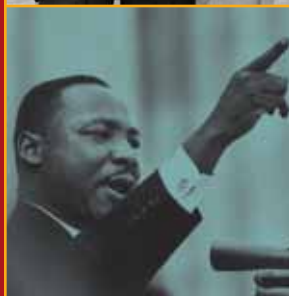
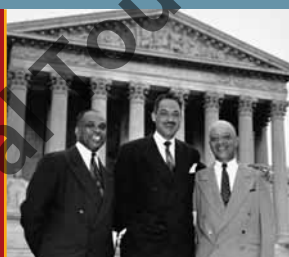




African American Heritage Trail

Washington, DC





Dear Washingtonians and Visitors,

Welcome to the African American Heritage Trail for Washington, DC!

It is my honor to present to you the latest edition of this guide to the fascinating history of African Americans in this world-class city that we call home.

From Benjamin Banneker's essential role in the survey of the District in 1791, to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963 and beyond, African Americans have made DC a capital of culture and history.

Howard University, founded in 1867, has produced leaders for the city and the nation. Poets Paul Laurence Dunbar and Langston Hughes followed their muses here, and Duke Ellington developed his music and his elegance in the schools, churches, and jazz clubs around U Street. Ella Fitzgerald won an important early talent show at the Howard Theatre. At the center of the Civil Rights movement, Washington's Charles Hamilton Houston trained future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall at Howard University. Carter G. Woodson, the father of black history, made his career here. Mary McLeod Bethune, advisor to four U.S. presidents, organized the National Council of Negro Women in Washington.

At the same time, generations of African Americans from all walks of life built strong communities, churches, businesses, and other institutions, many of which continue today.

This popular guide was first published under the auspices of my predecessor, Mayor Anthony Williams. I am pleased to continue his inspiration. Come walk where the legends walked as you explore the sites on the *African American Heritage Trail*.

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor

Front cover: Esquisse for *Ode to Kinshasa* by Lois Mailou Jones, Museum of Women in the Arts; George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit at the Supreme Court after the *Brown* decision, 1954, Corbis; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial, 1963, Corbis; Mary McLeod Bethune, Scurlock Studio, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution; Duke Ellington, Scurlock Studio, NMAH, SI

Back cover: Howard University dentists' baseball team, Scurlock Studio, NMAH, SI; Frederick Douglass, Library of Congress; Charles R. Drew, Scurlock Studio, NMAH, SI; Georgia Douglas Johnson, Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, Howard University

African American Heritage Trail

Washington, DC

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Fourth printing

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Cultural Tourism  **DC**



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HUMANITIES COUNCIL
OF WASHINGTON, DC

d.
District Department of Transportation

Marya Annette McQuirter, Ph.D.
Historian and Project Director

A project of Cultural Tourism DC

Funded by the District of Columbia,
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

Office of Planning, Historic Preservation Office
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
District Department of Transportation
National Park Service

African Americans in Washington, DC: 1800–1975

African Americans have been a significant part of Washington, DC's civic life and identity since the city was first declared the new national capital in 1791. African Americans were 25 percent of the population in 1800, and the majority of them were enslaved. By 1830, however, most were free people. Yet slavery remained. African Americans, of course, resisted slavery and injustice by organizing churches, private schools, aid societies, and businesses; by amassing wealth and property; by leaving the city; and by demanding abolition. In 1848, 77 free and enslaved adults and children unsuccessfully attempted the nation's largest single escape aboard the schooner *Pearl*. On April 16, 1862, Congress passed the District of Columbia Emancipation Act, making Washingtonians the first freed in the nation, nine months before President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863. Congress had the authority to pass the DC Emancipation Act because it was granted the power to "exercise exclusive legislation" over the federal district by the U.S. Constitution. This federal oversight has been a source of conflict throughout the city's history.

During the Civil War (1861–1865) and Reconstruction (1865–1877), more than 25,000 African Americans moved to Washington. The fact that it was mostly pro-Union and the nation's capital made it a popular destination. Through the passage of Congress's Reconstruction Act of 1867, the city's African American men gained the right to vote three years before the passage of the 15th amendment gave all men the right to vote. (Women gained the right to vote in 1920.) The first black municipal office holder was elected in 1868. When Washington briefly became a federal territory in 1871, African American men continued to make important decisions for the city. Lewis H. Douglass introduced the 1872 law making segregation in public accommodations illegal. But in 1874, in part because of growing black political power, the territorial government was replaced by three white presidentially appointed commissioners. This system survived until the civil rights movement of the 1960s brought a measure of self-government.

By 1900 Washington had the largest percentage of African Americans of any city in the nation. Many came because of opportunities for federal jobs. Others were attracted to the myriad educational institutions. Howard University, founded in 1867, was a magnet for professors

and students and would become the "capstone of Negro education" by 1930. The Preparatory School for Colored Youth, the city's first public high school, attracted college-bound students and teachers, many with advanced degrees. (Founded in 1870, the school became renowned as M Street High School, and later, Dunbar High School.) As far back as 1814, churches had operated and supported schools and housed literary and historical societies that promoted critical thinking, reading, lecturing, and social justice. African Americans also created hundreds of black-owned businesses and numerous business districts. At the dawn of the 20th century, African Americans had created a cultural and intellectual capital.

Washington had relatively few "Jim Crow" laws. However, segregation and racism were endemic. The few existing laws mandated segregation in the public schools and recreation facilities but not in the streetcars and public libraries. African Americans, therefore, reacted strongly to President Wilson's (1913–1921) institution of segregation in all of the federal government agencies. Clashes between African Americans and European Americans reached a fever pitch during the July 1919 race riot, when women and men fought back against violent whites, giving another meaning to the term "New Negro," a term usually associated with the cultural renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s.

During the Great Depression (1929–1939) and World War II (1939–1945), the early civil rights movement gained ground. In 1933, the same year that President Franklin Roosevelt (1933–1945) began to end segregation in the federal government, the young black men of the New Negro Alliance instituted "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" campaigns against racist hiring practices in white-owned stores in predominantly black neighborhoods. The Washington chapter of the National Negro Congress also organized against police brutality and segregation in recreation beginning in 1936.

The "Double V" effort—Victory Abroad, Victory at Home—increased civil rights activity. In 1943 Howard University law student Pauli Murray led coeds in a sit-in at the Little Palace cafeteria, a white-trade-only business near 14th and U streets, NW, an area that was largely African American. In 1948 the Supreme Court declared racially restrictive housing covenants were unconstitutional in the local *Hurd v. Hodge* case. Beginning in 1949 Mary Church Terrell led a multiracial effort to end segregation in public accommodations through pickets, boycotts, and legal action. Four years later, in *District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Co.*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation in Washington was unlawful based on the 1872 law passed during Reconstruction but

long forgotten. In 1954 a local case, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, was part of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, which declared that separate education was unconstitutional.

In 1957 Washington's African American population surpassed the 50 percent mark, making it the first predominantly black major city in the nation, and leading a nationwide trend. The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom brought more than 250,000 people to the Lincoln Memorial. Its success was helped by the support and contributions of local churches and organizations. The assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, triggered immediate and intense reactions throughout the nation and the city. During the 1968 riots, when buildings were burned and destroyed, many African Americans rebelled against continued racism, injustice, and the federal government's abandonment of the city. Even before Dr. King's assassination, demands for justice undoubtedly helped push the federal government to take first steps towards "home rule" by appointing Walter Washington as mayor in 1967. In 1974 residents chose Washington as the city's first elected black mayor and the first mayor of the 20th century.

By 1975 African Americans were politically and culturally leading the city with more than 70 percent of the population. The Black Arts, Black Power, Women's, and Statehood movements flowered here. Indeed, Marion Barry, who succeeded Washington as mayor, began his public life here as a leader of local justice movements. There were independent think tanks, schools, bookstores, and repertory companies. Go-go (DC's home-grown version of funk) as well as jazz, blues, and salsa, resonated from clubs, parks, recreation centers, and car radios. With the uniting of political activism and creativity, African Americans were transforming the city once again.

Please note: This guide describes historical figures but not living individuals who continue to make the city's history.

**African American Heritage Trail
Searchable Database**






A database with more in-depth information on the sites contained in this trail as well as information on additional sites—more than 200 in all—is available online at www.CulturalTourismDC.org. A print version is available in area libraries.

How to Use This Guide

African American Heritage Trail is designed for residents and tourists seeking an introduction to the wealth of African American historic and cultural sites in Washington, DC.



The nearly 100 historic places selected are clustered in 15 distinctive neighborhood trails. Most offer an easy walk and are accessible by public transportation, but trails 9, 10, 11, and 12 are best visited by automobile. A map at the center of this guide locates each trail within the city, along with major routes from one trail to the others. Maps in each neighborhood section plot exact locations of sites and nearby Metro stations.

Many of the places in this guide are open to the public. Others are private residences or businesses that can only be viewed from the street. Some await restoration. A few no longer have their original structures and remain only as significant locations that represent what once took place there. All are included because they are integral parts of Washington's rich African American heritage. The following symbols will guide you:

-  Open for visits by the public
-  Private home or business, not open to the public
-  Best visited by car
-  Awaiting restoration
-  Historic location only


For example:

2 Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (Cedar Hill)
14th and W streets, SE

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), formerly enslaved abolitionist, writer, and statesman, purchased this house in 1877 in Uniontown (now Anacostia), the city's first suburb.... It was dedicated in 1922 and is currently operated by the National Park Service. See Trail 8 for another Frederick Douglass home.  

Apr. 1–Sept. 30, Daily 9 am–5 pm
Oct. 1–Mar. 31, Daily 9 am–4 pm
Admission: \$2 for adults and children
Reservations required: 1-800-967-2283.

1 Willis Richardson Residence
512 U Street, NW

Willis Richardson (1889–1977) was one of the most prolific playwrights of the New Negro Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s....Richardson was a graduate of the local M Street High School. 

For information on accessibility by the handicapped, please call the phone numbers listed with those facilities that receive visitors.

As you explore these trails, please keep safety in mind, just as you would while visiting any unfamiliar place.

Greater U Street



African Americans made the U Street area (now a historic district) a vibrant cultural, residential, and business district. First settling here during the Civil War, they capitalized on new streetcar lines, inexpensive land, and the absence of residential segregation. By the 1920s they had created institutions, businesses, and services that met the needs of area residents. By the 1940s it was *the* place to hear Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and many more. By the 1960s U Street was a center of activism against legal segregation and racism. Today many historic buildings are being restored.

1 The True Reformer Building

1200 U Street, NW

The True Reformer Building is an architectural testament to black economic development. Completed in 1903, it was conceived, financed, designed, built, and patronized by African Americans. It was the local headquarters of the Grand United Order of True Reformers, a Richmond, Virginia, benevolent society offering members insurance denied them by white-owned firms. Architect John A. Lankford designed the hall with conference rooms, a concert hall, and a business center. The graciously restored building now houses the Public Welfare Foundation and the African American Civil War Museum (see number 4 below).

Museum hours: Mon.–Fri., 10 am–5 pm
Sat., 10 am–2 pm
Large groups must make appointment
202-667-2667

2 Lincoln Theatre and Lincoln Colonnade

1215 U Street, NW

Lincoln Theatre opened in 1922 as U Street's most elegant first-run movie house. The Lincoln Colonnade, a public hall located below and behind the theater, hosted popular events, including "battles of the bands" and social clubs' annual balls. After the 1953 Supreme Court decision ended legal segregation in Washington's public accommodations, the Lincoln lost audiences to downtown and suburban theaters. As patrons moved their events to downtown hotel ballrooms, the Colonnade closed as well. The theater switched to second-tier movies before closing in 1983. A joint effort by the Lincoln Theatre Foundation and the DC government led to the Lincoln Theatre's re-opening in 1994 as a beautifully restored performing arts center.



Lincoln Colonnade costume party

Free tours by appointment
Mon.–Fri., 10 am–6 pm
Closed on weekends except for performances
202-328-6000

3 City Within a City: Greater U Street Heritage Trail

Follow the signs on this self-guided Cultural Tourism DC Neighborhood Heritage Trail to learn more about the Greater U Street Historic District. The trail begins at the U Street/African American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo Metro station. The *City Within a City* free brochure is available from merchants along the way.



Kathryn S. Smith

4 African American Civil War Memorial and Museum

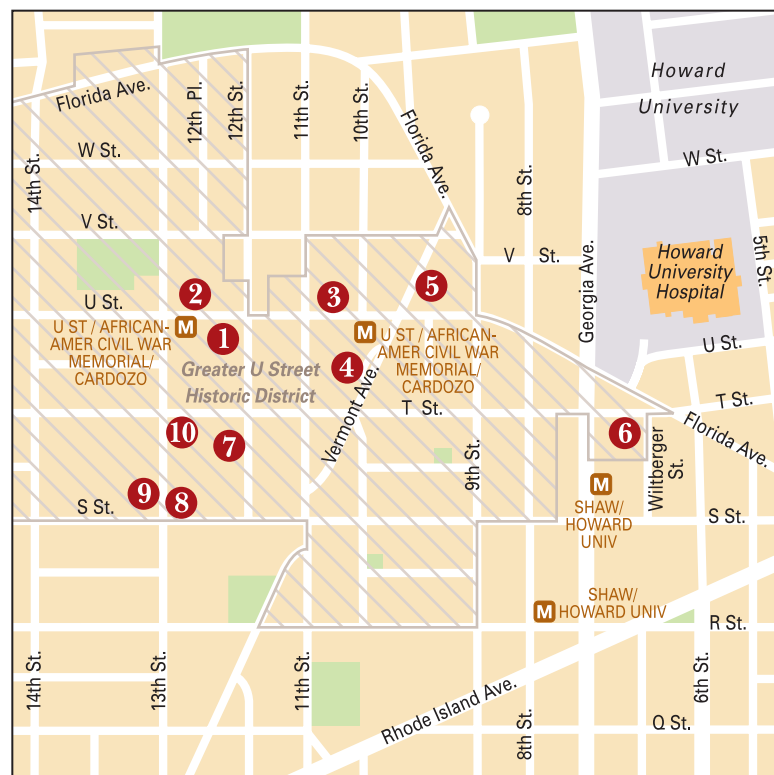
Vermont Avenue and U Street, NW

The African American Civil War Memorial, the only national memorial of its kind, commemorates the more than 200,000 soldiers of the U.S. Colored Troops. Their names are inscribed on the Wall of Honor alongside the *Spirit of Freedom* sculpture by Ed Hamilton. The memorial was unveiled in 1998. The museum (at 12th and U streets) offers exhibits, videos, and programs.



