

HISTORIC PARK VIEW

A Walking Tour



Researched and written by

Kent C. Boese

Edited by

Mara Cherkasky

Designed by

Janice Olson

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PARK VIEW UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

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HISTORIC PARK VIEW



Collection of Kent C. Boese

ABOVE: Artist's view of visitors taking a drive on the Soldiers' Home grounds, 1886.

BELOW: Streetcar on Georgia Avenue near Park Road, ca. 1918.

Introduction

PARK VIEW IS A LEAFY ENCLAVE of rowhouses on the heights of Northwest Washington, DC. Two historic transportation routes border it on the west and north, with green spaces on the east and south. The name Park View reflects the neighborhood's location adjacent to the Soldiers' Home grounds and McMillan Reservoir.

In the 19th century the area supported a cluster of farms and country estates that created their own rural community. But it also hummed with activity, thanks to its location along the Seventh Street Turnpike (now Georgia Avenue). The turnpike, built in 1810, was a main farm-to-market route, carrying traffic between Rockville, Maryland, and Washington's downtown market area

and Southwest wharves. Beginning in 1873 it also carried a streetcar line.

Easy transportation was one reason that the District's German-immigrant community built a beer garden and amusement park here, north of Howard University, and that slaughter houses and a carriage works located here.



Collection of Kent C. Boese



Neighborhood boys sail boats at the Soldiers' Home's duck pond, 1920s.

The Soldiers' Home (now the Armed Forces Retirement Home) also played a large role in defining the area. Its grounds acted as a public park, and a cottage at the northern end served as a summer retreat for presidents from James Buchanan (1857-1861) to Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885). During the Civil War President Abraham Lincoln's frequent commute through the area, as well as the movement of soldiers to and from nearby hospitals and encampments, brought the war to residents' doorsteps.

The roots of Park View as a modern neighborhood reach to 1886, when B.H. Warder purchased 43 acres from Asa Whitney and subdivided the property into Whitney Close. Slowly single-family wood-frame houses rose on the lots closest to Georgia Avenue.

By 1904 a strong economy, the decreasing availability of land close to downtown Washington, and the presence of the large public green spaces had set the stage for Park View to develop. Street after street began filling in with brick rowhouses designed by architects such as A.H. Beers, N.T. Haller, and Alexander Sonnemann.

The major part of Park View was built between 1906 and 1925.



A pageant on Warder Street, ca. 1932.

Most construction projects were smaller in scale, with many builders completing rows of four to ten houses at a time. Harry Wardman, Edgar S. Kennedy, Lewis E. Breuninger, and Herman R. Howenstein were exceptions—leaving permanent and recognizable marks on the neighborhood.

Wardman's largest contribution, at Keefer and Lamont, dates to 1909-1910. Kennedy's 162 houses went up between 1910 and 1919 on Rock Creek Church Road, Quebec Place, northern Warder Street, and Park Place. (He also provided the neighborhood with a commercial building and the York Theater.) Breuninger constructed nearly every house on the 700 block of Otis Place, during 1916-1919. Following

the First World War, Howenstein filled in most of the remaining undeveloped land, mainly on Princeton, Park, and Otis places, with 136 houses.



The People's Commercial & Saving Bank, once located at Georgia Avenue and Otis Place, inaugurated banking in the community in 1920.

Georgia Avenue quickly developed with grocery stores, shoe shops, haberdashers, and other businesses. As personal automobile ownership rose, so did gas stations and automobile supply shops. The avenue also witnessed the development of the modern supermarket as the multi-vendor Park View Market was transformed in 1936 into the first Giant Supermarket, near the intersection of Park Road and Georgia Avenue.

Around 1950, the originally all-white Park View neighborhood became majority African American, due to the proximity of Howard University and to the 1948 Supreme Court ruling that made restrictive housing covenants unenforceable.

The civil disturbances of 1968, following the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., marked the beginning of a period of decline. While the riots were far less severe on Georgia Avenue than they were on U or 14th streets, NW, or on H Street, NE, this area experienced its share of looting. Many businesses later closed for good.

