

# DC Preservation Advocate

*The mission of the D.C. Preservation League is to preserve, protect, and enhance the historic and built environment of Washington, D.C., through advocacy and education.*

## City-Wide Historic Preservation Planning Conference Attracts Unprecedented Interest

*By Donna Hanousek  
DCPL Grants Administrator/Conference  
Manager*

On June 30, 2000, citizens, community leaders, preservationists, and government officials filled the historic Sumner School to review and improve the District's historic preservation policies, programs, and plans. This day-long conference, called "New Directions for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C.," was jointly sponsored by the D.C. Preservation League and the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office. It was held in response to a federal requirement that every four years the public participates in formulating state plans that establish priorities for spending federal Historic Preservation Fund "survey and planning" monies.

The plenary session featured a keynote address by Robert Stanton, Director of the National Park Service. Mr. Stanton provided an overview of the NPS's administration of historical and

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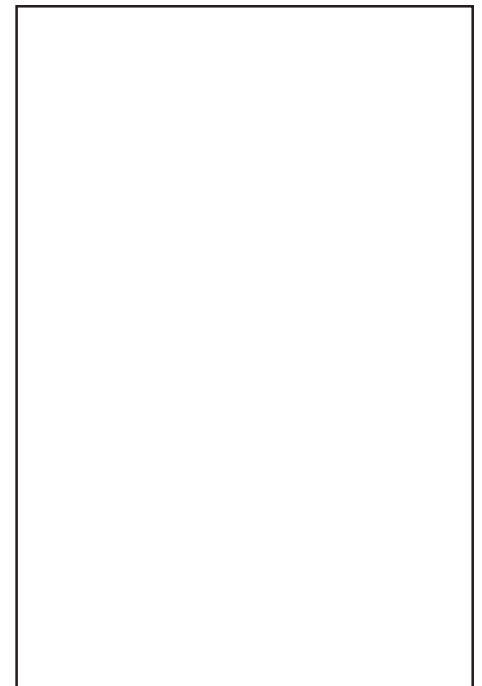
## Announcing Washington's Most Endangered Places 2000

Introduced at DCPL's Annual Meeting, Washington's Most Endangered Places 2000 list contains three new listings made possible by three deletions from the 1999 list. The Warder Toten House, long an eyesore on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, and the definition of "demolition by neglect," was removed as a result of its purchase by a Virginia developer who plans a Tax Act restoration of the property to the Secretary of Interior's standards. Warder Toten House advisor and architectural historian Judy Robinson credits its future success with having been on the Most Endangered List. DCPL testified before the Historic Preservation Review Board on behalf of the project developer's plans, which will include an apartment building to the rear of the property.

D.C.'s Historic Firehouses were also removed this year. The League's former president, Sally Berk, is preparing a multiproperty application to the D.C. Historic Preservation Division for all historic firehouses after having successfully designated Engine Company No. 3 on New Jersey Avenue, NW. The Fire Department recently placed that firehouse back in service, and DCPL members had the opportunity to tour it with Captain Gary Palmer following our Annual Meeting.

Mayor Anthony Williams was present at the 1999 Annual Meeting when the Brooks Mansion was placed on the Most Endangered List. It was removed this year with the help of DCPL members Tom and Angela Rooney and their tireless efforts as Brookland activists. Mayor Williams spoke at a recent event at the Brooks Mansion announcing its lease by D.C. Access cable television, which will be working with the League in the preservation

*(continued on page 5)*



*Angela Rooney and DCPL President David Bell at Brooks Mansion*

# Letter from the President

What makes Washington, D.C., a livable city? There are many factors, not the least of which are its economic vitality and its physical makeup. There is a simpatico relationship between these two factors—if one factor becomes too dominant, they both ultimately suffer. At a time when the city is experiencing an economic revival with intensified real estate development activity, the League’s work to preserve, protect, and enhance the historic and built environment is more critical than ever. The League must persuade decision makers that the city’s historic urban fabric is one of its greatest assets and a means to attract new residents, stimulate economic growth, and increase job opportunities. The suburban sprawl model doesn’t work here. DCPL must remain vigilant and continue to make the case to city leaders that preservation and economic development go hand-in-hand.

In the year 2000, the League must step up its efforts to carry out its mission on several fronts. Proposed activities for the coming year involve increasing the organization’s influence and increasing its capacity in the following ways:

- ◆ Building on community outreach initiatives
- ◆ Strengthening the preservation plan and integrating it into the comprehensive plan and the zoning code
- ◆ Strengthening preservation enforcement
- ◆ Educating the public on the benefits of preservation
- ◆ Becoming more proactive and more connected to other like-minded organizations
- ◆ Increasing membership and involvement
- ◆ Strengthening standing committees
- ◆ Streamlining operations and decision making
- ◆ Developing a larger professional staff

I am asking everyone who reads this newsletter to get involved. Become a member if you are not already one. Increase your membership contribution if you are already a member. Volunteer your time. Tell us what is important to you (see page 11 for ways to send your comments, critiques, and suggestions). The Board of Trustees is having a strategic planning retreat in October to reaffirm and refine DCPL’s mission. Tell us what you think. What should we do differently?

The city’s recent economic prosperity has bypassed some areas of the city. We need to roll up our sleeves and make preservation work to help stabilize and improve the quality of life for both neighborhoods and commercial corridors. The Williams’ Administration has voiced its support of preservation—now its time for action. DCPL and other organizations need to work together with the administration to ensure that historic resources are considered early in the planning process. This is an opportunity for us to show that preservation is not only good for economic development but is also good for community development.

