



Foggy Bottom | Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Showcasing Federal and Northwest Washington History and Culture

National Capital Planning Commission | Cultural Tourism DC

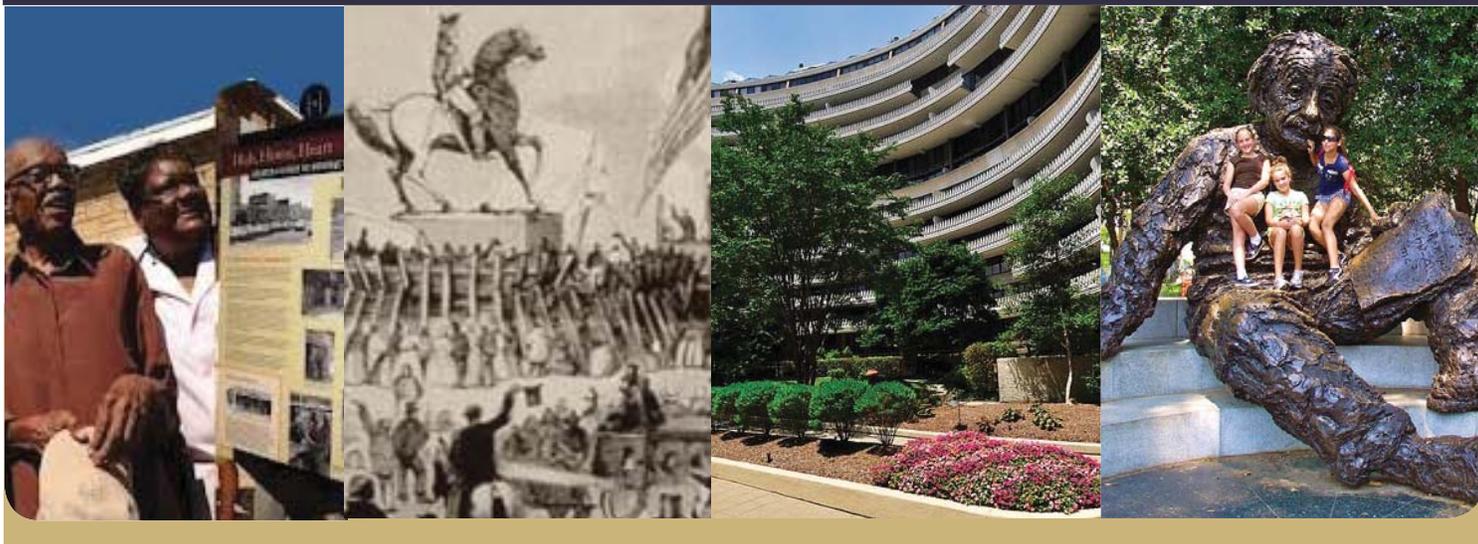


Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	1
Showcasing the National and Local Flavor of Foggy Bottom	5
Purpose of the Heritage Trail Assessment Report	6
II. Background	7
About the Foggy Bottom Neighborhood.....	8
About the District of Columbia Neighborhood Heritage Trails.....	10
III. Existing Conditions	11
Study Area.....	11
Land Use	13
Architectural Design and Historic Buildings	15
Pioneers in Science, the Arts, and Culture	16
Publicly Accessible Cultural Resources	16
Transportation Infrastructure.....	17
Existing Street-Level and Pedestrian Experience	18
IV. Assessment Study Development	20
V. Possible Trail Route and Topics	21
Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail Draft Outline.....	22
VI. Implementation Timeline	26
VII. Cost Estimate	29
VIII. Planning Considerations	31
Federal and Local Review	31
Public Involvement and Interagency Collaboration	32
Sign Design and Placement	33
Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility	33
Transit Access and Linkages.....	35
Design Coordination with Federal and Local Plans and Land Use Policies	35
Sign and Trail Maintenance	35
IX. Conclusions	36
X. Acknowledgements	37



I. Executive Summary

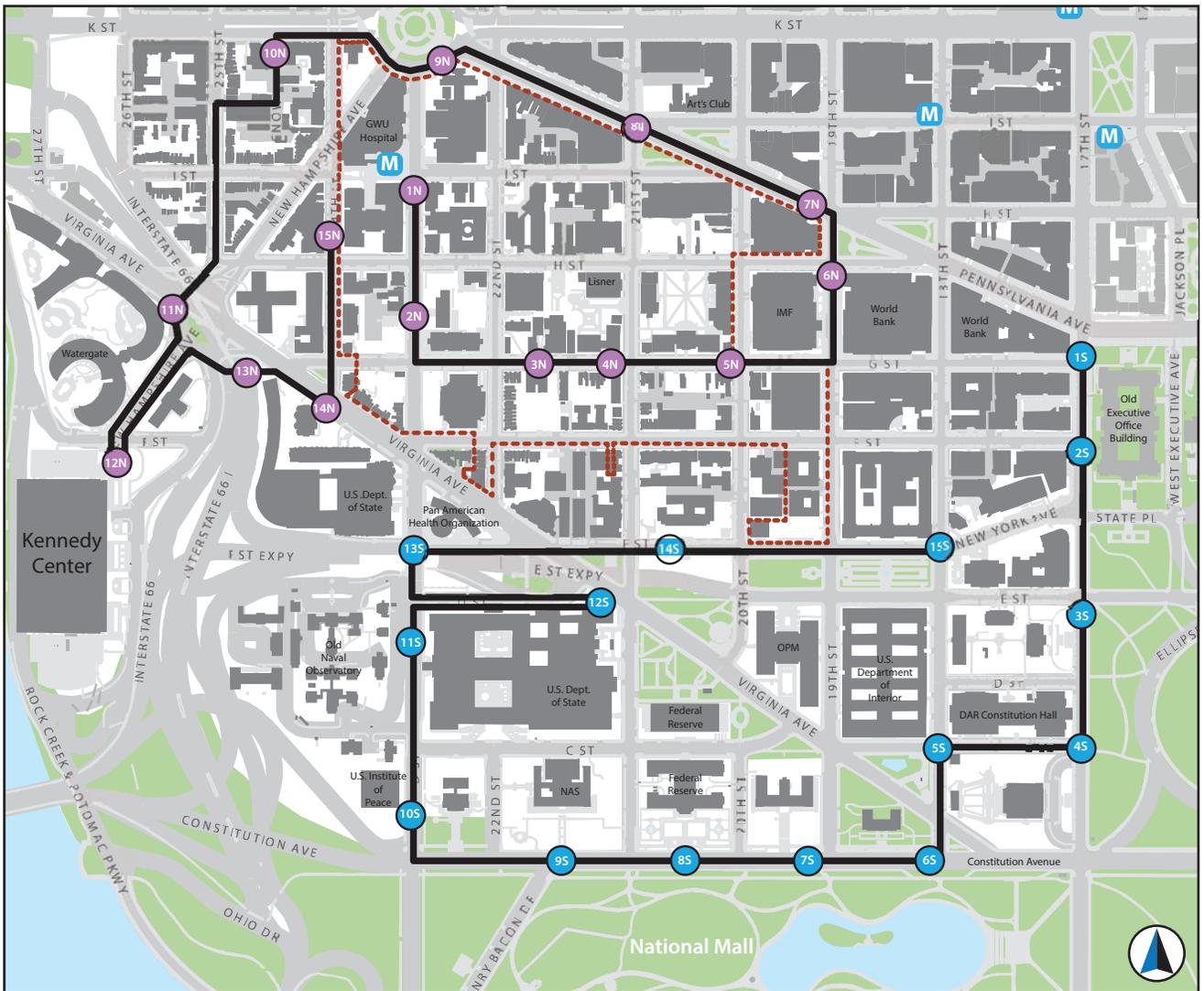
The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) engaged Cultural Tourism DC (CTDC), the city’s agent for creating the District of Columbia Neighborhood Heritage Trails, to lead the initial exploration of a Heritage Trail for the Foggy Bottom neighborhood and its subarea, the Northwest Rectangle. NCPC, the federal government’s central planning agency for the National Capital Region, initiated the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail Assessment Study to advance the objectives of its signature *Monumental Core Framework Plan* (Framework Plan). The Northwest Rectangle area of Foggy Bottom, one of the areas studied in the Framework Plan, is envisioned as a prestigious yet accessible cultural destination and high quality workplace that builds upon its adjacency to the Washington Monument and the White House, and the numerous cultural, international, and diplomatic institutions established in the area. The Framework Plan emphasizes the importance of activating streets within federal precincts through a variety of strategies, such as interpretive signs, to enhance the quality of the public spaces for the enjoyment of residents, workers, and visitors.

When complete, the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle (Heritage Trail) will be a self-guided walking tour highlighting the art, architecture, social, and institutional history of a distinctive neighborhood west of the White House and within walking distance of the National Mall and downtown Washington, DC. The Heritage Trail will focus on the role of cultural, international, and federal institutions, architecture, and local residents and industries in shaping Foggy Bottom’s identity. By introducing interpretive signs and audio tours that showcase the area’s rich history, the Heritage Trail would remind people of the bygone industrial life of Washington and prominent residents in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood, and showcase the mission and architectural heritage of the international institutions and federal agencies in the Northwest Rectangle.

The Trail will include a North Loop and a South Loop, separated by F Street, NW (Figure 1, Foggy Bottom–Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail Area, p. 2). The North Loop, approximately two miles long, connects 15 markers that lead walkers through Foggy Bottom’s social and institutional history, including the George Washington University, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. (Figure 2A, North Loop, Concept, p. 3). The slightly shorter South Loop (15 markers) showcase the missions, history, and employees of the federal and international institutions just north of the National Mall. Both loops discuss the area’s events and personalities during its early days as the city’s proto-industrial waterfront (Figure 2B, South Loop, Concept, p. 4). The South Loop covers the area referred to as the Northwest Rectangle in NCPC’s Framework Plan and throughout this Assessment Report.