But the opening of the Columbia Heights and Georgia Avenue-Petworth Metro sta-

tions in 1999 generated new interest in Georgia Avenue. The new transportation hubs strengthened the area's connections with the greater city and triggered a slow process of redevelopment. Today, Georgia Avenue continues its growth as a vibrant commercial corridor. 🚶

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



View southeast from the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Rock Creek Church Road, 1948.

The Walking Tour

THE SITES LISTED IN THIS BOOKLET are arranged geographically to allow the reader to easily walk from one to the next. The number of each entry is keyed to the map in the center of the booklet, which also shows historical markers in the neighborhood. Some of the sites are, strictly speaking, outside Park View's boundaries but are tied to the neighborhood historically. 🚶

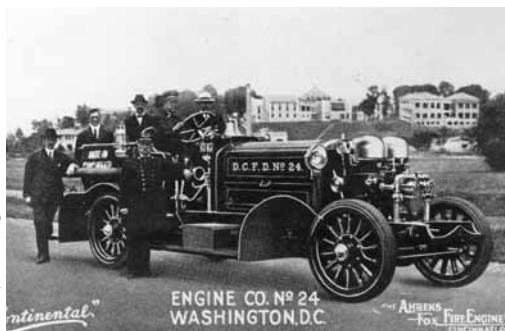


ABOVE: The façade of Engine 24 being moved to its new location on New Hampshire Avenue, November 1994.

RIGHT: Engine 24's automobile pumping engine was the second piece of automotive fire equipment purchased by the District.

BELOW: The firehouse on Georgia Avenue in 1993, shortly before its façade was relocated.

Library of Congress



In 1912 Engine 24 abandoned the use of horses for an automobile piston pumping engine and a combination chemical-and-hose truck. The city heralded the switch to modern equipment here as a sign that DC could match the first-rank status of other major American cities.

Engine 24 was among the first seven companies in DC to racially integrate. Black firefighters began their first shift here in September 1954.

When laying out the Green Line, Metro officials planned to raze the fire station, but public outcry led to a compromise in which the façade was saved. 🏡



2 YORK THEATER

3641 Georgia Avenue, NW

THIS BUILDING ONCE WAS the York Theater, the eighth of Harry M. Crandall's string of Washington, DC movie houses. Designed by architect Reginald W. Geare and built by Kennedy Brothers, the York opened in November 1919.

The theater was notable for its understated exterior, which lacked the classical architectural embellishments of Geare's other theaters, including the

Library of Congress

Robert K. Headley Collection



York Theater, ca. 1920.

Lincoln at 1215 U Street, NW. In contrast, the York's interior was richly decorated with classical style plasterwork.

Several factors likely influenced Geare's utilitarian design for the building. While Crandall's other theaters booked a single first-run picture for a week at a time and also hosted live entertainment, the York was intended strictly as a movie house, screening six different films per week.

This decision meant the York's exterior needed more advertising space. In Geare's

design the Georgia Avenue façade incorporated a series of eight archways: one for an exit and seven for movie display boards.

About 1948-1950 Park View and adjacent Petworth saw rapid change from solidly white to solidly black neighborhoods. Yet, in this segregated city, the York admitted white audiences only until 1951, when owner Warner Bros.—which was letting go of its smaller theaters—sold the York. The new owner, District Theaters, was one of



The York Theater's 1,000-seat auditorium.

the major African American theater circuits in the Mid-Atlantic area.

The York continued to operate as late as May 1954. Then in May 1957 it was purchased by the National Evangelistic Center and began its new life as a church. 🚶

3 JUDGE WILLIAM C. HUESTON RESIDENCE

744 Park Road, NW

PROMINENT AFRICAN AMERICAN ATTORNEY William C. Hueston lived with his family here from 1930 to 1961.

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1880, Hueston became the first African American graduate of the University of Chicago Law School. Hueston first rose to prominence in Gary, Indiana, where in the late 1920s he served as president of the National Negro Baseball League and as magistrate judge.