We must ensure that our quality of life is preserved, protected, and enhanced.

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The *D.C. Preservation Advocate* is a publication of the D.C. Preservation League, whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the historic and built environment of Washington, D.C., through advocacy and education. Readers are encouraged to submit information and opinions.

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# Thoughts from the Executive Director: Takoma to Anacostia

By Don Hasfurther

My maternal roots are Irish and Scottish; both families descended on lands that are today our Nation's Capital. The Irish family, the Whites, came to the Colony of Maryland in the early 1700s and settled on land now occupied by the Soldier's and Airmen's Home. The Scottish family, the Lamonds, came to America after the Civil War and built homes in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century along the Metropolitan Line of the B&O by the community of Takoma.

Earlier this summer, I visited my mother and inquired about her early years in Washington. She recalled growing up at 6519 1<sup>st</sup> Street, NW, near the corner of Van Buren. She did not remember much about the house, but more about the "little house" behind with the Sears and Roebuck catalog. My older brother, who was born in Washington toward the end of World War II, still has a Civil War-era cannon ball found on the property, probably a reminder of skirmishes between Jubel Early's troops and those defending Washington.

My mother walked to Brightwood Elementary. As a young girl, she and her sisters attended performances at the Orphans' Home run by the Eastern Star. Later she would attend Columbia Junior High, which meant she caught the street car from Takoma, changed lines at Colorado Avenue and again at 14<sup>th</sup> and U Streets, before arriving at school at 7<sup>th</sup> and O Streets, NW, across from the O Street Market. At least that is how she remembers the ride. She must have made a similar journey on her way to Central High School, a half dozen blocks up 13<sup>th</sup> Street from where I have lived for the last 22 years.

Her mother was a Lamond. The family owned a "big" house on 1<sup>st</sup> Street and were friends with the Washington architect, C.A. Langley. The Lamond family owned and operated a terracota factory down Van Buren by the railroad tracks. My great uncle, Bruce Lamond, was killed in the

machinery at the factory in the 1920s. His nephew and my mother's cousin, Donald Lamond, Jr., would become one of the great Washingtonian jazz drummers of his time, playing with jazz greats Woodie Herman and Harry James.

I ask your indulgence for my sharing this small slice of family history. I mention it only as a tiny bit of the historic fabric that so pervades the city and its many historic neighborhoods. As I write, I am reminded of another conversation that I had several months ago during a visit to the Anacostia Historic District. While pointing out the Booth escape route and the homes of country music singers Jimmy Dean and Roy Clark and discussing the neighborhood's contribution to the city, community activist Carl Cole expressed his thoughts on historic preservation. "It's not just about brick and mortar," he noted, while describing the human element of the community, past and present.

Indeed, this human element is what makes the work of DCPL so interesting and important at this moment in the history of Washington, D.C. As the city undergoes major changes, it is important that the human elements of our city's neighborhoods, be they Takoma or Anacostia, not be lost. In future editions of the *D.C. Preservation Advocate*, you will read about a number of projects DCPL is planning that will focus on this human element.

One such event is a photo contest that we hope to organize next spring in cooperation with the city's high schools. Students will be asked to go into their neighborhoods and photograph a building or other structure that has special meaning to them. The photos, together with accompanying essays, are intended to encourage these young people to reflect on our heritage and hopefully the importance of historic preservation as well.

Another project will be undertaken with noted local photographer Carol Highsmith. Carol plans to photograph historic Washington row houses throughout the city. The photographs will also capture Washingtonians as we go about our lives and thus serve as invaluable documentation of life in Washington at the turn of the century and as a preservation tool for future generations. All photographs will be given to DCPL and the Library of Congress and will be made available to the public on the DCPL Web site.

Regrettably, the house where my mother entered this world is no longer standing for Carol to photograph. The family did build another home a block away on Van Buren during the 1920s. While modest, it sits solidly at the top of a hill surrounded by 1920s bungalows, which were summer homes at the time to families living downtown. During my recent visit, I took great comfort in standing under the elm trees on Van Buren and imaging the school kids running to catch the street car headed downtown.



From left to right, Frieda Murray, Diane Dale, Marie Dale, and Don Hasfurther

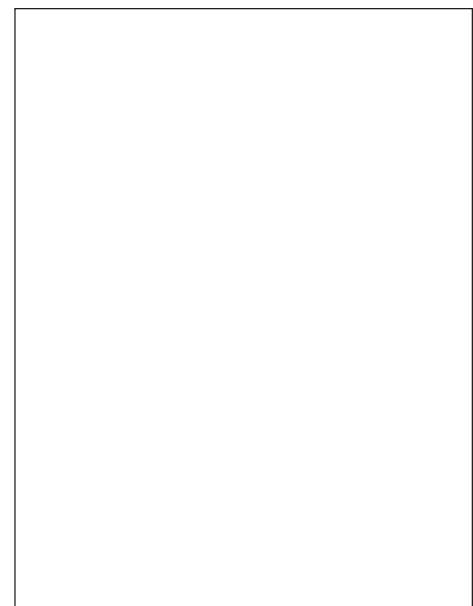
*(City-Wide Historic Preservation Planning Conference, continued from page 1)*

cultural resources. Council Members Sharon Ambrose and Jim Graham, as well as Gregory McCarthy, the State Historic Preservation Officer, spoke at the conference. Steve Raiche, Chief of the Historic Preservation Division, explained the roles of the SHPO, the Historic Preservation Review Board, and the Historic Preservation Division. Raiche also talked about his vision for expanding historic preservation activities throughout the city. Andrew Altman, Director, Office of Planning, talked about HPD's upcoming move from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to the Office of Planning. Altman intends to bring "historic preservation to all aspects of planning." He also said that he would "advocate for more resources for historic preservation." The morning session concluded with a slide show and lecture on archeology that demonstrated how much information about D.C.'s past is documented—from prehistoric native American culture 10,000 to 12,000 years ago to early 20<sup>th</sup> century ways of life.

