

New Historic Landmarks and Districts

The Historic Preservation Review Board designates historic landmarks and districts for inclusion in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. Nominations for designation come from property owners, government entities, or community groups, and are evaluated by the HPO staff and in public meetings before a decision is made.

Similar properties are often evaluated for designation in the context of common themes and patterns of history that are documented in advance. The National Register has established a specific process for this purpose. The resulting Multiple Property Documentation Form is not a nomination in its own right, but is adopted and evaluated through the same procedures to establish a basis for evaluating the DC Inventory and National Register eligibility of related properties.

In FY 2013, HPRB designated 15 new historic landmarks for inclusion in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. HPRB denied designation of the Arthur and May Baker House at 1767 Lanier Place, NW, The York Theater at 3641 Georgia Avenue NW, and The Sterrett Residence at 3530 Springland Lane NW, determining that they did not meet the criteria for significance.

The newly designated landmarks are:

Ward 1

Bond Bread Bakery

2146 Georgia Avenue NW

The Bond Bread Bakery was constructed in 1929 by the General Baking Company, a New York City baking conglomerate formed in 1911 with the merger of 21 baking companies in twelve states. Its local product, Bond Bread, was so named for the guarantee printed on its wrapping, affirming that the bread was pure and sanitary. This was a particular concern of the American consumer of the time and a selling point in competition with homemade and strictly local commercial products. The bakery is an impressive industrial building, characterized by its white-brick construction, ziggurat-like stepped massing and Art Deco detailing, including terra cotta trim. *Nominated by the D.C. Preservation League and designated May 23, 2013.*

Embassy of Mexico (MacVeagh House)

2829 16th Street NW

The former Embassy of Mexico is a grand Beaux Arts mansion designed by architect Nathan Wyeth and constructed in 1910-11. The house was commissioned by Emily Eames MacVeagh as a gift to her husband, Franklin MacVeagh, a Chicago businessman who was then Secretary of the Treasury under President Taft. Emily MacVeagh purchased the land from visionary developer Mary Foote Henderson, who was actively engaged in transforming Meridian Hill into an elite residential and diplomatic community. The MacVeagh house was one of the first results of her plans. After Mrs. MacVeagh's death, her husband sold the property to the government of Mexico. By then, Meridian Hill was already home to a number of other embassies, including the French, Swiss, Spanish, Cuban, Polish, and Lithuanian. The building now houses the Mexican Cultural Institute. *Nominated by the Mexican Cultural Institute and designated December 20, 2012.*

HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS

Received FY	#	Approved			Denied		
		#	Owner-Opposed	%	#	Owner-Opposed	%
2013	11	15	0	0%	3	3	100%
2012	8	13	0	0%	2	1	50%
2011	21	14	0	0%	1	1	100%
2010	14	14	0	0%	0	0	-
2009	10	4	0	0%	1	1	100%
2008	17	11	1	6%	1	1	100%
2007	33	28	1	3%	2	2	100%
2006	14	10	1	10%	1	1	100%
2005	13	8	0	0%	1	1	100%
2004	13	10	0	0%	3	1	33%
2003	15	8	1	13%	0	0	-
TOTAL	171	135	4	3%	15	12	80%



EMBASSY OF MEXICO STAIR MURAL

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Park View Playground and Field House

693 Otis Place NW

Park View Playground was established in 1921 to serve the adjacent Park View School and the growing Park View community. Its 1932 Tudor Revival style field house is notable as one of the model field houses developed by Municipal Architect Albert Harris. These small storage and administrative buildings were designed to mimic the form of a Tidewater hall-and-parlor house.

Park View is also notable for the role it played in the desegregation of the city's recreational facilities. Under pressure from local and national civil rights and civic groups, the District's Recreation Board unsuccessfully tried to segregate Park View by time of day, officially designating it a "colored" facility, but reserving it for the white school during school days. But African American residents objected to the stigma of segregation and the limited hours, while white neighbors wished to continue using the facility. In 1952, the Recreation Board relented by integrating the playground. *Nominated by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A and designated July 25, 2013.*