More than 450 Elks feted William C. Hueston (standing, center) in 1940 for his 15 years of service as grand commissioner of education, IBPOEW. Also seen, seated left to right: Judge Armond W. Scott, Leah Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler J. Finley Wilson, Hueston's wife Jennie R. Hueston, Abbie M. Johnson, Elizabeth Gordon, Ann Jones, and Lethia Flemming.

About the same time, President Herbert Hoover appointed him to the National Memorial Commission for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which was to have been built in Washington, DC in 1929. In 1930 Hueston's appointment as assistant solicitor with the U.S. Post Office Department brought him to Washington, where he later established his own law firm.

History remembers Hueston as the first African American attorney to serve in the Post Office Department in a professional capacity and for helping found the law library at the Post Office Department.

Active with the Grand Lodge of Colored Elks, Hueston created the group's education department and served for many years as its education commissioner. By the time of his 1961 death, the lodge had awarded more than 800 scholarships to boys and girls through the Elks Annual Oratorical Contest and other activities. ✎





ABOVE: Tenth Precinct Motorcycle Squad, ca. 1924.

BELOW: Harry Houdini, ca. 1905.

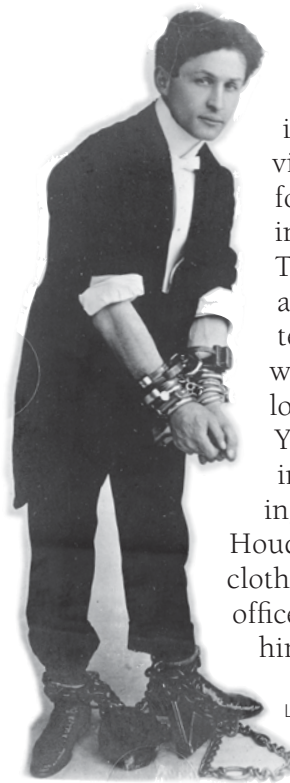
4 TENTH PRECINCT POLICE STATION

750 Park Road, NW

THIS POLICE STATION DATES TO 1901. The year before, the U.S. Senate had appropriated \$8,000 to create the Tenth Police District, encompassing 15 square miles of DC north of Florida Avenue and Benning Road. Much of the area was sparsely populated at the time.

The architects for the new precinct house, A.B. Mullet & Co., worked closely with DC Police Chief Major Richard Sylvester on the design.

The building offered Sylvester an opportunity to experiment with ideas new to the police department. His two highest priorities here were prisoner security and officer comfort.



The Tenth Precinct's cells were touted as the strongest in the city. Thus they provided an irresistible challenge for Harry Houdini, in Washington performing at Chase's Theater downtown. With the agreement of Major Sylvester, the famed escape artist was stripped, handcuffed, and locked in cell no. 3 on New Year's Day, 1906. His belongings were locked in an adjoining cell. Within 20 minutes Houdini, dressed in his street clothes, was standing among the officers charged with keeping him locked up. 🏃

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5 ALBERT H. BEERS RESIDENCE

757 Park Road, NW

ALBERT H. BEERS (ca.1859-1911), one of Washington's most prolific architects, lived at this address during the last part of his life.

Beers moved to DC from Bridgeport, Connecticut, about 1896 and soon became connected with the building interests of Harry Wardman. For Wardman alone Beers designed nearly 6,000 houses, in addition to his work for other Washington builders. He also contributed some of the city's finest apartment houses. In Park View Beers designed rowhouses can be found on Hobart Place; Keefer, Lamont, Morton, and Warder streets; and New Hampshire Avenue. 🏡



Albert H. Beers designed these houses at 3550-3558 Warder Street and many others in Park View.

Photograph by Kent C. Boese

Library of Congress



The Arcade-Sunshine Laundry around the time it opened in 1921.