Morning breakout sessions on a variety of preservation-related subjects followed. These seven sessions were as follows:

- ◆ Outlined local and federal preservation laws and explain how to get historic preservation activity started
- ◆ Recommended how to integrate archeology into the historic preservation plan
- ◆ Discussed urban design in the context of urban development patterns
- ◆ Examined financial incentives for homeowners and developers
- ◆ Made recommendations for enhancing preservation partnerships
- ◆ Explained how historic preservation planning works and how to better integrate, it into the city's comprehensive planning process
- ◆ Discussed current issues on preservation enforcement and law

The afternoon sessions broke out by ward to discuss the Historic Preservation Plan in detail. The participants in the ward breakout session developed a set of recommendations for revisions to the plan. These recommendations, along with summaries of the morning sessions, will be compiled into a report that will be available in late September. The conference recommendations will be used to update the Historic Preservation Plan this fall. The conference was sponsored by the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by NPS and the D.C. Historic Preservation Division, which serves as the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office. Matching funds for the conference were provided by DCPL through a generous donation from the Centex Construction Company and the Smith Group.



*National Park Service Director,  
Robert Stanton*

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## **ENDANGERED: Washington's Historic Places**

This summer, the city's Metrorail stations hosted ads titled "Endangered: Washington's Historic Places." These ads featured two of the city's most endangered historic theaters, the Howard and the Tivoli. The ads were intended to heighten public interest in and awareness of the city's threatened historic properties, as well as to introduce Washingtonians to DCPL's new web site < [www.dcpreservation.org](http://www.dcpreservation.org) >.

By late autumn, we expect to have new ads on the sides of metro buses featuring ongoing restoration activities on one of the city's great commercial corridor, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. The intended message of these ads is that preservation pays.



We encourage you to look for the ads in the months ahead and to watch the restoration activity along 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Chinatown. Many thanks to the National Trust and Douglas Development for their support in funding the awareness ads and to Metro for their placement.

(Most Endangered 2000, continued from page 1)

process. "Placing the Brooks Mansion on the Most Endangered List brought the needed public attention which resulted in its success," stated Ms. Rooney.

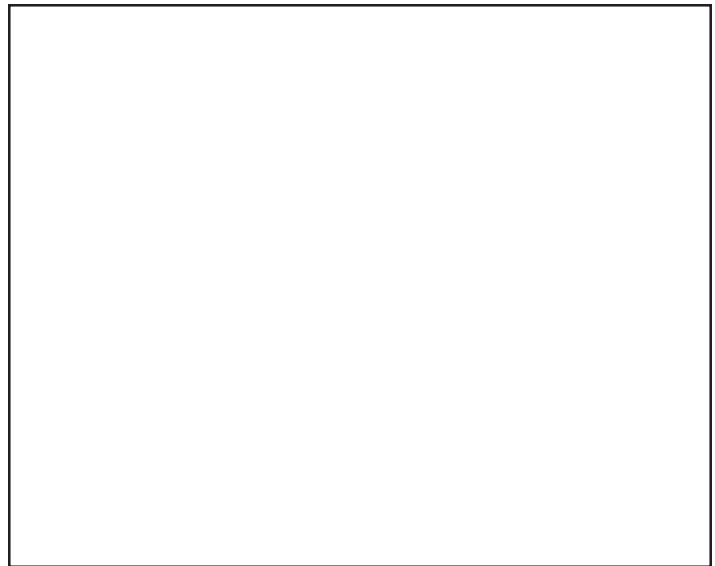
The three new places added to this year's list are the McMillan Reservoir Sand Filtration Site, Art Deco/Art Moderne Municipal Buildings, and 921-941 F Street, NW. Modeled after the National Trust for Historic Preservation's program, DCPL announced its first such list in 1996. To qualify for listing, a site must be a resource with historical, architectural, or cultural significance that is in danger of demolition, substantial alteration, or deterioration through neglect or vandalism. The League's Landmarks Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations to the list, evaluating the nominations, and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees who then approve the final list. The Landmarks Committee works throughout the year to develop programs to raise public awareness about the plight of these resources and to develop possible preservation solutions to save them. Each endangered site has a task force led by a chair. In keeping with DCPL's educational mission, the task forces lead site visits throughout the year.

The D.C. Preservation League's 2000 list of Washington's Most Endangered Places includes the following: the McMillan Reservoir Sand Filtration Site, Art Deco/Art Moderne Municipal Buildings, 921-941 F Street, NW, the Anacostia Historic District, SE, the Anacostia River Basin, Historic D.C. Public Schools, Historic D.C. Theaters, Holt House at the National Zoologic Park, the Mary Church Terrell House, and the Old Naval Hospital. These sites include newly nominated places, as well as sites from previous years. For more information, contact Landmarks Committee Co-chair Jerry Maronek at (202) 955-5616.

