

SHAW

HISTORIC DISTRICT





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Unlike many of Washington's neighborhoods, Shaw was not fashioned by developers who built strings of nearly identical rowhouses. Rather, Shaw was settled by individuals who constructed their own single dwellings of frame and brick, which were later infilled with small rows of developer-built speculative housing. Originally Shaw was in a part of the District called the Northern Liberties, north of the line where livestock were required to be penned and so were able to roam freely. Initially an ethnically and economically diverse neighborhood, Shaw was home to European immigrants and free African Americans, and, during and after the Civil War, increasing numbers of southern Freedmen flooding to cities in search of work. The name Shaw came into use in the mid-20th century to define the area around Shaw Junior High School, which was named for Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, leader of the all-black 54th Massachusetts Regiment.

The brick residence at 1243 10th Street, built c. 1850, reflects typical early masonry construction in Shaw. HPO Photo.



The Shaw neighborhood developed primarily along 7th Street, which was part of L'Enfant's plan for the city and extended as far north as Boundary Street (now Florida Avenue). Beyond that, 7th Street became a toll road leading north from the District into the farmlands of Montgomery County. This turnpike provided Maryland farmers with direct access to the markets and wharves of the city and, after it was paved in 1818, became one of the city's busiest thoroughfares.

Although Shaw suffered tremendous social upheaval and architectural loss during the later 20th century, especially following the civil disturbances of 1968, it remains a strong community replete with varied residential construction. Shaw's modest alley dwellings, striking churches, and unique commercial architecture are all reflective of the neighborhood's shared histories. Social organizations, shops, industrial enterprises, schools, and churches of all faiths have called Shaw home over the years. Because of its unique developmental history and its architectural quality and diversity, Shaw was formally recognized by the city in 1999 with designation as a historic district. The boundaries of the district are roughly L Street north to Rhode Island Avenue and 11th Street east to 7th Street, NW. The Shaw district encompasses the Blagden Alley/Naylor Court Historic District which was designated in 1990.

The house at 927 M Street, dating to circa 1840, is one of Shaw's earliest remaining frame dwellings. HPO Photo.



EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Prior to the Civil War, much of the land that comprises today's Shaw neighborhood remained open or was cultivated with fruit orchards. As former slaves fled northward during and after the war, they flocked to settlements such as Camp Barker, a tent city established by the government near Logan Circle to provide shelter, food and jobs to the refugees. These newly freed men and women became some of Shaw's first inhabitants.



Just outside the historic district, this typical row of speculative houses was built in the 1880s on the west side of the 1500 block of 6th Street. Because of readily available materials and their repetitive quality, rowhouses were easier and cheaper to build, making them more affordable to homebuyers. HSW Photo.

Although the earliest buildings in Shaw pre-date the war, the development of the neighborhood was spurred, in part, by the actions of Alexander "Boss" Shepherd. Shepherd led the Board of Public Works in a massive public services campaign in the 1870s that brought graded streets, water and sewer service, sidewalks, streetlamps, and trees to many areas of the city. Shepherd was himself a resident of Shaw, residing at 1125 10th Street beginning in 1871.

With Shepherd's improvements came more development and an influx of new residents and businesses. Shaw's early development reflects its mixed use and racially diverse character. Homes were located next to lumber yards; grocers were next to undertakers; churches were next to tin shops. Working

class African Americans lived alongside Jewish, Irish, and German immigrants. It was not until the first decade of the 20th century that Shaw became the solidly African American community it is known as today.

Many of the earliest residents were employed at the nearby Northern Liberty Market, located on Mount Vernon Square from 1846 to 1872. The market brought European immigrants of many nationalities to the neighborhood and speculative builders profited by supplying rows of dwellings for them. However, many could not afford the substantial two- and three- story brick homes and lived instead in the neighborhood's complicated system of alleys.

ALLEY LIFE

Blagden, Simms, Downing, Stewart, Shepherd, Durr, Reese, and Proctor Alleys, Naylor Court, and Columbia Street are just some of the named alleys in the Shaw area. Goat Alley, bounded by 6th, 7th, L and M Streets, was one of the most populous, providing homes to hundreds of working class residents. In 1880, Goat Alley's inhabitants were mostly white, arriving from Germany, Ireland, and other European countries as well as the American South. But by 1900, its 400 residents were almost all African American, a telltale sign of the growing segregation of the urban population during the Jim Crow era.

