

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.

Welcome to www.dcpreservation.org

By Alexander M. Padro

DCPL will enter a new era this spring with the debut of the League's web site. This site will provide up-to-date information on Washington, DC, historic preservation issues. It is the result of several months of work by the League's Membership Subcommittee and National Gallery of Art web site designer, Guillermo "Memo" Saenz, who generously volunteered his time.

DCPL's Internet presence stresses the League's new emphasis on neighborhoods. In addition to the League's mission, membership, events, and volunteer information, the new site will include a number of important features:

- ◆ A list of Washington, DC, historic districts, complete with boundaries and a brief description of each area's history and the architectural styles prevalent there
- ◆ The text of brochures prepared by DCPL on specific historic districts, the criteria used to designate landmarks, and the answers to frequently asked questions about owning property in DC historic districts
- ◆ The annual Most Endangered Places list with photographs and descriptions of each threatened historic resource
- ◆ Details of preservation issues on which the League has taken a position or which are being monitored by DCPL
- ◆ The new edition of the *Preservation Directory* (available as a PDF file)
- ◆ The text of the most recent issue of the *DC Preservation Advocate* (available as a PDF file)
- ◆ The agenda for the next monthly DC Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, as soon as it becomes available
- ◆ A calendar of events of interest to the Washington, DC, preservation community, including DCPL committee meetings

The DCPL web site is designed to be a vital resource for both members and the general public. Special "Members Only" features will appear later this year.

Please visit the site when it is up and running and return often, as it will be updated regularly. The site will continue to evolve based on user feedback, so please offer suggestions for enhancements by clicking on the "Contact Us" link found on each page.

DCPL Receives Grant from Centex

The DC Preservation League gratefully acknowledges and announces the donation of \$50,000 from CENTEX/SHG, LLC. The company has been in the commercial construction industry for more than 60 years and provides general contracting, at-risk construction management, design-build, and preconstruction services. Based in Dallas, Texas, and Fairfax, Virginia, Centex's local projects with preservation components include the construction of the National Research Council building for the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., and the expansion and renovation of Washington Dulles International Airport. The donation will be used for general operating expenses and to support the 2000 citywide preservation conference being planned for the fall.

Inside this Issue

President's Letter	2
Trustee Spotlight	3
Meet the New Executive Director	3
DCPL Efforts to Save the Tivoli	4
The Fire and Police Call Boxes	6
Rick Busch Receives Award	6
The Holt House	7
Enforcement Coalition Looks Ahead	8
Heritage Tourism Update	9
Mixing with the Most Endangered ..	10
Large Crowd at Annual Meeting	11
L'Enfant Society Inaugural Event	11

Letter from the President

Greetings!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *DC Preservation Advocate*. While the purpose of the DCPL newsletter remains the same, the *Advocate* represents a fresh look and a new title that better reflect our mission. I hope you will enjoy all the articles, which give only an inkling of the many activities that the League has been involved in over the past several months. If they spark your interest and you are not already involved, we welcome your participation. Just give us a call to volunteer.

This issue of the *DC Preservation Advocate* will be the last DCPL newsletter produced during my tenure as President of the Board of Trustees. I have greatly enjoyed serving the League in this capacity. As president, I have been responsible for ensuring that the organization continues to meet its mission and that the instrument that allows this to happen is in place and running. It is like the job of a machinist. You have to understand all the parts and keep them running as best you can, but you are not the machine. The "machine" in the case of the League is dozens of people—staff, volunteers, and board members—who are the organization and without whom there would be no League. Aside from my personal and professional commitment to historic preservation, I enjoyed my tenure as president because of the contact it afforded me on such a regular basis with so many interesting, fun, and kind people. Through struggles and victories, the ability to share it with a cadre of friends and professional colleagues has been what has made this worthwhile for me.

The League as a machine is running more smoothly than it has in a while. As this newsletter was going to press, we hired an Executive Director, Donald J. Hasfurther. Don brings extensive management and development skills to the position. Please see the article on the next page for more information. We all welcome him.

The financial picture of the League is far from rosy, although it is slowly improving. The very generous donation from Centex was a real shot in the arm and will be used to kick off a large corporate campaign. In spite of the lack of someone to lead the office on a full-time basis and the dearth of the kind of funding we would ideally like, we have accomplished much and are involved in numerous issues. We have been able to continue to serve the community at the same level of commitment toward protecting our historic resources and have increased our presence in areas of the city which, to date, have been underserved by the League.

I look forward to continuing to being part of DCPL as a volunteer and seeing the progress the organization makes over the next year when a director is in place and the programs that are being developed are implemented.



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.

