



WARD 5 HERITAGE GUIDE



A Discussion of Ward Five
Cultural and Heritage Resources



District of Columbia
Office of Planning



Ward Five Heritage Guide

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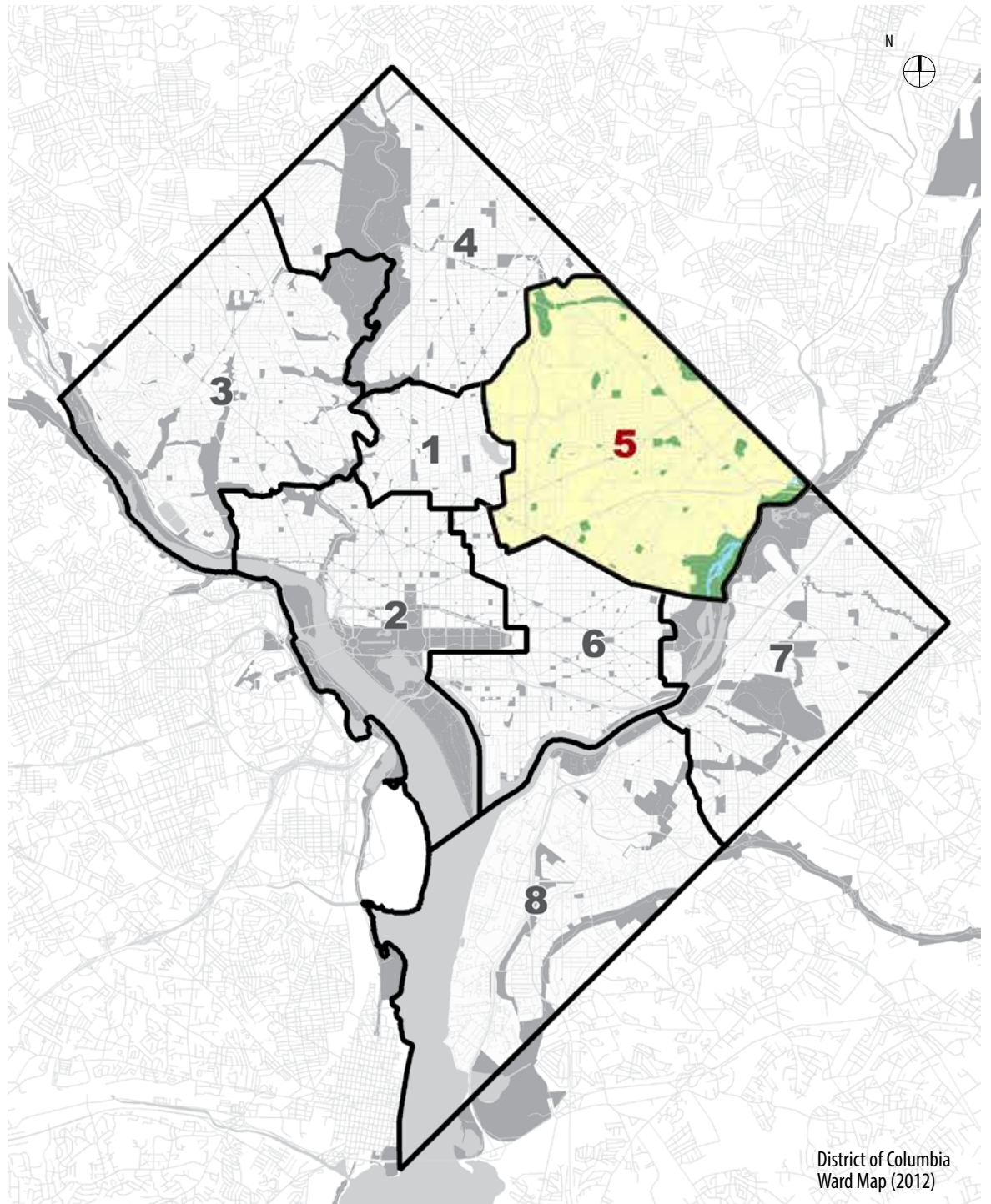
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WARD 5



Bordered roughly by Eastern Avenue and the Anacostia River on the east, Benning Road and Florida Avenue on the south, New Jersey Avenue and Park Place on the west, and Rock Creek Church Road, North Capitol Street and Riggs Road on the north, Ward 5 is one of the largest in the District of Columbia. Two railroad lines and several of Washington’s major arterial streets such as New York, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Michigan Avenues traverse the area, which is also served by the Red, Green, and Yellow Lines of the Metrorail System.

As a result, Ward 5 has served almost from the infancy of the national capital as an “edge city” for Washington, housing the largest concentration of industrial land uses in the city along its many transportation routes. Amidst these uses are federal facilities, hospitals, cemeteries, the city’s fresh produce and wholesale market district, many small shops and local businesses, and numerous religious institutions and hospitals mostly associated with the Catholic Church. The residential community that sprang up along the byways boasts a diversity of housing stock and architectural styles from the single family homes of Woodridge and Brookland, the rowhouses of Edgewood, to the apartment buildings that characterize Carver-Langston.

Within these boundaries are numerous cultural resources of which residents of the 20 plus neighborhoods feel protective and overwhelmingly proud. In fact, the civic activism of Ward 5 residents over the decades has demonstrated their recognition of these treasures. From the original boundary stones delineating the District’s boundaries to magnificent religious edifices to open green areas and parks, the ward abounds with sites that contribute to and convey the quality of life and heritage that denotes Ward 5.



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Langston Terrace Dwellings

Benefits of a Ward 5 Heritage Guide

This guide is intended to identify historic or culturally important places in Ward 5 and to provide a framework for developing strategies necessary to capitalize on and, if necessary, protect these historic resources.

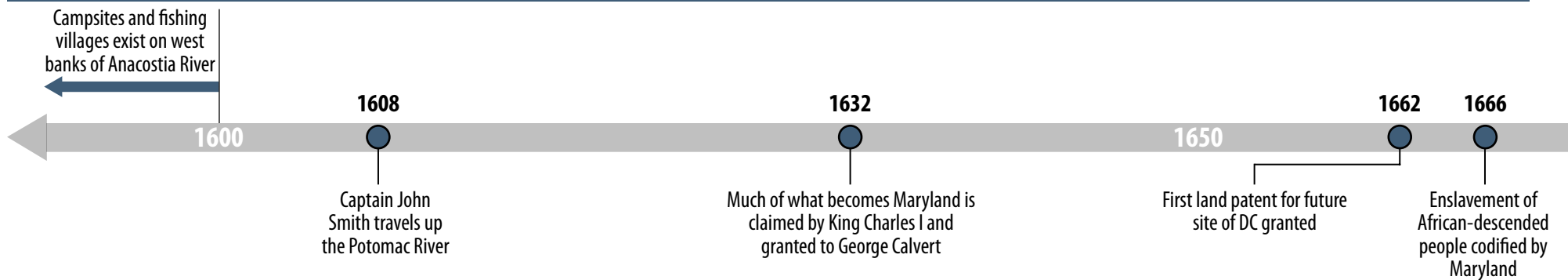
A cultural or heritage resource is defined as a site, building, structure, object, or ritual of importance to a community or culture. The significance, whether traditional, historic, religious, educational, or other, is one of several factors that illustrates the hallmarks of a community’s way of life or identity.

For many residents in Ward 5, one such resource is the Basilica on Harewood Avenue, NE near Michigan Avenue. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with its distinctive spire and decorative dome can be seen from miles around. It marks home for many Ward 5 residents. Yet it does not have the official historic designation of more modest yet equally impressive landmarks of Ward 5, such as the Langston Terrace Dwellings and its towering smoke stack.

There are a number of other cultural resources in Ward 5, many of which are not widely acknowledged. Left unrecognized, they become vulnerable to devaluation and even loss as the ward seeks investment and development. The DC Historic Preservation Office, along with community partners, hopes to promote stewardship of the ward’s heritage by assisting residents in identifying important cultural icons and places, and by facilitating initiatives to promote, preserve, and reuse the ward’s significant historic resources.

This guide presents a brief history of Ward 5, providing a foundation for understanding the ward’s heritage. The historical overview is followed by some broad strategies and suggested actions for achieving shared community goals, including recognizing, protecting, and promoting use of historic resources. Finally, the guide identifies some places of historical or cultural significance that might be considered when development or heritage planning is undertaken. The intent is to address the needs, desires, and challenges of the wide range of preservation interests that exist in Ward 5.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



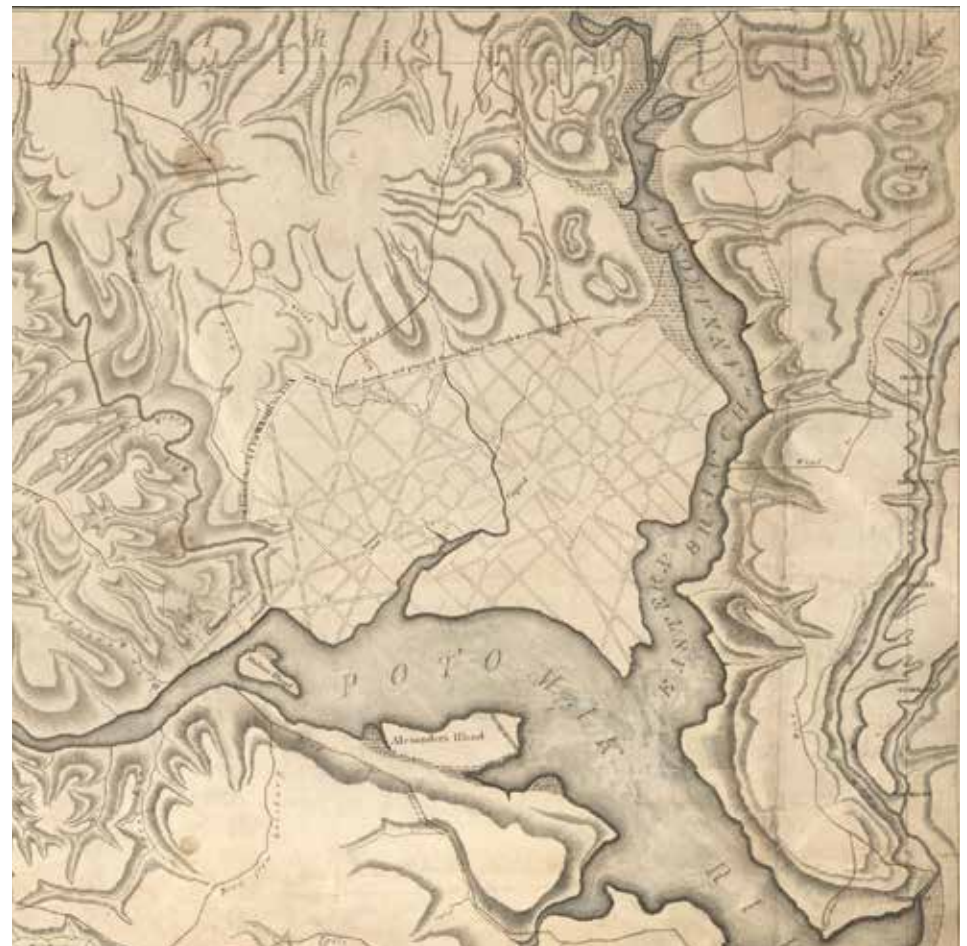
Native American Presence and Early European Settlements

The District of Columbia as a place of human settlement dates back some 10,000 years to the initial establishment of Native American trading posts and hunting and fishing settlements along the Potomac and Anacostia shorelines. Archaeological studies have established a few sites in Ward 5's National Arboretum.

In 1632, the English King Charles I granted the charter for the colony of Maryland to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore. Early land grants in Ward 5 dated to 1685 and included such whimsically named tracts as Turkey Thicket, Barbadoes and Cuckhold's Delight. Native American settlements gradually gave way to farm homesteads and tobacco plantations with enslaved African labor.

A hundred years later on land ceded from Maryland and Virginia, the national capital, Washington, District of Columbia, was established. What is now Ward 5 was formerly a part of Prince George's County, Maryland. It was still relatively unpopulated and largely open countryside with forests, meadows, and farmland and four major transportation routes from Maryland to the Potomac or to Georgetown which pre-dated Washington: the Anacostia River, Bladensburg Road, Queen's Chapel Road and Brentwood Road.

Except for a small corner found in the new Washington City, most of what is now Ward 5 was located in the new County of Washington north of Boundary Street (Florida Avenue). The roads and subsequent transportation routes became the defining characteristic of the development of Ward 5 and informed its identity as the industrial and institutional center of the District of Columbia.



The Ellicott "10 Mile Square" map, 1794
Library of Congress



A Network of Roads and Railways

Roads

The Eastern Branch/Anacostia River at the ward's eastern boundary once was referred to as "one of the safest and most commodious" waterways in America. Goods such as tobacco were sent along the river from Bladensburg, Maryland to the Potomac. Eventually, the removal of the tree canopy for agriculture, among other man-made incursions caused erosion and silting, making the river less and less navigable.

As tobacco farming gave way to fruit, vegetable, and grain growing to serve the city's burgeoning population, the roads became even more important. Bladensburg Road was the most traveled route, and along its path farms, villages, and businesses grew. Relatively unchanged today, Bladensburg Road was, for example, the road taken by the British as they marched from Maryland into Washington during the War of 1812 and set fire to the Capitol and the President's House.

Brentwood Road (earlier a branch of Bladensburg Road) approached the ward near what is now Rhode Island and Eastern Avenues, and met Washington City near 8th Street and Florida Avenue NE. Segments of the original Brentwood Road still exist, conveying the rural nature that was once all of Ward 5. The construction of the Benning Road and Bridge at the southern border of the ward in 1797 permitted access to Washington City from east of the Anacostia River.

Queen's Chapel, another important early road, was named for the area's first church (later Saint Francis de Sales). The church was established in the Beall's Inclosure land grant near Bladensburg Road. In 1722, the congregation moved from meeting in the home of the Marsham Queen family into a building on their estate near where Langdon School stands today. The church had the distinction of being burned during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.