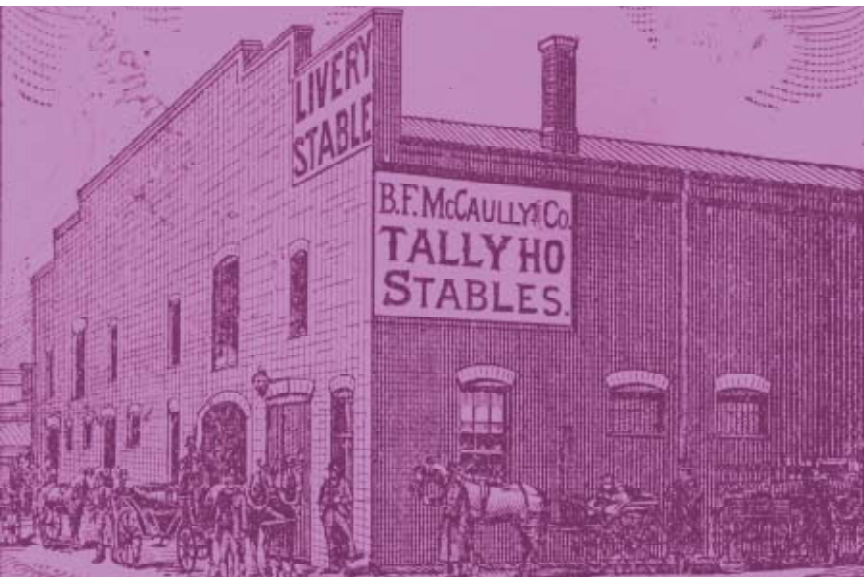
Alley rowhouses tended to be simple two-story flat-fronted buildings of frame or brick construction. Intact

Naylor Court alley dwellings in the 1920s. HSW Photo.



examples in Blagden Alley and Naylor Court help demonstrate the cramped conditions experienced by those sequestered here in the days before plumbing and air conditioning.

Beginning in the late 19th century, municipal and private efforts began to rid the alleys of their dwellings, which were considered unsanitary and overcrowded. The city's social reformers also hoped to eradicate the brothels, gambling houses, and other illicit establishments found in some of the less respectable alleys. The labors of these reformers were successful, resulting in the prohibition of new alley dwelling construction. The existing dwellings were gradually converted to industrial and service buildings, relegating alleys to business rather than residential use. With the rise of importance of the automobile in the 20th century, many of the former alley dwellings were converted into private auto garages by removing the second story and widening the original front doors to accommodate cars.



The Tally Ho Stable, shown in an 1880s sketch, operated for decades in this huge facility in Naylor Court. In the 1920s, the building became the city's Street Cleaning Department, which utilized the space for horses and horse-drawn equipment. HSW Photo.

Some of the alleys' notable commercial and service buildings included the Tally Ho Stable in Naylor Court, which was built in the 19th century. This later became the District's Street Cleaning Department with stables on the second floor. The enormous Woodward & Lothrop warehouse and stable were located in Shepherd Alley, between 9th, 10th, L and M Streets. The two four-story structures contained stables, a feed room, and furniture warehouse in one building and delivery wagons, an upholstery shop, carpenter shop, and paint shop in the other.

SEVENTH STREET

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Outside the alleys, 7th Street NW served as Shaw's primary business and social hub. The road traces its origins to 1810, when Congress granted a charter for its construction as part of a system of turnpikes leading from the wharf areas of Foggy Bottom and Capitol Hill north to the District line. It was paved between 1818 and 1822, when most roads in the District were still rutted, muddy tracks, making Shaw an accessible and appealing place to live and work. In 1862, the city's first streetcar operation began on 7th Street as a horse car line between Florida Avenue and the Potomac River. By 1888, the lots on 7th Street in Shaw were fully built out. Every building along the busy corridor housed a store or business on the first floor, and the majority had apartments on the upper floors, generally for the shop proprietors and their families. Businesses included bakeries, banks, laundries, grocers, saloons, drugstores, social halls, and entertainment venues.

In 1881, the city opened the O Street Market at 7th and O Streets, finally replacing the Northern Liberty Market that had stood in Mount Vernon Square from 1846 until its demolition in 1872. Shaw residents could now easily shop for food brought down the 7th Street turnpike from Montgomery County farms or driven up from the waterfront where goods were delivered from around the world.





