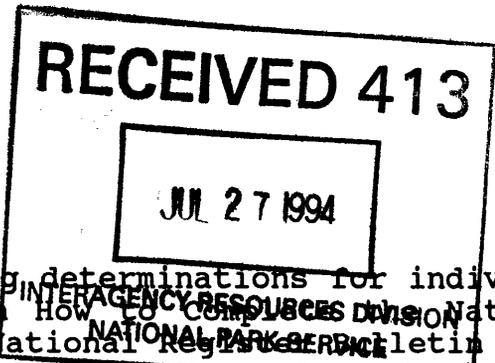


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harrison Apartment Building

other names/site number Canterbury, Astoria

2. Location

street & number 704 3rd Street, N.W. not for publication N/A
city or town Washington vicinity X
state District of Columbia code DC zip code 20001 county N/A code N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (
 See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert L. Mallett 7/22/94
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
(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): _____

Patrick Andrews

9/7/94

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Apartment Buildings in Washington, D.C. 1880-1945

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: multiple dwelling
COMMERCE specialty store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN
Other: Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof STONE: Slate
METAL: Tin
walls BRICK
other Decorative Element: Terra Cotta
Decorative Element: Sandstone

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1888-1889

Significant Dates pre 1941

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder John C. Johnson
Charles E. Gibbs

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	325220	4307260	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Square 529, Lot 845.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) The boundary includes the Harrison Apartment Building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eve Lydia Barsoum / Architectural Historian
organization D.C. Historic Preservation Division date June 30, 1994
street & number 614 H Street, N.W. telephone (202) 727-7360
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Camanne Limited Partnership
street & number 1666 K Street, N.W. telephone _____
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20006

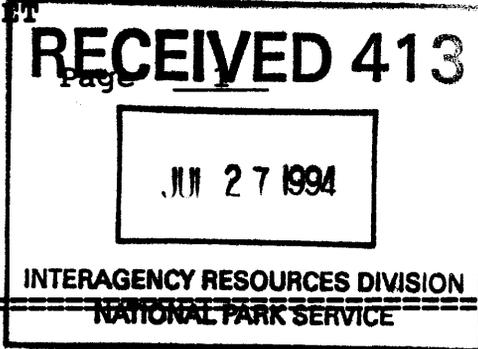
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7



Harrison Apartment Building
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
County and State
Apartment Buildings in
Washington, D.C. 1880-1945
Name of Multiple Property Listing

The Harrison Apartment Building is the earliest known surviving example of the Rowhouse-Type Apartment Building in Washington, D.C. Late-nineteenth century Washington did not readily accept apartment buildings and their development lagged behind that of other cities. The reluctance to adopt the apartment building as the ideal residential type for city living seems to have encouraged Washington architects to frequently employ the rowhouse form in the 1880s and 1890s in hopes that its familiarity would lead to the acceptance of the apartment building. The brick Harrison illustrates Washington's vernacular style architecture. It has five stories and seventy-nine units and originally incorporated a barber shop and drug store with direct street access.

The Harrison Apartment Building is located at 704 3rd Street, N.W. at the corner of 3rd and G Streets. The building was constructed in 1888-1889. At this time, the Harrison was located in the rowhouse neighborhood that surrounded the city's commercial downtown. It was the first multiple-family dwelling in the general area. It had five-stories and seventy-nine units.

Faced with dark red, pressed brick, the Harrison illustrates vernacular Washington architecture. Originally, it had four square-shape projecting bays on 3rd Street; the end bays were polygonal towers. The northern tower was removed sometime between 1903 and 1941 when four bays (two square-shape projecting bays) were added to this end. The G Street facade had a square-shape projecting bay in addition to the corner polygonal tower. The rectangular mass building is approximately 32' by 140'. The rear of the original building was irregular in form. This was probably the result of the Victorian concern for residences which received sufficient amounts of air and light. The rear of the addition did not incorporate projections.

¹ A large building located at 507 6th Street, N.W., was built in 1878 and is listed in the HABS D.C. Catalog as an apartment building. Research into the building's construction and early use undertaken during the D.C. Apartment Building Survey did not concur with the HABS conclusion. Permits for repair work identify the building as a "dwelling." The 1888 D.C. city directory lists the building as a "boarding house." Although 507 6th Street, N.W. has significance based on its early date and its historic use as a multiple-dwelling, the methodology employed in this survey does not support listing 507 6th Street, N.W. as the oldest extant purpose-built apartment building at this time. As the Harrison originally only had one entrance to the apartment units, it is a variation of

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Section 7 Page 2

Harrison Apartment Building
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The remaining corner tower incorporates the most ornamental detail. The spandrels present a variety of terra cotta panels which feature flowers, vines, vases, and shields. The tower has a pyramidal roof covered with slates. The joints between the pyramidal faces are covered by terra cotta and the pyramid is surmounted by a large terra cotta finial.

The original entrance to the apartments was located in the center of the original 3rd Street facade. Brownstone steps lead to the single door (not original) with fixed side lights and a small fanlight. The door surround includes squat pilasters with capitals comprised of stylized leaves. The pilasters support a large round arch comprised of rough-cut sandstone voussoirs. The keystone features a man's face which dissolves into foliage. Today, one enters the apartment building through the door added to the southern most bay in the northern addition. Sandstone steps also lead to this entrance which incorporates a rough-cut sandstone lintel.

In the projecting bay to the left of the original apartment entrance is the entrance to either the original drug store or barber shop. The door is at grade-level and is set between side lights and surmounted by a large fanlight. This arched entrance is also comprised of rough-cut brownstone voussoirs; it does not include an ornamental keystone. The height of the commercial door and its large fanlight allow its keystone to align with that of the apartment door (reached by steps). The G Street facade also incorporates a door at grade-level. It was the entrance to one of the original businesses.

