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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name HOTEL MORCK

other names/site number Morck Hotel, Morck Apartments, Washington Apartments

### 2. Location

street & number 215 S. "K" Street  not for publication

city or town Aberdeen  vicinity

state Washington code WA county Grays Harbor code 027 zip code 98520

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria

X A    B X C    D

*Allyson M* 4-1-16  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

WASHINGTON SHPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register    determined eligible for the National Register

   determined not eligible for the National Register    removed from the National Register

   other (explain:)

*Joan Edson H. Beall* 5-23-16  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

None

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Hotel

COMMERCE: Restaurant

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT: Not in Use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL:

Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK, TERRA COTTA

roof: ASPHALT

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary.)

The Hotel Morck is located at the corner of W. Heron St. and 'K' St. in downtown Aberdeen, WA. The building abuts the sidewalk and faces a northwestern direction onto "K" Street. The building takes up approximately ¼ of the block and is void of landscaping.

### **Exterior**

The exterior of the Hotel Morck retains a high level of integrity. Completed in 1924, the poured concrete frame building has a rectangular foot print with an extension added to the northwest corner of the building circa 1927 to increase lodging capacity. The upper three floors are H-shaped to accommodate a sky lit lobby and café area. The hotel has two primary facades: the main, facing "K" Street and a secondary façade, facing Heron Street. The first floor is mainly clad with decorative terra cotta with some infill of "Roman brick" on the Heron Street façade. Corners are highlighted by round terra cotta rope-trim on the first floor and quoins on the mezzanine level. The upper floors are variegated blond brick laid in a common bond. Windows are evenly spaced double-hung wood 8-over-8 units with simple wood surrounds and terra cotta sills. On the first floor of the "K" Street façade are larger openings comprised of 12 pane fixed grouped units, which are highlighted by three-pane transom windows. These allowed light into the lobby and ballroom spaces. Double hung wood units are found on the mezzanine level just above the first floor and below a belt course on the two primary facades except for the north wing. Instead a decorative terra cotta cartouche highlighted by draped fabric (simulated in terra cotta) can be found. A newer entry door has been added to the southeast corner and punched through the concrete bulkhead.

Main entry to the hotel is on 'K' Street. While the projecting marque is missing, there is evidence of its location and shape. Newer wooden double entry doors are highlighted a shallow arched opening. Above the marque is a block of decorative terra cotta which features artichoke-shaped finials resting on torch-like scrolls, sea-horse and swag reliefs, all highlighting a large cartouche with a "W" insignia. The hotel was originally planned to be called the "Washington" hotel, but the name was change during construction.

Defining the cornice area above the fifth floor, is a continuous terra cotta window header. Above is a brick stem wall capped with a row of terra cotta stylized sea horses, sea shells and crabs. Centered on the two wings is terra cotta panel featuring a depiction of a three masted 18<sup>th</sup> century wooden ship.

Per historic images, a new entry has been cut into the south wing on the main façade and is highlighted by roman brick and modern aluminum entry door. Several storefronts on the Heron Street side have been masked by a continuous wall of roman bricks punctuated by a grouping of square fixed windows. Such alterations accommodated a remodel of the Highlander Restaurant. This façade also has an original secondary entrance with a simple rectangular opening. Evidence of a small rectangular marque can also be found. The entry door and surround are modern replacements.

The north and west (rear) façades are constructed of poured in place concrete, parged with a smooth finish. No decorative terra cotta element can be found. Window sills are cast concrete. A simple metal fire escape can be found on the northwest corner of the building next to the alleyway. All roofing is constructed of 160 mil torch-down asphalt with an aluminum surface.

### **Interior**

Due to exposure to the elements, neglect and vandalism the interior of the hotel is significantly deteriorated but retains key elements which define the building as a hotel.

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Upon entry, is a grand two-story lobby which features a large skylight (now covered with plywood). The opening is highlighted by cast concrete beams and inset panels. Some decorative cast brackets still retain their copper "leaf" elements. The two-story lobby space is supported by cast concrete square columns, topped on two sides with decorative scroll work. The mezzanine level retains its original turned iron railing and is highlighted by rows of cast concrete modillions. Flooring is a diagonal grid pattern of terrazzo which has been partially covered with concrete slurry.

Ghost outlines of former interior walls are found throughout the first floor and indicate the location of various rooms as well as the soda fountain, grand fireplace, lobby desk and bathroom areas. Per historic photos, the lobby did not feature a grand open staircase. Instead a smaller staircase was located south of the fireplace. Its original iron and mahogany banister remain on the second floor.

To the north of the lobby is the meeting/banquet room. Its original arched ceiling is intact and is highlighted on each side by a modillioned shelf which contained indirect lighting. The floor is a diagonal pattern of terrazzo matching the lobby flooring. This space retains its original windows which featured interior mullions of turned wood.

All interior walls on floors two through five have been completely removed. These floors were the subject of an aggressive asbestos abatement project in 2006. This project left piping exposed in numerous places, as well as a variety of floor finishes. The layout for floors two through four were nearly identical and utilitarian in nature housing a variety of sized hotel rooms. Originally, floors two through five accommodated a total of 114 guest rooms. Now ghost lines of where walls were, various door openings and where some fixtures were can be found. No panel work or ornamental design elements exist on floors two through five, while selective window moldings and some finished plaster can be found on some floors. All flooring on floors two through five is concrete; stone overlay was added to the hallway area of the second floor at an unspecified date. Floor five features a vaulted wood ceiling. Ceilings are poured in place concrete. No lighting remains and the building is without power and or HVAC systems.



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### 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 or 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.)

Property is:

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

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

1924-1961

#### Significant Dates

1924

c.1927

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

A.H Albertson & Associates (Architects)

Haynes, Charles A. (Architect)

George, Clarence W. (Architect)

Rounds-Clist Co., Inc. (Builder)

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

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The Hotel Morck, in Aberdeen, Washington is historically significant for its broad contributions and direct connections to the commercial development of the Grays Harbor region. Upon completion, the Hotel Morck was touted as the finest hotel in Southwest Washington, a testament to developer Ernest A. Morck's vision and civic pride. Under the management of Ernst Mork's son, Carl, it remained the preeminent hotel in the region for over 40 years. The 1924 hotel is also significant under criteria C as a resource that represents the work of notable Seattle designer, Abraham H. Albertson and the Seattle contracting firm of Rounds-Clist. The hotel building exemplifies late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Classical Revival architecture, with the extensive use of terra cotta and a formal tri-partite arrangement. The period of significance begins in 1924, the completion date for the hotel, and ends in 1961, the year the hotel transferred out of the original ownership group and began a slow decline and conversion into apartments.

### **Aberdeen**

The City of Aberdeen, located at the confluence of the Chehalis and Wishkah Rivers at the head of Grays Harbor, was founded in 1884 by Samuel Benn. Benn, was a pioneer visionary who saw the regions tremendous potential of abundant timber and rich fisheries. While during the latter half of the nineteenth century a number of small communities were established on Grays Harbor, Aberdeen quickly grew to dominate as the commercial and cultural hub of the region. While the harbor fell short of possessing the facilities required to be a major Puget Sound port, it was more than sufficient as a place to load ship holds with lumber and canned fish.

In 1886 the first cargo of lumber was shipped out of Aberdeen and by 1889 Aberdeen had four mills producing nearly 30 million board feet of lumber. The city, itself, was named for a local salmon cannery and reflected its fishing port namesake of Aberdeen, Scotland. During the late 1880s, Aberdeen and its neighbors vied to be the terminus for Northern Pacific Railroad, but instead of ending at one of the established mill towns, the railroad skimmed through Cosmopolis and headed west for Ocosta. Hoquiam and Aberdeen citizens banded together to build a spur; and in 1895, the line connected Northern Pacific tracks to Aberdeen. By 1890 Aberdeen, the year the city was incorporated, boasted a population of 2,000, and had two sash and door factories, a shipyard, three salmon canneries, and two banks.

With a railroad connection and the lumber schooners to deliver their product, timber production around Grays Harbor thrived. As ships grew in tonnage, it became clear that the bar at the harbor's entrance would require improvements. After a failed attempt to build a jetty at the harbor entrance in 1896, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers successfully completed a one in 1916.

The voters of Grays Harbor County also approved the creation of a port district in 1911 and by the 1920s a channel had been dredged to Aberdeen and public wharfs were built allowing larger cargo ships to berth. In 1924 a new milestone for annual lumber production was reached when the one billionth foot of timber was shipped from Aberdeen to ports around the Pacific Rim, earning the town the title of "Lumber Capital of the World." The city was booming and the population reached 17,000. Aberdeen's burgeoning timber industry accounted for nearly \$10 million dollars in deposits in three local banks and two savings & loans associations. In 1923, the City of Aberdeen's building department issued building permits in excess of \$1,100,000. It was during this period of growth that the Hotel Morck was built.

