



# Newsletter

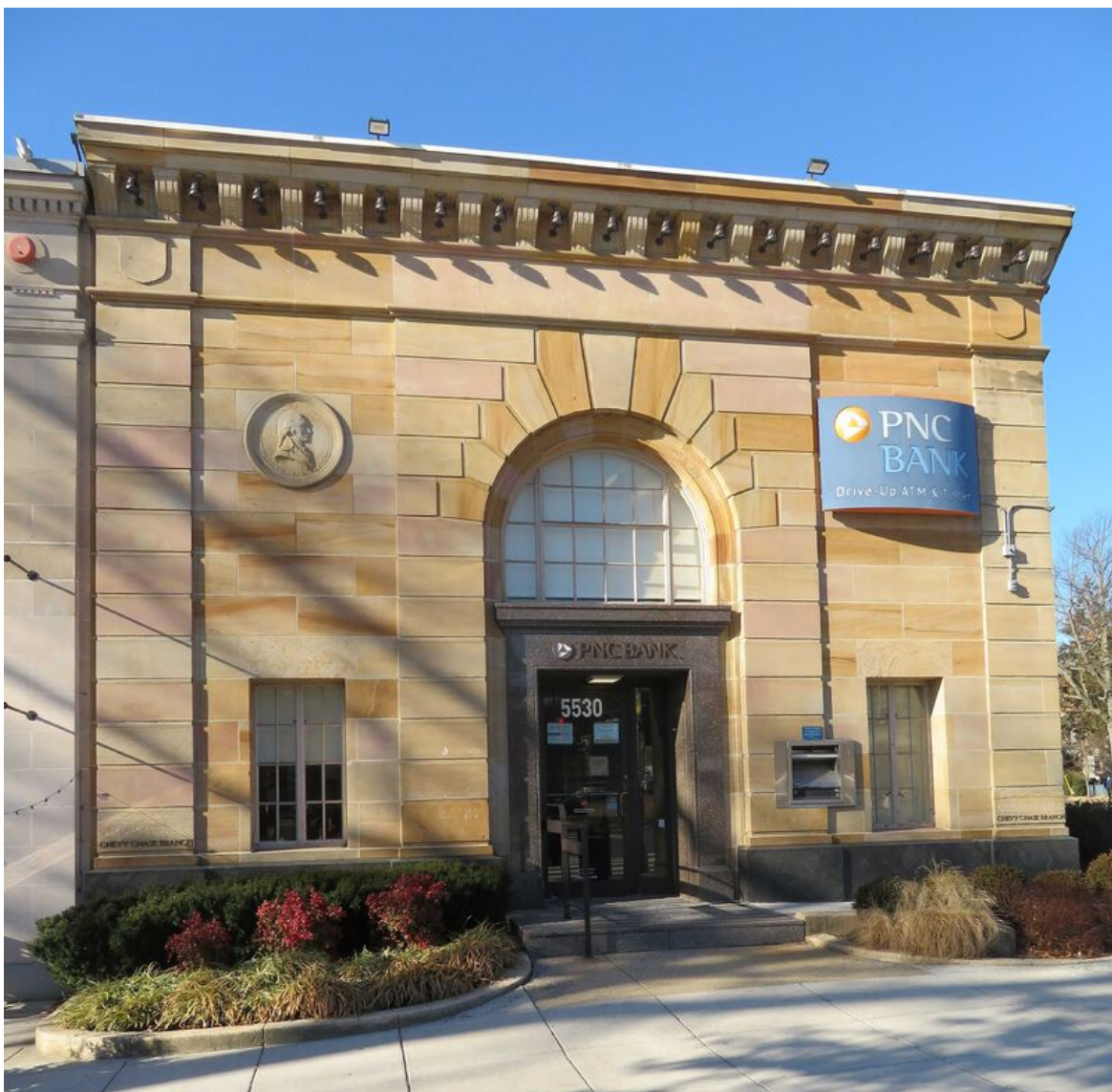
## March 2023

Support Free Educational Programming, Donate Today!



This March, the DC Preservation League will be highlighting the loss of historic buildings in the District using James M. Goode's book *Capital Losses: A Cultural History of Washington's Destroyed Buildings* as a guide. A longtime DCPL member, Mr. Goode passed away on December 12th, 2019 at 80 years old. This month's programs are sponsored by Amy Ballard, a member of DC's Board of Trustees, in memoriam of his life.

### Historic Landmark Update: Chevy Chase Savings Bank



On January 26, 2023, the [Chevy Chase Savings Bank](#), located at 5530 Connecticut Avenue NW (at Morrison Street), was designated a historic landmark by the HPRB and added to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. The building is significant for both its history and architecture. The [nomination](#) was submitted by DCPL and [Historic Chevy Chase DC](#). Since the HPRB designation, the nomination has been forwarded to the National Register of Historic Places for inclusion.