East Branch of Potomac River, 1839
Library of Congress



1750

American Revolutionary War

1778

Bladensburg (Ferry) Road to Georgetown, MD already operating

1790

Congress approves creation of DC as the national capital

1792

Pierre L'Enfant's grid for Washington City excludes most of the Ward 5 area

As Washington City expanded in the early 19th century, settlement of the county slowly began along these byways. Large estates and summer homes as well as modest settlements of farm workers, craftsmen and small merchants sprang up along these few roads. In 1830, Colonel Jehiel Brooks married Ann Queen, a descendent of Ward 5's original white settlers, the Marshams and Queens, and received 185 acres of the land grant Inclosure as a dowry. In 1840, they constructed their home, Bellair, popularly known today as the Brooks Mansion, near Lincoln and Bunker Hill (Michigan Avenue) roads.

In what is now the National Arboretum, Colonel William Hickey, in 1840, replaced an older stone house on his property named Greenvale along Bladensburg Road with a grander structure. In 1853, W.W. Corcoran, of Riggs Bank and later founder of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, purchased the 99 acres that had been the Trinidad estate since 1799 of the James Barry family. Trinidad was in the area of three major roads – Boundary (Florida Avenue today), Benning, and Bladensburg. Corcoran may have also built a hunting lodge in 1852 off the early Lincoln Road near the Soldiers' Home on yet more property he owned.

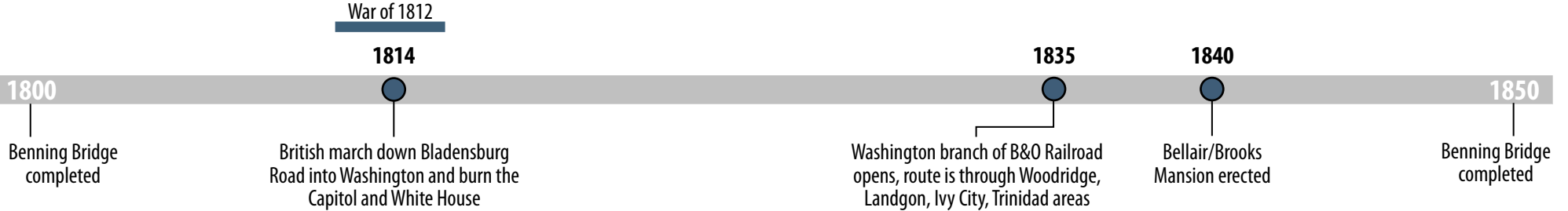
African-descended slaves, present in the ward by the late 1600s, traveled and lived along these roads, servicing these estates, working the land or being hired out to work in the city. Free families of color, as well as families of many European immigrants resided throughout the ward, also making their living as laborers, servants, and craftsmen. These included Basil Guttridge, a free African-American who by 1830 owned 10 acres near the site of what is now the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center.



Bellair, Brooks Mansion



National Arboretum



The roads also defined placement of the ward's several burial grounds. In 1852, the city council prohibited new cemeteries inside the city limits. As a result, Glenwood, Prospect Hill, Columbian Harmony, Mount Olivet, and later Graceland and St. Mary's were established in the ward. Glenwood Cemetery opened on the 90 acre-Clover Hill estate in 1852 as a secular, but segregated, burial ground. Mt. Olivet, the chief Catholic cemetery in Washington, is located on Bladensburg Road at Mt. Olivet Road, on 40 acres. It had the distinction of being racially integrated from its opening in 1858.

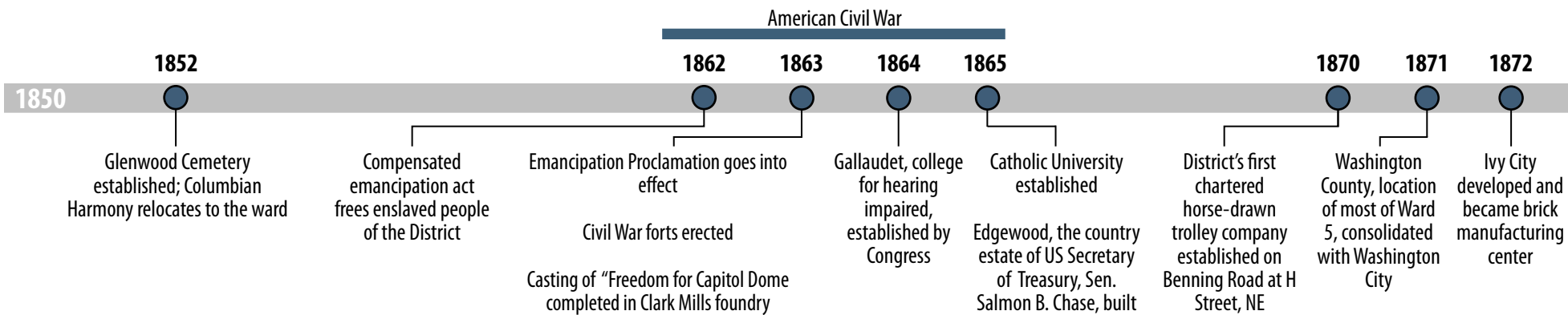
After 1852, Columbian Harmony, an African American cemetery, was moved from its in-town location to the site now occupied by the Rhode Island Metro stop and the retail and residential development called Rhode Island Row. The mixed race Graceland opened in 1872 at Benning and Bladensburg Roads, but closed in 1894 and the burials were reinterred at Woodlawn Cemetery on Benning Road in Ward 7.

The Civil War contributed to the development of another road system in the District. Forts Bunker Hill, Lincoln, Saratoga, Slemmer, Thayer, and Totten were built in the highlands of the ward, forming part of the defensive ring around the city. These forts were connected by roads built by the Union Army and its civilian employees. Irregularly shaped segments of this 1860s route still exist as Fort Drive and Fort Place in spite of the subdivided lands and imposition of the District's Highway Plan of 1893.

Rhode Island Avenue, one of the original streets in the L'Enfant plan for Washington City, was extended into Ward 5 in 1887. It became one of the principal routes between Washington and Maryland and served as a major impetus for continued development of Ward 5 in the 20th century.



Columbian Harmony Cemetery
Historical Society of Washington DC



Railways

In 1835, the nation's first railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O), arrived at the Capitol through Ward 5 from Maryland. Its Washington County path was along Bladensburg Road to what is now West Virginia Avenue and into Washington City. Almost ten years later the first telegraph was sent over the wires placed alongside the Washington Branch of the B&O from the Capitol to Baltimore.

Perhaps most significantly for Ward 5, the railway, like the later trolley and street car routes, spurred growth both in terms of its economic importance to the District and in terms of opening land for residential development. The development of the latest 19th century transportation technology in Ward 5 made for easier and speedier access to Washington City and other places beyond. New modes of transportation facilitated the shipping of manufactured goods and produce, encouraged suburban living for city workers and the creation of sequestered locations of social services, and locales for land-expansive endeavors.

Examples of early development along the railroad include the location of the bronze foundry of sculptor Clark Mills beside the B&O line off Bladensburg Road. Here with the assistance of his enslaved foreman, Philip Reid, the Statue of Freedom was cast before being assembled and hoisted, under Reid's supervision, atop the Capitol dome in 1863. Mills' estate was later subdivided and became part of the Langdon/Woodridge community, marketed as desirable and "in direct communication with the city".

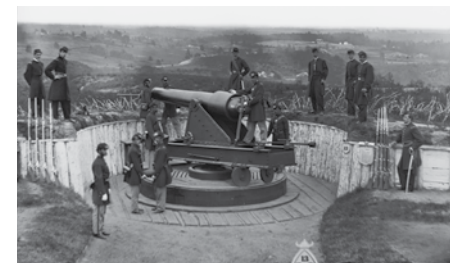
Another contribution of the presence of the wartime forts was their attraction of white refugees and African-descended freedom seekers from slave states also in search of shelter and work. They greatly spurred Washington's population growth and development of new communities. After the war, many people of color remained in the areas of the forts such as Bunker Hill, establishing their own settlements.

The Civil War initiated the liberation of people enslaved in Washington.



Fort Lincoln, Library of Congress

Congressional passage of a compensated emancipation act on April 16, 1862 brought freedom to almost 3,000 bondspople of the District. Among the Ward 5 slaveholders who sought compensation under the act for the loss of their "property" or slaves were the aforementioned William Hickey (16), Clark Mills (11), and Elizabeth and Mary Queen (24) who held in bondage several members of the family of Basil Gutridge, a free man of color and landholder in the Brookland area. Many of the newly freed remained in Ward 5.



Fort Totten, Library of Congress

1879

B&O Railroad built lines through Brookland area

1888 1889

Eckington and Soldier's Home Railway introduces District's first electric streetcar
Brookland and Eckington areas subdivided

First building on Catholic University campus opened

1900



United Brick Works

Farmland of the Youngsboro tract along the B&O Railroad tracks, was subdivided in 1872 as "New City" and then Ivy City. From 1879 until 1897, it was home to the 126-acre National Fair grounds and race track, with a grandstand telegraph office. In 1890, the Ivy City Brick Company began manufacturing bricks for the city and became the major employer in the community. Brick produced primarily by Ivy City and the Washington Brick Machine Company in Trinidad furnished the materials for the District's construction boom of the late 1800s. United Brick Works, which later took over the brick-manufacturing business in Ivy City was the site of the District's first post-WWII labor strike.

In 1873, the B&O Railroad opened the Metropolitan Branch line through the western section of the county into Washington. Brooks Station was established on the old Bunker Hill Road near Brooks Mansion. In 1887, the 134-acre Brooks estate would be sold and subdivided for housing, giving birth to the Brookland community. Already home to a small enclave of African Americans and persons connected with the Catholic University, the populations of Brookland and University Heights would swell over the next years as white government and other middle-class workers moved to suburban settings and into the emerging Queen Anne, Four-Square, and Victorian Cottage-style homes in the area.



Streetcars

Horse-drawn trolleys first came to the ward in 1870, when the Columbia Railway Company was chartered to run from New York Avenue and K Street, NW down Boundary Street (Florida Avenue) to Benning Road. However, it wasn't until the development of the electric streetcar, that the ward became a major population center.

In 1888, the Eckington and Soldiers' Home Railway was chartered and the District's first electric streetcar ran from 7th Street and New York Avenue to Eckington Place at 4th Street, NE. In 1890, it was extended and in 1890 began operating along 4th Street to Bunker Hill Road/Michigan Avenue. Subsequent extensions ran along Lincoln Road to the entrance of Glenwood Cemetery and along North Capitol from New York Avenue to the Old Soldiers' Home. As a result, coupled with the presence of the B&O freight yards, not only did Eckington become Washington's major industrial center, its residential development was stimulated by the easier travel to and from Washington and city employment.

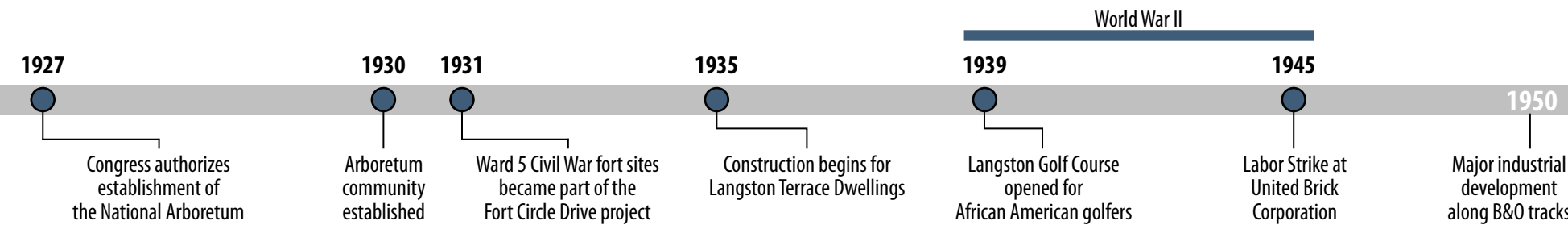
In the 1890s, housing was built in other sections of the ward on subdivided former estates and farms. Some of these subdivision names, such as Metropolis View and Avalon Heights have disappeared, but other county suburb names such as Bloomingdale, Edgewood, South Central and Woodridge have taken their place. Clusters of detached houses were also built from University Heights through central and eastern Brookland to the Langdon and Fort Lincoln areas, all served by the street-car network and new streets.



Opening of Eckington - Old Soldier's Home streetcar line, 1888
Historical Society of Washington DC



Bloomingdale rowhouses



Roads for Automobiles

The advent of automobiles and later buses and trucks necessitated new or improved roads. These were built along with or over streetcar tracks, and made way for commercial and residential development along Rhode Island Avenue, North Capitol Street, South Dakota Avenue and New York Avenue. Construction of auto-accessible detached homes took place in the Fort Lincoln, Arboretum, eastern Brookland and Woodridge neighborhoods moving northward along South Dakota Avenue into Queens Chapel and Michigan Park, and north into the Lamond and Fort Totten areas where clusters of rowhouses were also built. Many of these newly developed communities had restrictive covenants barring blacks from buying in.

Along Rhode Island Avenue at Brentwood, the first large-scale Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-sponsored project in the District, Brentwood Village (now Brookland Manor), was built between 1938 and 1943, and included a whimsical Tudor-style auto-related, drive-in shopping center. During the same period large apartment buildings, like the Metropolitan on Rhode Island Avenue, complete with garages at the rear for tenants' vehicles, were also taking their places along the ward's main corridors.

While the civically-active Ward 5 residents had welcomed construction of roads, they objected to attempts to bring in the next generation road – the highway. Ivy City, for instance, opposed efforts in the 1960s to place a segment of a six-lane highway cutting through its community under Mt. Olivet Street. In Brookland, between the mid-1960s to 1977, a coalition of local civic groups fought the plan to place I-95 through their community. Although 69 rowhouses south of Lawrence Street were razed before the

struggle ended, the neighbors prevailed and funding was diverted from the proposed freeway to Metrorail construction. Today there are three Metro stations in Ward 5 that align with the original Metropolitan Branch of the B&O railroad tracks: Rhode Island Avenue, Brookland/Catholic University of America, and Fort Totten.

