



Newsletter

January 2024

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Old Swedish Ambassador's Residence Added to DC Inventory of Historic Sites



The Old Swedish Ambassador's Residence was designed by Arthur B. Heaton in a Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission style and housed the Swedish Ambassador to the United States from 1950 to 2019. Photo by Zachary Burt.

On December 21, 2023, the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) voted to designate the Old Swedish Ambassador's Residence as a historic landmark. The residence is now listed on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites, and the nomination has been forwarded to the National Register of Historic Places.

The nomination was submitted to the Historic Preservation Office in September 2023 and was co-sponsored by the DC Preservation League and the property owner, Square 1596 Partners LLC. This property, located at 3900 Nebraska Avenue NW, was designed in a Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission style by Arthur B. Heaton and completed in 1924 for David Lawrence, founder and editor of *U.S. News and World Report*. In 1950 the Swedish government purchased the estate and over the next seven decades the residence housed 12 Swedish ambassadors. During these years, the residence was the location of elegant galas and tea parties, attended by celebrities, politicians, and royal guests, as well as some controversies.

The new owner is planning to renovate and expand the building, and at the same December 2023 HPRB hearing received approval of the concept, with some modifications.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

DCPL Remembers Mark Andrich




Mark Andrich (1952-1995) was an architectural historian who volunteered his services to conduct historic site surveys and to research numerous buildings as part of DCPL's ongoing documentation of Washington's apartment buildings, banks, and office buildings. Following his passing in 1995, his wife and friends established the *Andrich Fund* to memorialize Mark and to help underwrite DCPL's work documenting historic buildings and places, as well as in securing their designations as landmarks and historic districts. This work is critical to DCPL's mission and also requires financial support. Please consider donating to the Andrich Fund this year!

[Donate to the Andrich Fund](#)

Save the Date...
for a Leap Day Party Benefiting...
DC Preservation League

Thursday, February 29, 2024 | 6:30-9:00 PM
PEPCO Building, 999 E Street, NW

More info coming soon!


dcpreservation.org

[Click Here to Sponsor the Fundraiser](#)

James W. Shepherd, AIA, LEED, Joins DC Preservation League's Board of Trustees

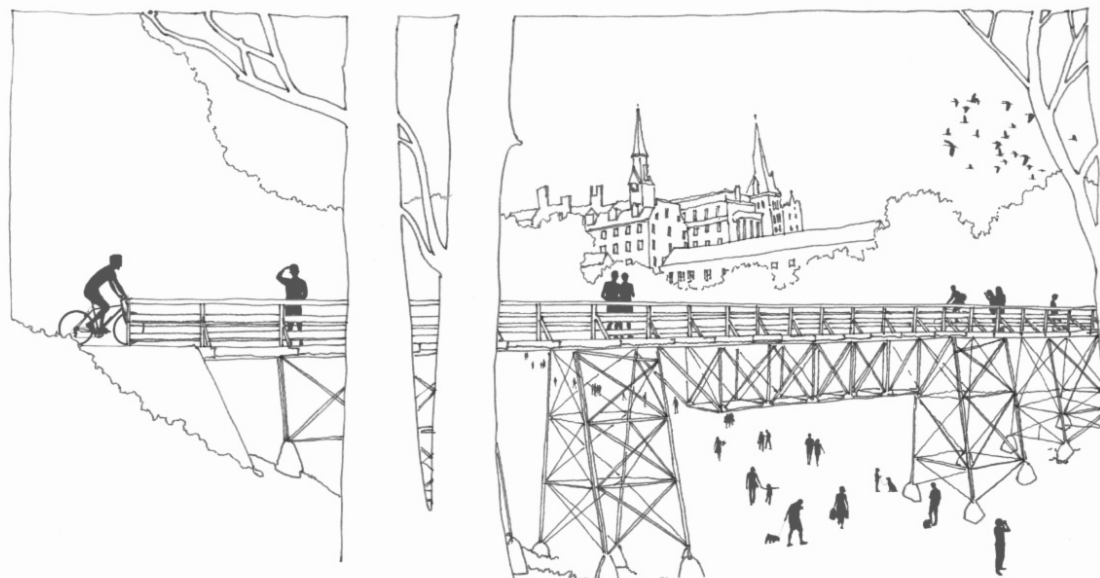


James W. Shepherd, AIA, LEED, Principal - Director of Historic Preservation at [SmithGroup](#), has joined the DC Preservation League's Board of Trustees.

With over 30 years of experience both in New York and Washington, DC, Jim has directed historic preservation projects of national significance for clients that include the National Park Service, the Department of State, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Smithsonian Institution. As a senior historic preservation architect, he leads SmithGroup's historic preservation specialty across all 19 offices. Prior to joining SmithGroup, he served as the Director of Preservation and Facilities for Washington National Cathedral for seven years. In this role, Jim oversaw repairs to this landmark facility following the 2011 5.8 magnitude East Coast earthquake and he stewarded all historic buildings on the 57-acre Cathedral campus. He also authored a book titled "The Day the Earth Shook" that chronicled these repair efforts.

Jim has been an active member of the DC Preservation League for over a decade and is currently serving on the Project Review Committee.

Sign the Petition to Save the Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle



Drawing of the trestle's potential as a pedestrian and bicycle path. BELL Architects, PC.

Join the DC Preservation League, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 2E and 3D, Georgetown University students, neighborhood residents, and others in asking Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to take ownership of the historic trolley trestle from WMATA and to fund its rehabilitation into a safe walking and biking alternative to the dangerous conditions on Canal Road. This action will also prevent the demolition of one of Washington, DC's Most Endangered Places.

Transferred to WMATA in a court settlement in the 1990s, the only extant trolley trestle in the District is in a severe state of decay due to a lack of maintenance by the transit agency. Despite studies on utilizing the trestle as a pedestrian and bicycle connection between Foxhall Road and Georgetown, WMATA is seeking to demolish the historic structure. DCPL is fighting the city's decision to approve the raze permit but has exhausted all legal options.

[Click Here to Sign the Petition](#)

[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 \(Area of Potential Effects in Southeast Washington\)](#).

To learn more about the grant program, please consider attending an upcoming workshop on [Tuesday, January 23rd at 12 pm \(register here\)](#) or [Tuesday, February 6th at 7 pm \(register here\)](#).

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

Understanding & Maintaining Historic Windows (Webinar)

Wednesday, January 31st, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EDT
Virtual, Zoom



Image of a plant in front of a window, courtesy of creative commons.

Windows are one of the key features of a historic building, but they can be complicated to fully understand. Adding to this complexity is the surprising fact that many windows are not actually historic - even those found on buildings within historic districts. This webinar, presented by John Sandor, will help attendees differentiate between historic and non-historic windows, and why this matters. The session will also provide useful information for homeowners who have to decide between repairs or replacement, as

well as energy efficient options.

This program is free and open to the public. Please register online to participate.

[Register Here](#)

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