Figure 1: Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail Area



Legend

Proposed Heritage Trail

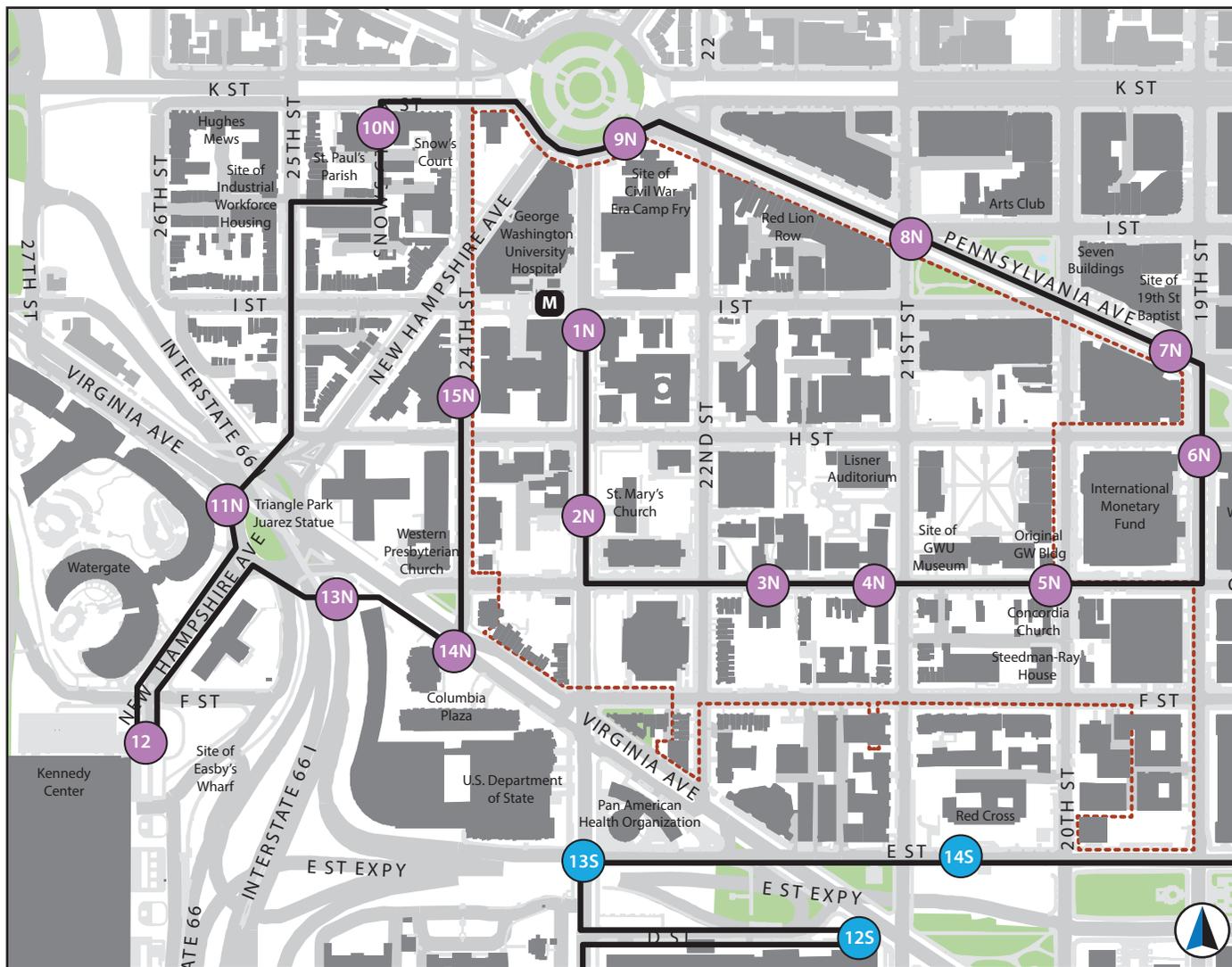
—●— North Loop

—M— Metro Station

—●— South Loop

--- George Washington University Campus

Figure 2A: North Loop, Concept



Legend

Proposed Heritage Trail

North Loop



Metro Station

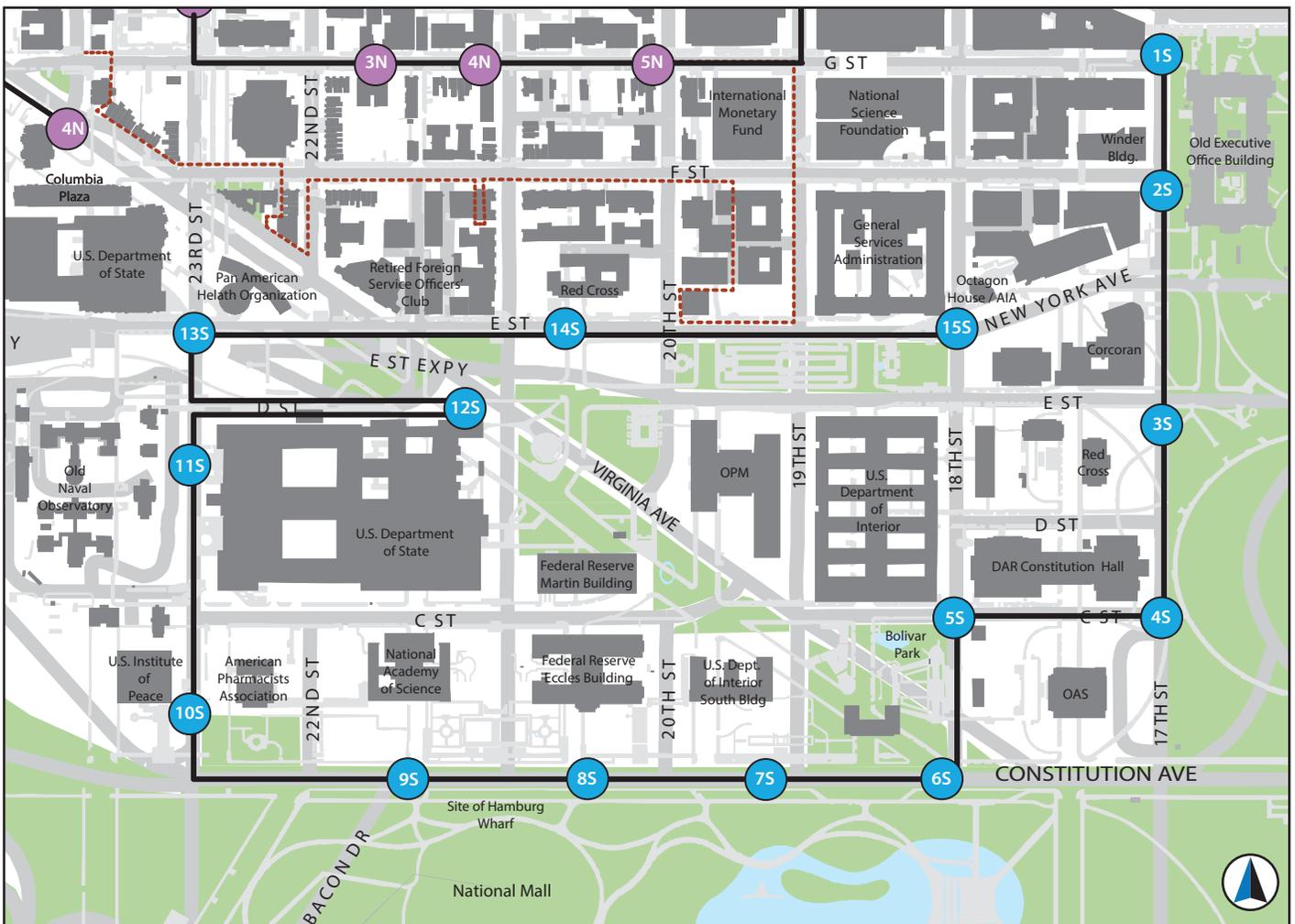


South Loop

George Washington University Campus



Figure 2B: South Loop, Concept



Legend

- Proposed Heritage Trail
- North Loop
- South Loop
- Metro Station
- George Washington University Campus

This report is a first step in understanding and documenting the range of possible topics and the potential route for a neighborhood heritage trail in Foggy Bottom. This report includes a list of topics derived from multiple consultations with local and organizational stakeholders. It also provides an implementation schedule and a cost estimate for each loop of the trail. During the implementation phase, the stakeholders who participated in this needs assessment and additional interested parties will decide which stories and visuals will appear on the completed Heritage Trail. Once funding is available, Cultural Tourism DC will initiate the implementation phase.

Showcasing the National and Local Flavor of Foggy Bottom

The Heritage Trail can help draw visitors from the National Mall and Smithsonian museums to lesser-known attractions in the Northwest Rectangle and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods. The Heritage Trail can enhance north-south pedestrian connections between Foggy Bottom and the National Mall, and east-west connections between the White House and the Kennedy Center. The trail markers may include digital links to changing information on public tours and cultural events to deepen the neighborhood experience beyond the stories presented on the markers.

The Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail could be a near-term strategy to enhance the Northwest Rectangle public realm. While the Foggy Bottom neighborhood has vibrant streets due to George Washington University's academic community, the area south of F Street is rarely traversed by National Mall or White House visitors, despite its close proximity. The Heritage Trail can increase foot traffic by providing an interesting pedestrian transition between federal and local landmarks and destinations. By following interpretive signs on a planned route area visitors will be introduced to lesser-known but equally interesting cultural and historic resources in the area.

The Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail can bring more revenue to Foggy Bottom businesses. A key objective in developing a Heritage Trail is to promote local businesses by capitalizing on tourism generated by the National Mall and Smithsonian museums. All Heritage Trails are routed through neighborhood commercial districts, bringing tourists to new destinations. Ben's Chili Bowl, located on the Greater U Street Heritage Trail and opened for business in 1958, credits some of its current popularity to the arrival of that Heritage Trail in 2001.



Purpose of the Heritage Trail Assessment Report

This report provides a preliminary look at the research, outreach, collaboration, and resources necessary to design and implement a Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail. It will be used to garner federal and local support for the project, identify potential funding sources, and inform future planning. The assessment report consists of a set of potential historic themes, research and photo documentation, route identification and potential signage locations, cost estimates, and identification of trail enhancements such as guidebooks, audio tours, and additional education opportunities.

This report includes the following information:

- The purpose and process for developing this assessment study
- A general description of the proposed Heritage Trail
- A series of possible stories that could be featured along the Heritage Trail
- A suggested timeline and preliminary cost estimate for implementing the Heritage Trail
- Planning considerations that should be addressed during design and implementation
- Conclusion and next steps

The identification of funding sources is not part of this report's scope.



The United Church and Rectory (Former Concordia Church)



II. Background

Cultural Tourism DC (CTDC) is a local not-for-profit organization specializing in the development of Neighborhood Heritage Trails within Washington, DC. In addition to completing 16 Neighborhood Heritage Trails under contract with the District Department of Transportation, CTDC previously collaborated with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the General Services Administration in the development of the Federal Triangle Heritage Trail, the first Heritage Trail project funded by the federal government and completed in 2010.

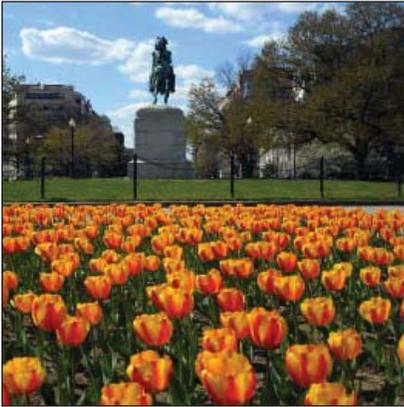
NCPC saw an opportunity for the federal government to replicate this success in two other federal precincts: the Northwest Rectangle and the Southwest Federal Center. Both precincts are featured in the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* (Framework Plan) as focus areas for new cultural and commemorative spaces outside of the National Mall and as sites for public realm and transportation improvements to enhance federal workplaces. The Southwest Federal Center Heritage Trail Assessment Report was completed in June 2013 and NCPC is currently seeking funding opportunities for its implementation.

The Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail (Heritage Trail) is proposed to showcase the area’s architectural treasures, provide historical narratives about the mission of area federal agencies and international organizations, and reveal the stories of the communities and buildings that preceded its current configuration. When complete, the Heritage Trail will satisfy a long-held desire of the federal and local governments, as well as Foggy Bottom residents, to put on display an area of Washington that has strong local and national significance.



About the Foggy Bottom Neighborhood

The origins of the name Foggy Bottom aren't entirely clear. The name refers essentially to the low-lying land (at or below sea level) along the Potomac River where, early on, the atmosphere could be foggy. In the mid-19th century, when the area became an industrial waterfront with coal-fired gas plants, large storage tanks, and factories emitting smoke, the "fog" was more smog. The name "Northwest Rectangle" was coined by federal planners in the 1950s as a planning area just north of the National Mall and east of Rock Creek.