Built in 1881, the O Street Market served Shaw continuously until the riots in 1968. It reopened for business in 1980, but unfortunately, suffered major damage when its roof collapsed under a snow load in 2003. The market currently awaits redevelopment. HSW Photo.

The Seventh Street Savings Bank at 1300 7th Street opened in 1913 to serve the financial needs of Shaw residents and entrepreneurs. In addition to the banking hall, the building included two separate commercial spaces that were rented out to various tenants over the years, including a shoe store, dry goods shop, tailor, furniture vendor, cigar store, and a dental office. Typical of 7th Street businesses, apartments over the bank and stores were rented out independently. Just up the street, Kauffman's Department Store was one of the largest retail stores on the corridor, occupying six lots at 1316 7th Street.

At 1501 7th Street, the grand Thyson Mansion was erected in the early 1870s by landholder William Thyson.

The east side (left) and west side (below) of 9th Street between L and M show the variety and easy availability of goods and services for Shaw residents in 1950. HSW Photo.





Shown in 1965, the Seventh Street Savings Bank, at the far left, is the only historic building remaining on this block. The bank was designed in 1912 in the Classical Revival style by the architectural firm of Rich and Fitzsimons. Up the street, a gas station has taken the place of Kauffman's Department Store. HSW Photo.

The building was converted to a hotel sometime prior to 1914, primarily serving the farmers who came to deliver their goods to the O Street Market across the street. In the 1920s, it became one of several Salvation Army facilities in the city, providing shelter and job training for those in need, and the only one available to African Americans. The shelter closed in 1950 over the objections of the already predominantly black community. Light industrial uses such as the Johnson Bros. Coal & Wood Yards, Wheatley Lumber, liveries, and hay stalls dotted 7th Street in the 19th century. These were gradually replaced with garages, filling stations, and other more car-oriented uses, such as Manhattan Auto, formerly located on the east side of 7th at R Street.





The former Thyson Mansion, which became the Salvation Army Corps No. 2, shown in 1950. HSW Photo.

Perhaps no other event in recent history has shaped the 7th Street streetscape and the Shaw neighborhood as much as the riots of April 1968. Following the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., many DC residents lashed out in frustration, anger, and grief, turning inward on their own communities. Rioting and looting took place primarily along H Street NE, 14th Street NW and here on 7th Street in Shaw. When the dust cleared, several hundred people had been arrested and much of 7th Street was in shambles; the entire 1500 block had burned as had a number of individual buildings. Some merchants picked up the pieces and chose to remain in the neighborhood while others moved elsewhere in the city or simply never reopened.

The intersection of 7th and N Streets, looking north as seen in 1966 (left) and 1968 (below) following the destruction in Shaw after the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. HSW Photos.



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Among those who stayed, Shaw native sons Reverend Walter Fauntroy and Watha T. Daniel were instrumental in rebuilding the community. They founded the Model Inner City Community Organization (MICCO), a group of Shaw-based professionals who worked for a neighborhood resurgence. Using federal grants and other funding sources to build public housing and provide services to residents, MICCO gave a voice to the community on how this money would be spent.

Daniel was one of the first African American licensed master plumbers in the District and later chaired the DC Plumbing Board. He operated Watha T. Daniel Plumbing and Heating Company out of 1525 9th Street for decades, and in 1975 the new Shaw public library was named in his honor.

Fauntroy, the pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, went on to serve in the U.S. Congress as the District's first Representative in over 100 years. While there, he helped found the Congressional Black Caucus, but stepped down after nine terms and a presidential bid to run for Mayor in 1990, losing to Sharon Pratt Kelly.

In addition to MICCO, the African American congregation of the Lincoln Temple United Church of Christ and the white Westmoreland Congregational Church based in Bethesda, Maryland united on an urban renewal project. Together they built the Lincoln Westmoreland Apartment Building at 1730 7th Street to house those displaced by the riots. Gibson Plaza at 1301 7th Street was another church-led residential construction project, completed in 1973.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen's Club operated out of the combined Morrison and Clark Houses, which were built in 1864 for David Morrison, who made his fortune selling flour and feed to the government during the Civil War, and Reuben Clark, a wealthy land investor. The houses were combined to provide more room for the club, which, during WWII, housed 45,000 military men and served 85,000 meals a year. HSW Photo.