African American Civil War Memorial

Museum: Mon.–Fri., 10 am–5 pm
Sat., 10 am–2 pm
Call for tours
Admission: Free
202-667-2667



Historic District Metro Station

5 Black Fashion Museum

2007 Vermont Avenue, NW

The Black Fashion Museum celebrates the traditional role of dressmakers in American life. It is a repository for period and recent garments designed and made by people of the African diaspora. Its collections include dresses by Elizabeth Keckley, the once-enslaved dressmaker who became confidante to Mary Todd Lincoln and wrote *Behind the Scenes* (1868). The work of Ann Lowe, who designed Jacqueline Bouvier's wedding dress, is also featured. The museum offers changing exhibits.

Closed indefinitely





Ann Lowe design, 1960

Jarvis Grant, Black Fashion Museum

6 Howard Theatre

620 T Street, NW

The Howard Theatre was a premiere showcase for more than 70 years from its opening in 1910, two decades before Harlem's Apollo Theater inaugurated its "Amateur Night." Billed as the "Theater for the People," its live music, plays, vaudeville, movies, and talent contests drew audiences and performers from the city and the nation. Native Washingtonians Duke Ellington and Mary Jefferson performed here, as did Ella Fitzgerald, Jackie "Moms" Mabley, and Motown's great acts. In 1970 the theater closed after audiences dwindled in response to desegregation and the 1968 riots. The theater was declared a historic landmark in 1974, and re-opened in 1975. Go-go and rock 'n' roll bands performed here into the early 1980s, when the theater again closed.  




Advertisement

Cultural Tourism DC

7 Thurgood Marshall Center for Service and Heritage 12th Street YMCA Site


1816 12th Street, NW

The Thurgood Marshall Center for Service and Heritage, a social service and community center for the Shaw neighborhood, occupies a hallowed building—the former home of the 12th Street YMCA, the nation's first black YMCA. The Y was founded in 1853 in the Southwest Washington home of Anthony Bowen, a minister and formerly enslaved conductor on the Underground Railroad. Designed by architect W. Sidney Pittman, this building opened in 1912 and quickly became a vital community resource. Handsomely restored in 2000, the center now honors Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993), the first black Supreme Court Justice. Marshall strategized here with other lawyers on the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* school desegregation cases. The Marshall Center offers changing exhibits. *See Trail 7 for an Anthony Bowen site. See Trail 8 for U.S. Supreme Court.* 

Mon.–Fri., 8:30 am–5 pm
Sat. 9 am–2 pm
202-462-8314

8 and 9 Duke Ellington Residences

1805 and 1816 13th Street, NW

Native son Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899–1974), the internationally renowned composer and musician, spent his teenage years at 1805 13th Street (1910–1914) and then at 1816 13th Street (1915–1917). He later attributed his professional success to his parents, his music teachers, and the patrons of Frank Holliday's poolroom at 624 T Street. Ellington formed "The Duke's Serenaders" here before moving to New York in 1923. He became a hit in Harlem, and launched a recording career that brought him worldwide fame. Throughout his 50-year career, Ellington returned often to Washington to perform, frequently staying at the nearby Whitelaw Hotel. *See Trail 5 for Ellington's birthplace.* 




Ellington residence, 1805 13th St., NW

Bill Liebowitz

10 Whitelaw Hotel

1839 13th Street, NW

The Whitelaw Hotel opened in 1919 as an apartment hotel providing first-class permanent and short-term accommodations. John Whitelaw Lewis, a laborer-turned-entrepreneur who founded the Industrial Savings Bank, financed the project and hired architect Isaiah T. Hatton. Joe Louis, Benny Carter and Louis Armstrong, like Duke Ellington, all stayed at the Whitelaw. The hotel thrived through the 1950s but became less popular with the end of segregation in downtown Washington. It closed in 1977. Manna, Inc., a nonprofit housing developer, re-opened it as an apartment building in 1992. 



12th Street YMCA

Woodward Springman Research Center, HU

LeDroit Park

LeDroit Park was developed in 1873 as an early, all-white suburb located outside the original boundaries of Washington City. Leading African American families began moving here in the 1890s. By the early 20th century it was a haven for Howard University scholars, literary figures such as Paul Laurence Dunbar, and civil rights leaders such as Mary Church Terrell. Many of the original picturesque cottages and grand houses still exist on its narrow, village-like streets, part of the LeDroit Park Historic District.



1 Willis Richardson Residence

512 U Street, NW

Willis Richardson (1889–1977) was one of the most prolific playwrights of the New Negro Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s. In 1923 his play, *The Chip Woman's Fortune*, made Richardson the first black playwright to have a nonmusical production on Broadway. A year later his *Mortgaged* was the first work by a black playwright to be produced by the Howard Players, a local theatrical troupe. Richardson was a graduate of the local M Street High School.

2 Alice Moore Dunbar [Nelson] and Paul Laurence Dunbar Residence

1934 Fourth Street, NW

Alice Moore Dunbar [Nelson] (1875–1935) and Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906), a true literary couple, moved here after their marriage in 1898. Alice was a budding poet and essayist, and Paul was already an accomplished published poet and writer—as revered and respected in his day as Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington. The Dunbars lived next door to Mary Church Terrell and Robert H. Terrell, whose first LeDroit Park home was at 1936 Fourth Street, NW. The four were close friends and central figures of the city's cultural and intellectual elite.

3 Oscar DePriest Residence

419 U Street, NW

Oscar DePriest (1871–1951) was the first African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in the 20th century and the first African American congressman from the North. He lived in this house during his three terms. A Republican, DePriest represented Chicago from 1929 until 1934. Among his successes was an increase in nearby Howard University's congressional appropriations. His fine corner home was one of a block of houses designed in the 1870s by white architect James H. McGill that remains intact today.



Oscar DePriest residence

4 Christian Fleetwood and Sara Iredell Fleetwood Residence Site

319 U Street, NW

In honor of his heroism as a Civil War soldier, Christian Fleetwood (1840–1914) received the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was also the first instructor of the Colored Washington High School Cadet Corps. Sara (1849–1908), a member of the first graduating class (1896) of the Freedman's Hospital Training School, became the superintendent of the Training School for Nurses in 1901. The Fleetwoods hosted "Evenings at Home," weekly literary and cultural gatherings beginning in the 1870s. Their original house no longer exists. A new house was built here in the 1990s by Manna, Inc., a nonprofit housing group.

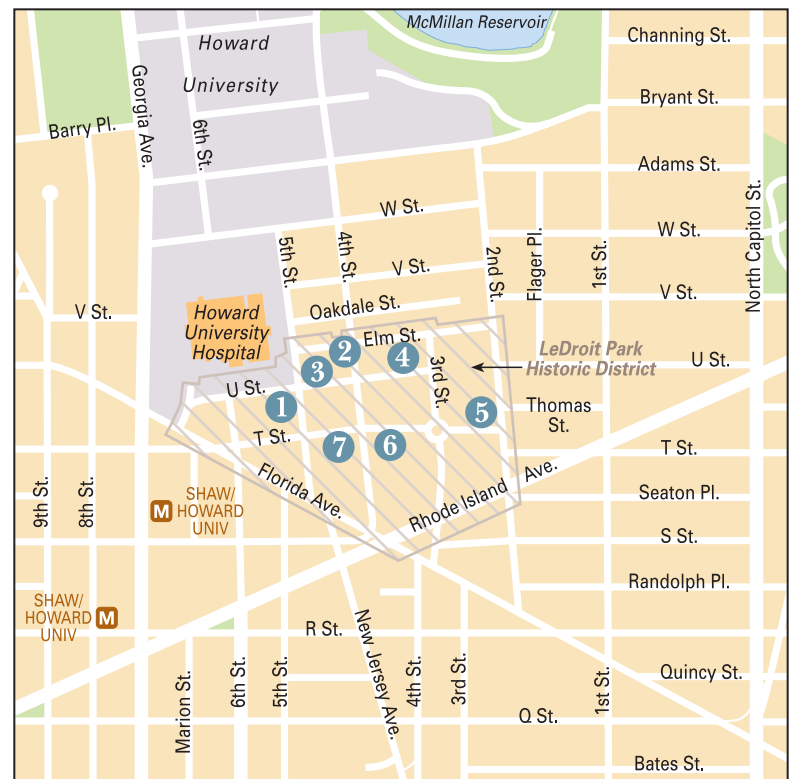
5 Anna Julia Cooper Residence

201 T Street, NW

Anna Julia Cooper (1858–1964), an educator, writer, and human rights leader, lived in this corner house for almost 50 years beginning in 1916. Cooper came to Washington in 1887 to teach Latin at the Preparatory School for Colored Youth, where she served as principal. Cooper also left her mark on Frelinghuysen University, a night school for working-class adults that opened in 1906. She became its second president and devoted considerable resources to the school, which began operating out of her home in 1931. Cooper published a book of feminist speeches and essays, *A Voice from the South* (1892), and received the Ph.D. from the Sorbonne in 1925 at age 66.



Anna Julia Cooper



Logan Circle

Originally Iowa Circle, Logan Circle was renamed to honor white Civil War General John A. Logan. After the Civil War the circle and its environs were fully developed with an array of lavish Victorian houses. By the 1920s, these grand structures had attracted writers and artists. Art shows and other community events took place within the circle itself. These quiet streets, part of the Logan Circle Historic District, inspired artist Alma Thomas and attracted nationally known evangelist “Sweet Daddy” Grace.



1 Charles Manuel “Sweet Daddy” Grace Residence 11 Logan Circle, NW

Charles M. “Sweet Daddy” Grace (ca. 1882–1960) incorporated the United House of Prayer for All People, Church on the Rock of the Apostolic Faith, in 1927 with national headquarters in Washington at 1117 Seventh Street, NW. Grace, originally from the Cape Verde Islands, was one of several Washington religious leaders, including Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux, offering worshipers an



Grace Residence



Frelinghuysen University class

6 Mary Church Terrell and Robert H. Terrell Residence 326 T Street, NW

Mary Church Terrell (1863–1954) and Robert H. Terrell (1857–1925) contributed immensely to this city. Mary was an educator, writer, women’s club movement leader, and civil rights activist for more than 50 years. In her late 80s, she led protests that helped to end segregation in Washington’s public accommodations in the landmark Supreme Court case, *District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Co.* (1953). She published her influential autobiography, *A Colored Woman in a White World*, in 1940. Robert, an educator and lawyer, grew up in Washington and graduated from Howard University Law School. In 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to the DC Municipal Court as its first African American judge. 👁️ 🔍



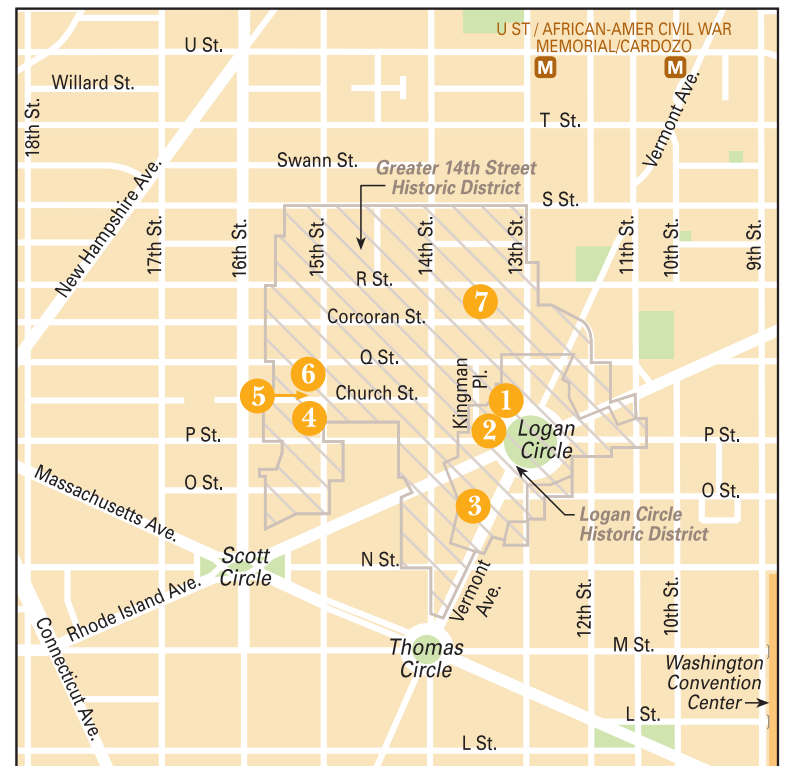
Robert H. Terrell

7 Ernest Everett Just Residence 412 T Street, NW

Ernest Everett Just (1883–1941), a renowned biologist, pioneered investigation in fertilization and cell division. In 1915 he received the first Spingarn Medal awarded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for “foremost service to his race.” Just taught at Howard University in the English and Biology departments for 30 years. In 1911 he helped found Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He and his wife, Ethel Highwarden, moved into this house in 1914. 👁️



Ernest Everett Just



Historic District Metro Station



Charles Manuel "Sweet Daddy" Grace

alternative to traditional Christianity. Grace was a charismatic leader who amassed a great fortune. He was known for his flamboyant personal style, evidenced by his green and purple coats and long fingernails painted red, white, and blue, which also matched the trim on his house. Grace created a legacy that has greatly assisted the church's poor and working-class members, including day care centers and well-maintained, inexpensive housing.