Washington Circle
Photo: M.V. Jantzen

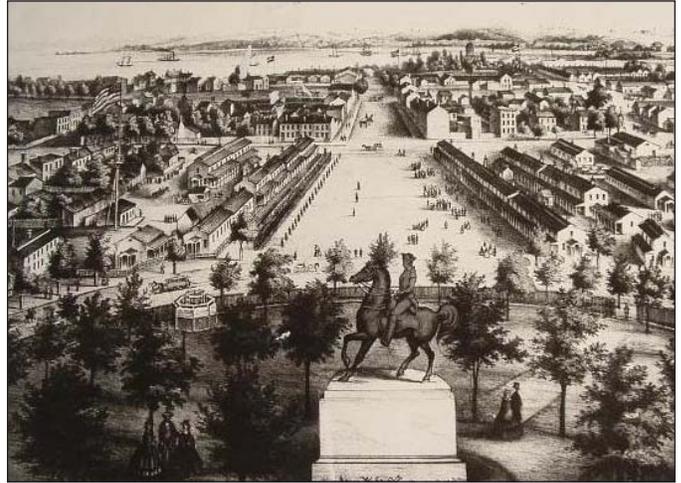
Foggy Bottom is among the city's oldest neighborhoods. Today it encompasses a wealth of markers of the past, present, and future. The past lingers in its historic churches, the first Naval Observatory, the Octagon, and the 19th century workforce housing of its small historic district. The present and future lie in George Washington University, the U.S. Department of State, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, DAR Constitution Hall, the American Red Cross, the World Bank, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the General Services Administration, Organization of American States, the Pan American Health Organization, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the National Academy of Sciences, the Federal Reserve, the American Pharmacists Association, and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The challenge of this Heritage Trail, one that was met previously with the Southwest Heritage Trail, is not only to address what is visible today, but also to evoke the landscape of yesterday. Like the city's existing Heritage Trails, the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail's intended purpose is not simply to be a collection of factual markers, but rather a collection of stories and dynamic historic images that convey the social history of the neighborhood while providing an opportunity for the federal agencies and international institutions to tell their missions and histories to the public in an engaging and accessible way.

The first European activity in Foggy Bottom was the purchase of 130 acres in 1765 by the German immigrant Jacob Funk. He subdivided his acreage into lots and incorporated a Maryland town named Hamburg, also known as Funkstown. The lots became currency for speculators, especially after 1791, when the District of Columbia was formed. Thomas Jefferson suggested placing the center of the new federal city in Hamburg, with the Capitol on the small hill later occupied by the Naval Observatory, but his modest ideas were eclipsed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant's grand design under the direction of George Washington.

Foggy Bottom instead developed as the new city's industrial waterfront, second only to Georgetown, with wharves, workshops, warehouses, and businesses. Among them initially was a glass factory and a brewery, and eventually a shipyard, lime kiln, ice house, wood yard, plaster factory, and, beginning in 1856, the coal-fired gasworks of the Washington Gas Light Company. With the arrival of the C&O Canal in 1837, Foggy Bottom benefitted from water transportation to Western Maryland's interior. Immigrants from Germany and Ireland and free African American migrants found livelihoods in Foggy Bottom.

Camp Fry, Washington, DC
 GWU Library



The Civil War was a watershed for the community, as Camp Fry opened south of Washington Circle. War-related activities, including hospitals for the wounded, came to dominate the entire city. Foggy Bottom's churches housed the wounded, and their proximity to the White House led to visits by First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. After the war ended, Foggy Bottom turned its energies back to manufacturing and trade. The White House, its next-door-neighbor to the east, was not a strong factor in Foggy Bottom's development until the 20th century. In the 19th century its character generally reflected the opportunities afforded by the riverfront's activities.

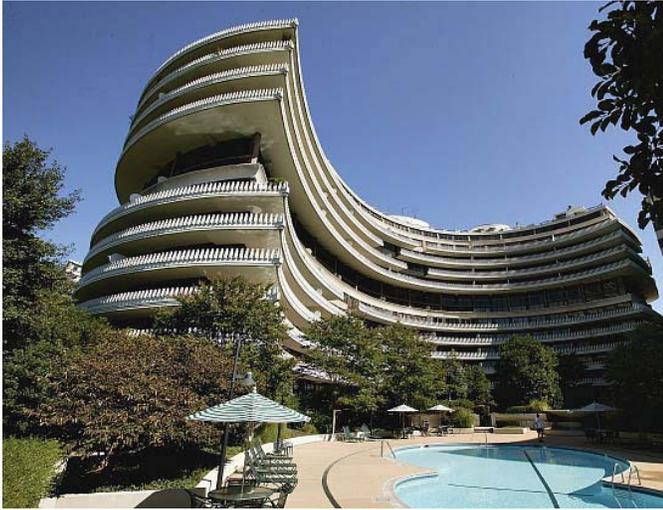
In the years following the Civil War, as industries expanded and the workforce grew, speculators built modest brick or frame rowhouses to house them, both on the street and in the rear yards fronting on the alleys behind them. The poor occupied the alley dwellings, which generally lacked running water. Privies and water pumps served their needs. While communities developed in these hidden spaces, they also fostered illegal activity, causing city leaders to look for opportunities to clear them out. While African Americans dominated the alley populations, white families could be found there as well.

Not all of Foggy Bottom was working class, however. Before the Civil War, a few wealthy families built fine houses within walking distance of the White House, including the historic Octagon, where President James Madison signed the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812. In the late 19th century, the streets nearer the White House began to take on a middle-class character, with sturdy houses for civil servants.

While a number of educational institutions operated in Foggy Bottom, the arrival of the George Washington University in 1912 signaled years of dramatic change. Government departments, including the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of State, and national and international organizations, such as the Organization of American States and the National Academy of Sciences, followed. During World War I, agencies took over numerous large buildings in addition to building temporary offices on large swathes of the nearby National Mall.

After World War I, the breweries and gas tanks that had dominated the waterfront came down as widely distributed natural gas and oil made coal-fired gas obsolete. Railroads had fully eclipsed water-borne transportation. Later on, calls for up-scale housing led to the razing of dozens of modest 19th century rowhouses in favor of denser apartment complexes. Freeway planners staked out acres for highway exchanges (while these were constructed, many of their planned feeder highways were blocked by citizen action). Post-World War II suburban housing construction and the federal government's commitment to dispersing federal activities led many to move elsewhere.





The Watergate Complex
DC Turf

The modern Foggy Bottom is known for the Watergate Complex (1965-67) and the Kennedy Center (1971), which replaced the breweries and gas works, and George Washington University. It is also known for the small yet expensive houses of the Foggy Bottom Historic District (1987), medical facilities including the George Washington University Hospital, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of State, and urban parks.

About the District of Columbia Neighborhood Heritage Trails

As of this writing, the District of Columbia's Neighborhood Heritage Trails system is about to be a collection of 18 self-guided walking trails in all eight city wards. Though relatively new, they have already become a city "brand" thanks to the collaboration of the general public on their content as well as their distinctive design, consistent presentation, depth of research, and accessibility. The trails embrace a new social history, combining recent memory as developed through extensive oral history interviewing and more formal historical research. As such they represent the cutting edge in public historic interpretation. The result is a dynamic, story-telling approach to bringing history to the general public. In 2009, the Council of the District of Columbia designated the Neighborhood Heritage Trails system as the city's "Official Walking Trails."

Each Neighborhood Heritage Trail averages 16 signs and is accompanied by a free guidebook summarizing the trail's information. Signs have about 250 words of text, plus eight to ten images with captions. Thus, the history presented is brief and to the point, enhanced by the "thousand words" contained within each image. Typically each sign will present a primary and a secondary story that occurred at its location. Heritage Trail signs are interpretive and fabricated for a minimum ten-year lifespan; therefore, they are not appropriate for displaying tourist information that is subject to frequent change. The current design of the standard Neighborhood Heritage Trail sign is a component of the District's citywide wayfinding signage system that was approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

Heritage Trails are complemented with summary guidebooks (available in English and Spanish) designed to be distributed free to the public at businesses and institutions along the route as an incentive for walkers to patronize these establishments. The guidebooks are also made available for distribution at area visitor and convention centers as well as in schools and libraries. The guidebooks reproduce some of the photographs used along the trail and provide bibliographical information along with a list of other trails and their locations. A number of trails currently also have audio tours accessible via smartphones. These audio tours extend the historical information and enliven the walking experience.

The process of creating a Heritage Trail takes approximately two years. It begins with story sharing and gathering oral histories, extends through thorough documentary and photographic research and expert reviews, and ends with permitting, design, fabrication, and installation.



Engine Company No. 23
M.V. Jantzen

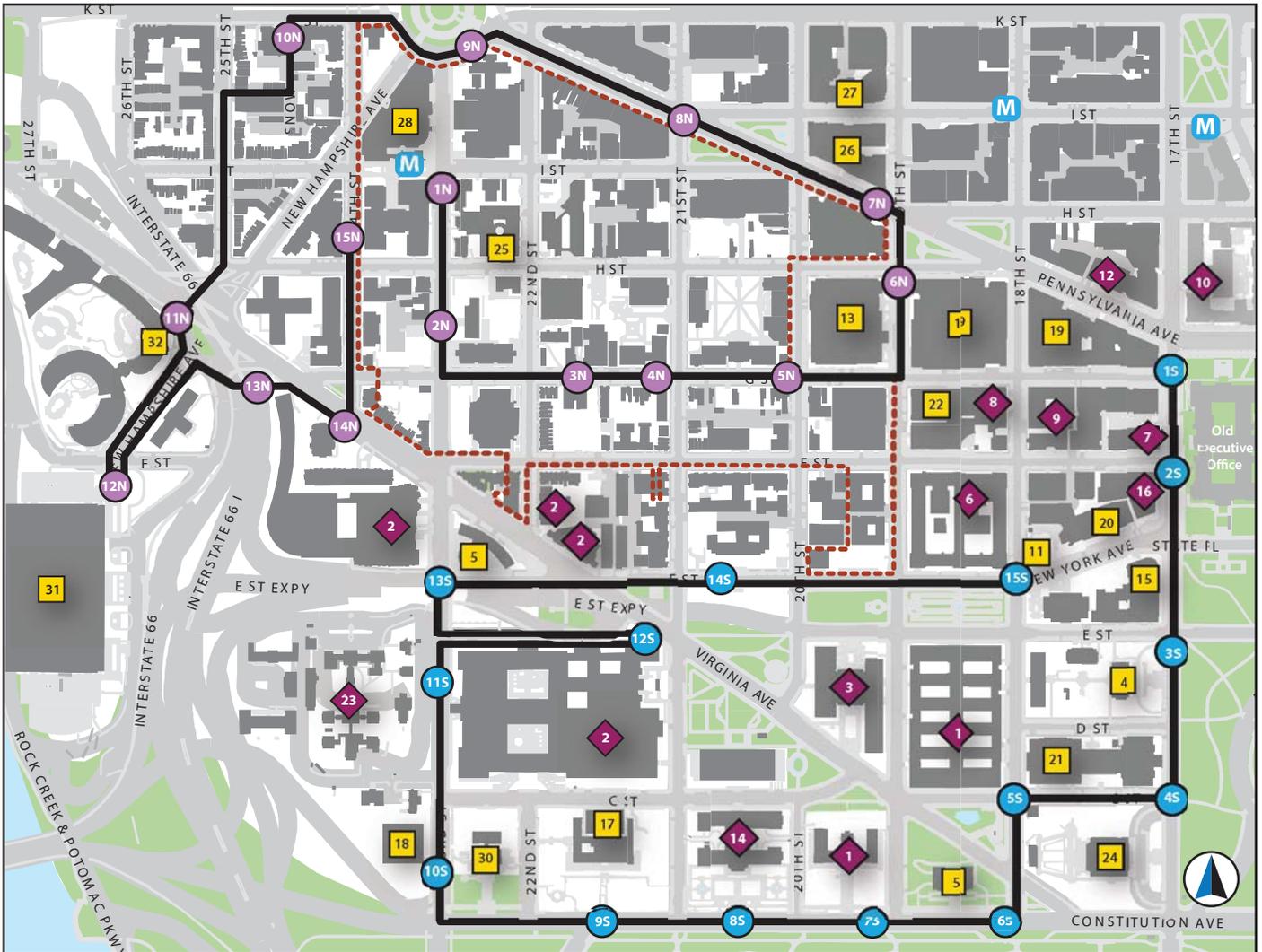
III. Existing Conditions

Study Area

For this report’s purposes, the area between Constitution Avenue and F Street, NW, will be referred to as the Northwest Rectangle, while the area between Pennsylvania Avenue and F Street, NW will be referred to as the Foggy Bottom neighborhood (Figure 1, Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail Area, p. 2). From the Assessment Study’s onset, the study area’s boundaries were kept fluid to allow for flexibility in capturing interesting and relevant stories and to accommodate public input once development of the Heritage Trail’s next stages are underway.

