

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street & number 215 S. "K" Street not for publication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

 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:) _____

 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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

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 Heron St. and 'K' St. in downtown Aberdeen, WA. The building abuts the side and faces a northwestern direction onto "K" Street. The building takes up approximately ¼ of the block and is void of landscaping.

was completed in 1924. The building was originally U-shaped; an extension was added to the northwest corner of the building circa 1927 to increase lodging capacity.

The original exterior features of the Hotel Morck remain largely intact. The building's historic front door fronts east toward 'K' Street. Upon entry, one occupies a grand lobby which features a mezzanine level that oversees the lobby. Above the mezzanine there is a large skylight with an intact grid of copper "leaf" elements. The foundation of the building is concrete; the east and south façades are faced with brick and accented with wonderful ornamental terra cotta cornices, spiral columns, and corners. The east and south façades feature a dark ceramic tile veneer from the ground plane to the bottom of the window sill anchoring the building to the ground visually. The eastern and southern parapets feature elaborate, terra cotta dolphins in low relief, terra cotta tall ships in low relief, and other nautical themes. The north and west façades are constructed of cast in place concrete that was painted yellow in 2000 and then a in 2013 light buff color to "match" the masonry . The Morck's guest rooms primarily feature double-hung sash windows typical of Late 19th and 20th Century Revival. All roofing is constructed of 160 mil torch-down asphalt with an aluminum surface. The building cornice is of light colored Terra Cotta.

The Hotel Morck has three entryways facing east toward 'K' Street. Many exterior windows are missing or broken; some wooden windowpanes are missing or beyond repair. The northernmost entryway on 'K' Street currently provides access to the ballroom, is not original to the building and will be removed and brought back to the façade's original configuration as part of the proposed restoration project.; the center and main entryway on 'K' Street provides access to the lobby; and the southernmost entryway on 'K' Street provides access to the former Highlander Lounge. The main entryway is constructed of arched terra cotta tiles without pilasters. The main entryway's original oak double-doors and marquee were replaced at an unspecified date. Terra cotta signage above the main entryway features four artichoke-shaped finials, dolphin reliefs, drapery reliefs, and a large "W" insignia. One entryway on the north side of the building provides access to the ballroom. The main entryway features a wooden doorjamb with a glass door. A portion of the brick veneer façade has fallen from the south side of the building due to mortar deterioration. This section has been replaced with brick of similar aesthetic design during the 1990s.

Original load-bearing concrete columns, reinforced with rebar, are present on all floors. The original grand staircase, access staircase, elevator shaft, ballroom walls, and two skylights (one over the lobby and one over the former café) remain intact and capable of being rehabilitated. Original first floor interior corbels and cornice returns are intact. The lobby and ballroom's original terrazzo flooring remains largely intact, though it exhibits deterioration due to protracted neglect. Terrazzo extending from the easternmost entryway was overlaid with stone in the 1960s. The lobby's front desk has been removed due to obsolescence and disrepair. The lobby skylight is constructed of metal with numerous small, square glass panes. Geometric terra cotta and plaster reliefs frame the interior of the skylight. The original iron mezzanine balustrade remains intact on the second floor. Exposed joinery indicates that a portion of the balustrade on the northeast corner of the mezzanine was removed to accommodate a staircase at an unspecified date; this staircase was subsequently removed at an unspecified date. The grand staircase's original iron and mahogany banister remains intact on the second floor.

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The ballroom's original suspended cove ceiling, correlated crown molding, and corbels remain intact and prepared for rehabilitation. Ornamental plaster on the ballroom's cove ceiling has deteriorated due to neglect and is not present.

First floor non-load bearing interior walls have been removed due to significant deterioration and vandalism that affected the structural integrity of rooms. Remaining first floor interior plaster walls are significantly deteriorated due to neglect and vandalism. Originally, first floor interior walls separated the main lobby from several small storefronts fronting east and south, a bar, a restaurant, and a kitchen. The easternmost, second-floor roof accommodates a skylight that was enclosed by roofing materials at an unspecified date.

