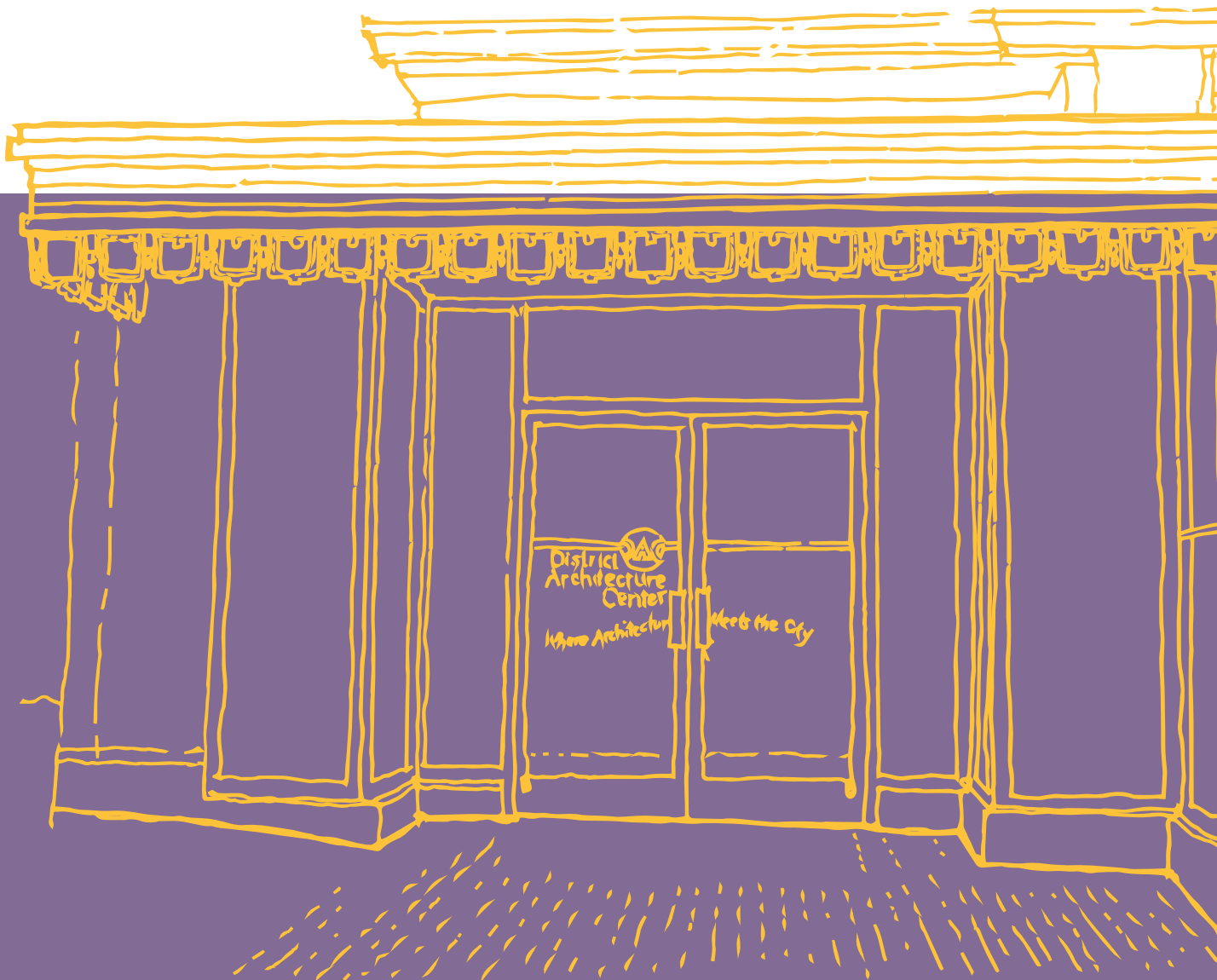


EXPLORER
HISTORY

CHILDREN'S WALKING TOUR

PENN QUARTER NEIGHBORHOOD

— WASHINGTON, DC —



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Welcome

This tour of **Washington's Penn Quarter Neighborhood** focuses on the history and architecture of part of our local environment that is both familiar and surprising. The tour kit includes everything a parent, teacher, Scout troop leader or home schooler would need to walk children through several blocks of buildings and their history to stimulate conversation and activities as they go. Designed for kids in the 8-12 age group, the tour is fun and educational for older kids and adults as well.

THE TOUR MATERIALS INCLUDE...

- History of the Penn Quarter Neighborhood
- Tour Booklet Instructions
- The Penn Quarter Neighborhood Guide
- Architectural Vocabulary
- Conversation Starters
- The Penn Quarter Neighborhood Tour Stops
- Children's Edition

This project has been funded in part by a grant from the Dorothea DeSchweinitz Fund for the District of Columbia of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and in part by a grant from HumanitiesDC, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This version of the Penn Quarter Neighborhood children's architectural tour is the result of a collaboration among Mary Kay Lanzillotta, FAIA, Peter Guttmacher and the creative minds at LookThink, with photos courtesy of Mary Kay Lanzillotta, FAIA, and Scott Clowney, Assoc: AIA.