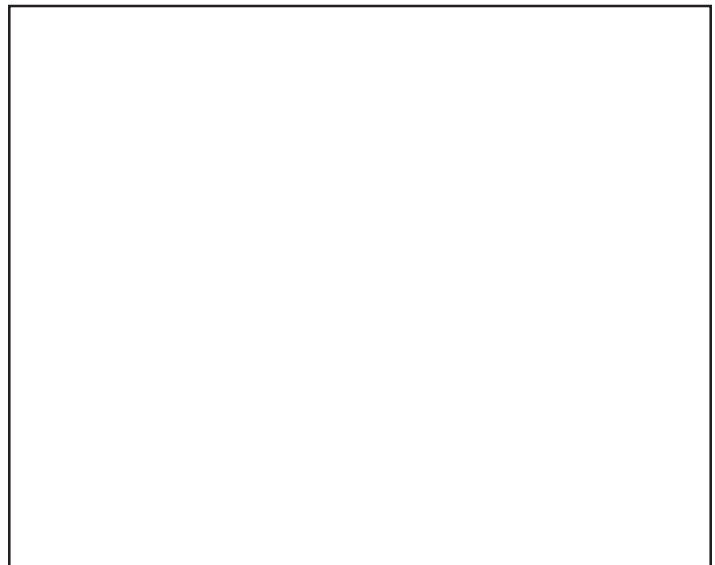
**McMillan Reservoir Sand Filtration Site**

*Bounded by Michigan Avenue, North Capitol, Channing, and 1<sup>st</sup> Streets, NW*

The 1905 completion of the McMillan Reservoir Slow Sand Filtration Site was a Washington public health milestone. Its innovative system of water purification, which relied on sand rather than chemicals, led to the elimination of typhoid epidemics and the reduction of many other communicable diseases in the city. The 25-acre site consists of regulator houses, sand bins, washers, and underground sand filtration beds. A legacy of the City Beautiful Movement, the complex is an engineering wonder that served its original purpose until 1986. Since its purchase by the District government in 1987, the site has deteriorated severely from lack of maintenance. It is now threatened by pressure for commercial and residential development. McMillan Reservoir was designated as a D.C. Historic Landmark in 1991. DCPL supports the McMillan Park Committee and other community organizations that promote park and recreational use of the site. The League will participate in the upcoming Community Design Workshops being sponsored by D.C. Office of Planning. *Co-chairs: Matthew Nowakowski and Wanda Bubriski*



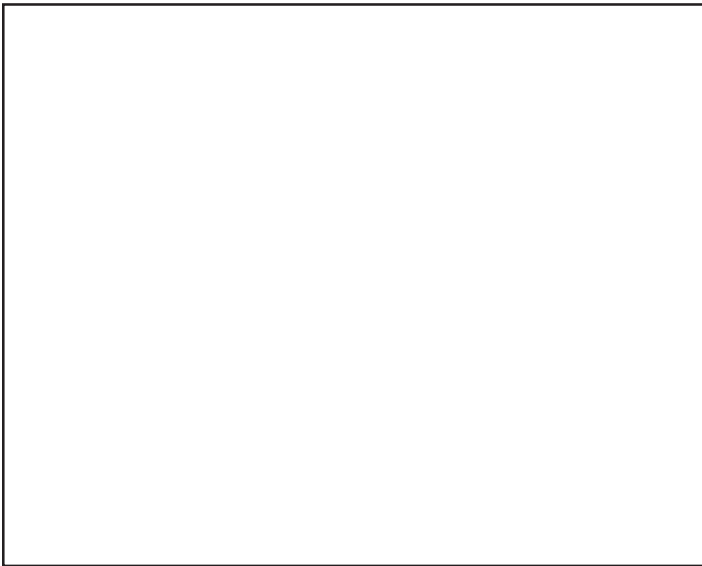
*McMillan Reservoir Sand Filtration Site (Photo by Wanda Bubriski)*



*Art Deco/Art Moderne Municipal Buildings; Recorder of Deeds Building*

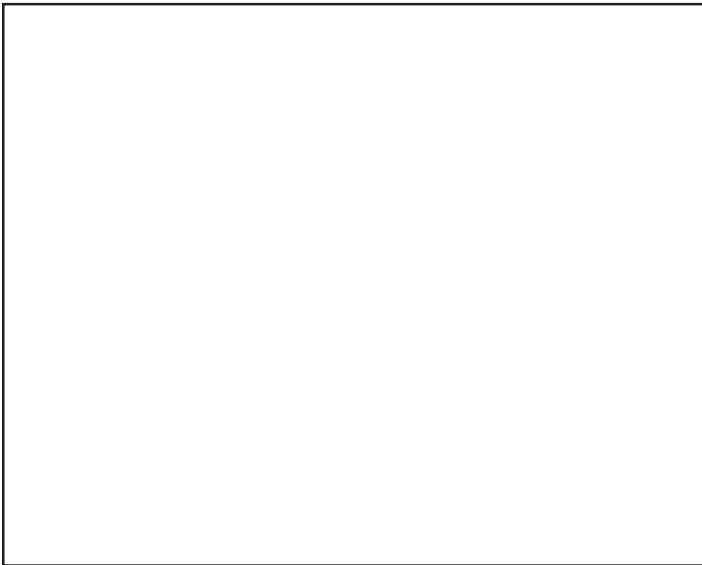
**Art Deco/Art Moderne Municipal Buildings**

Three D.C. government buildings designed by municipal architect Nathan C. Wyeth in the early 1940s are threatened by possible sale, inappropriate alteration, and demolition for redevelopment. The Municipal Center (1941), 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, the Recorder of Deeds Building (1942), 515 D Street, NW, and the District of Columbia National Guard Armory (1942), 2001 East Capitol Street, SE, are civic symbols worthy of preservation. The Municipal Center is visited by hundreds of D.C. residents daily. Home to the Metropolitan Police Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles, it features a commemorative fountain and massive ceramic murals honoring municipal employees. If this building is sold and demolished, the architectural ensemble formed by the Municipal Center and the Moultrie and Prettyman Courthouses will be destroyed. The Recorder of Deeds Building, a virtual shrine to