The structural integrity of guestrooms on floors two through five was severely compromised due to neglect and vandalism. Interior walls on floors two through five have been completely removed. These floors were the subjects of serious asbestos abatements in 2006. Piping is exposed in numerous places as a result of the asbestos abatement. Floor plans for floors two through four were nearly identical and utilitarian in nature. No molding, panel work, or ornamental design elements exist on floors two through five. 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. Originally, floors two through five housed 114 guest rooms.

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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)

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.)

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 19th and early 20th 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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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
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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
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

Or Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 46°58'22.32"N 123°49'7.74"W
Latitude Longitude

3
Latitude Longitude

2
Latitude Longitude

4
Latitude Longitude

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

The nominated property is located on the northwest corner of S '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 & Bennis 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 83rd 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
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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

Grays Harbor Co, WA
County and State

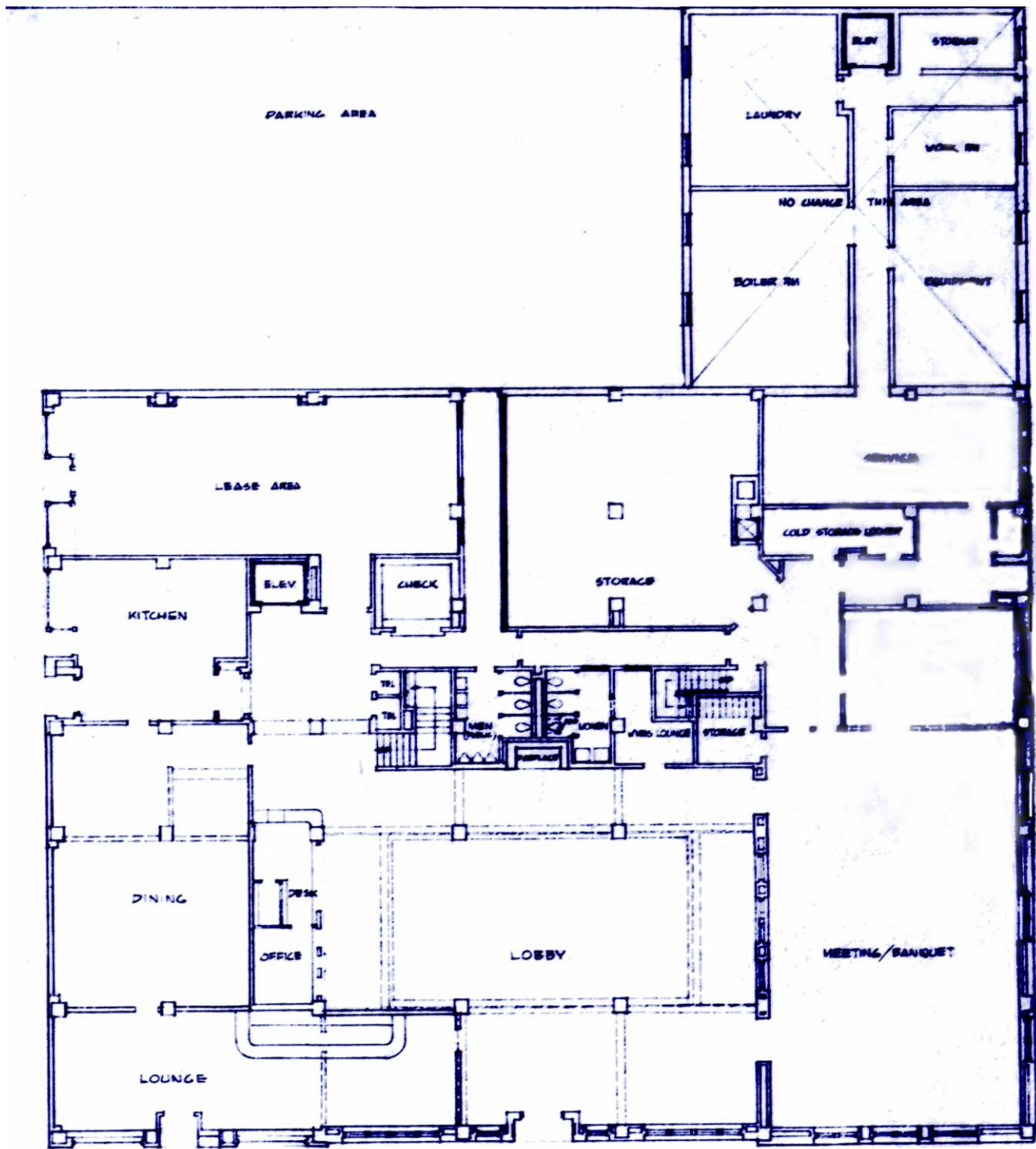


Hotel Morck
Assessor Map

Parcel No. 029303001000

Hotel Morck
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
County and State

