



The Historical Society of Washington, D. C. Presents My DC Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

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Every DC neighborhood is special, but no matter what neighborhood you're in, you know you're in DC. How many of these DC items or views can you find? Take pictures, check off what you've found, and share your progress with us on Twitter or Instagram [@dchistory](https://twitter.com/dchistory) or facebook.com/dchistory.

1. What Neighborhood are you in today? _____



View of the Capitol from Cedar Hill in Anacostia by Ted Eytan via Flickr, Creative Commons License

2. Find a **view of a major DC landmark**, say the Capitol dome, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception or Washington Monument.

From the lowest elevation at the Potomac River to the highest at Fort Reno in Tenleytown, the terrain of the city varies. Because of this, and because of DC's low skyline, the tallest monuments other landmarks are often visible.

Found it!

What can you see from your neighborhood? _____



Fort Stevens sign, 2011, by MrTinDC via Flickr, Creative Commons License

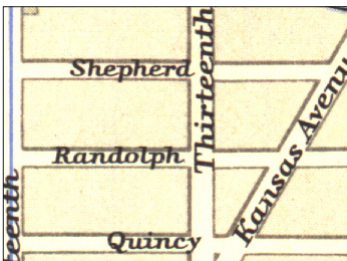
3. A **National Park** in your neighborhood. In addition to the major sites such as the National Mall, C&O Canal, Rock Creek Park, and Fort Dupont Park, the National Park Service manages many of the city's small triangles, circles, and squares.

How to tell? Look for these brown signs

or visit <https://www.nps.gov/locations/dc/parks.htm> to find one near you.

Found it!

What national park is in your neighborhood? _____



Detail of map of Petworth, 1948, National Geographic

4. A **street name pattern**. You might have noticed that most streets in DC are laid out in squares. The street names generally follow a pattern: north-south streets are numbered. East-west streets are named in alphabetical order, starting with letter streets, then with two- and three-syllable words. Diagonal avenues bear state names. Can you find three streets in a row that follow the pattern?

Found it!

What streets did you find? _____



Historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square, by Anne McDonough, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

5. A **building that was once used for something different than what you find there now**. For example, this building, home to the DC History Center, started as the Washington Public (Carnegie) Library. Need a hint? Look up! Often you'll see a name on the building that is different from the one the door.

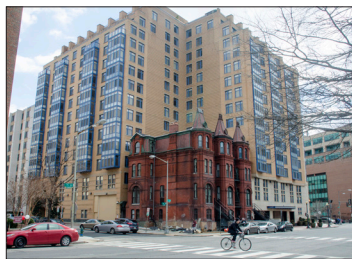
Found it!

What new use for an old building did you find? _____

6. The National Mall is full of monuments and museums that honor the history of our whole nation, but history happens right here in your neighborhood too. **Find a historic marker** (a sign, plaque, or statue) and share something you learned that happened in your neighborhood!

Found it!

What did you learn by reading the historic marker? _____



15th and N Sts NW by Tim Brown
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7. In many DC neighborhoods, all the houses look similar because they were built at the same time or by the same builder. In some neighborhoods, there's greater variety from building to building. Can you find **two different architectural styles side by side**?

Found it!

What are some of the differences you notice between the two buildings? _____



DC's wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), photo by
Steve Maslowski, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

8. Find some **neighborhood wildlife**—a bird, squirrel, rabbit, or even a deer or fox if you live near Rock Creek Park. Maybe a duck or fish if you're near the Potomac.

The state bird of DC is the wood thrush.

Found it!

What wildlife did you spot? _____



Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (CR 206)

9. A bus stop, Metro station, (or even a streetcar stop)

Ever wondered how the bus lines got their names or numbers? Many simply repeat the names or numbers of the streetcars that originally ran along the same routes. In 1962 the last streetcars had been replaced by buses.

Found it!

What bus, Metro, or streetcar did you find? _____



Chuck Brown on the Anacostia Big Chair, photo by
Steven M. Cummings, Anacostia Community Museum,
Smithsonian Institution

10. From military bands and jazz clubs to go-go and punk, DC has quite a musical history. **Find a place in your neighborhood where you can hear music.** It could be a church or concert venue, or a street corner or park where your neighbors provide the soundtrack to community life.

Found it!

Where can you hear music in your neighborhood? _____

11. Find **something in your neighborhood you've always wondered about.** Maybe it's a street name, an old building, or a manhole cover. Take a picture, tag us on social media @dchistory and let's see what our community knows about it!

Found it!

What did you find in your neighborhood that you want to know more about? _____