We encourage you to tell us about your experience using this children's architecture tour, what worked really well and how we can make it even better, as well as other neighborhoods you'd like to visit. Please email your comments to Katherine Adams (kadams@aiadc.com) or Mary Fitch (mfitch@aiadc.com) at the Washington Architectural Foundation.

History of The Penn Quarter Neighborhood

IN THE THICK OF IT

Once upon a time, this was “Downtown DC.” That’s right, its hub, its heart was right here in what we now call Penn Quarter. First, there was its central location. In June of 1791, military engineer and architect Pierre Charles L’Enfant (half French and half American, he liked to be called Peter) presented President George Washington (Father of our country, he liked to be called Mr. President) with his original plan for the layout of the new Nation’s Capital. L’Enfant wanted something impressive here smack in the middle of the 2.5-mile stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue running east to the US Capitol and west to the White House. He was thinking big – a Pantheon to celebrate Great Americans!

The young government, however, had more practical monuments in mind. So, instead, it was here that the country’s first Patent Office was placed (remember that Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were inventors), as well as DC’s General Post Office. Even better for a capital downtown was the fact that intersecting 7th Street ran all the way north to Maryland farm country and all the way south to waiting cargo ships docked at DC’s waterfront – with the city’s first Center Market springing up on 7th Street and Constitution Avenue in 1802.

With merchants, workers and government staff converging, this commercial crossroads became important to protect. Union Army troops patrolled it, even erected forts around it during the Civil War. In the business and population boom after the war, architects outdid each other to build impressive, civic “temples” in the style of Greek and Roman architecture.

Grand as it was, it didn’t last. As transportation expanded the city, there were other likely locations for theaters, hotels, office buildings, and housing. Riots during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s sent even more businesses elsewhere. During his inaugural parade, President Kennedy noticed how deserted and run-down “America’s Main Street” looked. That sparked decades of renewal and today, Penn Quarter is once again one of the most happening spots in town. Let’s take a look at some of the magnificent buildings that first made it famous.

Tour Booklet Instructions

Use this page as a handy guide to help you identify the key components of each stop's page!

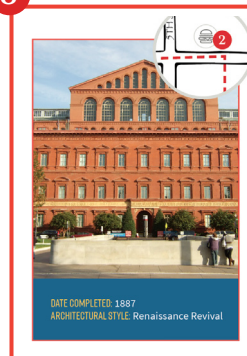
1



TOUR STOP NUMBER

There are 7 tour stops on this tour. You can choose whether to follow our suggested order.

8



BUILDING INFORMATION

General facts about the building's date of completion, location, and architectural style.

2

Le Droit Building

800-B12 F Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

BUILDING GENERAL INFORMATION

This is your stop name and address.

3

MEET THE MAJESTIC

Buildings don't get more monumental than this masterpiece. An actual football field could fit inside its 316' long, 116' wide, and (gulp!) 159' high Great Hall. Yet for all its pomp (19 presidential inaugural balls have taken place here), the circumstances of creating it were practical. After the Civil War, the federal government decided to provide pensions to hundreds of thousands of veterans and their widows and orphans. With a staff of more than 1,500 needed to make this happen, the space had to be big.

Montgomery C. Meigs, who was the architect for Arlington National Cemetery, created this fireproof, 15,000,000 brick colossus. Going against Washington tradition, he built in the more colorful "Italian Renaissance" style (inspired by one of Michelangelo's own famous buildings, the Palazzo Farnese).

Today, the building is very appropriately home to the National Building Museum. What better place to tell the story of construction than one of the architectural marvels of the world?

BUILDING OVERVIEW

Read about your stop in this section. Look for questions throughout the text.

9

NEXT STOP

Hecht Company Building
e Northeast, Washington, DC 20002

NEXT STOP

Find the next stop here.

4

INTERESTING FACT

The eight enormous Corinthian columns inside, which are among the tallest in the world, are actually made of brick. They're just painted to look like marble.

INTERESTING FACTS

Gain new knowledge about the history of the building.

5

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Forget the food courts. Which do you actually like better, mall department stores or downtown department stores? Why?

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use these conversation starters to engage your kids.

7

For more information when you get home, Google: "William S. Plager architect" and "District Architecture Center"

LEARN MORE

Look up these terms and names that are found throughout the text.

Penn Quarter Neighborhood Guide

Check out our suggested route for your tour! Refer to this map to guide you from stop to stop.

Tour Stops

ESTIMATED TOTAL WALKING TIME:

1 ½ - 2 HOURS



In some listed buildings public restrooms are available.