The use of this study area to design a Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail is important for several reasons. The new trail will allow for a seamless transition between the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail markers and the National Mall’s wayfinding sign system, which directs visitors to national memorials and park amenities within the National Park Service’s jurisdiction. Also, using a larger study area accommodates other significant civic and cultural destinations outside of the study area and the *Monumental Core Framework Plan’s* functional boundary.

Figure 3: Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail- Land Use



Legend

Proposed Heritage Trail

- North Loop
- South Loop
- Metro Station
- George Washington University Campus

Land Use

- Federal
 - Institutional
- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. U.S. Department of the Interior 2. U.S. Department of State 3. Office of Personal Management 4. American Red Cross Headquarters 5. Pan-American Health Organization 6. General Services Administration 7. National Security Council/ Winder Building 8. U.S. Departments of Justice & Veterans Affairs 9. National Credit Union Administration 10. New Executive Office Building 11. Octagon House 12. U.S. Treasury Department 13. International Monetary Fund 14. Federal Reserve Board 15. Corcoran Gallery and College of Art + Design 16. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. National Academy of Sciences 18. U.S. Institute of Peace 19. World Bank 20. American Institute of Architects 21. DAR Constitution Hall 22. National Science Foundation 23. Old Naval Observatory 24. Organization of American States 25. George Washington University 26. Embassy of Mexico 27. Embassy of Uruguay 28. George Washington Hospital 29. Lisner Auditorium 30. American Pharmacists' Association 31. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 32. Watergate Complex |
|--|---|

Land Use

The Northwest Rectangle is predominantly occupied by federal and international organization buildings while the Foggy Bottom neighborhood is a mix of academic, cultural, medical, commercial, and residential uses. Premiere cultural facilities in the area include DAR Constitution Hall, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Kennedy Center. The Northwest Rectangle’s northern boundary runs through the middle of the blocks between E Street and F Street, NW. Its southern boundary is Constitution Avenue. (Figure 3, Land Use, p. 12).

The Foggy Bottom neighborhood is home to George Washington University. Within the university’s urban campus lies the George Washington University Hospital and the Lisner Auditorium, a historic performing arts facility. Student housing, dining, and convenience retail are interspersed among the campus’ academic buildings.

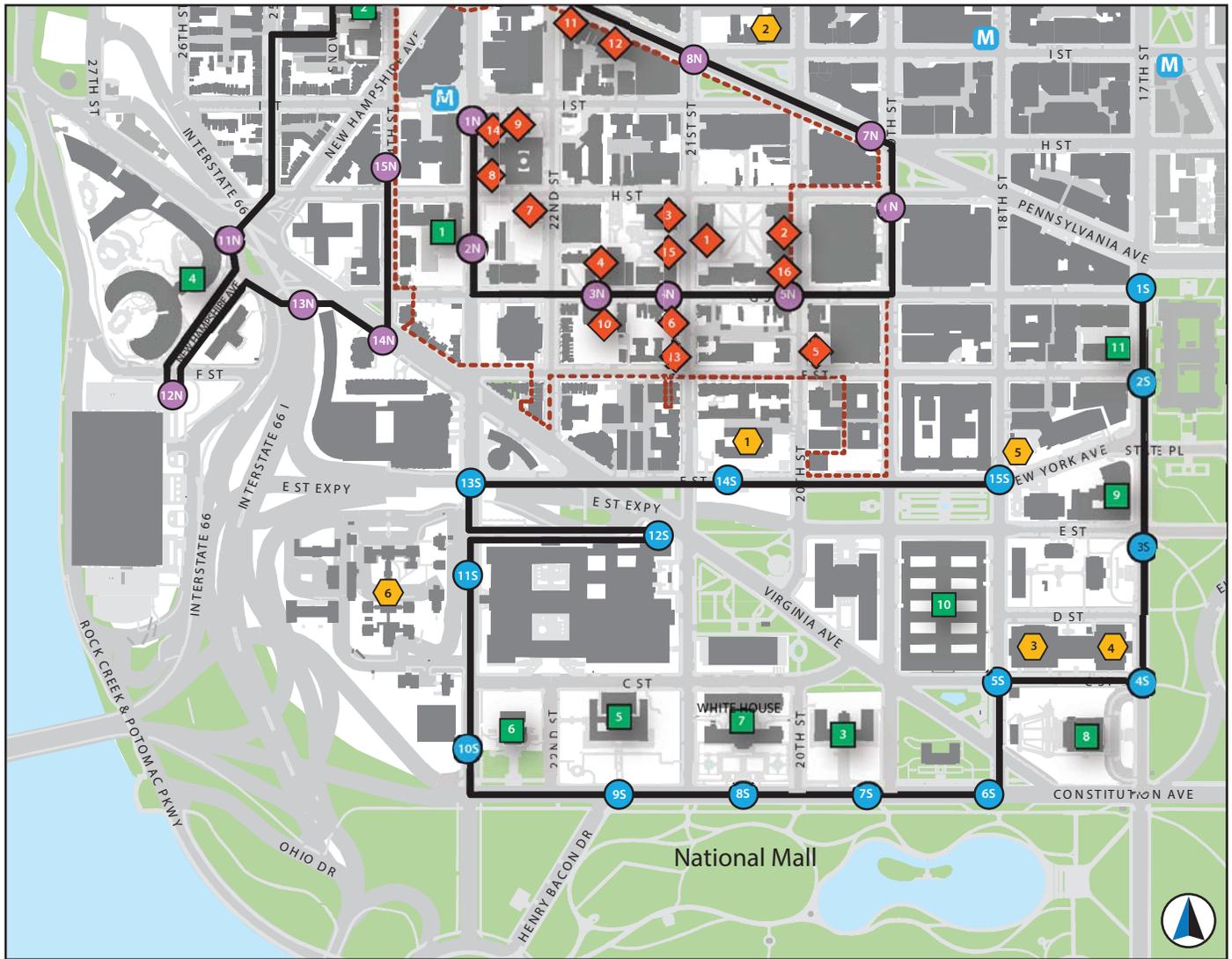
In addition, there are a number of historic churches in Foggy Bottom and a small historic district of 19th-century workforce housing.

The Northwest Rectangle is populated with offices of international organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Organization of American States, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Federal agencies have an equal presence, represented by the U.S. Department of State, the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Office of Personnel Management, and the General Services Administration. A third grouping consists of prominent institutions such as the National Academy of Sciences, the American Institute of Architects, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

Immediately south of the study area is the National Mall and immediately west are the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the White House. Along Virginia Avenue and E Street are several National Park Service (NPS) reservations, which are used for commemorative as well as recreational activities. Several memorials commemorating Latin American historical figures can be found on the NPS reservations, and the green spaces along E Street include a playground, a sports court, and a small outdoor seating area. The most popular tourist destination is on the grounds of the National Academy of Sciences—a statue of Albert Einstein that commemorates the centennial (1979) of his birth. There are a limited number of places to eat and shop, since most of the federal buildings provide interior food service areas for their employees. A notable exception is the U.S. Department of the Interior, which opens its facilities to the public. More recently, food trucks line up along Virginia Avenue to offer other options.



Figure 4: Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail- Significant Architecture



Legend

- Proposed Heritage Trail
- North Loop
- South Loop
- Metro Station

National Historic Landmarks

1. American Red Cross Headquarters
2. Arts Club of Washington
3. Memorial Continental Hall
4. DAR Constitution Hall
5. Octagon House
6. Old Naval Observatory

National Register of Historic Places

1. St. Mary's Episcopal Church
2. Snow's Court
3. U.S. Department of the Interior South Building
4. Watergate Complex
5. National Academy of Sciences
6. American Pharmacists Association
7. Federal Reserve Board Marriner Eccles Building
8. Pan American Union Building (Organization of American States)
9. Corcoran Gallery
10. U.S. Department of the Interior Main Building
11. Winder Building

George Washington University

1. Corcoran Hall
2. Stockton Hall
3. Lisner Auditorium
4. John J. Early's Studio & Office
5. Steedman-Ray House
6. Hattie M. Strong Residence Hall
7. Flagler Apartments/ Madison Hall
8. Fulbright Hall
9. Munson Hall
10. School Without Walls (Ulysses S. Grant School)
11. Keystone
12. Red Lion Row
13. Lenthall Houses
14. Milton Hall
15. Margaret Wetzel House
16. Maxwell Woodhull House

Architectural Design and Historic Buildings

The Foggy Bottom neighborhood is replete with architectural treasures (Figure 4, Significant Architecture, p. 14) that help tell the stories of men and women who influenced the development of Washington as a city and the significant periods of the nation's history. Examples of vernacular architecture that have become local landmarks include St. Mary's Episcopal Church, the alley dwellings in Snow's Court, and the studio and office of concrete innovator John J. Earley. Sites linked to U.S. national history and heritage include the Octagon House, which was the temporary home of the Madisons after the burning of the White House by the British; the U.S. Department of the Interior's South Building, site of planning for the Manhattan Project; and the sites involved in the Watergate break-in scandal that led to President Nixon's resignation. The Old Naval Observatory, the original site of the Washington Meridian, is where Asaph Hall discovered Mars' two moons in 1877.

Civic architecture by prominent architects, many of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, also populate the study area: the National Academy of Sciences by Bertram Goodhue; the original American Pharmacists Association building and DAR Constitution Hall by John Russell Pope; and the Federal Reserve Board's Marriner Eccles building and the Pan American Union building by Paul Phillip Cret. Other prominent architects that contributed to the civic art and architecture of the area include Ernest Flagg, designer of the Old Naval Observatory and the Corcoran Gallery; local architect Waddy B. Wood, who won the commission for the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Main Building; Jules Henri de Sibour, designer of the Department of the Interior South Building and several Washington embassies; and Robert Mills, architect of the Winder Building, who also designed the Washington Monument and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The area boasts several National Historic Landmarks, which can be seen on the adjacent map (Figure 4, Significant Architecture, p. 14)

The National Register of Historic Places, managed by NPS, is the United States' official list of historic places worthy of preservation. Numerous buildings in the study area, both on and not on the George Washington University campus, are also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (Figure 4, Significant Architecture, p. 14) GWU locations, along with additional details, are listed below.

