



Newsletter

May 2023

Support Free Educational Programming, Donate Today!

DCPL Annual Membership Meeting & Reception

Thursday, May 18th | 6:30 - 8:30 pm



Register Here

Rebecca Miller Celebrates 20 Years with DC Preservation League!



The DC Preservation League's Board of Trustees and staff would like to take this opportunity to recognize Executive Director Rebecca Miller, who this month celebrates 20 years with the organization! Over the course of the last two decades, Rebecca has guided DCPL through a range of economic circumstances as a tireless advocate for preserving and protecting DC's history, architecture, and culture. She is a recognized leader in historic preservation, both locally and nationally, and plays an instrumental role in helping shape the District's built environment. Please take a moment to send Rebecca your best wishes by email at rebecca@dcpreservation.org.

Update to DCPL's Most Endangered Places List



Beginning in 1996, the DC Preservation League has announced a list of Most Endangered Places to draw attention to Washington, DC’s, historically, culturally, and architecturally significant places that may be threatened with ill-advised alteration or demolition through neglect or abandonment. The formerly annual list is now a single ongoing compilation of threatened structures in Washington.

DCPL solicits nominations for its ongoing list from individuals and organizations. DCPL’s Landmarks Committee evaluates the nominations and advises the Board of Trustees on their inclusion on the list. In many cases, a task force is created to raise awareness and develop possible preservation solutions for the endangered resource.



Barry Farm Dwellings

1100-63 Stevens Road SE
Date of Construction: 1942-43
Designed and Constructed by the DC Alley Dwelling Authority

[DC Inventory: 2020](#)

Barry Farm Dwellings was a formerly segregated, World War II-era public housing complex in Southeast Washington built on land owned and occupied by Washington’s African American community since the 1860s. Among Barry Farm’s residents were the plaintiffs from the *Bolling v. Sharpe* school desegregation case and leaders in the 1960s welfare rights movement, including Etta Horn. The five remaining buildings of the original development were designated a DC historic landmark in 2020, and the [DC Legacy Project](#) is actively seeking to convert them to a commemorative space and cultural center. Despite their designation, the five buildings are in a state of severe deterioration, with no formal commitment having been made to their rehabilitation. (Photo courtesy of Amber Wiley)



General Officer Quarters, Fort McNair

4th & P streets SW
Date of Construction: 1905-06
Architect: McKim, Mead, & White

[Within Fort McNair Historic District \(DC Inventory: 1964 and National Register: 1978\)](#)

Fifteen grand, Colonial Revival-style houses are arranged along the main quadrangle of Fort McNair, framing the vista to the War College Building at the southern end. They form an integral part of the 1903 Beaux-Arts plan for Fort McNair developed by the celebrated firm of McKim, Mead, & White. However, despite the historic preservation procedures for federal undertakings established in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), three of the 15 General Officer Quarters are slated to be demolished. The [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023](#), signed by President Biden on December 23, 2022, includes the following language, which appears to override the requirements of the NHPA: “Not later than one year after the date on which all the individuals occupying District of Columbia Fort McNair Quarters 4, 13, and 15, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, have moved out of such Quarters, the Secretary of the Army shall demolish such Quarters.” This legislative language not only threatens these three buildings but also upends the procedural due process and community input established by the NHPA. (Image courtesy of Google Maps)



Grant Building, U.S. Soldiers Home

3700 North Capitol Street NW
Date of Construction: 1912
Architect: Baldwin & Pennington

[Contributing Structure within Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District \(DC Inventory: 2008 and National Register: 2007\) and US Soldier’s Home National Historic Site \(DC Inventory: 1979, National Register: 1974, and National Historic Landmark, 1973\)](#)

Although the Grant Building is within a National Register-listed historic district, this eclectic, Renaissance Revival-style building is threatened with demolition. Originally used as a mess hall, barracks for retirees, and recreation center, the building features a projecting center bay marked on the first story by a unique, arcade-like entry of tapered Corinthian columns beneath semi-circular Romanesque arches. Almost 90 years after its construction, the Grant Building was mothballed in 1998. The most recent [American Forces Retirement Home Strategic Plan, from December 2022](#), states: “Razing the Grant Building may be the best option for the future of the Home.” (Image courtesy of Google Maps)

To learn more about these properties and other places on the Most Endangered Places list, please join DCPL for a free webinar on Wednesday, May 17th from 12:00 - 1:00 pm!

Register for Most Endangered Places Webinar

Click Here to See the Full List

Request for Proposals: Black Women’s Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC

Proposals due by 11:59 pm on Monday, May 22nd



In 2022, DCPL was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service to help underwrite development of a Historic Context Statement on the Black Women’s Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC. This study builds upon DCPL’s recent projects that document Women’s Suffrage Sites in DC and sites that played a critical role in African American history in DC.

This project will catalyze nominations to both the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the

National Register of Historic Places. DCPL seeks proposals from qualified consultants interested in undertaking research to identify themes, establish associated property types, and create a preliminary inventory of significant historic resources associated with the Black Women’s Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC. The selected consultant will: produce a Historic Context Statement to thematically address the Black Women’s Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC; produce two new, individual landmark nominations for submission to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places related to the Context; and present the Context and nominations to the DC Historic Preservation Review Board.

For more information about submitting a proposal, please see the document linked below. [Proposals are due by 11:59 pm on Monday, May 22nd.](#)

Proposal Information

"Big Green" Site Visit
(In-Person, Free) Begins at 1220 Maple View Place SE

Saturday, May 20th, 11:00 AM EDT



Image of "Big Green" courtesy of [The L'Enfant Trust](#).

The tour will primarily feature "Big Green," [The L'Enfant Trust's Historic Properties Redevelopment Program's \(HPRP\)](#) upcoming historic rehabilitation of a severely distressed, long-vacant Queen Anne home built in 1902 and located in the [Anacostia Historic District](#). Once construction is complete, the property will be sold as multi-unit affordable housing. The tour will also showcase 1326 Valley Place SE, one of the Trust's completed HPRP projects in Historic Anacostia that was sold as workforce housing.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited so sign up today!

Register Here

New Tour at DC Historic Sites

Finding Style in DC: Navigating DC's Shopping Scene



Researched and developed by [DCPL's graduate fellow, Fontana Micucci](#), this tour traces DC's retail history, with stops at once popular downtown department stores, including [Garfinckel's](#), [Woodward & Lothrop](#), and [Hecht's](#). The tour then moves to the growing neighborhoods and suburbs, where department store branches and shopping centers were being constructed, particularly in the interwar and postwar years. Examples include [Spring Valley Shopping Center](#) and the former [Sears in Tenleytown](#). The tour also explores three important retail themes: Discrimination and Activism, Marketing and Advertising, and Suburban Movement.

Take the Tour

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