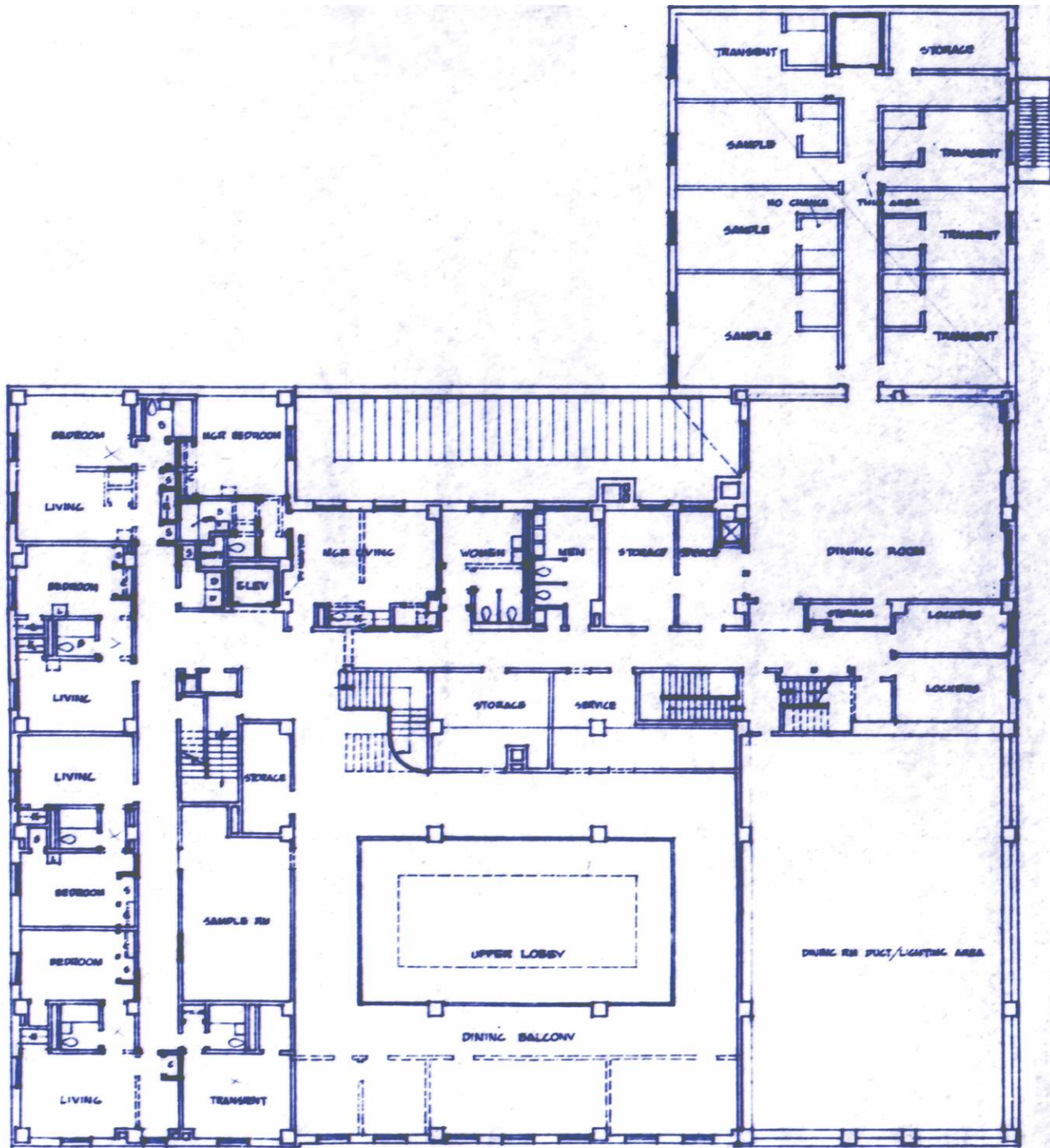


Hotel Morck
Floor Plan

1st Floor
NOT TO SCALE

Hotel Morck
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
County and State

