

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 2019, HPRB designated nine new historic landmarks for inclusion in the DC Inventory. The designations include a variety of community landmarks and properties of historical interest.

HPRB denied designation applications for a single-family house in Shepherd Park and a boundary expansion at the Scottish Rite Temple on 16th Street NW. The Board determined the Safeway Grocery Store at 4865 MacArthur Boulevard NW did not meet the designation criteria, based on an application from the owner requesting a denial.

Ward 2

Capital Traction Company Union Station

3600/3601 M Street NW

Among the most ambitious projects of Washington's late-19th-century proliferation of streetcars was this multi-level Union Station, intended to connect service from three separate lines, including one running along the heights of Prospect Street and another crossing the river to Virginia. The transfer station's first version was constructed from 1894 to 1897, as lines using both cable and electric propulsion were being consolidated from several independent operators into the Capital Traction Company. The original structure (seen in this early photograph) was designed by notable local architect Waddy B. Wood in the same Romanesque style as the contemporaneous Old Post Office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

As modern rolling stock became larger and heavier, it became necessary to expand and strengthen the building and widen its car entrances. These alterations were completed by Beale and Meigs in a more restrained style than current in 1910-11. Another roof addition with prominent dormers dates from 1998. Even with its history of alteration, the station is perhaps the best example of a streetcar depot and storage barn built in Washington. Prodigious excavation and shoring of the steep terrace at the rear of the structure was required to accommodate the streetcars. In popular culture, the massive stone retaining walls and steep exterior stair to Prospect Street earned notoriety and have attracted movie fans since being featured in the 1973 horror film *The Exorcist*.

Nominated by the Prospect Street Citizens Association and DC Preservation League, and designated on January 24, 2019

HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS

Applications Received		Designations Approved		Designations Denied	
Fiscal Year	Number	Number	Owner- Opposed	Number	Owner- Opposed
2019	13	9	3	3	2
2018	15	16	1	2	2
2017	7	11	2	0	0
2016	21	21	0	0	0
2015	19	15	4	2	2
2014	19	7	0	1	0
2013	11	15	0	3	3
2012	8	13	0	2	1
2011	21	14	0	1	1
2010	14	14	0	0	0
2009	10	4	0	1	1
2008	17	11	1	1	1
2007	33	28	1	2	2
2006	14	10	1	1	1
2005	13	8	0	1	1
2004	13	10	0	3	1
TOTAL	248	197	13 (6%)	23	18 (78%)



CAPITAL TRACTION COMPLYNY UNION STATION

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Ward 3

Rose Lees Hardy School

1550 Foxhall Road NW

Built in 1932, the Rose Lees Hardy School is a Colonial Revival style building of red brick with limestone and wood trim, designed by municipal architect Albert L. Harris. The building is an exemplar of the “extensible” school concept in use from the late 1920s to mid 1940s. This approach allowed schools to be built in sections as funds became available and demand from the surrounding school-age population justified more space. In this case, only the first wing of the full design was built, yet it stands on its own as a finished architectural composition. The school also serves as a living memorial to Rose Lees Hardy, assistant superintendent of the District of Columbia Public Schools from 1925 until her death in October 1932.

Nominated by the Foxhall Community Citizens Association; designated on March 28, 2019



HARDY SCHOOL

INTELSAT

(International Telecommunications Satellite Organization)

3400 International Drive NW

Created in 1964 by international treaty, the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO, or more commonly, INTELSAT) was founded to improve global communications among nations—especially to include developing economies—via satellites. President Kennedy advocated at the United Nations in 1961 for its creation, along with the privately-owned counterpart COMSAT, which was to develop a commercial system of international communications. Both were headquartered in Washington.

In 1980, Intelsat launched an international design competition for its new headquarters at the International Center then under development on the former campus of the National Bureau of Standards. There were two primary criteria: at least 70 percent of the office space should have natural light, and the building design must be energy-efficient. The Australian architect John Andrews won the competition with his satellite-like building set in natural landscape. The modular concept is an interlocking series of geometric forms—octagonal office blocks clad in aluminum panels and glass with built-in sunshades; octagonal atria capped by glass roofs; and cylindrical stair towers in concrete and glass block lining the perimeter. The building is significant for its innovative design and pioneering incorporation of energy efficiency. A high-tech machine in a garden, it created a fitting headquarters for a world leader in satellite communications and diplomacy.

Nominated by the DC Preservation League; designated on April 25, 2019



INTELSAT BUILDING

National Presbyterian Church

4101 and 4125 Nebraska Avenue NW

Marked on the horizon by its soaring limestone bell tower, the National Presbyterian Church is likely the best recognized and most striking modernist church in Washington. It stands in intended contrast to the two larger national churches, Washington National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, whose bell towers also mark the city skyline.

