

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Survey and Documentation

The District is fortunate in the wealth of places that embody stories of our history and culture. Guided by the DC Historic Preservation Plan, the State Historic Preservation Office sponsors historic resource surveys and scholarly research to document the significance of sites that may not yet be recognized as important. HPO undertakes survey projects in-house or with contracted assistance, and when funding is available, offers grants to help private entities pursue research.

In FY 2020, HPO focused its survey and documentation program on these projects:

Civil Rights Heritage Trail

HPO and its consultants expanded the 20th Century African American Civil Rights heritage trail to add eight new sites associated with the fight against racially restrictive covenants and an online story map on the history of civil rights activism among residents of Barry Farm Dwellings.

LGBTQ Historic Context

HPO and the DC Preservation League coordinated to nominate and update historic landmarks based on the findings of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) historic context completed in 2019. The Slowe-Burrill House, Annie's Paramount Steak House, and All Souls Unitarian Church were documented for LGBTQ history.

HistoryQuest DC

With the Historical Society of Washington DC, now doing business as the DC History Center, HPO continued to refine and expand *HistoryQuest DC*, its interactive online GIS map that gives quick access to historical data on the city's buildings and subdivisions. In 2020, updates addressed demolished and new buildings, and selected other sites.

L'Enfant Plan

The SHPO continued its in-house project to update the documentation and understanding of the L'Enfant Plan. As GIS recordation continued, the SHPO applied for a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study social and economic impacts deriving from the layout of squares and lots during implementation of the plan.

Chinese and Korean Community History

With partners DC Preservation League and the 1882 Foundation, the SHPO launched a new study of the Chinese and Korean immigrant communities, aimed at identifying significant sites associated with their history. The project will finish in 2022.

Women's History and Suffrage

The SHPO was awarded a \$50,000 grant for another partnership with the DC Preservation League, to study women's history and the suffrage movement in Washington. The project will study significant sites eligible for historic designation, and is scheduled to finish in 2023.



BARRY FARM LEADER ETTA MAE HORN (CENTER RIGHT) IN CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ADVOCATES AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Explore DC History Online

Find more about African American Civil Rights, LGBTQ history, and DC community history online at:

civil-rights-tour.dc.gov
planning.dc.gov/publication/dc-lgbtq-resources
planning.dc.gov/page/dc-history

Historic Landmarks and Districts

The Historic Preservation Review Board designates historic landmarks and districts for inclusion in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. Nominations for designation come from property owners, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, government agencies, and community preservation groups. They are evaluated by the HPO staff and made available for public review and comment before the Board deliberates and renders a decision at a public hearing.

In FY 2020, HPRB designated eight new historic landmarks for listing in the DC Inventory and amended three designations, including expansion of one historic district.

Ward 2

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds (and Interiors)

515 D Street NW

The Recorder of Deeds Building was designed by the Office of the Municipal Architect in a stripped classical style complementary to the other buildings in the Municipal Center complex. Since the 1881 appointment of Frederick Douglass as Recorder established a tradition of African Americans in the position, it has stood as a symbol of the national achievement of Black Americans and reflected their struggle for equal rights and equal opportunity. The interior murals, conceived by Dr. William J. Thompkins, Recorder from 1934-44, celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the nation. As superb examples of public art, they exemplify the stylistic expression and social message of New Deal-era arts programs.

Nominated by the DC Preservation League; designated on December 19, 2019



RECORDER OF DEEDS LOBBY MURAL, FREDERICK DOUGLASS WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN

HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS

Applications Received		Designations Approved		Designations Denied	
Fiscal Year	Number	Number	Owner- Opposed	Number	Owner- Opposed
2020	11	10	0	0	0
2019	13	9	3	3	2
2018	15	16	1	2	2
2017	7	11	2	0	0
2016	21	21	0	0	0
2015	19	15	4	2	2
2014	19	7	0	1	0
2013	11	15	0	3	3
2012	8	13	0	2	1
2011	21	14	0	1	1
2010	14	14	0	0	0
2009	10	4	0	1	1
2008	17	11	1	1	1
2007	33	28	1	2	2
TOTAL	219	179	12 (6.5%)	18	15 (83%)



DC RECORDER OF DEEDS

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Central Public Library (amendment)

801 K Street NW

The amended designation adds a more extensive narrative of the property's historical significance and updates the description to reflect the building's current appearance after several renovations.