Editor: Chrysa Cullather

Design and Layout: Chrysa Cullather

Board of Trustees

President: Julianne Mueller

Vice President: Charles I. Cassell

Secretary: T. David Bell, AIA

Treasurer: Deering T. Kendrick, II

Marie-Regine Charles Bowser; Hampton Cross; Farleigh Earhart; Judith Scott Feldman; Samuel M. Forstein; Elizabeth Gibson; Willis J. Goldsmith; Bernard Gray; E. Renée Ingram; Patrick J. Lally; Ann Hume Loikow; Elizabeth S. Merritt; Andres Navarrete; George H.F. Oberlander, AICP; Amanda Ohlke; Charles H. Trace, Jr., ASLA; Evelyn Wrin

DCPL Staff

Executive Director: Donald J. Hasfurther

Administrator: Jerry Maronek

Grants Administrator: Donna Hanousek

Membership Administrator: Elizabeth Warner

D.C. Preservation League
1815 Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 200

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 955-5616 (phone)

(202) 955-5456 (fax)

E-mail: Dcpreserv@aol.com

Special thanks to
The Washington Post Company

Trustee Spotlight

DCPL Secretary *Joan Brierton* resigned from the Board in August to take a position with the White House's Save America's Treasures Program, one of the first lady's millennium initiatives. Joan will be working to bring attention to historic buildings throughout the country during this assignment. She has been involved with the League since 1992 when she first joined our staff as the Assistant Director. Since that time, she has been a very active participant on our board. Most recently, she and trustee Howard Berger organized our very successful annual meeting.

Richard Williams retired from the Board after serving two full terms. During his very active tenure, he cochaired the Issues Committee, dedicating countless hours to the League and meeting with architects and developers to help shape preservation issues over a 6-year period.

The League accepted with regret the resignation of *Avery Faulkner* who has moved away from the city. Avery served on the board since 1997. He focused his efforts for the League on fundraising and was very successful in getting our L'Enfant Society program up and running, as well as in initiating a corporate giving campaign. The League is extremely grateful to Joan, Richard, and Avery for their efforts.

The League is pleased to announce the election of seven new trustees, all of whom bring professional expertise and a record of civic involvement and service to the League. *T. David Bell* is president of an architectural firm, located in the H Street, NE, commercial corridor. His firm focuses

(continued on page 5)

Meet the New Executive Director

DCPL is delighted to announce that Donald J. Hasfurth has joined the League as its new Executive Director, effective March 27, 2000. Don brings strong strategic planning and program development skills to the League, as well as an ability to work with people of diverse and multicultural backgrounds. His professional experience is in the area of trade associations, international business, and government service. Most recently, he was Vice President of NPD Trading (USA), Inc., a company that he founded along with other colleagues in 1990. The company, which maintained offices in Washington, D.C., Prague, and Moscow, assists U.S. companies in establishing a business presence in the Czech Republic and Russia. Before that he was a senior manager of the International Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where his responsibilities included program development, legislative affairs, and international trade advocacy. Don holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia and an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

Don has a long-standing interest in local history and architecture. His family roots are in Washington, D.C. He and his wife have lived in

the Logan Circle Historic District for more than 20 years, where they purchased and renovated an 1870s house. His interest in historic preservation led him to take courses in the subject through Goucher College, where he continues to enroll in courses that will be relevant to his new position with the League.

The Board of Trustees was particularly impressed with Don's ability to organize and manage organizations, as well as his vision and ability to see and seize opportunities in challenging situations. The League continues to be the city's premier preservation advocate, and as the League approaches its 30th anniversary, Don is the perfect person to help build a stronger organization that will serve the community for another 30 years.

Commenting on the challenges facing the organization, Don states, "My immediate goals include increasing the League's presence in underserved neighborhoods, increasing membership, and increasing the number of paid staff to provide more comprehensive services. I am looking forward to working with our Board of Trustees, our many volunteers, and with the League's Administrator, Jerry Maronek, to achieve these goals."

Coming in the Next Newsletter—

- ◆ Announcement of the Year 2000 Most Endangered Places
- ◆ Update on the Webster School and St. Patrick's
- ◆ A Report on Alban Towers Event and Annual Meeting
- ◆ Election of New Officers

DCPL Continues Efforts to Save the Tivoli Theatre

By T. David Bell

The DC Preservation League has a long-standing and unwavering commitment to preserve the Tivoli Theatre. DCPL continues to help the Columbia Heights Community in its decades-long effort to save the theater by offering technical assistance and increasing public awareness. In 1999, DCPL named Historic Theaters to its Most Endangered Places List and designated the Tivoli Theatre as the most architecturally significant threatened theater in the city.

The Tivoli Theatre was designed by Thomas W. Lamb, one of the United States' leading theater architects during the 1920s. Among his theaters are The Strand in New York, the Orpheum in Boston, the State in St. Louis, the Fox in San Francisco, and the Ohio in Columbus. Lamb believed the theater to be a palace of the average man, a place where he could be lifted out of his daily drudgery. Lamb also thought that for audiences to be receptive and interested, they needed to be detached from the rest of city life and taken into a rich and self-contained environment where their minds would be freed from customary thoughts.

The Tivoli Theatre, which opened in April 1924, is a four-story Mediterranean Revival building at the corner of 14th Street and Park Road, NW. It was built as a luxury neighborhood theater by Harry Crandall, a major theater circuit owner. At that time, the Columbia Heights neighborhood was considered one of the most fashionable and desirable areas of Washington, with dozens of fine shops and a highly developed theater district.