OLD CITY HALL (DC COURT OF APPEALS)

430 E Street Northwest



PENSION BUILDING (NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM)

401 F Street Northwest



ORIENTAL BUILDING ASSOCIATION

600 F Street Northwest



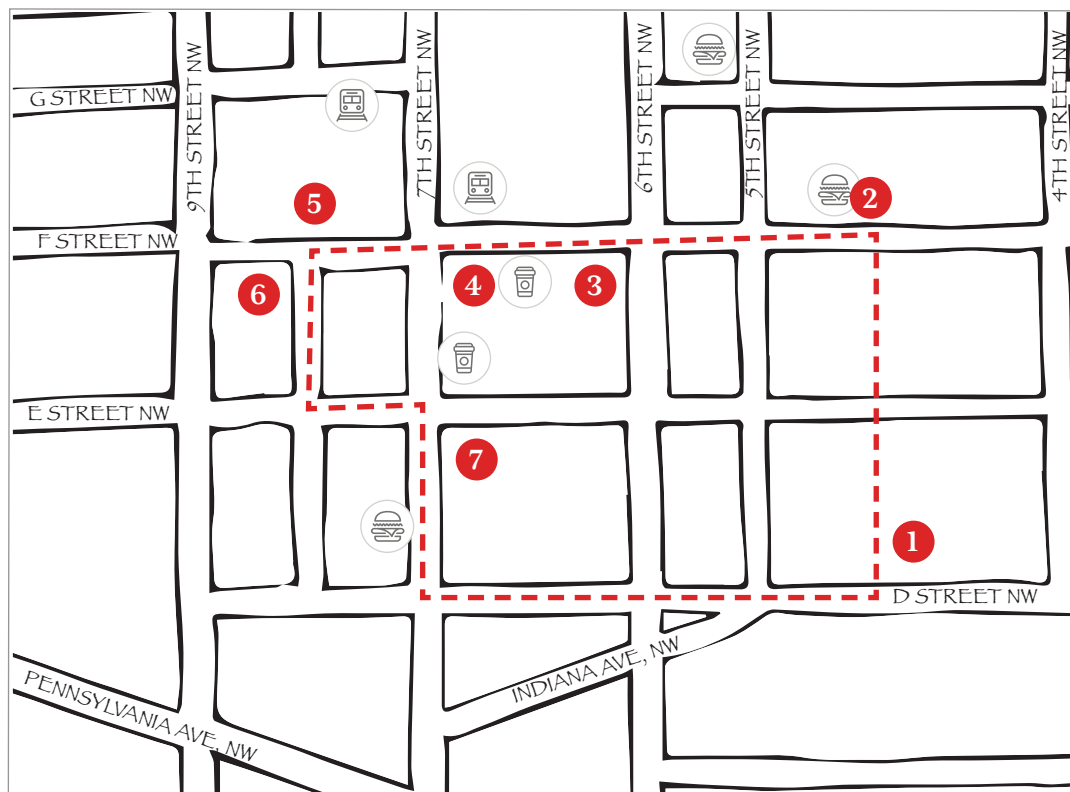
THE HECHT COMPANY BUILDING

7th & F Street Northwest



**OLD PATENT OFFICE BUILDING
(NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY &
SMITHSONIAN ART MUSEUM)**

8th & F Streets Northwest



LE DROIT BUILDING

800-812 F Street Northwest



**INDEPENDENT ORDER OF
ODD FELLOWS (DISTRICT
ARCHITECTURE CENTER)**

421 7th Street Northwest

Places to Go (Kid friendly too!)

While you are in the area, check out these cool locations!



METRO STATION

GALLERY PLACE-CHINATOWN
7th & F/ H Street Northwest
Public Transportation



GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE

COMPASS COFFEE
650 F Street Northwest
**(Various other locations in
Penn Quarter)**
Coffee Shop

BAKERS & BARISTAS
501 7th Street Northwest
Coffee & Pastry Bar



PLACES TO STOP AND EAT

FIREHOOK BAKERY
401 F Street Northwest
**(located inside the
National Building Museum)**
Artisan Bakery

BANTAM KING
501 G Street Northwest
Ramen Restaurant

**HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE
MARKET**
410 7th Street Northwest
Barbecue Restaurant

Architectural Vocabulary

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

Arched Window a curved or pointed structural element that is supported at its sides.

Bay any division between vertical lines or planes on the outside of a building.

Belt Course a continuous layer or row of stones or brick set in a horizontal line on an exterior wall at window sill level.

Clerestory a high section of a wall that contains a window above eye-level for the purposes of letting in light and fresh air.

Colonnade a row of columns holding up a roof.

Column a structural element that transmits the weight from above to other structural elements. A **Doric Column** is a grooved, thick and unornamented column. An **Ionic Column** is a classical column characterized by a scroll-shaped piece and sometime a frieze at the top. A **Corinthian Column** is topped with carved scrolls, acanthus leaves and other decorations.

Cornice a horizontal molded shelf crowning a building. A corbeled cornice is supported by a decorative piece of stone, wood or metal jutting from a wall that helps keep it in place.

Dentils small rectangular blocks that suggest a row of teeth.

Dormer a small structure that projects from a sloping roof, with a window in the façade face.

Entablature the upper part of a Classical order comprising architrave, frieze, and cornice.

Frieze a horizontal band, running along the upper portion of a wall that is decorated with sculpture, moldings or paintings.

