



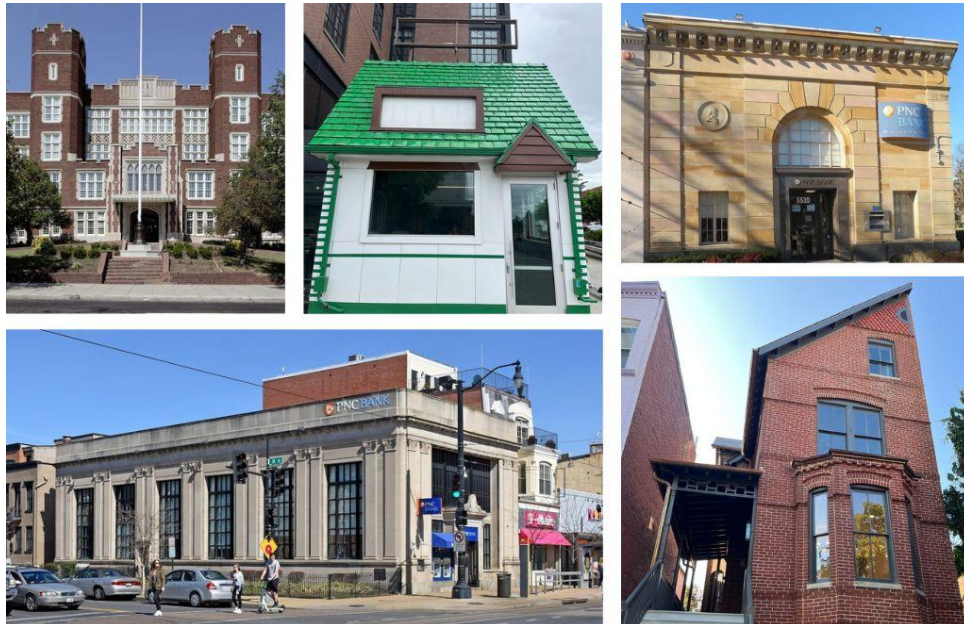
# Newsletter

December 2023

Make a Year-End Gift!

The DC Preservation League is a 501 (c)(3) organization and relies on the generosity of its members, donors, and online followers to meet its financial obligations each year. Please consider a tax-deductible year-end gift!

## 2023 Landmarks in Review



## 2023 IN REVIEW

Clockwise from top left: Eastern High School, Little Tavern Shop No. 27, Chevy Chase Savings Bank, Mary Church Terrell House, and Northeast Savings Bank.

In 2023, five new landmarks and one new historic district were designated in Washington. The DC Preservation League nominated two of these landmarks: Chevy Chase Savings Bank and Northeast Savings Bank. In January, [Chevy Chase Savings Bank](#), co-sponsored with [Historic Chevy Chase DC](#), was designated by HPRB. The bank, designed by Arthur B. Heaton and completed in 1921, has since been added to the National Register. In October, [Northeast Savings Bank](#), co-sponsored with [Capitol Hill Restoration Society](#), was added to the DC Inventory. The bank was designed in a Beaux-Arts style by B. Stanley Simmons and has been an important institution in the H Street NE commercial district since its construction in 1921.

DC Preservation League also drafted and submitted to the National Register additional documentation for the [Mary Church Terrell House](#), a National Historic Landmark in the LeDroit Park Historic District, and the [Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House](#) in the Lafayette Square Historic District. This documentation adds important information related to the *Women's Suffrage Historic Context Study*.

Throughout the year, these other properties were officially added to the DC Inventory: [Smothers Elementary School](#) (March), [US Naval Observatory Historic District](#) (May), [Eastern High School](#) (August), and [Little Tavern Shop No. 27](#) (September). An amendment for an existing historic site was also approved: the Smithsonian's [National Museum of Natural History](#) (January). And this December, the [National Archives Building](#) became DC's 76th National Historic Landmark!

Click Here for More Information

## 2024 Application Open for Preservation Initiatives Grant Program



The [2024 grant application](#) is open now through March 4, 2024. The [Preservation Initiatives Grant Program](#) provides matching grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations for preservation planning, research, outreach/education, and bricks and mortar projects related to historic and cultural sites. These grants are intended to help stimulate public discussion, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, make technical expertise accessible, and encourage partnerships. The

program is administered by the DC Preservation League.

The program is supported by two separate funding sources and is focused on specific areas of the District: [Brightwood Car Barn \(Ward 4\)](#) and [Virginia Avenue Tunnel \(Area of Potential Effects in Southeast Washington\)](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [Zachary Burt, DCPL's Community Outreach and Grants Manager, at zach@dcpreservation.org](#).

2024 Grant Information and Application

Inside the Restoration: The Virginia Mae Center

Monday, December 18th | 12:00 - 1:00 PM EDT  
Zoom Webinar



View of the The Virginia Mae Center. Photo courtesy of SmithGroup.

Join us for an exclusive webinar to explore the remarkable transformation of the [Virginia Mae Center \(VMC\)](#), situated on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral. This historic Neo-Gothic structure, which once housed the College of Preachers dating back to 1929, has undergone a stunning restoration. Discover the fascinating journey of this 27,000-square-foot building that served as dormitories and educational space for religious study for nearly 80 years. With unwavering support from private gifts, the Washington National Cathedral embarked on an ambitious restoration plan [led by SmithGroup](#). This webinar, led by Jim Shepherd (AIA, LEED), will delve into the process of transforming the former college into a contemporary education and retreat center.

Register Here

DC Historic Sites Tour: Historic Banks and Financial Institutions



The National Savings and Trust Company (1888), located at 15th Street and New York Avenue NW, within the Financial Historic District. The bank sits across the intersection from the US Treasury Building. Photo by Zachary Burt.

Financial institutions played an important role in the history of Washington, DC. Banks, building and loan associations, trust companies, and securities all worked in tandem to establish a sound economy in DC. While DC is known as the home of the federal government, its historic financial institutions are also important to the city’s history, as illustrated by its historic landmarks and the [Financial Historic District](#), which stretches along 15th Street NW.

From the beginning, these financial institutions — ranging from the [National Bank of Washington](#) on 7th Street NW, to the [Riggs National Bank](#) across from the White House, and the [Northeast Savings Bank](#) on H Street NE — have shaped DC’s social history. These buildings are also important for their architectural significance, as they were often designed and constructed with the highest standards of the time. These buildings symbolized stability and security to the general public.

This 22-stop tour of banks and financial institutions dives into an important facet of DC history and explores how these buildings shaped their local neighborhoods and the wider city. Also, this tour shows that the city’s banking history was shaped by national and international events, from the Civil War to the Great Depression, and federal institutions, including the [Treasury Department](#) and the [Federal Reserve](#). Today, many

of these buildings continue to serve as banks, while some have been repurposed for new uses, such as restaurants.

[Click Here for the Tour](#)

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DC Preservation League | 641 S Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20001

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