When built, the Tivoli was dubbed "the Temple of the Arts," could seat 2,000 people, and was the largest theater in Washington. Ten two-story, "French-style" shops were on the 14th Street side of the building. The third floor of the theater housed approximately 35 office suites where theater management and other businesses were located. Studio apartments, dressing rooms, and an exercise room were located on the fourth

floor. In the basement, lounges, electric hearths, and fireplaces exuded a warmth and charm.

A small, marble-lined foyer gave access to the lobby with its intricate moldings and plasterwork around the marble columns, fountains, and stairways. New York artist A. Battisti decorated the lobby with three pastoral murals. An immense central ceiling dome featuring a large crystal chandelier once dominated the auditorium. A plaster grille with a large oval pastoral painting, also by Battisti, formed a bridge between the dome and the double proscenium arches that framed the stage. According to a *Washington Post* account of the opening, it was "an institution of which the entire city of Washington ought to be proud and ought to support." In addition to stage and screen, owner Harry Crandall established the Tivoli Symphony Orchestra and the Tivoli Ballet Company.

The Tivoli was the first theater in the entire country to have an orchestra elevator. A Wurlitzer triple manual pipe organ was likewise mounted on an elevator platform and could be raised and lowered in-

dependent of the orchestra. In 1926, the Tivoli's projection system was updated, and the Tivoli became the first Washington theater to offer talking movies.

During the 1968 riots, as the remainder of the neighborhood burned, the Tivoli was spared. The theater was closed in 1976. Despite its vacant status for more than 20 years, most deterioration is cosmetic and not structural. The "Save the Tivoli" organization was established in 1980 by several local residents in an effort to reopen the theater and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood. Today, the fate of the historic Tivoli Theatre remains uncertain and is possibly threatened by inappropriate development plans.

DCPL has encouraged the mayor and city council to join community leaders in seeking viable preservation options and funding for the Tivoli. The League of Historic American Theaters (LHAT) has become involved and is showing how performing arts buildings in other cities were successfully rehabilitated. DCPL along with Save the Tivoli, the Committee of 100, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, LHAT, the DC Offices of Planning and Economic Development, and other city agencies participated in a public meeting sponsored by Ward 2 Council Member Jim Graham. The purpose of the meeting was to identify

(continued on page 11)

Front, left to right: Charles Cassell, Vice President, and David Bell, Secretary; back, left to right: Pat Lally, Chair, Government Affairs Committee, Jim Graham, D.C. Councilmember, and Julie Mueller, President (photo by Jerry Maronek)



(Trustee Spotlight, continued from page 3)

on historic preservation and community development. He is currently working on projects in the Palisades, Kalorama, and Anacostia. David served on the DCPL's Landmarks Committee for two years and now cochairs the committee. He was recently elected as Secretary of the League. He has also volunteered as a hockey coach and as a docent at the Smithsonian for 10 years.

Ann Hume Loikow is the First Vice President of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association and a member and former trustee of the Committee of 100. Among her many other civic activities, as an ANC Commissioner for the West End, she was involved in saving the Lenthall Houses, the F Street Club, and Schneider Triangle. With the National Capital Planning Commission, she worked in developing Federal Elements for the Comprehensive Plan. Ann served as an attorney with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and worked for 20 years in banking law for several federal agencies. She is cochair of the League's Government Affairs Committee.

Deering "Tip" Kendrick II is an energy analyst for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He is President of his local civic organization—the Mt. Vernon Square Neighborhood Association—and a Trustee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. Tip has been a tireless volunteer for the last year on DCPL's Landmarks and Events Committees and has recently joined the League's Government Affairs Committee.

Judy Scott Feldman, Ph.D., is a native Washingtonian (Anacostia) and an independent art and architectural historian. She is a former assistant professor at American University and teaches courses on Washington architecture and city planning for the Smithsonian's

Resident Associates Program. During her tenure on DCPL's Issues Committee, she has been actively involved in the preservation of the 900 Block of F Street, NW, and in reviewing the site and design of the World War II Memorial. Judy is also a trustee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and sits on the board of the Anacostia Coordinating Council.

Evelyn Wrin is an attorney with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She is a former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and former President of the Chevy Chase Citizen's Association. She was active in successful efforts to save the 1887 Lucinda Cady House on Eastern Avenue from demolition and in having it designated as a local landmark. She serves on the DCPL Government Affairs Committee.

Farleigh Earhart is a long-standing and active member of the DCPL Education Committee and helps coordinate the activities of the Coalition for Greater Preservation Enforcement. A native of New Orleans, where her interest in historic preservation began, she now works as an attorney for the Smithsonian Institution and is a resident of Capitol Hill where she lives with her small but ferocious dog, Percy.

Bernard Gray is an independent attorney, former DC School Board member, and City Council candidate (Ward 6). Before beginning the practice of law, he served as Director of Financial Data Control for Georgetown University Hospital. He is a lifelong resident of Anacostia, where he and his wife Carolyn are actively involved in trying to protect the Anacostia Historic District.

Keep an Eye Out

- ◆ www.dcpreservation.org is coming in May 2000.
- ◆ On June 11, 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will announce its 11 Most Endangered Sites on the History Channel. They just might include a D.C. location.
- ◆ Notice of the DCPL/DC Historic Preservation Division Sponsored Citywide Preservation Planning Conference on June 30, 2000, will be in member mailboxes soon.