RECREATION

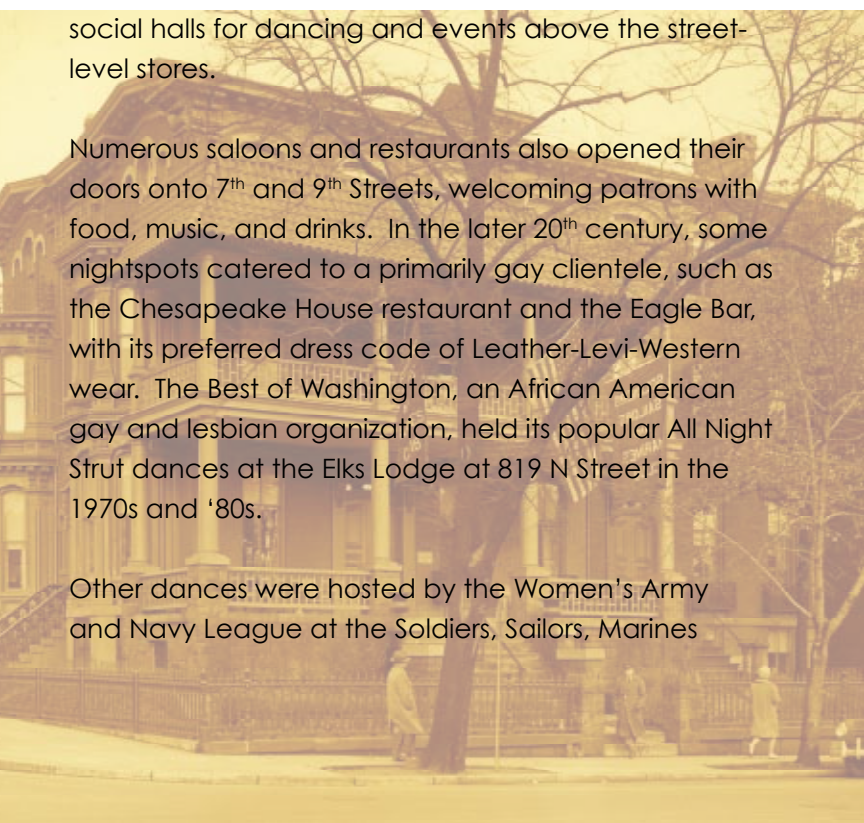
In 1974, the O Street Market was part of a redevelopment effort, the first commercial revitalization project for the Shaw Urban Renewal Area. The market, which had closed following the riots, was rehabilitated by the Redevelopment Land Agency and sold in 1977, reopening in 1980 as part of a fully revitalized block.

Shaw has always had its fair share of opportunities for fun and socialization for both adults and children. Several lyceums found willing audiences in Shaw for their lectures, readings, and concerts. The Bethel Literary and Historical Association held its events and meetings in Metropolitan Baptist Church while the women's Book Lovers Club met at the Star of Bethlehem Church. Among the latter group's efforts was the foundation of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, which provided shelter and services to young African Americans arriving in the city in search of work.

Outside of churches, there were a number of clubs and halls that offered venues for plays, lectures, and social events. Nash Hall at 708 O Street was an early meeting space, most notably used by People's Congregational Church in the 1890s while its worship space was constructed. The Knights of Pythias Temple, formerly at 1012-14 9th Street, also made its meeting space available for community events and private parties. Seventh Street between L and P featured at least four social halls for dancing and events above the street-level stores.

Numerous saloons and restaurants also opened their doors onto 7th and 9th Streets, welcoming patrons with food, music, and drinks. In the later 20th century, some nightspots catered to a primarily gay clientele, such as the Chesapeake House restaurant and the Eagle Bar, with its preferred dress code of Leather-Levi-Western wear. The Best of Washington, an African American gay and lesbian organization, held its popular All Night Strut dances at the Elks Lodge at 819 N Street in the 1970s and '80s.

Other dances were hosted by the Women's Army and Navy League at the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines



and Airmen's Club. The Club opened in an Italianate mansion at 10th and L Streets in 1923 as the headquarters for the League and a hostel for enlisted white men. Now the Morrison-Clark Inn, the Club provided lodging, meals, and entertainment through the 1970s. Guests could shoot pool or play ping-pong, while the ladies of the League hosted teas in the adjoining rooms.

As early as 1907, Shaw residents could enjoy a vaudeville act or be treated to the new technology of a moving picture show in their own neighborhood. The Happyland, Gem, Alamo, Mid-City, and Broadway Theaters were all built between 1907 and 1921 within five blocks of each other on 7th Street; the Raphael was two blocks over on 9th Street.

