

Historic Landmarks and Districts

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

In FY 2017, HPRB designated eleven new historic landmarks for inclusion in the DC Inventory. The Board also expanded the National Mall Historic District and designated five new districts. The new designations are listed below by ward.

Ward 2

Observatory Hill Historic District

23rd and E Streets NW

The Observatory Hill campus in Foggy Bottom is nationally significant for military and maritime history, health and medicine, education and science, and government and politics. The new historic district includes properties of historical, architectural, and archaeological significance.

The campus was first laid out in 1844 as the home of the Naval Observatory, a world leader in scientific research and oceanography. The observatory made critical contributions to astronomy, using the world's largest refractory telescope, and set official time for the nation. Its achievements led in turn to advances in navigation, boosting the nation's military and maritime strength.

After the observatory relocated in 1893, the campus housed the Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School, and Hospital, becoming the nation's preeminent naval medical facility. It was the site of major contributions to medical research and practice, and served a key role in World War I, treating thousands and supporting advances in tropical medicine, chemical warfare injury, aviation medicine, and contagious diseases. After 1903, the campus expanded to house the U.S. Public Health Service's Hygienic Laboratory and the National Institute of Health, becoming the nation's primary federal center for infectious and dietary disease research, and advances in health advocacy and knowledge.

When the health institutions relocated to Bethesda in 1941, parts of the campus were turned over to the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency. The office served as the command and control center for intelligence activities and decision-making on matters of great national and international importance during World War II, the Korean War and the early Cold War. It was here that American intelligence collection evolved into a permanent element of national security.

Nominated by the General Services Administration and D.C. Preservation League, and designated on October 27, 2016

HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS

Applications Received		Designations Approved		Designations Denied	
Fiscal Year	#	#	Owner- Opposed	#	Owner- Opposed
2017	7	11	2	0	0
2016	21	21	0	0	0
2015	19	15	4	2	2
2014	19	7	0	1	0
2013	11	15	0	3	3
2012	8	13	0	2	1
2011	21	14	0	1	1
2010	14	14	0	0	0
2009	10	4	0	1	1
2008	17	11	1	1	1
2007	33	28	1	2	2
2006	14	10	1	1	1
2005	13	8	0	1	1
2004	13	10	0	3	1
TOTAL	213	280	10 (5.5%)	18	14 (78%)



NAVAL OBSERVATORY

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Ward 2

National Mall Historic District

The revised designation of the National Mall, prepared by the National Park Service in consultation with the SHPO and other agencies, expands the documentation, boundaries, and period of significance for this important property. The former listing included only the area between the Capitol Grounds and 14th Street (except for the Department of Agriculture), provided minimal historical background, and did not meet current documentation standards. The amended designation expands the boundaries west to the Lincoln Memorial, south to the Jefferson Memorial, and north to the edge of the White House grounds. The nomination also provides a full discussion of the Mall's significance, including recently constructed memorials and monuments, cultural landscapes, and archeological sites. It identifies 170 contributing resources dating from 1791 to 1965.

Nominated by the National Park Service, and designated on December 15, 2016

Washington Monument Grounds

The new designation of the Washington Monument grounds as a historic district in the DC Inventory recognizes the historic complexity and landscape significance of the majestic setting for the monument. The historic district clarifies the Inventory listing of the property, which previously cited only the monument itself.

In addition to their civic design importance at the crossing of the National Mall axes, the grounds are significant as a gathering place for Americans to exercise their First Amendment rights, for the important role the monument and grounds played in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and as a site of entertainment and recreation for the city and its visitors. The designation is supported by the complete historic documentation and evaluation prepared by the National Park Service for National Register listing of the property. It identifies 29 contributing resources dating from 1791 to 1943.

Nominated by the National Park Service, and designated on December 15, 2016

Smithsonian Quadrangle

1000 Jefferson Drive, 12th and Jefferson Drive SW

The Smithsonian Quadrangle historic district recognizes the exceptional grouping of buildings, gardens, and historic objects that create a campus-like setting for the institution's headquarters. In addition to the Smithsonian Castle, the major structures include the Arts and Industries Building, Freer Gallery, Sackler Gallery, and National Museum of African Art. The buildings frame the Victorian-inspired Enid Haupt garden, featuring the Renwick Gates, commemorative statuary, and a collection of nineteenth-century garden furnishings. Two other gardens complete the setting.



WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS



SMITHSONIAN QUADRANGLE

Once the Smithsonian's utilitarian south yard, the site has long served as an incubator for fledgling museums and research programs, over time seeing a paddock for bison, an astrophysical observatory, aircraft repair building, and collection of rockets outside the first national air museum. The Quadrangle conveys the history of the Smithsonian's educational mission, and is closely associated with seminal figures who guided the institution. The creation of the quadrangle was intended to express the Smithsonian's multi-cultural focus and the global reach of its educational programs; its welcoming and character creates a place of tranquility in contrast to the monumental spaces of the National Mall.

Nominated by the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, and designated on April 27, 2017

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW

The massive Department of State is significant for its role as the department's headquarters since the end of World War II, and for its association with the mid-20th century urban planning effort to create a federal precinct, called the Northwest Rectangle, to balance the Federal Triangle. World War II made both the War and State departments grow rapidly, and required them to seek quarters beyond the old State, War and Navy Building. The first section of the new structure, built from 1939 to 1941 for the War department, is notable for its early Modern aesthetic of stripped classical elements, punched window openings, and minimal ornamentation. The extension, built from 1957 to 1960 for the State department, presents a more mature example of mid-century Modernism. When completed, it was the largest office building in the District of Columbia, and the second largest federal office building in the country, surpassed only by the Pentagon, built in 1941-42.

Nominated by the General Services Administration, and designated on July 27, 2017

Ward 3

Cleveland-Emerson Exchange

4268 Wisconsin Avenue NW

The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company's Cleveland-Emerson Exchange served the ever-increasing number of intown suburban telephone subscribers in the early 20th century. Built in three phases from 1927 to 1932, the limestone-faced structure with elegant stripped-Classical bas-relief detailing was designed by the distinguished Washington architect Waddy B. Wood. The exchange opened with manual telephone operators, but within four years was converted to the newer dial telephone technology.

Nominated by the Tenleytown Historical Society, and designated on November 17, 2016



SMITHSONIAN QUADRANGLE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



CLEVELAND-EMERSON EXCHANGE

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Ward 3

Scheele-Brown Farmhouse

2207 Foxhall Road NW

The Scheele-Brown Farmhouse, named for its first two resident families, and the last to farm the surrounding land, was built in the latter half of 1865. It is a rare survivor of the farm dwellings that were once ubiquitous in rural parts of the District until the tide of suburbanization swept over the former fields, pastures and woodlots. It also represents Washington's early meat industry, particularly the business of butchering, in which most of the farmers just beyond Georgetown, including the Scheeles and the Browns, were engaged from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth. The simple side-gable house is vernacular in design, with only traces of Greek Revival influence.

Nominated by Historic Washington Architecture, and designated on February 2, 2017

Perna Brothers Chesapeake Street Houses

4112-14 and 4116-18 Chesapeake Street NW

This pair of double houses were built in Tenleytown in 1909 by the Italian brothers Frank (Francesco) and Louis (Luigi) Perna. The Pernas immigrated from Calabria in about 1890, and as stonemasons, were much in demand at a time when major buildings and public works were commonly constructed of stone. The Pernas performed extensive work for the federal government, churches, and private builders. These houses, built and owned as an investment on the same square as their stoneyard, allowed the Pernas to demonstrate the taste and quality of their craftsmanship in a project completely their own. They stand out in a neighborhood of largely wood frame houses.

Nominated by the Tenleytown Historical Society, and designated on February 23, 2017

Ambassador Romuald Spasowski House

3101 Albemarle Street NW

This stately Colonial Revival stone house was built in 1926 in the emerging suburban neighborhood of Forest Hills. It was purchased in 1979 by the government of Poland for its ambassador's residence, at the urging of Romuald Spasowski, a lifelong diplomat who was then fulfilling his second tour of duty as ambassador to the United States. Once an ardent communist, Spasowski's loyalty to the party had wavered, and he feared Soviet surveillance at the Polish chancery. The residence became a refuge for secret meetings with western diplomats during the 1981 Polish Crisis brought on by the Solidarity Movement, and was the scene of one of the most dramatic diplomatic events of the Cold War, when Ambassador Spasowski and his wife defected to the United States from the house. He was the highest-ranking diplomat to do so during that era.