Nominated by Events DC and Apple Inc; amendment adopted on April 30, 2020

Tabard Inn

1737, 1739, and 1741 N Street NW

These fashionable houses from Dupont Circle's heyday have long served as the Tabard Inn, founded in 1922 by Marie Willoughby Rogers; she opened in the center turn-of-the-century house and later expanded into the flanking homes from the 1880s. The Tabard is a fine example of the small, independent inns and teahouses that emerged during the American Tea House Movement of the early twentieth century. The movement traces its roots to Scotland, where the sister of a prominent tea merchant opened a tearoom as an alternative to alcohol-serving restaurants where women unaccompanied by male relatives were typically not welcome. The concept served as the inspiration for similar tearooms in Great Britain and the United States, often catering to white women of a certain social status.

For three years during World War II, the Tabard Inn was requisitioned as quarters for Navy WAVES, doing important service when women were being recruited to the District to contribute to the war effort, yet housing was in critically short supply. It holds the distinction of being the oldest hotel operation in the city to be continuously owned and operated by women.

Nominated by property owner Fritzi Cohen & Employees (ESOP); designated on February 27, 2020

Mitchell Park Field House

1801 23rd Street NW

Built in 1931, this field house was the prototype for a series of new structures that met the need for expanded services in the city's recreational parks. It held offices for playground directors, storage rooms, restrooms, and general-purpose space for year-round activities. The design was conceived by Municipal Architect Albert Harris to resemble a Tidewater Colonial hall-and-parlor house, reflecting the favored style of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, which found the Colonial Revival suitably domestic in character for government facilities situated in residential neighborhoods. The design was also clearly influenced by the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg and its "archaeological" interest in even modest and vernacular colonial buildings of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Nominated by Historic Washington Architecture; designated on October 31, 2019



CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERIOR



THE TABARD INN



MITCHELL PARK FIELDHOUSE

Ward 3

Chevy Chase Playground

5500 41st Street NW

A 1921 study by the United Citizens Playground Committee recommended a chain of city playgrounds, and the first in the new suburbs northwest of the Taft Bridge dates from 1923, when the Chevy Chase Land Company agreed to lease this site to the local recreation club. The club laid out a baseball diamond, tennis and basketball courts, a playing field, and running track before the National Capital Park Commission acquired the playground for white children in the city's segregated playground system.

The playground's field house dates to 1932, the third built on the Albert Harris model introduced at Mitchell Park, and the first to be built of brick. Its opening in October of that year was celebrated with the planting of eight trees sponsored by neighborhood associations. These followed one planted there by Mrs. Calvin Coolidge in 1929, part of a custom led by the Woman's City Club for First Ladies to plant a playground tree. Mrs. William Howard Taft planted the first at Park View Playground; Mrs. Wilson, at Virginia Avenue Playground; Mrs. Herbert Hoover, at Mitchell Park in 1931; and Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt at McMillan Park Playground in 1934.

Nominated by Historic Washington Architecture; designated on October 31, 2019

Ward 5

Slowe-Burrill House

1256 Kearney Street NE

This property is significant as the residence of educators Lucy Diggs Slowe and Mary Powell Burrill from 1922 to 1937. Lucy Slowe was also a tennis champion, one of the nine founding members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the first Dean of Women at Howard University, and the first African American in that capacity at any university in the nation. During her career she encouraged her students to pursue careers not traditionally open to women, and was an active founder and leader of national organizations advancing academic opportunities for women. Mary Burrill, a teacher of English and drama at Dunbar and Armstrong high schools, was also a playwright who fostered students in that endeavor. Over the fifteen years of their occupancy on Kearny Street, the two women hosted parties and intellectual gatherings at the home, attended by prominent writers and artists, students, educators such as Mary McLeod Bethune, and politicians and activists from around the country.