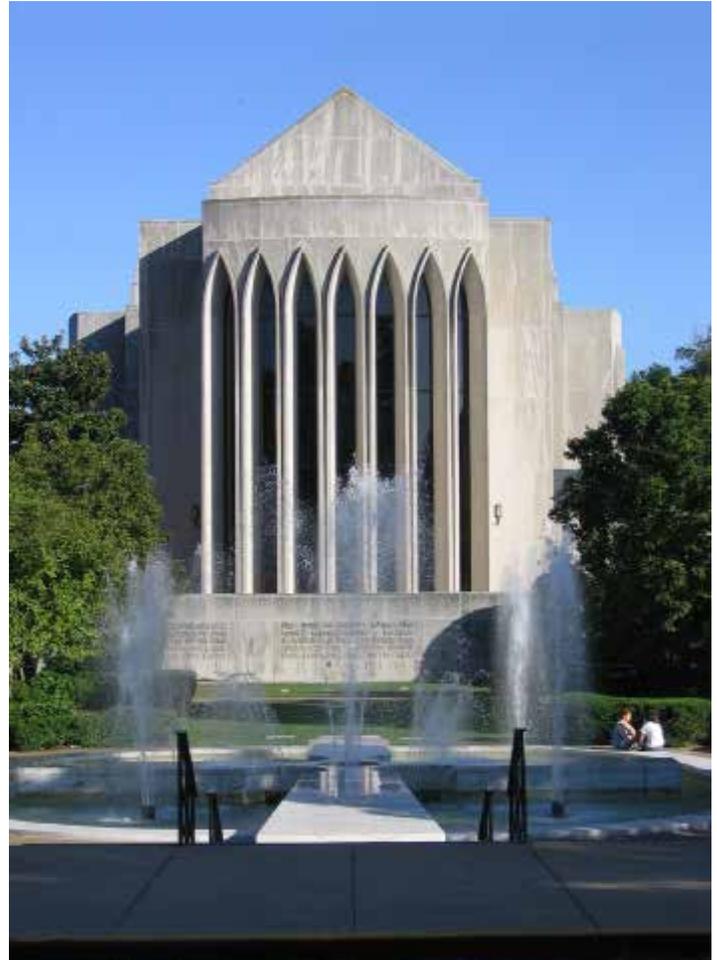
The congregation traces its Washington roots to the late 18th century when, as tradition holds, Scottish masons and stonecutters building the White House gathered on the grounds to worship. Initially called St. Andrew's, the church was formally organized as First Presbyterian Church in 1811. It has since occupied a series of impressive structures, for a hundred years near Judiciary Square and then just off Dupont Circle at the Church of the Covenant, where the congregations merged as National Presbyterian in 1947.

In 1966, the church purchased the campus of Hillcrest (formerly the Washington City Orphan Asylum) to expand its facilities. It renovated the Tudor Revival-style cottages dating from 1926-27 for offices and a school, and introduced the mid-century Modern church, chapel and formal landscaped forecourt as a new centerpiece.

The National Presbyterian Church, built from 1967 to 1969, is the work of noted church architect Harold E. Wagoner. Its limestone neo-Gothic facades recall European and local cathedral building traditions in a modern idiom. Decorative features include historic Tiffany Glass and Booth Glass windows salvaged from the Church of the Covenant, as well as newly commissioned stained glass and modernist scriptural wall panels around the front garden.

The Hillcrest cottages were designed by prominent local architect Appleton P. Clark, Jr, and built for one of the oldest charitable institutions in the nation's capital, founded in 1815 by a group of socially prominent women including Dolley Madison. Clark's design of the cottages reflected his belief that buildings for the housing and care of children should look like houses and be of a domestic scale to which children could relate. As repurposed, they also recall the many cathedrals set within ample grounds surrounded by clusters of smaller, often medieval buildings housing supportive functions.

Nominated by the National Presbyterian Church; designated on September 26, 2019



NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



HILLCREST COTTAGE AND CHURCH TOWER

RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

Wardman Park Annex, Lobby and Hotel Entrance Piers

2600 Woodley Road NW

In 1928, fabulously successful developer Harry Wardman added a long-term-stay annex next to his Wardman Park Hotel built a decade earlier. Designed by architect Mihran Mesrobian and now known as the Wardman Tower, the annex was the official address of many important social, political, and cultural figures who were able to access the hotel's full amenities via a connecting indoor arcade. The amendment expands the existing historic landmark designation to include the Tower's lobby and two pairs of stately brick and stone piers, also by Mesrobian, erected in 1927 to mark the hotel driveway entrances. The lobby design was inspired by the interiors of eighteenth-century British architect Robert Adam and his brothers. The Georgian Revival entrance piers are all that remain of the original hotel after it was demolished in the 1970s.