Central Bus Garage

2112 Georgia Avenue NW

Designed by local architect Arthur Heaton, the Central Bus Garage built by Washington Railway and Electric Company was the city's first such facility for public transit. Heaton varied the roofline and the major walls with muscular piers and stepped parapets in the prevailing Art Deco style, and he used red, yellow, greenish, and blue-black brick to achieve greater texture and interest in long expanses of wall. Built in 1930, the garage is a visual landmark on Georgia Avenue and one of a few remaining large service buildings that catered to local needs. *Nominated by The DC Preservation League and designated on May 23, 2013.*



WASHINGTON RAILWAY AND ELECTRIC COMPANY GARAGE

Barr Building

910 17th Street NW

The Barr Building was built in 1926-1927 as a speculative office building by developer John L. Barr. At eleven stories, it represents the "skyscraper" construction of its day: a steel frame supporting masonry exterior walls. The building is remarkable for its Gothic-Revival façade, a style comparatively rare in commercial architecture because of its ecclesiastical associations, yet suited to the soaring nature of the tall office, apartment or hotel. Presumably inspired by well-known predecessors, such as New York's Woolworth Building and the Chicago Tribune Tower, the Barr Building is an exuberant and fully realized example of the style. *Nominated by the D.C. Preservation League and designated October 25, 2012.*

District of Columbia War Memorial

West Potomac Park

The District of Columbia War Memorial, erected in 1931, honors those 26,000 Washington, D.C. residents who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War I, and especially the 499 who perished in the conflict. Washington furnished both "white" and "black" units to the allies. Almost as soon as the war had ended, a commission formed to erect a suitable memorial to all of the veterans, regardless of race. Washington architects Frederick Brooke, Nathan Wyeth and Horace Peaslee, designed the domed Doric temple monument in the mid 1920s. *Nominated by the National Park Service and designated May 23, 2013.*



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WAR MEMORIAL

Hamilton Hotel

1001 14th Street NW

Designed by noted local architect Jules Henri de Sibour, the Beaux Arts Hamilton Hotel opened in 1922. The eleven-story limestone and terra cotta building offered out-of-town guests and locals meeting rooms, a gracious dining room, and a cocktail lounge known as the Rainbow Room. The generous public spaces became important gathering places for a larger community of union labor leaders. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor from 1924 to 1952, lived at the Hamilton. The hotel is significant for its association with the history of the labor movement and the community of labor leaders living and working in Washington from the 1920s through the 1960s. *Nominated by the DC Preservation League and designated on November 29, 2012.*

George P. Scriven House

1300 New Hampshire Avenue NW

Although erected in 1884 and a fine example of Dupont Circle's Victorian residential architecture, the house is most significant for association with Brigadier General George P. Scriven. Trained as an engineer at West Point, Scriven served with infantry and artillery units before a transfer to the Signal Corps. He served as military attaché to several foreign capitals. He was elevated to his highest post and rank in early 1913, when promoted to brigadier general and chief signal officer for the entire Army. General Scriven is most associated with the Corps' development of heavier-than-air aviation and the push for increased funding and staffing for the Army's air wing. He was a founding member and first chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, a forerunner of NASA. *Nominated by the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century and designated February 28, 2013.*

Wire Building

1000 Vermont Avenue NW

The Wire Building, constructed in 1949, is a twelve-story, Modern office building distinguished both for its smooth limestone walls that turn the corner in a sweeping curve and its early use of continuous bands of windows. Built by real estate developer Preston Wire, whose business offices occupied the building's second floor, it was one of the major works of the architecture firm of Aubinoe and Edwards. Erected following a two-decade-long slowdown in commercial development, the Wire Building was strikingly modern in appearance, setting a precedent for the next downtown construction boom. *Nominated by the D.C. Preservation League and designated November 1, 2012.*



HAMILTON HOTEL



WIRE BUILDING

Ward 4

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

4300 16th Street NW

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was established in 1876, when American-born members of Trinity German Lutheran Church founded their own English-speaking congregation and shifted affiliation to the Ohio Synod. Grace Church was an important mission church, helping establish at least three more congregations in the next half-century. In 1924, the Ohio Synod endorsed the idea of a new home for Grace Church to serve as its representative church in the national capital and a potential force on moral issues. To that end, other congregations contributed to the construction, which began in 1926 and finished two years later.