Newsletter Gets New Name/Look

As you can see from our new masthead, the *DCPL Reporter* has been renamed the *DC Preservation Advocate*. The name *Preservation Advocate* was anonymously submitted during our recent contest to rename the newsletter. The Board of Trustees selected this name from the many suggestions but decided to add "DC" to make it entirely clear what we are advocating. Thanks to the many members who participated in the contest and to our editor for the newsletter's new look! The suggestions ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. Clearly everyone had fun with the effort.

An Alarming Project: The Fire and Police Call Boxes

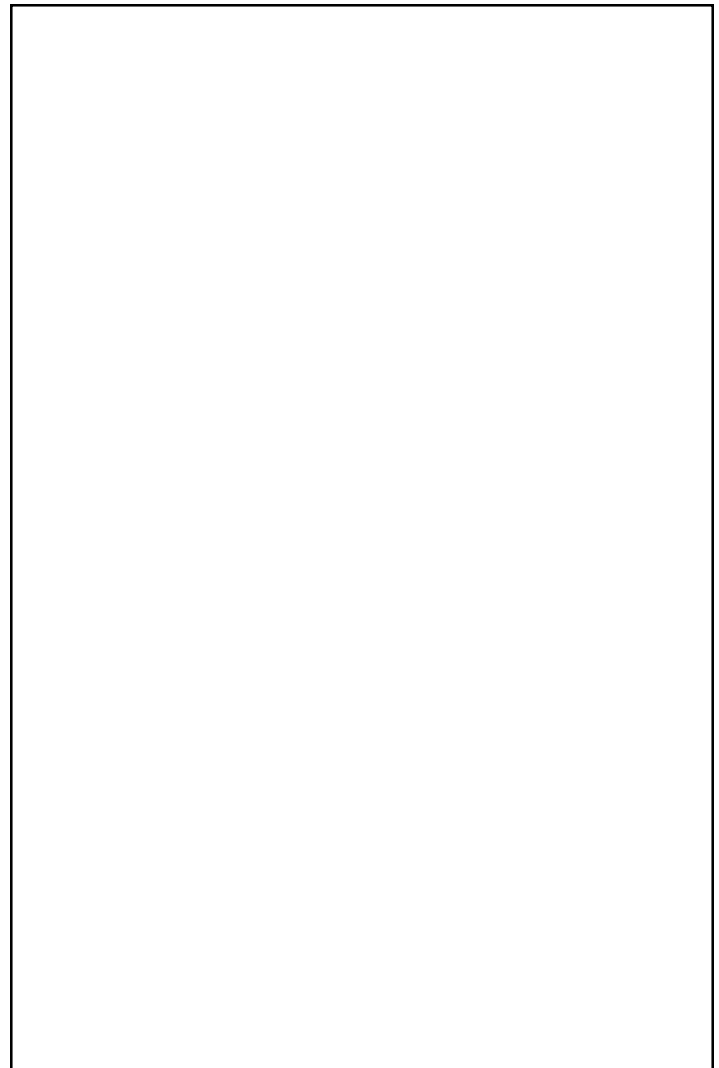
by Paul Williams

The D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition (HTC) has recently initiated efforts to survey and reuse the numerous Fire and Police call boxes, which are located all throughout the city but have been abandoned since 1976. The Department of Public Works estimates that more than 1,500 call boxes exist in various states of repair throughout the city. The ornate, cast iron bases were originally the bases to the tall gas street lamps that first went into use in 1848. As early as 1926, when many people did not have telephones in their homes, these cast iron gems held a phone that offered direct access to the respective emergency department. Residents have recently become alarmed that the decorative boxes were being removed when sidewalk repair was being done and have joined forces under the guidance of the HTC to survey the call boxes neighborhood by neighborhood.

So far, more than a dozen surveys have recorded the type, location, missing parts, and current overall condition of the call boxes. The HTC is coordinating this effort with the Department of Public Works to ensure that neighborhoods that want to save and reuse their call boxes will have them retained in place.

The HTC is working with the D.C. Commission on the Arts to develop a project plan and funding initiative that would begin as early as this summer for a program to turn the call boxes into neighborhood displays. Neighborhood groups can work with an artist or historian of their choice to rehabilitate the boxes to either tell something about the neighborhood or decorate, perhaps using a historical theme. Some call boxes throughout the city have already been decorated in an ad hoc manner.

HTC hopes that each neighborhood will undertake the project in a community building exercise expressing the individual characteristics of the area while linking into a citywide heritage trail



A downtown call box (photo by Jerry Maronek)

system. For more information or to participate in the survey effort, contact Paul Williams or Kathy Smith at the D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition at (202) 462-6251.

Rick Busch Receives Community Service Award for Historic Preservation

At its annual membership meeting on October 13, 1999, the Logan Circle Community Association (LCCA) awarded DCPL volunteer Rick Busch its 1999 Community Service Award for Historic Preservation. Robert Young, Chair of LCCA's Historic Preservation Committee, highlighted Busch's work with the Coalition for Greater Preservation

Enforcement. The Coalition, a group of 21 neighborhood and citywide organizations formed by the League about 2 years ago, is dedicated to improving enforcement of the city's preservation law. Over the last 2 years, Busch helped organize a citywide conference focused on preservation enforcement and conducted follow-up activities and meetings between coalition members and city officials. Busch noted that the award really belongs to many individuals and groups, all of whom have made important contributions to strengthening the role of historic preservation in the District of Columbia.