Gargoyle a grotesque carved human or animal face, often sticking out from the gutter of a building's roof.

Hood an arched piece placed above the top part of a window or door that is frequently very decorated.

Keystone the wedge-shaped stone piece at the top of a masonry arch. It is the final piece placed during construction and locks all the stones into position, allowing the arch or vault to bear weight.

Mansard Roof a four-sided, double-sloped roof, where the lower slope is steeper than the upper slope. The lower slope is typically punctuated by dormer windows.

Pantheon a temple dedicated to all the gods of a people, religion or nation.

Pilaster used to give the appearance of a supporting column and to articulate an extent of wall, with only an ornamental function.

Portico a small entrance porch. A *Hexastyle Portico* is a porch with six columns.

Quoins stones or masonry that form the exterior corner of two walls.

Rusticated base a stonework wall where the parts facing out are carved to look rugged.

Symmetrical made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis. Asymmetrical facades are made up of dissimilar parts.

Tableaux a group of motionless figures representing a scene from a story or history.

Terracotta fired ceramic clay used in architectural wall elements or ornaments.

Tympanum triangular surface enclosed by a pediment, or the semicircle above an arched doorway.

Vousoir a wedge-shaped stone used in the construction of an arch or vault.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Art Deco also called the style moderne, movement in the decorative arts and architecture originated in the 1920s and developed into a major style in western Europe and the U.S. during the 1930s.

Greek Revival inspired by the architecture of ancient Greek monuments, this style features asymmetrical, formal shapes.

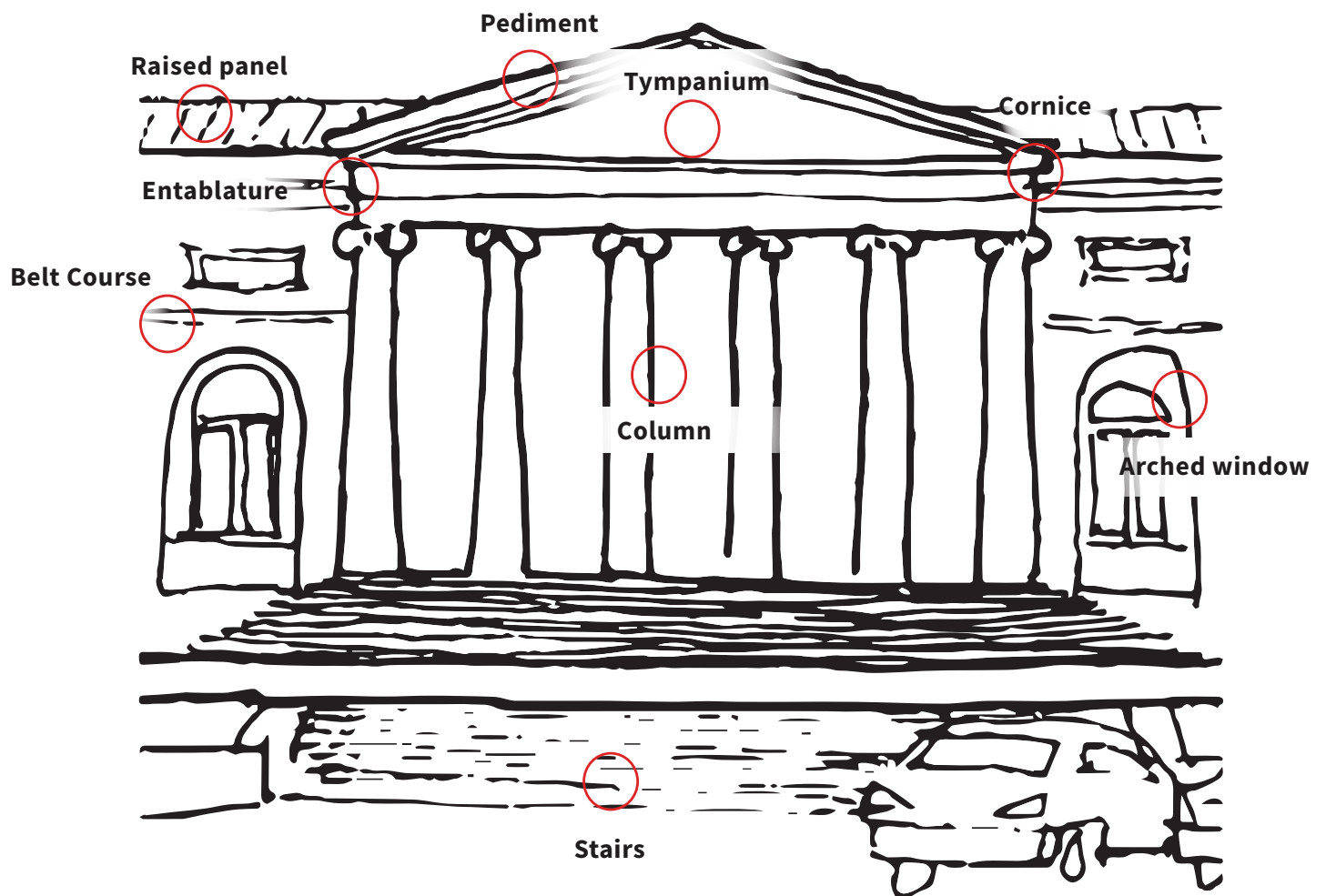
Italianate based on Italian country villas, this style became widely used in American urban row houses by the end of the 19th Century.