Nominated by the Woodley Park Community Association; designated on November 15, 2018

Ward 5

Washington Animal Rescue League Shelter and Hospital

71 O Street NW

The Washington Animal Rescue League, organized in 1914, was a group of society women (and a few influential men) who set out to rescue horses, dogs and cats for treatment and the goal of placement in new homes. First Ladies Ellen Wilson and Florence Harding were both involved in the group's early efforts. After outgrowing several shelters, the League built this facility in 1932. It is the first purpose-built animal shelter and the best extant physical representation of the history of private-sector animal control in Washington, with an emphasis on humane treatment. The league served as a supportive counterpart to the government-run District Pound and Stable at South Capitol and I Streets SW, designated in 2014.

Nominated by the DC Preservation League; designated on December 20, 2018



WASHINGTON ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE HOSPITAL AND SHELTER



WARDMAN PARK ANNEX, SHOWING DEMOLISHED HOTEL BEHIND



WARDMAN PARK HOTEL ENTRANCE PIER



WARDMAN PARK ANNEX LOBBY

Holy Redeemer College

3112 Seventh Street NE

The Most Holy Redeemer Order, established in Italy during the mid-eighteenth century and traditionally dedicated to missionary work, expanded to America in 1832. Commonly known as the Redemptorists or Redemptorist Fathers, the order did not establish a presence in Washington until 1930, when members first enrolled at Catholic University. New York architect Anthony A. F. Schmitt designed this 1933 residential college in a Lombardy Romanesque Revival style reflective of the order's Italian origins. It is among few local examples of the style, characterized by heavy masonry, arched openings, arched and corbelled cornices, and square projecting towers. From 1900 to 1940, at the invitation of Catholic University (founded 1888), more than fifty religious orders and institutions established houses of study in its vicinity, making "Little Rome" a center of Catholic life.

Nominated by The Redemptorists; designated on March 28, 2019



HOLY REDEEMER COLLEGE

American Theater (Sylvan Theater)

104-108 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Opened as the American Theatre in 1913, this early movie palace designed by architect Nicholas Haller has a long history in Bloomingdale. Originally for whites only, it was renovated and rebranded as the Sylvan Theatre in 1930, and opened to African Americans in 1950. After decades as a neighborhood movie house, it served as home to the influential Black American Theater (BAT) from 1969 to 1972, Washington's first African-American company to control a commercial theatre venue. The rare early theater illustrates the transition from storefront nickelodeons to full-scale neighborhood motion picture theaters to incubators of local live theater performance.

Nominated by the DC Preservation League; designated on April 25, 2019



AMERICAN THEATER

Ward 6

Folger Shakespeare Library (Interiors)

201 East Capitol Street SE

Widely considered exceptional for its Stripped Classical exterior, and first listed as a DC landmark in 1964, the Folger Library by Philadelphia architect Paul Phillippe Cret was completed in 1932 to house the renowned Shakespeareana collection of Henry Clay and Emily Jordan Folger. HPRB expanded the designation to include the extraordinary, highly crafted Tudor and Jacobean Revival theater, exhibition hall, reading room, founder's room, lobbies and other major interior spaces. These authentic period-inspired interiors were conceived to give visitors a sense of visiting the world of Shakespeare.

Nominated by the Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library; designated on December 20, 2018



FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

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 2019, the SHPO nominated ten recently designated DC historic landmarks for listing in the National Register and amended two existing listings with additional documentation.



BROOKLAND BOWLING ALLEY



THE ETHELHURST

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Ward	Property	Address
1	PEPCO Substation No. 13	1001 Howard Street NW
	PEPCO Substation No. 25	2119 Champlain Street NW
2	Capital Traction Company Union Station	3601 M Street NW
	DC Municipal Center & Plaza The Ethelhurst	300 Indiana Avenue NW 1025 15th Street NW
3	Equitable Life Insurance Company	3900 Wisconsin Avenue NW
	Rose Lees Hardy School Wardman Park Annex (additional documentation)	1550 Foxhall Road NW 2600 Woodley Road NW
5	Brookland Bowling Alley	3726 10th Street NE
	Harewood Lodge Holy Redeemer College	3600 Harewood Road NE 3112 7th Street NE
6	Folger Shakespeare Library (additional documentation)	201 East Capitol Street SE

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.