**Coming to a
METRO station
near you this
May...
DCPL posters
on our Most
Endangered
Program**

The Holt House: A Hidden Washington Treasure

by Barbara D. Bates

Standing within 100 yards of the Adams Mill Rd. entrance, Holt House is a Washington treasure. Holt House, dating from the early 1800s, forms the core of a rich cultural landscape that has been shaped for more than 200 years by events and people significant to the history of this city. It lies hidden among the trees blanketing Jackson Hill on the south-east grounds of the National Zoological Park. But the trees are not all that is keeping this place hidden from public view. Ever since the Zoo's administrative offices moved out in 1988, Holt House has remained vacant. The boards covering up its doors and windows serve to hide this structure's rich past and great potential as well.

Holt House has been listed on DCPL's Most Endangered Places of Washington for the second year in a row, and attention to the plight of this structure continues to grow. An initiative by neighbors and preservationists alike is currently under way to further explore the fascinating historical facets surrounding Holt House and to forge a preservation plan that would aid its owner, the Smithsonian Institution, in restoring this important cultural landmark.

Before the creation of the District of Columbia, the grounds on which Holt House resides were part of a Maryland land grant owned by the Beall family. By 1795, Benjamin Stoddert, who became the first Secretary of the Navy, had acquired more than 863 acres of land from the Beall family. In December 1800, Stoddert sold 42.5 acres to his friend Walter Mackall, a member of a family of builders, who owned the property until 1804, including the house. It was owned from 1804 to 1809 by a family of millers headed by Jonathan Shoemaker who ran the Columbian Mills, which was on the property. Roger Johnson, an iron businessman in Maryland, and his sons were the owners from 1809 to 1835. In January 1835, the sons of Roger Johnson sold the property on which the House is located to Dr. Aston Alexander, founder of the American Medical Association. He owned the property and the house until 1844. Between 1838 and 1841, Dr. Alexander rented the house to Amos Kendall, another important figure on both the federal and local levels. Kendall served as Postmaster General under President Andrew Jackson, and donated land for Gallaudet University.

Holt House acquired its current name in 1844, when Dr. Henry Holt, a physician and farmer, purchased the house along with 13.5 acres, calling Jackson Hill his address. His family owned the property until July 1890, when the Zoo Commission of the Smithsonian Institution bought it as part of a land acquisition to create the National Zoological Park. The Smithsonian Institution employed well-known architects, Glenn Brown and William Ralph Emerson, and the firm of Hornblower and Marshall to work on the house. In 1891, Frank

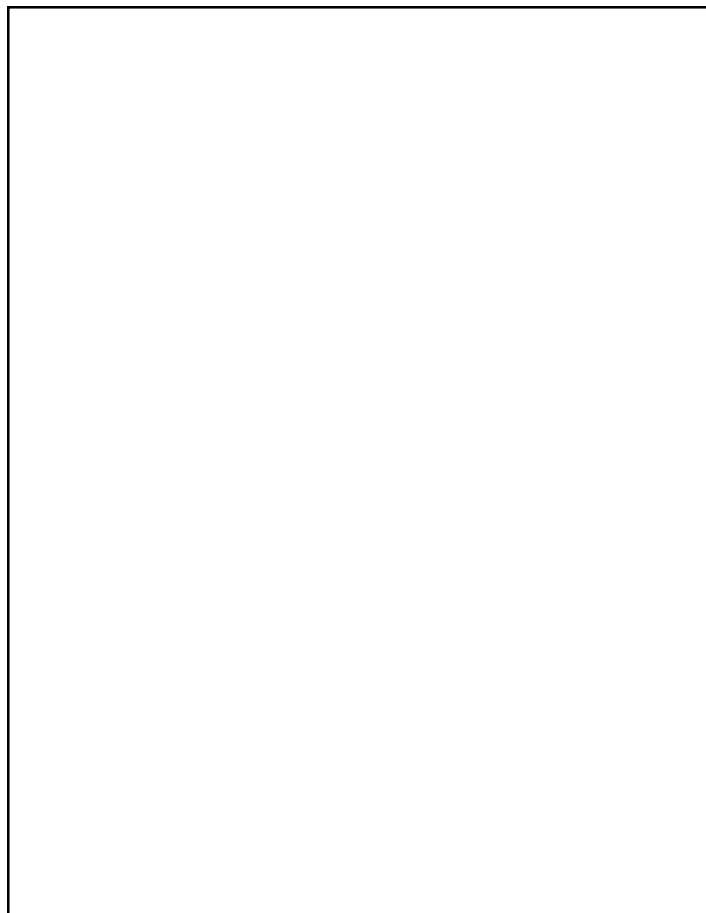
Baker, the first Superintendent of the National Zoo, began using the house as administrative headquarters. The house continued to serve administrative purposes until 1988.