The rock-faced limestone building was designed by Rochester native J.W.C. Corbusier, a Beaux-Arts-trained church architect. It is dominated by a massive central tower and exhibits many of the characteristic details of the neo-Gothic, including lancet windows, quatrefoils, crenelation, pinnacles, and a timber-framed roof.

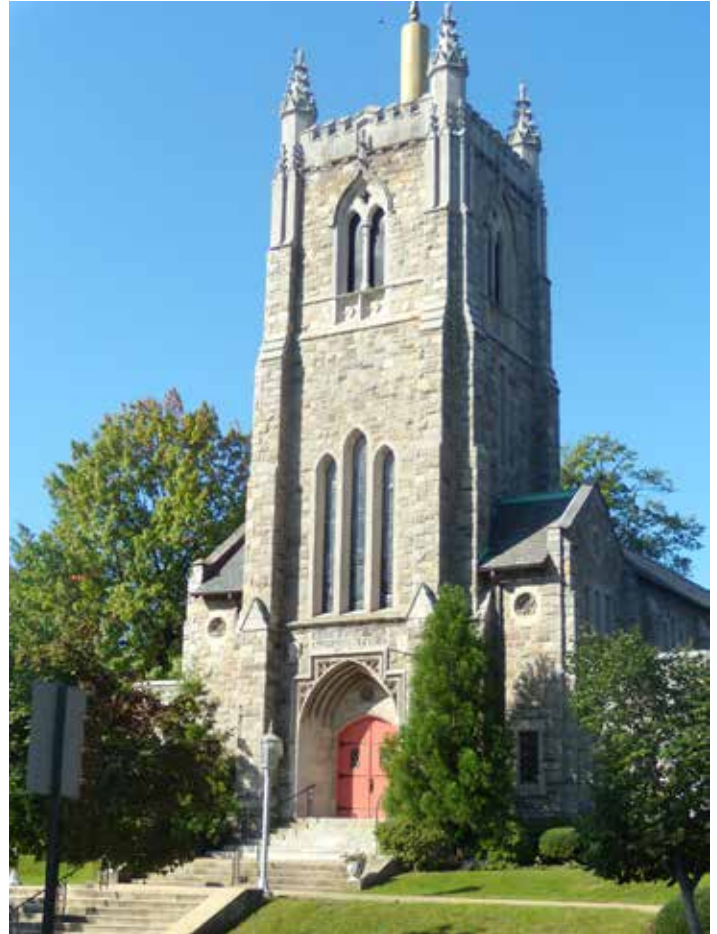
Nominated by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and designated on May 23, 2013.

George M. Lightfoot House

1329 Missouri Avenue, NW

The Lightfoot House is a rare survivor of a rural Brightwood community once characterized by summer and weekend estates and manors. Frederick Bex, an English-born carriage maker and inventor, contracted to have the house built in 1892. The property was located at the foot of Vinegar Hill, a community of African Americans descended from free people of color and probably from "contrabands" who found work at nearby Fort Stevens during the Civil War.

As early as 1917, Howard University professor George M. Lightfoot owned the property. Shortly after he moved to the house in 1931, Lightfoot made it a salon for national and international visitors, including giants of the African American intelligentsia: W.E.B. DuBois, Carter Woodson, Alain Locke, Arthur Schomburg, and a young Ralph Bunche. The house is a mix of High-Victorian eclecticism that includes Second Empire and Moorish flourishes and is notable for its central oriel tower. George Lightfoot died in 1947, and his descendants still live in the house. *Nominated by Carol Lightfoot Walker and designated on June 27, 2013.*



GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



GEORGE M. LIGHTFOOT HOUSE

Ward 5

Chapman Coal Company Stable and Garage

37-57 N Street, NW and 66-76 Hanover Place, NW

The Chapman Coal Company Stable and Garage is a collection of buildings constructed by coal dealer and developer J. Edward Chapman between 1906 and 1929. Initially a coal yard with stables, the site grew into a bustling commercial establishment with a box factory and garages. In 1912, at the cusp of the transition from the horse-drawn to automobile era, Chapman built a two-story auto garage on the site of his coal yard. In 1929, he built a one-story bus garage which incorporated portions of the stables. The Chapman site is an important representation of the rise of the automobile on the city's built environment and a relatively rare example of an early 20th-century commercial service and workshop complex. *Nominated by the DC Preservation League and designated on March 28, 2013.*

Joel Elias Spingarn Senior High School

2500 Benning Road NE

Spingarn High School was built in 1951-1952 for the education of African American students. Desegregation lawsuits of the late 1940s and early 1950s finally prodded the District to construct the building. Planned since the 1930s, its construction after the war represented an attempt to satisfy African American parents while keeping alive the "separate-but-equal" regime in the public schools. Spingarn was thus the last "black" high school Washington, and the first built in 36 years. Its opening was a major event, drawing not only its namesake's family but such luminaries as W.E.B. Du Bois, Paul Robeson and John Hope Franklin. But it was only two years later that the process of desegregation began.