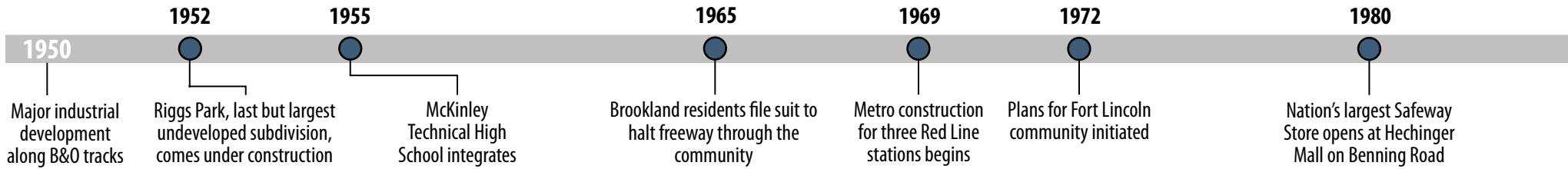
The roads and transportation have always been a major influence in the development and identity of Ward 5. The mid-1950s extension of North Capitol Street, together with the laying of South Dakota Avenue and rerouting of Michigan Avenue, only increased the network that, along with the subway stops, makes Ward 5 today one of the most travelled locations in the city.



"Trinidad Boys Club"
Historical Society of Washington DC



Car wash in Langdon



Institutional Development

Beginning in the 19th century, institutions began to locate in the ward, often to take advantage of the higher grounds and rural settings. One of the oldest is the Soldiers' Home, opened in 1851 off Harewood Road on land purchased from George T. Riggs. An 1842 cottage on the Harewood estate became the summer home of many U.S. presidents including President Lincoln for whom the building is now named. The Soldiers' Home (now called the Armed Forces Retirement Home) is one of the oldest military retirement homes in the nation.

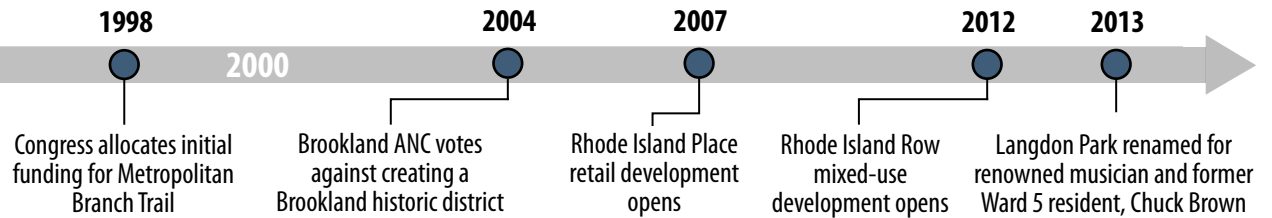


Albert Hall, The Catholic University

Colleges and Universities

Gallaudet University, founded by an Act of Congress in 1864 as the National Deaf-Mute College, is the only American institution of higher education devoted to deaf education. In 1894, the name of the college was changed to honor the man, Hopkins Gallaudet, who founded the first school for the deaf in the nation.

In 1889, after almost 20 years of planning and fund-raising, The Catholic University of America formally opened its doors on 65 acres that had been the Middleton estate near the Brooks Mansion. The university expanded steadily, and by 1919, had 15 buildings. It attracted more than 20 Catholic houses of study, convents, and seminaries, including Trinity College for women (1897) and the Franciscan Monastery (1898). The area became known affectionately as "Little Rome". Its main street became Twelfth Street once the Monroe Street bridge was built bringing the streetcar into Brookland. The commercial strip, anchored by a Masonic hall and post office built in 1911, was inter-faith, inter-ethnic and inter-racial, boasting many small businesses and institutions.



Secondary Schools

The earliest public elementary schools in the ward included Brentwood Road (1870), and Brookland (1891) for white students. Bunker Hill Road (1883) initially opened for white students but was reassigned to the “colored” division in 1900. It was the only black school in the northeastern part of the ward until 1911 when the Crummell School was built in Ivy City. In the far southwest section of the ward, Slater School opened in 1890 for African American students and was immediately overcrowded. The proposal to add an adjoining school to relieve the overcrowding was met by vociferous protests from the white North Capitol and Eckington Citizens Associations delaying the construction of Langston (1902) for over two years. Two white elementary schools were built in Eckington around the turn of the century: Eckington with its elaborate terra cotta trim opened in 1898, and Emery, on Lincoln Road, in 1902.

McKinley Technical High School for whites was relocated to Eckington in 1928 into a new, stately building. It was DC’s 6th public high school for white pupils. Dunbar Senior High and Armstrong Technical Schools, also in Ward 5, would remain Washington’s only black high schools for over two decades. In the 1950s, Spingarn High School in the southeast section of the ward opened as the District’s fourth public high school for African American students.

Among the Catholic schools in Ward 5, St. Benedict’s Academy opened in Brookland in 1906. Housed in the Brooks Mansion, it later became Northeast Catholic High School, and the St. Anthony’s School opened in 1922 to handle the elementary grades. Holy Name School opened in a new building in Trinidad in 1924.



McKinley Technical High School

Religious Institutions

Settlement of the ward was also accompanied by the establishment of churches. The earliest were related to the Catholic Church, the faith of the first European settlers in the area who were Catholic. Queen's Chapel evolved from a private chapel to serving the needs of the Catholic community of the ward. Once The Catholic University of America was established in the ward, the number of ancillary institutions rapidly developed.

Among the oldest extant non-Catholic church buildings in the ward are the chapel at Glenwood Cemetery (1892) and the Brookland Methodist Episcopal Church (1895), now Immanuel Bible Assembly. The first decades of the 20th century, as the population of the ward was beginning to expand, saw a growth in the number of Protestant Church structures ranging from high-style architecture such as the Memorial Church of the United Brethren, now Metropolitan Wesley AME Zion Church to vernacular. Many exist today.



Brookland Methodist Episcopal Church / Immanuel Bible Assembly

Social Service Institutions and Hospitals

The National Training School for Boys, established in 1871, moved in 1872 from Georgetown to what grew to be well over 250 acres off Bladensburg Road near South Dakota Avenue. The area was known as Fort Lincoln for the Civil War fort partially located on the site. The school closed in the 1960s, and much of the property was later turned into an upscale community of town-house-style condominiums, rental apartments and senior housing enjoying spectacular views of the city.

The Lutheran Home of the Aged, later the Washington Center for Aging Services, began as a 27-acre bequest in 1890 for an elderly-care home. Although it was built in 1894 in Langdon as a series of cottages, by 1913 it had been replaced by the large brick edifice seen today.

St. Vincent's Orphanage Asylum and Catholic School took over the 1863 Edgewood estate of Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury under President Lincoln, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice. The orphanage and school for girls operated on the site from 1900 to 1968. Other institutions included the Ionia R. Whipper Home for Unwed Colored Mothers opened first in 1931 on Florida Avenue near 5th Street, NW and later moved to Woodridge. It now operates as a shelter for young women of all races.

The District's longest continuously operating hospital is Providence in Ward 5's North Michigan Park, a Catholic hospital chartered in 1861 by President Lincoln. Additionally, the complex of private hospitals in the heights of North Capitol Street at Michigan Avenue includes the 47-acre Washington Hospital Center, DC's largest, founded in 1958 when three existing hospitals merged. It stands adjacent to the Children's National Medical Center (founded in 1870, in this location since 1970s), the DC Veteran Affairs Medical Center, and the more recent National Rehabilitation Hospital.



The National Training Center for Boys (razed)



Eckington Presbyterian Church (razed), *Historical Society of Washington*

Bates Street's "Sanitary Housing"

While not an "institution" *per se*, the Washington Sanitary Improvement Company's first housing was built between 1897 and 1902 on Bates Street, NW just west of North Capitol Street. The intention of WSIC, headed by George Sternberg, was to provide decent, affordable rental housing for Washington's low-income alley residents. Built as "houses" with two four-room flats each, most were rented to white tenants. The renovation of this housing for home-ownership by the low-income became a focus of Washington's Model Cities program in the 1970s.



Other Resources

Into the early 20th century, certain sections of the ward remained open country ripe for the siting of land-intensive endeavors. In the eastern section of the ward, these included the American League Baseball Park (1901-1926) at the corner of Florida and Trinidad Avenues; a refuse dump and incineration plant (1919-1955) at Montello Avenue and Mt. Olivet Road. Additionally, the western section of the Anacostia Park (authorized in 1918) and the National Arboretum (established in 1927) were located in the ward. In 1935, construction on the nation's first public housing development for African Americans, Langston Terrace Dwellings, was begun. Shortly thereafter, Langston Golf Course for blacks was opened in the Anacostia Park area.

In the western section of the ward, the 25-acre Olmsted-landscaped sand filtration site of the McMillan Reservoir assumed a commanding position above Bloomingdale in 1905. Part of a larger complex that was the city's first water treatment facility, the sand filtration system represented a technological advancement in providing clean water to residents.



American League Baseball Park at Florida and Trinidad Avenues, circa 1920

A Hub of Industrialization

With its surfeit of roads and railways, and its expanse of undeveloped land, Ward 5 was a natural location for the industrialization and commercialization needed to support an increasingly denser Washington City. Eckington and Truxton Circle, in particular, with its railroad and streetcar lines, were home to numerous warehouses, food processing, and manufacturing plants of such companies as Schlitz Beer, the Stone Straw Company, and the National Biscuit Company, better known as Nabisco. In spite of the emergence of large commercial establishments in the neighborhood over the years, the residential community here and in other industrialized sections of the ward remained stable and permanent.



McMillan Sand Filtration Site



Union Market c. 1948
Historical Society of Washington DC, Wymer Collection



National Geographic Society Warehouse

During the first half of the 20th century, through the world wars, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway opened and New York Avenue was extended from Bladensburg Road to the District line. These routes replaced Rhode Island Avenue as the city's gateway to the northeast. Both the increase in the trucking industry and the rail lines stimulated major industrial construction.

The Union Market Terminal, also known as the Florida Avenue Market, opened in 1931 on the site of the former Camp Meigs, a World War I army camp. Built after DC's downtown Central Market closed, it was ideally located on a major byway and along the railroad.

Large warehouses were built along the B&O and Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, especially in the Fort Totten area. Ivy City, between New York Avenue and the freight yards, also became the site of large scale warehouses and manufacturing, though residents fought the rezoning of the neighborhood as commercial. The local department store, Hechts, located its stunning streamlined moderne-designed warehouse along New York Avenue. International style and Art Deco-styled warehouses in Ward 5 include an IBM punch card factory, Kraft Foods on Queens Chapel Road and a Fleishmann's Yeast factory on Bladensburg. Residential communities like Gateway and Arboretum thrived in the shadow of these industrialized corridors.

The industrial heyday of the 1950s soon gave way to decline. On the heels of advancements in travel, at the turn of the 20th century, large-scale commercial and industrial enterprises left Washington City for the new suburbs. By the 1980s, history had repeated itself, with commerce eschewing the outmoded train transportation and routes, and embracing the development of new modes of transport and alternative transportation routes, especially freeways. Ward 5 retail businesses were finding it difficult to compete with the shopping centers in the outlying suburban areas. Though some new facilities were built, such as the Brentwood Postal Facility and the corporate headquarters for Black Entertainment Television (BET), the industrial firms sought the expansion space, inexpensive land, and truck and auto access from the Beltway offered by the suburbs. Many Ward 5 communities began to show signs of disinvestment from both the private and public sectors.

The 21st century is seeing a resurgence of the use of the historic industrial and commercial buildings in Ward 5. Adaptive reuse as apartments, retail, offices, and even light industrial such as distilleries and technology centers among other uses promotes preservation of the ward's sound building stock and keeps it in circulation.



Judd and Detweiler Printing Company / XM Radio building, 1500 Eckington

Coming Into the 21st Century

Ward 5's racial composition began to change from white to predominantly black in the 1950s. In those post-World War II years, Brookland was considered by the *Washington Post* as the most prestigious neighborhood in the city for blacks. Senator Edward Brooke, Ralph Bunche, a prominent international advisor and first black Nobel Peace Prize recipient, renowned artist Lois Maillou Jones, and diplomat Patricia Roberts Harris were among the many prominent black residents of Brookland. Several lived in homes designed by African American architects.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s court rulings outlawed segregation and the enforcement of housing restrictions. As a result, black families began to move, principally as homeowners, into such neighborhoods as Woodridge, previously off limits due to racial covenants. The 1954 school desegregation decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, led many white families to move west of Rock Creek or to the Virginia and Maryland suburbs, freeing up hundreds of houses. Communities in the upper northwest area of the ward, such as North Michigan Park, and Riggs Park (1954), became attractive to middle income black families seeking homeownership in low-density neighborhoods with convenient and acceptable schools. By 1960, blacks accounted for 54 percent of the total population in the ward. Neighborhoods like Brentwood, Edgewood, and Carver, attracted residents seeking affordable housing. They often occupied overcrowded, single-family homes and apartments or the newly constructed subsidized dwellings such as Edgewood Terrace and Montana Terrace.

On the other hand, Trinidad became victim to massive real estate scams from which it is barely recovering today. In the late 1970s this affordable community became the object of real estate speculators who illegally obtained federal mortgage insurance to buy and then subvert rent control laws and raise rents. This in turn forced out long-term stable renters and homeowners only to be replaced by transients and drug traffickers. Though Trinidad was not the only neighborhood victim of such fraudulent practices, the effects were more devastating here than any other place in the city.

Today, Ward 5 is enjoying a rejuvenation. The population has grown and neighborhoods like Truxton Circle, Bloomingdale and Eckington are attracting investment both in terms of capital developments and as sought-after addresses for young white and black professionals. The redevelopment of NoMA (North of Massachusetts) with office and residential buildings accompanied by retail and the opening of the New York Avenue Metro station has transformed the area into a bustling hub. The area will receive a further boost once the implementation Mid-City East Plan begins.

Similar treatment is in progress for the Rhode Island Avenue and Brookland/ University Heights transportation hubs. Longstanding institutions like DancePlace are receiving makeovers in the form of brand-new facilities while warehouse and other commercial structures are being made over by new enterprises and uses.