Nominated by the DC Preservation League and owners Benjamin and Dawn O'Connell; designated on April 30, 2020



CHEVY CHASE PLAYGROUND



SLOWE-BURRILL HOUSE



LUCY DIGGS SLOWE AND MARY BURRILL

Ward 6

Washington Yacht Club

1500 M Street SE

The Washington Yacht Club was founded in 1910 by a group of white District boaters in an era when motorboating was largely the sport of the wealthy. The founders and subsequent members of the club were proudly working class, including mechanics, clerks, a carpenter, and a boat livery operator. They built their own boats by hand and constructed all their own facilities, rarely if ever contracting out work, and have kept this tradition, maintaining the building and grounds through mandatory work parties.

From its first location on the opposite side of the river, the club was forced to relocate twice to its current site, in 1925 towing the clubhouse across the river on a scow. The WYC has remained committed to its place despite the city's near abandonment of the Anacostia as it became, in the 20th century, one of the most polluted rivers in the nation. It also became a symbol of the city's racial and economic divide as planning decisions, urban renewal, and race-restricted covenants forced an exodus of African American residents to the east side of the river, making it a boundary between blacks and whites, rich and poor.

These changes left the Washington Yacht Club on the borderline of division, facing the issues of a segregated city. The club admitted its first member of color in the 1970s, after which membership dropped precipitously. As white members left, turnover in membership to mostly African Americans only reinforced the symbolic divide. Yet despite periodic drops in membership, difficult times during several wars, an energy crisis that severely impacted the boating community, and a river burdened with environmental and social issues, the WYC remains on Boathouse Row, serving as a steward of the Anacostia, and proudly welcoming all.

Nominated by the Washington Yacht Club and DC Historic Preservation Office; designated on April 30, 2020

Samuel F.B. Morse School

440 R Street NW

Built in 1883, the Morse School is a good representative example of a Victorian model elementary school, designed and constructed by the Office of the Building Inspector. Like others of its type, it served as a community center and neighborhood visual landmark. But it had an especially varied programmatic career as an elementary school or remedial/vocational school, in each capacity serving successively as a White, Black, or integrated school as neighborhood demographics changed and the school system adapted to evolving program needs for a wide range of students.

Nominated by the owner 440 R Street Partners LLC; designated on September 24, 2020



WASHINGTON YACHT CLUB



WASHINGTON YACHT CLUB DOCK AREA



SAMUEL F.B. MORSE SCHOOL

Ward 7

Kingman Park Historic District (boundary expansion)

Extending the existing boundaries westward from the rear of properties on 21st Street to C Street on the south, 19th Street on the west, and Gales Street on the north

The amendment to the historic district, designated in 2018 for its historical and cultural significance as an African American community, extends the boundaries into a broader area. The expansion includes the former homes of notable persons, further reflecting the history of the community and its residents as they fought for civil rights, including an end to legally sanctioned racial segregation in public schools, recreation facilities, and housing. The amendment also extends the period of significance beyond 1960 to 1968, the seminal year in the history of civil rights in the city and nation, marked by the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and ensuing events including the civil unrest that reached into Kingman Park and profoundly affected its residents.

Nominated by the Kingman Park Civic Association; expanded on September 24, 2020 (effective November 22, 2020)

Ward 8

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (amendment)

1411 W Street SE

The amendment updates the 1969 National Register listing to current standards, fully documenting all features on the property. It also establishes that in addition to the life of Douglass, the site is also significant in the 19th-century movement to preserve African American historic sites, culminating with its 1964 donation to the Park Service.