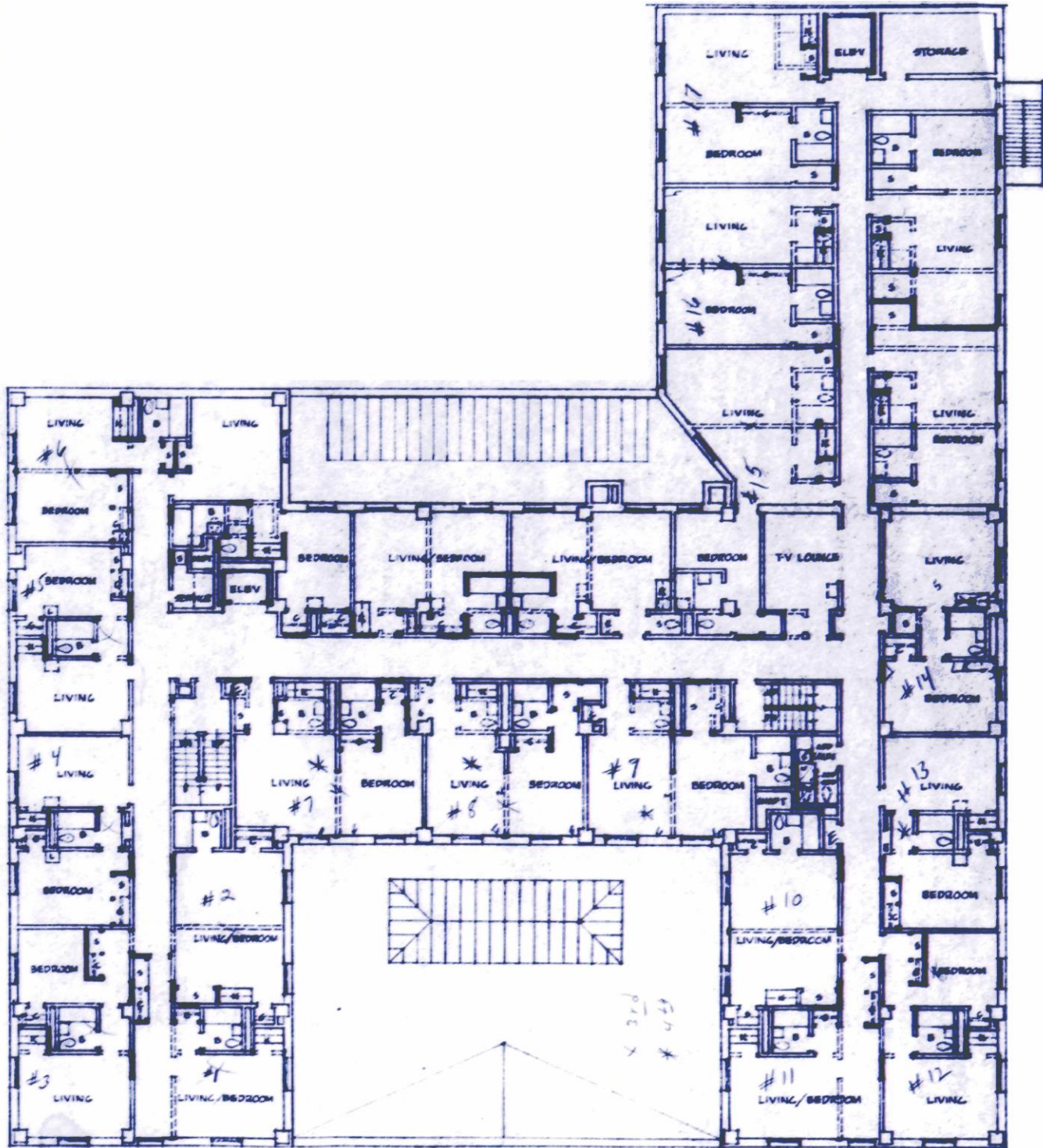


Hotel Morck
Floor Plan

2ND Floor
NOT TO SCALE

Hotel Morck
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
County and State

