
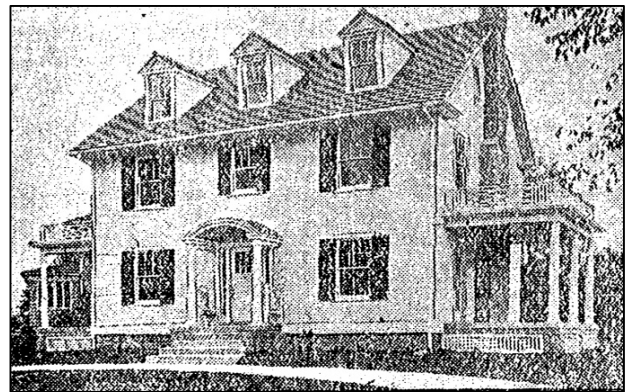


<b>Allison Nailor Miller</b>		 <p><i>Source: Washington Past and Present, Vol. 3, 1932</i></p>	
<b>Biographical Data</b>			
Birth: 2/25/1891	Place: Washington, D.C.		
Death: 7/13/1951	Place: San Francisco, CA		
Family: parents, John and Sarah (Pullman) Miller; siblings, John H. William C., Agnes, Frances J., Sarah B.; wife, Katharine Roth; sons, Allison N., Jr., Edward J.; daughters, Suzanne, Katherine, Rosemary			
<b>Education</b>			
High School: Western High School, St. Albans Cathedral School			
College: George Washington University, Cornell University			
Graduate School: n/a			
<b>Career</b>			
<b>Permit Database</b> (through 1958)			
<b>As Builder</b>	Earliest Permit: 1912	Latest Permit: 1949	Total Permits: 891    Total Buildings: 1068
<b>As Owner</b>	Earliest Permit: 1912	Latest Permit: 1951	Total Permits: 1003    Total Buildings: 1169
*Note: In many instances, the subject is both the builder and owner. The permit counts also include permits issued to the individual and any company with which he was affiliated. *As a part of nineteenth century building regulations, building permits were required for the first time in 1872 and were often not archived until 1877.			
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>	
W.C. & A.N. Miller (Development Co.)	President/ Founder/ Treasurer	1912-1951	
<b>Professional Associations</b>			
<b>Societies or Memberships:</b> Columbia Country Club, Connecticut Ave. Citizens' Association, American Legion, Theta Delta Chi, Freemason (Temple Noyes Lodge), K.T., St. Albans Episcopal, U.S.A Engineer Corps, (1918), Washington Securities Co. (President), Washington Brick Company (Director), Washington Real Estate Board			
<b>Awards or Commissions:</b> Washington Board of Trade, 1939 (4941 Glenbrook Rd, N.W., Spring Valley)			
<b>Buildings</b>			
<b>Building Types:</b> Row houses, detached dwellings, commercial buildings			
<b>Styles and Forms:</b> English Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Classical Revival			
<b>DC Work Locations:</b> Petworth, Woodley Park, Cleveland Park, Wesley Heights, Spring Valley			
<b>Notable Buildings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Wesley Heights Neighborhood	NW Washington	1925	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Spring Valley Neighborhood	NW Washington	1929	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Wesley Heights Community Club	3301-05 45 <sup>th</sup> Street NW	1927	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
Pine Crest Manor	2323 Porter Street NW	1929	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site
			<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> DC Historic Site

## Significance and Contributions

During the early twentieth century, Allison Nailor Miller was considered to be one of Washington D.C.'s most renowned realty developers. Allison Miller's career as a realtor began in 1912 when he partnered with his brother William Cammack Miller to form W.C. & A.N. Miller Development Company. For roughly the first ten years of their business, the Miller Brothers constructed and sold residential properties, largely row houses, in neighborhoods such as Cleveland Park, Woodley Park, and Petworth. By the 1920s, Allison and his brother engaged in large-scale and comprehensive subdivision developments in some of the District's most verdant suburban areas. With their successful company, the Miller Brothers were responsible for constructing hundreds of detached houses and some commercial properties in the Wesley Heights and Spring Valley subdivision. Allison Miller worked as a realtor and developer alongside his brother for over twenty years until his brother's death in 1939. Miller continued to develop in Spring Valley and also spearheaded development of the Sumner subdivision in Bethesda, Maryland. The realty company founded by Allison and William in 1912, known today as W.C. & A.N. Miller Realty, has stood the test of time and continues to be an award-winning company under the precedent set by its founders.