Trinidad-Ivy City Community Garden Club

Fort Lincoln, subject of a 1970s initiative to stimulate reinvestment in the ward, was planned as a site for a new community with housing for people of diverse incomes, shopping and recreational facilities, an employment center, schools, and convenient transportation to downtown. High-end and senior housing was constructed in the 1980s and 90s but only now have the rest of the plans come to fruition with the development of suburban-type big box retail and new high-density residential living.

Some long-standing landmarks of the ward, such as the Union Market Terminal/Florida Avenue Market, Soldiers Home, and McMillan Reservoir are being redeveloped that compromises the historical character they now convey. The ever civically engaged Ward 5 residents are keeping close watch on these resources. However, the installation of amenities such as the Metropolitan Branch Trail along the old B&O/now CSX tracks, renaming parks to recognize local heroes, and incorporating dog parks in existing parks have added to the quality of living.



New Dance Place building under construction

Even with the development and redevelopment, Ward 5 still retains a sense of broad diversity and suburban openness. Some sections remain industrial, and some, bucolic; yet others are considered hip and urbane. The “tiny” houses of the Stronghold neighborhood strive to demonstrate “green” living. Poverty still exists alongside wealth. Just as Ward 5 neighbors came together to oppose and defeat plans for a crosstown freeway through their communities, so have they been able to come together to create such projects as Crispus Attucks Park and the Brookland Garden Tour for community good. The incredibly rich path to development for the ward continues today.



“Tiny House”
boneyardstudios.com

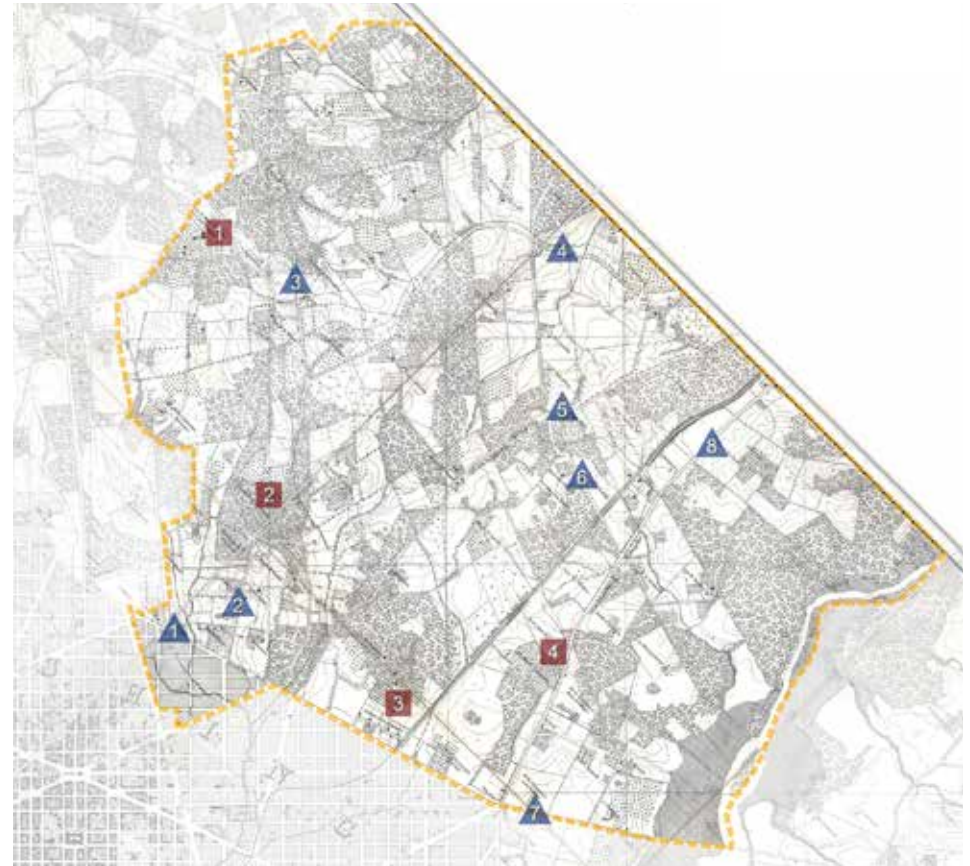


Mural in Trinidad neighborhood

Ward Five Development

The following maps are used to demonstrate the development of Ward 5 over time. They provide a graphic representation of the history of the area.

1861

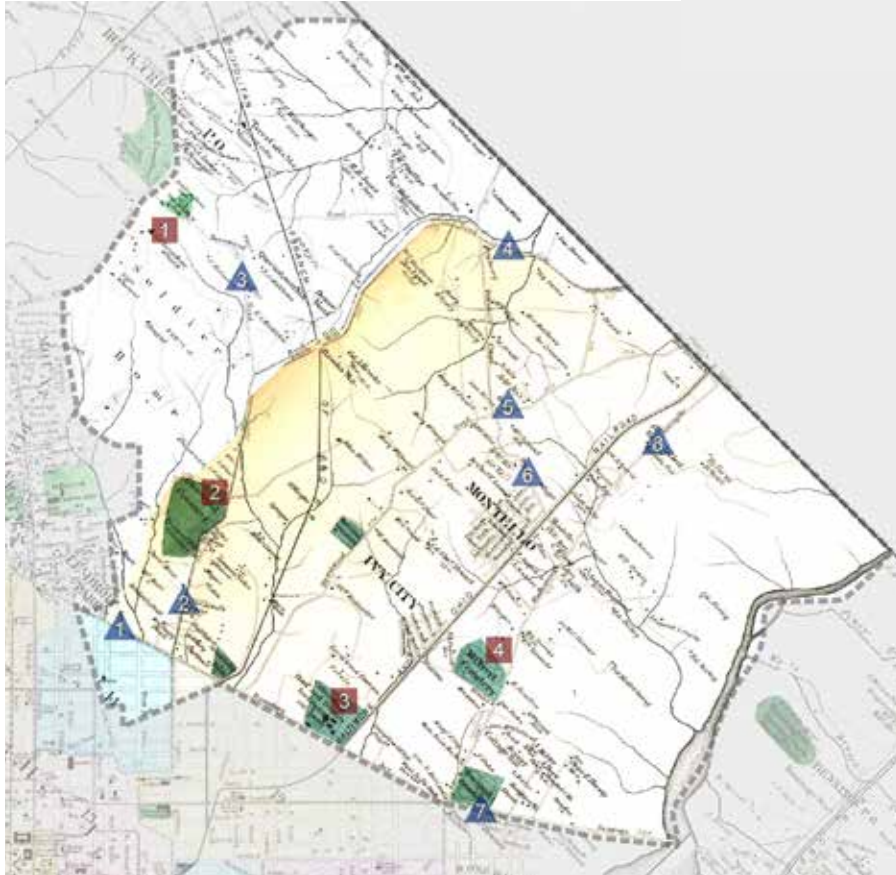


1861 A. Boschke map

Roads		Notable Sites	
1	Florida Avenue	1	Soldier's Home
2	Lincoln Road	2	Glenwood Cemetery
3	Harewood Road	3	Gallaudet University
4	Bunker Hill Road	4	Mt. Olivet Cemetery
5	Brentwood Road		
6	Queens Chapel Road		
7	Benning Road		
8	Bladensburg Road		

All historical maps in this section have been adapted by Brian Kraft.

1878



1878 G.M. Hopkins map

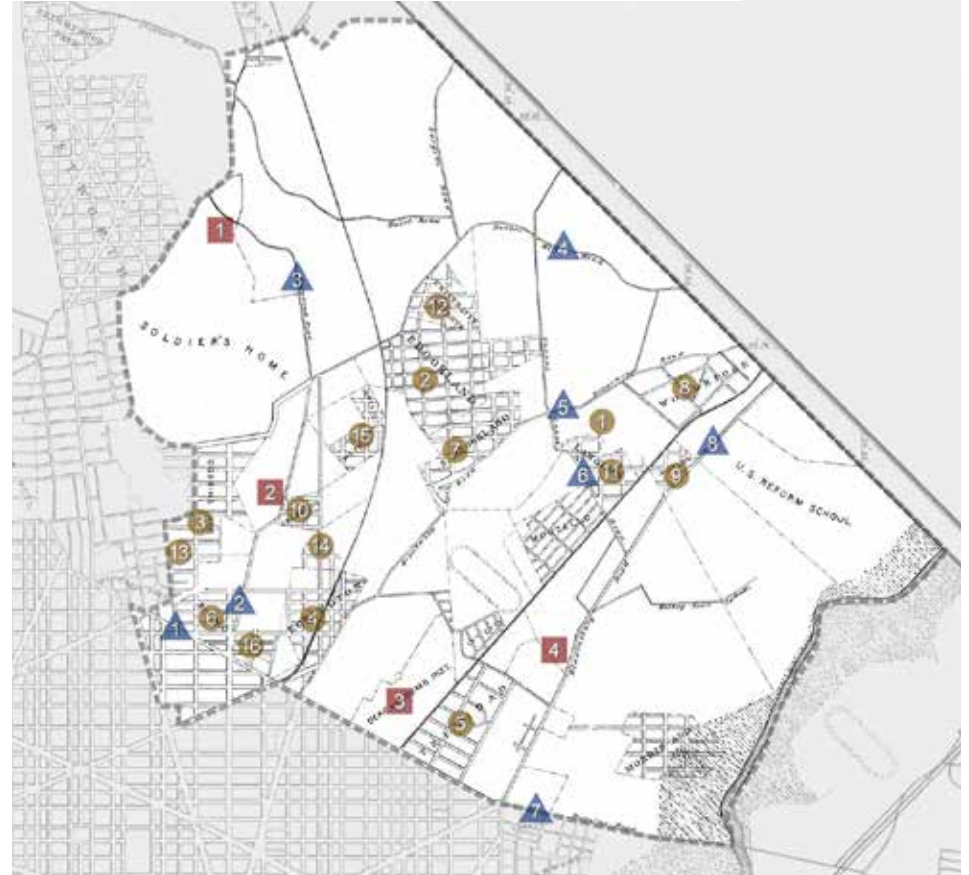
Roads

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Florida Avenue | 6 Queens Chapel Road |
| 2 Lincoln Road | 7 Benning Road |
| 3 Harewood Road | 8 Bladensburg Road |
| 4 Bunker Hill Road | |
| 5 Brentwood Road | |

Notable Sites

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1 Soldier's Home |
| 2 Glenwood Cemetery |
| 3 Gallaudet University |
| 4 Mt. Olivet Cemetery |

1892

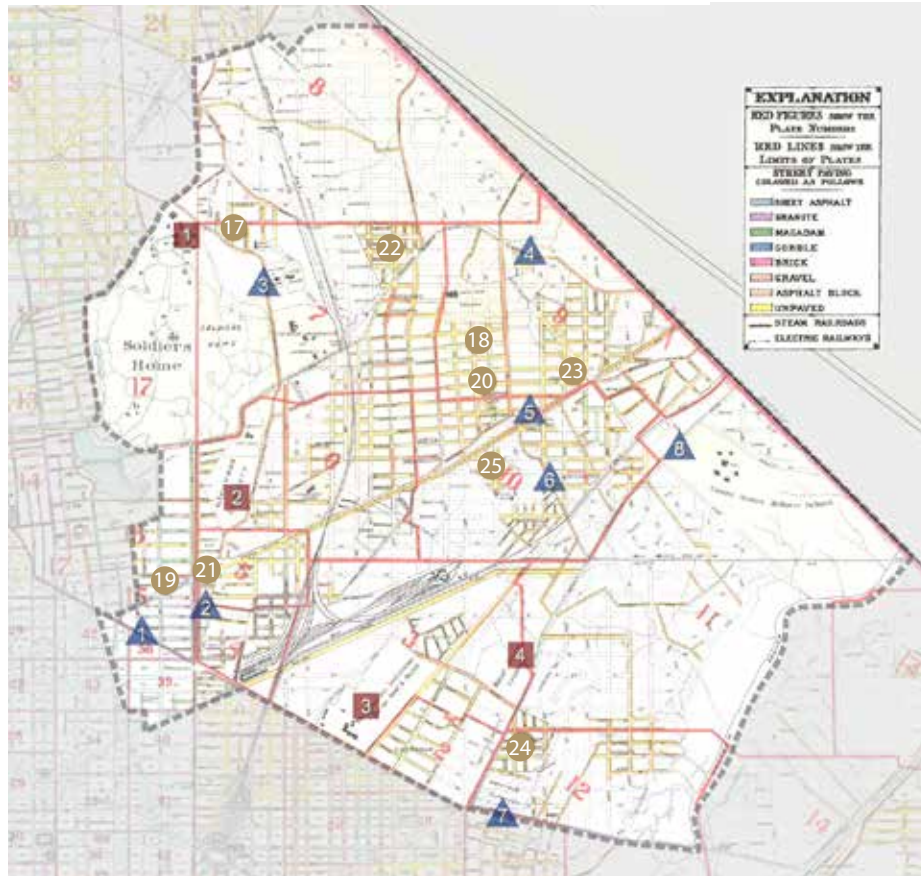


1892 NOAA Map of Suburban Subdivisions

Subdivisions

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 Clark Mills, 1885 | 7 South Brokland, 1889 | 12 University Heights, 1890 |
| 2 Brookland, 1887 | 8 Woodridge, 1889 | 13 Addition to LeDroit Park, 1891 |
| 3 Dobbin's Addition, 1887 | 9 Avalon Heights, 1890 | 14 Center Eckington, 1891 |
| 4 Eckington, 1887 | 10 Edgewood, 1890 | 15 Metropolis View, 1891 |
| 5 Trinidad, 1888 | 11 Langdon Park, 1890 | 16 West Eckington, 1891 |
| 6 Bloomingdale, 1889 | | |

