

Front of Brochure (folded):

TAKE ONE TOUR

A Guide to your Bus Route

G-2

Take a city tour from LeDroit Park to Georgetown! Whether it's your everyday route or a special trip through town, see the city in a new way. Just "Take One" – a personal, portable tour guide and a Metrobus, G-2!

Map

HOWARD UNIVERSITY— 4th and Bryant Sts.

Howard University was founded in 1866 by General Oliver O. Howard, head of the Freedmen's Bureau, as an institution which welcomed all students regardless of race or creed. It soon became a mecca for black students seeking quality education. Landmarks on the campus include General Howard's 1867 house. The oldest collegiate buildings are a fine cluster of Georgian Revival structures dominated by the towered original library. Most were designed by Howard professor Albert Cassell and enjoy a fine hilltop view of Washington.

TOWN AND GOWN— 4th St. Between Elm and W Sts., west side

LeDroit Park and Howard University grew up together. Land for LeDroit Park was purchased from Howard and many Howard professors have lived in the neighborhood. Today, university development is intruding into the historic community which Howard fostered. A similar situation exists at the Georgetown University end of this bus route.

ELM STREET— Elm between 3rd and 4th Sts.

Like Elm Street all the streets of LeDroit Park were originally named for trees. The old names can be seen on the new street signs installed by the city.

MCGILL HOUSES— northeast corner 3rd and T, and southwest corner 3rd and U Sts.

The gray and white duplex at 3rd and T, built for Civil War General Birney, is an example of the fine houses designed by James McGill. Another McGill-designed house with lots of lacy trim can be seen at 3rd and U. Look for its carriage house behind. Most of the remaining original LeDroit Park houses are found on T and U Streets.

LEDROIT PARK— 3rd St. and Rhode Island Ave.

3rd Street and Rhode Island Avenue was the location of the main entrance gates to the exclusive residential development of LeDroit Park. Begun in the 1870s, LeDroit Park was one of Washington's first suburbs. Within a surrounding fence it contained grand houses on large lots with trees and public landscaping. Of the original houses, all designed by architect James McGill, 50 still remain with later row houses between them. Since 1893 when the first black family moved into the previously all-white suburb, LeDroit Park has been the home of many locally and nationally prominent black Americans, among them educator Mary Church Terrell, poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Senator Edward Brooke. Current LeDroit Park residents are Mayor Walter Washington and his wife. Through the work of active citizen groups, LeDroit Park was designated an historic district in 1974. These groups continue to work to preserve and restore the unique character of this neighborhood.

BOUNDARY STREET— 3rd St. and Florida Ave.

Florida Avenue was the original northern boundary of the City of Washington. Everything to the north was a part of rural Washington County. After the Civil War, the city's population grew and settlements like LeDroit Park were developed outside the boundary.

NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETS— northeast corner of 3rd and R Sts.

Before automobiles and supermarkets, urban dwellers did their shopping within a few blocks of home. Small markets like this one once existed in all the older neighborhoods of Washington. Many of them occupied prominent corner locations, like this turreted building, with plenty of space in front for setting out produce.

HOW OLD IS IT?— 3rd St. between P and R Sts.

How old is a row house? Here are some clues. In the 1870s most houses had flat fronts with heavy cornices of wood or pressed metal across the top. In the 1880s and 90s, people enlivened their houses with bay windows and towers. Also look for fancy brick patterns and stained glass in this period. If a house has a brick porch all across the front and a tile roof, it was probably built after 1900.

DUBAR HIGH SCHOOL— P and 3rd Sts., south side

As the bus turns the corner at 3rd and P, there is a good view of the new Dunbar High School rising to the south. Named for black poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the new school replaces an older building of the same name which has a long history of educational excellence. The old Dunbar High School (slated for possible demolition) counts many prominent black Americans among its graduates.

L'ENFANT'S PLAN— P St. and New Jersey Ave.

Washington is a planned city, laid out in what were once swamps and fields by French engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791. The rectangular grid of streets is intersected by broad avenues cutting across the city in dramatic diagonals. New Jersey Avenue is one of these. Its buildings are set far back from the street to make the avenue seem even wider and emphasize long vistas.

A RED BRICK CITY— P St. Between 4th and 5th Sts.