921-941 F Street, NW

which the Archdiocese has owned since their construction in the 1880s, are adjacent to the nationally landmarked St. Patrick's Church and Carroll Hall. In addition to retail businesses, the row's tenants include artists in the only remaining affordable studio space in the Downtown Arts District. The Archdiocese plans to consolidate Catholic Charities' regional offices at Carroll Hall and pay for the move with revenues from the new office building. It claims the right to demolish these protected buildings through a provision in the local law called "special merit." The church argues that the public benefits of relocating Catholic Charities far exceed those of historic preservation. DCPL contends that under the law, special merit is only applicable where demolition is "necessary," which the Archdiocese has failed to prove. Last year, the mayor's agent for historic preservation denied the Archdiocese's application for a demolition permit. He reaffirmed DCPL's position, concluding that destroying the buildings would imperil the future of the Downtown Arts District by removing the artists from their studios, set a serious precedent by permitting the demolition of historic buildings through special merit, and compromise the integrity of important D.C. historic sites. The Archdiocese has appealed the decision and is one step closer to leveling the historic buildings. *Chair: Patrick Lally*



Anacostia Historic District, SE

**Anacostia Historic District, SE**

*Bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue on the west, Good Hope Road on the north, Fendall Street and the rear of the Frederick Douglass Home on the east, and Bangor Street and Morris Road on the south*

Anacostia has been on the League's list since the program began in 1996 and remains on the DCPL list because it continues to decline despite the efforts of community and civic organizations. It was listed on the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites in 1973 and on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Anacostia contains a number of vacant and critically deteriorated buildings that threaten the integrity of the historic district as well as impede revitalization of the community. *Chair: E. Renée Ingram*

African American history, is targeted for sale. Most of the recorders of deeds have been black. Portraits of 10 of them hang in the lobby. Seven murals honor notable African Americans, including Benjamin Banneker. The D.C. Armory is the headquarters of the D.C. National Guard and a venue for events and expositions. Planning agencies, including the National Capital Planning Commission, are not including this building in their plans for the redevelopment of the east end of East Capitol Street. The League will work with the Art Deco Society of Washington, D.C., to prepare landmark applications for these buildings. *Co-chairs: Alexander M. Padro and Jerry Maronek*

**921-941 F Street, NW**

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington intends to demolish all but the facades of the last remaining intact, 19<sup>th</sup>-century, commercial row in downtown Washington to build an 11-story office building in its place. The three-story buildings,



*Anacostia River Basin; Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (Photo by Wanda Bubriski)*

## **Anacostia River Basin, A Cultural Landscape**

*Bounded by the District Line, NE (roughly at New York Avenue) to Greenleaf Point, SW*

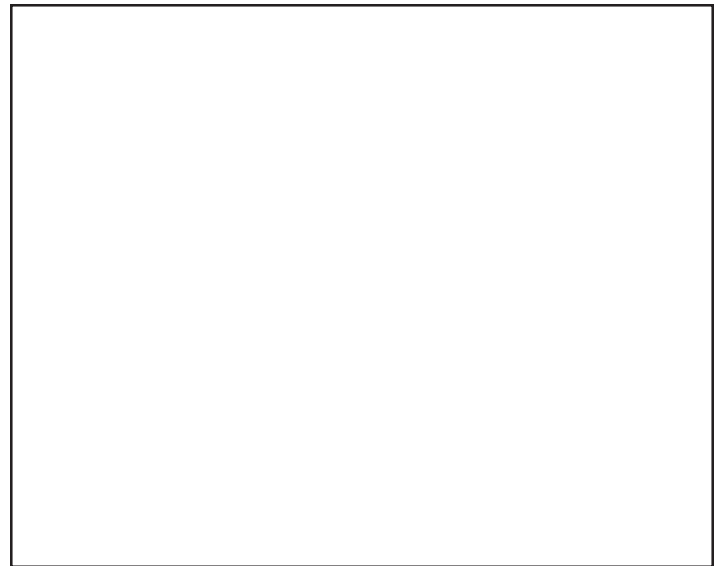
The banks of Washington's "other" waterway encompass a rich, yet neglected, array of natural and cultural resources. The Anacostia River is a veritable oasis of scenic tranquility and wildlife diversity amidst flotillas of garbage and sewage. Local and national landmarks, such as Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Seafarers Yacht Club, and Poplar Point (the former site of the Architect of the Capitol's nursery) are some of the river's lesser-known assets. Since placing the river basin on the 1999 list, a Memorandum of Understanding between the District of Columbia and federal entities has been enacted to initiate waterfront revitalization. DCPL promotes sound planning for the Anacostia that works to restore and incorporate, rather than eradicate, the existing and cultural resources along the river's banks. The Landmarks Committee is in the process of mapping these resources and will advocate their preservation at the upcoming Anacostia Waterfront Initiative planning session. *Co-chairs: Jerry Maronek and Wanda Bubriski*

## **Historic D.C. Public Schools**

D.C. Public Schools announced plans in 1997 to sell or lease 51 of 153 schools built between 1864 and 1959. These schools are historically significant and eligible for landmark status. In 1999, the League sponsored landmark applications for the Webster School (1882), 740 H Street, NW, and supported other school nominations. DCPL will be nominating additional historic schools in 2000. The League is also working with the PTA to preserve the Stevens School (1868), 1050 21st Street, NW, the oldest elementary school built to provide equal facilities for African American children. A multiproperty nomination has been submitted to the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office. While some schools have been successfully sold and redeveloped without significant alterations, others have been sold and threatened with demolition. The Oyster School was demolished by the D.C. city government in 1999. *Co-chairs: Tanya Beauchamp and Marc Fetterman*