Neoclassical is characterized by grandeur of scale, simplicity of geometric forms, Greek or Roman detail, dramatic use of columns, and a preference for blank walls. The new taste for antique simplicity represented a general reaction to the excesses of the Rococo style.

Renaissance Revival This style covers many 19th Century architectural approaches inspired by Italian rather than Greek or Gothic examples.

Architectural Vocabulary

Want to speak like an architect? Try to find a few of these building elements at each tour stop you visit!



Conversation Starters (Sample Answers)

Strike up a conversation with your group! At the end of each tour stop page you will find discussion questions that you can use as conversation starters.

1 OLD CITY HALL (DC COURT OF APPEALS)

Q: What kinds of offices are most often found in a City Hall building?

A: *City council and administration, mayor's office, marriage licenses, sometimes even a jail.*

2 PENSION BUILDING (NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM)

Q: What did people do to cool down inside before there were air conditioners?

A: *Fans blowing on blocks of ice, ceiling fans, windows with cross-ventilation, awnings to protect from the sun, etc.*

3 ORIENTAL BUILDING ASSOCIATION

Q: What makes an apartment building efficient?

A: *Easy coming and going, elevators, good heating and cooling, soundproofing, lots of windows, etc.*

4 THE HECHT COMPANY BUILDING

Q: Do you know of any businesses that started small and then spread to become really big?

A: *McDonald, Starbucks, Sears, etc.*

5 OLD PATENT OFFICE BUILDING (NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY & SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM)

Q: What makes the inside of a museum someplace that you want to be, other than the exhibits?

A: *High ceilings, places to sit down, curving walls, lots of different rooms, etc...*

6 LE DROIT BUILDING

Q: There are so many ways to make a window stand out. What are some of your favorites?

A: *Awnings, window box gardens, window bird feeders, things hanging in the window, stained glass, etc.*

7 INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Q: Some buildings look like a layer cake. Can you imagine a building looking like another kind of dessert? How could it look like that dessert?

A: *Round flat building where the outside walls slant up and away like a pie tin, with a wedge cut out of it where the entrance is — an igloo that looks like a scoop of ice-cream or a snow-cone— A tall building all of glass where you can see different layers inside like a parfait — etc.*

Thanks for taking the Penn Quarter tour. Let's get started! If you print the children's edition, your kids can also follow along with their own fun activities.

TOUR
STOP

01

Old City Hall

(DC Court of Appeals)

430 E Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

GENIUS, PATIENCE AND AN UNFORGETTABLE SISTER

Breaking the barrier between working for other architects and getting a commission of your own can be tough. George Hadfield, who supervised construction of no less than the U.S. Capitol building itself, wasn't even paid for his designs for the Department of the Treasury (though they were also used for the Departments of State, Navy and War). It was just part of his job as a supervisor of construction.

Luckily his sister Maria Hadfield Cosway used her influence (some say Thomas Jefferson had a crush on her) to help get him his first building – a jail in Judiciary Square. Hadfield then skyrocketed with brilliant designs for the Marine Corps Barracks, the fancy Willard Hotel, and George Washington's step-grandson's palatial Arlington House.

Though Hadfield's initial design for City Hall was considered too expensive, his revision won the competition in 1820 and today many architects believe it is one of the most perfect buildings ever designed.

SPACE FOR THE FAMOUS AND FOR THE INFAMOUS

To be able to pay for its completion, Old City Hall rented out its space to a variety of offices and courts. Frederick Douglass worked here as Recorder of Deeds. President James Garfield's assassin was convicted here, as was the failed assassin of President Andrew Jackson. And John Surratt was tried here for conspiracy in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

BEFORE THERE WAS A LINCOLN MEMORIAL...

Part of the perfection of this building, along with its hexastyle portico and six symmetrical Ionic columns, is an 1868 tribute to the master of civic balance himself, Abraham Lincoln. Lott Flannery's sculpture was the very first public monument to honor the fallen leader. How else do you see our 16th president's name and likeness communicated across our country?



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Why do you think that sometimes simple is just more powerful than fancy in the way a building looks?



INTERESTING FACT

Architect George Hadfield also patented America's first brick-and-tile-making machine.

For more information when you get home, Google: "DC Court of Appeals," "George Hadfield architect," "Arlington House," "Frederick Douglass," "Sam Houston," "Charles J. Guiteau assassin," "President Andrew Jackson," "Francis Scott Key," and "John Surratt conspirator."

NEXT STOP

Pension Building (National Building Museum)
401 F Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

If you print the children's edition, your kids can also follow along with their own fun activities.