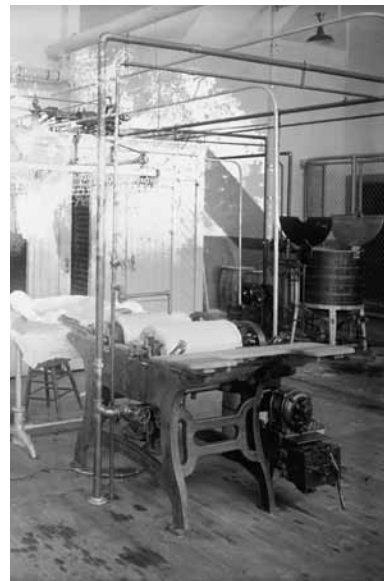
Viner started in 1907 with a one-room tailor-and-drycleaning shop at 3219 Mount Pleasant Street, NW. In 1918 he merged with the Arcade Laundry and started construction of the facility at 713 Lamont Street. He subsequently became the company's sole owner.

In the 1920s and 1930s steam laundries were the largest service industry in the country. Then and beyond they also represented one of the few employment opportunities for blue-collar women.

Viner's large plant expanded twice: into a four-story structure built to the west of the original complex in 1925 and, in 1952, into a five-story building to the east (converted to Lamont Lofts in 2005).

In March 1961, Arcade-Sunshine announced the sale of its retail routes to four other Washington firms, including

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Arcade-Sunshine shirt-collar section, ca. 1921.

6 ARCADE-SUNSHINE LAUNDRY

713-721 Lamont Street, NW

THIS WAS ONCE DRYCLEANING pioneer Harry Viner's Arcade-Sunshine Laundry. The first Washingtonian to combine a drycleaning plant with a laundry, Viner is also remembered for helping develop the "Stoddard solvent," a drycleaning chemical that became the standard in the business.

Manhattan Laundry. But the block-long plant on Lamont remained the center of Arcade-Sunshine's wholesale laundry and drycleaning operations.

Linens of the Week took over the plant for a commercial laundry business in 1965. 🏠

7 BUILDER HARRY WARDMAN

600 block of Keefer Street, NW

HARRY WARDMAN (1872-1938) was a young staircase builder when he moved to Washington in 1895. By the beginning of the 20th century he was well on his way to becoming one of Washington's dominant figures in real estate. During his 35-year career, Wardman built about 9,000 houses, more than 400 apartment buildings, and half a dozen major hotels. His contributions to Park View are rowhouses, primarily on Keefer and Lamont streets.

Wardman's 50 Keefer Street houses, completed in 1909, were moderately priced at \$3,750 each and sold in less than six months. Featuring red pressed brick laid in Flemish bond, the houses were designed by architect Albert H. Beers. 🏠

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Harry Wardman, ca. 1925.

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



Group picnic at Schuetzen Park, ca. 1890.

8 SCHUETZEN PARK

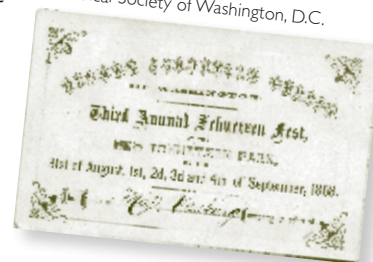
Corner of Georgia Avenue & Irving Street, NW

SCHUETZEN PARK, once located east of Georgia Avenue between today's Hobart and Kenyon streets, opened at the end of the Civil War (1861-1865), primarily to serve the area's German-immigrant community. It continued to attract visitors to its beer garden, dance hall, shooting range, and other amusements until an 1891 ban on the sale of alcohol within a mile of the Soldiers' Home forced it to close.

The park fronted on the Seventh Street Turnpike (Georgia Avenue), an important streetcar and wagon route. Among the residents of this then-sparsely populated area were several prosperous German families, principally butchers in the Center Market downtown, including the Loefflers, Widmayers, Ebels, and Glicks.

The park's Schuetzen Fest each summer attracted thousands. 🏠

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



HISTORIC PARK VIEW

Walking Tour Locator Map



9 McMILLAN RESERVOIR

Warder Street & Michigan Avenue, NW

McMILLAN RESERVOIR SUPPLIES most of the District's tap water. Completed in 1902 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it was originally called the Howard University Reservoir or the Washington City Reservoir.

The Corps chose this site because of the existence of Smith Springs (under the brick turreted structure in the center of the reservoir), then considered the area's most bounteous. From about 1832 until 1905, their waters were piped down North Capitol Street to the Capitol, Treasury, and Post Office buildings. They also supplied as many as 12 fire hydrants along Pennsylvania Avenue downtown and others as far west as 14th Street.