The first fire code in the District of Columbia in 1877 required all new buildings to have masonry exteriors. As a result, Washington grew up as a city of red brick row houses, usually with raised basements and cast-iron stoops. Fanciful brick details and occasional stained-glass windows make these old row houses individual. All along the bus route are examples of Washington's 19th century row houses, commercial buildings and churches. They give the city its unique character— a character to be enhanced, not destroyed.

CHURCH SPIRES— P St between 5th and 6th Sts.

Churches and schools form an important visual as well as a social part of every neighborhood. This area of Washington retains many of its old churches, which were built at about the same time as most of the houses. The Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church (formerly Turner Memorial A.M.E.) at 5th and P Streets has its date, 1881, carved over the door. Looking across the Shaw area you can still see a human-scaled city with a skyline dominated by church spires and trees.

JFK PLAYGROUND— P St. between 7th and Marion Sts.

The John F. Kennedy Playground was dedicated in 1964 by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Located in an area with many children and few parks, citizens' contributions turned this

formerly vacant block into a model playground. Old tanks and jets, a steam locomotive and a huge slide were among the original imaginative equipment. Over half a million people used the playground during its first month and almost wore it out. It is still one of the city's most popular and unusual playgrounds.

O STREET MARKET— southwest corner of 9th and P Sts.

One block south on 7th Street stands the red brick O Street Market, one of only three 19th century markets remaining in the city. The once-deserted building has had an exterior restoration and will become a market again. Plans call for it to be the center of a new commercial area, with a bank, community supermarket and other businesses located on the surrounding vacant land.

THE SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH— northwest corner of 9th and P Sts.

The Shiloh Baptist Church, founded in 1863 in a house on K Street, has had only five pastors in its 114-year history. In 1926 the Shiloh Congregation, the largest Baptist group in the city, moved into this handsome brick Victorian church with sumptuous stained-glass windows. The church has provided the Shaw community with leadership in the areas of social reform, low-cost housing, day care and services for the poor.

MANSARD ROOFS AND BAY WINDOWS— southeast corner of P and 10th Sts

These row houses have several typical 19th century features. Their wooden bay windows are found throughout the city. These windows provide more floor space and extra light for dark interiors. The mansard roofs are designed to provide as much usable room as possible in the attic. This type of roof was developed in France and became very popular in the United States in the 1870s.

LOGAN CIRCLE— P and 13th Sts. Vermont and Rhode Island Avenues.

In the 1791 plan of Washington, traffic circles and parks were designed to mark the intersections of major avenues. Logan Circle is the only one of these original circles which still retains its residential character. The houses on the circle and its radiating streets are a visual textbook of late 19th century architectural styles. Their carvings, chimneys, turrets and ironwork testify to the love of ornament which characterized the Victorian period. Logan Circle has been home to Adam Clayton Powell (No. 8). Daddy Grace (No. 11) and Mary McLeod Bethune (1318 Vermont), as well as cabinet officers, generals, and foreign diplomats. It has survived years of neglect and streams of commuter traffic and has been recognized as an historic district since 1972. Many of these mansions and row houses are undergoing restoration.

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS— 14th and P Sts.

As late as the 1850s, this area was still meadows and woodlands with 14th and 7th Streets the only roads cut through as far north as Florida Avenue. Both of these streets became major thoroughfares and commercial centers for the residential areas that grew up around them. The old drug store at the southwest corner of 14th and P is a fine example of this early commercial development. It still has its iron fence, iron roof cresting and ornamental window hoods that provided the finishing touches to the flamboyant buildings of this period.

SHAW— 15th and P Sts.

15th Street is the western edge of Shaw, an area which takes its name from Shaw Junior High School. Shaw's other boundaries are M Street, North Capitol Street, and Florida Avenue. This large, densely populated residential area was first developed between 1880 and 1910 and contains some of Washington's best row house architecture. In the late 1960s, Shaw became the

city's largest urban renewal area. Active community groups have worked since then to ensure that housing and services are improved without the destruction of stable neighborhoods.

VIEW FROM THE PRESIDENT'S WINDOW – 16th St.