## **Historic D.C. Theaters**

From the 1920s to the 1970s, Washington's historic theaters were thriving centers of community life, hosting both live stage performances and motion pictures. Several Washington theaters helped introduce the Art Deco style to the city, as well as many film industry innovations. Demolition by neglect threatens many of our theaters. The Tivoli (1924), 3215 14th Street, NW, is an example. Designed by nationally known theater architect Thomas Lamb and built by local movie theater pioneer Harry M. Crandall, the Tivoli was erected at a cost of more than \$1 million. It featured an 1800-seat auditorium and a lobby decorated with marble columns, ornate fountains, and pastoral murals. The Tivoli has been dark for almost 25 years, but it is in an area slated for redevelopment. Other endangered historic theaters include the Academy (Meaders), Atlantic, Atlas, Congress, Dunbar, Georgia, Howard, Jesse (Stanton), Naylor, Newton, and Park Theaters. The League



*Historic D.C. Public Schools; Stevens School*



*Historic D.C. Theaters; Howard Theater (Photo by Wanda Bubriski)*

has filed a landmark application for the Atlas Theater (1938), 1331 H Street, NE, designed by John J. Zink. The League continues to advocate the protection, rehabilitation, and reuse of theaters as originally intended. *Co-chairs: T. David Bell and Charles Cassell*

## **Holt House at the National Zoological Park**

*2700 Block of Adams Mill Road, NW*

Built before 1827, and possibly as early as 1805, Holt House is the most important Washington example of the early Classical Revival style. Owned by the National Zoo since 1890 and vacant for the past 12 years, this plantation house is linked to the history of 19<sup>th</sup>-century industry along Rock Creek, as well as to the history of slavery in the nation's capital. Holt House was listed on the D.C. Inventory in 1964 and the National Register in 1973. Although funds were allocated in fiscal year 1998 for a preliminary assessment of structural conditions,



Holt House (Photo by Wanda Bubriski)

the study has yet to be completed. Meanwhile, this important structure and cultural asset continues to decay. DCPL will continue to work closely with the Kalorama Citizens Association's Holt House Task Force to promote the restoration of this important Washington landmark. *Co-chairs: Wanda Bubriski and Matthew Nowakowski*

### Mary Church Terrell House

326 T Street, NW

Mary Terrell was a distinguished educator as well as suffrage and civil rights activist. She was the first African American woman to be appointed to the D.C. Board of Education (1895), and she served as president of the National Association of Colored Women (1897) and as a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Mary Church Terrell House (photo by E. Renée Ingram)



(1909). In 1953, at age 90, she led a successful drive to end the segregation of public facilities in Washington, D.C. Her husband, Robert Terrell, was principal of the M Street High School and the first African American judge on the D.C. Municipal Court. The Terrells' purchase of this c. 1900 house spurred racial integration of LeDroit Park. Owned by Howard University, this National Historic Landmark, also listed on the D.C. Inventory and National Register, has long been vacant and is severely deteriorated. Under the aegis of the Howard University Community Association, architectural studies have been undertaken to restore the building for use as a museum. No further architectural work has been commissioned within the last year. DCPL is actively encouraging Howard University to restore this property. *Co-chairs: E. Renée Ingram and Tip Kendrick*

### Old Naval Hospital

9<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

The Old Naval Hospital was built in 1865 to serve Civil War forces on the Potomac. Used as a naval hospital until 1911, it then became the Temporary Home for Veterans of All Wars, a private institution providing lodging for those pressing pension claims in Washington. Owned by the federal government and leased to the District since 1966, this local and national landmark is slowly being demolished by neglect. In addition to the main building, the complex includes landscaped grounds, a detached stable, and an elaborate monumental cast iron perimeter fence. The building currently houses a D.C. government-sponsored social services facility that has no immediate plans to address the deterioration. Councilmember Sharon Ambrose has proposed renovating the hospital as the mayor's official residence, but no plan is in place to secure this threatened landmark's future. *Co-chairs: Patrick Lally and Donna Hanousek*

*Produced by Landmarks Committee Members Doug Pulak, Cathy Anderton, Wanda Bubriski, Jerry Maronek, and Alexander M. Padro*

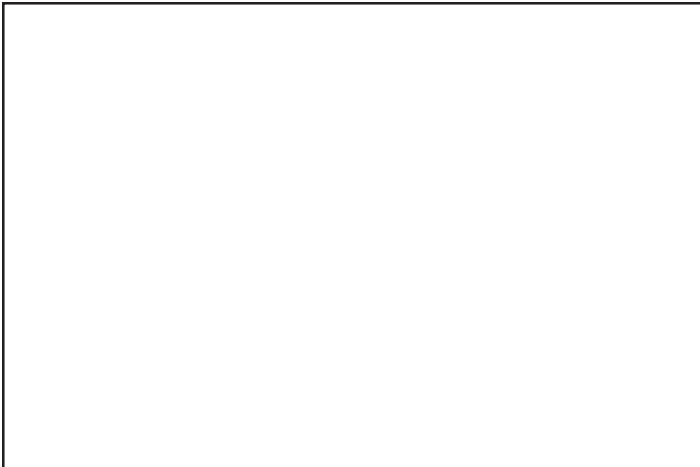


Old Naval Hospital

# Mark Your Calendars

## Joint DCPL/Georgetown Symphony Fundraiser Planned for November 11

DCPL and the Georgetown Symphony will hold a benefit concert the afternoon of Veteran's Day, November 11, on the Federal Campus of St. Elizabeth's. The hospital was established in 1852. It was used as a facility for the treatment of wounded Union soldiers during the Civil War. Hitchcock Hall was built in 1908. The concert will consist of period music, including music associated with the Civil War. The concert will benefit DCPL, Georgetown Symphony, and the St. Elizabeth's consumer fund. Invitations will be sent to all DCPL members and other interested people.