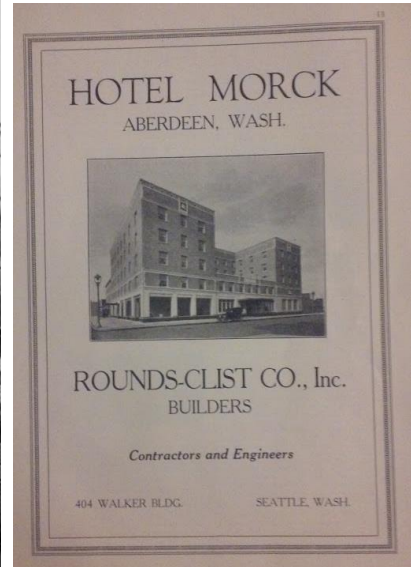
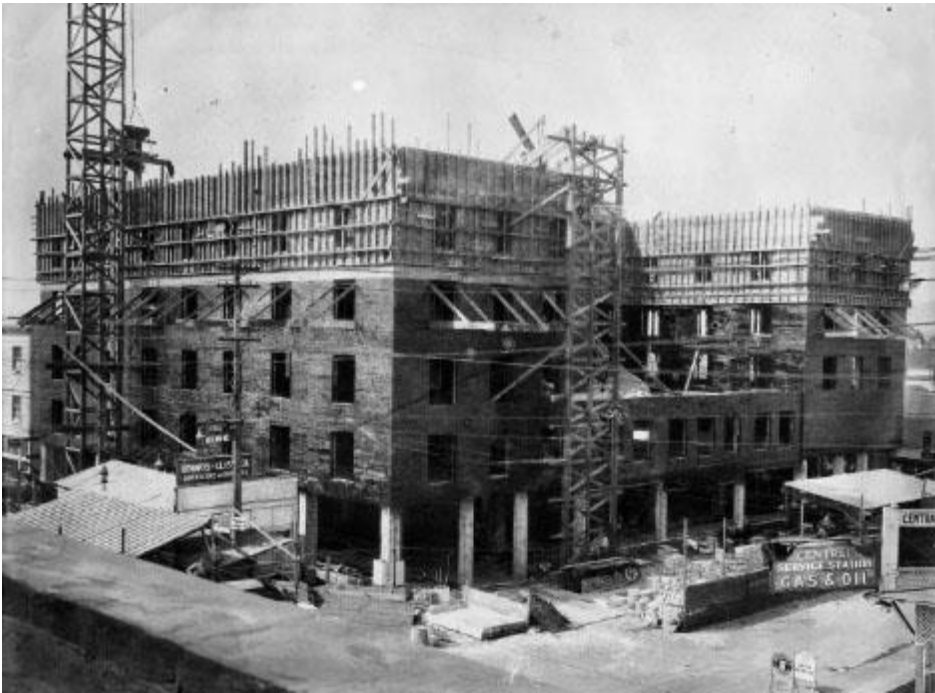


Hotel Morck
Floor Plan

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
Name of Property

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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.

THE 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 decorated 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

rooms is separated from the main room by accordion 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

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


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



Mezzanine 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 hinged road furniture, upholstered with tapestry.

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



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

Hotel Morck
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
County and State



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
Name of Property

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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

Grays Harbor Co, WA
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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

Grays Harbor Co, WA
County and State



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
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
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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, 10th Annual Convention at Hotel Morck – May 31 – June 1, 1946
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection

Hotel Morck
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
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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