TOUR
STOP

02

Pension Building

(National Building Museum)

401 F Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

MEET THE MAJESTIC

Buildings don't get more monumental than this masterpiece. An actual football field could fit inside its 316' long, 116' wide, and (gulp!) 159' high Great Hall. Yet for all its pomp (19 presidential inaugural balls have taken place here), the circumstances of creating it were practical. After the Civil War, the federal government decided to provide pensions to hundreds of thousands of veterans and their widows and orphans. With a staff of more than 1,500 needed to make this happen, the space had to be big.

Montgomery C. Meigs, who was the architect for Arlington National Cemetery, created this fireproof 15,000,000 brick colossus. Going against Washington tradition, he built in the more colorful Italian Renaissance style. Some critics called it "Meigs' Old Red Barn."

Today, the building is very appropriately home to the National Building Museum. What better place to tell the story of construction than one of the architectural marvels of the world?

A VERY COOL PLACE TO BE

As an engineer Meigs also knew that his building had to be comfortable to the thousands of people who would come there. Ground level windows pulled in cool air which, as it heated, rose through the great hall up and out clerestories (windows near the roof). Also the stairway steps were made extra deep and wide to accommodate wounded veterans' crutches.

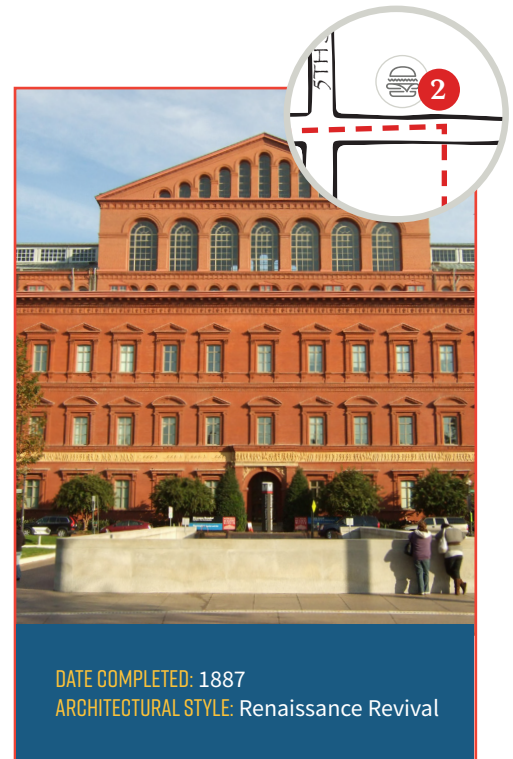
LET'S NOT FORGET THE OUTSIDE

As former Quartermaster in charge of all the food and supplies for the Union Army, Meigs wanted to acknowledge all the roles that led to victory. So the magnificent, 1,200-foot, wrap-around terracotta frieze he had sculpted by Caspar Buberi even depicts supply wagons. With 1,300 individuals displayed, there had to be duplicates. How many can you spot?



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What group of people is the government serving more and more of these days?
What would be an appropriate and respectful way to design and decorate the outside of a building dedicated to that work? How about the inside?



DATE COMPLETED: 1887
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Renaissance Revival

INTERESTING FACT

The eight enormous Corinthian columns inside, which are among the tallest in the world, are actually made of brick. They're just painted to look like marble.

For more information when you get home, Google: "Montgomery C. Meigs," "Quartermaster," "Arlington National Cemetery," and "Caspar Buberi."

NEXT STOP

Oriental Building Association

600 F Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

If you print the children's edition, your kids can also follow along with their own fun activities.

TOUR
STOP

03

Oriental Building Association

600 F Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

PLANTING THE IMMIGRANT FLAG

The Oriental Building Association was created by Germans who made a home in DC. This bustling city center was a magnet for European immigrants throughout the 1800s and foreign-born business-people could have a terrible time getting loans for construction. With this institution offering credit to customers and allowing them to combine their resources on construction, more homes and businesses boomed.

The architect who designed this beautiful, five-story building was German himself. After studying in Stuttgart, Albert Goenner worked in New York, specializing in “modern and efficient apartment houses” in an age when stacked, multi-unit living was a totally new thing. In fact, some people say that Goenner introduced the apartment building to DC. And though this is a business building, it looks like it could just as easily have had very comfy apartments.

But a business it stayed, and not just for the short term. The Oriental Building Association (later known as the OBA bank), constructed in 1909, did business all the way until 2008 as the longest-running savings and loan in the nation. And despite all the modern structures crowding in around it doesn't look like it's going to be budging anytime soon.

STURDY CAN BE PURDY

This historic structure, designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, is not exactly sleek. It's a little short, a little stout, but it still radiates sophistication and beauty. What first floor features do you think add “class” to the street-level here? If you were to add one more, what would it be?