The reservoir is part of a system that carries water from the Potomac River through

a tunnel to the Dalecarlia Reservoir, and from there to the Georgetown Reservoir. It then flows here through the Washington City Tunnel, completed in 1901. When the McMillan began operation, officials thought it would meet all the District's water needs, but it quickly proved inadequate. To handle population growth and municipal sanitation requirements, the Corps added the McMillan Reservoir Filtration Plant to the east in 1905. The new facility used an innovative water-purification system relying on sand instead of chemicals to filter 75 million gallons per day.

In 1907 the reservoir and filtration plant were named to honor Senator James McMillan of Michigan, who chaired the U.S. Senate Committee on the District of Columbia and supported development of DC water-supply facilities. The city replaced the slow sand-filtration plant in 1985 with a rapid sand-filtration facility next to the reservoir. 🌿

A view of the McMillan Reservoir from the south, ca. 1950, with Howard University in the foreground and Park View and the Soldiers' Home beyond.



10 ROSCOE C. BROWN RESIDENCE

3024 Park Place, NW

ROSCOE CONKLING BROWN, A PIONEER in public health and, especially, dental health, was one of DC's more distinguished citizens. He resided here from 1954 until his 1963 death.

Born in Washington in 1884, Brown graduated from the M Street (later Dunbar) High School and from Howard University's College of Dentistry. His early interest in the social and public health aspects of dentistry led him to continue his studies at Columbia and Harvard universities.

Brown practiced dentistry in Richmond, Virginia, and also taught hygiene and sanitation at the Richmond Hospital Training School for Nurses, before entering the U.S. Public Health Service in 1919.

In 1950 he became the first chief of the new Special Programs Branch, PHS Division of Health Education. He retired in 1954 at age 70 but remained an active lecturer, conferee, and consultant until his death. 🦿

Afro-American Newspapers Archives and Research Center



Press photo of
Roscoe C. Brown, 1961.

Library of Congress



LEFT: Ambulance train at
Harewood Hospital, 1863.

BELOW: A ward at Harewood
Hospital.

Library of Congress



11 HAREWOOD HOSPITAL

Corner of Park Place &
Irving Street, NW

DURING THE CIVIL WAR (1861-1865) Harewood Hospital stood near the location of today's Washington Hospital Center.

In 1852 William Wilson Corcoran purchased 191 acres for a country estate east of the Seventh Street Turnpike (Georgia Avenue) and north of what today is McMillan Reservoir. He named it Harewood.

Corcoran's country estate was one of many DC locations used as military hospitals. It operated between September 1862 and May 1866, caring for wounded soldiers who arrived in caravans of horse-drawn ambulances. Harewood Hospital consisted of tents and makeshift frame wards, usually without heat or ventilation. Outside, piles of refuse and excrement attracted mosquitoes and flies, which spread malaria and other diseases. 🦿



LEFT: Debutante Virginia Eckles at the Soldiers' Home Dairy, posing with "Bunnie," 1919.

BELOW: Soldiers' Home cattle, seen here in 1949 returning to the barn for evening milking, are inspected by "Uncle Sam" and Lewis Crusan, members of the 44th Coast Guard Artillery.

herd is one of the finest in the country and the most modern sanitary precautions are observed."

A chicken farm, established in 1920, provided fresh eggs for the Home's hospital. By 1925 it was producing more than 12,000 dozen eggs an-

nually, as well as chickens for the Soldiers' Home's meals and for sale to the Home's officers and employees.

By 1953 the dairy and farm were closed and the land was being developed for the Washington Hospital Center. 🦶

12 SOLDIERS' HOME DAIRY & FARM

Corner of Park Place & Irving Street, NW

THE AREA BETWEEN Michigan Avenue and Irving Street now occupied by a hospital complex once belonged to the Soldiers' Home and housed the Home's farm and dairy.

With nearly 150 acres under cultivation, the farm produced hay and silage for the dairy.