2 Belford V. Lawson and Marjorie M. Lawson Residence

8 Logan Circle, NW

Belford V. Lawson and Marjorie M. Lawson were a formidable legal couple. Belford served as lead attorney for *New Negro Alliance v. Sanitary Grocery* (1938), the Supreme Court case that safeguarded a right to boycott. Marjorie, U.S. representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, served as a DC Juvenile Court judge. They lived here from 1936 until 1958, at times sharing their home with Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (D.-NY), who rented the third floor during his tenure in Congress beginning in 1945.

3 Mary McLeod Bethune Council House

1318 Vermont Avenue, NW

The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, formerly the occasional home of educator and civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune (1875–1955), was the first headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women. Bethune founded NCNW in 1935 and served as its first president. Among her most influential federal appointments during the New Deal era was the directorship of Negro Affairs for the National Youth Administration from 1936 to 1943. In all she served as advisor to four U.S. presidents. The three-story Victorian main house is a house museum with permanent and changing exhibits interpreting the life of Bethune and black women's history operated by the National Park Service. The carriage house contains the National Archives for Black Women's History. *See Trail 8 for statue of Mary McLeod Bethune. See Trail 5 for current NCNW headquarters.*

Mon.–Sat., 9 am–5 pm
Tours: Mon.–Sat., 10 am–4 pm
Admission: Free
202-673-2402



Bethune Council House

4 St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Alexander Crummell

1514 15th Street, NW

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the city's first independent black Episcopal church, was completed in 1879 through the leadership of Alexander Crummell (1819–1898), a noted intellectual, clergyman, and mis-

sionary. Crummell had established St. Luke's after serving as rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Foggy Bottom, a congregation dependent on the white-run St. John's Episcopal Church. Calvin T.S. Brent (1854–1899), the city's earliest known black architect, designed the Gothic Revival building.

Services: Sun., 7 am, 10 am; Wed., 6 pm
Visitors: Mon.–Fri., 10 am–4 pm, by appointment
202-667-4394

5 Alma Thomas Residence

1530 15th Street, NW

Alma Thomas (1891–1978) was a distinguished artist and educator. She moved with her family to this house from Georgia in 1907, and remained for the next seven decades. Howard University's first Fine Arts Department graduate, Thomas taught art at Shaw Junior High School from 1924 until 1960. With her kitchen doubling as her studio, Thomas developed her mastery of color, preferring abstract compositions to the social realism popular among her peers. Her work is found in the collections of the Hirshhorn Museum, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among many others. *See Trail 4 for old Shaw Junior High School.*



Iris, Tulips, Jonquills and Crocuses by Alma Thomas

6 Mary Jane Patterson Residence

1532 15th Street, NW

Educator Mary Jane Patterson (1840–1894) received a B.A. from Oberlin College in 1862, becoming the nation's first black woman to earn a B.A. from an established college. After a teaching stint in Philadelphia, Patterson moved to Washington in 1869 to teach and serve as principal of the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth. She co-founded the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C., a precursor to the National Association of Colored Women.

7 Alain Locke Residence

1326 R Street, NW

Alain Locke (1886–1954), one of the leading intellectuals of the 20th century and the nation's first black Rhodes Scholar, was a central figure in the New Negro Renaissance. He edited *The New Negro* (1925), an anthology of poems, prose, and art that helped define this critical cultural movement. Although usually associated with Harlem, Locke called Washington home. Beginning in 1912, he taught English, education, and philosophy for more than 40 years at Howard University. In 1935 he founded the Associates in Negro Folk Education, organized to disseminate scholarly work to adult learners. Of the nine "bronze booklets" published by the Associates between 1936 and 1942, Locke penned two on art and music. Locke also wrote widely on cultural pluralism, a philosophical concept emphasizing respect for different cultures.

Mount Vernon Square and Shaw



With its Central Public Library and its location along a number of streetcar lines, Mount Vernon Square was a gathering place for residents during the first half of the 20th century. Shaw, a name given to the area northwest of the square in 1966, encompasses several distinct neighborhoods populated by African Americans, Asian Americans, and European Americans. This is the neighborhood where A. Philip Randolph worked on civil rights tactics, and Carter G. Woodson pioneered the study of black history. Look for more on the Shaw Heritage Trail.

1 Central Public Library Site

801 K Street, NW

The Central Public Library first opened here in 1903. From the beginning it was one of the few city institutions that did not segregate its patrons. Financed by white philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the grand Beaux-Arts style building was also known as the Carnegie Library. In 1972 the library moved to the new Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library at 901 G Street, NW. Today the old Carnegie Library houses the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., which collects, interprets, and exhibits the city's local history. 




Central Public Library, 1950s

Research Library and exhibit spaces open Tues.–Thurs., 10 am–5 pm
Admission: Free
202-383-1800

2 Blanche K. Bruce and Josephine Beall Willson Bruce Residence

909 M Street, NW


Mississippi Senator Blanche K. Bruce (1841–1898) and clubwoman Josephine Beall Willson Bruce (1853–1923) were leaders of Washington's "aristocrats of color," a group of well-educated, financially secure, and politically active families linked nationwide. Blanche was the first black senator to serve a full term in Congress (1874–1880). He would later receive presidential appointments as recorder of deeds for the city and register of the U.S. Treasury. Josephine helped to found the National Association of Colored Women (1896) and the local Book Lovers Club, a black women's literary group that organized the city's first YWCA in 1905. See Trail 5 for Recorder of Deeds building. 



Detail, Bruce Residence

3 Blagden Alley/Naylor Court Historic District and DC Archives


Ninth, Tenth, N and O streets, NW

The Blagden Alley/Naylor Court Historic District includes structures facing the alleys and the streets. During the Civil War's severe housing shortages, alley housing was one of the few options available to poor and working-class residents. In 1880, 64 families lived in Blagden Alley—all African American. Typically houses had four rooms with a small back yard, a water hydrant, a privy, and a shed. Stables and businesses were added later. Hidden from the main streets, alley dwellers formed supportive communities. From the outside, however, alley communities were seen as unsanitary and dangerous. Most were torn down by 1955. Blagden Alley and Naylor Court remain intact due to community activism. The DC Archives is located here in the Office of Public Records, 1300 Naylor Court, a former stable. 

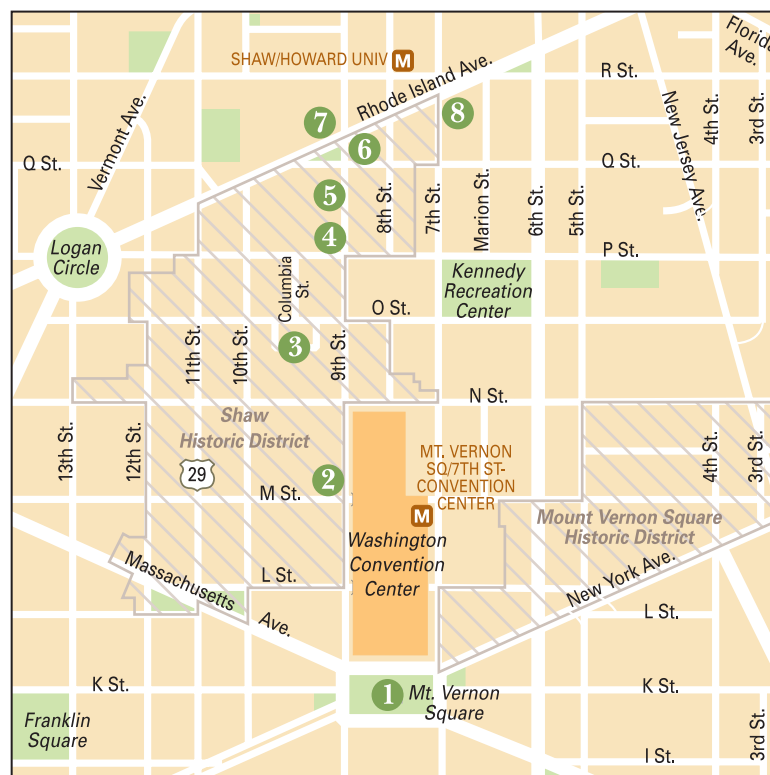
DC Archives open for research by appointment only, Mon.–Fri., 9 am–4 pm
202-671-1105

4 Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, DC

1500 Ninth Street, NW

The Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, DC, was formed in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1854. The congregation moved to Washington in 1862, and a year later was formally recognized as a church. Shiloh moved from its first location near 16th and L streets, NW, to this location in 1924, where it developed into a major religious and community service center. Early 20th century activities included a day care center for working mothers and social programs for alley dwellers. After a 1991 fire, the rebuilt church was dedicated in 1998. 

Services: Sun. 7:45, 10:55 am; Thurs. 6:30 pm
202-232-4200



 Historic District  Metro Station

5 Carter G. Woodson Residence

1538 Ninth Street, NW

Carter G. Woodson (1875–1950) devoted his life to the study and promotion of African American history. Here Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, the *Journal of Negro History* in 1916, the Associated Publishers in 1921, and the *Negro History Bulletin* in 1937. Woodson, along with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, launched Negro History Week (now Black History Month) in 1926. He taught at M Street High School and served as a Howard University dean. A prolific writer with a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 1912, Woodson influenced generations of scholars, activists, and artists. 📖 🔍

6 International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Office

817 Q Street, NW

The International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (IBSCP) was the first successful black trade union in the United States. From 1943 until 1978, this was its local chapter office. With A. Philip Randolph (1889–1979) as leader, the IBSCP was founded in 1925 for porters, attendants, and maids working for the Pullman Palace Car Company, which provided first-class train accommodations. In 1938 the female relatives of union members founded the International Ladies' Auxiliary. Randolph, along with Bayard Rustin, was a central figure in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, much of which was planned here. 📖 🔍



A. Philip Randolph

A. Philip Randolph Institute

7 Phillis Wheatley YWCA

901 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

Originally the Colored Young Women's Christian Association, this was the city's first YWCA and the nation's first and only independent black YWCA. It was organized in 1905 by members of the Book Lovers Club. In 1920 the YWCA moved to its newly constructed building and was renamed to honor Phillis Wheatley (ca.1753–1784), considered the first published African American poet. National Council of Negro Women President Emerita Dorothy Height served as executive secretary from 1939 to 1944. The building is currently a residential complex for women. See Trails 3 and 5 for NCNW sites. 📖 🔍

8 Asbury Dwellings/Old Shaw Junior High School

Seventh Street and Rhode Island Avenue, NW

Shaw Junior High School, named for Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, white commander of the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, opened in 1928. The unusual, curved building dates back to 1902 when it opened as McKinley Technical High School, for whites. Among Shaw's noted teachers was artist Alma Thomas. After the old Shaw became inadequate, a new Shaw Junior High School was completed two blocks away in 1977. The Asbury United Methodist Church converted this building into Asbury Dwellings, senior citizen housing, in 1982. See Trail 3 for Alma Thomas's house. See Trail 5 for Asbury UMC. 📖 🔍



Old Shaw Junior High School, 1950

Historical Society of Washington, DC

TRAIL

5



Downtown

Because it is located between the Capitol on the east and the White House on the west, the downtown area became the city's commercial, governmental, and residential core in the early years of the federal district. African Americans built institutions and businesses, worked in the government buildings, and took up residence here. The early emancipation of Washington's enslaved women and men in April 1862 was administered here and then celebrated for generations.

1 Freedman's Savings and Trust Co. Site

701 Madison Place, NW

The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, popularly called the Freedman's Bank, was established in 1865 by white philanthropists to assist newly freed blacks as they made the transition into legal freedom. Its national headquarters was completed here in 1872, and by 1874 more than 61,000 African Americans had deposited more than \$3 million. Unfortunately, a departure from the bank's conservative investing, including questionable loans to white businesses, bankrupted the institution. Frederick Douglass became president of the ailing bank in March 1874 and closed it four months later. Depositors were able to recover only a portion of their savings. The building was sold in 1882 and later razed. A plaque marking the site, which originally faced Pennsylvania Avenue, is found on the current U.S. Treasury Annex. 📖 🔍



Historic District Metro Station

Top: James Wormley by Henry Ulke (The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.)

2 Wormley's Hotel Site

1500 H Street, NW

James Wormley (1819–1884), born free in Washington, opened Wormley's Hotel in 1871. The hotel catered to the wealthy and politically powerful and was considered one of the city's finest, located just two blocks from the White House. It remained in family hands until 1897. Wormley's Hotel achieved notoriety in 1876 when representatives of Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden brokered a deal here over the contested 1876 presidential election. The resulting Compromise of 1877 led to the removal of troops from the South and the end of Federal Reconstruction. The Union Trust Company building was erected on the site in 1906. □

3 Franklin Square/Emancipation Parade Site

13th, 14th, I, and K streets, NW

Washington's multiracial abolitionist movement helped bring an early end to slavery in the nation's capital. On April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the DC Emancipation Act making enslaved Washingtonians the "first freed"—nine months before the Emancipation Proclamation. Four years later, Washingtonians began commemorating this momentous event with the first Emancipation Day Parade. More than 5,000 marchers stepped off from Franklin Square, and wound through downtown, stopping at the White House, then returning here for speeches. The parades ended in 1901, but annual celebrations continued in churches. The parade was revived in 2002. □

4 Asbury United Methodist Church

11th and K streets, NW

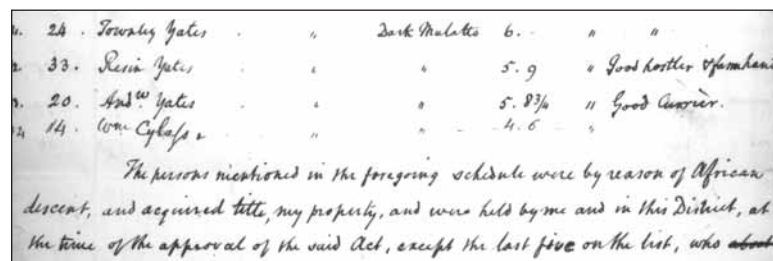
The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1836 by members of the white-dominated Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church (now Foundry United Methodist Church) who sought to worship free of racism and segregation. Church members, free and enslaved, selected this site and built a frame church. A brick building followed in 1866, parts of which are retained within the current church (1916). Asbury became known for education, including independent private schools it hosted during the Civil War. Educators Mary McLeod Bethune and Mary Church Terrell attended the church. In 1982 the church converted the old Shaw Junior High School into Asbury Dwellings. *See Trail 4 for Asbury Dwellings.* □