In 1964, Holt House was listed on the DC Inventory and designated a Category II Landmark by the Joint Committee on Landmarks for its significant contribution to the "cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia." When it was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, it was described as a five-part mansion of the Georgian-Federal style. Vacant since 1988, Holt House suffers severe deterioration.

To see Holt House is to be drawn to it. Preserving this property calls for the will and commitment of the National Zoo and the community. Public and private partnerships and a sound and feasible development plan will be needed. The

(continued on page 8)

Barbara Bates, Sarah Veerhoff, Jackie Reed, Mary Belcher, and Cathy Anderton (from left to right) on a wintry site visit by the Holt House Task Force (photo by Wanda Bubriski)



Enforcement Coalition Looks Ahead as HP Inspector Takes Over

by Charles I. Cassell, Vice President, D.C. Preservation League

One of the highlights of the DCPL Annual Meeting last June was the strong commitment for compliance with *D.C. Public Law 2-144*, as demonstrated by Mayor Anthony Williams who spoke at the gathering. He was clearly aware of the major thrust of the act:

"It is hereby declared as a matter of public policy, that the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of the properties of historical, cultural, and aesthetic merit are in the interest of the health, prosperity, and welfare of the people of the District of Columbia."

The audience was also very pleased that he focused particular attention on the importance of improved preservation law enforcement and adherence to building permit requirements and rulings by relevant D.C. authorities. Particularly welcome was the mayor's expressed intent to address the issue of demolition by neglect.

Executive leadership is obviously needed in the effort to pass effective remedial legislation to thwart such demolition. Commendable legislation has been offered in the D.C. Council, but the Control Board will not allow it to move forward until a financial impact study has been performed. Meanwhile, irreplaceable historic properties continue to deteriorate while such study is under way. These kinds of roadblocks are the reason that 21 preservation organizations formed the Coalition for Greater Preservation Enforcement last year. The Coalition held a summit conference on June 4, 1998, developed a report and action plan, and began to energetically pursue its implementation.

The efforts of the League and the Coalition have borne fruit: The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the Historic Preservation Division have agreed with our objectives and have taken positive remedial steps. HPD now has an impressive preservation inspector in Toni Cherry, and DCRA has a legal assignee for preservation issues. However, woefully deteriorated historic landmarks continue decline toward demise until good fortune happens to smile. As sympathetic D.C. authorities identify the difficulties they face in surmounting enforcement obstacles, the Coalition for Greater Preservation Enforcement most certainly will use its full force to assist in removing such obstacles.

Get Your Copy of the Updated Preservation Directory

As part of a continuing effort to provide support for preservation enforcement in the District of Columbia, the League's Education Committee has just updated the Preservation Directory. The directory is a valuable tool to facilitate communications throughout the preservation community. It is a product of the 1998 Summit on Strengthening Preservation Enforcement, organized by the League and the Coalition for Greater Preservation Enforcement. The cost of updating this publication was made possible by Hines Interest Limited Partnership and a grant from the Preservation Services Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pick up your free copy at the League's office (1815 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 200) or send \$3.00 to the League's office to cover the cost of handling and mailing.

(Holt House, continued from page 7)

National Zoo does not have sufficient funds to implement plans for Holt House's restoration. Establishing an affiliate association could assist in raising the outside funds necessary to carry out the rehabilitation of the structure.

Community interest in rehabilitating Holt House is gaining momentum, and DCPL's Landmarks Committee is playing a key role. On a recent wintery morning, the committee's task force on Holt House, led by cochair, Wanda Bubriski, made a site visit. Braving the cold and ice, they headed south on the foot path along Rock Creek, passing the markers indicating the former locations of the Adams' Mills and other historic sites, before winding their way up Jackson Hill to the house. Among the group was Sarah Veerhoff, great granddaughter of Frank Baker, the Zoo's first superintendent. She shared information on the important figures who visited the house after it became part of the National Zoological Park, thus reinforcing the significance of the house to the Zoo's history.

In the spirit of Save America's Treasures, the public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation dedicated to celebrating and preserving the nation's threatened cultural treasures, there is a need to raise awareness of the benefits of saving Holt House and to recognize it as the Washington treasure that it is.

More detailed information on the background of the property is currently available at the following two web sites: <http://www.si.edu/oahp/holthous/start.htm> and <http://www.innecity.org/holt>. Another Web site, still in the planning stages, will have links to the sites mentioned above and provide updates on research and efforts to save this house, including the DCPL's efforts.

For more information, contact Wanda Bubriski, Cochair of Holt House Task Force at (202) 232-6113 or wbubriski@yahoo.com or Barbara Bates at (202) 244-2090 bbates9@juno.com.