### **Hotel Morck**

By the early 1920s, the Morck family was a well-established, prominent family in the Grays Harbor area. Before coming to the United States, family patriarch Ernest A. Morck had been a sailor in the Danish Navy. In 1887 he moved to Portland and worked on a variety of steamboats, plying up and down the Columbia River.

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Reportedly in 1898 he went to Alaska, and was engaged in Yukon Rover transportation services until around 1900. He then returned to the Northwest and built and operated the steamer Columbia on the Wenatchee River for a year or two. After relocating to Seattle, in 1903 Morck built the Palace Hotel in Seattle with business partner M.S. Morehouse. The six-story hotel quickly became one of the prominent hostelrys in the city. Desiring a home in a smaller, more maritime-oriented area, Morck and his wife, Tillie, relocated to Aberdeen in 1910 and became part owners of the Washington Hotel on the southwest corner of Heron and 'K' streets. By 1915, Morck had bought out the interest of his partner A.H. Griffin, whom had started the hotel around 1903. With the booming timber economy of the Grays Harbor region, the Hotel Washington did well and became the preeminent hotel in the region. Seeing greater business opportunities, Ernest Morck began making plans for a grand new modern hotel.

In February of 1922 he formed the Washington Hotel Company of Aberdeen with a capital stock of \$200,000. Morck had found several investors including: Eugene France (former two-term mayor and prominent lumberman, whom by 1914 was noted as a millionaire in the Spokane Daily Chronicle); Thomas Carstens (owner of Carstens Packing Co., the largest slaughterhouse on the west coast, and a cousin of Morck); J.S. Waugh (a prominent local general merchandise owner); and Robert W. Sutcliff (former manager of Aberdeen plant of Carstens Packing, President of Washington Products Co, and former President of the Chamber of Commerce). Morck, Sutcliff and Waugh were named directors.

The company requested two permits for the construction of a new hotel in late 1922, unsure as to whether they would add to the existing Washington Hotel, or build a new one at a different location. With the decision firmly made, in February 1923, the City of Aberdeen approved Morck's request to build a new hotel on the northwest corner of Heron and 'K' streets, across the street from the existing Washington Hotel. Construction on the hotel began just as Aberdeen's central business district was expanding to the west along the Chehalis River.

Official construction on the new hotel began in the spring of 1923 and was erected at an estimated cost between \$325,000 and \$440,000 with an additional \$60,000 in furnishings provided by Aberdeen's Kaufman-Leonard store. The new hotel was initially to be named the "Washington Hotel." This is evidenced by an ornate terra cotta ornament found above the main entry with a shield bearing the letter "W". However, founder Ernest A. Morck died during construction (Jan 1, 1924) and subsequently his son decided to rename the new structure "The Hotel Morck" in honor of his father prior to its grand opening.

The grand opening for the hotel was held on April 19, 1924. The event was well attended by other hotel owners and political dignitaries. Entertainment was provided by Aberdeen native and then nationally known pianist, Robert Ziegler. Upon opening, the Hotel Morck housed the Morck Coffee Shop, a barbershop and beauty parlor, an art shop, a radio supply shop, a cigar stand, and the Yellow Cab Company. The first name to be placed on the register was T.L. Hammer, a traveling freight agent with the Burlington RR. The hotel boasted 115 rooms, banquet space (the Star Room), and a restaurant called the Coach House (Later called the Highland Room, which specialized in single-malt Scotches). The original staff at the hotel included manager C.S. Caplinger; auditor Frank Doner; Chef Frank Miller; maître de W.H. Connors; and chief clerk Gordon Wilson.

Business went well for the new hotel and talk about an expansion occurred just two years after the opening. Local architect Clarence W. George was hired in July of 1926 to design a two story addition. While such an expansion did not appear to the top of the building, a rear wing was added to the north side c.1927.

With the passing of the senior Morck, his son, Carl E. (1894-1978), took over general control of the hotel. Stock holder Thomas Carstens challenged this transaction of controlling stock, but it was upheld after a State Supreme Court judgment in 1930. Carl E. Morck was a former a member of the State House of Representatives (1922), and helped grow the Morck Hotel business and the Grays's Harbor region greatly during the 1930s and 40s. As an example, Carl helped form the Coast Empire Association, a group of

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business and community supporters who's goal was to advocate for the immediate construction of the coastal highway and to advertise tourist travel attractions in Washington and Oregon. Carl elected their first president.

Over the years, the Hotel Morck play host to a variety of governmental, social, political, and commercial functions; serving as "THE" place in town to host an event. The hotel's Star Room was a popular high school prom venue, and the hotel itself was a honeymoon destination. Such events included the hosting of one thousand delegates from the 1,000 Order of Runeberg for their quadrennial convention in 1929. Other notable events included hosting the Washington State Democratic Party conference in May of 1936 where future United States Representative and Senator Warren Magnusson delivered a speech to delegates on the importance of ideological dichotomy: "*A bird needs two wings to fly. So does a political party.*" Other events included hosting the Washington State Bar Association Convention in 1931; the Washington State Sheriff's Association, 10th Annual Convention (1946); the Hotel Greeters of America, Charter 10 annual meeting (1926); and a Boeing Aircraft Co. Banquet in 1944.

During World War II, the Morck hosted recurrent meetings of the Women's Relief Corps and held numerous banquets benefitting the U.S. Army's war effort. The Women's Relief Corps, an extension of the fraternal Grand Army of the Republic, promoted voting rights for black veterans and played an integral role in the development of women's activism in communities across the country. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the hotel continued to be an active gathering place for countless social and civic organizations including the Business and Professional Women Club, the Active Club, the Altrusa Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, Rotary, Soroptomists, and Toastmasters.

From its construction, the Hotel Morck was also a central gathering place for local and regional timber industry workers and industrialists. In 1925, it hosted the Northwest Rivers & Harbors Congress Convention. From the 1930s to the 1950s, the hotel regularly hosted Grays Harbor Loggers Service Award dinners; the Rayonier Pulp & Paper Company Service Award dinners; Harbor Plywood Service Award dinners; and countless other festivities and meetings directly related to Aberdeen's timber heritage.

In 1961, Pacific Northwest hotel owner, William Hammond, purchased the hotel. He immediately announced plans to construct an addition to the hotel on the half block to the rear. Designer Lloyd L. Black, developed a rendering of the wing, which was billed as a luxury motor inn complete with a rooftop swimming pool, 26 additional rooms and closed circuit TV. The motor inn never came to fruition and Hammond sold the hotel to Balanced Investments Corporation of Seattle in 1966. Balanced Investments owned of four other hotels (the Lewis & Clark in Centralia, the Cascadian in Wenatchee, the Lee in Port Angeles, and the President in Mount Vernon) scattered across the state; as well as a variety of shopping centers, and land scattered throughout WA State.

By the early 1980s, the building had been converted to a low-income apartment complex and was renamed the Morck Apartments (renamed Washington Apartments in 2004). It was during this later period in which the building has a connection to Aberdeen native son, singer/songwriter Kurt Cobain, of the grunge band Nirvana. Historian and Cobain biographer, Charles R. Cross, noted that the hotel was frequented by Cobain and his friends who visited a hopeless alcoholic and his son, which they lovingly referred to as: "The Fat Man and Bobby". The "Fat Man" was willing to buy Cobain and his friends alcohol as long as they paid for the alcohol and helped him and his disabled son, "Bobby," get to the local supermarket. The "Fat Man and Bobby" were the subjects of Cobain's earliest short stories and songwriting.

After a fight with his mother at age 17, Cobain left home and spent about four months sneaking into buildings around Aberdeen, including the Morck, to sleep, sometimes unscrewing a lightbulb to darken a hallway, unrolling his bedroll, then stealing away in the morning before residents woke up. Cobain immortalized this period in his song "Something in the Way," which expressed his feeling of being an outsider, in everyone's way, unloved and abandoned by his family.

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For a penniless teen who sometimes slept in an empty refrigerator box on a friend's cold porch, the Morck's welcoming motto "*Come As You Are*" may have seemed funny and apt. "*Whether Kurt directly took something from that,*" says Cross, "*or whether it simply stayed in his subconscious a few years later when he wrote the song, is unknown, but it's a fascinating twist, and perhaps an explanation of the genesis of the title of one of Nirvana's greatest songs.*"

Today the phrase appears on a welcome sign greeting visitors to Aberdeen, which installed a controversial statue of a weeping Cobain at the town's history museum in 2014.