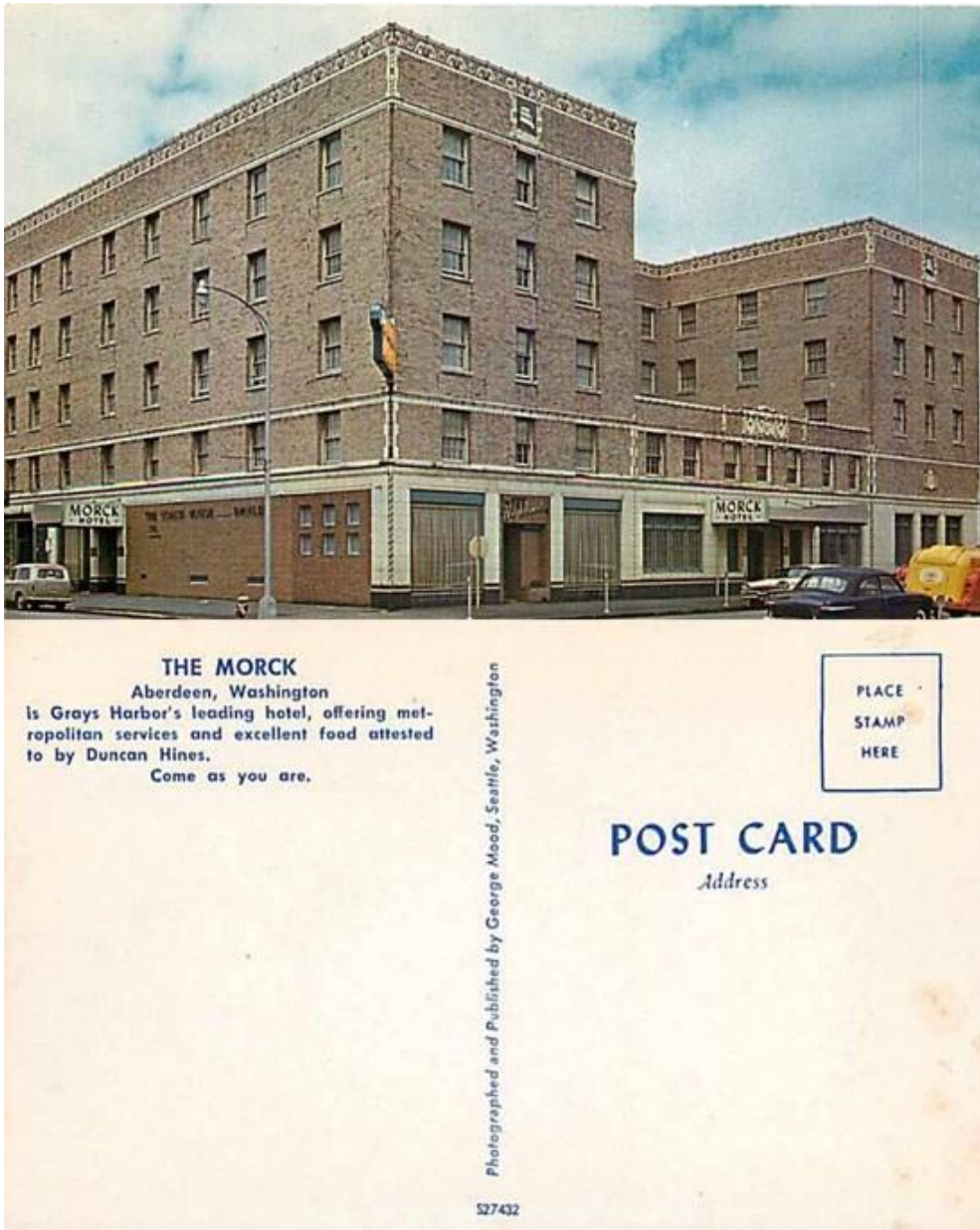
Portrait of Ernest A. Morck – c. 1908
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



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

Hotel Morck
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
County and State

