

Thursday, October 17



Rhodes Tavern. Courtesy Ken Frye.

6:30 PM John A. Wilson Building (District Building) 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro stop: Metro Center)

26th Annual Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture

“This Important Trust”: The Early Governance of the City of Washington

Congress started discussing a “permanent residence” before the Philadelphia mutiny, but never in any depth until they actually arrived in Washington. In this lecture celebrating the 200th anniversary of Washington’s first local election, Dr. Philip Ogilvie of George Washington University will discuss Congress’ reluctance — and their rush to conclusion.

Following the lecture, attendees are invited to a reception in the Grand Foyer hosted by the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.

The 29th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies is sponsored by:

Gelman Library,

The George Washington University

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Washingtoniana Division of the District of Columbia Public Library

9:00 a.m. Registration
The George Washington University Media and Public Affairs Building
805 21st St., NW (Corner of 21st and H Streets NW)

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Presentation of Awards

10:30 a.m. General Session
Re-Visions: Murals, Community, and Change

Murals across the city have often played a significant role in solidifying community identity. The mural movement started with grass-roots efforts; more recently murals have also been commissioned by public agencies. Presenters will discuss how murals have evolved in D.C., the people and forces involved in creating murals, and the impact of these artworks on their neighborhoods and communities.

Moderator: Floyd Coleman, Howard University

Washington Murals in the 21st Century

Perry Frank, Independent Historian

Mural Making: The Aesthetics of Community Collaboration and Public Art Commissions

G. Byron Peck, Muralist

Murals in El Barrio: Competing Latino Identities in Washington, D.C., 1975-1992

Marisabel Villagomez, University of Maryland

12:00 p.m. Lunch and History Network (Media and Public Affairs Building)

Lunch – To reserve a box lunch, send a check for \$12.00 made payable to HSWDC to Conference, Historical Society of Washington DC, 1307 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Indicate choice of tuna, veggie, or ham sandwich and your phone number or email address. Payment must be received by October 11.

History Network – An opportunity to meet informally with presenters, colleagues, and representatives of history and preservation organizations throughout the city. If you would like your organization to be represented at the History Network, please contact Gail Redmann at 202/785-2068, x111 or gredmann@hswdc.org.

1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
The Snow Riot of 1835 and Emancipation in the District of Columbia: Two Papers



The Carnegie Library, Courtesy The Library of Congress

Friday, October 18

Class Consciousness and Racial Identity in a Southern City: Reconsidering the Snow Riot of 1835

Fred Saddler, Temple University

In 1835, one of Washington’s most visible groups of white skilled workers – marine carpenters – became involved in strike and riot action calculated to articulate their apprehension about what they saw as their deteriorating status in American society, complicated by the presence of a large African-American population, both free and enslaved.

“Paying for the Darkies”: Congressional Emancipation in the District of Columbia during the Era of Civil War in the United States of America

Gregory Baggett, Columbia University

When Congress abolished slavery in the national capital in 1862 it enacted the only example of compensated emancipation in United States history. In a vain attempt to persuade the Border States to inaugurate policies of emancipation, lawmakers sought to overcompensate the District’s slaveholding citizens; but the logic of overcompensation collapsed into absurdity in the administration of the act.

New Perspectives on the Catholic Experience in Washington

Washington is home to a Catholic Archdiocese that has grown from about 75,000 people in 1939 to some 500,000 today. It is also the home of several national Catholic institutions, of which the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Catholic University is the most prominent. Three new studies by local scholars on different dimensions of these topics are presented.

Moderator: Rev. Paul Liston, Catholic Historical Society of Washington

Writing the History of an Archdiocese

Rev. Rory T. Conley, St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown, MD

Writing the History of a Parish

Mary E. Moran, St. Dominic’s Parish

Laying the Cornerstone of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Geraldine M. Rohling, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
Temples of Knowledge: Washington, D.C.’s Central Public Library Buildings

2003 marks the centennial of the Carnegie Library’s opening, and the building is being given new life as the City Museum. Wyeth’s New Public Library would have been 60 years old this year, had it survived. And the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library is celebrating its 30th anniversary as our city considers whether to renovate the central library or erect a new facility. This session will address the histories of the three

buildings that have been built to serve as Washington’s central public library and the role each has played in the city’s life and development.

Moderator: Alexander M. Padro, Trustee, District of Columbia Public Library

“A University for the People”: The Carnegie Library

Barbara Franco, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
Ward Bucher, Ward Bucher Architects

A Dream Never Fully Realized: The New D.C. Central Public Library at the Municipal Center

Alexander M. Padro, Trustee, District of Columbia Public Library

“For Once in a Public Building in Washington, There is Excellence Throughout”: The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library

Pleasant P. Mann

“Down by the Riverside”: An Illustrated Presentation on the History of Watts Branch Park (Heritage Park) and its Adjacent Neighborhoods.