The Chevy Chase Savings Bank building was constructed in 1926, and quickly became an important anchor of the Chevy Chase commercial strip along Connecticut Avenue. The neighborhood savings bank was designed by Arthur B. Heaton in an Italian Renaissance Revival style, and is the only surviving bank of two that he designed in this particular style. The building, with its sandstone and granite exterior, features medallions of Pierre L'Enfant, George Washington, and the 1920s Peace Dollar (both the obverse and reverse). Only two of the medallions are visible today, due to the addition of modern signage.

In the early days of the Great Depression, the bank became a branch of Riggs National Bank. The bank building was expanded in 1958, which added three additional bays to the western portion of the bank building, forming an arcade of six arched windows along Morrison Street. The architectural firm, Mills, Petticord, and Mills, matched the exterior of the addition to the original designed by Heaton. Christian Wohlgemuth, Jr., constructed both the original building and the addition. It continued as a Riggs Bank branch until 2005, when Riggs was sold to PNC Bank. **Click below for more history about this new DC landmark!**

[Chevy Chase Savings Bank](#)

## DCPL Testifies at the DC Council's 2023 Performance Oversight Hearings



Vacant since 2008, the DC Recorder of Deeds Building has been suffering from extreme neglect on the part of the DC Government. It was referenced in testimony before the DC Council and is listed on DCPL's Most Endangered Places List.

In February, DCPL's Executive Director Rebecca Miller testified at the DC Council's 2023 Performance Oversight Hearings. [On February 15th she testified about the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development's \(DMPED\) failure to maintain its properties.](#) She highlighted the recent fire in December 2022 that completely destroyed the [Saint Elizabeths Dry Barn](#), constructed in 1884 and one of the few remnants of the



District's agricultural history, as well as the continued deterioration of [John Fox Slater School](#), [John Mercer Langston School](#), and [Anne Archbold Hall](#). In closing, her testimony addressed recent proposals to amend the **Height of Buildings Act**.

[Testimony on February 23rd addressed various issues related to the Office of Planning and Department of Buildings](#), including how the Historic Preservation Office is underfunded, the lack of enforcement through the Department of Buildings, the need for an expanded Historic Homeowner Grant Program, and Vacancies at the HPRB.

[Testimony on February 28th focused on the Department of General Services and reiterated the DC Government's failure to preserve and maintain historic landmarks under its ownership](#), including the [DC Recorder of Deeds Building](#), which includes murals and is one of a limited number of landmarks with an interior designation.

[Click Here to Read DCPL's Testimony](#)

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## DC Historic Districts Coalition Testifies at Performance Oversight Hearings

Scott Roberts of the [DC Historic Districts Coalition](#) also provided testimony at the February 23rd hearing for the Office of Planning. DC HDC testimony focused on **five main themes**:

- The need for increased and consistent enforcement of design guidelines in the city's neighborhood historic districts
- The need for a user-friendly update to the design guidelines
- The need for a modernized and user-friendly HPO website
- An expansion of, and increased funding for, the [Historic Homeowner Grant Program](#)
- Better integration of the Office of Planning's Small Area Plans and preservation planning

[Click Here to Read DC HDC's Testimony](#)

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## "Carrying the Spirit Forward" Capital Losses Panel Discussion (Webinar, Free)

Tuesday, March 28th, 12:00pm - 1:15 pm EDT



Image of the Hay-Adams Houses. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

"Carrying the Spirit Forward" - the last updated edition of *Capital Losses* was published in 2003. If a new and expanded version appeared tomorrow, what lost buildings should it include? Join the DC Preservation League for a panel discussion about DC's lost buildings and their ongoing legacy. Hear from four local historians and preservationists — Peter Sefton, Sally Berk, Dr. Cindy Gueli, and Linda Lyons — who will provide detailed stories about four different demolitions featured in James M. Goode's *Capital Losses: A Cultural History of Washington's Destroyed Buildings*. Bring your questions about preservation, demolition, and DC's changing landscape!

*This virtual program is free and open to the public. It will also be streamed live to [DCPL's Facebook page](#) and uploaded to our [YouTube page](#) after the event.*

[Register Here](#)

**Attention Historic Property Owners and Businesses with Historic Preservation Expertise!**





Did you know that DCPL hosts an online [Contractor Database](#) that highlights more than 50 businesses offering services related to historic preservation? **Homeowners:** you can find help for property upkeep like: brick and stone masonry restoration; roofing repairs; window and door restoration; and more. **Businesses:** you can use this database for free marketing!

DCPL accepts applications from businesses on a rolling basis. Click below to view the directory or to submit an application for your company. ***Please note:*** inclusion of a company in the directory *does not* constitute endorsement by either DCPL or the DC Historic Preservation Office. Questions? Email [kelli@dcpreservation.org](mailto:kelli@dcpreservation.org)

[Contractor Database](#)

[Application Form](#)

## Bus Tours at DC Historic Sites



G2 Metrobus at Anna J. Cooper Circle NW in 1976. Photo from DCPL Archives.



In 1976 and 1977, [Don't Tear It Down](#) created tour guides and programming based on the G2, S2, and S4 Metrobus routes. Over 40-years later, in a nod to this innovative, early programming and educational content, DCPL created a series of contemporary bus tours on the [DC Historic Sites website and mobile phone app](#), taking this tour concept from a paper brochure to the internet and smart phones. Now, DCPL has once again revised these tours, with new introductions and tour stops! See the following tour list, download the app, and follow along next time you're on the bus.