Services: Sun., 8:30 am and 10:30 am
202-628-0009

5 DC Superior Court/Old City Hall

451 D Street, NW

The Old City Hall (1820–1850) was Washington City's first public building. It housed a court of law where trials of abolitionists and Underground Railroad participants occurred in the early 1820s. The American Convention for the Abolition of Slavery also met here in 1829. After President Lincoln signed the DC Emancipation Act in April 1862, and the government agreed to a one-time experiment of compensating slave owners for their property, a three-member Emancipation Commission interviewed individuals seeking compensation here. Though most claimants were white, African Americans also sought compensation for family members whose titles they had purchased in order to keep them from being sold to whites. The building



Application for compensation for loss of slaves

also housed the early Office of Recorder of Deeds. The building is undergoing renovation at this writing. ◉

6 DC Recorder of Deeds Building/WPA Era Murals

515 D Street, NW

The Recorder of Deeds building, which houses the city's land records, is one of the city's Art Deco/Art Moderne landmarks. It was completed in 1941. African Americans have served as recorders of deeds since President James A. Garfield appointed Frederick Douglass in 1881. Ten other African Americans would suc-



Detail, Shaw at Fort Wagner by Carlos Lopez

ceed Douglass. Elocutionist Henrietta Vinton Davis (1860–1941) became the first black woman employed in the office in 1878, later serving as Douglass's assistant. In addition to portraits of the recorders of deeds, and Selma Burke's bronze relief of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the building is distinguished by a series of seven Works Projects Administration era murals on the theme of "the contribution of the Negro to the American Nation," including the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, astronomer Benjamin Banneker, and explorer Matthew A. Henry. *See Trails 8 and 9 for Frederick Douglass residences.* □

Mon.–Fri., 8:30 am–4:30 pm
202-727-5374

7 National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Headquarters

633 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

The National Council of Negro Women, founded by Mary McLeod Bethune in 1935, moved to this grand former hotel building in 1995. It is the only African American organization with property between the Capitol and the White House on historic Pennsylvania Avenue. Bethune was succeeded by physician Dorothy Boulding Ferebee (1949–1953), social activist Vivian Carter Mason (1953–1957), and YWCA leader Dorothy Height (1957–1998). The NCNW's largest annual event, the Black Family Reunion, takes place each September on the National Mall. *See Trail 3 for NCNW's first headquarters.* □



National Council of Negro Women Headquarters

Mon.–Fri., 9 am–5 pm
Tours by appointment only
202-737-0120

8 Civil War to Civil Rights: Downtown Heritage Trail


Follow the signs on this self-guided Cultural Tourism DC Neighborhood Heritage Trail to learn more about African American history in downtown. The tour begins one block south of the Archives/Navy Memorial Metro station. The accompanying guidebook, *Civil War to Civil Rights*, may be downloaded from www.CulturalTourismDC.org. 



Kaitlyn S. Smith

9 National Archives/Center Market Site

Constitution Avenue and Seventh Street, NW

Construction of Washington's municipal Center Market began here in 1802. Center Market offered free and enslaved African Americans a place to sell and shop for food and other goods. The sale of enslaved African Americans also took place at hotels nearby until the slave trade was abolished in Washington in 1850. In 1931 Center Market was demolished to build the National Archives, the main repository for U.S. Government records, which opened in 1935. The National Archives displays original documents including the Emancipation Proclamation, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Records of the 1862 compensated emancipation in Washington, DC, are also filed here. 



Vendor at Center Market

Library of Congress

Exhibit Hall:

Daily, April–Labor Day, 10 am–9 pm; Labor Day–March, 10 am–5:30 pm

Research Hours:

Mon.–Fri., 9 am–5 pm

1-866-325-7208

TRAIL

6

National Mall


The National Mall, now a historic district, was originally designated as a grand avenue by Pierre C. L'Enfant in his plan for the capital city. The current Mall stretches from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial and attracts more than 18 million visitors annually.



1 National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

*Constitution Avenue, NW,
between 12th and 14th streets*

Opened in 1964 as the Museum of History and Technology, the museum offers exhibits and programs highlighting African American history and culture.

Two permanent exhibits are *Field to Factory*, documenting northern migration between 1915 and 1940, and *Beyond Category: The Life and Genius of Duke Ellington*. The Archives Center is a repository for historic photographs, including the Scurlock Studio Collection, documenting nearly 100 years of local African American life. 

Daily, 10 am–5:30 pm, starting summer of 2008

Closed December 25

202-357-2700




from *Field to Factory*

NMAH, SI

2 DAR Constitution Hall

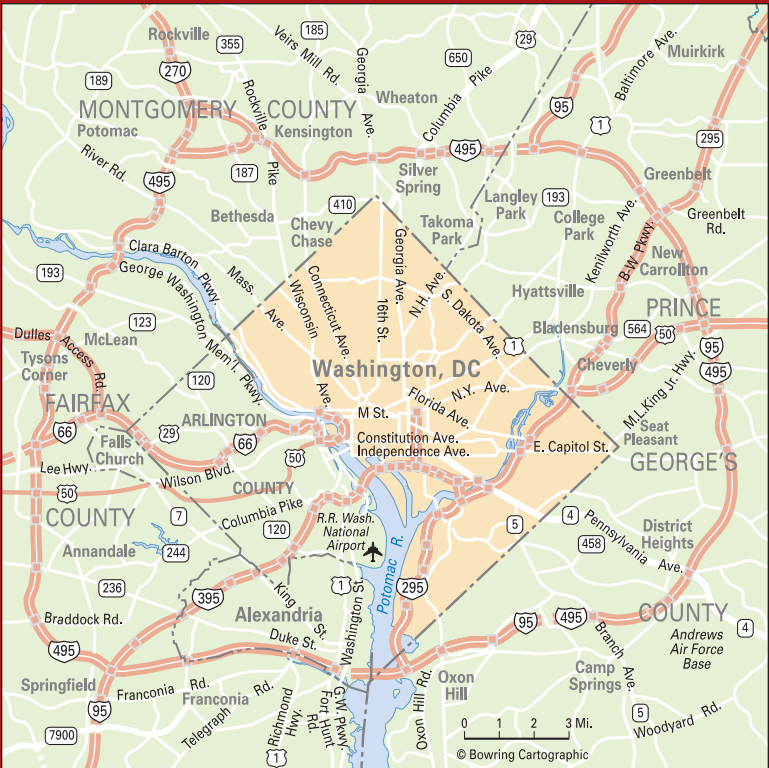
311 18th Street, NW

Constitution Hall (1929) was built for the annual conventions of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was made available for rent as an entertainment venue. The DAR became infamous in 1939 as the organization that refused to allow soprano Marian Anderson to perform in its hall. Although most of Washington's white-owned performance spaces practiced segregation, the fact that Marian Anderson was internationally acclaimed and that First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was a DAR member turned the refusal into a national *cause célèbre*. Outraged residents, led by noted lawyer Charles Hamilton Houston, formed the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee. Working with Roosevelt, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, and NAACP head Walter White, they secured the Lincoln Memorial for the concert. The event energized the city's early civil rights movement. The DAR eventually changed its policy, and Anderson would perform here six times. 

Open during public performances

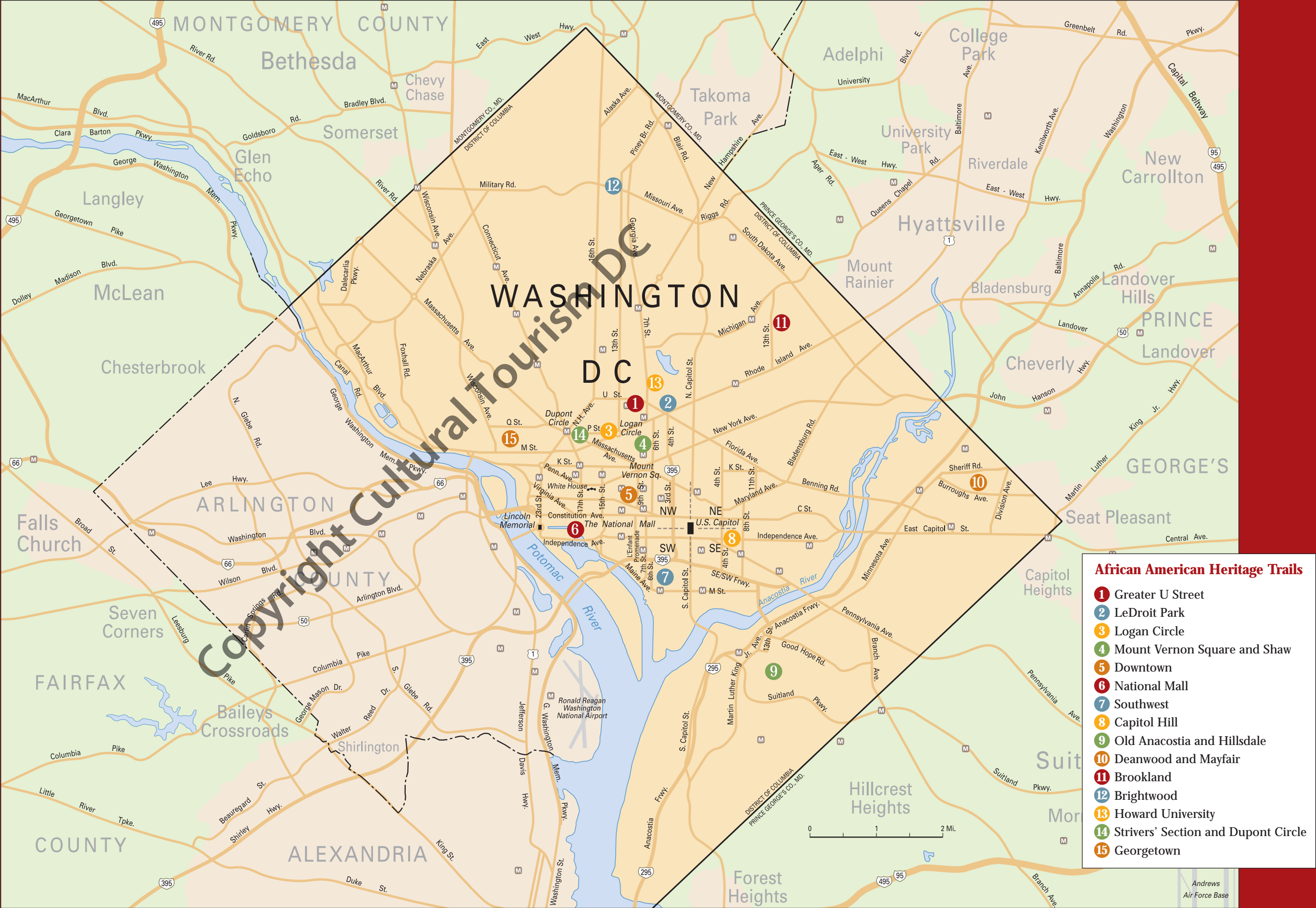
Tours available upon request

202-628-4780



African American Heritage Trails

The map at right locates each of the 15 trails within the District of Columbia. The Metro system map at the top and the highway map, above, show how to get to the African American Heritage Trails. More information on how to use this guide is found on page 7.



3 Decatur House/Slave Quarters

748 Jackson Place, NW

This historic house museum, completed in 1818 for white naval hero Stephen Decatur and his wife Susan, contains one of Washington's few remaining slave quarters. The two-story service wing, where enslaved people lived and worked, runs along the H Street side of the house and now serves as the exhibit gallery and gift shop. A permanent exhibit tells the story of Charlotte Dupuy, who grew up enslaved in Kentucky and married Aaron Dupuy, also enslaved. The Dupuys and their two children were owned by U.S. Representative Henry Clay, who moved the family to this house in Washington in 1827. 📌

Mon.–Sat., 10 am–5 pm
Sun. Noon–4 pm
202-842-0920



Decatur House slave quarters fireplace

Sarah Tapper

4 Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Henry Bacon Drive and Constitution Avenue, NW

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled in 1982 with Asian American architect Maya Ying Lin's wall. Its black granite surface is inscribed with more than 58,000 names of men and women who died during U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War (1961–1973). In 1984 the Three Servicemen Statue and Flagpole, by white



Vietnam Women's Memorial by Glenna Goodacre

Bill Lachy

sculptor Frederick Hart, was added. In 1993 the Vietnam Women's Memorial by white sculptor Glenna Goodacre completed the memorial. African Americans are depicted in both statues. 📌

Open 24 hours
202-426-6841

5 Lincoln Memorial

West Potomac Park, Henry Bacon and Daniel French drives, SW

Since 1922 the Lincoln Memorial has served as a national stage for protests and celebrations. On Easter Sunday 1939, operatic soprano Marian Anderson sang here in front of 75,000 people after DAR Constitution Hall and the D.C. Board of Education refused to let her perform in their venues. In 1963 more than 250,000 participants in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his magnificent "I Have a Dream" speech from the memorial's steps. (In 2003 on the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington, the National Park Service marked the spot where King spoke, a landing 18 steps below the chamber.) In May 1968 the Poor People's Campaign, with its Resurrection City in West Potomac Park, attracted more than 50,000. 📌



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Daily, 8 am–11:45 pm
202-426-6841

6 Washington, DC World War I Memorial

Independence Avenue west of 17th Street, SW

The DC World War I Memorial, a small marble bandshell in West Potomac Park, honors the 26,000 local women and men who served in World War I, including 535 who died in the conflict. The memorial was completed in 1931 and is the only memorial on the National Mall featuring local history. Henry Chapman Gilbert was the first person from Washington to enlist in the armed forces. 📌

Open 24 hours daily



Historic District Metro Station

Southwest

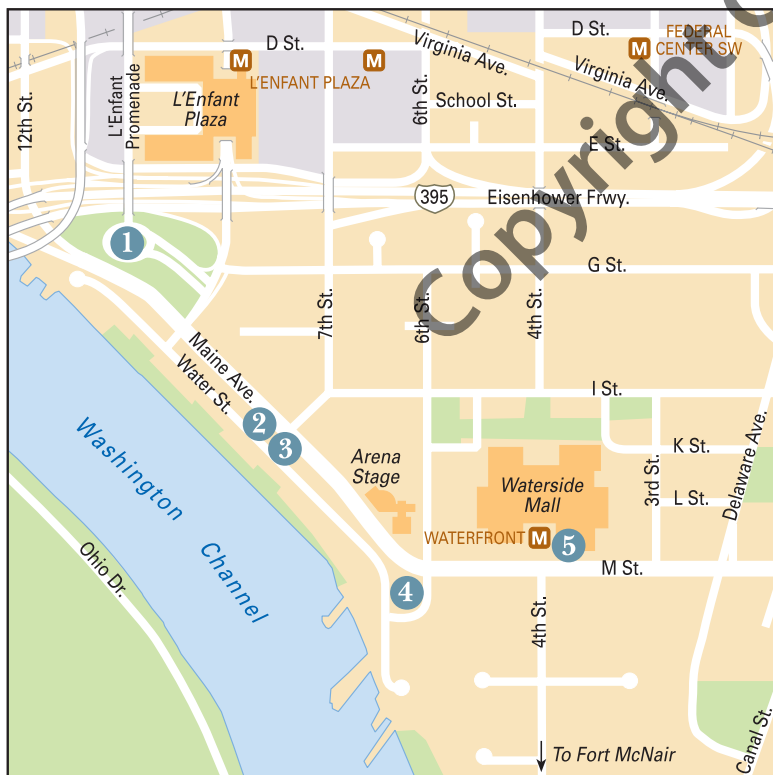
The waterfront neighborhood of Southwest was especially important to freedom seekers before Emancipation. Although one of the city's oldest areas, today Southwest looks like one of the newest. After World War II, the neighborhood underwent urban renewal. Nearly all buildings were demolished and the close-knit poor and working-class communities were removed.