Of these, the Broadway and Mid-City were owned and operated by African Americans for the largely black patronage in Shaw by this time. In 1919, well-known vaudeville performer Sherman Dudley advertised his Mid-City as "the only theater on Seventh Street catering to colored people that does not discriminate." Theaters like Happyland and the Gem were not so accommodating. Their approach to Jim Crow-era segregation was to erect a divider down the center of the auditorium. Despite purchasing their tickets at the same booth, the two races used separate entrances and sat on opposite sides of the partition.



In more recent years, the children of Shaw could find plenty to do at the John F. Kennedy Playground, located between 6th and 7th, O and P Streets. After demolishing the schools that occupied this square, the city used it for an impound lot for abandoned cars. With the support of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the neighborhood successfully converted the junkyard into a three-acre park, which opened in 1964 and was named for the late President. The park delighted neighborhood children with traditional playground amusements and donated military equipment – a tank, planes, and obstacle course – as well as a steam locomotive, tugboat, and soapbox derby course. Unfortunately, the park's unusual amenities were short-lived; the equipment was deemed unsafe and removed shortly after the 1968 riots. The Kennedy Recreation Center now occupies the park site, continuing to offer recreational opportunities to the community.



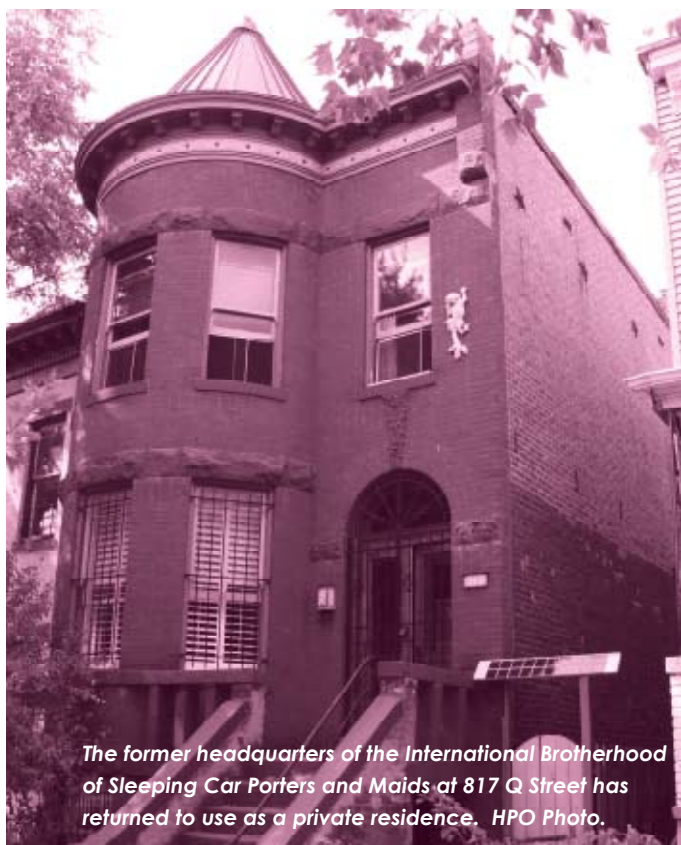
The Broadway Theater (above), at 1515 7th Street, was built in 1921 to seat 500 patrons. Owned and operated by African Americans for a black clientele, the theater featured second runs of prominent feature films. In 1927, the theater hosted 4,500 moviegoers per week, charging 15 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. HSW Photo.

Kennedy Playground's boat and airplane (left) provided much enjoyment for Shaw children in the 1960s. HSW Photo.

LABOR RIGHTS IN SHAW

The Shaw community has played an important role in the labor rights movement both locally and nationally. It was from the National Labor Temple at 901 Massachusetts Avenue that the American Federation of Labor waged its national battle for workers' rights, higher wages, and improved working conditions from 1915 until 1956. In 1955, the organization merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations to become the AFL-CIO and moved into a new building on 16th Street NW. After the AFL relocated, two other labor organizations moved into its former headquarters – the United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry and then the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The AFL was founded in 1886 by Samuel Gompers, a Jewish immigrant from London who is memorialized in the triangular park on Massachusetts Avenue between 10th and 11th Streets. Here a substantial bronze statue modeled by Robert Ingersoll Aitken features Gompers surrounded by figures representing aspects of the labor movement, including industrial exploitation, protection of the home, justice, and cooperation.