The herd—around 200 strong at its height—was a source of pride for the Soldiers' Home. The first pure-bred Holstein stock was introduced in 1906. Twelve years later the herd was entirely pure-bred and largely registered; it remained so for the rest of its existence.

During a visit by the District's five health department veterinarians in August 1907, one of the group commented: "the dairy farm at the home ... is a model in every respect. The



Collection of Kent C. Boese

13 DR. MOSES WHARTON YOUNG RESIDENCE

3230 Park Place, NW

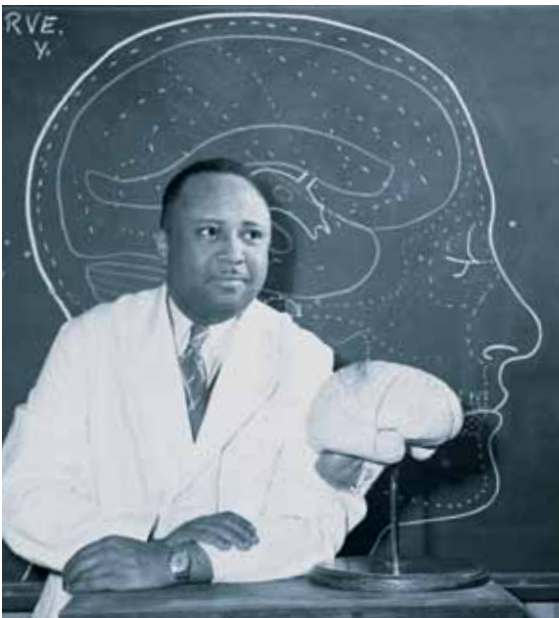
MOSES WHARTON YOUNG, M.D., a prominent anatomist, lived at this address from 1943 to 1986.

Young was born in Spartansburg, South Carolina, in 1903 and moved to the Washington area in 1924. He graduated from Howard University with a degree in medicine, then earned a doctorate in neuroanatomy from the University of Michigan.

Returning to Washington in 1934, Young joined the faculty of Howard's College of Medicine, where he conducted research primarily on baldness, deafness, and glaucoma.

After retiring from Howard in 1973, Young taught for six years at the University of Maryland. He received the U.S. Department of Defense's Pentagon Award in 1975 for his research on the mechanics of blast injuries. 🦋

Moses Wharton Young, M.D.



Scullion Studio Records, Archives Center,
National Museum of American History



Granite bridge at the south pond, 1920.

14 SOLDIERS' HOME – PARK ROAD GATE

Corner of Park Place &
Park Road, NW

UNTIL IT CLOSED IN 1955 the Park Road Gate allowed members of the public free access to the grounds of the Soldiers' Home. Then the construction of the Washington Hospital Center, to the south, resulted in the closing of some roads within the Soldiers' Home grounds, and this gate was no longer needed. The construction had already closed the South Gate at First Street, NW, and the East Gate at Harewood Road, NE, about a year earlier.

The Soldiers' Home has been a gem in the center of the District of Columbia since its founding in 1851. Once an isolated country retreat for retired soldiers and presidents, it gradually was surrounded by "suburbs."

The Home's park-like grounds quickly became an integral part of daily life in the area. Early real estate developers promoted the merits of the park to prospective residents of Park View.

Neighborhood children played in the park, young lovers strolled its many lanes, and families enjoyed picnics along the ponds just inside the gates. The slopes near the ponds also hosted large public events, such as Fourth of July celebrations and Easter egg-rolling contests.

The Soldiers' Home grounds closed to the public in 1968 after the civil disturbances following the assassination of the Reverend

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



Skating on the south pond on the Soldiers' Home grounds, 1920s

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While Park View no longer has daily access to the park that gave the community its name, it does have the view, and the park's proximity remains a valued and important asset to the neighborhood and entire area. 🦜

Charles Gilmore with *Diplodocus* fossils, 1924.

15 CHARLES W. GILMORE RESIDENCE

451 Park Road, NW

CHARLES W. GILMORE, A PALEONTOLOGIST with the Smithsonian Institution, was one of Park View's original residents. He settled at this address in 1908.