1 Banneker Park

Marked at L'Enfant Promenade, SW, south end

Benjamin Banneker (1731–1806), born in Baltimore County, Maryland, grew up on a tobacco farm and worked into adulthood as a planter. With disciplined self-study, Banneker became an exceptionally learned astronomer and mathematician. In 1791 he assisted Andrew Ellicott on the survey of the territory designated for Washington, DC. Banneker used sophisticated instruments to observe stars at night. His calculations were used to determine where to place the 40 boundary stones that would mark the 10 square miles of the new federal district. While here, he began work on a series of published almanacs. The marker sits atop a hill that offers dramatic views of the city.



Metro Station

2 Lewis Jefferson Steamboat Wharf Site

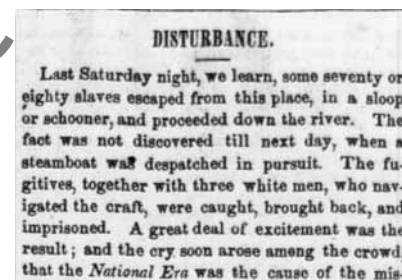
Described at Seventh and Water streets, SW

Lewis Jefferson (1866–1946) became one of the city's first black millionaires at age 35. His enterprises included fertilizer, general contracting, real estate development, and shipbuilding. He owned a number of steamboats and developed Washington Park, an amusement park on the Potomac River. As a skipper he took pleasure-seekers on excursion rides down the Potomac. He lived at 1901 First Street, SW, with his wife and 14 children in a large 1903 brick house. The house was demolished in the 1930s in order to build an electric power plant.

3 Pearl Affair Site

Described at Seventh and Water streets, SW

In 1848, 77 enslaved and free women, men, and children sought freedom in the North on the schooner *Pearl*, boarding at night at the Seventh Street Wharf, assisted by black and white abolitionists. Their intent was to sail down the Potomac River into the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware Canal toward New Jersey. Due to bad weather, they did not reach the bay, stopping at the mouth of the Potomac about 100 miles southeast of Washington. There they were overtaken by the 30 whites who had volunteered to stop them. After their capture, they were either imprisoned or sold into slavery in the South. A few secured their freedom and became abolitionists. Their desire for freedom widely publicized the prominence of slavery and the slave trade in a city that symbolized liberty.

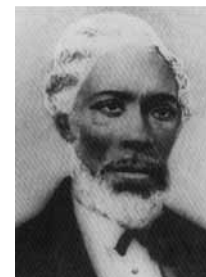


National Era describes *Pearl* escape

4 Anthony Bowen/Underground Railroad Site

Described at Sixth and Water streets, SW

Anthony Bowen (ca.1805–1872), born enslaved in nearby Prince George's County, Maryland, moved to Washington in 1826 and became legally free by 1830. He helped to found the St. Paul AME Church in 1856 and established a Sunday Evening School for children and adults. Both met in his home in the 900 block of E Street, SW (now part of the Southeast-Southwest Freeway). An active abolitionist, Bowen met freedom-seekers at the Sixth Street wharf and sheltered them at his home. He also co-founded the nation's first black YMCA in 1853 and urged President Lincoln to recruit black soldiers during the Civil War. See Trail 1 for the Thurgood Marshall Center/12th Street YMCA site.



Anthony Bowen

5 River Farms to Urban Towers: Southwest Heritage Trail

Follow the signs on this self-guided Cultural Tourism DC Neighborhood Heritage Trail to learn more about Southwest. The trail begins at the Waterfront Metro station. The accompanying free guidebook, *River Farms to Urban Towers*, is available from local merchants.


Capitol Hill



African Americans have always lived and worked in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, where the U.S. Capitol, the industrial Navy Yard, and the Library of Congress have consistently offered a range of employment. The city's first school for black children began here as a private enterprise in 1807. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and abolitionist Frederick Douglass made important national contributions from this neighborhood. Many of these sites fall within the Capitol Hill Historic District.

1 United States Capitol

First and East Capitol streets

Construction of the U.S. Capitol began in 1793. From that time, African American women and men worked as skilled and unskilled laborers on the building and also as domestic servants and eventually professional staff within. Philip Reid, who was enslaved, was responsible for the final casting, transportation, and assembly of the *Statue of Freedom* by white sculptor Thomas Crawford that tops the dome. The first three African Americans to serve in Congress, Hiram Revels, Joseph Rainey, and Jefferson Long, arrived in 1869 during Reconstruction following the Civil War. The Congressional Black Caucus was established in 1971 by nine members of Congress to work in concert to achieve a more equitable Congress and a more equitable country. 

Public guided tours only, Mon.-Sat., 9 am–4:30 pm

Free tickets must be obtained in advance from Capitol Guide Service kiosk, southwest of the Capitol

2 United States Supreme Court/Old Brick Capitol Site


One First Street, NE

After British troops burned the unfinished U.S. Capitol in 1814, citizens constructed a temporary “Brick Capitol” across the street. Congress met there until 1819. During the Civil War the Brick Capitol became Capitol Prison, where African Americans seeking freedom were held along with Confederate soldiers and spies until 1862. In 1935 the U.S. Supreme Court replaced the old building. Since 1857, when the all-white Court ruled in *Dred Scott v. Sanford* that African Americans were not citizens entitled to rights, blacks have worked through the Court to demand the rights of full citizenship. Thurgood Marshall, the first black Justice, was a pioneering civil rights lawyer when he, George E.C. Hayes, and James Nabrit, Jr., successfully argued the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* cases, which declared segregated education unequal and unlawful. Marshall served as Associate Justice from 1967 until 1991. Associate Justice Clarence



George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit

Corbis

Thomas, confirmed in 1991 and currently serving, is the second African American to be appointed to the Court. 

Mon.-Fri., 9 am–4:30 pm


Lectures: Every hour on the half hour, 9:30–3:30, when Court is not in session

Admission: Free

202-479-3211

3 Frederick Douglass Museum and Hall of Fame for Caring Americans

320 A Street, NE

Frederick Douglass (ca. 1818–1895), the leading black statesman of his time, lived the last 25 years of his life in Washington. In 1870 he arrived from Rochester, New York, as corresponding editor of the *New Era* newspaper. Douglass and his wife Annia Murray Douglass lived in 316 A Street and later purchased 318. In 1877 they moved to Cedar Hill in Old Anacostia. Numbers 316, 318 and 320 became the Museum of African Art in 1964, the first U.S. museum of its kind. In 1987 the museum—now the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art—moved to the National Mall. Today the houses serve as the Frederick Douglass Museum and Hall of Fame for Caring Americans. *See Trail 9 for Frederick Douglass's second home.* 



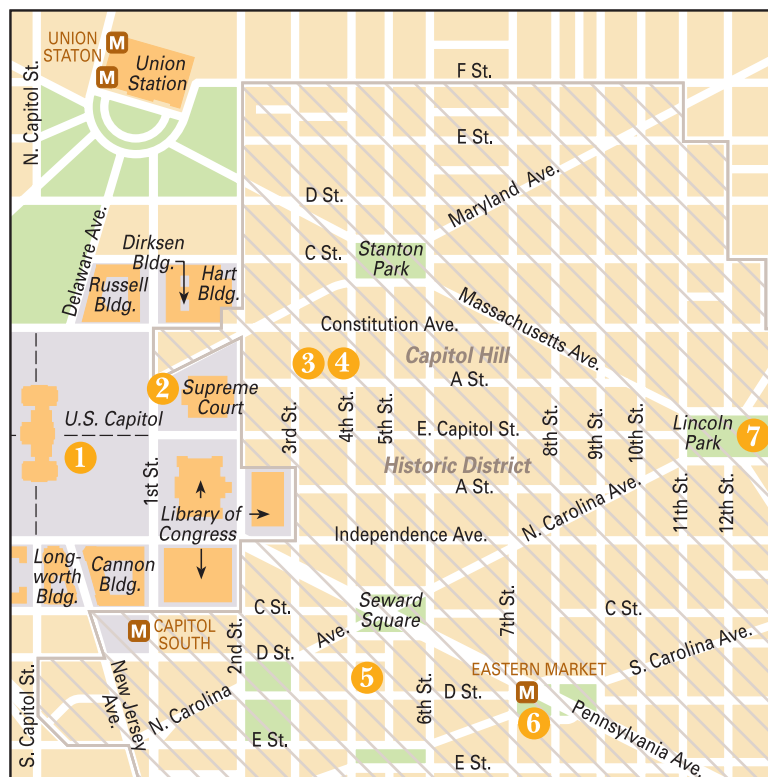
Frederick Douglass Museum

Bill Labovich

Tours by appointment only

Admission: Free


202-547-4273



 Historic District  Metro Station


4 John H. Paynter Residence

322 A Street, NE

John H. Paynter (1862–1947) moved to Washington as a young boy with his father. A Navy veteran and world traveler, Paynter wrote an article for the *Journal of Negro History* in 1916 that describes how 77 free and enslaved Washingtonians sought freedom via the sailing ship *Pearl* in 1848. Later Paynter published an expanded version as the popular history, *Fugitives of the Pearl*. Paynter was a descendant of the Edmonson sisters—two of the *Pearl* Affair participants. See Trail 7 for the *Pearl Affair*. 

5 Ebenezer United Methodist Church

420 D Street, SE


Ebenezer United Methodist Church was founded in 1827 by blacks who left a biracial church on Capitol Hill because the white congregants practiced segregation. The members of the new church purchased land here and built a small frame structure, a model of which can be seen along Fourth Street. In 1864 Ebenezer gained its first African American minister, Reverend Noah Jones, and housed the city's first publicly financed school for black children. Emma V. Brown was one of two teachers at the school. The current church was completed in 1897. Ebenezer UMC is Capitol Hill's oldest independent black congregation. See Trail 15 for Emma V. Brown's home. 



Ebenezer United Methodist Church


Services: Sun., 11 am
202-544-1415

6 Tour of Duty: Barracks Row Heritage Trail

Follow the signs on this self-guided Cultural Tourism DC Neighborhood Heritage Trail to learn more about Capitol Hill. The trail begins at the Eastern Market Metro station. Copies of the accompanying free guidebook, *Tour of Duty*, are available from local merchants. 

7 Lincoln Park

East Capitol and 11th streets, NE

This city park, part of Pierre C. L'Enfant's original plan, was renamed Lincoln Square in 1867 by an Act of Congress as an early memorial to President Abraham Lincoln. On April 14, 1876, the 11th anniversary of Lincoln's death, the Freedmen's Memorial Monument was unveiled. This monument, which features Lincoln symbolically freeing an African American man, was created by white sculptor Thomas Ball. Newly freed African Americans raised the necessary funding, beginning with the first \$5 ever earned by Charlotte Scott of Virginia. Alexander Archer, apparently the last person captured under the Fugitive Slave Act, was the model for the monument. In 1974, almost a century later, the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial was unveiled here. Created by sculptor Robert Berks, it is the first statue depicting a noted African American in a Washington public park. 

TRAIL

9



Old Anacostia and Hillsdale

Old Anacostia, also known as Uniontown, began as a white suburb in 1854, and Frederick Douglass was among the first African American residents, arriving in 1877. Nearby Hillsdale was founded after the Civil War as Barry Farm, a community for newly freed African Americans. These two were the first major settlements in Far Southeast Washington. Old Anacostia today is a historic district.