The White House looks straight up 16th Street. In the early 20th century, Mrs. John Henderson, widow of a senator, conducted a private campaign to improve this view from the President's house. She bought land on Meridian Hill to the north, erected embassy buildings, and enticed foreign governments to locate there. She even had the name of 16th Street changed for one year to "Avenue of the Presidents." Today some of 16th Street's grand mansions are being recycled as offices. Such creative re-use of old buildings lets us hold on to Washington's special character—and often costs less than new construction.

Back of Brochure (folded):

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The preparation and production of the "Take One" leaflet for the G-2 route has been funded by Membership dues, individual contributions, and grants from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Junior League of the City Washington, Queene Ferry Coonley Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Don't Tear It Down was formed in 1971 to prevent the demolition of the Old Post Office on Pennsylvania Avenue at 12th Street, N.W., and to focus public attention on the problems of Washington's changing physical environment. It was, and still is, a network of individuals concerned about the destruction of single buildings for parking lots and of whole neighborhoods for high-rise development. This leaflet is a part of the organization's effort to heighten awareness of the impact of the physical environment on daily life. Please send requests for membership information and any comments and suggestions about this leaflet to the above address.

Design: Design Communications Collaborative

Don't Tear It Down (Logo)

Map

WHAT'S SO NICE ABOUT AN OLD HOUSE? – 1700 block of P St., north side

Notice the arched doorways, bay windows and carved stone decoration of this handsome row of houses. Look for similar evidence of craftsmanship in masonry, carpentry, glass and tile work throughout this area. Also note the highrise apartment and parking lots – reminders that there are strong economic pressures which may alter city center residential neighborhoods and change the pleasant balance of buildings, people and open space.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY STARTED HERE – 1785 Massachusetts Ave.

The large building facing on Massachusetts Avenue at the corner of 18th and P Streets is the 1915 McCormick Apartment Building, which originally had only one luxurious apartment on each of its upper floors. While living here, industrialist Andrew Mellon purchased much of the Art collection which he then gave to the nation as the National Gallery of Art. In recent years, the building has been used as offices.

CAL COOLIDGE AND CHARLES LINDBERGH SLEPT HERE – Dupont Circle between New Hampshire and P St., east side

The white marble Patterson House was the home of newspaper woman "Cissy" Patterson. She loaned it to President Coolidge in 1927 while the White House was being remodeled. Here Coolidge welcomed hero Charles Lindbergh on his return from France and crowds cheered outside for three days.

DUPONT CIRCLE

In the 1880s, Dupont Circle developed almost overnight into the best address in Washington. Its popularity established the northwest quadrant as the city's most fashionable section. The Great Depression drained much of the wealth from Dupont Circle and crowded wartime conditions turned many mansions into boardinghouses. In the 1960s the Circle acquired a new identity as a center for freedom of speech and expression. Today the Circle that centers on the sparkling white fountain by Daniel Chester French is the hub of a pleasant, bustling, urbane neighborhood.

THE HIGH RISES COME MARCHING – Dupont Circle between New Hampshire and 19th St. High rise development has invaded Dupont Circle. Notice how the building shapes are determined by the 10 streets radiating from the Circle. Luckily, some of these buildings, like the Euram (by architects Hartman and Cox) represent good modern design. Note the spectacular courtyard. Many more Washington office buildings should fit into the city as well as this building does.

THE BLAINE MANSION – Dupont Circle, west side between Massachusetts and P St. The Blaine Mansion is the grand dame of Dupont Circle. Built in 1882 for James G. Blaine, statesman, orator, and frequent presidential candidate, it was later the home of George Westinghouse, who pioneered in developing useful electric energy.

ART GALLERIES – P St. between 21st and 22nd Sts. In the 1960s this block became the home of numerous art galleries exhibiting the work of the "Washington School." Originally attracted to the area by inexpensive row houses, the art galleries are surviving the transition to luxury apartments and remain an important part of Washington's cultural life.

GAS STATION HISTORY – P St. between 22nd and 23rd Sts., southside When Gulf Oil Company wanted to replace this 1937 station at the entrance to Georgetown, local residents and the Commission of Fine Arts objected. The old station stayed and got a face-lift.