Heritage Tourism Update

By Barbara Wolfson, Deputy Director of the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition

The League is a major stakeholder in the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition, a consortium of more than 75 off-the-Mall heritage and cultural sites and organizations in neighborhoods from Anacostia to Georgetown. The Coalition's mission is to strengthen the image and economy of Washington, DC, by engaging visitors in the diverse heritage of the city beyond the monuments. Members include historic houses, neighborhood historical societies, libraries, museums, ethnic organizations, architectural treasures, parks and gardens, houses of worship, and community development organizations. They include well-known sites such as Tudor Place House Museum and Gardens, the Octagon, and the National Building Museum; historic African American venues such as the Anacostia Museum, the Lincoln Theatre, the Sumner School Museum, and Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (the oldest black congregation in Washington); lesser-known attractions such as the Jewish Historical Society (located in an historic downtown synagogue), and the Arts Club of Washington (home of President James Monroe); and community organizations who see tourism as a lever to revitalize their neighborhoods, such as Barracks Row Main Street on Capitol Hill and Manna, Inc., in Shaw. Federal entities that are also members include the National Capital Region of the National Park Service; off-the-Mall Smithsonian museums such as the Renwick, the National Museum of American Art, and the National Portrait Gallery; and the General Services Administration, National Capital Region, which is responsible for the office of Clara Barton, recently discovered in a building on 7th Street that had been scheduled for demolition.

The Coalition was established in 1996 by the Historical Society of Washington, DC, and the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, to give these institutions a voice in shaping a heritage tourism initiative for the city and to encourage more of our 22 million annual visitors to venture beyond

Washington's monumental core. Since then, the League has played an important role in the Coalition's activities. In 1998, Rick Busch, then the League's Issues Director, and then board member Judith Lanus were leaders in organizing the Coalition-sponsored conference "Culture and Commerce." This conference brought together more than 150 civic, governmental, cultural, and tourism-industry leaders to draft the outline of a heritage tourism program for the city. In March 1999, when the Coalition became an independent, nonprofit corporation and moved out from the fiscal and administrative umbrella of the Humanities Council, Ms. Lanus was elected Board Chair. Mr. Busch served as treasurer until September 1999 and remains on the Coalition board. Their extensive knowledge of preservation issues brings an important perspective to the Coalition's work.

From the beginning, the Coalition's efforts have reflected its conviction that an investment in historic preservation is key to a successful heritage tourism initiative. The Coalition is a member of the Coalition for Greater Preservation Enforcement spearheaded by DCPL, and has been active in making the case that our neglected and endangered architectural assets, such as the Howard Theatre, have the potential to be significant tourist attractions. The Howard is featured in the Coalition major publication *Capital Assets: A Report on the Tourist Potential of Off-the-Mall Heritage and Cultural Sites in Washington, DC*. Published in June 1999, the report is the first comprehensive inventory of the heritage and cultural resources in Washington, D.C., neighborhoods. Based on a database of more than 1,300 entries, the

report documents the museums, parks and gardens, architecture, outdoor art, sacred places, homes of prominent figures, cemeteries, and historic sites of local and national significance. The report also analyzes the heritage and cultural attractions of the city according to their state of visitor readiness and provides the raw material for telling a new, positive, and exciting story about Washington. It is a workbook outlining what needs to be done to develop a viable heritage tourism program in our city. For example, almost none of our more than 650 designated historic buildings, sites, and parks and 37 designated historic districts are marked with plaques or historic markers. Some sites included in guide books and heritage trails are not ready for visitors; some are inaccessible; and some are even derelict and boarded up.

In partnership with the Historical Society and with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Coalition recently prepared a neighborhood heritage map based on *Capital Assets* and linked to Metro stops. The Coalition has also developed a walking-tour brochure of Civil War Washington in collaboration with the D.C. Chamber of Commerce and the Civil War Trust. Featuring a map and concise descriptions of 20 sites, most of them downtown, the brochure helps visitors explore the city and discover its fascinating nineteenth-century history and architecture.

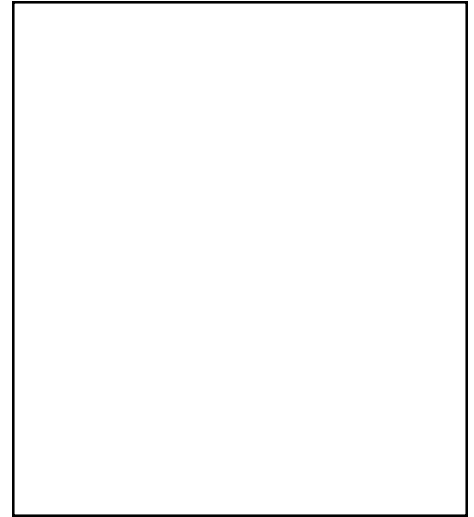
A major project is now under way to create a downtown heritage trail under the auspices of the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID). The trail will consist of 20 freestanding signs with maps and information

(continued on page 11)

Mixing with the Most Endangered

By Amanda Ohlke

DCPL has initiated a series of social events to introduce preservation-minded people to DCPL's 10 most endangered places, as well as to one another. In August 1999, members and friends met at Island Jim's, located in historic Brookland, across the street from the Brooks Mansion. In September, intrepid folks weathered hurricane winds to gather at the Capitol City Brewery to salute the Webster School, which was recently named a historic landmark, but is in danger of losing this designation due to a technicality. In November, the group met at the Heart & Soul Café on Capitol Hill to discuss the potential recovery of the Old Naval Hospital. Soon to be the new home of Friendship House, the red brick Italianate hospital is in need of renovation and restoration. Most recently, a social hour was held at the Zoo Bar to bring attention to the plight of the Holt House. If you would like to be notified of upcoming events, please send your e-mail address to DCPL Trustee, Amanda Ohlke at amanda_ohlke@dc.sba.com. We look forward to seeing you in 2000!