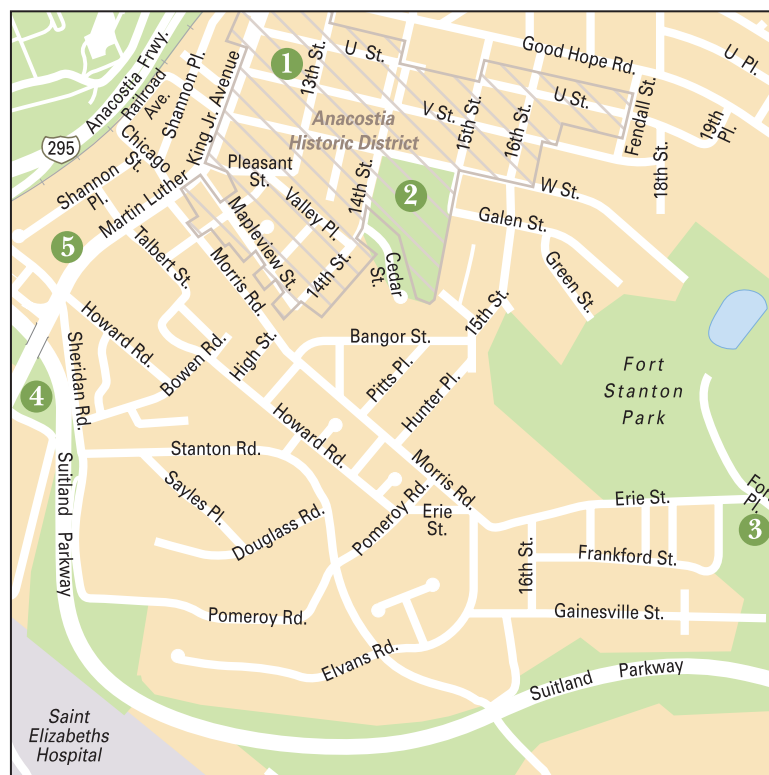
1 St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

1244 V Street, SE

St. Teresa of Avila, the first Catholic church in Anacostia, was completed in 1879. It began as a multiracial church, with African Americans contributing much of the funding and labor. After experiencing the racism of fellow white parishioners, a significant number of black parishioners, who organized as the Mission of St. Teresa's, sought a separate church in 1910. They held separate services, while others continued to worship



Messiah by Sidney Schenck



 Historic District  Metro Station

Top: Frederick Douglass (Library of Congress)

with whites. In 1920 the Mission organizers were successful in founding Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Anacostia's first black Catholic church. By the 1970s St. Teresa was predominantly black, and its first black pastor, Fr. George Augustus Stallings, Jr., was installed in 1976. Paintings of the Stations of the Cross by artist Sidney Schenck grace the church interior. 🏠 🚗

Services: Sun. 9 am
202-678-3709

2 Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (Cedar Hill)

14th and W streets, SE

Frederick Douglass (ca. 1818–1895), formerly enslaved abolitionist, writer, and statesman, purchased this house in 1877 in Uniontown (now Anacostia), the city's first suburb. Douglass was one of the first African Americans to own a home in this primarily white enclave. He lived here with his second wife, Helen Pitts, who was white. Douglass became known as the "Sage of Anacostia" because of his civic and political leadership, especially in nearby Hillside. While he lived here, Douglass served as president of the Freedman's Bank (1874), U.S. marshal for the District of Columbia (1877–1881), recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia (1881–1886), and minister to Haiti (1889–1891). After his death in 1895, the National Association of Colored Women organized the Douglass Memorial and Historical Association to make the house a historic shrine. It was dedicated in 1922 and is currently operated by the National Park Service. See Trail 8 for another Frederick Douglass home. 🏠 🚗



Cedar Hill

Daily, 9 am–5 pm
Admission: Free

Reservations required for groups of 11 or more, recommended for smaller groups:

1-877-444-6777

\$1.50 per person reservation fee

3 Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution

1901 Fort Place, SE

Established as the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum in the old Carver movie theater on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in 1967, the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum is now home to the Center for African American History and Culture. John Kinard (1936–1989), its first director, developed the museum as a center responsive to the cultural and educational needs of area residents. The museum, which moved to this new site in 1987, offers changing exhibits and programs documenting the historical and cultural experiences of people of African descent. 🏠 🚗



Anacostia Museum

Daily, 10 am–5 pm
Admission: Free
202-633-4820



Jennings family celebrates Brown decision

4 Campbell African Methodist Episcopal Church

2562 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE

Campbell AME Church's origins date back to 1866 with the organization of Allen Good Hope, now the Allen Chapel AME Church, the oldest black church in Hillside. Due to Allen's growing membership, Mt. Zion AME was founded in 1867 and then renamed Campbell when it moved to its current location. Campbell's first building was dedicated in 1890. The current building was completed in 1938. Under the leadership of Rev. S. Everette Guiles, pastor of the church from 1949 to 1956, the church organized the Crusaders for Christ as well as a civic committee to oppose public school segregation. Barbara and Adrienne Jennings, two of the plaintiffs in the *Bolling v. Sharpe* case, which became a part of *Brown v. Board of Education*, were church members. 🏠 🚗

Services: Sun. 7:45 am, 10:45 am
202-889-3877

5 Nichols Avenue Elementary School/ Old Birney School Site

2427 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE

James G. Birney Elementary School (1889) was the city's first public school for blacks in Hillside. Prior to its construction, Hillside residents organized and funded their own schools. In 1901 this Italian Renaissance building was constructed, and the original building was used as an annex until it was razed in 1914. The new building was also used as a community center for adult education, civic association meetings, and a library. The building was renamed Nichols Avenue Elementary School in 1962 after the avenue's original name. Community activism saved the school from demolition in 1972. It reopened as Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School in 2005. 🏠 🚗

Tours by appointment only
202-563-6862

Deanwood and Mayfair



Deanwood began as farmland, mostly maintained by enslaved African Americans. After the Civil War, African Americans predominated in this middle- and working-class area until the 1930s. An array of architects and numerous skilled local craftsmen designed and built most of Deanwood's housing in this new suburb before World War II. Eminent educator Nannie Helen Burroughs built her influential boarding school here. Today many areas, especially along Sheriff Road, retain an unusual small-town character.

1 Mayfair Mansions

3819 Jay Street, NE

Mayfair Mansions, completed in 1946, is one of the city's earliest garden apartment complexes. Howard University Professor of Architecture Albert I. Cassell purchased the former Benning Race Track in 1942 in order to build the project he conceived and designed. Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux, founder of Washington's Church of God, became a major investor in the project. When completed Mayfair Mansions was a welcome housing opportunity for working- and middle-class blacks who were excluded from housing because of racially restrictive housing covenants. It is now a historic site.

2 Howard D. Woodson Residence

4918 Fitch Place, NE

Howard D. Woodson (1877–1962) moved to Washington in 1907 to work as a structural engineer for the DC Government. Among his assignments were structural designs for Metropolitan Baptist Church, Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, and parts of Union Station. He also designed private residences around the city. Woodson, a civic and business leader in the Deanwood and Lincoln Heights neighborhoods, was one of the original investors in Suburban Gardens amusement park. A nearby high school built in 1972 is named for him.

3 Progressive National Baptist Convention/ National Training School for Women and Girls Site

605 50th Street, NE

Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879–1961) founded the National Training School for Women and Girls as a boarding school in 1909. Burroughs moved to Washington from Burke, Virginia, with her mother and sister to attend the city's excellent schools. Active in the National Baptist Convention, she became an outspoken leader in religion, education, women's rights, and civil rights. Her commitment to providing economic opportunities for working-class women shaped the school's curriculum, which included domestic science, business, sewing, printing, barbering, and shoe repair. In 1964 the school became the Nannie Helen Burroughs School. Its campus serves as the headquarters of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

4 Suburban Gardens Site

50th and Hayes streets, NE

Suburban Gardens was the first and only major amusement park within the city's borders. It was created here in 1921 for African Americans by the Universal Development and Loan Company, a black-owned real estate company. Engineer Howard D. Woodson, writer John H. Paynter, and theater magnate Sherman Dudley were among the investors. Here Washingtonians enjoyed a roller coaster, swimming pools, games of chance, and picnic grounds. There was also a large dance pavilion where popular jazz musicians performed. The park closed by 1940. Merritt Elementary School now occupies the site. A commuter train once deposited passengers at a depot on the grassy area that now separates two lanes of Hayes Street. See Trail 8 for John H. Paynter residence.

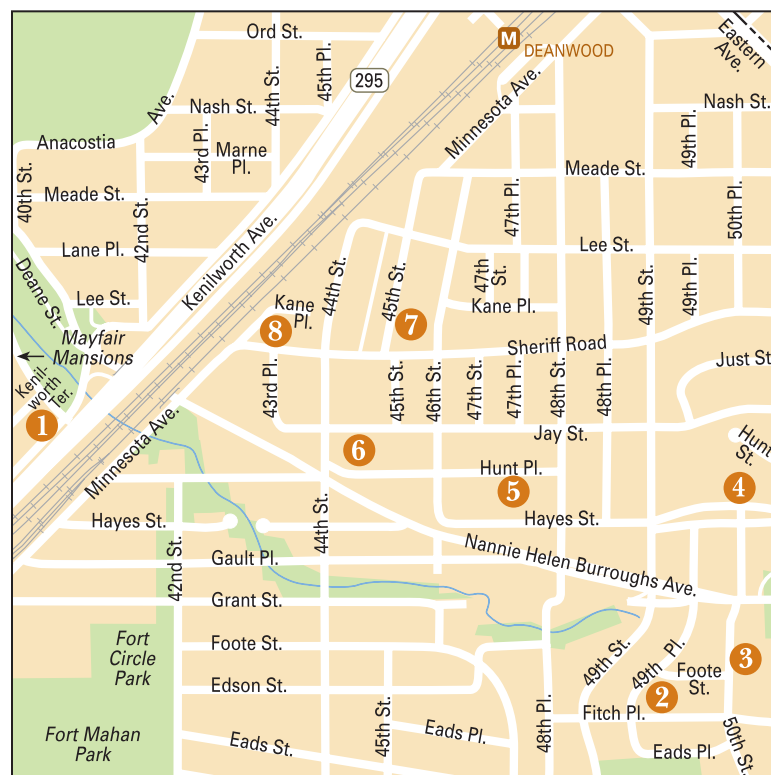
5 Jacob Dodd-built houses

4621, 4623, 4643, 4645, 4647 Hunt Place, NE

Brothers Jacob and Randolph Dodd collaborated on more than 50 buildings in Deanwood in addition to their individual projects. They began their house-building trade in 1921, continuing a design/building tradition that dates back to the 19th century. The Dodd brothers established a community tradition of building sound structures despite their limited access to materials and funds. In order to save money, they bought framing and window sashes in bulk, and only installed windows in the front and back of the houses. Owners could (and often did) add side windows later, yet some remain without side windows to this day. These houses were built in 1926 by Jacob Dodd to designs by Lewis Giles.





Dodd-built house, Hunt Pl., NE



M Metro Station

6 Lewis Giles's Home and Office

4428 Hunt Place, NE



Lewis Giles (1894–1974) was one of the most influential architects in Washington beginning in the early 1920s. Son of a police officer, he designed houses throughout Deanwood, Congress Heights, and other parts of the city. He designed his modest home and office in 1929 in the Colonial Revival/craftsman style. Giles worked often with other local architects and builders, and numerous houses can still be seen throughout Deanwood that were built according to the plan Giles developed for his own house.  



Giles residence

7 IDEA Charter School/Deanwood School Site

1027 45th Street, NE


The Deanwood School, constructed over time from 1909 through 1930, was the first public school for blacks in Deanwood. White architect Snowden Ashford designed the original buildings in the Renaissance style. In 1946 the school was renamed George Washington Carver School in honor of the famed agriculturalist, educator and inventor, harkening back to the neighborhood's rural beginning. The northernmost portion of the original complex was razed in 1969, and was replaced with the current modern structure. The Carver school closed in 1990. The building continues as an educational center as the IDEA Charter School.  



IDEA Charter School

8 Joshua's Temple First Born Church

4318 Sheriff Road, NE

Several churches have worshipped at this quaint frame building. The church was built in 1908 for a mission later named Zion Baptist Church, which stayed for more than sixty years. Joshua's Temple First Born Church, founded in 1990, has been at this site since 1993. The church's architect, W. Sidney Pittman (1875–1958), is best known for his design of the 12th Street YMCA, but he also was active in Deanwood. He designed this structure (and the Old Chess House next door at 4322 Sheriff Road) in 1907. Pittman married Portia Washington, Booker T. Washington's daughter, and their family lived in a house he designed in nearby Fairmount Heights, MD, an all-black community he helped to plan. Pittman worked in the Washington area from 1905 until 1912. 



Joshua's Temple First Born Church

Services: Sun. 11:30 am, 3:30 pm, Fri. 7:30 pm
202-399-6380

TRAIL



11

Brookland

Brookland became a popular neighborhood for middle-class blacks after World War II, when racially restrictive housing covenants were ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1948. All of the individuals highlighted in this tour have connections to Howard University.

1 Lois Mailou Jones Residence

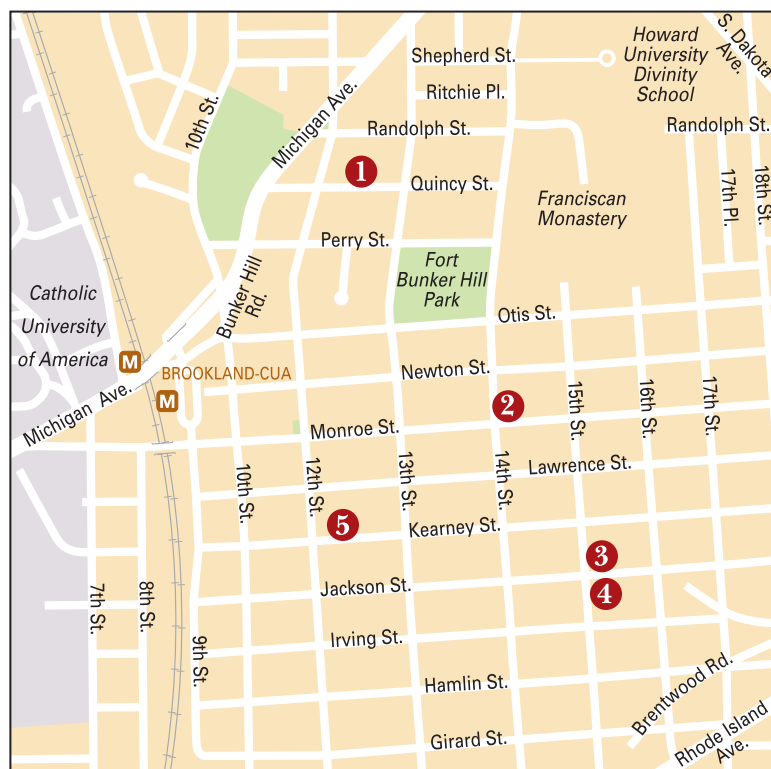
1220 Quincy Street, NE

Lois Mailou Jones (1905–1998), an artist and teacher, joined the Howard faculty as a design instructor in 1930 and stayed for almost 50 years. She worked in textiles, watercolor, oil and acrylic. Her art reflected her varied travels, including impressionistic street scenes in Paris and vibrant expressionistic marketplaces in Haiti. Jones's home was the venue for the "Little Paris Studio," an artists' collective in the 1940s. Her work is found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Howard University Gallery of Art, and the National Portrait Gallery, among many others.  