A native of Washington, D.C., Allison N. Miller was born on February 25, 1891. Miller attended Western High School in D.C. and after graduation went on to attend George Washington University and later Cornell University. By 1912 Miller and his older brother, William Cammack, started their own construction and real estate firm in Washington. Their first project was the construction of two modestly sized brick dwellings in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood of Washington located at 757-759 Kenyon Street, N.W. designed by the architecture firm of Kendall & Smith. That same year, the Miller Brothers went on to construct a dwelling and grocery store designed by Benjamin F. Myers (1865-1940, see Architects Directory entry) located at 1147 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, N.W. (no longer extant). With Myers as their architect, after some contract work, the Millers engaged in speculative development and constructed row houses at a steady pace throughout the city between 1912 and 1917 in neighborhoods such as Petworth and Cleveland Park. By 1918 Allison and his brother halted construction to serve their country in World War I; Allison served overseas with the 437<sup>th</sup> Engineers and William enlisted in the Navy.



*Example of W.C. & A.N. Miller Colonial Suburban Home, Washington Post Nov. 11, 1920*

By 1919, the company resumed their practice operating out of a small office in the Washington Brick and Terra Cotta Company building at 911 H Street, N.W. By this time the company transitioned from row house development to more elaborate detached residences in suburban areas of the city including Chevy Chase and North Cleveland Park. The company's continued success following the war forced the Miller Brothers to expand their team to include a sales force and in-house architect. As a result of their growing team, the company relocated to the Bond Building in 1920 and remained in that building for three years until they moved to their own building at 1119 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. In 1920, the company bought two blocks in the Woodley Park neighborhood just north of the Wardman Park Hotel and constructed a row of elegant brick dwellings along the 2700 block of Woodley Road, N.W. and the 2700 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. By the 1920s, due to urbanization, residents seeking more privacy and less density flocked to areas just outside of the city and as a result, the properties constructed by the Miller Brothers in these areas sold quickly. These attractive residences brought the Miller Brothers great acclaim and, with this success, they set out on their next venture in what is known today as Wesley Heights. With business prospects on the rise, Allison married Katharine Roth in 1922 and together the couple had five children.

In 1923 the company bought several acres of undeveloped land just north of Foxhall Village and began developing their first subdivision in 1925, Wesley Heights. The subdivision included hundreds of detached houses designed in a variety of architectural styles as well as a club house each designed by the company's architectural department, headed by Gordon E. MacNeil (1882-1945, see Architects Directory entry). The Miller Brothers were lauded for seamlessly fitting the development into the lush surrounding landscape. With one successful subdivision in their portfolio, the

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firm went on to develop a second development known as Spring Valley beginning in 1925. The Millers constructed over two-hundred buildings in Spring Valley including detached houses and commercial properties. By 1927 the company controlled over three-hundred and fifty acres of real estate in the District and, by the 1930s, received accolades for their work in Spring Valley including the 1936 Washington Board of Trade merit award.



Tudor Revival-style house in Wesley Heights.  
From "Models of Beauty and Predictability, p. 68.

After the passing of his brother William in 1939, Allison continued to serve as the president of the company and business remained steady. Development continued in Spring Valley through the 1940s and 1950s and Allison also worked on the Sumner subdivision in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition his active professional career, Allison Miller was also active in numerous civic activities in D.C. including his role as the director of the Washington Real Estate Board and Washington Brick Company. Allison died in 1951 while on vacation in San Francisco on his way with his family to Honolulu. The W.C. & A.N. Miller company remains in operation today and recently celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Sources		
<b>Vertical Files</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> HSWDC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MLK Library
<b>Other Repositories:</b>	DC Building Permits Database, Ancestry.com, Library of Congress (ADE – Units, 1512,2876,839)	
<b>Obituary:</b>	Publication: <i>Washington Post</i>	Date: 7/14/1951
		Page: B2
<b>Biographical Directories</b>	<b>Year/Volume</b>	<b>Page</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Who's Who in the Nation's Capital	1926-27; 1929-30; 1934-5;1938-9	403;503;639;595
<input type="checkbox"/> History of the City of Washington: It's Men and Institutions		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Past and Present	1930	274
<input type="checkbox"/> Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital		
<b>Other Sources:</b>		
"A.N. Miller Dies; Leader In Real Estate," <i>Washington Post</i> , July 14, 1951, Proquest Historical Newspapers. Hal, "Hoos Hoo and How: Allison Nailor Miller," in Martin Luther King Vertical Files, Washington, D.C. September 16, 1939. "The End of an Era," <i>Leaves</i> , Spring Valley, Washington, D.C., Vol.77 No. 2, Summer 2002. Diane Shaw Wasch, "Models of Beauty and Predictability: The Creation of Wesley Heights and Spring Valley, <i>Washington History</i> 1 (1989): 58-76. "Colonial Suburban Home Built by W.C. & A.N. Miller is Sold," <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, D.C., November 28, 1920. "Board of Trade Merit Awards Are Announced," <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, D.C., March 21, 1936. <i>Book of Washington</i> , (Washington: D.C., Cleland C. McDevitt, 1927), 450. <i>Book of Washington</i> , (Washington: D.C., Cleland C. McDevitt, 1930), 436-37.		
<b>Prepared by: EHT Tracerics</b>		<b>Last Updated: June 2012</b>