Nominated by the Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance, and designated on April 27, 2017



SCHEELE-BROWN FARMHOUSE



PERNA BROTHERS HOUSES



AMBASSADOR ROMUALD SPASOWSKI HOUSE

Ward 4

Glade Apartments

1370-1372 Fort Stevens Drive NW

The Glade Apartments opened in 1939 during a period of extensive growth in Brightwood. The Depression-era population increase, demand for moderate-cost housing, transportation improvements, and new zoning classifications encouraged apartment construction in the area. The Standard Construction Company built the Art Deco-style structure designed by George Santmyers, Washington's most prolific architect. He designed at least 440 apartment buildings, in addition to single-family homes and other structures. The Glade was one of several of his commissions in Brightwood.

Nominated by the property owner, and designated on November 17, 2016

Layfayette Elementary School

5701 Broad Branch Road NW

The red brick Colonial Revival-style school named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette was begun in 1931 and expanded later to accommodate rapid growth in the suburban community of Chevy Chase. The school was funded under the city's "Five-Year" plan for new schools, enacted in 1925 and intended to relieve overcrowding in the school system. Built in phases, the school was also one of the most fully realized examples of the city's "extensible" schools—a clever response to demographic changes and fiscal constraints, the idea being that schools would be built out incrementally as need demanded and funds allowed, but at each stage resulting in an architecturally self-contained composition.

Nominated by the D.C. Department of General Services, and designated on May 25, 2017

Twin Oaks Playground and Field House

4025 14th Street NW

The Twin Oaks playground was established in 1920 to serve the rapidly growing Petworth community, at a time when exercise and play were seen as opportunities to cultivate the physical and "moral" nature of children. While playgrounds created welcome breathing spots, fieldhouses provided storage for recreation equipment, offices for park managers, public restrooms, and space for indoor recreation and classes. The Twin Oaks fieldhouse, built in 1933, followed the prototype established by Municipal Architect Albert Harris in 1931 at Mitchell Park in Kalorama. It was based on the common 18th-century Tidewater hall-and-parlor house, which was seen as suitably domestic and Colonial Revival in style for the city's parks.

Nominated by Historic Washington Architecture, and designated on



GLADE APARTMENTS



LAYFAYETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



TWIN OAKS PLAYGROUND AND FIELD HOUSE

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Ward 5

Union Market Historic District

Between 4th and 5th Street NE, Florida Avenue and Penn Street NE

Union Market is the city's only planned market complex of multiple buildings that adhere to a uniform design scheme. It was conceived by a federation of wholesalers doing business from privately owned buildings near the old Center Market. Anticipating demolition of the area for construction of the Federal Triangle, they purchased land near the Union Station railroad yards, devised a street plan for the wholesale market complex, and established a standard building form and style for individual market buildings that would be privately constructed. Opened in 1929 as the Union Market Terminal, the seventy warehouses feature overall symmetry and repetitive Classical Revival design features. Along with steel sash windows and open loading bays, they also display Classical columns, bas-relief swag panels, and a uniform arrangement of flagpoles and roof railing, along with the occasional projecting pediment and blind arch.

Nominated by the D.C. Preservation League, and designated on November 3, 2016

Wardman Flats

This block of 28 two-story rowhouse flats in the Truxton Circle neighborhood is the first significant project conceived, owned, and built by Washington's most notable developer, Harry Wardman. Constructed and placed on the market in a five-month period between December 1902 and April 1903, the project established Wardman's model for building well-designed, solid construction in the efficient and cost-effective manner that would come to define his career. By designing the flats in a form that was indistinguishable from that of single-family rowhouses, Wardman also gained market advantage by offering residents a new and socially uplifting alternative in rental housing. Wardman Flats are an excellent example demonstrating the evolution of residential flats as a building type that became widespread as an affordable housing option for the city's working class.