The fenestration for the original building is varied in form. The ground floor incorporates the largest windows, as the level has the greatest floor to ceiling height, with rectangular heads and rough-cut, brownstone lintels. The second- and fourth-floor have round arch windows. The third- and fifth-floor have segmental arch windows. The windows are visually linked by the brick stringcourses. All of the arch windows have decorative brick moldings. The fenestration pattern was not followed exactly in the addition. The end projecting bay incorporated all rectangular-head windows, while the next projecting bay included all segmental-arch windows except for the one on the ground floor. The commercial establishments had large show windows on the ground floor. The G Street windows incorporated operable transoms. The windows in the first bay of the 3rd Street elevation were apparently enlarged and remodeled in 1941 (D.C. Repair Permit #246748, August 22, 1941).

The building cornice was comprised of corbelled bricks. Originally, alternating semi-circular and triangular pediments crowned the projecting bays. The main roof was flat and covered in tin.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 3

Harrison Apartment Building
Name of Property
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Washington, D.C. 1880-1945
Name of Multiple Property Listing

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The interior arrangement of the 79-unit Harrison is typical of early apartment houses in Washington. The entrance to the original building led to a spacious vestibule and reception room and a public dining room. The primary feature in early apartment buildings in Washington was the location of the parlor, to be located at the front of the building and to have the most windows.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Harrison Apartment Building
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Washington, D.C. 1880-1945
Name of Multiple Property Listing

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D.C. Permit to Build #845 was issued on October 22, 1888 and records the request to construct an "apartment house" on Square 529, Lots 1 and 2 (now lot 800). The permit establishes the Harrison as one of the earliest multiple-family dwellings in the city. Today, it stands as the oldest extant apartment building. The Harrison was built for Harvey Spalding, a prominent Washington lawyer and real estate magnate, by Johnson and Company, a local architectural and contracting firm. This apartment building is also the only known extant example of a multiple-family dwelling by Johnson and Company. The Harrison was sold sometime before 1902 to Alonzo Bliss and renamed the Astoria. After 1941, the name was changed to the Canterbury.

Established in 1886 by native Washingtonians John C. Johnson and Charles E. Gibbs, Johnson and Company was an accomplished and respected firm of architects and superintendents in the city. In 1896, Charles Gibbs retired. The firm continued to function under the sole proprietorship of J.C. Johnson until 1901. The firm's office was located in the Corcoran Building (demolished) at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. from 1888 to 1896.

Although research to date has not uncovered much information on the firm, the *Manufacturers' Record* is a helpful source in understanding the firm's scope of work. A sampling of their commissions includes: a brick dwelling on East Capitol Street which cost \$12,000; a three-story restaurant in Brightwood with steam heating, a gas machine, and an electric light dynamo; a three-story dwelling with steam heating and electric bells which cost \$30,000; a four-story apartment house which cost \$10,000, and; a residence at 645 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., 1894, demolished. Johnson and Company claimed experience in all building types, the firm devoted special attention to the design of fire-proof commercial structures, dwellings, and public buildings.

At present, the Harrison is the only extant apartment building attributed to the firm. It is indicative of contemporary apartment designs by local architects. Johnson and Company applied their knowledge of the rowhouse facade to the Harrison in order to disguise an unpopular building type. Its projecting bays were a popular design element in rowhouses built in Washington after 1871, the year the city enacted a law permitting the construction of projecting bays beyond the building line. The firm's work and the original Harrison design supports the architects' understanding of the developments occurring in built Washington.

The close proximity of Johnson and Company's office in the Corcoran Building to the offices of Harvey Spalding possibly allowed the former to gain the Harrison commission. Johnson and Company was located in Room 64. Spalding's office was in Room 58 and 59.

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Section 8 Page 2

Harrison Apartment Building
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Harvey Spalding was the original owner of the Harrison Apartment Building. Spalding was evidently a successful lawyer, based on the fact that his office was located in the prestigious Corcoran Building from 1866 to 1910. A lengthy city directory entry notes that his practice included work in the Department, District, and Supreme Courts. It also cites government claims and land and patent cases as his specialty. His inclusion in the *Washington Blue Book* indicates he was a man of social standing. Several notices in the *Manufactures' Record* cite Spalding's extensive involvement with development and real estate investment in Washington. For example, the October 27, 1888 issue mentions his participation in the development of five dwellings on P Street, N.W.

Spalding sold the Harrison to Alonzo Ogilvie Bliss sometime before 1902. Bliss was born in New York in 1845. After serving in a Civil War cavalry unit, he ran a drugstore in Richmond, Virginia. Bliss became the owner of the Alonzo Bliss Company, manufacturer of the popular cure-all: Bliss Native Herbs. The Bliss Company was extremely successful and opened offices in Australia, England, and the United States. In 1888, Alonzo Bliss relocated to Washington, D.C to establish the main office on Capitol Hill in the Bliss Building. His immediate business success afforded him the opportunity to heavily invest in the real estate market. His many properties included: the Driscoll (demolished), the Penhurst, the Kingman, the Le Grand Apartment Building, and the Bliss Building.

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Section 9 Page 1

Harrison Apartment Building
Name of Property
Washington, D.C.
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Apartment Buildings in
Washington, D.C. 1880-1945
Name of Multiple Property Listing

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94001036 Date Listed: 9/7/94

Harrison Apartment Building DC
Property Name: County: State:

Apartment Buildings in Washington, DC, MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews 9/7/94
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

As submitted, this nomination form had selected Criterion A and C and Architecture as an Area of Significance. A technical correction is made to the nomination form to add Community Planning and Development (to reflect the selected Criterion A). The SHPO concurs in this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)