Lois Mailou Jones

Mariam Mekki, Moorland-Springman Research Center, HU





 Metro Station

Top: Sterling Brown (Scurlock Studio, NMAH, SI)



2 Robert Clifton Weaver Residence Site

3519 14th Street, NE

Robert Clifton Weaver (1907–1997), a native Washingtonian, grew up here in Brookland. In 1934 the Harvard-educated economist began a long and productive career in government service. His “firsts” include first African American to hold a New York State cabinet-level position (1955) and first African American member of a presidential cabinet (1966), when President Lyndon Johnson appointed Weaver secretary of the new Department of Housing and Urban Development. Secretary Weaver is credited with changing the focus of federal housing policy from individual living units to community development.  

3 Ralph J. Bunche Residence

1510 Jackson Street, NE

Ralph Bunche (1904–1971) was the first African American to win a Nobel Peace Prize. The 1950 prize honored his efforts as a United Nations mediator between the Arab States and Israel in 1949. Bunche enjoyed a long career in U.S. foreign affairs with distinguished service to the United Nations from 1946 until 1970. He founded Howard University's Department of Political Science in 1928 and was part of a group of social science scholar-activists that included economist Abram Harris and sociologist E. Franklin Frazier. This modest International style house, designed by architect Hilyard Robinson, was Bunche's home from 1941 until 1947.  





Ralph J. Bunche

Source: Studio, MMAH, SI



4 Rayford Logan Residence

1519 Jackson Street, NE

Rayford Logan (1897–1982) was born in Washington and often spoke of growing up here. After graduating from Williams College, Logan served in World War I with the all-black 93rd Division. For five years after the war, he lived in France and became active in the Pan-African movement. With a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University, Logan became a highly respected member of the history faculty of Howard University, where he taught from 1938 to 1965. Like W.E.B. DuBois and Carter G. Woodson, colleagues and fellow Harvard-trained historians, Logan wrote for scholars and the public. One of his most popular books is the *Dictionary of American Negro Biography*, which continues to be revised and updated. Architect Hilyard Robinson designed this house. See Trail 4 for Carter G. Woodson residence.  

5 Sterling A. Brown Residence

1222 Kearney Street, NE

Poet and critic Sterling A. Brown (1901–1989), a native Washingtonian, was a central figure of the New Negro Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s as well as the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. He edited *Negro Caravan*, the ground-breaking 1941 anthology of African American writing. Brown joined Howard University's English Department in 1929 and taught there for 40 years. A mentor to countless students, he opened his home to them to discuss art and politics. Brown credited the “poor black folk of the South,” as his best teachers, who inspired his prose and literary theories. He and his wife Daisy Turnbull Brown moved here in 1935. In 1984 he was named the city's first poet laureate.  



As early as the 1820s, free African Americans settled in a community called Vinegar Hill near the intersection of today's Georgia and Missouri avenues, NW, an area now known as Brightwood. By the time of the Civil War (1861–1865), most were landowners, and the majority of these were women. During the Civil War, a military fort was built within Vinegar Hill that repulsed the only Confederate attack on the District of Columbia.

1 Fort Stevens

13th and Quackenbos streets, NW

Fort Stevens was built in 1861 on land partially owned by Elizabeth Thomas, a free woman of color and a farmer. Soldiers tore down Thomas's house to expand the fort. Thomas was consoled with a promise of compensation for her property by President Abraham Lincoln during a visit to Fort Stevens, but there is no record that she was ever paid. On July 11, 1864, Fort Stevens was the site of the city's only Civil War battle when General Jubal A. Early's Confederate troops advanced from Silver Spring down Seventh Street Turnpike (now Georgia Avenue) and attacked. President Lincoln was on the ramparts during the second day of fighting. Union forces were able to repel the



 Historic District  Metro Station

Top: Defending Washington at Fort Stevens. (Library of Congress)

enemy, but nearly 900 soldiers were killed or wounded on both sides. Thomas, born in 1821, continued to live at Fort Stevens until her death in 1917. Fort Stevens is operated by the National Park Service. 🚶 🚗

Open daily, dawn to dusk
Tours by appointment only
Admission: Free
202-895-6070



Fort Stevens

② Emory United Methodist Church

6100 Georgia Avenue, NW

Emory United Methodist Church was founded in 1832 as Emory Methodist Episcopal Church South. Prior to the Civil War, it served a primarily wealthy white congregation with 13 “colored members.” During the war the church became a hospital and barracks for nearby Fort Stevens. In the 1960s its membership diminished as many white families left the Brightwood neighborhood, but due to the efforts of black church members, the church rebounded. Pastors and members made the church community-centered, creating a “church beyond the walls.” 🚶 🚗

Services: Sun., 8 am, 10 am, and noon
202-723-3130

③ George M. Lightfoot Family Residence

1329 Missouri Avenue, NW

This house is one of the few remaining dwellings from the African American community of Vinegar Hill. It has been in the Lightfoot family for more than 90 years, ever since George M. Lightfoot purchased the home around 1916. An 1887 Howard Academy graduate, Lightfoot taught Latin and other subjects at Howard University from 1891 until 1939. 👁 🚗

④ Military Road School

1375 Missouri Avenue, NW

The Military Road School opened in 1864 on this site in a wood frame former Fort Stevens barracks. At the time this portion of Missouri Avenue was part of Military Road, a Civil War artery linking forts. Students from Vinegar Hill, other upper Northwest neighborhoods, and nearby Montgomery County, Maryland, attended the school, one of the first to open after Congress authorized public education for Washington’s African Americans in 1862. The current four-room brick building (1911) was designed by Snowden Ashford, the city’s white municipal architect. The school, noted for its high-quality education and the majestic oak trees surrounding it, closed in 1954 after the *Brown v. Board of Education* school desegregation cases. A charter school began using the building in 2006. 👁 🚗



Military Road School

TRAIL

13



Howard University

Howard University, the city’s third university, was founded in 1867 by an act of Congress. Reverend Mordecai Johnson became Howard’s first African American president in 1926, and oversaw the hilltop campus as it developed into the “capstone of Negro education”—attracting educators and students who would go on to transform the city and the nation.

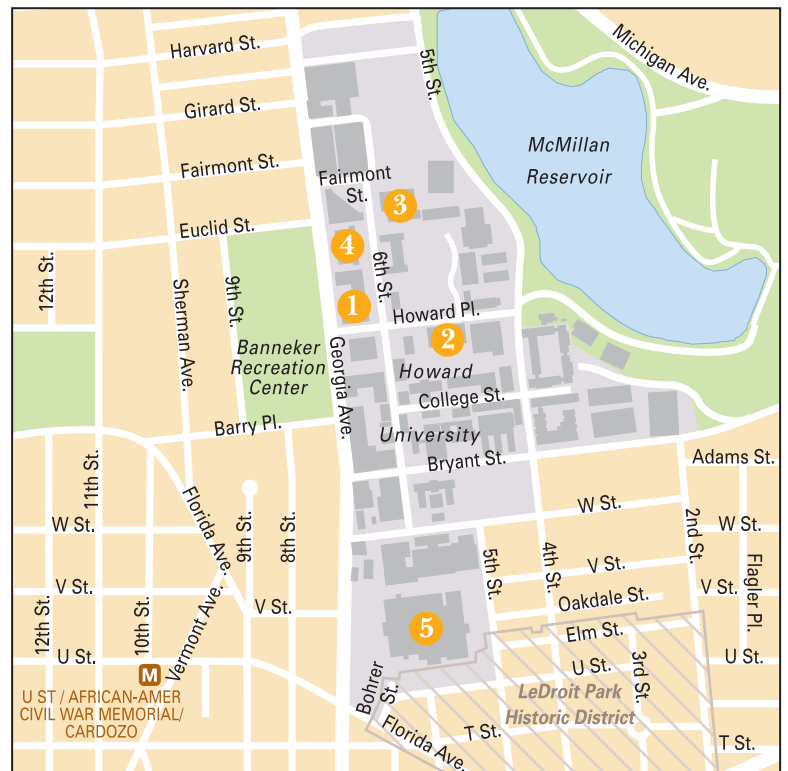
① Howard Hall

607 Howard Place, NW, Howard University Campus

Howard Hall is the oldest remaining building at Howard University. It was built as the home of General Oliver Otis Howard (1830–1909), a white Civil War hero, Freedmen’s Bureau commissioner, and president of the university from 1869 until 1874. The university was named after Howard in recognition of his service as one of the founders. In 1909 the university purchased the house and used it for



Howard Hall



Historic District Metro Station

Top: Dr. Charles R. Drew (Scurlock Studio, NMAH, SI)

offices and classrooms. The house was beautifully restored in 1998 and serves as the university's Alumni Center. 📍

Mon.–Fri., 9 am–5 pm
202-806-5857

② Founders Library and Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

500 Howard Place, NW, Howard University Campus

Founders Library, completed in 1937, houses changing historical exhibits as well as a permanent exhibit on the university's history. The library was designed by Albert I. Cassell (1895–1969) who, as the university's architect, designed the hilltop quadrangle and a total of nine campus buildings. The library is the home of the university's museum and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, one of the world's largest repositories dedicated to the culture and history of people of African descent. 📍



Detail, Founders Library

Founders Library
Open daily but hours vary; call to confirm
202-806-7252
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center by appointment
202-806-7480

③ Howard University Gallery of Art

Lulu Vere Childers Hall, Howard University Campus

The Howard University Gallery of Art was established in 1928. Professor James Herring (1897–1969), founder of the Howard University Art Department, and James A. Porter (1905–1970), professor and artist, were its first directors. Originally set up in the lower floor of historic Rankin Chapel (1895), the gallery moved to Founders Library and then, in 1961, to its current home in Childers Hall, which honors Lulu Vere Childers, former dean of the School of Music. The renowned African art collection began with items donated by avid collector Alain Locke, a Howard professor and key figure of the New Negro Renaissance. The African American art collection includes works by Henry O. Tanner, Edmonia Lewis, Archibald Motley, Romare Bearden, and many others. *See Trail 3 for Alain Locke's residence.* 📍



Jesus and the Three Marys
by William H. Johnson

Admission: Free
Open September–May
Mon.–Fri., 9:30 am–5 pm, depending on exhibit
202-806-7070

④ Miner Teachers College

2565 Georgia Avenue, NW

Miner Teachers College (originally Miner Normal School) was Washington's principal training school for black teachers for more than 70 years. Its name honors the northern white educator Myrtilla Miner, who established Miner's School for Colored Girls in Washington in 1851. Miner Normal School opened in 1875. Principal Lucy Ellen Moten (1851–1933) was responsible for raising academic standards and securing this building in 1913. In 1955 Miner Teachers College merged with Wilson Teachers College, which served white students, and became DC Teachers College (later absorbed into the University of the District of Columbia). 👁️ 🔗

⑤ Howard University Hospital/Griffith Stadium Site

2041 Georgia Avenue, NW

Howard University Hospital moved here in 1975. It is the successor to Freedmen's Hospital, established in 1862 by the federal government on land bounded by 12th, 13th, R and S streets, NW, and later moved to Howard University property. Noted surgeons Alexander T. Augusta (1825–1890), Daniel Hale Williams (1858–1931), and Charles R. Drew (1904–1950) were among those who have headed the hospital. This is also the former site of Griffith Stadium, once the city's main professional sports venue and a favorite location for community events such as cadet competitions and mass baptisms. Griffith was a home field for the Homestead Grays, a Negro National League baseball team. At this writing, there are plans to create a museum in the hospital devoted to the history of Griffith Stadium. 📍

Call for tours
202-865-4238



Howard University dentists' baseball team at Griffith Stadium

Strivers' Section and Dupont Circle

Strivers' Section and Dupont Circle, both historic districts, attracted African Americans of means in the first half of the 20th century. The Strivers' Section is bounded by 16th, 19th, and T streets and Florida Avenue, NW, just east of the Dupont Circle neighborhood. Legal strategist Charles Hamilton Houston and literary light Georgia Douglas Johnson were among those who called this area home.