*Hitchcock Hall on the historic west campus of St. Elizabeth's Hospital*

## Borders Book Stores Benefit Days December 7-9

Plan to do your Holiday shopping at the downtown Borders Books and Records at 18<sup>th</sup> and L Streets, NW, on December 7, 8, or 9. DCPL will receive 15% of the proceeds from your purchases when you provide the salesperson with a store coupon featuring the DCPL benefit. The coupon will appear in our next newsletter, as well as on our web page, before the event. Please feel free to photocopy or download the coupon for friends!

## House History Research Workshop

Curious about your house's past? The D.C. Preservation League will be sponsoring a House History Research Workshop on December 12 at 5:45 PM. The three-hour workshop will begin at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., and conclude at the Washingtoniana Division of the D.C. Library. Both institutions have excellent collections for research, and this will be a unique opportunity for DCPL members to learn the research process, including city directories, building permits, and Sanborn

maps. For further information, visit the DCPL Web site at <[www.dcpreservation.org](http://www.dcpreservation.org)> or call the DCPL office at (202) 955-5616. The event is cosponsored by the Friends of the Washingtoniana Division, the D.C. Public Library, and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

## The Economic Power of Preservation: Restoration & Renovation Conference Returns to Washington

The Restoration & Renovation 2001 Exhibition and Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton and Towers January 14 to 17, 2001. Mark your calendars for the largest preservation-related professional trade show to come to Washington. With more than 270 exhibitors and close to 80 conference sessions, it will include four free general sessions, twelve workshops, five day-long technical training seminars, and dozens of presentations and panel discussions.

Under the theme "The Economic Power of Preservation," special emphasis will be placed on the cost benefits and positive economic impact of preservation to communities, neighborhoods, and cities. Among the invited speakers is Robert Peck, GSA's Commissioner of Public Buildings and a past president of DCPL.

Once again, the D.C. Preservation League will be a cosponsor of the event. Further information will be available at <[www.dcpreservation.org](http://www.dcpreservation.org)> closer to the conference date.

## DCPL 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Planned for March 2001

Plans are going forward for the DCPL 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration event for next March. The gala will take place in the old Masonic Temple Building at 901 F Street, NW. The building is being restored and will become the headquarters for the Gallup Organization. Members who wish to volunteer to work on the event should contact DCPL. Past DCPL President Julie Mueller is heading up the gala organizing committee. Please watch our web page this fall for a date and additional information.

## DCPL Offices Undergoing Remodeling

### Thanks to Douglas Development Corporation

To make the DCPL offices more work friendly, as well as inviting to our membership, Don Hasfurther and Jerry Maronek have begun to spruce up the offices at 1815 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. For those not familiar with the offices, they are located in the former National Lawyers Club. The once elegant, wood-paneled walls of that part of the Club overlooking Pennsylvania Avenue had become obscured by "temporary" plasterboard walls. Now, thanks to a bit of sweat equity provided by DCPL's executive director and administrator and, most importantly, a gift of carpeting from the Douglas Development Corporation, the offices are starting to take shape. We welcome your visit.

### Seeking Help to Build a Library

As part of these efforts to make the offices more efficient and inviting, DCPL staff members are attempting to expand our collection of books and other materials related to Washington, D.C., the city's neighborhoods, and its architecture. We are looking for donations of books on our historic neighborhoods and properties and other materials on the city and its many landmarks. If you have library-type bookcases to donate, please call us today.

### Looking for Local Artists

We still have many bare walls and we would like to anoint them with a little color and life. What we have in mind is a mural connecting the city's many historic districts. What we envisage is a scene of Mount Pleasant row houses, which would meld into the Victorian homes of Takoma, the frame and brick homes of Anacostia, the historic theaters and jazz clubs of U Street, and so on. We are looking for artists who would like to depict their neighborhoods as part of this mural. Please call us right away!!!!

## Membership Meets New DCPL President at June 2000 Annual Meeting

DCPL held its Annual Meeting the evening of June 29, 2000, at the historic Acacia Building, which is now the offices of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue. In her welcoming remarks, outgoing President Julie Mueller thanked DCPL's many volunteers for their support during her tenure. She then introduced the League's new President, David Bell.

In addition to remarks by David Bell and DCPL Executive Director Don Hasfurther, the membership heard from D.C. Historic Preservation Officer, Gregory McCarthy, who underlined DCPL's special role among the city's preservation advocacy groups. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of DCPL's Most Endangered Places for the Year 2000 (see separate article). Making the presentation were Landmarks Committee members Wanda Bubriski, Alex Padro, and Cathy Anderton.

Special thanks goes to the following organizations for their support of the Annual Meeting: Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue; Clyde's Restaurant Group; Boston Properties; The Clark Construction Group, Inc.; HITT Contracting, Inc.; Lehman-Smith + McLeish, PLLC; Trace Associates; Hartman-Cox Architects; and Chapel Valley Landscape Company.

After a reception on the roof-top terrace at Jones Day, interested members were invited for a tour of the historic Fire Engine Station #3 on New Jersey Avenue. Many thanks to Captain Gary Palmer and his colleagues for the fascinating tour.