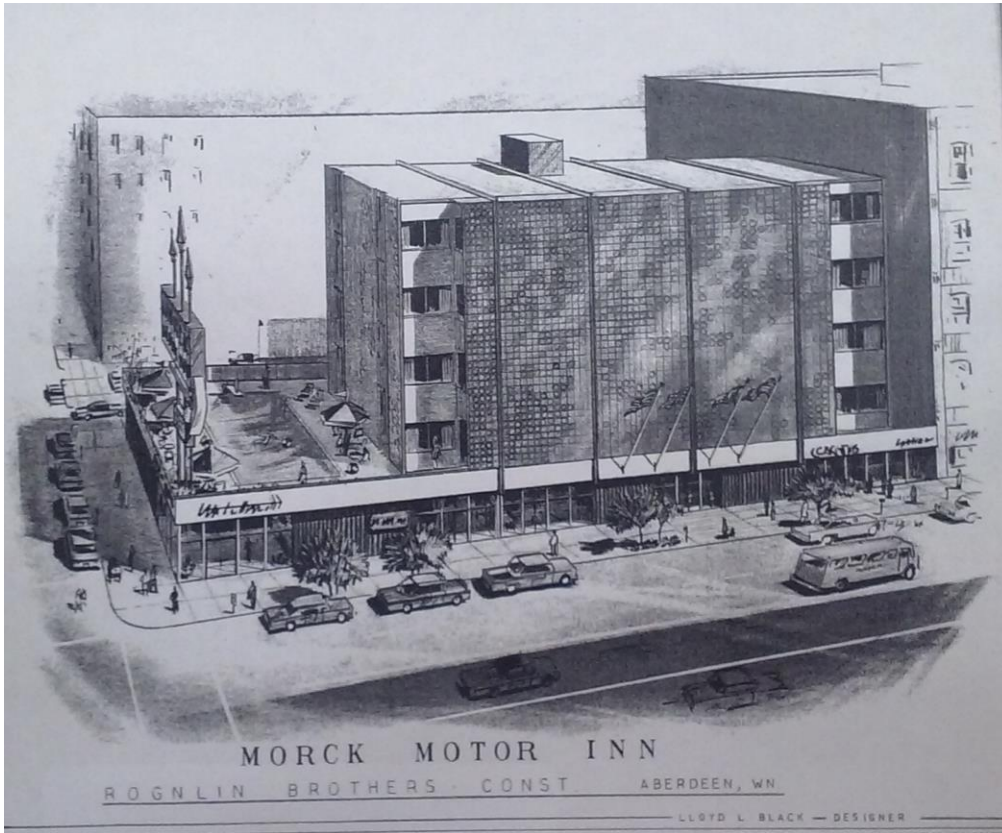


Postcard of Hotel Morck showing storefront alterations. – c. 1958

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
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
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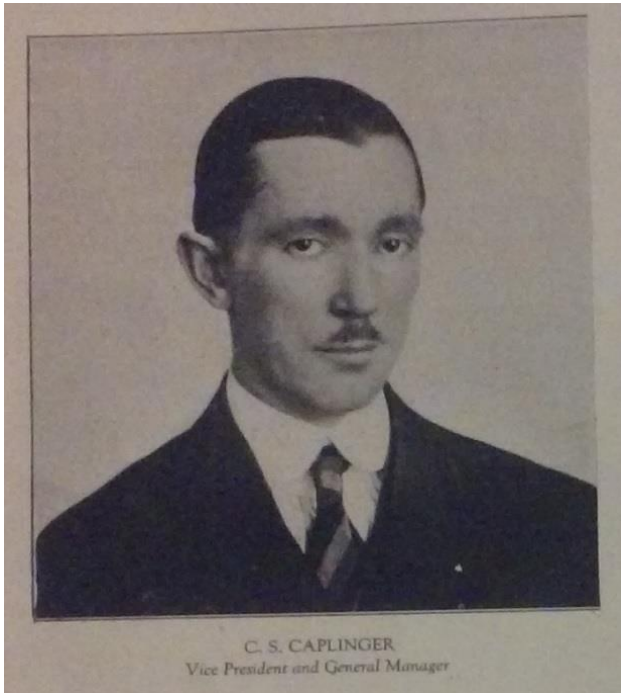
Proposed rear Motor Inn addition, Lloyd L. Black, Designer – 1962
Image courtesy of Jones Historical Photo Collection