### **Architect – A.H. Albertson**

To design the hotel, Morck hired prominent Seattle architect, Abraham Horace Albertson (1872-1964). He was one of the city's most prolific architects and his practice reached beyond the city's boundaries. Albertson was born in Hope, New Jersey on April 14, 1872. With the assistance of a scholarship, he graduated from Columbia University in 1895 and then practiced architecture in New York City; initially as a draftsman with the firm of Clinton & Russell. After working in Duluth, Minnesota, Albertson moved to Seattle in 1907 to serve as the on-site representative of the New York architectural firm Howell & Stokes, who had been hired by the Metropolitan Building Company to prepare a plan for the development of the University of Washington's Metropolitan Tract. Albertson served as the Seattle representative for Howells & Stokes from 1907 to 1917 and oversaw the firms work in Seattle and as well as other West Coast cities.

Albertson's associates during this time included Joseph Wilson and Paul Richardson. Joseph Wade Wilson (1878-1968) had joined Albertson in 1907 after reportedly coming to the Pacific Northwest to look for his brother, a timber cruiser, who had disappeared. Wilson was born in Morristown, IL and was educated at the University of Illinois receiving a BA in Engineering (1903) and a Master's in Architecture the following year. Paul David Richardson (1888-1939) was born in Smithberg, Maryland but grew up in Seattle. After a brief architectural apprenticeship, he joined Albertson in 1910.

By 1919, Albertson had opened up his own firm A.H. Albertson & Associates with Wilson and Richardson as associates. Together they completed most of the remaining Metropolitan Tract buildings including the White & Stuart Building (1923); the Arena Building (1925); and the Stimson Building (1925). Their eclectic training produced a variety of work in a mix of architectural styles, including the Spanish Revival style Cornish School (1921); the Art Deco Municipal Building (1930) for the City of Everett; and several Collegiate Gothic structures for the University of Washington. Other buildings of note in Seattle include Northern Life Tower (1929); the YMCA (1931); Women's University Club (1922); and The Monte Cristo Hotel (1925) in Everett.

To supervise the construction of the hotel project in Aberdeen, Albertson hired local architect Charles A. Haynes. Haynes was born in Winona, Minnesota on March 15, 1886. His formal architectural training is unknown, but documents note that he arrived in Aberdeen around 1910. Reportedly he designed many homes, schools and business blocks in Southwest Washington. His early projects include the Cartier House (1911) in South Bend. Around 1912 he formed a partnership with architect Charles E. Troutman. Known projects by the firm of Troutman & Haynes are limited to the Bowen Brothers Garage (1913); and the YMCA Building (1919). In 1919, when Washington began licensing architects, Haynes received Washington license No. 72, under the grandfather clause. Around 1920, Haynes and Troutman parted ways and Haynes continued an independent practice. Known projects are limited to the Aberdeen Armory (with Seattle architect Lewis Svarz 1921); the Elks Temple (c.1924); the Dr. I.R. Watkins House (1926); City Retail Lumber Co. (1926); a store in Satsop (1927); and a grade school in Cosmopolis (1938). Haynes passed away in Aberdeen on April 11, 1940 at the age of 54.

The Hotel Morck is reflective of the high quality of work by Albertson whom often utilized the classical arrangement of base, shaft and capitol as a design motif. Architecturally it is most like his design for the Monte Cristo Hotel in Everett (completed a year after the Morck) in which the upper floors forms a U-shape-foot print to accommodate a large lobby area skylight.

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Unfortunately there was very little work for Albertson's firm during the late 1930s due to the Great Depression. His partner, Richardson died suddenly in 1939, and to make ends meet, Albertson and Wilson joined the state office of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Albertson retired as chief architect for the FHA in 1949 and passed away in 1964. Wilson retired from the FHA about the same time, but continued to work for local architect John Maloney and then for the Boeing Company. He passed away on April 18, 1964.

### **Contractor – Rounds-Clist Construction Co.**

To build the hotel, the Morck family hired the prominent Seattle construction firm of Rounds-Clist. The company was one of the major general contracting firms in the region and facilitated the constructed of many large scale building projects around the state. The partnership had been formed between E. J. Rounds (1865-1929) and Walter Mark Clist (1880-1952) in 1918 and continued for nearly 30 years.

Founder Edgar J. Rounds was born in Crawford County, Wisconsin on May 27, 1865. Educated at an unknown business college in Madison, Wisconsin, after learning the carpenter trade, he was employed as a foreman for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. He then took a job as the construction foreman for the N.O. Nelson Manufacturing Co. complex in St. Louis, Missouri (1890), at the time, one of the largest wholesale manufacturers and distributors of plumbing supplies in the United States. For reasons, unknown he relocated to Seattle in 1891 and began working as a general contractor for the firm of Pickarts & Company. Later he formed a short-lived partnership with Charles L. Ditlefsen. The Rounds & Ditlefson construction firm focused mainly on residential construction. Known projects are limited to the J.T. Williamson House (1900); the E.C. Fitzhenry House (1900); the Dr. D.A. Mitchell House (1900); and a mattress factory in West Seattle (1900).

By 1905 Rounds and Ditlefson had parted ways; each establishing their own general contracting firms. Projects during this time period by Rounds include the First Methodist Church (1908); the Queen Anne Fire Station; Columbia City Schoolhouse; Minor Hospital; the Stewart Hotel; Wintonia Hotel; Northern Pacific RR roundhouse and shops (at Handford St & Occidental Ave, 1917); Gaffney Warehouse (c.1905); and the Holden Warehouse. A \$150,000 contract to build the seventeen acre J.F. Duthie & Co. shipbuilding plant (1918) with buildings covering over three quarters acres of floor space, most likely spurred Rounds to take on an additional partner, Walter M. Clist.

Clist was a prolific builder in his own right and was an outspoken advocate for the Association of General Contractors. In fact he was elected head of the Northwest Chapter of the Associated General Contractors in 1922. Clist lectured often on a variety of topics to local civic and social groups on different aspects of the building industry. He was born in London and spent his primary years in Spokane, Washington.

Rounds was very active in the Master Builders Association (MBA) and well respected by his fellow contractors. He had been a founding member of the Seattle MBA chapter and was appointed chairman of the committee to organize a regional Pacific Northwest master builder association. When it was formed in 1918, Rounds was elected its first secretary-treasurer.

Together the firm made a significant impact on the built environment in the Pacific Northwest. They were responsible from constructing many of prominent civic, educational and private buildings in the region. Projects in Seattle include the Cornish School of Music (1921); the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company Melrose Exchange (1921); Federal Reserve Bank (1921); National Bank of Commerce (1921); Roosevelt High School (1922); the Cambridge Apartments (1923); Women's University Club Building (1923); the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Building (1925), Roundcliffe Apartments (1925); the Medical Dental Building (1925); the Orpheum Theater (1927, destroyed); Suzzallo Library (1927); Nile Temple Clubhouse (1927); and the Paramount Theater (1929).

Outside the city, the firm built the YMCA building in Bremerton (1919); a dining hall for Camp Sealth, a Campfire Girls summer camp on Vashon Island (1921, named after E.J. Rounds); an office building & storage building for the Superior Portland Cement Co. (1922) in Concrete; Capital National Bank in Olympia (1923);



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the Washington Building, Tacoma (1925); and the Paulson Medical Center (1929) and Culmstock Arms Apartments (1929) in Spokane.

After Rounds' death in 1929 (May 23), Walter M. Clist continued to run the company under the Rounds-Clist name until he retired and liquidated the company in 1944. Clist then relocated to Laguna Beach in 1943 and died there on August 18, 1952.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Articles of Incorporation: Hotel Washington Company of Aberdeen - File 51828, March 18, 1922.

Bagley, Clarence. The History of Seattle from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916.

Cross, Charles R. Heavier than Heaven: A Biography of Kurt Cobain New York: Hyperion, 2001. 50-51.

"Dismissal of Morck Hotel Suit Upheld" Seattle Daily Times, October 22, 1930

"E.A. Morck Dies, Victim of Worry Over New Hotel" Aberdeen Daily World, January 1, 1924.

"Hotel News of the West: Featuring Hotel Morck, Aberdeen, Washington" Washington State Hotel Association. 19 (1924)

"Hotel Washington" Aberdeen Herald, October 27, 1914.

"Legislature is G.O.P." Morning Olympian, November 13, 1922.

"Minimum Wage of \$14.50 for Women is Decided Upon" Morning Olympian, July 25, 1921.

"Morck Now Sole Owner of Hotel" Aberdeen Herald, September 9, 1915.

"On Hotel Structure, Details Completed" Aberdeen Daily World, March 26, 1923

"New Hotel for Aberdeen" Seattle Daily Times, March 3, 1922.

"New Mining Companies" Morning Olympian, November 1, 1905.