- [Riding the 32/36? \(From Southern Avenue/Naylor Road to Foggy Bottom\)](#)
- [Riding the 50s? \(From Takoma Park Historic District to Metro Center/Federal Triangle\)](#)
- [Riding the 70s? \(From Silver Spring to Archives/L'Enfant Plaza\)](#)
- [Riding the 90? \(From Anacostia Historic District to Duke Ellington Bridge/Rock Creek Park\)](#)
- [Riding the 96? \(From Capitol Heights to Tenleytown\)](#)
- [Riding the S2/S9? \(From Piney Branch to Lafayette Square\)](#)
- [Riding the X2? \(From Minnesota Avenue to Lafayette Square\)](#)

Let DCPL know if there is a bus route that you would like highlighted in a future tour (contact: [info@dcpreservation.org](mailto:info@dcpreservation.org)).

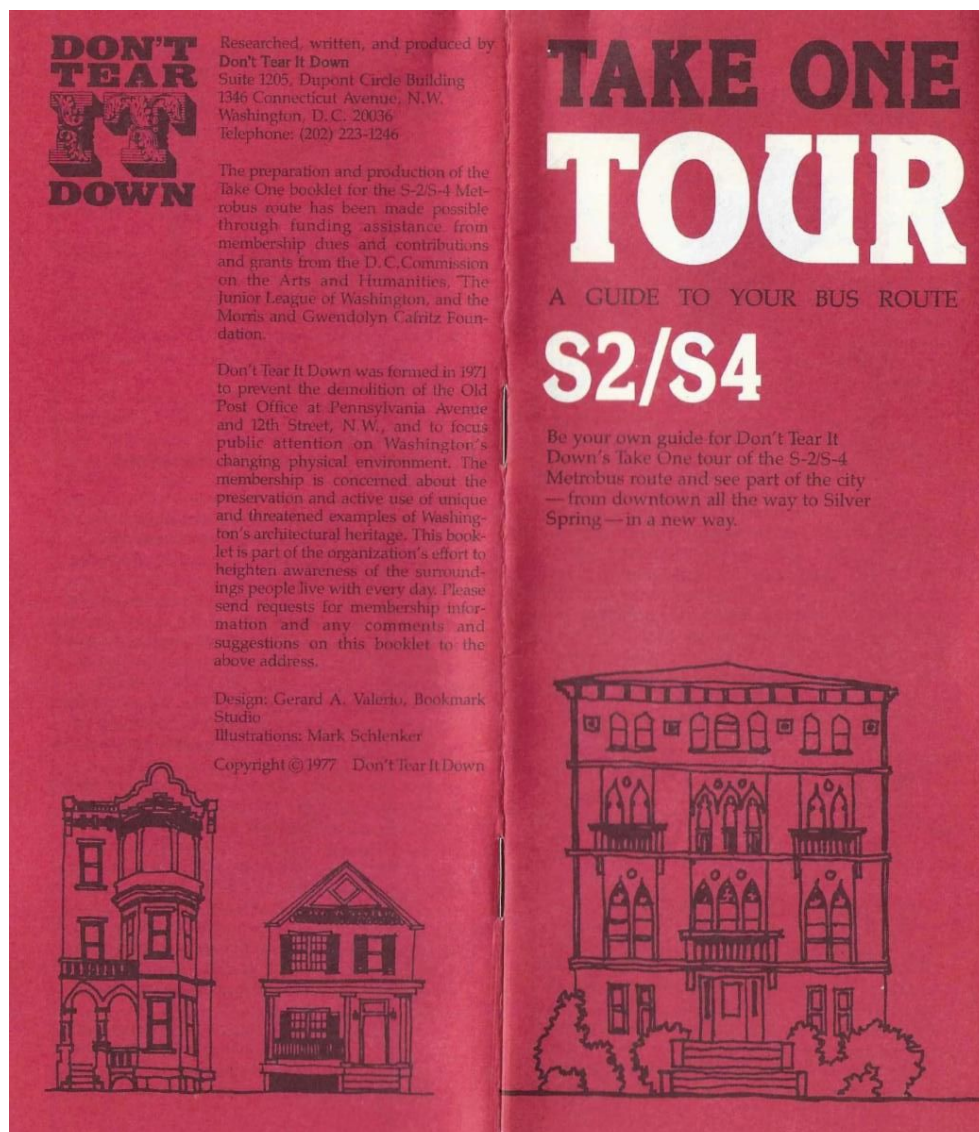


Image of the 1977 "Take One Tour: A Guide To Your Bus Route" brochure for the S2/S4 Metrobus routes. Over 40-years later, DC Historic Sites includes a tour based on the current S2 and S9 Metrobus routes.

## Mark Your Calendars!

- Friday, July 14th – DC Realtor Seminar
- Thursday, September 21st – DCPL Annual Fundraiser
- Tuesday, November 14th – DC Preservation Awards

Register Today: DC History Conference, March 23 - 25, 2023



[Click Here to Register](#)

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