The former headquarters of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids at 817 Q Street has returned to use as a private residence. HPO Photo.



Old Engine Company 7 at 931 R Street is the city's second oldest existing firehouse. Built in 1885, it became the home of the all-black Engine Company 4 in 1940. HPO Photo.

Unfortunately, the AFL was not initially welcoming toward African American unions. It took the efforts of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids to break down the barriers of racism. Formed in New York in 1925 by African American employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company, the brotherhood fought 12 years for recognition and was finally granted the first AFL charter for an African American labor group. The local chapter of the Brotherhood made its headquarters in Shaw at 817 Q Street from 1943 to 1978.

Civic professionals also fought against racist employment practices, including within the District's firefighting service. Although the fire companies were integrated, promotions for African Americans were not forthcoming in mixed companies. Thus in 1919, the city's first all African American company was formed as Engine Company 4 in Southwest Washington. In 1940, the firefighters were reassigned to the existing Engine Company 7 at 931 R Street. Similarly, post office employees succeeded in opening a branch in Shaw staffed entirely by African Americans so that they could more freely move up the ranks. Other labor organizations found a home in and near the Shaw neighborhood, including the powerful United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Local 132 in the Carpenters Building at 1010 10th Street and the International Association of Machinists 813 Mt. Vernon Square.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

From its first days of settlement, Shaw has welcomed people of all religions. The Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes (Episcopal), Immaculate Conception (Catholic), Hamline (Methodist Episcopal), North Presbyterian, McKendree (Methodist Episcopal), Shiloh Baptist, and Temple Baptist are among the early churches here. Built in various ecclesiastical styles, including Gothic and Romanesque Revival, many of these grand edifices remain dominant elements of the neighborhood's streets. Storefront churches of various denominations have also been a standard along Shaw's commercial corridors of 7th and 9th Streets throughout the 20th century. Among these congregations is the Nation of Islam, which operated for a time out of Watha Daniel's building at 1525 9th Street.

Perhaps one of the lesser known religious organizations is the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention of the United States, which until recently had its offices at 1501 11th Street. Lott Carey (1780-1828) purchased his freedom from enslavement in 1813 and went on



to pioneer the Baptist mission in West Africa. African American Baptists who wished to continue spreading Christianity throughout the world formed a new convention bearing his name in Washington DC in 1897. The Lott Carey Convention continues his efforts today, with missions in Africa, India, and the Caribbean.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to its numerous churches, Shaw also boasted a number of public and private educational institutions including the Thomson School (1910) on 12th Street between K and L, Morse Elementary (1882) at 440 R, John F. Cooke (1867) at 427 O, the Bundy School (1936) at 429 O, and the three schools located on the block bounded by O, P, 6th and 7th Streets, Henry Elementary (c. 1870), Old Central High School (1882), and the Polk School (1888).

The former Lott Carey Convention headquarters at 1501 11th Street is now private residences. HPO Photo.



Many of these school buildings have been removed over the years, but the former Shaw Junior High School still dominates the corner of 7th and Rhode Island Avenue. Built upon the site of the Wheatley Coal and Lumber Yard, which had provided construction materials to Shaw owners from the 1870s through 1890s, the school opened as the McKinley Manual Training School in 1901. The all-white school offered an alternative track for students not pursuing a college education, providing training in carpentry, machinery, and metalwork. The program was immensely popular and led the city to expand the building three times over the next ten years.

When a new technical school was built in 1928, the building was transferred into the black school system and Shaw Junior High School moved here from its location at the old M Street High School. Despite the deplorable conditions within the building, which lent it the moniker "Shameful Shaw," and repeated denials of funding for a new school, Shaw students continued to attend until a new Shaw Junior High was completed in 1977. Soon afterwards, Asbury United Methodist Church bought the property and converted to it to housing for seniors.



Shaw Junior High School in 1950. HSW Photo.

Another early educational institution in Shaw was the Mount Vernon Seminary, a school for young ladies which opened in a former mansion at 1100 M Street in 1880. The school was the District's first boarding school and drew students from all over the United States and Europe. Founder Elizabeth Somers wanted her school

to shape the character and intellect of young women through education. Her approach to teaching gained the school national recognition and enrollment grew steadily. By 1888, the seminary was substantially expanded and an annex was built across M Street. In 1917, the school moved to Nebraska Avenue, then to Foxhall Road, where it became a satellite campus of The George Washington University. The property on M Street became the Elizabeth Somers YWCA for white female youths.