Social hour at the Capital City Brewing Company with Education Chair, Amanda Ohlke, and committee member, Farleigh Earhart

Nominate a Landmark for the 2000 List of Washington's Most Endangered Places

The D.C. Preservation League's Landmarks Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2000 list of Washington's Most Endangered Places. If you would like to nominate a building, class of buildings (e.g., theaters), landscape, or other place please use the form below or e-mail your nomination to DCPreserv@aol.com. Selections will be announced during Preservation Week in May.

Name of place: _____

Location: _____

Owner: _____

Historical background: _____

Nature of threat: _____

Condition: _____

Submitted by: _____

(Heritage Tourism Update, continued from page 9)

about the neighborhood's history, again focusing on the Civil War theme. This heritage trail will be a model for other neighborhoods and the prototype for a citywide program that will be managed by the Coalition in the future.

The burgeoning Shaw-U Street neighborhood is another focus of Coalition activity. In collaboration with the Historical Society, it is creating an historic marker and heritage trail program along U Street. The project is being funded by a HUD Community Development Block Grant passed through the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development. A commercial bus tour, "Duke Ellington's Washington," produced by the Coalition in partnership with Manna, a local community development corporation, is up and running. On the drawing board are additional neighborhood walking tours

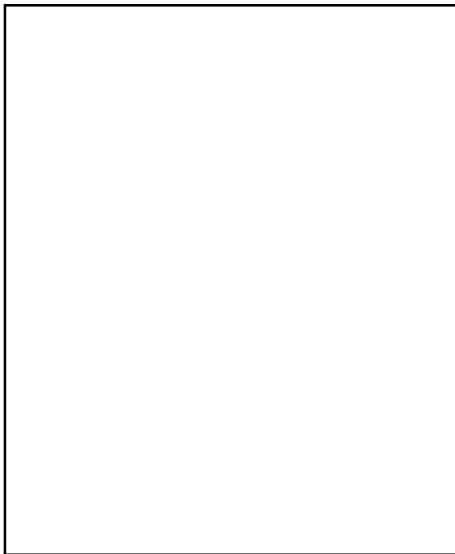
Our city has historic sites, buildings, and neighborhoods unmatched in the nation. A great deal of work remains to be done before the city can fully realize its potential as a major cultural tourism destination. Partnerships with organizations such as the League and the Coalition will make it happen.

Copies of Capital Assets are available for \$22, including shipping and handling. Please make checks payable to DC Heritage Tourism Coalition, and mail to 1250 H Street, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20005.

(Tivoli Theatre, continued from page 4)

funding opportunities to restore the Tivoli for performing arts uses.

DCPL has invested a great deal of effort over many years to preserve this important landmark and continues to support the local community in its efforts to save and restore this masterpiece. If you are interested in saving the Tivoli, please contact Eric Graye, president of Save the Tivoli, Inc., at (202) 462-2792 or graye@mncppc.state.md.us.



Mayor Anthony Williams at the DCPL Annual Meeting (Photo by Patrick G. Ryan Photographs)

Building on U Street. Honored speakers included Councilman Jim Graham and Mayor Anthony Williams. Mayor Williams spoke of his commitment to historic preservation to the receptive crowd. His speech was followed by the announcement of the 1999 Washington's Most Endangered List. The DCPL Board president then summarized the organization's many activities over the past year and vowed to work on turning around the League's lack of success in raising sufficient operating funds.

Local architects displayed their preservation projects during the reception and furniture was raffled off. Restaurants in the vicinity of the building donated food. Scheduled to end by 8:00 P.M., the reception remained lively well into the later hours of the evening. The True Reformer Building is in the midst of being renovated and was graciously made available to the League by J.J. Development, Inc. It was made comfortable by a generous donation of cooling units from PEPCO.

Annual Meeting Attracts the Mayor and a Large Crowd

The D.C. Preservation League held another crowd-pleasing annual meeting this year. Three hundred people from the preservation community turned out on a hot June evening for the event held in the True Reformer

L'Enfant Society Holds Inaugural Event

On June 23, 1999, the National Building Museum hosted an evening to inaugurate the D.C. Preservation League's L'Enfant Society. The Society is composed of individuals and organizations that contribute at least \$500 a year to the League. The L'Enfant Society currently has 65 members, many of whom have joined at this level in the past year.

The black-tie event featured a lecture by architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen. It coincided with an exhibit at the museum on Mr. Jacobsen's work. Society members were joined by DCPL trustees and enjoyed meeting with Mr. Jacobsen during the reception. The League is grateful to the restaurant 701, Central Liquors, and Marriott Hotels for donating desserts, wine, and service, respectively.

The Jacobsen event was the first in a series of special events that the League plans to hold to honor L'Enfant Society members.

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

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

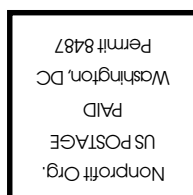
State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: Home _____

Office _____

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.

 SUPPORT THE DC PRESERVATION LEAGUE



DC Preservation League
1815 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006