1921

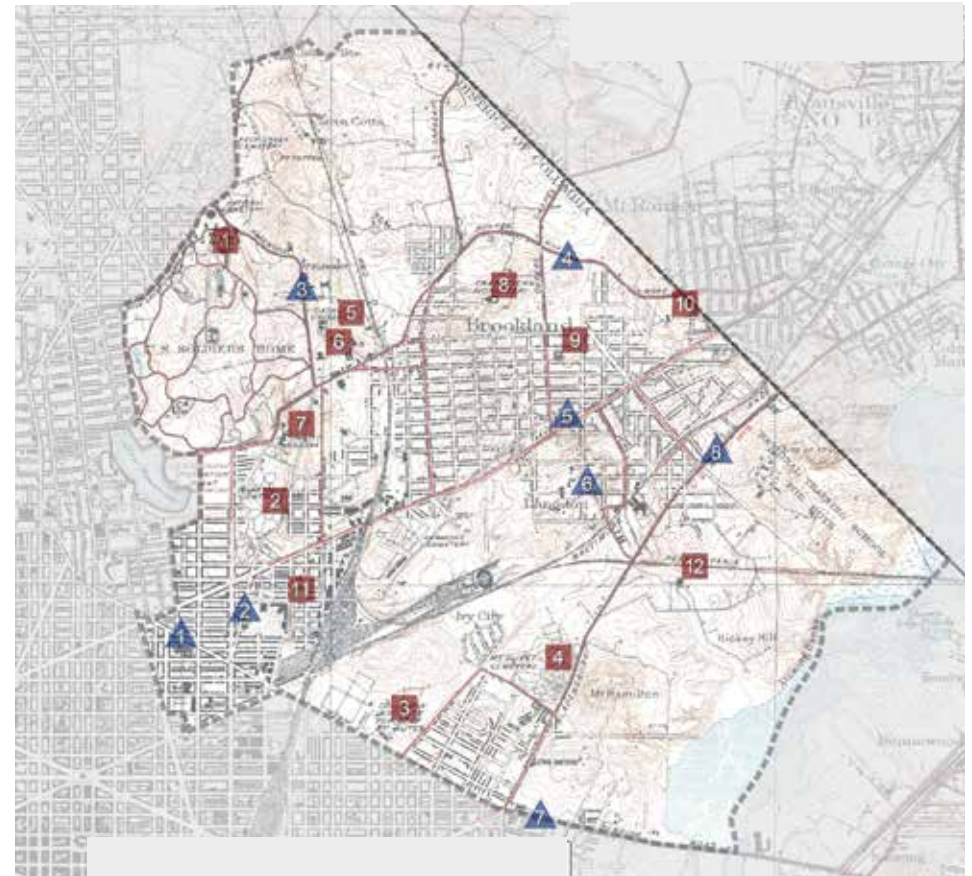


1921 Baist Map

Subdivisions

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 17 | Clermont, 1895 | 22 | Michigan Park, 1905 |
| 18 | Addition to Brookland, 1895 | 23 | Sherwood, 1906 |
| 19 | Moore & Barbour's Addition, 1901 | 24 | City View Heights, 1907 |
| 20 | Sherwood's Addition, 1901 | 25 | Groves Park, 1909 |
| 21 | Moore & Barbour's 2nd Addition, 1901 | | |

1929



1929 USGS Map

Notable Sites

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Catholic University | 9 | Burroughs Elementary School |
| 6 | Basilica of the National Shrine | 10 | Missionaries of Charity |
| 7 | Trinity College | 11 | McKinley Technology High School |
| 8 | Franciscan Monastery | 12 | New York Avenue Brick Kilns |

WARD FIVE AT A GLANCE

Community Stakeholders

- Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 5A-E
- Brookland Main Street
- Brookland Tour Committee
- Civic and Citizen Associations
- Community Blogs
- DC Public Library Branches
- Friends of the Arboretum
- Friends of North Michigan Park
- Friends of Rhode Island Avenue
- North Capitol Main Street
- Premiere Community Development Corporation

Ward Five Neighborhoods



National Arboretum
Foresaken Fotos

Attractions

National Arboretum
District of Columbia Boundary Stones
Catholic Institutions: the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; Franciscan Monastery; Trinity University
Catholic University
Civil War-era Battery Barnard Hill
Crispus Attucks Park
DancePlace
Gallaudet Campus
Glenwood Cemetery
McMillan Reservoir
Union (Florida Avenue) Market
Langdon Park/Chuck Brown Park
Langston Golf Course
Metropolitan Branch Bicycle Trail
Old Soldiers Home



Union Market / Florida Avenue Market



Metropolitan Branch Trail



Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery, Brookland neighborhood

PRESERVATION FRAMEWORK

Lost Resources

A Sample of Demolished Buildings

Places and structures that have survived over time help tell the story of a community. They provide a setting and context for events, patterns, and mark the degree of change that has taken place.

When they remain, they provide a tangible connection to the history of a neighborhood. When they are gone, a beat in the rhythm of a neighborhood is missed and a sense of what was is forever lost to new generations.



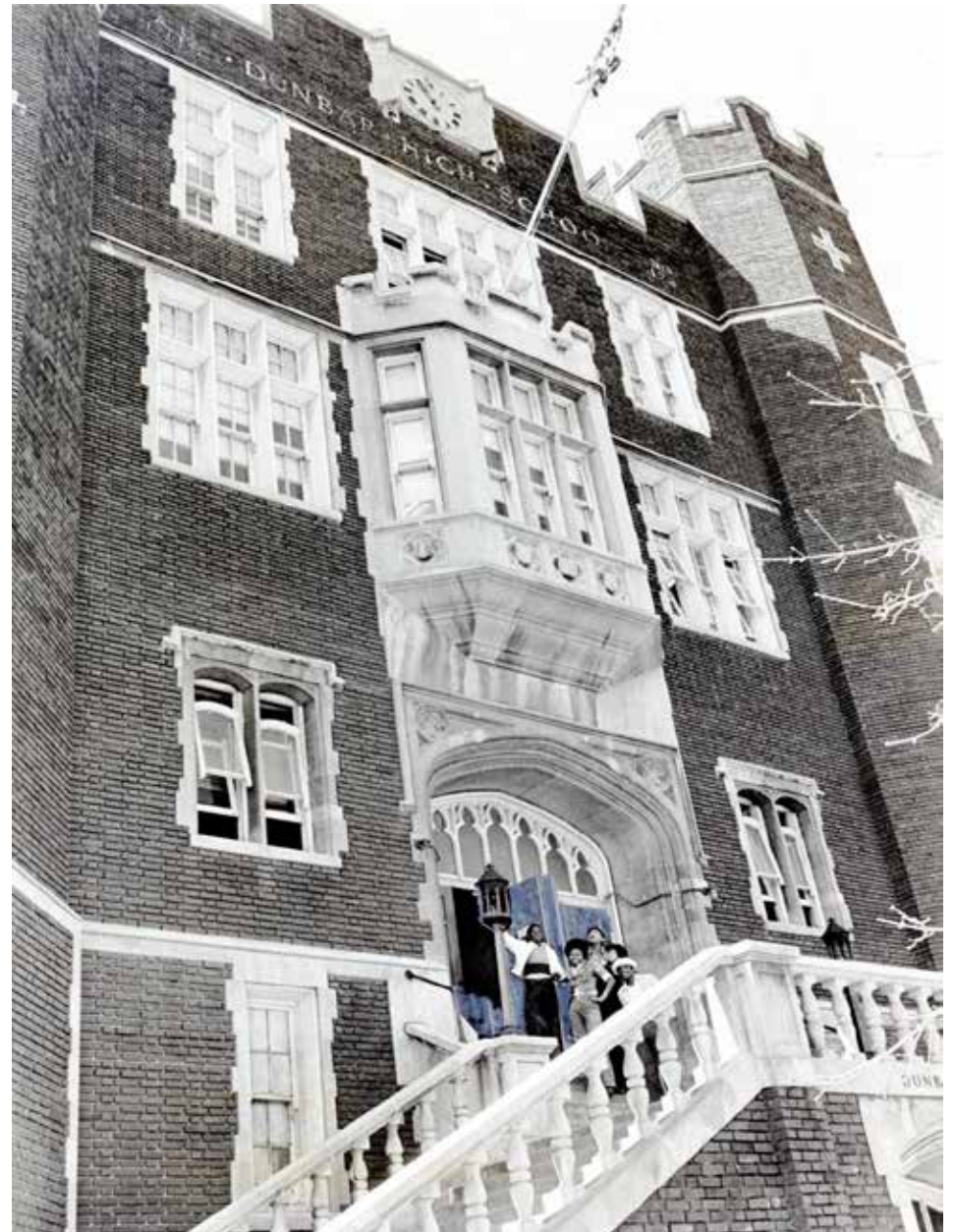
Edgewood Estate at 4th and Edgewood Streets the Chase-Sprague family on steps, circa 1890

Historical Society of Washington DC



Columbian Harmony Cemetery looking towards Rhode Island Avenue at Evarts Street, NE

Historical Society of Washington, Wymer Collection



First Dunbar High School

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Washingtoniana Division, Star Collection

Then and Now

Places of cultural and heritage significance often remind us of where we once were and what our communities once looked like. These are just a few examples of what once was and what is today. Sometimes, things stay the same, sort of and, other times, well....



The Round House, Brookland, 2004



The Round House, 2012



Looking southwest from Riggs Road and Eastern Avenue, 1948
Historical Society of Washington, Wymer Collection



Looking southwest from Riggs Road and Eastern Avenue, 2013



Brentwood Village Shopping Center, 1948
Historical Society of Washington, Wymer Collection



Brentwood Village Shopping Center, 2013

Preservation Challenges

Ward 5 is quite diverse in its neighborhoods and historical resources. Residents in many of Ward 5 neighborhoods have fought hard to preserve the look and feel of their communities. These sentiments are heard in community gatherings and neighborhood planning meetings. Yet some members of these same communities are eager for the reinvestment and change that 21st century planning and development offer. The challenge remains how to wed the two sometimes opposing goals of preservation and new development.

Many historic communities, such as Bates, Eckington, and Bloomingdale have been plagued with incompatible alterations or infill construction, and others, like Ivy City and Trinidad, by neglect. The result in some instances is that there is diminished contiguous historical fabric, which may prevent historic recognition (i.e., historic district designation), but which could provide protection of heritage sites.

An alternative strategy to protecting entire neighborhoods has been the designation of individual historic places – sites that have significance to Ward 5 and to the District. Several new landmarks include Bunker Hill, Slater, and Langston Schools, the Chapman Stables and Garages, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home. There are other sites or collections of sites in the ward that also deserve the protection historic designation can bring. The development of an alternative tool for neighborhood preservation, such as the establishment of a conservation district, is currently being considered as a recommendation of the Mid-City East Plan.

Residents have also become engaged in the DC Community Heritage Project, an initiative of DCHPO and the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, to explore and document the history of their neighborhoods. Ivy City neighbors have developed several formal expressions of their community story, such as video tapes of oral history sessions. Other Ward 5 communities, such as Trinidad and Langston Terrace, are doing similar work. The outcome of the work in these neighborhoods has been increased awareness of the importance of local cultural resources and a desire for their protection.



West Brookland/Edgewood development



Eckington “pop-ups”

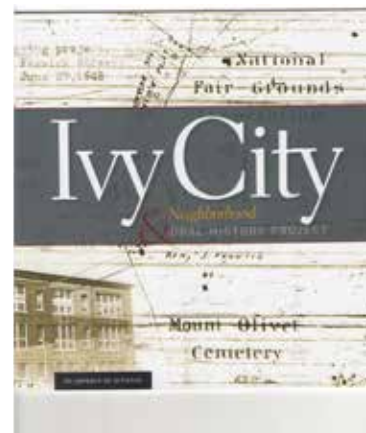
Preservation Strategies

In consideration of the many challenges, the following strategies are offered to further preservation education and advocacy:

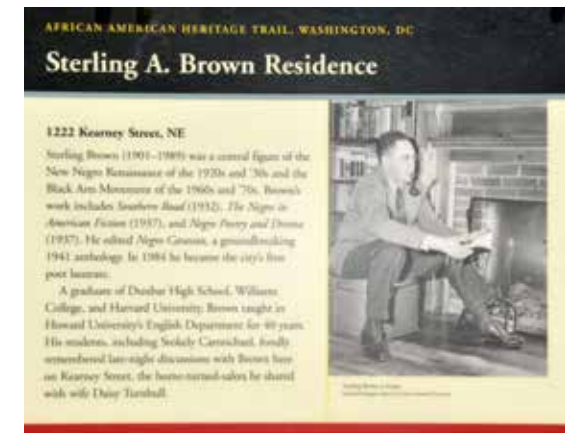
- Continue research to accurately document significant historic sites.
- Support preservation efforts such as the development of Cultural Tourism's neighborhood heritage trail and Walking Town DC programs and other cultural initiatives.
- Ensure that preservation and community conservation are fully considered and integrated into neighborhood planning efforts.
- Recruit community groups to participate in the DC Community Heritage Project as a way to engage residents in an inquiry of neighborhood cultural resources.
- Engage and assist community-based explorations of heritage preservation and goals.
- Conduct informal inquiries into preservation goals/issues of stakeholders.
- Fund and/or support cultural resource surveys of discrete areas of the ward, such as Bloomingdale, Trinidad, and Ivy City.
- Support the growing public arts program as a tool for heritage preservation.
- Nominate eligible sites for historic designation in consultation with affected owners and residents.



Mural in Edgewood



Ivy City brochure



African American Heritage Trail sign

HISTORIC SITES

Historic Landmarks in Ward Five

Ward 5 has several designated historic landmarks and sites. A designated landmark means the property is listed on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and mandates a review to ensure that physical changes to designated properties are compatible with their historic and architectural character. Landmarks are designated by the Historic Preservation Review Board, a mayoral-appointed commission. Landmarks may also be forwarded to the National Register of Historic Places, administered by the National Park Service.

Samuel Chapman Armstrong Technical High School (Armstrong Manual Training School)

122 P Street, NW



Significance:

The preeminent example of a national campaign for vocational training for African Americans; built 1901-2, Waddy B. Wood, architect.

Bellair Mansion (Brooks Mansion)

901 Newton Street, NE



Significance:

Erected in 1840 for Col. Jehiel Brooks and his wife, Ann Margaret Queen, a descendent of some of Ward 5's original white settlers, became the seat of the 1880s community, Brookland.

Boundary Stones (4)

Ft. Lincoln along Eastern Avenue to Sargent Road



Significance:

Wards 5 has four of 40 stones erected from 1791-1792 to mark the boundaries of the District of Columbia based upon astronomical calculations of Benjamin Banneker. Pictured is NE5.