1 Georgia Douglas Johnson and Henry Lincoln Johnson Residence

1461 S Street, NW

Georgia Douglas Johnson (1877–1966), a nationally known poet and columnist, moved to Washington with her husband, lawyer Henry Lincoln Johnson, in 1910. Georgia's first book of poetry, *Heart of a Woman*, was published in 1916. Henry had his own law practice and was appointed by President Taft as Washington's recorder of deeds in 1912. Georgia hosted a literary salon known as the Saturday Nighters during the 1920s and 1930s, welcoming such luminaries as Mary Burrill, Alice Dunbar Nelson, Angelina Grimké, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, Kelly Miller, Willis Richardson and Jean Toomer, who had suggested the regular gatherings. See Trail 5 for Recorder of Deeds Building. 🗺️

2 Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church

1518 M Street, NW

The Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, the national church of the AME denomination, was completed in 1886. It was formed by the merger of two congregations that had originally broken away from white churches—Israel Bethel AME Church (organized in 1820) and Union Bethel AME Church of Georgetown (organized in 1838). Metropolitan AME was also a major community center hosting concerts, civil rights meetings, graduations, and the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, a learned society organized in 1881 by Bishop Daniel Payne. Thousands attended Frederick Douglass's funeral here in 1895. 🗺️



Metropolitan AME Church

Open to the public Mon.–Sat., 10 am–6 pm
Services: Sun., 7:30 am and 11 am, Wed., 12 noon
202-331-1426

3 Sumner School Museum and Archives

17th and M streets, NW

The elegant Sumner School is a popular venue for events as well as a museum with changing and permanent exhibits. It also serves as the repository of the DC Public School system's official records. The school, honoring white Massachusetts abolitionist and U.S. Senator Charles Sumner, was completed in 1872 as one of three public elementary schools (Stevens and Lincoln were the others) built for black children just after the Civil War. The school also housed the Preparatory School for Colored Youth (later M Street High School and Dunbar High School) from 1872 until 1877. By 1978 the deteriorated building had been closed and slated for demolition. An organized community effort saved the building, and its restoration was completed in 1986. 🗺️



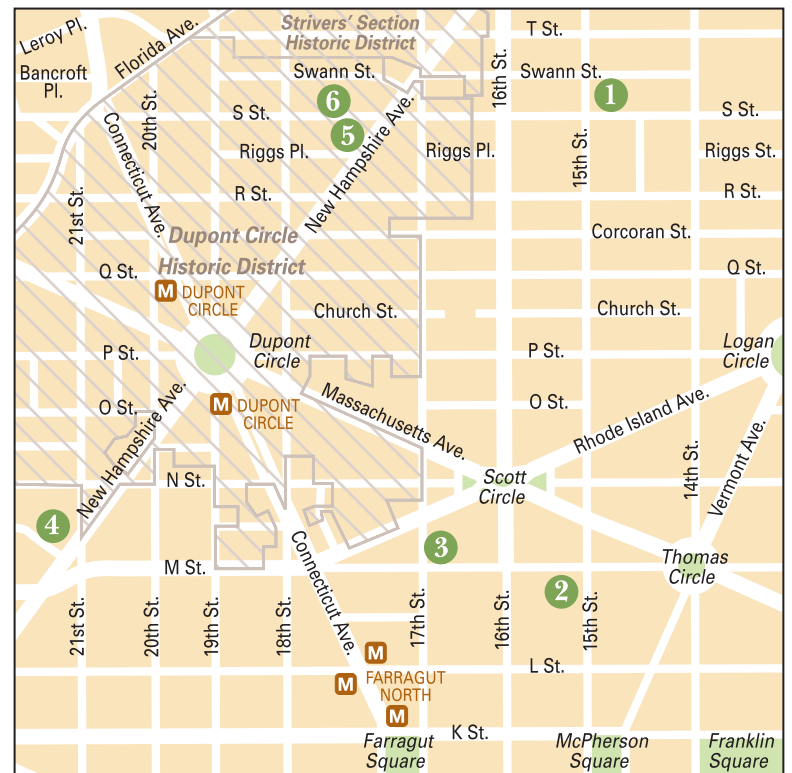
Sumner School

Mon.–Fri., 7 am–9 pm
Admission: Free
202-442-6060



4 Duke Ellington Birthplace Site

2129 Ward Place, NW

Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington (1899–1974) was born on this site, in the home of his paternal grandparents, on April 29, 1899. His parents were Daisy Kennedy Ellington, a native Washingtonian, and James Edward Ellington, from North Carolina. Ellington grew up here




Historic District Metro Station

and in Greater U Street listening to his father play popular songs and arias and his mother play hymns and ragtime on the family piano. There was also informal singing while friends gathered in the home to play cards. At the insistence of his parents, Ellington began playing the piano around age seven. This early musical environment nurtured his musical genius. A bronze plaque commemorates the birthplace. See *Trail 1 for more Duke Ellington residences.*  

5 Charles Hamilton Houston Residence

1744 S Street, NW


Charles Hamilton Houston (1895–1950), a native Washingtonian, was called “The First Mr. Civil Rights Lawyer” by his former student and colleague Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall. Houston, passionately committed to ending injustice through the law, helped transform Howard University’s Law School from a part-time night school to a first-rate institution for constitutional and civil rights law. As special legal counsel to the NAACP in 1935, he helped develop strategies to achieve equal pay and equal access to public transportation and education. Before his premature death in 1950, he worked on what became *Bolling v. Sharpe*, the local case folded into the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*. 



Charles Hamilton Houston

6 Langston Hughes Residence

1749 S Street, NW

Langston Hughes (1902–1967), a major poet and leading artist of the New Negro Renaissance, lived with his family in a number of Washington locations between 1924 and 1926. While writing poetry, he worked as a personal assistant to historian Carter G. Woodson. He also worked as a busboy at the Wardman Park Hotel (now Marriott Wardman Park), where he met white poet Vachel Lindsay, who became a mentor. Hughes’s first book, *Weary Blues* (1926), was inspired by the working-class culture that flourished on Washington’s Seventh Street. His 1940 autobiography, *The Big Sea*, describes his experiences as a struggling poet confronting “Washington Society.” See *Trail 4 for Carter G. Woodson residence.* 



Langston Hughes by Winold Reiss

TRAIL


15

Georgetown

Georgetown began as a tobacco port in 1751, 40 years before Washington was chosen as the national capital. It is the city’s oldest neighborhood and is a historic district. African Americans have lived and worked here since its beginning. After the Civil War, Herring Hill, a 15-block area of eastern-most Georgetown (south of P Street between Rock Creek Park and 31st Street, NW), was a magnet for families migrating to Washington. You can see many of their institutions and houses as you follow this trail.

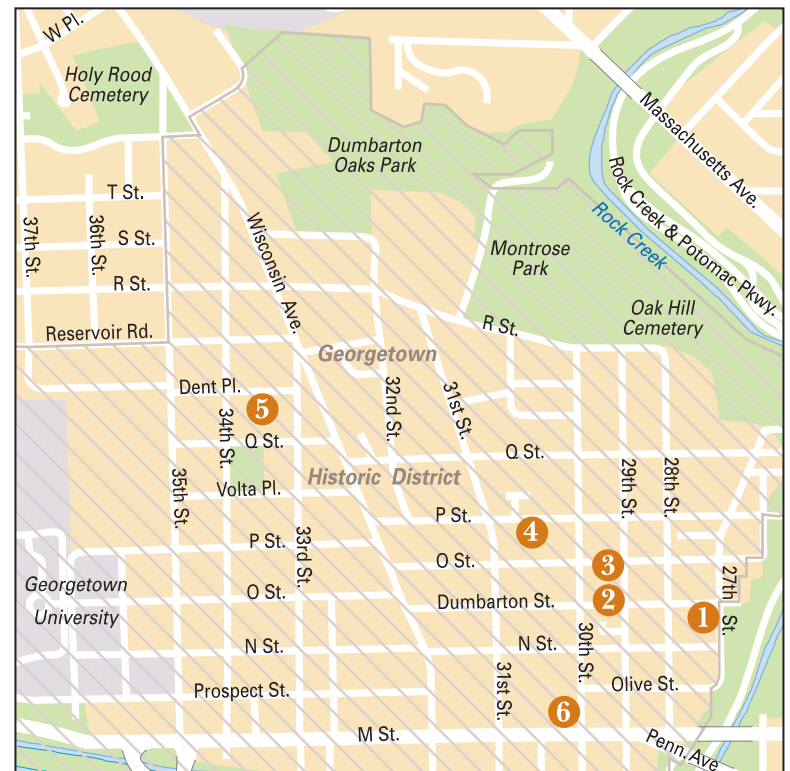
1 First Baptist Church of Georgetown

2624 Dumbarton Street, NW

Reverend Sandy Alexander founded the First Baptist Church of Georgetown in 1862. Alexander, formerly enslaved, moved to Georgetown in 1856 intent on organizing a Baptist church. Preacher Collins Williams donated land at 29th and O streets, NW, to build a small church known as “The Ark.” After the congregation expanded, members helped build a new church here in 1882. In order to finance the project, Alexander made a speaking tour of the northern states. First Baptist continued to cultivate a black Baptist tradition in Georgetown, as former members of the congregation started the nearby Alexander Memorial Baptist Church and the Jerusalem Baptist Church. 

Services: Sun., 11 am, Wed., 12 noon

Visitors: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 11 am–2 pm
202-965-1899




 Historic District  Metro Station

Top: Hannah Cole Pope (Mount Zion United Methodist Church)

2 Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Heritage House, Parsonage, and Cemetery

1334 29th Street, NW

Mount Zion United Methodist Church is the oldest black congregation in the city. It was formed in 1816 when congregants from the Montgomery Street Church (now Dumbarton United Methodist Church) decided not to accept racist treatment by their white fellow church-goers. The present church was completed in 1884. The cemetery comprises the Old Methodist Burying Ground, founded in 1809, and the Female Union Band Cemetery (1842). The Heritage House is the city's only remaining Old English style cottage. It houses the records of the church and offers changing exhibits. 


Services: Sun. 10:45 am; Summer only: 9:45 am
Heritage House hours: By appointment only
Admission: Free
202-234-0148



Mount Zion United Methodist Church
Heritage House


3 Alfred Pope and Hannah Cole Pope Residence

2900 O Street, NW

Alfred Pope (1821–1906) and Hannah Cole Pope (1828–1910) were a prominent Georgetown couple. Hannah was born in the home of Thomas Peter and Martha Custis Peter (now Tudor Place), where she and her mother were enslaved. In 1845 Hannah was sold to South Carolina Congressman John Carter, in whose household she met and married Alfred Pope. The two were freed upon Carter's death in 1850. They remained in Georgetown, where Alfred parlayed savings from a job as the town scavenger into businesses in real estate and building materials. Alfred represented Georgetown before Congress in 1870 during the debate over merging Georgetown with Washington City. He also served as a trustee of the public DC Colored Schools. 



4 Emma V. Brown Residence

3044 P Street, NW

Emma V. Brown (1840–1902), a native Washingtonian, was the city's first African American public school teacher. Educated at Myrtilla Miner's school and Oberlin College, she opened a private school here for neighborhood children. When the DC Government authorized public funds to educate black children in 1864, Brown began teaching her first public school class at the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church (now Ebenezer United Methodist Church) on Capitol Hill. She would later serve as principal of the John F. Cook School and then Sumner School. Brown was also an accomplished poet. *See Trail 14 for Sumner School. See Trail 8 for Ebenezer United Methodist Church.* 

5 Yarrow Mamout Residence Site

3330–3332 Dent Place, NW

Yarrow Mamout, who followed the Muslim faith at a time when few Americans did, was immortalized by two prominent white artists near the end of his long life. Charles Willson Peale, who painted Yarrow's portrait in 1819, recorded information about Yarrow in his diary. Yarrow, then about 100 years old, was born in Guinea, West Africa. He arrived in America already enslaved, and in 1807 became legally free. With savings from his work as a hauler, he amassed wealth and property. A second portrait by James Alexander Simpson (1822) hangs in the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Public Library. Peale's portrait is held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.  


Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Public Library
901 G Street, NW
Mon.–Thurs., 9:30 am–9 pm
Fri.–Sat., 9:30 am–5:30 pm



Yarrow Mamout by
Charles Willson Peale

6 John H. Fleet Residence

1208 30th Street, NW

John H. Fleet was an educator, violinist, and abolitionist. The year of his birth is unknown. Fleet, trained as a physician, chose teaching over practicing medicine and established his first school in 1836. In 1843 the school was burned by white arsonists; he reopened three years later. Fleet also participated in the local Underground Railroad movement, organizing "sitting parties" to raise money for individuals and families seeking freedom. He devoted the last ten years of his life to playing and teaching music. He died in 1861. 



John H. Fleet residence

Acknowledgments

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Bob Stanton, Director Emeritus, National Park Service
Dreck Wilson, Architectural Historian

The *African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC*, began as a historical survey in October 2001. The project was carried out by Cultural Tourism DC (formerly the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition) under a grant from the DC Historic Preservation Office. An advisory board of historians and community leaders worked with Project Director Dr. Marya Annette McQuirter to create an inventory of more than 200 historic sites. From this list nearly 100 sites have been selected for this Heritage Trail guide. They are organized into 15 separate trails that represent African American history and culture throughout Washington and are easily walked or driven. More information on the sites listed and a copy of the entire survey are available in an online database at www.CulturalTourismDC.org and in print form at area libraries.

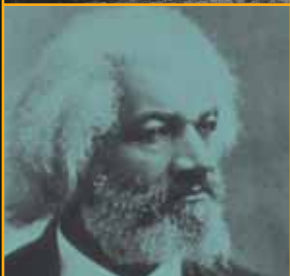
Dr. Marya Annette McQuirter, historian and project director, has been engaged in public history in Washington for more than eight years, most recently with the Humanities Council of Washington, DC. Dr. McQuirter's publications include a volume in the *Young Oxford History of African Americans* series and an essay in *Dancing Many Drums: African American Dance Theory and Practice*. In 2002 she curated an exhibit at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library on the history of vegetarianism in Washington. She has taught U.S. history and African American Studies at George Mason University and the University of Michigan where she received the Ph.D. in history in 2000.

The **District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office** is a division of the Office of Planning and also serves as the State Historic Preservation Office for DC. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the important historic features of the District while permitting new development that is compatible with those features; to increase awareness of and access to historic facilities, places, activities, and archaeological sites on behalf of both residents and visitors; and to provide sustained regulatory, enforcement, and financial leadership that will ensure the designation, protection and enhancement of the city's historic resources.

Cultural Tourism DC involves residents and visitors to the District of Columbia in the rich heritage and culture of the entire city of Washington. Established as an independent nonprofit organization in 1999, Cultural Tourism DC counts as members nearly every museum and cultural attraction in the city. Additional members are neighborhood groups, community development corporations, faith-based organizations, Metro, the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, professional tour guides, and the city's official marketing entities.

For more information, and to sign up for Events Update, a free e-calendar of cultural happenings, visit www.CulturalTourismDC.org or call 202-661-7581.

For Further Reading please see the list of sources that accompanies the *African American Heritage Trail Searchable Database*, the online, in-depth source of information on more than 200 Washington, DC African American heritage sites: www.CulturalTourismDC.org.



Cultural Tourism  DC

www.CulturalTourismDC.org