- Corcoran and Stockton Halls (*the first and second buildings, respectively, built by the University when it moved to the Foggy Bottom neighborhood*)
- Lisner Auditorium
- John J. Earley's studio and office
- University president's office (*housed in a cluster of gabled townhouses*)
- Steedman-Ray House (*university president's official residence*)
- Hattie M. Strong Residence Hall
- Flagler Apartments (*a.k.a. Madison Hall*)
- Fulbright and Munson Residence Halls
- Ulysses S. Grant School (*a.k.a. School Without Walls*);
- Keystone (a medical office building a.k.a. H.B. Burns Memorial Building)
- Red Lion Row
- Lenthall Houses
- Milton Hall (*a.k.a. the Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis Hall*)
- Margaret Wetzel House
- Maxwell Woodhull House (*used for university administrative offices*)

The National Academy
of Sciences dome



Pioneers in Science, the Arts, and Culture

There were many “firsts” in the study area. The first Miss America, Margaret Gorman, lived in Foggy Bottom. The National Academy of Sciences dome was constructed of a new material, acoustalith brick, which led muralist Hildreth Mieire to develop a method of decoration involving painting over gesso (an example of innovation in architectural technology fostering innovation in the arts).

The W. H. Winder Building at 17th and F Streets, NW, currently occupied by the Office of the United States Trade Representative, was the tallest building in pre-Civil War Washington. When built in 1847-1848, this 130-room office building was an architectural and engineering pioneer for its height and was one of the first to rely exclusively on central heat.

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Headquarters was the first federal building to include escalators and the first large government building to have central air conditioning. It was also an early example of a mixed-use building, with its own conference hall (auditorium), activity space (gymnasium), cafeteria with courtyard, employees’ lounge with soda fountain (south penthouse, now offices), Interior Museum, art gallery (currently offices), Indian Arts and Crafts Shop, and broadcasting studio (north penthouse).

Publicly Accessible Cultural Resources

Many visitors to the National Mall and the Smithsonian museums do not realize that within the walls and interior spaces of the institutions in the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle are exemplary artworks that are accessible to the public (Figure 4, Significant Architecture)

Foremost among the cultural destinations in the study area are the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Kennedy Center, and DAR Constitution Hall. The Corcoran is recognized internationally for a distinguished collection of historic and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts. The Kennedy Center is the city’s premier performing arts destination. The annual Kennedy Center Honors recognizes esteemed artists whose body of work has made an important contribution to American culture. DAR Constitution Hall is a popular venue for political events, rock concerts, and even nationally televised game shows. George Washington University’s Lisner Auditorium has hosted world-class performances since 1940 and was the main cultural space for the performing arts in Washington until the Kennedy Center was constructed.

The DOI Headquarters contains more New Deal-era artwork than any other government building in Washington (more than 40 murals and sculptures, including artwork by Native Americans). Then-Secretary Harold Ickes was highly involved in development of the murals, which document the impact of the Department’s activities on American life.

The building also has a museum housing more than 6,000 objects of cultural, historic, and scientific importance, including a collection of more than 800 North American Indian baskets. The museum, underwent major renovations in 2013 and is accessible to the public on weekends.

The National Academy of Sciences is open to the public but does not offer guided tours. Architect Bertram Goodhue, architectural sculptor Lee Lawrie, and muralist Hildreth Miere produced a panoply of bas-reliefs and carved entablatures depicting nature and the pioneers of science in the exterior of the building as well as the bronze bas-relief panels of the front doors and windows and the sumptuous dome mural of the Great Hall. In the meeting rooms for its members are also murals and sculptural ornamentation on door knobs, fireplaces, and lighting fixtures. It has gallery spaces for art exhibits and holds symposia and educational events in its auditorium.

Since 1975, the Federal Reserve Board has organized special exhibitions, which are accessible to the public by reservation. Its art collection of more than one thousand works, donated by private citizens and foundations, grace the public spaces and private meeting rooms.

In the near future, the U.S. Department of State will open its doors to the public at a new diplomacy and visitor center, and the U.S. Institute of Peace is exploring an expansion of its existing public education work.

In addition to the Lisner Auditorium and Dimock Art Gallery, George Washington University’s Smith Athletic Center hosts sporting events. Public symposia, performances, lectures, and broadcasts take place in a number of campus buildings, including the Marvin Student Center and the Media and Public Affairs Building.

Transportation Infrastructure

Transit Service and Access (Figure 5, Transportation and Transit Access, p. 19) There is limited transit service to the study area. Several Metrobus routes offer the main transit services that connect the various destination points within the study area to the immediate vicinity and the rest of Washington. A new form of transit that has become popular is Capital Bikeshare. This is probably the most viable form of transit for trail users who would like to complete the north and south loop of the trail in one visit. Seven bikeshare stations serve the north loop and five are located in the south loop.



The Farragut West Metro station lies outside of the study area, at the northeastern end, but is a comfortable walking distance to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Treasury Department, and the DAR Constitution Hall. The Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro station primarily serves George Washington University and is proposed as the starting point of the Foggy Bottom–Northwest Federal Rectangle Heritage Trail’s north loop. Shuttle buses to the Kennedy Center provide limited service to and from the Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro station. However, transit access is a challenge for the proposed trail’s south loop. The Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro station is a 20 to 30 minute walk from the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. Department of Interior, and all the institutions along Constitution Avenue. There is currently no transit service to the National Mall, thus limiting the transportation mode in the study area to walking and biking for would-be trail users originating from the south. A Circulator route is under consideration.

Freeways and Major Vehicular Access (Figure 5, Transportation and Transit Access, p. 19) The main north-south arterials in the study area include 17th and 23rd Streets, while the main east-west corridors include E Street, NW and Constitution Avenue. The monumental Virginia Avenue is a major view corridor to the Washington Monument and also serves as a diagonal greenway connecting Constitution Avenue, E Street, and Rock Creek Parkway. Quick access to the regional interstate highway system is provided through a system of ramps connecting E Street and Constitution Avenue to Interstate 66.

Existing Street-Level and Pedestrian Experience

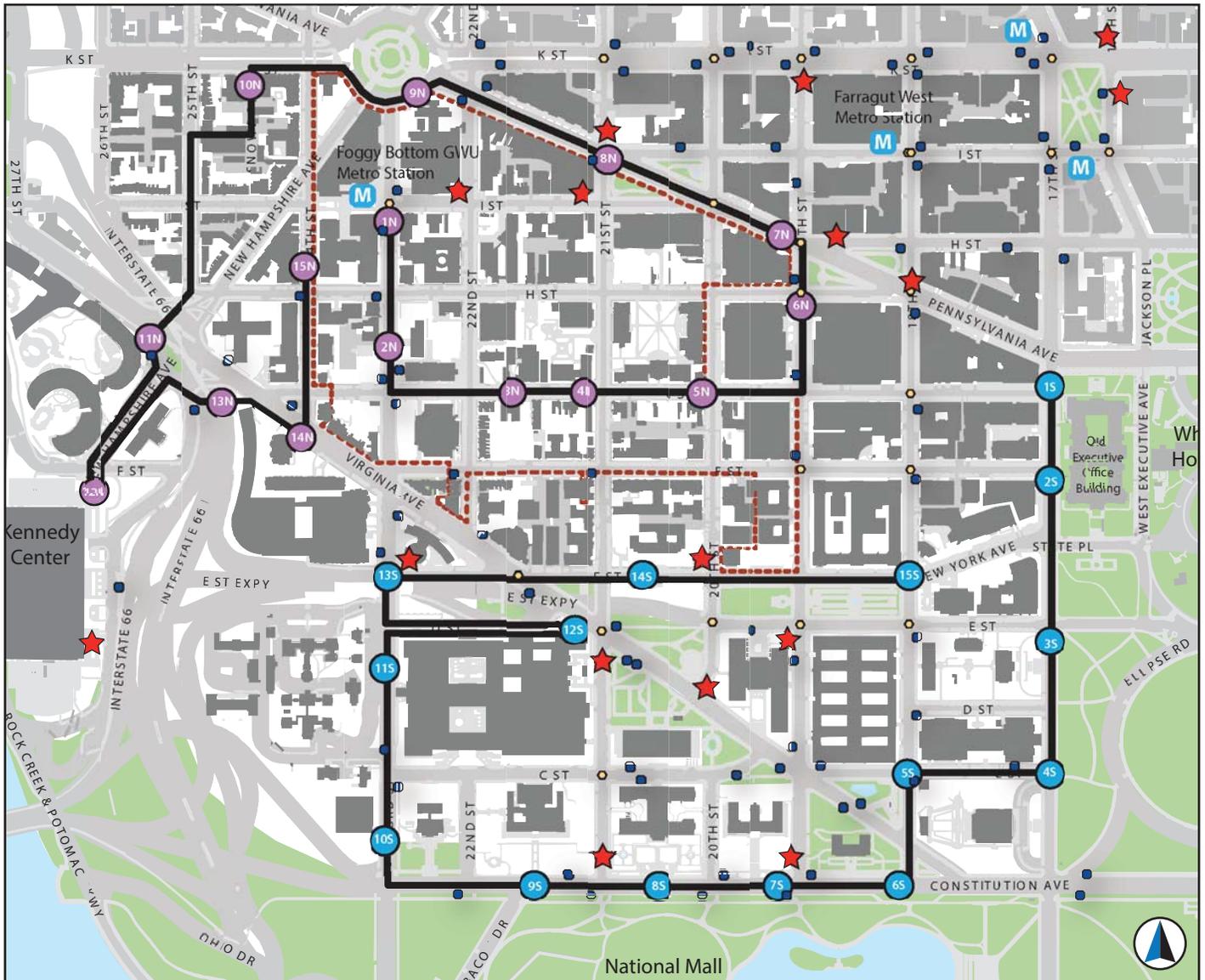
The existing highways and accompanying high volumes of traffic along E Street, NW, heading towards the freeways are the most daunting challenges to connecting the Foggy Bottom neighborhood to the waterfront and, to a lesser extent, the National Mall. The Whitehurst Freeway and I-66 cut off the waterfront from the rest of Foggy Bottom. The E Street ramps to the freeways also form a multi-level street that is likely to be a deterrent for exploring the area on foot. The deep setbacks of several buildings from the street, and the lack of dining establishments in the south loop of the Heritage Trail, are not conducive for spontaneous sightseeing in the area, much less visiting the many cultural attractions inside the institutional buildings.

A counterpoint to the freeways is the system of parks and open spaces along Virginia Avenue in the Heritage Trail’s south loop. Found along the avenue are several National Park Service reservations with memorials to Latin American historical figures. A block south is the Federal Reserve Board Garden, with its soothing modernist fountain and Oehme van Sweden-designed garden. These green spaces can provide relief for trail users from the monumental buildings.

For the north loop, the George Washington University campus provides plenty of opportunities for extended walking tours due to the variety of activities, programs and land uses in the area. Students walking or biking on the campus create a vibrant street life. George Washington Hospital and Lisner Auditorium draw people from outside of the area and the Foggy Bottom Metrorail Station ensures the accessibility of these destinations. Numerous restaurants on and near campus offer tourists opportunities for refreshment.



Figure 5: Transportation and Transit Access



Legend

- Proposed Heritage Trail
 -  North Loop
 -  South Loop
-  Metro Station
-  George Washington University Campus
-  Local Bus Stop
-  Commuter Bus Stop
-  Bikeshare Station



IV. Assessment Study Development

To prepare this report, NCPC and CTDC convened four meetings with Foggy Bottom residents and business and civic leaders, as well as staff of interested government agencies and international organizations located within the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle.

Participating federal agencies and civic organizations:

- American Institute of Architects
- District of Columbia Office of Planning
- Federal Reserve Board
- Foggy Bottom Association
- General Services Administration
- George Washington University
- National Academy of Sciences
- National Park Service
- National Red Cross
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Institute of Peace
- Washington Circle Business Association
- West End Citizens Association
- The World Bank Group

Two of the four meetings were organized as story-sharing sessions, designed to uncover individual stories that resonate on a personal level with visitors. Among the residents with deep roots in the neighborhood who attended were Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners Patrick Kennedy and Jackson Carnes, and Steve Timlin, the “Mayor of Foggy Bottom.”