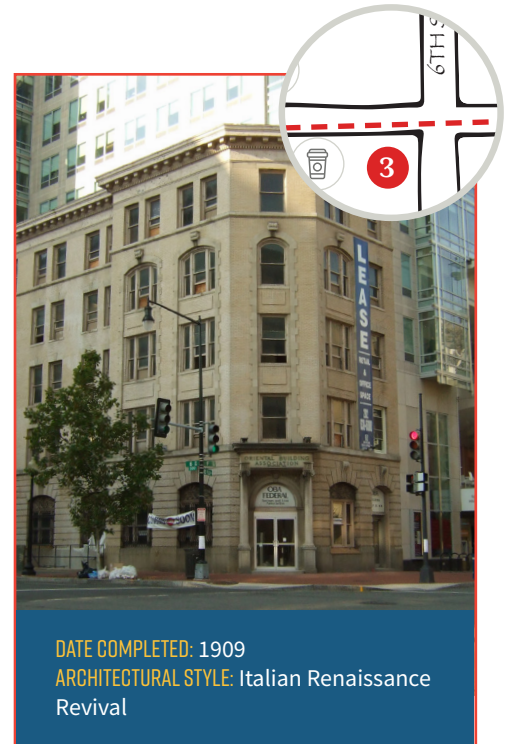
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

People have long tried to figure out why European immigrants would set up the “Oriental Building Association.” The closest that anyone has come to unraveling this mystery is the discovery that some of the founders may have belonged to Oriental Lodge No. 19 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What country did your ancestors come from when they came to the United States? Was their journey voluntary or forced? Did they have a sense of connection with others from their home country? How did they try to help them?



INTERESTING FACT

Part of downtown's character from the mid-19th to the early 20th century derived from its German immigrant population. The German business community was based primarily upon the sale of dry goods, groceries, and jewelry; other retailing; and financial services. Prominent German retailers included the Lansburgh brothers of department store fame, Saks & Company, and Hecht's.

For more information when you get home, Google: “Albert Goenner architect,” “the Independent Order of Odd Fellows” and “Immigrants Washington DC.”

NEXT STOP

The Hecht Company Building

7th & F Streets Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

If you print the children's edition, your kids can also follow along with their own fun activities.

TOUR
STOP

04

The Hecht Company Building

7th & F Streets Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

A DIFFERENT KIND OF STORE OPENING

From the time Sam Hecht, Jr. first opened a used furniture store in Baltimore in 1857, expansion was the name of the game. More products and more locations run by more family made it a growing enterprise.

When Hecht's original store moved to this glass and marble Art Deco Penn Quarter location in 1925, it served all the customers who lived in its racially diverse neighborhood. That was important during the era of segregation. Hecht's posted newspaper ads for National Brotherhood Week in 1951 showing black and white hands clasped in solidarity. But Hecht's lunch counter, where people of color were not served, told a different story.

By this time, Hecht's had expanded with a modernist addition to fill an entire block. It had installed the first department store elevator – the first store parking lot – and yet there was that lunch counter. In July of 1951, an interracial group of civil rights activists picketed right where you're standing now, and by the new year, Hecht's announced that the entire store was open to all. Today, it's been renovated as offices and renamed Terrell Place, in honor of the civil rights leader Mary Church Terrell who led those 1951 protests.

ART DECO

Art Deco style (from the French Arts Decoratifs) started in the 1920s and flourished until World War II influencing the design of everything from couches, to coffee cups, to cars, to construction. Sleek lines, geometric shapes, and rich ornamentation were its trademarks. A great example of Art Deco style is New York's Chrysler Building.

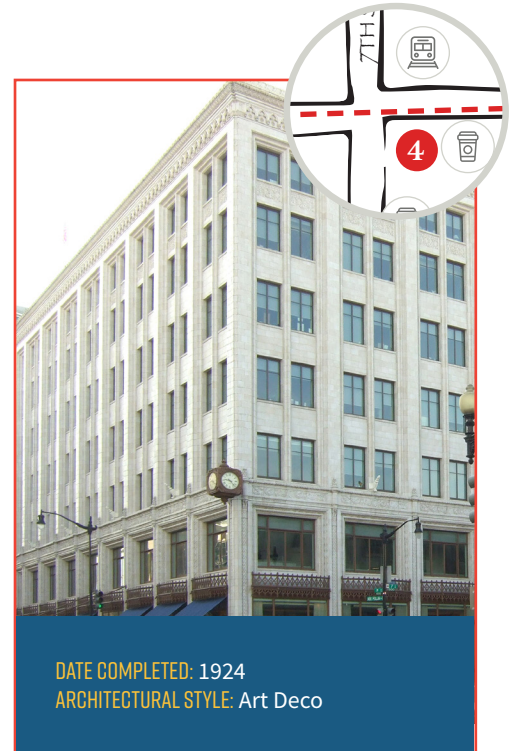
THE WROUGHT IRON JUNGLE

One classic deco-decoration is the use of animals as ornamentation. This has its roots in both the heraldry (family flags crests) and gargoyles (grotesque carved waterspouts) of the Middle Ages. Hecht's has its own animal emblems worked into the grillwork right above you. What are they and why do you think they were chosen?



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Forget the food courts. Which do you actually like better, mall department stores or downtown department stores? Why?