Ralph Bunche House
1510 Jackson Street, NE



Significance:

Residence of noted educator, diplomat and recipient of 1950 Nobel Peace Prize; designed by Hilyard Robinson, built 1941.

Bunker Hill Elementary School
1401 Michigan Avenue, NE



Significance:

Designed for white students, an example of an “extensible” building, with additions made to accommodate growing pupil population; constructed from 1939-67; Municipal Architect, designer.

Chapman Coal Company Stable and Garage
57 N Street, NW



Significance:

Example of early 20th-century commercial garage and workshop spaces that transitioned from the horse-drawn use to the automobile age; constructed 1906 to 1929, Edward T. Chapman and Nicholas T. Haller, designers.

Children's Country Home (Hospital for Sick Children)

1731 Bunker Hill Road, NE



Significance:

Originally founded as a summer camp for sick children; designed by Nathan C. Wyeth and Francis P. Sullivan and built in 1929 to 1930; cornerstone laid by First Lady Lou Henry Hoover .

Civil War Fort Sites-Forts Bunker Hill, Lincoln, Saratoga, Slemmer, Thayer, Totten, and Batteries Morris, Jameson



Library of Congress

Significance:

Found at various locations around the northeast perimeter of Ward 5, the Civil War forts were erected to form a protective ring around Washington. Pictured is Fort Slemmer originally located near Marist Hall, on the Catholic University campus.

Alexander Crummell Elementary School

1900 Gallaudet Street, NE



Significance:

Named for African American clergyman, activist, educator and founder of the American Negro Academy; built in 1911-12, design inspired by Municipal Architect, Snowden Ashford.

Dahlgreen Courts

2504, 2520 10th Street, NE



Significance:

Represents the earliest phase of multiple-family development in Brookland, a previously low-density neighborhood; built 1927-29, designed by Edward M. Willis and George T. Santmyers.

Engine Company No. 10 (Truck House No. 13; Trinidad Firehouse)

1342 Florida Avenue, NE



Significance:

Built in 1925, it was one of the first two fire stations built following the District's World War I building construction hiatus as a two-full-story firehouse; designed by Office of the Municipal Architect.

Engine Company No. 17 (Chemical Company No. 4; Brookland Firehouse)

1227 Monroe Street, NE



Significance:

Erected in 1901 as an eight-man Chemical Company; was one of the most distinctive buildings in underdeveloped community of two-story frame houses; became Engine Company 17 in 1905; Office of Building Inspector, designer.

Engine Company No. 26 (Truck Company 15)
1340 Rhode Island Avenue, NE



Significance:

Last “fire truck house” built; designed in 1936 by the Municipal Architect to fit its site and suit its neighborhood architecturally; in 1954 one of first firehouses to integrate.

Franciscan Monastery & Memorial Church of the Holy Land
1400 Quincy Street, NE



Significance:

Built in 1899, Aristides Leonori, architect.

Nathaniel Parker Gage School
2035 2nd Street, NW



Significance:

Built in 1904-5, with 1908 addition, in high-style Colonial Revival; Lemuel W. Norris and Municipal Architect, Snowden Ashford.

**Gallaudet College Historic District & Chapel Hall,
President's House**

Florida Avenue, NE between 6th and 9th Streets, NE



Significance:

World's only liberal arts college for the hearing impaired founded as elementary school in 1857 on the Kendall Green estate and authorized as a college in 1864; architect, J.C. Withers; landscape designed by Olmsted, Vaux & Co.

Glenwood Cemetery Chapel

2219 Lincoln Road, NE



Significance:

Example of Romanesque Revival style, serves as focal feature of a cemetery chartered in 1854 and exemplifying the "rural cemetery" movement; designed by Glenn Brown and built in 1892.

Samuel Gompers House

2122 1st Street, NW



Significance:

Home of founder and head of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), 1886 - 1924; head of the AFL-CIO until his death on December 13, 1924; built 1902, FA Blundon, architect.

Hecht Company Warehouse

1401 New York Avenue, NE



Significance:

Nationally recognized example of streamline moderne design; built 1937 for local retailer with additions in 1948 and 1961; Abbott, Merkt & Co., architects.

Langston Golf Course and Driving Range – NR only

2600 Benning Rd., NE



Significance:

18-hole course sited on 145 acres of land reclaimed from the Anacostia River; opened 1939 for African American golfers and home to the nation's first golf clubs for black men and women.

John Mercer Langston Elementary School

45 P Street, NW



Significance:

Built in 1902 as a school for African Americans to handle the overflow of students from the adjoining 1890 Slater School; Appleton P. Clark, architect.

Langston Terrace Dwellings

21st & Benning Road, NE



Significance:

The first federally-sponsored public housing complex in the District, built from 1933-37 to house African Americans; designed by Hilyard Robinson.

Lincoln Cottage (President Lincoln & Soldiers' Home National Monument)

Rock Creek Church Rd. & Upshur, NW



Significance:

Initially summer cottage of G.W. Riggs, built 1842-3; associated with President Lincoln and the site of the crafting of the Emancipation Proclamation; constructed by William Degges following plans of John Skirving, architect.

McMillan Park Reservoir Historic District

First Street and Michigan Avenue, NW



Significance:

Washington's first water treatment facility and primary component of the municipal water system; grounds designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

Metropolitan Apartment Building

200 Rhode Island Avenue, NE



Significance:

Designed in 1936 by George T. Santmyers for developer, Abraham S. Kay; related to increasing importance of Rhode Island Avenue as a commuter-automobile route in the early twentieth century; an early standout in a neighborhood of rowhouses, one of its notable features is the series of private garages built into the basement level at rear.

National Arboretum

3501 New York Avenue, NE



Significance:

The National Arboretum was established by Congress in 1927. Initially, 189 acres it has grown to 412 acres; the only federally supported and the largest urban arboretum in the country, it serves as a nationwide center for research, education and plant propagation; has significant evidence of previous Indian habitation and nineteenth century spring houses; Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., was the chief landscape architect.

Newton Theater

3601 12th Street, NE



Significance:

Moderne-style neighborhood theater; designed by theater architect, John J. Zink; opened in 1937.

Old Engine Company No. 12 (Eckington Firehouse)

1626 North Capitol Street, NE



Significance:

Constructed in 1896-1897 to serve new suburbs around and beyond Florida Avenue; architect, Snowden Ashford.

**Old Engine Company No. 26
(Langdon Firehouse; Chemical Company No. 3)**

2715 22nd Street, NE



Significance:

Erected in 1908 for new suburb, Langdon; styled to appear as a residence, without typical suburban lookout hose towers; designed by A.B. Mullett & Sons.

Prospect Hill Cemetery

2201 North Capitol Street, NE



Significance:

Established in 1858 by German Evangelical Society of the Concordia Church; embodies picturesque landscape ideals of the Victorian era.

John Fox Slater School

43 P Street, NE



Significance:

Constructed in 1891 for African American students; designed by "Office of the Building Inspector" identical in design to a Georgetown school built for white students; one of a complex of African American schools.

**Soldiers' Home National Historic Site
(U.S. Military Asylum)**

Rock Creek Church Road &
Upshur Street, NW



Significance:

Established in 1851, the retirement home is the last remaining of four branches of the first national institution for retired and disabled veterans. Includes Sherman Building (1854-7, tower added 1869) pictured here; Lincoln Cottage (1842-3) and Quarters No. 1 and No. 2 (1854-7, the four oldest buildings in the historic district).

Spingarn Senior High School

2500 Benning Road, NE

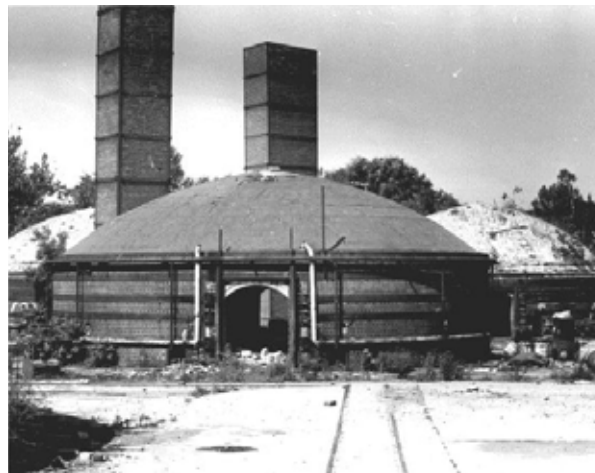


Significance:

Built in 1951-1952, as a school for African American students, and part of an academic campus that included elementary and junior high schools; named for Joel Elias Spingarn, one of the first Jewish leaders of the NAACP; design work of Municipal Architect Nathan Wyeth.

United Brick Corporation Brick Complex

2801 New York Avenue, NE



Significance:

Constructed 1927-31, example of District's former extensive brick-making industry.

Margaret Murray Washington School

44 P Street, NW



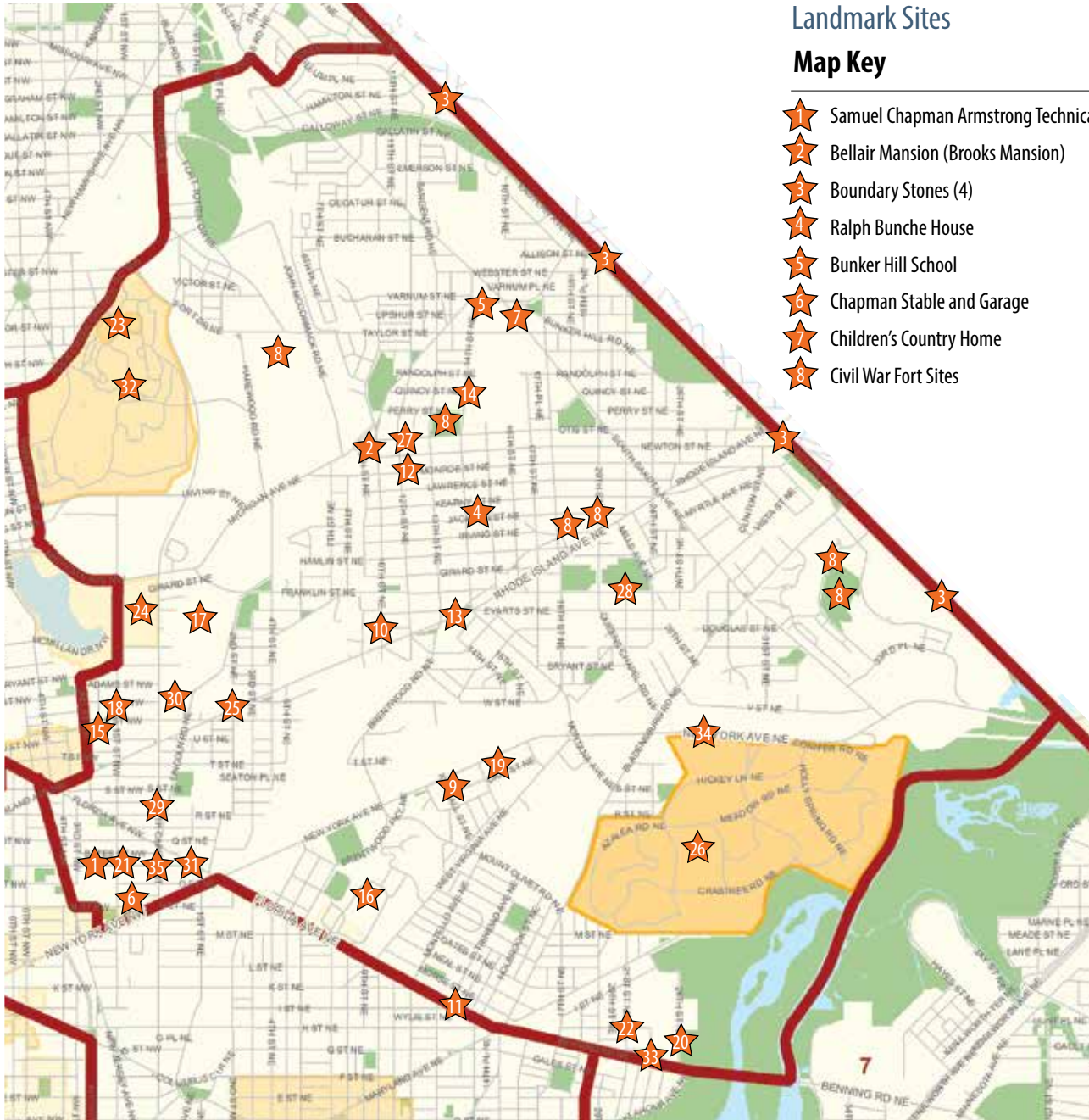
Significance:

Originally known as the O Street Vocational School and opened for African American students, established as part of vocational training school movement; constructed in 1912 with later additions by Albert Harris and Albert Cassell.