The meetings focused on four key questions:

1. What did participants want to tell visitors about the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle?
2. Where within the area’s public space could these stories be told?
3. What resources, such as photographs and art, are available to help tell these stories?
4. What are possible funding strategies?

In addition to the meetings, NCPC and CTDC staff walked the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle to understand the study area and its relationship with its surroundings; get a sense of the area’s accessibility; take a visual inventory of its cultural, recreational, and commercial assets; and scout locations that comply with city and NPS regulations on placing signs in the public space. Additional background research was conducted in order to inform meeting participants and identify possible Heritage Trail content.



V. Possible Trail Route and Topics

The success of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail will depend on effectively and concisely communicating the area’s rich, multi-faceted history. The Heritage Trail will present this history in the context of the important functions of the federal government and international organizations in nation building and world events, as well as the growth of Foggy Bottom as an industrial section of the city. It will also offer secondary narratives about the lives and activities of federal employees (including their experiences as witnesses to significant neighborhood and world events), and the experiences of citizens who grew up or lived major portions of their lives here in the context of the city’s development and of the larger narrative of city building in the nation.

The Heritage Trail topics and possible sign locations that appear in the following outline are based on ideas generated from the four meetings. They also take into account lessons learned during the development of the city’s existing Neighborhood Heritage Trails. For example, a key factor in planning a Heritage Trail is linking it to existing modes of public transportation, in particular Metrorail. Hence, the north loop starts and ends at the Foggy Bottom Metrorail Station. Another consideration is high visitor traffic areas, such as Constitution Avenue adjacent to the National Mall, 17th Street adjacent to the White House, and President’s Park. Signs are suggested at these locations to draw visitors to the Heritage Trail.

Other important considerations include the distance between Heritage Trail signs, sidewalk conditions, the distance walked and time it takes to complete the walking tour, the number of stories told on each sign, and the relevance of the information on a particular sign to its surroundings. Opportunities to direct visitors to important cultural and civic destinations within the neighborhood through the trail markers also inform the site selection.

The following outline is not a comprehensive or fully resolved set of Heritage Trail topics and sign locations. All titles are for discussion purposes only. The purpose of this information is to provide a foundation upon which the future efforts to design and implement the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail can begin. These efforts will require additional research and outreach in partnership with federal and local agencies, civic organizations, current and former public servants, private property owners, local business owners, and the general public, especially individuals with family roots in the subject area.



Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail Draft Outline

All topics and locations will be refined in the project's next phase.

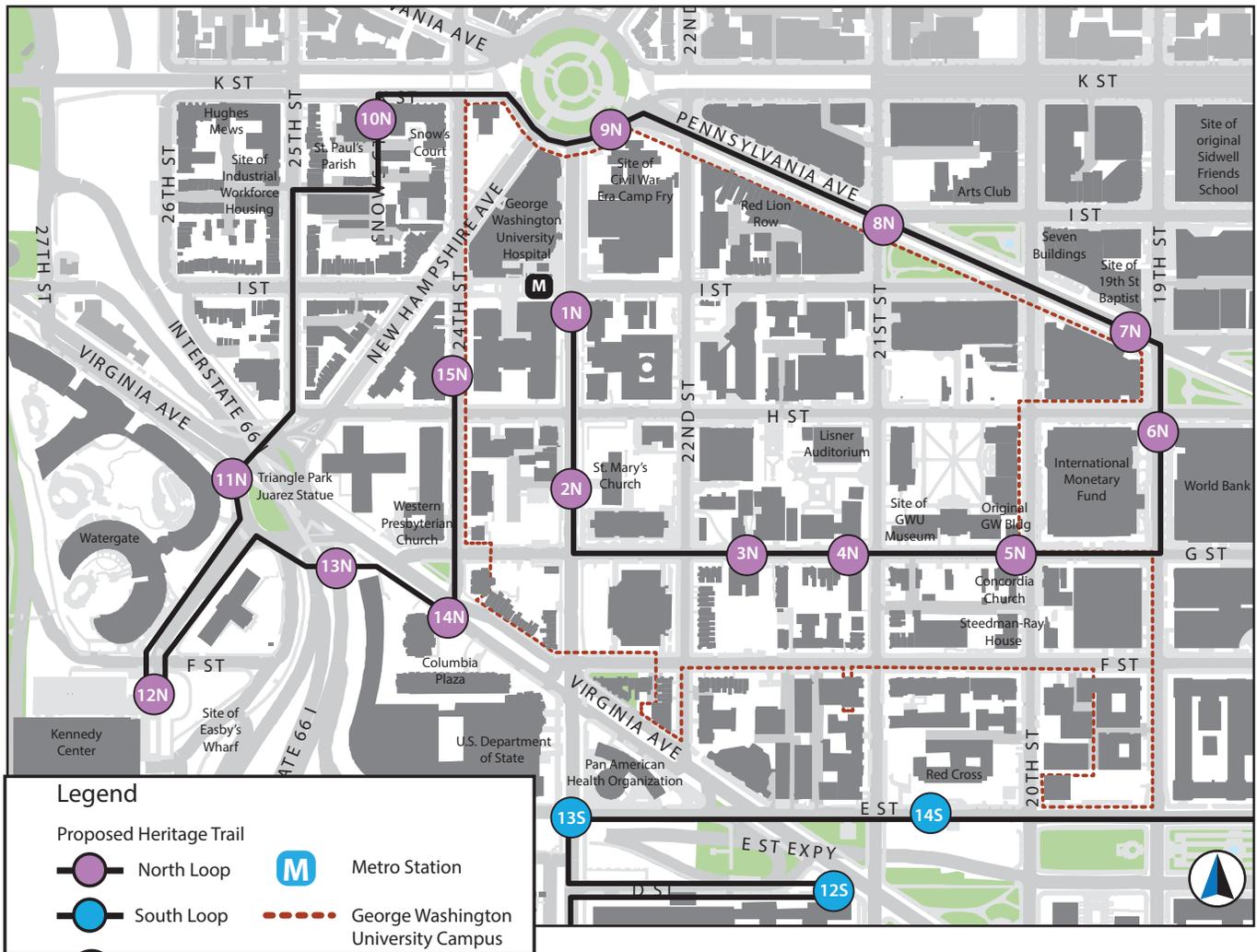
WORKING NAME: Foggy Bottom Heritage Trail

ICON: To be determined

Please note: Sign content, including photographs and historical research, will be developed using resources from the Library of Congress; National Archives; DC Public Library; Historical Society of Washington, DC; Smithsonian Institution; Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University; and specific federal agencies.

Sign	Location	Story	Image Sources/Comments
1N	Foggy Bottom Metro	GWU introduction, hospitals, past and present. Side trip mention of 22nd and H, site of home of Leonard Grimes, abolitionist and Underground Railroad stop.	
2N	23rd St. between H & G Sts.	St. Mary's Episcopal Church, mission church of St. John's for African Americans, James Renwick design, Lincoln window. Noted scholar and theologian Alexander Crummell was its first African American rector. St. Mary's Court Retirement Center, product of urban renewal. It is the only planned public housing project to be built in Foggy Bottom. Hughes Mews and other industrial workforce housing	DC Housing Authority photos; relevant church archives
3N	G between 22nd and 21st	School Without Walls (U.S. Grant School), public education in Foggy Bottom; Jacob Funk's Hamburg (Funkstown) development (1765; predated designation of DC); studio of mosaic artist and concrete innovator John J. Earley.	
4N	Corner of G and 21st	Historic Maxwell Van Zandt Woodhull House, home (1855-58) to abolitionist William H. Seward (later Lincoln's secretary of state); redeveloped as new Textile Museum and George Washington University Museum; Lisner Auditorium (21st and H) desegregation story 1946-47, roster of performers, center for commencement exercises, said to be largest auditorium south of NY when built; Corcoran Hall, birthplace of the bazooka.	Lisner designed by Faulkner and Kingsbury
5N	Corner of G and 20th	First GW building (2023 G St.), formerly St. Rose's Technical School for Girls. Concordia Church; Polar explorer Adolphus Washington Greely (1914 G Street). [sidetrip: Steedman-Ray House, a.k.a. F Street Club, a.k.a. GW president's house]	
6N	H and 19th	World Bank, history, mission, recent celebrity visits (Bono, Sean Penn); International Monetary Fund	
7N	19th and Pennsylvania	Nineteenth Street Baptist Church and its community; the Seven Buildings (very early speculative houses occupied by statesmen and foreign ministers, also site of first Peoples Drugstore)	
8N	21st and Pennsylvania	Red Lion Row and original Western Market; Arts Club of Washington; streetcar transportation; Circle Theater site (2103 Penn.)	
9N	South side of Wash. Circle	Site of Camp Fry and the Civil War in Foggy Bottom; St. Ann's Infant Asylum (1867-1950)	period engraving shows former Potomac shoreline at foot of numbered streets
10N	Snow's Court	Alley dwellings and the Foggy Bottom Historic District story; St. Paul's Parish, originally on Washington Circle from 1866 until 1947 demolition for GW Hospital (since demolished in 2006), boys choir first in city, sang at groundbreaking of National Cathedral; establishment of Foggy Bottom Association [sidetrip: archaeological information from 1980s construction projects west of 26th St.; Native American burial site in Rock Creek gully]	