"Pay \$200,000 for Hotel at Raymond" Seattle Daily Times, July 5, 1926.

Perkins, Nelson S., ed. "West Coast Plywood Corporation." Plywood Pioneers Association Monograph 16  
Tacoma: Plywood Pioneers Association, 1976.

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
County and State

Scates, Shelby. Warren G. Magnuson and the shaping of twentieth-century America Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997. 55-56.

“Seattle Firm Buys Two Hotels” Seattle Times, April 17, 1966.

“The Palace Hotel” Seattle Sunday Times, February 7, 1904.

“Tourist Trade is Objective” Seattle Sunday Times, April 6, 1930.

“Walking Tour of Aberdeen.” The Aberdeen Daily World, June 2009.

WA DAHP Web Site; Architect Biographies; Abraham H. Albertson <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/learn-and-research/architect-biographies/abraham-h-alberston>

WA DAHP Web Site; Architect Biographies; Charles A. Haynes <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/learn-and-research/architect-biographies/charles-a-haynes>

Weinstein, Robert A. Grays Harbor, 1885-1913 New York: Penguin Books, 1978. 16-19.

Wilma, David. Grays Harbor County: A Thumbnail History 27 May 2006. 10 May 2010.  
<http://www.historylink.org>

“Women’s Clubs Meet in Aberdeen Friday” Seattle Daily Times, February 22, 1928.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Timberland Regional Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**      NAD 1927 or      NAD 1983

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Or Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>46°58'22.32"N</u>	<u>123°49'7.74"W</u>	3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is located on the northwest corner of South 'K' St. and Heron St. in downtown Aberdeen, Washington. The building and accompanying property are legally described as Lots 10-12 of Block 30 of the Wax & Benns Addition. It is located identified as Tax Parcel #029303001000.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot that is occupied by the Hotel Morck.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Aaron Nickell/ Chester Trabucco (Edited by DAHP Staff)

organization Means Nickell & Associates/Morck Renovation LLC date 1/15/2016

street & number 19823 83<sup>rd</sup> Place W telephone 425-922-4636

city or town Edmonds state WA zip code 98626

e-mail ctrabucco46@comcast.net

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



Google Earth - Edit Placemark

Name:  

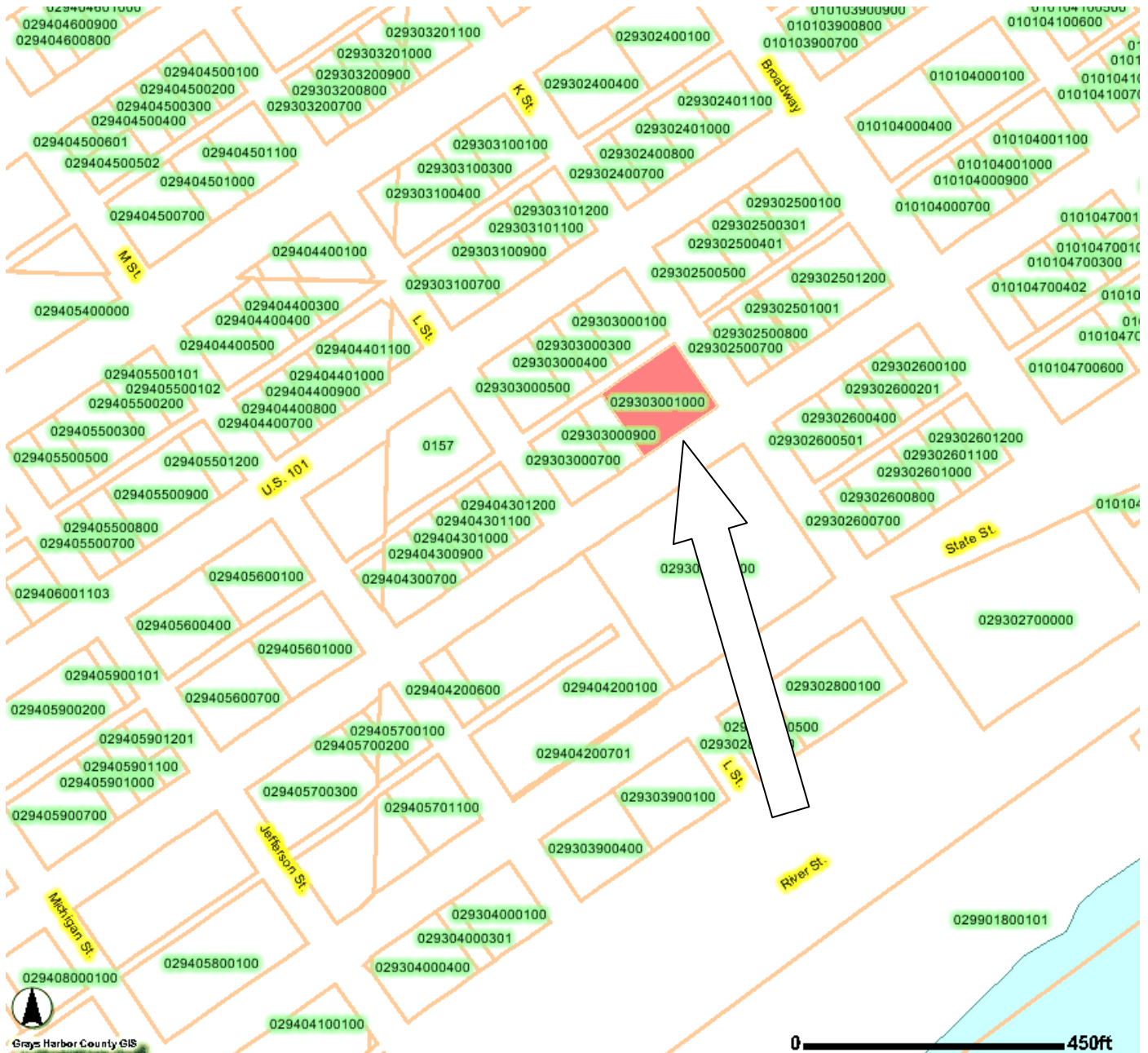
Latitude:

Longitude:



Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

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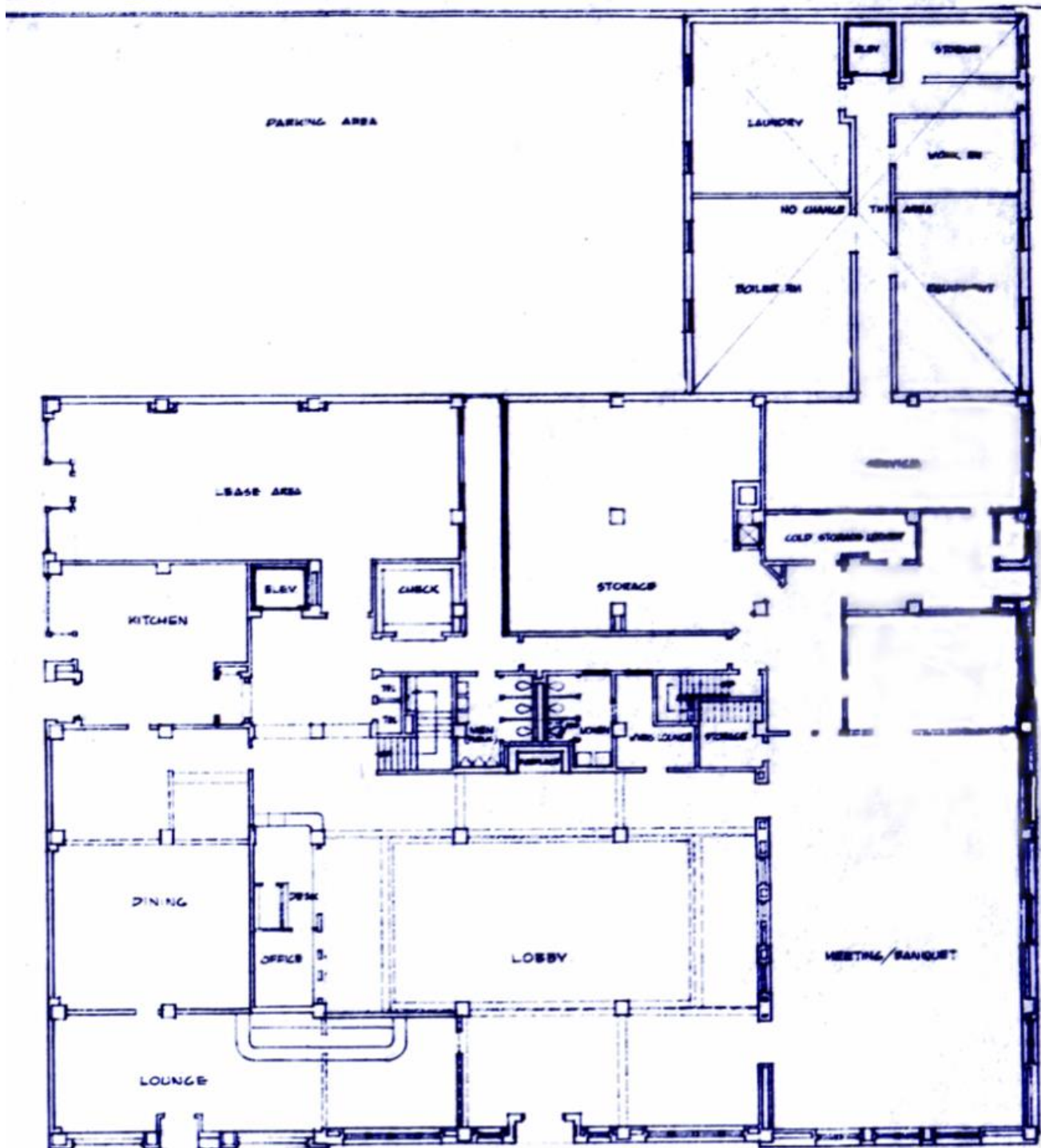
**Hotel Morck**  
Assessor Map