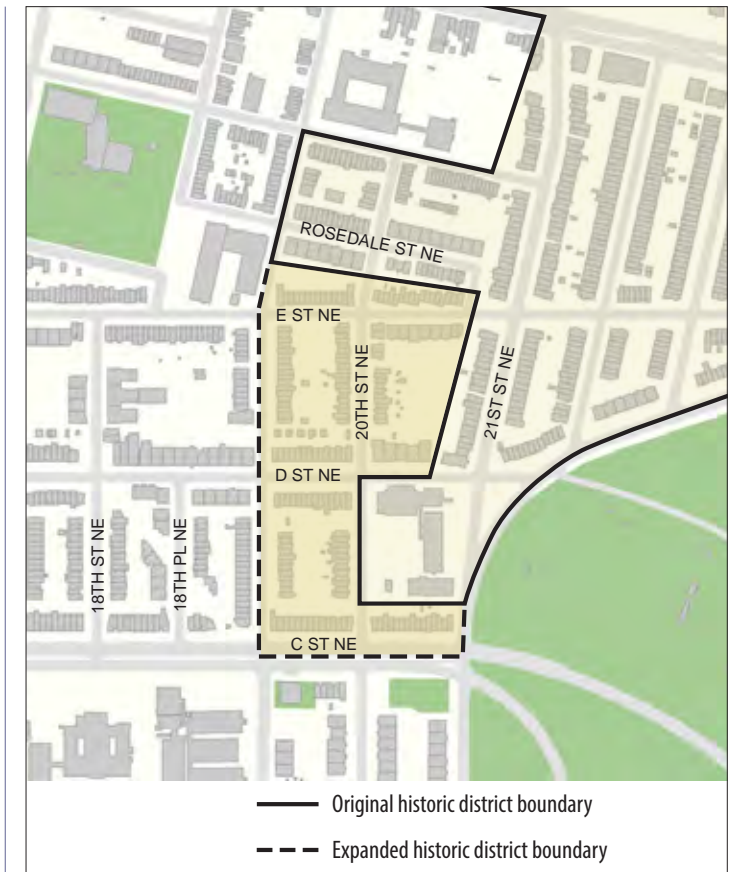
Nominated by the National Park Service, National Capital Parks-East; amendment adopted on July 30, 2020

Barry Farm Dwellings

1100-14, 1101-15, 1117-31, 1133-47, and 1149-63 Stevens Road SE

Forty units of the Barry Farm Dwellings, along with their landscape, were designated for significance extending from the Civil War era through the wartime construction of Barry Farm Dwellings and the modern Civil Rights movement. From the post-Civil War settlement of newly freed slaves at Barry Farm to World War II public housing for African Americans involved in the war effort, the property has been a home and community for Black residents when housing options were restricted by discriminatory housing practices. Barry Farm was the center of civic activism where many residents led civil rights efforts, including as plaintiffs in the *Bolling v. Sharpe* companion case to the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Nominated by the Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association; designated on January 30, 2020



KINGMAN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION



BARRY FARM DWELLINGS

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

National Register Listings

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of resources worthy of preservation and commemoration. Listing in the National Register confers recognition and ensures review of federal government undertakings that might affect the character or setting of listed properties. It also makes properties eligible for federal preservation tax incentives and preferential consideration in federal leasing.

In FY 2020, the SHPO nominated seven recently designated DC historic landmarks for listing in the National Register and updated two existing listings with additional documentation.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS NHS - MAP OF FEATURES

About National Register and NHL listing

The State Historic Preservation Officer is responsible for nominating properties in the District of Columbia to the National Register, which is maintained by the National Park Service. The SHPO routinely forwards properties to the Register after designation in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites, as the listing criteria are substantially the same.

National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), are considered the nation's most significant historic properties, designated by the Secretary of the Interior. They are automatically listed in the National Register. With 75 NHLs, the District of Columbia has the same number of these properties as Maryland and more than all but seven states.

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Ward	Property	Address
2	Central Public Library	800 Mt Vernon Square NW
	(additional documentation)	
	DC Recorder of Deeds	515 D Street NW
4	Tabard Inn	1737-1741 N Street NW
	Twin Oaks Playground and Field House	4025 14th Street NW
5	Slowe-Burrill House	1256 Kearney Street NE
	Washington Animal Rescue League	71 O Street NW
	Wardman Flats	3rd, 4th, R, and Florida Ave NW
6	Washington Yacht Club	1500 M Street SE
8	Frederick Douglass NHS	1411 W Street SE
	(additional documentation)	



WASHINGTON ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE



CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



WARDMAN FLATS