Landmark Sites

Map Key

- ★ Samuel Chapman Armstrong Technical High School
- ★ Alexander Crummell School
- ★ Bellair Mansion (Brooks Mansion)
- ★ Dahlgreen Courts
- ★ Boundary Stones (4)
- ★ Engine Company No. 10 (Trinidad Firehouse)
- ★ Ralph Bunche House
- ★ Engine Company No. 17 (Brookland Firehouse)
- ★ Bunker Hill School
- ★ Engine Company No. 26 (Truck Company 15)
- ★ Chapman Stable and Garage
- ★ Franciscan Monastery & Memorial Church of the Holy Land
- ★ Children's Country Home
- ★ Nathaniel Parker Gage School
- ★ Civil War Fort Sites
- ★ Gallaudet College Historic District & Chapel Hall
- ★ Glenwood Cemetery Chapel
- ★ Samuel Gompers House
- ★ Hecht Company Warehouse
- ★ Langston Golf Course and Driving Range – NR only
- ★ John Mercer Langston School
- ★ Langston Terrace Dwellings
- ★ Lincoln Cottage
- ★ McMillan Park Reservoir Historic District
- ★ Metropolitan Apartment Building
- ★ National Arboretum
- ★ Newton Theater
- ★ Old Engine Company No. 26 (Langdon Firehouse)
- ★ Old Engine House 12 (Bloomingdale Firehouse)
- ★ Prospect Hill Cemetery
- ★ John Fox Slater School
- ★ Soldiers' Home National Historic Site and Armed Forces Retirement Home
- ★ Spingarn Senior High School
- ★ United Brick Corporation Brick Complex
- ★ Margaret Murray Washington School



African American Heritage Trail

Sites in Ward Five


An initiative funded by the DC Historic Preservation Office and developed and designed by Cultural Tourism DC, this heritage trail project introduces over two hundred African American historic and cultural sites in Washington. Several sites in Ward Five are marked with signs.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL, WASHINGTON, DC

WOOK-TV Building

5321 First Place, NE

WOOK-TV, on the air from 1963 to 1972, was the first "all-Negro" television station in the nation. White founder Richard Eaton also started its predecessor, WOOK-Radio, in 1947 as the nation's first "Negro-oriented" radio station. Viewers fondly remember *Teenarama Dance Party*, DC's first black teen dance show. Hosted by Bob King, *Teenarama* aired from 5 to 6 pm Monday through Saturday, from 1963 to 1971 (and before that on WOOK-Radio). It featured hand dancing, DC's unique form of swing. The Temptations, Marvellettes, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Marvin Gaye, James Brown, and many other performers often dropped by *Teenarama* while in town to appear at the Howard Theatre.



Teenarama Dance Party, 1963. Collection of Beverly Lusk-Johnson.

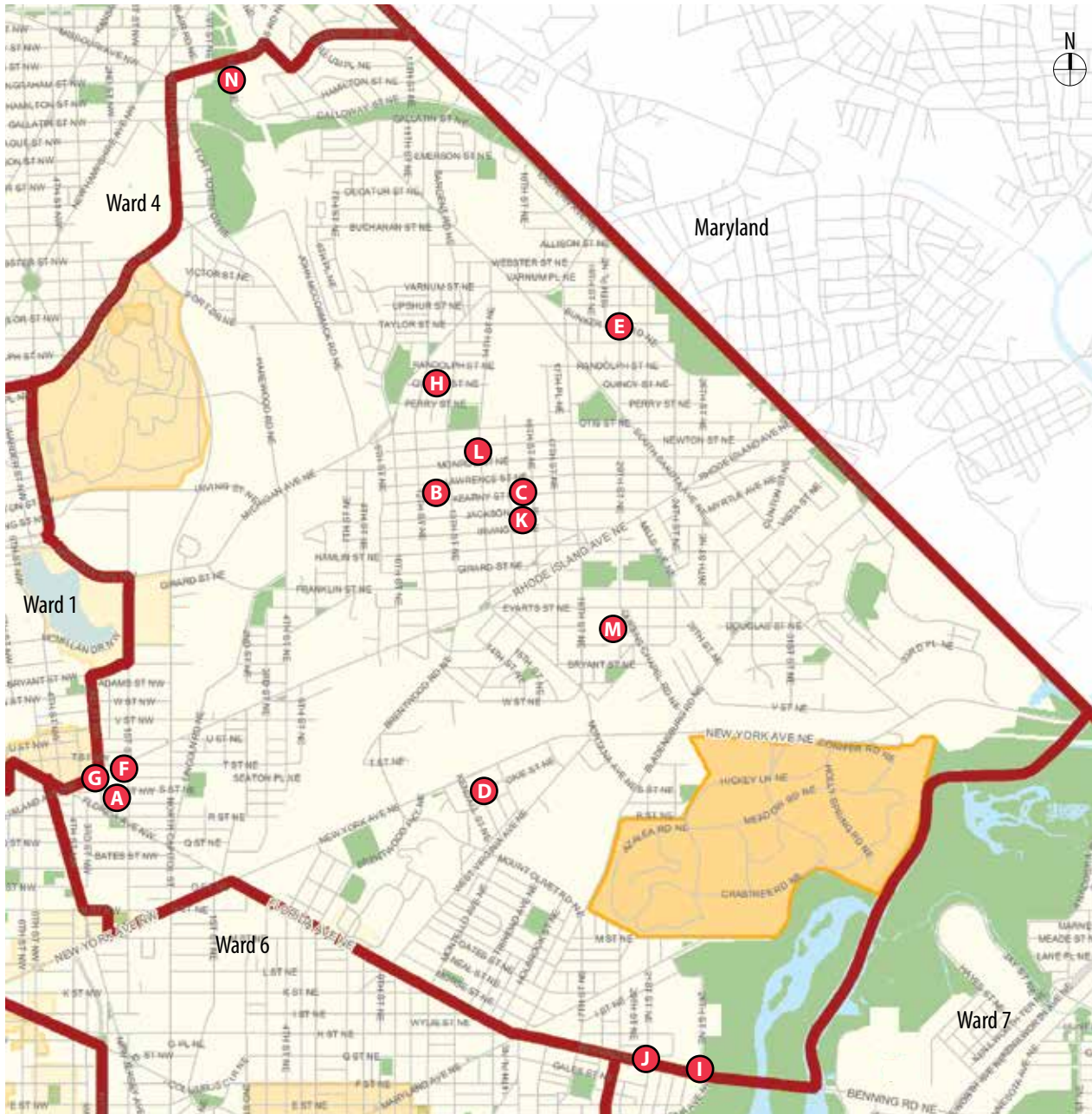
Cultural Tourism DC
Funded by the DC Historic Preservation Office



Archie Edwards, Alpha Tonsorial Palace



Dorothy Boulding Ferebee Residence



African American Heritage Trail

Map Key

- A** Barnett Aden Gallery
127 Randolph Place, NW
- B** Sterling A. Brown Residence
1222 Kearney Street, NE
- C** Ralph J. Bunche Residence – Landmarks listing
1510 Jackson Street, NE
- D** Alexander Crummell Elementary School – Landmark listing
Gallaudet and Kendall streets, NE
- E** Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation/Alpha Tonsorial Palace Site
2007 Bunker Hill Rd., NE
- F** Dorothy Boulding Ferebee Residence
1809 2nd Street, NW
- G** E. Franklin Frazier and Marie B. Frazier Residence
220 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
- H** Lois Mailou Jones Residence
Marked with a plaque 1220 Quincy Street, NE
- I** Langston Golf Course and Driving Range – Landmark listing
2600 Benning Road, NE
- J** Langston Terrace Dwellings/Hilyard Robinson - Landmark listing
21st Street and Benning Road, NE
- K** Rayford Logan Residence
1519 Jackson Street, NE
- L** Robert Clifton Weaver Residence
3519 14th Street, NE
- M** Ionia R. Whipper Residence
2000 Channing Street, NE
- N** WOOK-TV Building
5321 First Place, NE

Cultural and Heritage Resources

What follows is a listing of some of the places that are important to the heritage of the ward or represent important points of history. These sites have been identified from many sources, including historic resource surveys, publications, historic archives, planning documents, and community residents. Some have been identified as important places on the African American Heritage Trail (AAHT). These are marked with ✳.

Neighborhoods



Bloomingdale

Roughly South of the McMillan Reservoir, west of North Capitol to 2nd Street NW, and north of Florida Avenue, NW.

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development
Subdivided on several former estates including the Truxton-Beale estate by the same name, and developed between 1898 and 1911 as streetcar suburbs.



Brookland

Roughly 9th Street, NE to 18th Street, NE and between Rhode Island Avenue, NE and Michigan Avenue, NE

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development
Social Movements
Subdivided in 1887 on the former Brooks estate, residential development began as a result of transportation lines, railroad and later the streetcar; and is known for its variety of architectural styles and early integrated community.



Eckington

Florida Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue, North Capitol and railroad tracks

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development, Commercial/Business

Developed late 19th to early 20th century and named for former country estate, most notable for proximity to railroad and for the Eckington and Soldier's Home streetcar line that led to the establishment of Washington's industrial district and new modern suburban communities in northeast and northwest Washington County; developed by George Truesdell.



Shaw East

The Ward 5 section that is roughly south of Rhode Island Avenue, NW between New Jersey Avenue and North Capitol Street, NW, to N Street, NW

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development Social Movements

Comprised mainly of relatively intact late 19th and early 20th century rowhouses, with churches, schools, and commercial buildings interspersed; part the larger Shaw community.

Washington Sanitary Improvement Housing

Bates, P Street between North Capitol and 4th Street, NW

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development, Social Movements

Erected between 1898 and 1904 as a model for affordable but decent housing for low-income tenants and part of a social reform movement to eliminate alley dwellings and move their residents into "sanitary" housing.

Houses of Worship



Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

400 Michigan Avenue, NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Largest Catholic church in country and visited by two popes; built 1919-1959; designed by the leading Boston architects of collegiate and ecclesiastical buildings, Maginnis & Walsh, and constructed by John McShain.



Brookland Methodist Episcopal Church/Immanuel Bible Assembly

3303 10th Street NE

Importance: Religion/Spirituality

One of Ward 5's oldest existing non-Catholic church buildings; built 1895, Donn & Peters, architects.



Brookland Union Baptist Church

3101 14th Street NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Founded in 1945 as a Sunday school, it was the only black church in area until the 1960s; new building designed by architects, Vaughn & Ferguson, 1961.

Brookland Methodist Episcopal Church/Bunton Memorial CME Church

1350 Lawrence Street NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Founded in 1891, the congregation held the first mass celebrated in Brookland; first church was built on this site in 1896 and replaced in 1938 by the Murphy & Olmsted designed building.

Church of Our Savior

1616 Irving Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Congregation's second building on this site, replaced 1895 building in 1925; Delos H. Smith, architect.



Masjid Muhammad

1519 4th NW

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Built in 1955 as first purpose built mosque in DC for Nation of Islam.



McKendree Simms Brookland United Methodist Church and Parsonage

3319 South Dakota Ave, NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Built in 1943; Wenner & Frank, architects.

Memorial Church of the United Brethren/Metropolitan Wesley AME Zion Church

1712 North Capitol Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

The local congregation of this evangelical Protestant and historically anti-slavery faith dates to 1893; the 1904 building was designed by Abner A. Ritcher; now occupied by an AME Zion congregation founded in 1832



Rhode Island Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church/Mount Bethel Baptist Church

75 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Constructed in 1902; Harding & Upman, architects; now houses congregation founded by formerly enslaved.

Mount Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church/Gateway to Heaven Pentecostal Holiness

1910 W. Virginia Ave., NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

One of the oldest existing church buildings in Ivy City; 1925, Louis D. Hayes, architect and builder.



Sacred Heart Seminary/Faith United Church of Christ

4900 10th Street NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Built in 1957; cornerstone reads "erected in Memory of the Ellicott Family."

Saint Anselm's Abbey

4501 South Dakota Avenue, NE

Importance: Religion/Spirituality, Architecture, Education

Established as a priory in 1930 by Benedictine friars who opened the secondary school for boys in 1942; in 1961, the priory elevated to the rank of abbey by Pope John XXIII; Murphy and Olmsted, 1930, designers, with 1940 addition by Frederick V. Murphy.



Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

1029 Monroe Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Religion/Spirituality

Founded in 1891, the congregation held the first mass celebrated in Brookland; first church was built on this site in 1896 and replaced in 1938 by the Murphy & Olmsted designed building

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church and Rectory

2003 Rhode Island Avenue, NE

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development, Social Movements

The descendent of Queen's Chapel, Ward 5's first church; Francis X. Higdon, architect of church, 1906-08, and Murphy & Olmsted, architect of rectory 1920-27; interiors by J.J. Earley.



Glenwood Cemetery

2219 Lincoln Road, NE

Importance: Archaeology, Religion/Spirituality

Sited in the County in 1854, it was established as part of the Rural Cemetery movement, which envisioned burial grounds as places of beauty and tranquility; Amos Kendall, founder of Gallaudet University is among notable burials.



Mount Olivet Cemetery

1300 Bladensburg Road, NE

Importance: Archaeology, Religion/Spirituality

Founded in 1858 as the primary burial ground for Catholics; permitted burials of African American Catholics; Mary Surratt, convicted conspirator in Lincoln assassination, among notable burials.



**Saint Mary Mother of God German Catholic Church Cemetery/
Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery**

2121 Lincoln Road, NE

Importance: Archaeology, Religion/Spirituality

Established in 1875 initially to serve German congregants of the church that dated to 1846, later also accepted a large number of Greek and Italian burials; initially located on O Street between North Capitol and 1st Streets, NE

Schools/Colleges/Institutions



..... • **Baker's Dozen, Inc. Building * (AAHT)**

1509/1511 4th, NW

Importance: Education, Social Movements

Housed youth center founded in 1944 by Delta Sigma Theta sorority and turned over to Howard University in 1981.

..... • **Brookland School/Luke C. Moore Academy**

10th Street, NE & Monroe Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Education

Built in 1891 for white students, now houses an adult education center named for second black U.S. Marshal and later District Superior Court judge; B. Stanley Simmons, architect.



..... • **John Burroughs Elementary School**

1820 Monroe Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Education

Built in 1922; sole school in DC following West Coast plan of including classrooms around central pavilion; designer J. Rush Marshall.

..... • **The Catholic University of America**

620 Michigan Avenue, NE

Importance: Religion/Spirituality, Education, Architecture, Community Development

Established in 1887 and opened in 1889 as the first national university of the Catholic Church, the only higher education founded by the United States bishops and only one visited by two popes; at 193 acres, the largest campus in the District; spurred growth of "Little Rome" with over 60 Catholic institutions.



Eckington School

1st Street & Quincy Place, NE

Importance: Architecture, Education

At its completion in 1897, was considered a model school in design and construction; Appleton P. Clark, architect.

Holy Name Catholic School

1217 West Virginia Avenue, NE

Importance: Architecture, Education, Religion/Spirituality

The building, designed by Murphy and Olmsted, was erected in 1924, as the school for Holy Name Catholic Church.

McKinley Technical High School/McKinley Senior High School

151 T Street, NE

Importance: Education, Architecture

Originally located at 7th Street and Rhode Island Avenue, NW, the new building for the technical school for white students was designed by Municipal Architect Albert Harris and erected in 1926; the gymnasium served for a period in the 1920s to the 1940s as the home court for the Georgetown Hoyas; now well-known for its participation in the STEM program.