Parcel No. 029303001000



Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
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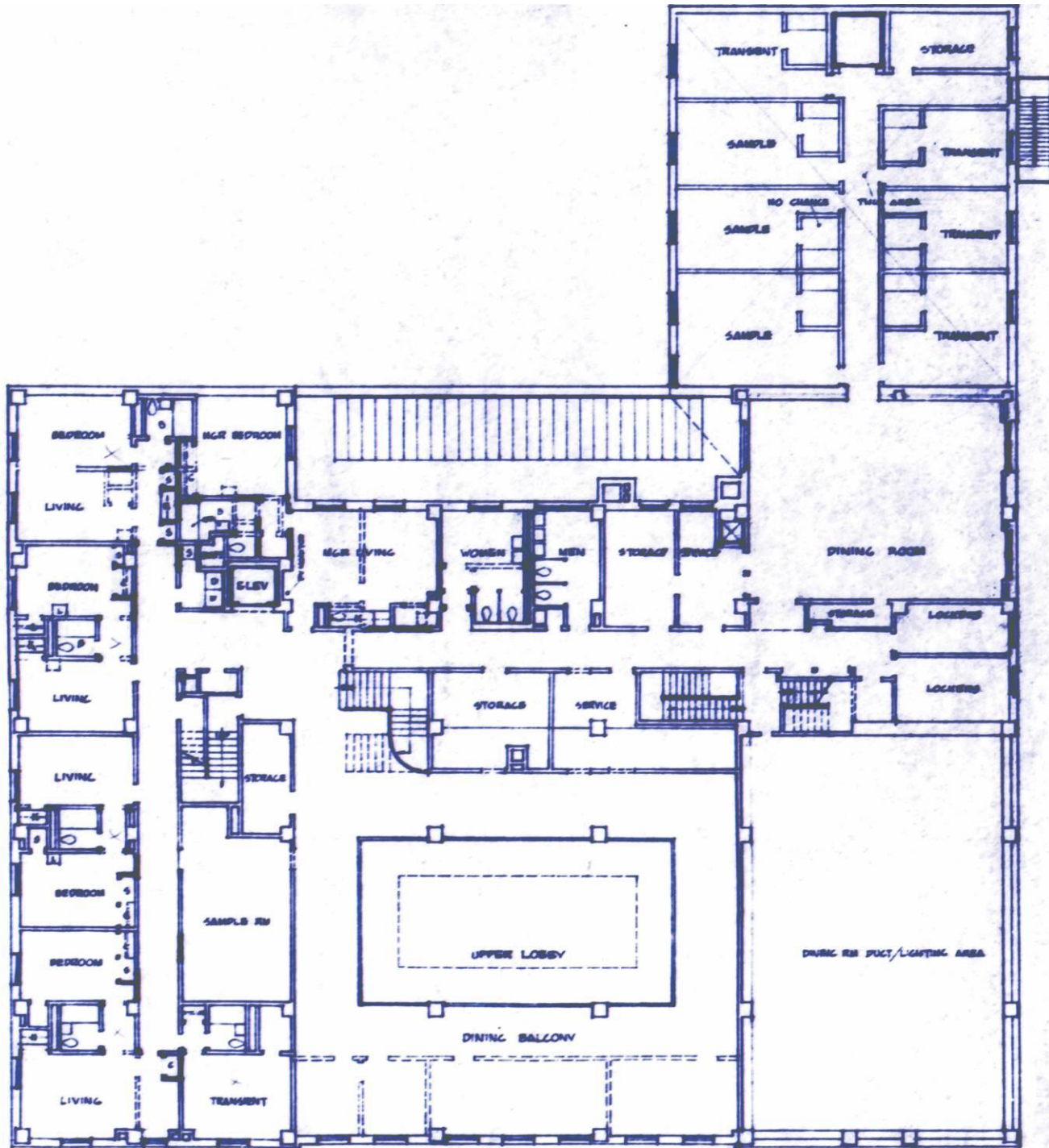