Gilmore moved to Washington in 1903 when he was hired by the U.S. National Museum (Smithsonian) to work on the O.C. Marsh dinosaur collection, which had been transferred from Yale University in the late 19th century.

He eventually became the Smithsonian's curator of fossil reptiles and took charge of mounting the world's first *Triceratops* skeleton. He published 170 scientific papers including monographic

studies on the osteology of *Apatosaurus* and *Camptosaurus* and of the carnivorous and armored dinosaurs. 🦜

Library of Congress





This 1920s class photo included a view of the school from the southeast.

16 PARK VIEW SCHOOL

3570 Warder Street, NW

PARK VIEW SCHOOL was constructed in 1915-1916 after years of lobbying by the Park View Citizens Association. Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford designed Park View in the Collegiate Gothic style, and it remains an almost perfect example of this style of Washington architecture.

Collegiate Gothic was popular in school design during the first three decades of the 20th century. The style had various advantages: it looked appropriately scholastic; it allowed for large window surfaces; and it was cheaper to build because it did not require the heavy cornices, balustrades, pediments, or high pitched roof of other school styles.

Almost as soon as it opened, the school was overcrowded, so the city added wings to the northwest and southwest sides of the building, completing the work in 1931.

By 1949 Park View Elementary, with a capacity of 936 students, had an enrollment of only 128. In the District's segregated school system Park View—located amid an increasingly African American community—served only white children. Despite resistance from white residents, Park View was transferred to the DC Public Schools' "colored division" in July 1949.

The school's 700-seat auditorium is notable for the striking wooden truss that supports the roof. In DC, auditoriums generally were included in high school and junior high buildings only, but Park View received one because it was intended for community-wide use. 

Star Collection, D.C. Public Library, © Washington Post



LEFT: Park View School housed a post office, about 1918.

BELOW: Portable classrooms on the playground, added when enrollment exceeded capacity, ca. 1920.

RIGHT: U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy visiting the school in 1963.



Library of Congress





Eugene Allen serves during President Gerald Ford's birthday party, 1975.

17 EUGENE ALLEN RESIDENCE

710 Otis Place, NW

WHITE HOUSE BUTLER EUGENE ALLEN (1919-2010) and his wife, Helene, lived here for more than 60 years. The couple arrived on Otis Place in 1947.

Starting at the White House as a pantry man in 1952, Allen was eventually promoted to butler and then to maitre d' in 1980. He served Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan, before retiring in 1986.

Such was Allen's reputation inside the White House that First Lady Nancy Reagan invited him to attend a 1986 state dinner for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. And in 2009 he was honored with an invitation to attend President Barack Obama's swearing-in. 🦸

DC Commission on the Arts

18 MARTHA TABOR RESIDENCE

626 Quebec Place, NW

MARTHA TABOR (1939-2004) WAS AN ARTIST and labor organizer who lived here for the last 14 years of her life.

In the 1970s she was in the first class of women hired in heavy construction by the Metro system, working as a journeyman welder of Local 2311, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. She later worked as a union organizer for white- and blue-collar workers, and became president of Local 2677, the American Federation of Government Employees.

Tabor took up photography in the late 1970s, focusing on the social and political issues that she held dear: anti-war demonstrations, civil rights, and equal opportunity in employment. In 1990 she turned to sculpture, most often using natural materials to create large pieces. Many took the shapes of ladders, wheels, and boats, symbolic to Tabor of time and transition.



Tabor's photographic and sculptural work is in the permanent collections of various Washington-area institutions. 🦸

Self-portrait by Martha Tabor, while working as a Metro welder, 1977.

19 BUILDER EDGAR S. KENNEDY

3664-3674 Park Place, NW

THE ROWHOUSES AT 3664-3674 PARK PLACE were designed by Alexander H. Sonnemann and built by Edgar S. Kennedy in 1916. They form part of a planned development, constructed between 1909 and 1919, that includes 162 rowhouses, an apartment complex, and the York Theater in the area bordered by Rock Creek Church Road (north), Princeton Place (south), Park Place (east), and Georgia Avenue (west).

