



Newsletter

August 2024

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Landmarks Update: Old Korean Legation



Looking north from Logan Circle towards the Old Korean Legation Museum at 1500 13th Street NW/15 Logan Circle.
Photo by Kim Prothro Williams (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form).

On July 25, 2024, the Historic Preservation Review Board designated the [Old Korean Legation \(1500 13th Street NW/15 Logan Circle\)](#) as a historic landmark. The former legation building now houses the [Old Korean Legation Museum](#) and is owned by the Republic of Korea. The nomination is a result of the *Korean Americans in Washington, DC: A Historic Context Study*, which is being finalized and will soon be available to the public. The landmark nomination was submitted to the Historic Preservation Office earlier this year by the DC Preservation League (DCPL).

The Old Korean Legation was initially a private residence designed by Thomas M. Plowman in the Second Empire style and constructed by Joseph Williams in 1877. The United States and Korea established formal diplomatic relations shortly thereafter, in 1882, with Korea sending its first permanent diplomatic envoy, Park Jeong-yang (Pak Chung Yang), to Washington five years later. Korea's presence in a growing, international city furthered its assertion of sovereign status, separate from China. After a short stint at a property that is no longer standing (located at 1513 O Street NW), the Korean Legation moved into the former Phelps Residence in 1889. Korea purchased the property two years later.

At the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese War (1894-95), Korea's sovereignty from China was recognized. However, Korea soon found itself in the middle of Russian and Japanese conflict, which culminated in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05). Following Japan's victory, a treaty was forced on Korea in 1905, resulting in the closure of the Korean Legation that same year. By 1910, Japan had annexed Korea. That year, a Japanese minister sold the former legation building to a private American citizen. Over the following years, the closed legation inspired independence activists and the wider Korean diaspora.

After serving as a private residence, the building housed the Local 639 (Teamsters Union) headquarters and then served as an office for the National Council of Negro Women. Between 1977 and 2012, it was, once again, a private residence, at which time the Republic of Korea purchased the former legation - 107 years after its closure. From 2015 to 2018, Korea's Cultural Heritage Administration restored the property to its 1889 to 1905 appearance.

[Learn More About the Old Korean Legation](#)

DC Historic Sites Tours: Postwar Modernism and Abstract Sculptures



Photo of *Heroic Shore Points* (1977) by James Rosati, an abstract sculpture located in the Humphrey Building's plaza.
Photo by Carol M. Highsmith (courtesy of Library of Congress).

The [Hubert H. Humphrey Building \(200 Independence Avenue SW\)](#), nominated by the General Services Administration (GSA), was added to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites by the Historic Preservation Review Board on July 25, 2024.

The Humphrey Building, completed in 1976, exemplifies Brutalist architecture, which is known for its use of exposed, rough concrete surfaces, heavy massing, and recessed windows. Designed and constructed over a ten-year period, the Humphrey Building was designed by Marcel Breuer and Associates – with master architect Marcel Breuer as the building's Principal Architect and Herbert Beckhard as Senior Partner – and Nolen-Swinburne and Associates. The two firms also collaborated on the nearby [Department of Housing and Urban Development \(Robert C. Weaver Federal Building\)](#) (1968). This building, and other Modernist buildings, is featured at DC Historic Sites on the [Postwar Modernism in Washington, DC](#) tour.

In addition to the Brutalist architecture, passersby will also notice the large, red aluminum sculpture in the granite plaza out front. [Heroic Shore Points](#) (1977) by James Rosati was commissioned by GSA through the [Art in Architecture Program](#), which brings public art to federal properties. This sculpture is featured at DC Historic Sites on the [Abstract Sculptures of DC](#) tour. Click below to learn more about this and other abstract sculptures in DC.

Postwar Modernism in Washington, DC
Tour

Abstract Sculptures of DC Tour

Folger Shakespeare Library Tour (Members Only)

Sunday, August 25th | 10:00 - 11:00 am EDT



Exterior of the Folger Shakespeare Library, courtesy of Alan Karchmer.

Join the DC Preservation League for a unique opportunity to tour the historic [Folger Shakespeare Library](#) on Capitol Hill. The tour will be led by Amanda Edwards, Associate Principal and Architectural Conservator at [MTFA Design + Preservation](#), Emily Eig, Architectural Historian and President/CEO of [EHT Traceries, Inc.](#), and Ruth Taylor Kidd, CFO of the Folger Shakespeare Library, who oversaw the renovation. The tour will include visits to the building's historic spaces including the Theater, the Great Hall, the Reading Room and the Founders Room. Guests will be able to visit the new Pavilion on their own immediately following the tour.

The Folger Shakespeare Library, designed by Paul Philippe Cret, was dedicated in 1932 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Folger is an extraordinary building, an American monument to another country's national hero in the heart of Capitol Hill. Its modernized classical exterior and English Renaissance interior (the contrasting styles are lovingly referred to as "Tudor-deco") earned it a place on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. This designation was expanded in 2018 to include the original interior of the building. The Folger recently reopened after a four year, \$80.5 million renovation that has made the historic building accessible and added a new public wing, the Adams Pavilion, with 12,000 square feet of public space. The expansion houses two new

exhibition halls that will offer visitors opportunities to engage directly with the Folger's world-class collection, including its 82 copies of Shakespeare's First Folio which will be displayed together to the public for the first time. Accessible garden entrances and visitor lobbies, a café, a new learning lab and collaborative research spaces, and an expanded gift shop are among the visitor amenities and building enhancements added during the four-year construction project.

[Register Here](#)



Join the DC Preservation League and the [Capital Pride Alliance](#) for their annual Crab Feast at the historic [Washington Canoe Club](#), one of DC's most picturesque locations on the banks of the beautiful Potomac River.

This event takes place entirely outdoors, with canoes and paddle boards available for adventures on the water.

Tickets: \$75 for ages 13+; \$25 for kids 12 and under.

Includes: all-you-can eat crabs, shrimp, corn on the cob, hot dogs, and ice cream + beer, wine, soda, and water available. Limited seating available.

[Get Your Tickets Today!](#)



The Washington, DC Chapter of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT DC) has opened registration for its [Fall 2024 Symposium](#) on Friday, September 20th at the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington. This year's theme is *Monuments and Memorials*.

Throughout the Chapter's region, which encompasses Washington, DC; Virginia; Maryland; West Virginia; and parts of Delaware, hundreds of monuments and memorials have been erected to commemorate iconic and influential people and events that have shaped the cultural identity of the region and country. Further, our buildings become monuments themselves when they become engrained in our cultural heritage. Through eight paper sessions and two walking tours, the symposium will focus on the preservation and

stewardship of these monuments and memorials and demonstrate how preservation is able to contribute to the protection, promotion, and reflection on these testaments to collective history and identity.

6.0 LU|HSW AIA CES credits will be available (5.0 for the presentation sessions and 1.0 for the walking tour). Please include your AIA number at time of registration.

[Click Here to Learn More and Register](#)

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



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