GEORGETOWN – crossing Rock Creek Park Rock Creek is the eastern boundary of Georgetown – a city within a city. Georgetown was a bustling tobacco port when George Washington chose this area as the site of the new Federal City. It remained the principal social center while the City of Washington was only a collection of boarding houses and scattered public buildings. But with the Civil War, Georgetown began to decline, losing residents to booming Washington, and trade to other cities. It continued to grow, but slowly, within itself, by subdividing. This helps to account for the many different styles of houses which mingle on Georgetown streets. In the 20th century, New Dealers reestablished Georgetown as a social and political center, attracted by its convenient location and charming houses – enhanced by a century of aging. By act of Congress, Georgetown was made an historic district in 1950. Today it is one of the city's best known residential areas, attracting Washingtonians and tourists to shop, dine, or just stroll.

NARROWEST HOUSE IN D.C.? – 2726 P St., south side This tan frame house must be one of the narrowest in the city. There is barely enough room for a window and door on the first floor.

GUN BARREL FENCE – northwest corner, P and 28th Sts. These five brick houses were built by Reuben Daw, a locksmith who was both thrifty and fond of auctions. After the Mexican War, the government auctioned off its surplus gun barrels. Daw

purchased them, embedded the stock ends in a low wall, added spikes to the muzzles, and made the fence you see today.

AN URBAN SCENE – P St. between 29th and 30th Sts.

Even though Georgetown contains the city's finest collection of early 19th century houses, it is difficult to single them out from the bus. As an older city, Georgetown has narrower streets and larger trees, and its houses are closer together and right on the sidewalk. This kind of density and diversity can be savored best on food.

THE FEDERAL STYLE – 3019 P St., on right in middle of block

This 1826 house is an elaborate example of Georgetown's Federal style of architecture. The windows are decorated by bull's-eye corner blocks. The door has a beautiful fanlight and side lights and a graceful iron stair railing. The roof sports two dormers. Look for these features on many more modest Georgetown houses of the early 19th century.

FIRE MARKS – P St. between 30th and Wisconsin, note 3025 P and 3116-22 P

The small metal plaques seen on Georgetown houses are the symbols which fire insurance companies used to mark insured buildings. They were good publicity for the insurance company and also good protection if the company had made generous donations to the volunteer fire brigades in the area. If not, the firemen might ignore their duty.

WASHINGTON BOWIE HOUSE GATES – on right, just past 3131 P St.

These P Street gates lead to the hilltop mansion (now Episcopal Church Home) built in 1805 by George Washington's godson, Washington Bowie. This yard is a reminder of the large grounds that once surrounded many Georgetown houses.

THE SHOPPING STREET – Wisconsin at P St.

In earlier days business centered on the waterfront where trade was brisk with exports of tobacco, furs, grain, and lumber and imports of luxury items from wine to fine furniture. The waterfront is quiet now, but modern Georgetown still thrives on the luxury trade.

A PARADE OF STYLES – P St. west of Wisconsin

Built right on the sidewalk with no front yards, Georgetown's row houses form an urban setting found nowhere else in the city. Mansion and modest, brick and frame, Georgian and modern may be found all in one block. Notice how the styles change from simple, balanced, flat-fronted buildings of the early 19th century to the three-dimensional, turreted and bay-fronted models of the late 19th century.

WASHINGTON BRICK – P St. between 33rd and 34th Sts.

The earliest settlers discovered an abundance of good clays in this area which made brick the natural building material to use for homes – and also for shops, public buildings, sidewalks, gutters, and even streets.

GEORGETOWN VISITATION CONVENT – 35th and P Sts., northwest corner

The robust academy building of the Georgetown Visitation Convent, seen up 35th street, with its mansard roof and scrolled brackets is a Georgetown favorite. It was built in 1873 by Norris Starkweather. The Convent was founded in 1821 and was the first Catholic school for girls in the U.S.

THE NINE FRIDAYS – 37th between P and O Sts., south side

Across from the Georgetown University campus are the nine Zepp Row Houses. It is rumored that they were dubbed the “Nine Fridays” by Georgetown students filing past them on their way to early mass on the first Friday of each of the nine school months.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY – 37th and O Sts., west side

Georgetown College, the country’s oldest Catholic university, opened its doors in 1791. The founders were Jesuit priests led by John Carroll, first bishop of the American Catholic Church, whose statue you can see on the lawn. The school’s architecture reflects its history. The brick North Building dates from 1792. Healy Hall with its landmark spires was built in 1879 by Smithmeyer and Pelz, the same architects who designed the Library of Congress. The striking new library by John Carl Warnecke Associates gives the campus a contemporary landmark.