Nominated by the D.C. Preservation League, and designated on September 28, 2017



UNION MARKET



WARDMAN FLATS

Ward 6

Holzbeierlein Bakery

1815-1827 Wiltberger Street NW

The complex of red brick buildings constructed between 1891 and 1930 on a narrow side street housed the sizeable commercial business started by Bavarian baker Michael Holzbeierlein. The bakery was one of several to emerge the vicinity, just off the bustling 7th Street commercial corridor. It operated from 1895 until 1953, adapting with the times, and making the transition from hand-baked to manufactured bread during the Progressive Era, when sanitation and machine-made standardization were crucial to survival.

Nominated by the D.C. Preservation League, and designated on January 26, 2017

Federal Office Building #6 (Department of Education)

400 Maryland Avenue SW

Now the Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building, this was the first of fifteen office buildings erected by the newly created General Services Administration under a 1956 master plan for expanding federal facilities. Its Modernist design initiated a dramatic change in the federal government's image as expressed through buildings. The project was envisioned as the employment center for a redeveloped Southwest neighborhood, advancing the Southwest Urban Renewal Plan while also enabling the removal of wartime "tempo" from the Mall. Completed in 1961, Federal Office Building No. 6 was first occupied by NASA and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Nominated by the General Services Administration, and designated on March 23, 2017

Emerald Street Historic District

1300 Block of Emerald Street NE; 517 and 519 13th Street NE; and 518 and 520 14th Street NE

This historic district in the northeast corner of Capitol Hill centers on a narrow block-long street lined with a fine collection of modest Queen Anne row houses built in the 1890s. The block was platted in 1797 to have an I-shaped internal alley system, but in the late 19th century, it was replatted to convert the alley to a "minor" street. This reconfiguration was part of a trend, as private developers sought to increase street frontage for rowhouse construction, and urban social reformers encouraged eradication of the city's inhabited alleyways. In a short four-year period, a single developer built nearly all of the street's 75 houses, creating the cohesive and rhythmic streetscape that survives intact today.

Nominated by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A, and designated on May 25, 2017



HOLZBEIERLEIN BAKERY



FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING #6
(LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING)



EMERALD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

National Register Listings

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

In FY 2017, the SHPO nominated eighteen recently designated DC historic landmarks for listing in the National Register. The Union Market Terminal, Observatory Hill, and Emerald Street historic districts were also listed, and the National Mall and Financial historic district listings were amended to expand their boundaries. When combined, these new listings and expansions contain 345 buildings, 44 sites, and 49 objects.



NATIONAL MALL HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION

About National Register and NHL listing

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

National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), are considered the nation's most significant historic properties, designated by the Secretary of the Interior. They are automatically listed in the National Register. With 74 NHLs, the District of Columbia has more of these properties than all but seven states.

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Ward	Property	Address
1	Kelsey Temple Church of God in Christ	1435-37 Park Road NW
2	BF Saul Building	925 15th Street NW
	Davidson Building	927 15th Street NW
	Federal Home Loan Bank Board	1709 G Street NW
	Lockkeepers House, C&O Canal Extension	17th and Constitution NW
	Observatory Hill HD	23rd and E Streets NW
	US Department of State	2201 C Street NW
3	Romuald Spasowski House	3101 Albemarle Street NW
	C&P Telephone, Cleveland-Emerson Exchange	4268 Wisconsin Avenue NW
	Perna Brothers Houses	4112-18 Chesapeake St NW
	Scheele-Brown Farm House	2207 Foxhall Road NW
4	Apartment Building	5922 13th Street NW
	Chilcheser Arms (Vizcaya)	1388 Tuckerman Street NW
	Glade Apartments	1370-72 Fort Stevens Drive NW
	Park Vista and Pine Manor Apartments	5807 and 5825 14th Street NW
5	Glenwood Cemetery	2219 Lincoln Road NE
	Emerald Street HD	Emerald Street NE
	Federal Office Building #6	400 Maryland Avenue SW
6	Holzbeierlein Bakery	1815-27 Wiltberger Street NW
	Virginia Interlocking Control Tower	2nd and Virginia Avenue SW
	Union Market Terminal HD	5th Street and Florida Ave NE