This particular row is unique in Kennedy's development in that each house was built with an attached garage, an unusual practice until the early 1920s. Automobile ownership here had caught on quickly: in 1914, 4,833 Washingtonians owned one; the number was 35,400 in 1919. That year Washington had one vehicle for every 10.73 residents, ahead of the national average of one car for every 14.14 people.

Kennedy arrived in Washington in 1884 and went into the building business. Within two years he had established himself, joining Isaac N. Davis in the firm of Kennedy & Davis. Upon Davis's death in 1905, Kennedy's brother William took his place, and the firm's name changed to Kennedy Brothers, Inc., in 1909.

Other Edgar Kennedy projects include rowhouses near Lincoln Park, NE, and in Mount Pleasant, NW; Meridian Mansions (now the Envoy) at 2400 16th Street, NW; and the Kennedy-Warren at 3131-3133 Connecticut Avenue, NW; as well as the development of Kenwood, Maryland. 🚶

Library of Congress



Rowhouses at 3664-3674 Park Place and at 608 Rock Creek Church Road, ca. 1920.

20 LENNY GREEN RESIDENCE

730 Rock Creek Church Road, NW

BASEBALL PLAYER LENNY GREEN lived here from mid-1959 through 1960, while a member of the Washington Senators.

Green's trade from the Baltimore Orioles to the Senators in June 1959 inspired *Washington Afro-American* reporter Sam Lacy to declare, "[T]he Washington Senators acquired their first 'legitimate' colored player early



Lenny Green of the Washington Senators.

this week when they obtained Lenny Green.” While Green was not the first African American ball player to wear a Senators uniform, Lacy’s position more accurately summed up public opinion than fact.

More than seven years after Jackie Robinson stepped onto the diamond for the Brooklyn Dodgers, the Senators’ color barrier was broken September 6, 1954, when Carlos Paula trotted out to left field at Griffith Stadium. However, as a Cuban, Paula was not fully accepted by many as representing an integrated Senators.

It was not until August 1, 1957, that the Senators signed their first African American player: Joe Black. But Black’s career was clearly on the decline, and he was released

by Washington that November, after pitching only seven games. This prompted many fans to feel that Black’s signing was not a “real deal.”

It is due largely to these factors that Lacy proudly proclaimed that Lenny Green would be “accepted by [Washington’s] colored fans as the first bona-fide member of their race on the home roster.” And play he did. He had more playing time than he’d had with the Orioles (he had 190 at-bats during the remainder of the 1959 season, batting .242 with two homers and 15 RBI).

When the team was at home, Green hosted his own daily sports program on Washington radio station WUST. After the 1960 season, when the Senators moved to Minnesota as the Twins, Green moved with them and spent another three-plus seasons with the team. 🏆

21 GRACE SEIBOLD RESIDENCE

756 Rock Creek Church Road, NW

THIS WAS THE HOME OF GRACE DARLING SEIBOLD, the founder and first president of American Gold Star Mothers, from 1910 until her death in 1947.



American Gold Star Mothers

Grace Seibold

During World War I, Seibold’s son, George, joined the action as an aviator with the rank of First Lieutenant. When letters from George stopped arriving, Seibold was unable to learn anything about his whereabouts. Not knowing he had been



Library of Congress

Grace Seibold (left) with First Lady Grace Coolidge on the National Mall, 1924.

killed in France, she began visiting area hospitals hoping George had been wounded and returned home.

This experience, combined with meeting other mothers who had lost a son to the war, led Seibold to organize the Gold Star Mothers. The group had two purposes: for these bereaved mothers to comfort each other, and for them to offer loving care to wounded soldiers in hospitals far from home. 🚶

Further Reading

Boese, Kent C. with Lauri Hafvenstein.
Park View. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2011.

Lift Every Voice: Georgia Ave./Pleasant Plains Heritage Trail. Washington, DC: Cultural Tourism DC, 2011.

HISTORIC PARK VIEW

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A Walking Tour

FACING PAGE: Frances Wagner of 3674 Park Place, early 1920s. The garage and automobile belong to 608 Rock Creek Church Road. Collection of Rick Tucker

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