IRISH HOUSING – 37th and N St. Vicinity

In order to be close to Catholic schools and churches, Irish artisans and laborers erected many of the houses in this area in the 19th century. These small, renovated houses illustrate the changes in Georgetown in this century. Built for people of modest means, many now house doctors and lawyers.

PROSPECT HOUSE – 3508 Prospect St., on right

Prospect House, built ca. 1790, has been the home of Revolutionary patriots, wealthy merchants, and naval officers, including the first Secretary of Defense James Forrestal. It has also served as the official government guest house for foreign dignitaries. The house’s first owner, General James Lingan, a colorful Revolutionary War officer, met a tragic end. He was stoned to death by a Baltimore mob after the newspaper he owned opposed war with Britain in 1812.

LIVING OVER THE STORE – 1311 35th St., on right

Small businessmen often lived above their shops. This blue frame house is an example of such a dual purpose building. Since its construction in 1805-8, it has been owned by a butcher, painter, shoemaker, and photographer, among others.

AN OLD SALOON – 1331 35th St., on right

This pink building was built by Jeremiah Sullivan in 1891. Its decorative metal bay window is an unusual architectural feature for Georgetown. The Sullivan Building was a commercial structure – originally a saloon – until its recent conversion to apartments.

METROPOLITAN STREET CAR TRACKS – 3400 Block of O St.

The tracks along this street were laid by the Metropolitan Railroad which was authorized in 1895 to run an electric street car along the route this bus now takes. Although most trolley tracks have vanished from city streets, their influence remains since many D.C. bus routes still follow old trolley lines.

A MAY–DECEMBER WEDDING – 3322 O St. on right

The large, brick Bodisco House with beautiful fanlight and graceful double stairways is noted for its romantic history as well as its architecture. At a Christmas party he gave for his young nephews in 1838, Baron Alexander de Bodisco, Imperial Russian Minister to the U.S., met and fell in love with 16-year old Harriet Williams. Despite the difference in their ages (he was 62) and the opposition of her family, they were married the next June. Among the wedding guests were President Van Buren and Daniel Webster.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH – southeast corner, Potomac and O Sts.

Consecrated in 1809, St. John's housed the second Episcopal parish in the city. The congregation got off to a rocky start, first going bankrupt and then losing its building. But they were able to buy it back, and the various additions and alterations reflect the growth of the church over many years.

A BUMPY ROAD – O St. below Potomac

The bumps you've been feeling are compliments of a durable paving material. The street is paved with 4 1/4" x 8 1/2" granite blocks set in soil – an improvement on cobblestones and virtually indestructible.

DUMBARTON METHODIST CHURCH – 3133 Dumbarton, on left

The Dumbarton Methodist Church was built in 1849, but its tan brick and stone Romanesque facade was not added until 1898. The church was used as a Union hospital during the Civil War and the poet Walt Whitman nursed wounded soldiers here.

A DINNER GUEST WHO CAME AND STAYED – 3123 Dumbarton, on left

This big Federal style house had one particularly interesting inhabitant. A spinster from Philadelphia came for dinner, was prevailed upon by the children of the family to prolong her stay, and remained until her death 40 years later.

RENTAL HOUSING – northwest corner, 30th St. and Dumbarton

In other neighborhoods on this bus route, we see long rows of similar houses built by a single developer. This is less common in Georgetown where most houses are different from their neighbors. An exception is this row of small red brick houses, erected in the mid-19th century as rental housing. The detailing of their porches, window hoods, and prominent cornice are all characteristic of that period.

MT. ZION METHODIST CHURCH – left up 29th St.

Looking left up 29th Street you can see the Mt. Zion Methodist Church, reportedly the oldest Black church in the District. It was organized in 1814 by a group of slaves who formed their own congregation. Mt. Zion was an important stop on the Underground Railroad. Church records contain cryptic references to members who fled to freedom.

OLD STREET NAMES – 28th St. and Dumbarton

Dumbarton Street retains its original name. Most other Georgetown street names were changed to conform to Washington's number and letter system. Montgomery, Greene, and Washington Streets, named for Revolutionary generals, are now 28th, 29th, and 30th. Charming nomenclature such as Gay Street and Duck Lane has been lost to efficiency.