**Hotel Morck**  
Floor Plan

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
NOT TO SCALE

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
County and State



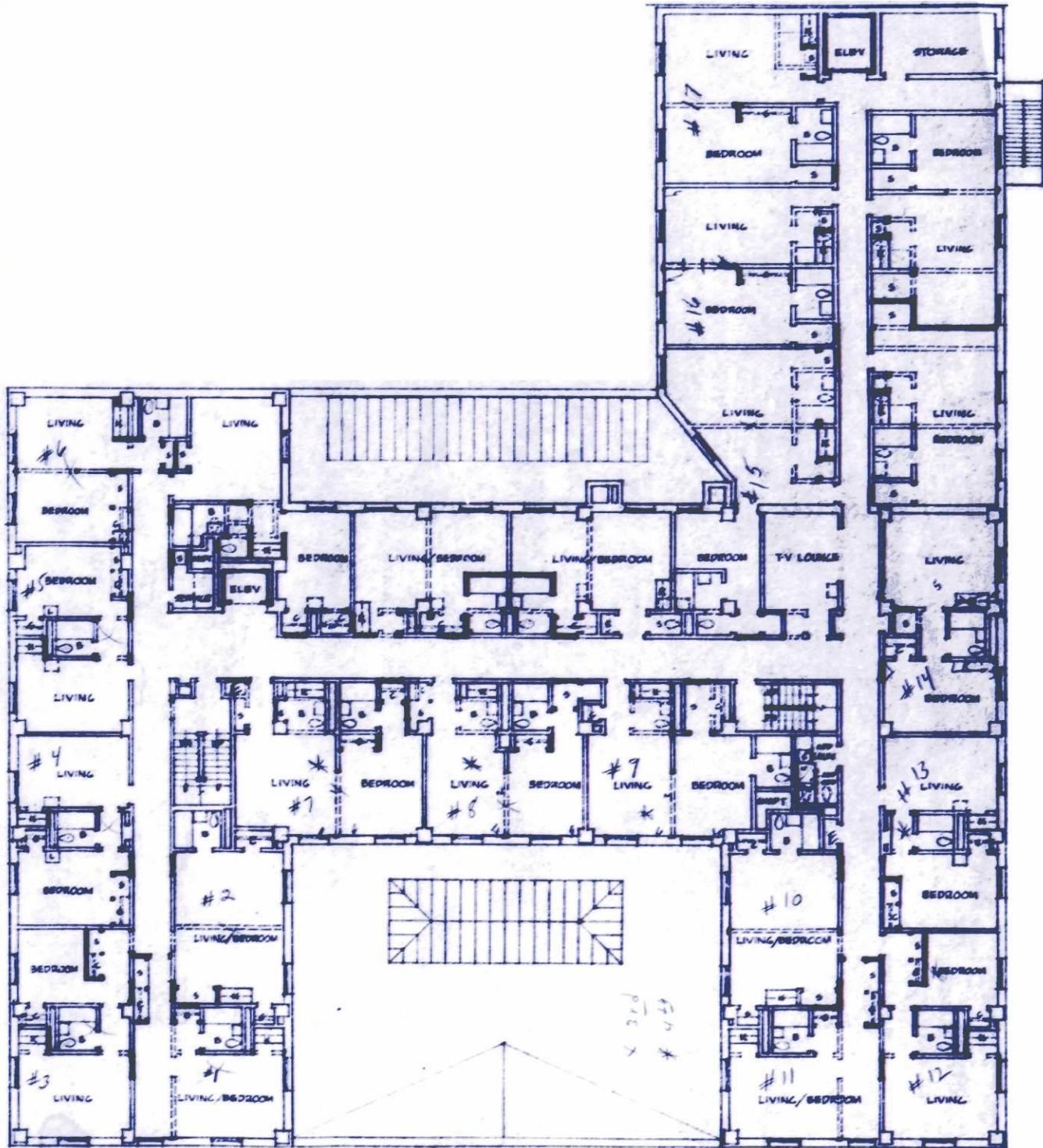
**Hotel Morck**  
Floor Plan

2<sup>ND</sup> Floor  
NOT TO SCALE



Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

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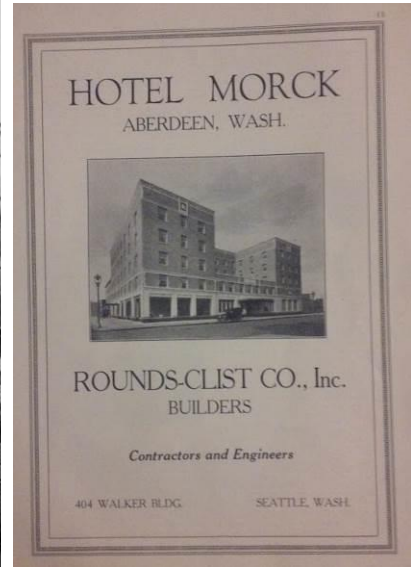
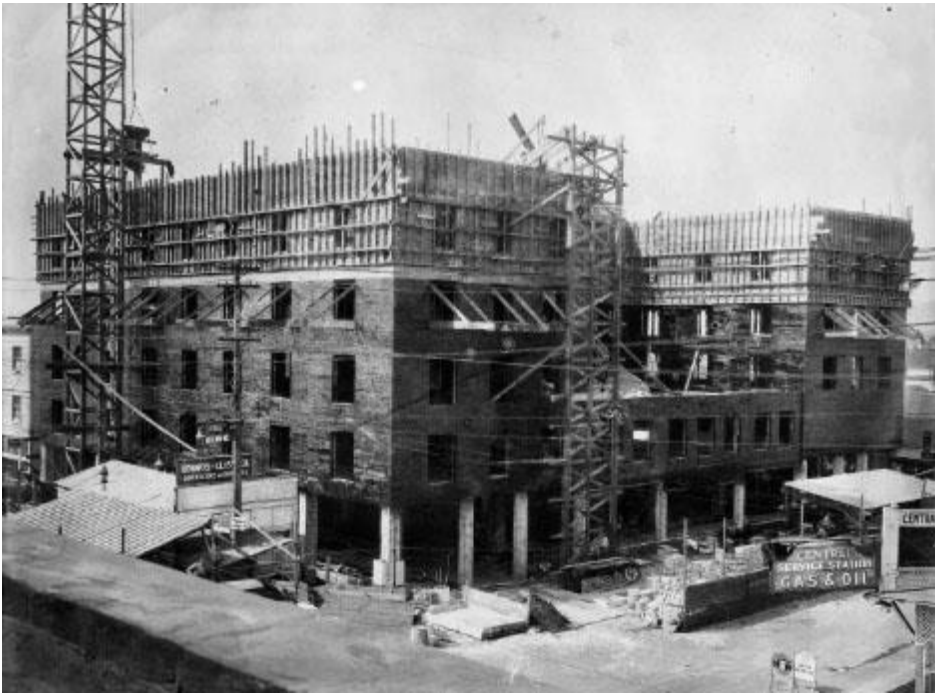


**Hotel Morck**  
Floor Plan

Floors 3, 4 & 5  
NOT TO SCALE

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
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Construction of Hotel Morck, Rounds-Clist Co. construction office at left – 1924  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Hotel Morck shortly after opening – c. 1925  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Hotel Morck  
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Early postcard of Hotel Morck – c. 1926  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection

### The Hotel Morck, Aberdeen, Washington

New Structure Modern and Beautiful, a Monument to its Builder, E. A. Morck.

**T**HE HOTEL MORCK, Aberdeen, Washington, is an excellent example of what can be accomplished in present day hotel construction without an exorbitant sum of money. This hotel was constructed at a cost of \$125,000, or approximately \$2,700 per room. The building itself is a five-story, reinforced concrete structure, faced with terra cotta to the height of the second story, and with white, cream brick above with a terra cotta cornice. The building follows a U-shaped plan, with an open court in front above the second story. Four store rooms are provided on the ground floor, in addition to the coffee shop, main dining room and lobby. These

home-like atmosphere, and the simplicity of the decorations. The walls of the lobby are finished in a Venetian plaster, break striped, giving the effect of the surface of an old canvas painting. This idea is something new in the way of interior decorating, and was originated by the Rainier Decorating Company of Seattle, who had the contract for the interior decorating work of the hotel.

There is an absolute lack of panel work or borders on the various wall surfaces, and the only decorative feature visible in the lobby is the color work that appears on some brackets underneath the mezzanine floor. Here, there is a touch of blue and gold coloring worked in behind a lead design.


The drapes on the windows, both on the street side and the windows overlooking the lobby and the main dining room, are done in gold and old

store rooms have all been leased, and are fitted up in an attractive manner, and add materially to the general appearance of the hotel.

The building contains a total of 114 guest rooms, 87 of which either have private or connecting bath, 28 are provided with private toilets, and only 7 are without either bath or toilet.

**Home-Like Atmosphere in Lobby**  
Entering the lobby of the hotel through the main entrance, one is impressed immediately by the

The Morck Lobby is Roomy, Comfortable, Light, Furnishings Show Careful Selection.



### Messanine Floor Circular Lobby

Ample facilities have been provided on the mezzanine floor, which completely overlooks the lobby. According to the marble steps, one finds himself stepping onto figured mohair carpet which completely covers the mezzanine floor. Here writing desks have been provided for the convenience of the guests, and a telephone has been placed in one corner so that it is unnecessary for guests receiving a telephone call to step down to the booths on the main floor. A very nature has been fitted up with lounge and business, upholstered with tapestry.

room is separated from the main room by ascending doors, and can be shut off entirely if two separate organizations are meeting at the same time.

### Breakfast Table Original

A unique breakfast table has been provided for use in this room, and is the original idea of Mr. Carl Morck. This table is built up in sections, but differs from the ordinary breakfast table in that it has supports of single square posts, instead of the customary wooden horses. The idea in this connection being to avoid the inconvenience to the guests in

### The Morck Kitchen is in Capable Hands and Latest Convenience Have Been Installed Throughout

On this floor also will be found a small room equipped with a multigraph, which is used for printing the various forms and cash checks used in the hotel. In one corner of the mezzanine floor are two private offices, both furnished with mahogany furniture, and are used by Manager Caplinger and Associate Manager Morck.

In the opposite corner is a room of equal size, which has been leased out and is now used as a first-class beauty parlor for the convenience of women guests of the hotel.


The mezzanine elevators lead directly to the second floor guest rooms, of which there are four-teen. In one corner of this floor is the Orange Room, which is used as a meeting place for civic organizations, such as the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs. This room has a capacity of 110 people, with a small annex adjoining which seats twenty-five, making one hundred and thirty-five in all. This small

arriving at a table, where no much space is taken up by the wooden horses. This is accomplished by a reel equipped at both ends with an iron hook similar to that used on the ordinary wooden bed. These hooks slip into slots provided in the table legs, and the tables can be made of any desired length.

A service room is provided adjoining the Orange Room, which is equipped with wash tables and coffee urns. A dumb waiter in this room operates directly to the kitchen below. Provision has been made for service from this room to the small room previously mentioned without interfering with any function which might be in session in the large room.