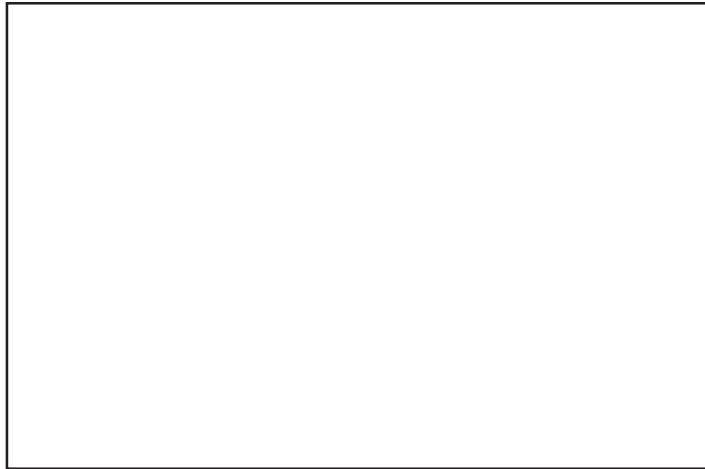


*The DCPL Annual Meeting. Standing on the roof terrace of Jones Day are (left to right) Rhonda Wilson, Jim Smailes, Howard Berger, and Amanda Ohlke.*

# DCPL Committees Host Summer Events

## Education Committee Hosts Walking Tour of the Anacostia Historic District

More than 60 participants, including D.C. Planning Director Andy Altman joined the August 5 tour of Anacostia. Diane Dale of the Anacostia Garden Club and Anacostia Historical Society conducted the tour of the historic district. Following the tour, participants enjoyed brunch on the grounds of the Frederick Douglass House



*Landmarks Committee tours Tudor Place Historic House and Gardens*

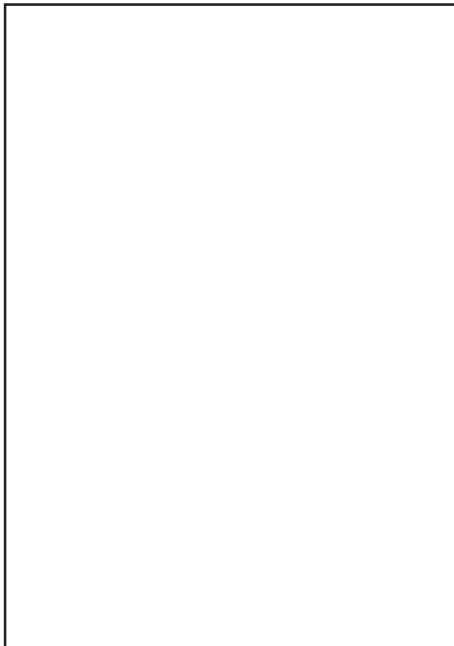
## Landmarks Committee Holds Annual Picnic at Tudor Place

On August 19, members of the Landmarks Committee congregated at Tudor Place Historic House and Garden in Georgetown for the committee's annual picnic. Tudor Place curator Robert Magrish gave a two-hour tour of the mansion, which was followed by lunch in the gardens. Information on Tudor Place can be found at <<http://www.tudorplace.org>>.

Landmarks Committee hosted an evening event for DCPL members to meet Mr. Lapidus on September 21. The lecture by Lapidus was held at the Washington Plaza Hotel on Thomas Circle (formerly the International Inn), which was designed by the architect in 1962.

## “Sacred Spaces” Lecture and Walking Tour

Thanks to the Education Committee for its sponsorship of a September 19 supper and slide lecture by DCPL Trustee Judy Scott Feldman and the guided walking tour on September 24 of Calvary Baptist Church (built 1867), the Lillian & Albert Small Museum (original Adas Israel Synagogue, built 1867), St. Mary Mother of God Catholic Church (built 1890), and Greater Hope Baptist Church (former home of Washington Hebrew Congregation, built 1897).



*Education Committee tours the Greater New Hope Baptist Church as part of the “Sacred Sites” tour*

## Conversation with Architect Morris Lapidus

Taking advantage of the fact that internationally renowned architect Morris Lapidus was in Washington for a major award in September, the

## DCPL Board Retreat Set for October 14

The Board of Trustees of DCPL will hold a strategic planning retreat in October to discuss future directions and activities for the League. Trustees will discuss ways and means by which DCPL might better address and meet the preservation needs of Washington, D.C., in the coming years. We value member ideas and inputs. Please write or e-mail us at [dcpreserve@aol.com](mailto:dcpreserve@aol.com) before October 13 with your suggestions as to how we can make DCPL a more effective organization in the future.

# Preserve a Landmark



**Yes!**

I want to join the DC Preservation League and help preserve, protect, and enhance Washington's unique architectural heritage.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Organization \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35     | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Dual \$50    | <input type="checkbox"/> L'Enfant Society \$500    |

## Membership Benefits:

- ◆ Newsletter and Annual Report
- ◆ Invitations to annual meeting, tours, and conferences
- ◆ Free admission to the Annual Membership Meeting
- ◆ Special notice of preservation issues
- ◆ ... and more!

## L'Enfant Society Benefits:

*All the benefits of regular membership plus—*

- ◆ Invitations to special events
- ◆ Recognition in DCPL's annual report, newsletter, and formal program announcements

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*Make your fully tax-deductible contribution to the DC Preservation League and mail this form to 1815 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC, 20006. For more information, call (202) 955-5616 or fax (202) 955-5456.*

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