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Judiciary Square

Darlington Memorial Fountain

Honoring Joseph J. Darlington, Local Attorney and Philanthropist



Darlington Memorial Fountain



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The Darlington Memorial Fountain: Nymph and Fawn is a gilded bronze sculpture atop a small fountain in the Judiciary Square neighborhood of Washington, D.C. It is named for Joseph J. Darlington, who was born in 1849 and came to Washington as a young man to attend law school at Columbian University (today George Washington University). He established an office on 5th Street NW and was known as a leader of the legal community and was considered the dean of the Washington bar.

Darlington was a member of the joint citizens committee on suffrage, president of the City Orphan Asylum, and a member of the boards of directors of the Washington Loan and Trust Company and the Federal National Bank.

Shortly after his death, friends and colleagues proposed to have a memorial built in his honor and a committee was formed to further the cause. After Congress passed a resolution in favor of the memorial, the committee passed its design selection responsibilities to the United States Commission of Fine Arts. The design by C. Paul Jennewein was approved by the United States Commission of Fine Arts, in 1921.

It was installed in November 1923. There was some controversy about the nymph, both for its nudity and its lack of reference to Darlington.