### Guest Rooms Very Attractive

All the floors above the second are of similar design and provide the balance of the sleeping quarters. The hallways are extremely wide, carpeted with



Promotional material at the time of opening for the Hotel Morck – 1924

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
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Swing Kings Orchestra at Hotel Morck – Nov. 1936  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



View down W Heron Street towards the NE, Hotel Morck on left – c. 1927  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Hotel Morck  
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Northwest River & Harbors Congress at the Hotel Morck – c. 1937  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Active Club meeting at the Hotel Morck – c. 1935  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

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Aberdeen Daily World Staff outside Hotel Morck – c. 1958  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Hotel Morck dinner party in the Star Room – 1928  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

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Hotel Morck lobby – c. 1935  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Hotel Morck – c. 1955  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection

Hotel Morck  
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1939 Pontiac Deluxe-Six Ghost Car on display in Hotel Morck lobby after being displayed at the 1939-40 New York World's Fair.  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Washington State Sheriff's Association, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at Hotel Morck – May 31 – June 1, 1946  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

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Rayonier, Inc., Grays Harbor Loggers Service Award Dinner at Hotel Morck – Sept. 30, 1955  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



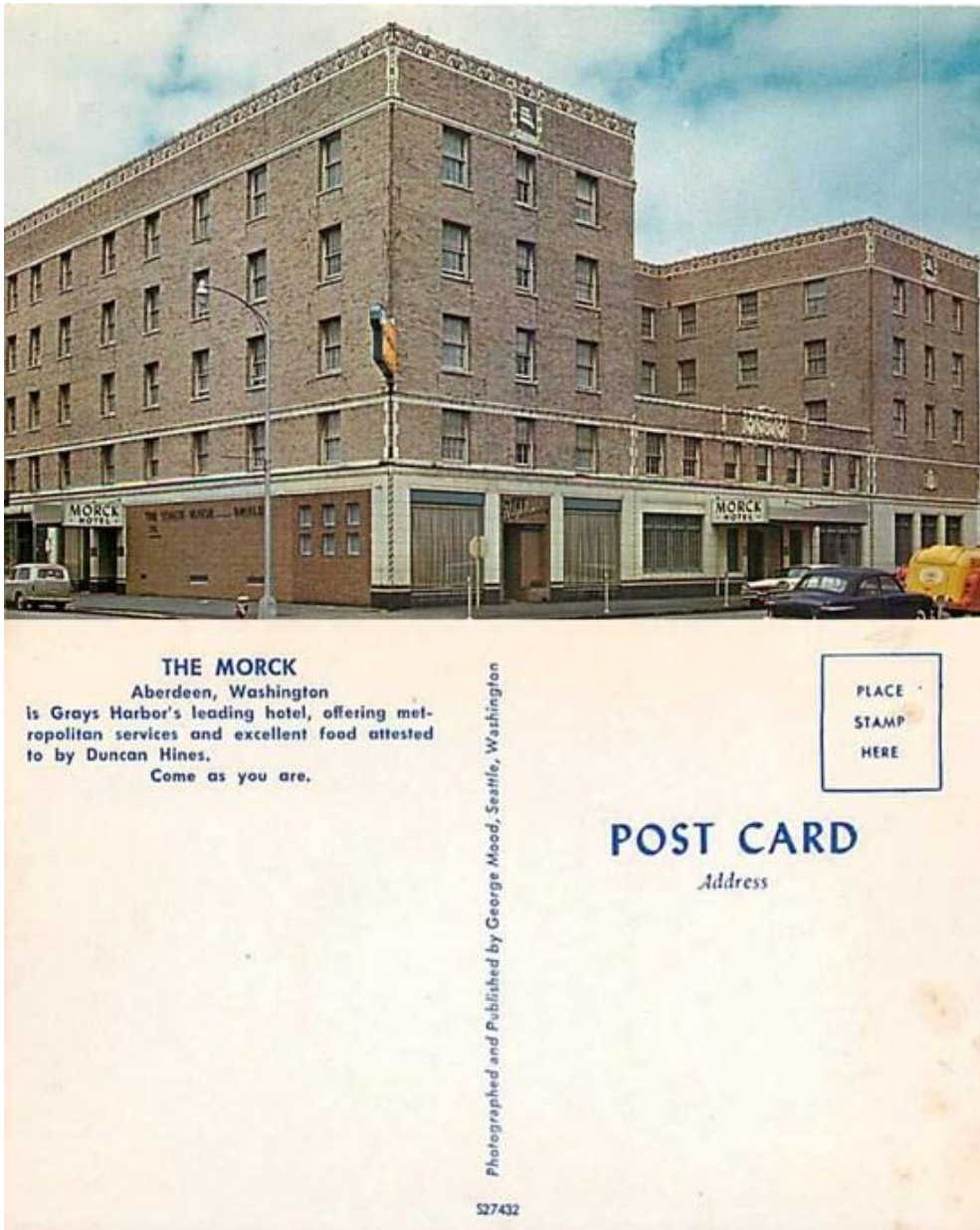
Portrait of Ernest A. Morck – c. 1908  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Carl E. & Hazel W. Morck – c.1935  
Dressed for "Pioneer Days" Celebration

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

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Postcard of Hotel Morck showing storefront alterations. – c. 1958  
Note slogan “Come as you are” which may have been the inspiration for Aberdeen native, Kurt Cobain and his band Nirvana’s, song “Come as You Are”



Hotel Morck  
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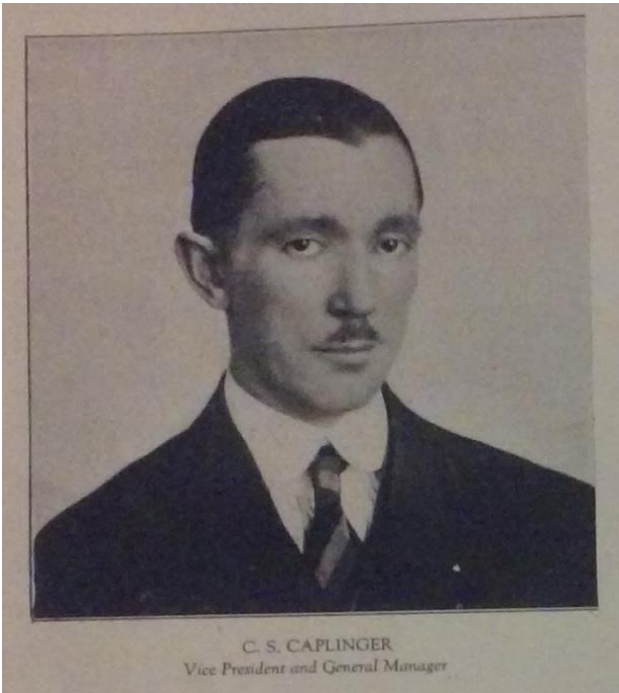
Proposed rear Motor Inn addition, Lloyd L. Black, Designer – 1962  
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



Napkins from Highlander Restaurant in Hotel Morck – c.1958  
Collection of Morck Hotel

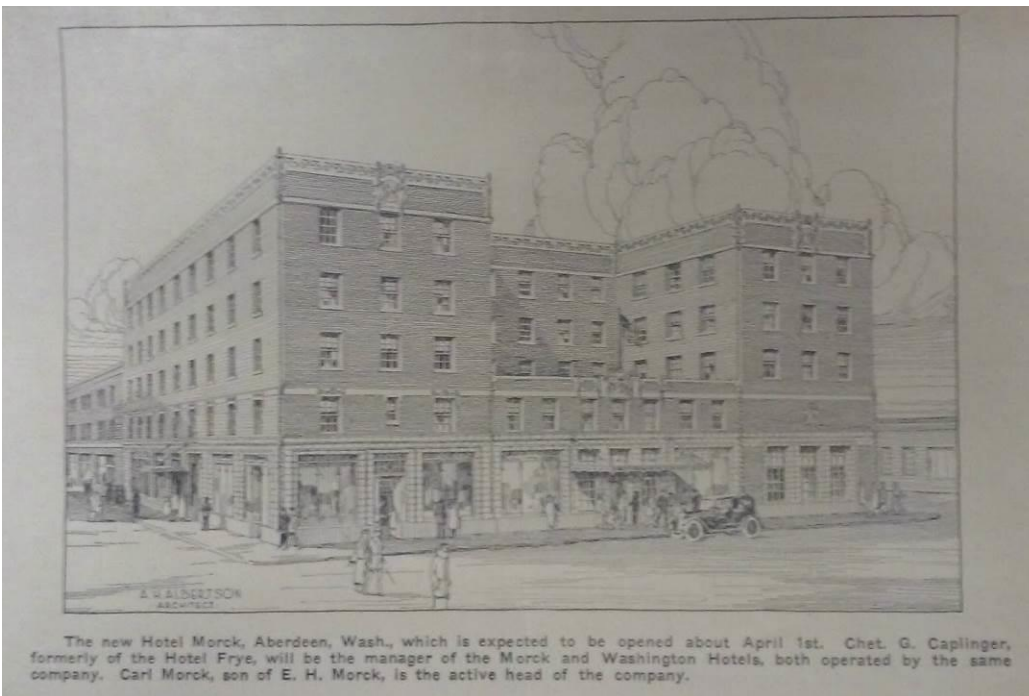
Hotel Morck  
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Original Manager of Hotel Morck – C.S. Caplinger