Spingarn is also the last of the District's era of Classical and Colonial Revival style schools. The school's long-deferred construction coupled with its siting on a campus of earlier African American schools is probably responsible for this architectural anomaly. After the war, and under the direction of Municipal Architect Merrel Coe, the District turned to a more functionalist, modern vocabulary. *Nominated by the Kingman Park Civic Association and designated November 29, 2012.*



CHAPMAN COAL COMPANY STABLE AND GARAGE



JOEL ELIAS SPINGARN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Ward 6

Town Center East

1001 and 1101 3rd Street NW

Town Center East is a two-building apartment complex erected in 1960-1961 within the larger Town Center Plaza superblock planned by I.M. Pei. The twin nine-story buildings designed by Pei face each other across a landscaped yard. The complex is mirrored by Town Center West on the opposite side of the original retail center.

The buildings are significant as one of Pei's first forays into the use of structural concrete as an exterior material. The slender columns and carved slab-ends render a ponderous material into a surprisingly delicate frame for the extensive glazing, so that the whole appears like an almost weightless curtain wall. The towers are unusual in their inward orientation: end-on to the major street, they give the impression of towers in a park while maximizing courtyard views and leaving no utilitarian "back-of-house" area. Main entrances reached through dual parking lots are less successful, but the interpenetration of interior and exterior spaces at the ground level is characteristic of Modernism. *Nominated by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and the Waterfront Tower Condo Association Board and designated June 27, 2013.*

Harbour Square

4th, O, and N Streets SW

Built between 1963 and 1966, the Harbour Square complex of apartments and townhouses was the fourth superblock completed in the Southwest Renewal Area. The buildings stand tallest at the west end, where the complex opens in a U shape to maximize views of the river, and they drop to three stories near 4th Street where they embrace and incorporate three historic landmarks: Wheat Row (1793), the Duncanson-Cranch House (1794), and the Edward Simon Lewis House (1817).

Harbour Square's principal designer was Cloethiel Woodard Smith, perhaps Washington's most prominent female architect, and the collaborator with Louis Justement on the Southwest urban renewal area plan. Harbour Square is distinctive for its site plantings and hardscape, the finest among the Southwest housing complexes and designed by the acclaimed landscape architect Dan Kiley. The buildings divide the landscape into themed gardens—an aquatic garden, tree court, and Japanese garden—and the glassy ground floors promote views from and through the buildings. *Nominated by Harbour Square Owners, Inc. and designated February 28, 2013.*



TOWN CENTER EAST



National Register Listings

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

In FY 2013, the National Register listed 14 DC properties nominated by the SHPO.

About National Register and NHL listing

The State Historic Preservation Officer nominates properties to the National Register, which is maintained by the National Park Service. In DC, the SHPO routinely forwards properties that have been designated in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites to the Register, since the listing criteria are substantially the same.

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

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Ward	Property	Address
1	Embassy of Mexico	2829 16th Street NW
	Maycroft Apartments	1474 Columbia Road NW
	Park View School	3570 Warder Street NW
2	Barr Building	910 17th Street NW
	Hamilton Hotel	1001 14th Street NW
	Peyser Building	1518 K Street NW
	George P. Scriven House	1300 New Hampshire Ave NW
	Civil Service Commission Wire Builing	1724 F Street NW 1000 Vermont Avenue NW
4	Capital Traction Car Barn	4615 14th Street NW
	Grace Lutheran Church	4300 16th Street NW
5	John M Langston School	43 P Street NW
	John F Slater School	45 P Street
6	Tiber Island	4th, 6th, M, and N Streets SW



CAPITAL TRACTION COMPANY CAR BARN