



# Newsletter

November 2025

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## Advocacy Update

DC Preservation League Files Lawsuit to Halt Ill-Advised Alteration to Eisenhower Executive Office Building



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs; Carol Highsmith Collection.

On November 14, 2025, the [DC Preservation League](#), and [Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC](#) (“CHP”), an international law firm dedicated to protecting historic places and cultural heritage, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia seeking an emergency injunction to prevent any federal action to alter the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (“EEOB”) until the Administration complies with the procedural requirements of federal preservation and environmental law.

The complaint can be read in full [here](#).

EEOB was built as [The State, War, and Navy Building](#) between 1871 and 1888, based on designs by architect Alfred B. Mullett, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971. The building is sited within the [Lafayette Square Historic District](#), the [Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site](#), and within the locally designated [Financial Historic District](#). Any ill-advised alteration will have a lasting impact on the historic integrity of the EEOB and the character of the surrounding historic resources.

Read the full press release on the [Cultural Heritage Partners Website](#).

DCPL will continue to keep the public updated as this process moves forward.

Press: [Preservationists Sue Trump over plans to paint Eisenhower building, - The Washington Post, November 14, 2025](#)

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## Landmarks Update

Holy Name College and James Sherwood Farmhouse  
1400 Shepherd Street NE



On October 30, 2025, the Historic Preservation Review Board designated Holy Name College and James Sherwood Farmhouse, located at 1400 Shepherd Street NE, as a historic landmark listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. This nomination was submitted by the DC Preservation League in November 2015, and authored by longtime DCPL Landmarks Committee volunteer Hayden Wetzel (1950-2023).

This property in Brookland includes the Queen Anne style Sherwood Farmhouse, completed in 1886, and the Romanesque Revival/Art Deco style Holy Name College, designed by Buffalo, NY, architect Chester Oakley and completed for the Franciscan Holy Name Province in 1930. The farmhouse represents the agricultural landscape of then-Washington County, while the college building illustrates the area's transformation to residential subdivisions and institutions related to The Catholic University of America. At the time of Holy Name College's construction, the Sherwood Farmhouse was moved to its current location, just south of the college building, where it was reoriented and renovated.

In 1984, Howard University purchased the property and then made some alterations to the historic buildings, most notably infilling the enclosed cloister of the former Holy Name College building. The former Holy Name College building was rededicated as Benjamin E. Mays Hall in 1987. Mays was the first dean of Howard University’s School of Religion. From the mid-1980s until 2015, the buildings housed the university’s School of Divinity. DCPL appreciates Howard University's support of the nomination!

Read More  
Here

Preservation Tour: President Lincoln's Cottage

Saturday, November 22 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM ET  
In Person | 140 Rock Creek Church Rd NW



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs; Carol Highsmith Collection.

Please join the DC Preservation League for a special preservation-focused tour of [President Lincoln's Cottage](#), led by Director of Preservation Jeffrey Larry.

What you can expect on this tour:

- 1. An overview of the architectural history of Lincoln’s Cottage, particularly its place as an early and intact example of Gothic Revival Style architecture;
- 2. A brief history of the Soldiers’ Home and the Cottage's place in that history;
- 3. A walkthrough of the Cottage interior spaces to discuss the initial restoration and ongoing preservation efforts, including the recent discovery of 1840s decorative painting that was a reproduction of a wall painting found at Pompeii; and
- 4. A behind the scenes opportunity to explore spaces not on the regular tour including the basement and attic.

This is an indoor/outdoor event, with some walking planned, so please wear appropriate outerwear and shoes.

DCPL Member Tickets are \$15 | Non-Member Tickets \$25

Cancellations/Refunds: Requests for refunds will only be considered more than 5 days prior to the event, and transaction fees will be subtracted from the refund total. Cancellations 5 days or less from the event will not be refunded, but the ticket cost can be converted to a tax-deductible donation.

Register Here

Civil War Washington Webinar



Interior of Ford's Theatre. Photo courtesy of Ford's Theatre.

This November, the DC Preservation League has been exploring historic sites and stories associated with DC’s civil war history. If you’re interested in this topic, now is a good time to watch (or rewatch) last year's webinar on *Civil War Washington*, presented by Jake Flack, Deputy Director of Education at [Ford’s Theatre](#). This popular presentation features 19th Century maps and photographs of Washington and explores connections and legacies between then and today.



Click below to watch the webinar on DCPL's YouTube channel.

Watch Webinar

Join the National Preservation Lawyers Network



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation  
**National Preservation  
Lawyers Network**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has long supported the use of legal tools to protect and preserve historic places. None of this work is possible without dedicated and committed lawyers who are willing and able to assume preservation legal matters. Are you a lawyer working in the field? If so, we ask that you consider joining the National Preservation Lawyers Network.

Not a lawyer? Help spread the word about the Network, and stay tuned for more details about this resource next year.

How to Participate in the Network

The Network is committed to promoting education within the preservation law community through the sharing of information, and by connecting preservation attorneys to each other, to the National Trust, and to the public. By joining the Network, there is no obligation for an attorney to accept representation, but rather the opportunity to connect with potential clients. Participation does not create an attorney-client relationship between an attorney, the National Trust or any other party unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

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