Figure 2A: North Loop, Concept



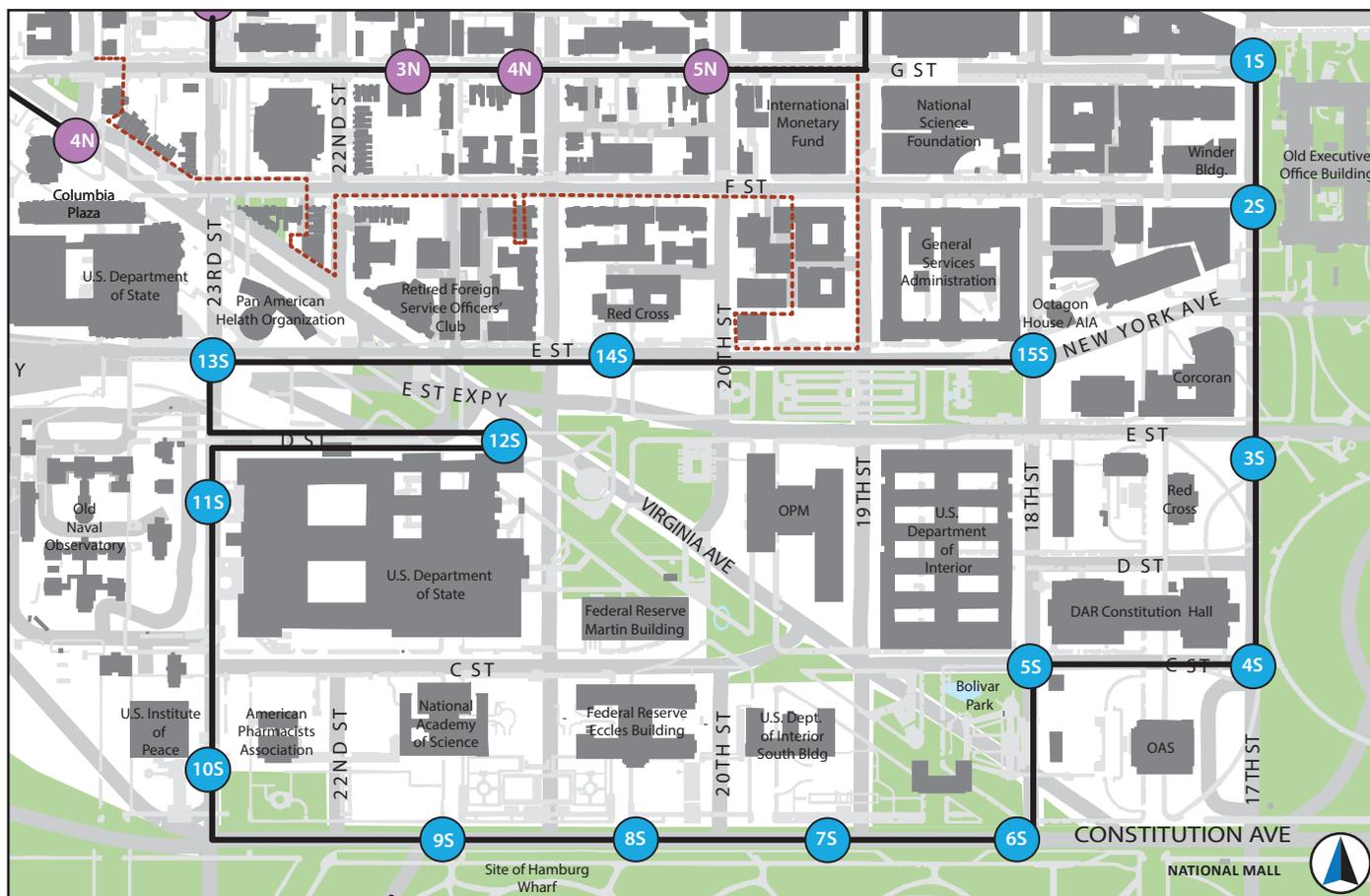
Sign	Location	Story	Image Sources/Comments
11N	Virginia Ave. between NH and 26th	Watergate, the buildings and the scandal, including old Howard Johnson's and the original Water Gate steps, good vista of highways for highways story.	Oral history interviews of Watergate residents by students of Prof. Chris Klemek, GWU
12N	New Hampshire Ave.	Kennedy Center, Easby's Wharf, Heurich Brewery, Abner Drury Brewery, Riverside Stadium, Cranford Paving Company, Embassy of Saudi Arabia, original Titanic Memorial location, Braddock's Rock (key of keys)	Kennedy Center designed by Edward Durrell Stone
13N	Virginia Ave. btw. 24th and NH Ave.	Juarez statue and story of the series of Latin American hero sculptures; gas works of the Washington Gas Light Company	NPS Park Ranger Mike Balis
14N	Virginia Ave. between 23rd and 24th	Columbia Plaza, early planned unit development, and urban renewal; "Connaught Row," Irish settlement south of Virginia Ave on 23rd St., Western Presbyterian Church and battle to serve homeless; Michelle Obama visit	
15N	24th Street between H and I	Ethnic Foggy Bottom: Irish, German, immigrants; African American migrants; Timlin house (842 New Hampshire Ave.) has good photo record of changes from purpose-built corner store to private residence; alt. site to discuss Historic District formation; story of corner groceries	

South Loop

Sign	Location	Story	Image Sources/Comments
1S	17th and G	White House, Old Executive Office Building, Corcoran house (Renwick Gallery), Blair House. G Street barbershop	Good spot to draw White House tourists to the trail
2S	17th and F	More on White House; side trip to DACOR-Bacon House, club for retired foreign service officers, once boarding-house home to Chief Justice John Marshall; Winder Building, tallest building in DC when built pre-civil war (technology story)	DC Housing Authority photos; relevant church archives
3S	17th and D	Corcoran Gallery of Art, American Red Cross	
4S	17th and C	DAR Constitution Hall, ellipse as hometown park and site of recreation	
5S	18th and C	U.S. Department of the Interior and DOI Museum with green roof	
6S	18th and Constitution	David Burnes house (original proprietor, i.e., landowner, of White House area), John and Marcia Burnes Van Ness mansion (Van Nesses were effective early civic leaders and city builders), Latin American liberators and the origins of Organization of American States	
7S	1900 block Constitution	U.S. Department of the Interior (south), World War I temporary buildings that persisted on the avenue and the National Mall long after the war; home of Atomic Energy Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Manhattan Project conceived in the penthouse meeting room of Joint Chiefs of Staff; Constitution Gardens	Building was built for Public Health Service
8S	2000 block Constitution	Federal Reserve, site of Hamburg wharf at "foot of 21st St," description of marshes and landfill activities, former canal, role of C&O Canal, which ended at 17th and Constitution, joining the City Canal	
9S	2100 block Constitution	National Academy of Sciences, Einstein statue, first DC brewery site, 1796, between 21st and 23rd Sts.; site of Glass House very early factory	
10S	23rd and C	U.S. Institute of Peace, American Pharmacists Association	U.S. Institute of Peace designed by Moshe Safdie
11S	23rd between C and D	U.S. Department of State mission and structures, art of the diplomatic reception rooms, heroes of the Foreign Service	
12S	21st and D	Pedestrian-only block of D Street; more on State Department history (buildings built for War Department); new Diplomacy Center	Walking route from 11S to 13S to be evaluated further
13S	23rd and E	Pan American Health Organization, another opportunity to talk about the highway plans, Old Naval Observatory on site of Camp Hill, touted by Jefferson as location for U.S. Capitol and origin of U.S. meridian (best view of the campus)	Pan American Health Org. designed by Fresnedo Siri
14S	E Street between 21st and 20th	American Red Cross; 412 20th St., site of original Hamburg house; Retired Foreign Service Officers Association	
15S	18th and E	Octagon House, American Institute of Architects, Treaty of Ghent, Dolley Madison, Tayloe family, opportunity to address urban slavery; birthplace of Dr. Charles R. Drew; streetcar turnaround	Octagon designed by William Thornton; AIA HQ by the Architects Collaborative



Figure 2B: South Loop, Concept



Legend

Proposed Heritage Trail

-  North Loop
-  South Loop
-  Metro Station
-  George Washington University Campus





VI. Implementation Timeline

This implementation timeline is for discussion purposes only and is based on CTDC’s experience with designing other DC Neighborhood Heritage Trails. For the purposes of this assessment, development of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail will begin in October 2014 and continues for approximately 22 months. An underlying assumption of this timeline is that the design of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail signs will be consistent with the city’s existing Neighborhood Heritage Trails.

The timeline is broken into four components in order to show what project activities can take place concurrently, and to help identify areas where the project can be expedited once trail design begins. It is divided into production phases with milestones.

The **Content and Design component** includes public outreach, development of Heritage Trail content, and site panel design.

The **Agency Coordination component** outlines the schedule of federal and local coordination and review necessary to implement the project.

Finally, the **Sign Fabrication and Permitting** and **Installation components** describe the process of manufacturing and installing the Heritage Trail signs.



Date	Content & Design	Agency Coordination	Sign Fabrication	Permitting & Installation
10/2014	Continue public and agency stakeholder meetings to identify conceptual trail route and topics as well as oral history interviewees.	Confirm stakeholder representatives and form a Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail working group. Initiate discussions with GSA, NPS, and DDOT on public space restrictions and permitting processes within the study area.		
3/2015		Working group reviews and comments on draft conceptual trail route and topics, as well as list of identified oral history subjects.		
3/2015		Finalize conceptual trail route and topics.		
Milestone 4/2015	CTDC preparation of conceptual Heritage Trail route and topics. NCPC, CFA, and funder review of conceptual Heritage Trail route and topics			
4/2015	Conceptual trail route and topics are expanded through CTDC-conducted in-depth research, oral interviews, and researching historical photographs. Preparation of draft trail script and captions and sign placement master plan.	Initiate Section 106 consultation and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes (if required).		
8/2015		Stakeholders review and comment on first draft of trail script, sign captions, and photo selections.		
11/2015	Final edits to draft trail script, sign captions, and photo selections.	Stakeholders review and comment on final draft of trail script, sign captions, and photo selections.		
Milestone 11/2015	NCPC and CFA review final trail route and topics.			
11/2015	Route/sign locations are declared final		Initiate process for identifying contractor(s) for sign panel and hardware fabrication.	Initiate process for identifying contractor(s) for sign installation. Begin permitting process with federal and local agencies.
12/2015	Begin layout of trail sign panels			

Date	Content & Design	Agency Coordination	Sign Fabrication	Permitting & Installation
1/2016	Begin writing companion guidebook (English version)			
1/2016		Stakeholders review and comment on design and layout of sign panels		
2/2016		Stakeholders review and comment on guidebook (English version)		
3/2016	Guidebook copy sent to Spanish translator		Select sign panel and hardware fabricator(s)	
Milestone 2/2016	Final design of trail signs sent to fabricator			
3/2016	Begin work on audio tour			
4/2016		Stakeholders review and comment on guidebook (Spanish version)		Complete all necessary permitting. Select contractor(s) for installation of trail signs
5/2016		Audio tour submitted to stakeholders for review and comment		
Milestone 6/2016	Audio tour is completed			
4/2016	Guidebooks sent to designer			
5/2016		Design of guidebook submitted to stakeholders for review and comment		
5/2016	Guidebooks sent to printer	Stakeholders arrange guidebook distribution	Trail signs received and inspected	
Milestone 6/2016	Guidebooks delivered			
6/2016				Signs installed
Milestone 7/2016	Final Trail dedication event			





VII. Cost Estimate

The following estimate reflects the typical costs associated with the planning, design and installation of a 30-sign Heritage Trail for two 15-sign loops for the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle. As with the suggested implementation timeline, this cost estimate is based on the past experiences of Cultural Tourism DC in designing and implementing the existing system of DC Neighborhood Heritage Trails. All cost estimates are based on 2014 pricing and are subject to change based on federal government procurement procedures if the trail receives federal funding as well as when implementation of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail actually begins.

Phase I through Application

Hold stakeholder meetings; compile data, write application, appear before Heritage Trails Advisory Committee for review and approval.
6 months (10/2014-3/2015)

Meetings & Writing Application

Staff	\$29,760
Supplies and Travel.....	\$270
Subtotal	\$30,030
No change based on number of signs	

Phase II Development

Complete research, work with stakeholders on building access questions, compile historic images, edit manuscript, submit for stakeholders' review, and prepare final manuscript.

8 months (4/2014-11/2014)

Staff	\$66,220
Supplies and Travel.....	\$300
Photo Acquisition and Permissions	\$2,270
Subtotal for 15 Signs	\$68,790
Each additional sign	\$4586

Phase III Design

Design signs, submit for stakeholders' comments, write, translate into Spanish, design, print booklets, produce audio tour

8 months (12/2014 - 7/2015)

Staff	\$23,430
Translator	\$2,760
Supplies and Travel.....	\$200
Cartography.....	\$510
Design - English book	\$9,100
Design - Spanish book	\$6,670
Design - Signs	\$13,060
Printing - English Book	\$8,040
Printing Spanish Book	\$5,340
Subtotal for 15 signs	\$69,110
Each additional sign	\$4,607

Phase III Design CONTINUED

Audio Tour

5 months (3/2015-6/2015)

Staff	\$24,640
Audio producer	\$33,900
Subtotal For 15 signs	
\$58,540	
Each additional sign	\$3,902
Subtotal	\$58,500
Each additional sign	\$4,178

Phase IV Fabrication and Installation

Manage fabrication including all proofs and oversee installation.

This does not include permitting costs if applicable.