Advertisement  
Seattle Times: August 26, 1936

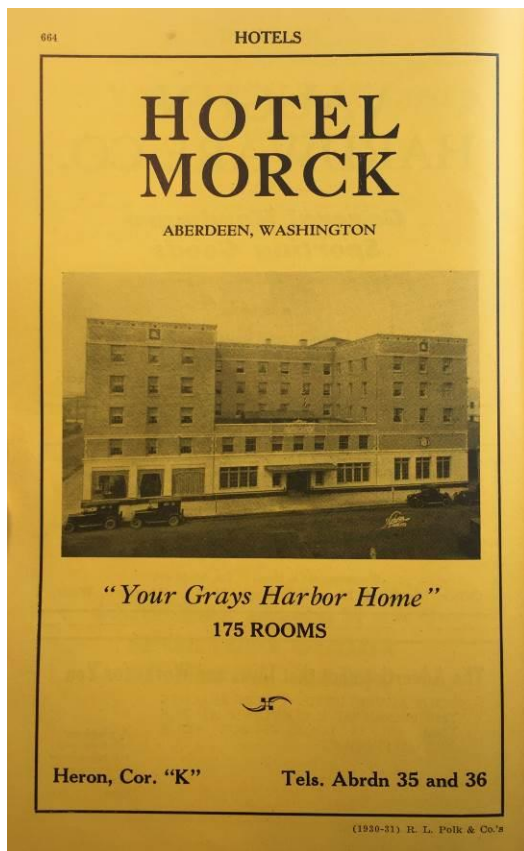


Architect A.H. Albertson rendering of Hotel Morck

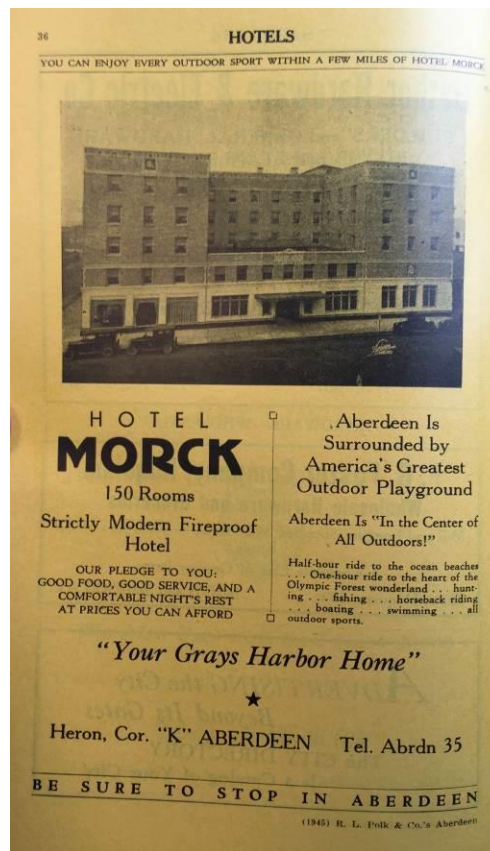


Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

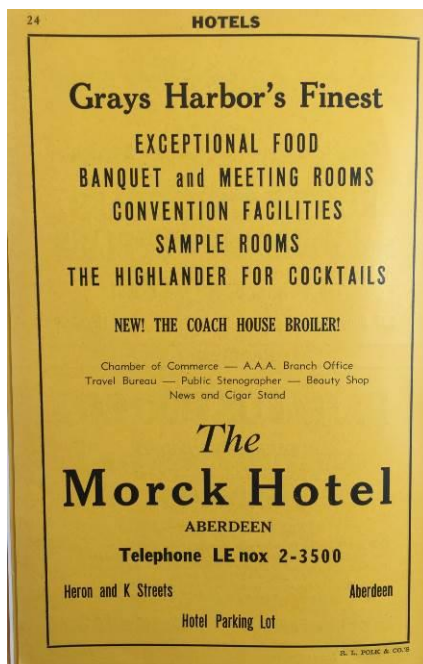
Grays Harbor Co, WA  
County and State



Polk Directory – 1930-31



Polk Directory – 1945



Polk Directory – 1955



Polk Directory – 1963

Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
County and State

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Hotel Morck,  
**City or Vicinity:** Aberdeen,  
**County:** Grays Harbor County **State:** WA  
**Photographer:** Aaron Nickell

**Date Photographed:** May 5, 2010

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**



1 Front façade; camera facing west from 'K' St.



Hotel Morck  
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2 North façade; camera facing south.



3 South façade or W Heron Street Façade.

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4 Northwest corner showing rear wing; camera facing southwest



5 Rear façade; camera facing west.



Hotel Morck  
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6 Detail of southeast corner showing brick and terra cotta.



7 Detail of terra cotta on main façade.



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8 Main Façade showing window panes into ballroom and decorative cartouche.



9 Decorative cornice detail above main entry.

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10 Decorative cornice detail above skylight on main façade.



11 Aquatic sea-horse themed cornice frieze.



Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

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12 Detail of storefront bulkhead.



13 Storefront detail on W Heron Street.

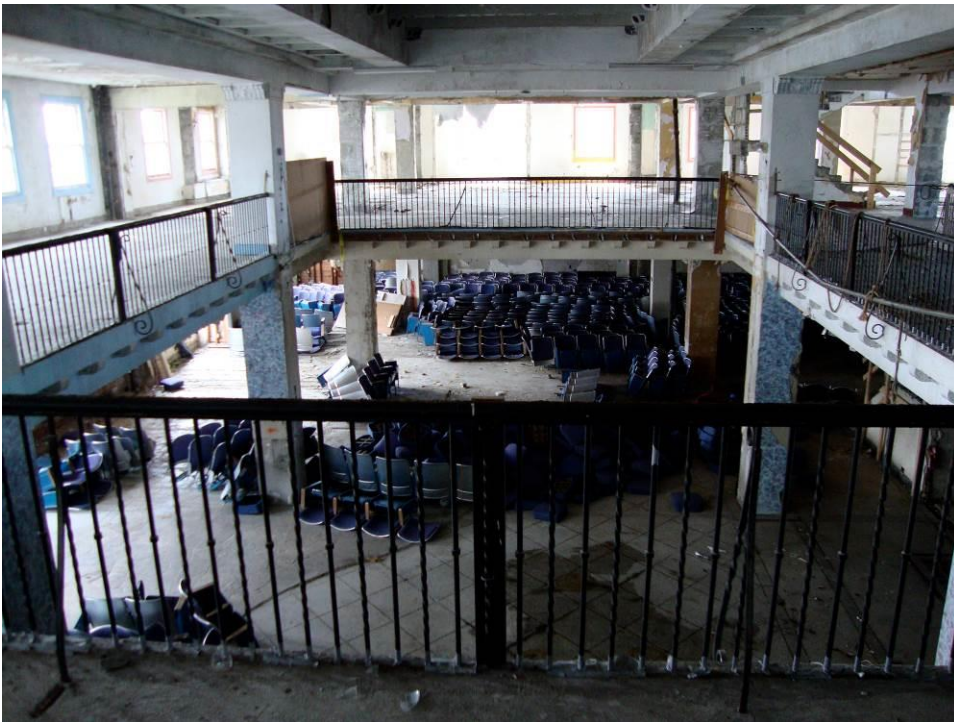


Hotel Morck  
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14 Main lobby space showing skylight.



15 View from second floor into lobby. Note original iron railing.

Hotel Morck  
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16 Decorative corbel in lobby.



17 Interior view of original W Heron St. storefront.



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18 Detail of lobby fireplace hearth showing original terrazzo floors.



19 Ballroom looking west.

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20 Former soda fountain area showing counter layout area and terrazzo floor.



21 Second floor mezzanine level; camera facing southwest. Open lobby to the left.



Hotel Morck  
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22 Typical floor plate.



23 Typical floor plate showing evidence of room divisions; camera on third floor facing west.

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24 Typical floor plate showing evidence of room divisions and original wall finishes and trim.



25 Typical floor plate showing evidence of hallway and room divisions.



Hotel Morck  
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26 Detail of mezzanine level stairwell railing.



27 Detail of lobby skylight.



Hotel Morck  
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA  
County and State

---

**Property Owner:** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

name Morck Renovation LLC  
street & number 19823 83rd Pl. W. telephone 425-922-4636  
city or town Edmonds state WA zip code 98026

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.









ANOTHER  
MAN'S  
COLLAR































ANOTHER  
MAN'S  
TREASURE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hotel Morck  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WASHINGTON, Grays Harbor

DATE RECEIVED: 4/08/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/29/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/16/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/24/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000294

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5-23-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

APR 08 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 1, 2016

Paul Lusignan  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: **Washington State NR Nominations**

Dear Paul:

Please find enclosed new National Register Nominations forms for the:

- **Luepke Florist – Clark County, WA**  
(an all-electronic nomination!)
- **Hotel Morck – Grays Harbor County, WA**  
(an all-electronic nomination!)

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations please contact me anytime at (360) 586-3076. I look forward to hearing your final determination on these properties.

Sincerely,

**Michael Houser**  
State Architectural Historian, DAHP  
360-586-3076  
E-Mail: [michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov)