Shaed School

301 Douglas Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Education,

Built in 1972 as DC's first "open space" school; named for two sisters who were master teachers.



St. Anthony Catholic School

3400 12th Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Education, Religion/Spirituality
Designed by Leon Dessez and built in 1896; incorporated into the school in 1922.



Saint Joseph Seminary

1200 Varnum Street, NE

Importance: Religion/Spirituality, Education, Social Movements
The seminary of The Josephites, an order dedicated to serving African American, opened its seminary in 1888 in Baltimore and transferred to Washington in 1925; designed by Maginnis and Walsh, 1929-30.



William Howard Taft Junior High School

1800 Perry Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Education
Opened in 1933 as first junior high school in Woodridge/Brookland area; subject of significant community fight over design of Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris.



.....

Trinity Washington University

151 Michigan Avenue, NE

Importance: Religion/Spirituality, Education, Architecture, Social Movement

Founded in 1897 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, as a Catholic college for women; the Main Hall constructed between 1899 and 1909 and is surrounded by a trio of early-20th century limestone buildings by architects Maginnis and Walsh.



.....

National Lutheran Home for the Aged/Washington Center for Aging Services

2601 18th Street, NE

Importance: Health/Medicine, Social Movement

Bequeathed in 1890 by Sarah Utermehle for care of elderly; early cottages replaced by this structure in 1913.

.....

Ionia R. Whipper Home for Unwed Mothers * (AAHT)

2000 Channing Street, NE

Importance: Health/Medicine, Social Movement

From 1931-1960s, only home for black women; operated by Dr. Whipper, who specialized in women's health care.

Fraternal / Recreational



Alpha Tonsorial Palace/ Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Site * (AAHT)

2007 Bunker Hill Rd., NE

Importance: Entertainment/Performing Arts, Commerce/Business, Social Movements

Barbershop opened in 1959 by barber, bluesman, storyteller, teacher became venue for live music and 1998-2008, a blues cultural center.



American Theater/Sylvan Theater

106-112 Rhode Island Ave., NW

Importance: Entertainment/Performing Arts, Architecture, Commerce/Business, Social Movements

Opened 1914 for white patrons; renamed Sylvan in 1929; became African American theater in 1950; closed in 1965; N.T. Haller, architect.

Barnett Aden Gallery * (AAHT)

127 Randolph Pl., NW

Importance: Art/Literature, Social Movements

First known black privately owned gallery and operated from 1943-1969; J. Herring and A. Aden, founders.



Crispus Attucks Park

Bounded by alleys of the North Capitol, U, V, and First Streets NW

Importance: Social Movements, Recreation/Sports

Conveyed to a community-based organization in 1977, residents began reclaim the space through gardening.



..... **King David Lodge No. 28 / Brookland Masonic Temple**

3501 12th Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Social Movements

Organized in 1893, erected building in 1909; one of the earliest semi-public buildings, served as a community center, and local post office.



..... **Langdon Lodge Hall No. 26 IOOF**

2022 Rhode Island Avenue, NE

Importance: Architecture, Social Movements

1908 Odd Fellows Lodge building designed by C.E. Webb; noted for its fine Italian dining offerings.

Places of Commerce



12th Street NE, Brookland

Importance: Commerce/Business, Community Planning/Development
Commercial hub of Brookland; development began as a result of streetcar service in early 1900s.



2201-07 4th Street NE and 1328 Florida Avenue NE

Importance: Architecture, Commercial/Business, Community Planning/Development
Example of neighborhood retail centers in developing communities; 1937, Arthur P. Starr, designer.

2303 4th Street, NE

Importance: Architecture
Example of vitrolite treatment popular in the 1920s and 30s.



East Gate Lodge #34/Dudley Beauty College

2031 Rhode Island Avenue, NE

Importance: Architecture, Commercial/Business, Fraternal
Designed by Richards G. Deacon and built in 1922; now home of one of several beauty schools operated around the world by Dudley Products, which specializes in African American skin and hair products.

Herson Glass

72 Florida Avenue NE

Importance: Architecture, Commercial/Business
Example of mid-century modern commercial building embodying its product in its design.



W.B. Gibb Cut-Stone Co. Inc./Chocolate City Beer

2801 8th Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Commerce/Business
Built in 1917 by owner W.B. Gibb as a workshop; furnished limestone and granite to the Kennedy-Warren Apartments.



Judd and Detweiler Printing Company

1500 Eckington Place, NE

Importance: Architecture; Commerce/Business

Erected in 1913 to handle principal account, The National Geographic Society; building and several later additions designed by Wardman & Waggaman and by Arthur B. Heaton.



MPM Market & Apartment Building /Newton Foodmart

3600 12th Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development

Constructed in 1938 in the streamline Art Moderne style matching the 1937 theater building across the street; A.J. Scullen, architect.

Stone Straw Company Building

900 Franklin Street

Importance: Commerce/Business

Third and final DC location of the company started by Marvin C. Stone to manufacture his 1888 invention, the paper drinking straw; 1930, L.H. Harris, architect.



Woodridge Langdon Bank Building

2027 Rhode Island Avenue NE

Importance: Architecture, Commercial/Business

Designed 1923 by W.S. Plager

WOOK-TV Building * (AAHT)

5321 1st Place, NE

Importance: Commerce/Business, Entertainment/Performing Arts

Home of first "Negro-oriented" radio station, 1947, and in 1963 as first "all-Negro" television station in the nation.

Apartment Buildings



Brentwood Village/Brookland Manor Apartments

1287 Brentwood Road, NE Burrville

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development
DC's first FHA financed apartment; designed and developed in 1930s by Warwick and Ring.



Owasco Apartments/Lincoln Road Apartments

11 R Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development
Built by developer George Truesdell in 1901.



231 S Street, NW

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development
Designed in 1914 by Nicholas T. Haller who preferred low-rise, modest apartment buildings, constructed along early street car residential development.

Notable Buildings / Sites



45 Rhode Island Avenue, NE

Importance: Architecture

1908 building designed by Julius Germuiller for Juvenile Court Judge William H. DeLacy.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

1800 Hamlin Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Commerce/Business

Constructed as two separate buildings – 1926 as a church, 1937 as a store, it became an A&P Store.



Robertson-Edel House

1804 Lawrence St., NE

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development

One of last remaining farmhouses in the District; constructed in the 1850s; later occupied by farmer of 40 acres.

Trinidad alley buildings

Alleys between Florida Avenue, NE and Morse Street, NE, and from West Virginia Avenue to Trinidad Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development

Former stable buildings, evoking a past that has disappeared.



Henry A. Vieth House

1932 Jackson Street, NE

Importance: Architecture

Designed by Kenneth Vieth in 1924; builder, Woodward and Vieth

Harry Wardman Houses

Unit and 100 Blocks of Rhode Island Avenue, U and W Streets, NW

Importance: Architecture, Community Planning/Development

Speculative builder who hired architects, and commissioned designs adapted to diverse neighborhoods and economic groups; 1904-1906

Houses of Notable Residents



Pearl Bailey (1918-1990) Residence

1428 Irving Street, NE

Importance: Entertainment/Performing Arts
The home in the 1930s of noted musician and actor.



Sterling A. Brown (1901-1989) Residence * (AAHT)

1222 Kearney Street., NE

Importance: Architecture, Art/Literature, Social Movements, Entertainment/Performing Arts
Home of noted poet and Howard faculty; served as a salon for other noted artists and intellectuals; designed by Lewis Giles, Sr.



E. Franklin Frazier (1894-1962) and Marie B. Frazier Residence * (AAHT)

220 Rhode Island, NW

Importance: Education, Social Movements
One of the most prolific social scientists of the 20th century and author of ground-breaking *Black Bourgeoisie* (1957).



Patricia Roberts Harris (1924-1985) Residence

2802 13th Street, NE

Importance: Government/Politics/Law
Home from 1958-1965 of first black woman to have held two cabinet level positions and an ambassadorship

Carrie Harrison Residence

1331 Newton Street, NE

Importance: Architecture, Science/Technology
As late 19th/early 20th century employee of the Department of Agriculture, the first woman to travel abroad to gather plant specimens; designed and built by T. Wallis and T. Fletcher, 1908.



Rayford Logan (1897-1982) Residence * (AAHT)

1519 Jackson Street, NE

Importance: Entertainment/Performing Arts
DC native, historian and civil rights activist who drafted President F.D. Roosevelt's executive order prohibiting exclusion of blacks from the military in WWII; designed by Hilyard Robinson, 1939.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1896-1953) Residence

1221 Newton Street, NE

Importance: Art/Literature, Architecture
Childhood home of Pulitzer-prize winning author; C.F. Schweinfurth, architect, 1905.



George T. Santmyers (1889-1960) Residence

1621 Otis Street, NE

Importance: 1621 Architecture, Commerce/Business
From 1927-1947, home to DC's most prolific architect; all of his DC residences were in Woodridge / Brookland area: with his parents at 18th & Jackson; as a young adult, two separate locations in 2800 block of Brentwood.

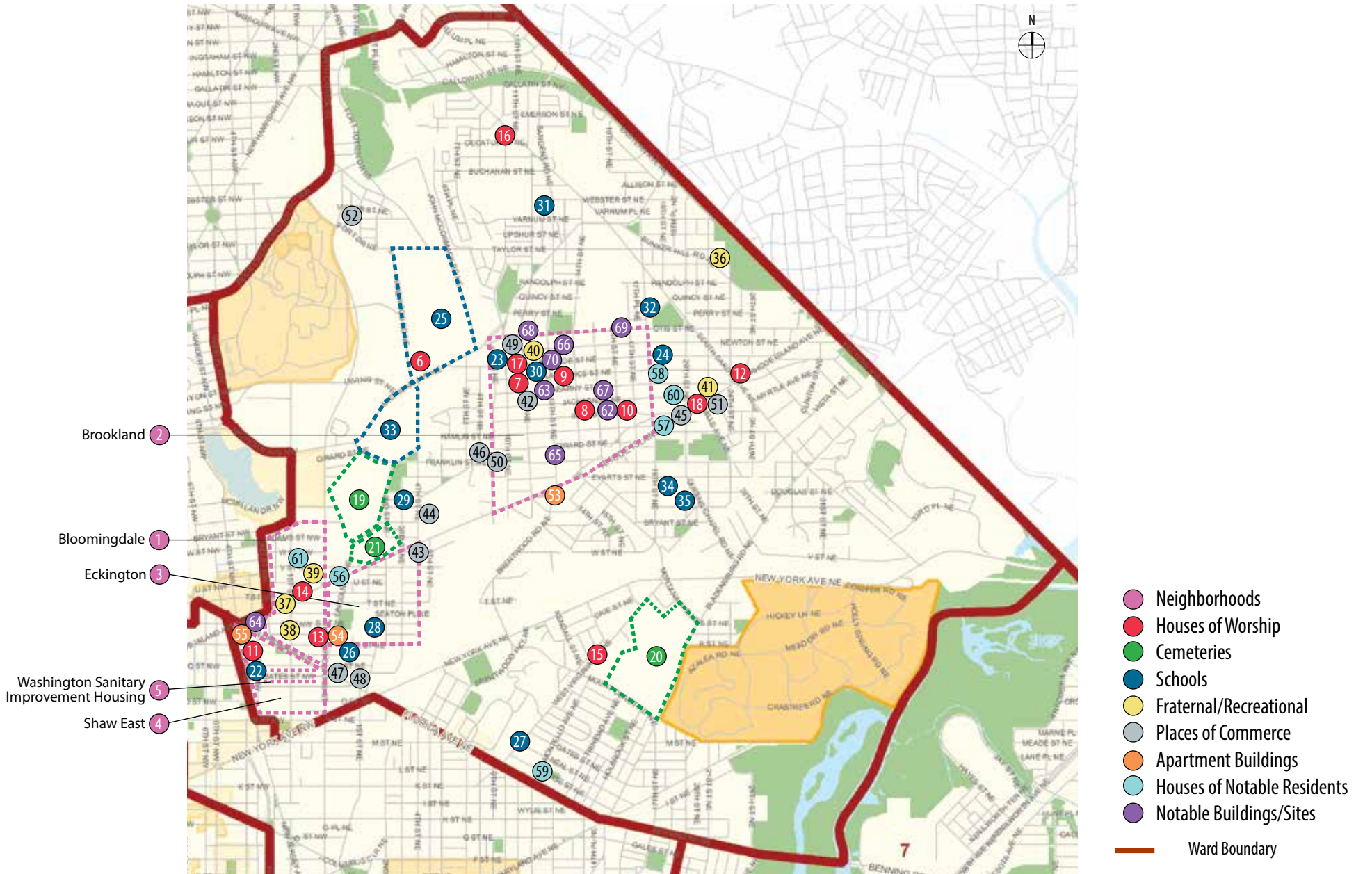


Robert Clifton Weaver (1907-1997) Residence * (AAHT)

3519 14th, NE

Importance: Government/Politics/Law
DC native who was the first African American member of a presidential cabinet - Secretary of HUD under President L. Johnson.

Map of Selected Cultural and Heritage Resources



Map Key

Neighborhoods

- 1 Bloomingdale
- 2 Brookland
- 3 Eckington
- 4 Shaw East
- 5 Washington Sanitary Improvement Housing

Houses of Worship

- 6 Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
- 7 Brookland Methodist Episcopal Church/
Immanuel Bible Assembly
- 8 Brookland Union Baptist Church
- 9 Brookland Methodist Episcopal Church/
Bunton Memorial CME Church
- 10 Church of Our Savior
- 11 Masjid Muhammad
- 12 McKendree Simms Brookland United Methodist Church and Parsonage
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- 16 Sacred Heart Seminary/Faith United Church of Christ
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- 65 Patricia Roberts Harris Residence
- 66 Carrie Harrison Residence
- 67 Rayford Logan Residence
- 68 Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Residence
- 69 George T. Santmyers Residence
- 70 Robert Clifton Weaver Residence

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William H. DeLacy House



Lewis Giles, Jr.-designed house
Photo by T. Lavash

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St. Martin's Convent Building



Wheatley Elementary School, 1935



Brookland - 13th and Franklin Streets, circa 1930s
Scurlock collection, National Museum of American History



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District of Columbia
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