5 months (3/2015 - 7/2015)

Fabrication

Staff	\$6,500
Supplies and Travel.....	\$150
Fabrication of standard HT signs	\$107,650

Subtotal for Fabrication For 15 signs.....	\$114,300
Each additional sign	\$7,620

Installation

Staff	\$2,695
Supplies and Travel.....	\$150
Installation of standard HT signs	\$28,815

Subtotal for Installation For 15 signs.....	\$31,660
Each additional sign	\$2,110

Total cost for all phases: 15 signs: \$369,430, each additional sign: \$22,825



VIII. Planning Considerations

Federal and Local Review

This section briefly describes the various public review and/or regulatory approvals required for the project, as well as some important design issues that should be considered in the development of the Heritage Trail.

The Heritage Trail signs will be located within public spaces and will require review by the federal and local authorities that have jurisdiction over these spaces. Some Heritage Trail markers are proposed on Constitution Avenue, which is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS). The majority of markers will require review by the District Department of Transportation Public Space Committee. In addition to review requirements, federal projects in the area under Section 106 review for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act could also consider the Heritage Trail as mitigation for the adverse effects of project actions. If the federal agencies choose to do this, the project proponent's review and input of the trail content and market location is likely. In addition, federal funding could also be involved in the development and construction of the markers.

National Capital Planning Commission

As the central planning agency for the federal government, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) has review authority over federal projects in the National Capital Region. If the signs associated with the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail are located on land owned by the federal government, this project would be subject to NCPC review and approval. NCPC review involves analysis regarding the consistency of the proposed action with the policies of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*, the *Monumental Core Framework Plan*, and other relevant plans and policies. In addition, as a federal agency, NCPC's approval actions are subject to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, depending on the scope and location of the project, the entity charged with leading the implementation of the Heritage Trail may be required to initiate and complete Section 106 consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, and prepare necessary environmental documentation in accordance with NEPA.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) reviews the design of public buildings, commemorative works, and parks in the District of Columbia, among other responsibilities. In addition, the Shipstead-Luce Act authorizes CFA to review the designs of private developments on land abutting or across from important federal properties including Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the U.S. Capitol. Therefore, the implementation of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail would be subject to review by CFA.



Federal Agency Internal Review

A federal agency may be interested in sponsoring a marker in front of its building or may allow the installation of a marker within its property. In cases where federal properties are identified as candidate sites for Heritage Trail markers, early coordination and formal permissions from the federal property owners should be established. If the Federal Triangle Heritage Trail could serve as a precedent, NPS and the General Services Administration may be two agencies that would review the trail marker design and locations, if the markers are to be located on their properties. While these are internal reviews and will not require public reviews, the affected federal agencies should be consulted to coordinate their review processes with the Cultural Tourism DC (CTDC) Heritage Trail development process, and the review time should be factored into the overall project schedule for the completion of the Heritage Trail.

District Department of Transportation Public Space Committee

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has management and oversight responsibility for the use and occupancy of the public space. Public space is defined as all the publicly owned property between the property lines on a street and includes, but is not limited to, the roadway, tree spaces, sidewalks and alleys. Depending upon the type and location of the request to use or occupy the public space, the request may require the review of DDOT’s Public Space Committee. The Public Space Committee meets monthly to review and render a decision on a variety of types of permit applications, and provides a recommendation to DDOT on whether an application can be approved without having an adverse impact on the use and safety of the public space. Since the signs associated with the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail will be located within the public right-of-way, they will require the review of the DDOT Public Space Committee.

Public Involvement and Interagency Collaboration

In addition to the public participation that is necessary during the federal and local review process, the actual development of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail should be based on extensive public input. Although portions of the federal office enclave are not a “neighborhood” in the traditional sense of the word, there still are a large number of residential apartments and houses. Moreover, modern urban renewal is still a matter of recent memory for families and businesses displaced by the federal and private projects that have claimed some of this space over time. There is an existing body of historical research on what came before the present configurations, and there are former residents and their descendants who are repositories of photographs, artifacts, and documents of this earlier time. The Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail will be an opportunity to preserve their stories for current and future generations.

To a large degree, the institutional development history of those portions of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle that are governmental today embodies the story of the United States, and therefore an opportunity to reach audiences on a national level. To ensure that residents, workers, and visitors can personally relate to stories told on the Heritage Trail, efforts should be made to collect stories from as diverse a population as possible during the research phase of the project. The Heritage Trail is also an opportunity to educate the public on the role of government in everyday life, especially on the history and mission of the government agencies. Therefore, current and former government employees, historians, and other interested stakeholders should be consulted.



Sign Design and Placement

Accessibility to Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle will be further enhanced by ensuring that the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail is seamlessly integrated with the city's existing system of Neighborhood Heritage Trails. To accomplish this, the design, content, and placement of the Heritage Trail signs must be consistent with the city's system. This will allow pedestrians to have confidence in the trails to safely and reliably guide them, as well as provide a consistent set of maps that pedestrians can use to navigate between downtown and the National Mall as well as in the other neighborhoods that have Heritage Trails.

The Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail should follow the same process for developing signs, graphic and narrative style, and trail content set by the city's Neighborhood Heritage Trails program. The city's system clearly differentiates individual trails and their neighborhoods by the use of distinctive color palettes, titles, and repeating pictorial elements (icons). Thus trail users can clearly see which trail they are following at any given moment even when they are in site of another Heritage Trail.

Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility

A key objective for developing the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail is to improve pedestrian connections between the National Mall, the Northwest Rectangle, the larger Foggy Bottom neighborhood, and the Kennedy Center. Although sidewalks and walking paths currently exist within the study area, they may not possess adequate amenities for wayfinding, safety, and pedestrian comfort. The large-scale buildings and the street grade changes cut off sightlines and long-distance views of destinations and iconic landmarks, making wayfinding a challenge. Therefore, pedestrian safety, comfort, and accessibility must be a key consideration during the Heritage Trail's research and planning stages.

The Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail has the potential to be a unifying element of the streetscape throughout the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle public spaces. It also has the potential to improve pedestrian connections by:

- Providing visual interest in the public realm and modulating the monumentality of the federal buildings with human-scale street elements.
- Serving as a de facto wayfinding sign system, visually and physically linking existing destinations.
- Drawing visitors and pedestrians into publicly accessible federal and retail spaces.
- Seamlessly integrating with the District of Columbia's existing Neighborhood Heritage Trails and the National Mall Wayfinding Program.



In addition to improving pedestrian connections, the Heritage Trail has the potential to increase access and visitation to local businesses and civic destinations. To maximize this potential, the Heritage Trail’s design should take into consideration planned and existing amenities within the study area. These major destinations and attractions can be visually linked to the Heritage Trail through strategic placement of the trail’s interpretive signs near primary building entryways and gateway locations.

Taking the necessary precautions to ensure pedestrian safety and comfort will greatly increase the trail’s success in conveying information. This includes:

- Choosing a route that takes walkers through well-maintained sidewalks and crosswalks that meet ADA standards.
- Minimizing the number of street crossings.
- Maintaining proximity to places that have seating, shade, and refreshments.
- Complying with District Department of Transportation’s regulations concerning appropriate distances from curbs, intersections, and minimum sidewalk widths to ensure pedestrian flow.

Public Access to Federal Buildings

The typical Washington neighborhood Heritage Trail is designed to draw foot traffic to local neighborhood businesses. The Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail will serve this purpose for the north loop; however, the south loop has very few retail and local businesses. Instead, the south loop will be valuable in directing visitors to the publicly accessible federal museums and public tours even as it narrates stories about local events and personalities in this southern section of Foggy Bottom. Many of the federal agencies in the south loop of the Heritage Trail present interpretive exhibits showcasing their mission and offer special programs throughout the year (see “Publicly Accessible Cultural Resources” in Section III, Existing Conditions). Since these are well-established public tours and museum programs, security and access restrictions are not hindrances for visitors. Information about these federal agency museums and tours could be included in the Heritage Trail guidebooks or on various websites.



Transit Access and Linkages

To increase visibility and access, Heritage Trail signs should be strategically located near bus stops, bike share stations, and the Foggy Bottom Metro station. A typical Heritage Trail starts at a Metro station, thus marker N1 of the north loop of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail starts at the Metrorail. There is limited bus service in the south loop and no Metrorail station nearby, thus the common mode of travel in the south loop is primarily walking and biking. In the south loop, the placement of markers should take advantage of the location of several bike share stations. Given the large area covered by the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail, biking is an excellent alternative for trail users who want to cover both the north and south loop in one visit.

Design Coordination with Federal and Local Plans and Land Use Policies

The design and location of the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail signs should be coordinated with developed design guidelines and ongoing plans for other public amenities such as streetscape improvement plans and transit center plans. This will reduce visual clutter along the streetscape, and facilitate smooth pedestrian circulation. If possible, sign construction and installation should also be coordinated with street and sidewalk improvements to minimize construction costs and ensure coordinated streetscape design.

NCPC is initiating the development of a precinct plan for the Northwest Rectangle in 2014. This plan will pursue the recommendations of the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* for improving the public spaces and street connectivity in the area.

Sign and Trail Maintenance

Prior to construction, a well-thought-out sign and trail maintenance strategy should be assembled in order to ensure the trail's long-term ability to educate and safely guide users. This strategy should identify the agencies or organizations that would be responsible for the physical maintenance of the signs, including carrying out repairs and cleaning when necessary. It should identify and secure the sources of funding for maintenance of the signs, and for continued publication of the free trail guidebooks. Finally, it should contain a timeline for updating sign content and renovating sign panels.





IX. Conclusions

Implementing the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle Heritage Trail would advance the goals of the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* and fulfill a long-standing desire to highlight the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle’s rich collection of cultural assets and improve connections throughout this part of the city. Through a series of well-designed, strategically located interpretive signs, the Heritage Trail will describe the history and mission of the government agencies and international organizations located in the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle, document the evolution of the area’s physical and social make-up, and showcase the diverse array of artistic and architectural assets that currently exist. The Heritage Trail will signal the area’s continuing transformation into a walkable, dynamic and integrated neighborhood—a place where visitors from the National Mall can continue their discovery of the history of the national capital through the federal and international institutions, while at the same time gaining a deeper appreciation of the local history and individuals that shaped the identity of the neighborhood.

The process of creating the Heritage Trail will bring together many different elements of the Northwest Triangle-Foggy Bottom area, thus forging the kinds of connections that knit communities together. As much as the Heritage Trail will serve to educate, it will also provide an effective means of wayfinding, and ultimately improve accessibility throughout the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle by weaving together parks, plazas and cultural destinations, including publicly accessible federal buildings, along a flexible and easy-to-navigate trail. Furthermore, by providing an amenity that will encourage pedestrians to explore the Foggy Bottom-Northwest Rectangle, the Heritage Trail will help invigorate the area’s public spaces, bring customers to existing businesses, and perhaps play an important role in a more comprehensive program focused on enlivening these spaces through the use of ground-floor retail, vending, concerts, building tours, and public art exhibits.





X. Acknowledgements

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The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's planning agency for the National Capital Region. NCPC believes the heritage trail can advance the objectives of two of its signature plans: the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* and the *SW Ecodistrict Plan*. Both plans emphasize the importance of creating active, engaging, and high-quality streets and public spaces that workers, residents and visitors can enjoy.

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Cultural Tourism DC, a local not-for-profit organization, specializes in the development of Neighborhood Heritage Trails in Washington, DC. To date CTDC has developed 17 popular, widely recognized heritage trails throughout the city, including nearby trails in Southwest Washington, south of the proposed trail, and in the Federal Triangle, north of the National Mall.

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