Other smaller educational institutions in Shaw have included an African American cooking school at 917 P Street, the National College of Music at 1127 10th, Professor Gale's School and Livery at 1105 11th, and another cooking school at 1228 N Street.

In addition to its recognition as a historic district, Shaw also has a number of individually landmarked buildings, specifically identified for their architectural and historical importance to the District of Columbia. These landmarks represent the breadth of Shaw's heritage and include the Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes; the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen's Club (Morrison and Clark Houses); Barker Lumber; the Seventh Street Savings Bank; O Street Market; Lafayette Apartments; Immaculate Conception Church, Rectory, Convent, and School; the American Federation of Labor; Carpenters Building; Plymouth Apartments; Proctor Alley Livery Stable; and the Thomson School.

LANDMARKS OF SHAW

Because of Shaw's prominence among well-to-do African Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the neighborhood was home to a number of notable citizens and institutions. In addition to the other Shaw landmarks, the following places are of paramount importance both in the District and nationwide. These are the places where Shaw's residents and activists made their mark on the national scope of African American history.



CARTER G. WOODSON HOUSE 1538 9TH STREET

The house at 1538 9th Street was home and office to Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History,” for over 40 years. The son of former slaves, Woodson achieved heights greater than – and on behalf of – many of his contemporaries. He was the second African American after W.E.B. DuBois to receive a PhD from Harvard and, upon arriving in the District, served as dean of Howard University's School of Liberal Arts and head of the graduate faculty.

While living in this house, Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, dedicated to promoting black history and culture. The organization filled a void in the American public's knowledge and perception of African Americans, combating the common racist views held during the Jim Crow era.

Woodson wrote prolifically, publishing his seminal works *A Century of Negro Migration*, *The Negro in Our History*, and *The Mis-Education of the Negro*. He also created the *Journal of Negro History* and *Negro History Bulletin* as well as publishing extensively in other journals, newspapers, and collected works. Woodson is well remembered for creating Negro History Week in 1926, which is now celebrated as Black History Month each February.



The Carter G. Woodson House is a National Historic Landmark built between 1870 and 1874. Woodson used the basement and first floor as an office for the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History while the family resided above. (Courtesy National Park Service.)

BLANCHE AND JOSEPHINE BRUCE HOUSE

909 M STREET

The husband and wife team of Blanche Kelso Bruce and Josephine Beall Willson Bruce was one of great power and influence in Shaw and beyond. Blanche represented the state of Mississippi in the United States Senate from 1874 to 1880 and was the first African American to serve a full term in Congress. He would later receive presidential appointments as Register of the U.S. Treasury and District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds. A former slave, Bruce became an advocate for people of all backgrounds. While sitting in Congress, he introduced a bill to desegregate the Army and opposed the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Josephine, who was also politically motivated, helped found the National Association of Colored Women, a civil rights advocacy group, in 1896. She also was instrumental in establishing the District's first YWCA for African Americans. After her husband's death, she served as the women's principal at Tuskegee Institute.



Simmie Lee Knox painted this portrait of Blanche Kelso Bruce in 2001 at the commission of the United States Senate. The artist used a photo of Bruce taken by renowned photographer Mathew Brady as a model. The portrait now hangs in the Senate wing of the Capitol. (Courtesy United States Senate.)

PHYLLIS WHEATLEY YWCA 901 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE

Among Mrs. Bruce's numerous projects was the creation of the Colored Young Women's Christian Association in DC. The YWCA was introduced in the U.S. in 1858, after being formed in England a few years earlier. The first African American branch was founded in Ohio in the 1890s. In 1905, members of a local black women's literary club instituted the District's first black YWCA in southwest and in 1920, built their own building at 9th and Rhode Island in Shaw. Named after 18th century African American poet Phyllis Wheatley, the YWCA provided housing, recreation, and educational opportunities to women. There was a great influx of single ladies to the city at this time, many of whom were looking for employment and a temporary place to stay while they established themselves. The Wheatley Y also offered meeting space for local groups and national conferences and housed a display of African American historical materials. Today, the Y continues to serve as a residential complex for women, offering the same services it has for the past century.

*Designed by the New York firm of Shroeder and Parish, the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA entrance features the biblical inscription "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."
HPO Photos.*



Shaw Historic District

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**District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office
Office of Planning**

**Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor
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