This presentation will take participants on a tour through Watts Branch Park — the longest city park in Washington, D.C. — and its adjacent neighborhoods of Deanwood, Capitol Heights, Burrville, Lincoln Heights, Mayfair Mansions and Eastland Gardens. Some of the featured sites will be the old site of Barnett’s nightclub, the old Strand Theatre, and Marvin Gaye’s boyhood home. Presenters will also discuss the struggle to claim public land in Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Steve Coleman, Washington Parks and People
Katharina Hering, Center for History and New Media, George Mason University

Conference Committee

Conference Co-Chairs: G. David Anderson and LaNina Clayton, The George Washington University; Program Co-Chairs: Gail Redmann and Susan P. Schreiber, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Jill Connors, Mychalene Giampaoli, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Lucinda Janke, Kiplinger/Washington Editors; Nancy J. Kassner, D.C. Historic Preservation Office; Laura Kamoie, American University; Jane Freundel Levey, D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition; Sheri Levinsky, Decatur House; Susan Malbin, Washingtoniana Collection, District of Columbia Public Library; Marya McQuirter, Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.; Mark Meinke, Rainbow History Project; Caren Oberg, The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington; Philip Ogilvie, The George Washington University; Alexander M. Padro, D.C. Preservation League; Gary Scott, National Park Service; Donna M. Wells, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.

Saturday, October 19

9:00 a.m. The George Washington University Media and Public Affairs Building

9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

The Post-War Sex Panic and the D.C. Sexual Psychopath Law

After the social upheavals of World War II, sex scandals and horrific crimes against children led the media to inflame public fears of sexual deviancy. Any sexual behavior that did not conform to "normal" intercourse by married couples was deemed psychopathic and in need of institutionalization and treatment. This paper discusses the national and local social climate – created by the media, psychologists, law enforcement officers, and politicians – that brought about the "D.C. sexual psychopath law" in 1948. Moderator: Carlene Cheatam, D.C. Coalition of Black Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered Persons
Bob Summersgill, Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance and Rainbow History

Architecture in Early Washington

Two presentations discuss early buildings and architecture in the city. The first examines documentation for Notley Young's Casanovia, which, in spite of sitting in the middle of L'Enfant's plan for Delaware Ave., remained an icon of the pre-Federal city landscape until the house and mill were demolished to make way for rail access to Union Station. The second addresses the early career of George Hadfield, the first professionally trained architect in the city and designer of such federal buildings as the Marine Barracks, the Executive Offices and private commissions like Arlington House. Moderator: Nancy J. Kassner, D. C. Historic Preservation Office

Living on the Edge: The Search for Casanovia

Patrick L. O'Neill, Fort Belvoir

George Hadfield, "Our First Architect"

Julia King, Independent Historian

11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Social Geography of Washington, D.C. GLBT Community, 1920 - 2000

This session presents a study documenting nearly 400 clubs, social centers and other sites used for socializing by the GLBT community since 1920. The history of social and legal constraints on socializing for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered members of the community will be discussed, as will the development and characteristics of social spaces as they changed over time. In closing, the presenters will highlight several sites of landmark significance to the GLBT community.

Moderator: Carlene Cheatam, D.C. Coalition of Black Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered Persons
Mark Meinke, the Rainbow History Project
Mark Herlong, Independent Historical Researcher



The Group of Washington, circa 1970. Courtesy the Rainbow History Project.

Subdivisions and Neighborhood Associations: Suburban Planning in Washington, D.C., 1854-1901

This is a discussion of named residential subdivisions created in the District since 1854, looking at ways the piecemeal and (until 1888) unregulated creation of suburban subdivisions beyond the original city wrought numerous changes to the physical and social geography of the District. Residents formed associations to deal with these changes and thereby contributed to the physical and social development of neighborhoods in all parts of the city.

Moderator: Laura Kamoie, American University

Innumerable 'Heights,' 'Mounts,' 'Parks,' and 'Closes': Subdivisions in 19th-Century Washington County

Matthew Gilmore, Co-editor, H-DC

The Evil of Misfit Subdivisions: Extending Washington's Streets into the County

Michael R. Harrison, National Museum of American History

Limited Representation: Washington's 19th-Century Neighborhood Associations

Pamela Scott, Independent Historian

12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Walking Tour
Tour of Historic Foggy Bottom

This residential area still preserves some of the most exciting architectural gems of Washington dating from the city's very beginnings through the Civil War – from the Lenthall and Ringgold houses built in the first rush to house a city, through a fine collection of mid-eighteenth century homes, to the last remaining remnant of Governor Shepherd's row developments.

G. David Anderson, The George Washington University

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-1507
www.hswdc.org



Ladies in Pipes. Courtesy The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

You are cordially invited to participate in a three-day public forum on the diverse urban history of Washington, D.C. Join other historians, preservationists, neighborhood researchers, students and history buffs in this annual learning fest.

The conference is free and open to the public. Registration is at the door. For more information, call: 202 785-2068 x100



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A Chant of Hope. Adams Mill and Klinge Roads, NW. By Jorge Sommariba, 1990. Courtesy Perry Frank.