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

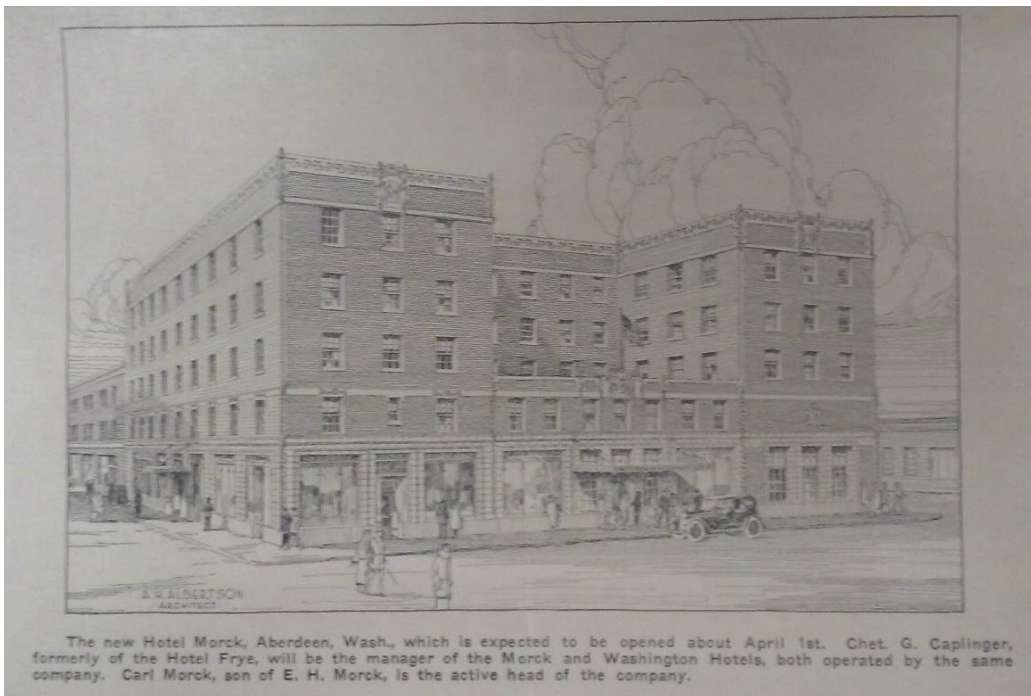
Hotel Morck
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Original Manager of Hotel Morck – C.S. Caplinger

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

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.
- 2 South façade; camera facing north from Heron St.
- 3 North façade in left foreground and west façade in foreground; camera facing east
- 4 South façade in left foreground and west façade in right foreground; camera facing northeast
- 5 Front façade in left foreground and north façade on right foreground; camera facing southwest from Wishkah St.
- 6 Interior skylight; camera on first floor facing northwest
- 7 Ballroom; camera on first floor facing northwest
- 8 Windowpane in ballroom; camera on first floor facing north
- 9 Second floor iron mezzanine balustrade and corbels; camera on first floor facing northwest
- 10 Lobby featuring terrazzo and second floor mezzanine; camera on first floor facing southwest
- 11 Lobby and former storefronts; camera on first floor facing west
- 12 Second floor interior; camera on second floor facing south
- 13 Exterior skylight; camera on third floor facing south
- 14 East-facing exterior parapet and terra cotta dolphin reliefs; camera facing west from 'K' St.
- 15 Third floor interior; camera on third floor facing southeast
- 16 Decorative corbel; camera on second floor facing west
- 17 Fifth floor interior featuring wooden ceiling; camera on fifth floor facing south
- 18 Iron mezzanine balustrade; camera on second floor facing southwest
- 19 Mezzanine level and lobby; camera on second floor facing south
- 20 Decorative corbel; camera on second floor facing north
- 21 Original grand staircase banister; camera on second floor facing northeast
- 22 Skylight corbel and reliefs; camera on first floor facing west
- 23 Ballroom suspended ceiling, corbels, and cornice; camera on first floor facing southeast
- 24 Ballroom suspended ceiling, corbels, and cornice; camera on first floor facing north
- 25 Exterior corner terra cotta ornamentation; camera facing northwest
- 26 Southern façade featuring terra cotta repairs; camera facing northwest
- 27 Exterior corner terra cotta ornamentation; camera facing northwest
- 28 Southern façade featuring terra cotta repairs; camera facing northwest
- 29 East-facing exterior parapet featuring terra cotta tall ship/dolphin reliefs; camera facing west from 'K' St.
- 30 East-facing façade featuring terra cotta 'W' ornamentation; camera facing west from 'K' St.
- 31 East-facing entryway on 'K' St. featuring terra cotta tiling; camera facing west
- 32 Exterior terra cotta ornamentation; camera facing west from 'K' St.
- 33 Exterior terra cotta spiral columns; camera facing northwest from 'K' St.
- 34 Exterior ballroom windowpane; camera facing west from 'K' St.

Hotel Morck
Name of Property

Grays Harbor Co, WA
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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.