DATE COMPLETED: 1924

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Art Deco

INTERESTING FACT

The Hecht Company Warehouse building, to the south at 1401 New York Avenue NE, is in the Streamlined Moderne style (a later version Art Deco) with sleek horizontal lines that look like it could have inspired the creation of Lego.

For more information when you get home, Google: "Hecht Company," "Mary Church Terrell," "Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms," "Chrysler Building," "Segregated Lunch Counters," and "National Brotherhood Week."

NEXT STOP

Old Patent Office Building (National Portrait Gallery & Smithsonian Art Museum)

8th & F Streets Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

If you print the children's edition, your kids can also follow along with their own fun activities.

TOUR
STOP

05

Old Patent Office Building

(National Portrait Gallery & Smithsonian American Art Museum)

8th & F Streets Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

A DIFFERENT KIND OF PANTHEON

Pierre L'Enfant may have been disappointed that this geographical midpoint wasn't a temple to American heroes, but in a way it was. The double row of stately Doric columns and perfectly proportioned portico make it look like an ancient Greek temple. But for its original use, it had to house a miniature, working model of every device submitted for patent. So architect Robert Mills had to build big – encompassing an entire city block with construction that took 31 years to complete.

This pantheon gave honor by housing Union soldiers in its triple-decker bunks among the display cases. It also housed heirlooms from American history like the Declaration of Independence and George Washington's Revolutionary War field tent – even Benjamin Franklin's printing press. In a way the office became America's first national museum.

So it made sense that after all the inventions were moved to the new Smithsonian, when some people wanted to knock this building down to make a parking lot, President Eisenhower gave the space to the Smithsonian as a home for its American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery.

HOLD YOUR FIRE!

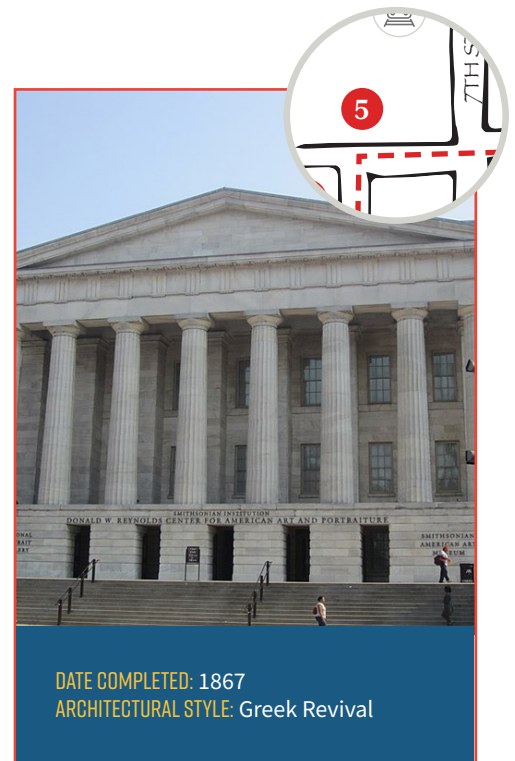
During the War of 1812, the British were burning DC's government buildings. Luckily, the Patent Office's original location was in an old hotel and its boss, William Thornton, convinced the Brits that it wasn't right to torch "private property" – let alone the inventors' private property inside.

When the hotel later burned down in peacetime because of a worker's accident, Mills knew the next home had to more fireproof. Arched supporting vaults inside made all-stone construction possible. What other features help make a building fireproof?



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What famous invention would you most like to see the original model of?



INTERESTING FACT

Some famous folks walked these halls before they filled with art. President Abraham Lincoln held his Inaugural Ball here in 1865, before the Pension Office became party central. Before her legendary life as a Civil War nurse, Red Cross founder Clara Barton served as a patent clerk here and was the first female federal employee to receive equal pay.

For more information when you get home, Google: "Pierre L'Enfant," "Robert Mills," "William Thornton," "Fireproof Buildings," "National Portrait Gallery glass roof," and "War of 1812."

NEXT STOP

Le Droit Building

800-812 F Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

If you print the children's edition, your kids can also follow along with their own fun activities.

TOUR
STOP

06

Le Droit Building

800-812 F Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

SMALL TOWN / BIG CITY

America's Main Street was still just a main street. As imposing and monumental as our Nation's Capital might be, it also didn't want to stray too far from the sleepy, small town it originally was. When James McGill built the LeDroit Office Building in 1875, he wanted it to look like a structure you could find in Anytown, USA – only maybe a little more gorgeous.

This beauty gave workspace to many of the patent lawyers who worked across the street at the Patent Office – it had a stationery store where they could get the paper for their briefs – and it had a barber downstairs, so they could look their best when they went to make their cases. Its raised basement, its high first floor windows with pilasters in between (think pillars made of plaster), its multitude of mini pediments, its incredible cornices (lower and upper), and oh, those snazzy second and third story window hoods all make it fit together like a designer's dream.

Critics and scholars have said that “the hierarchy of the building's parts reinforce composition” and its “rhythmic fenestration” (translation = flow of its windows) make it a joy to behold. It's almost like the alternating pattern of single and triple windows – or the colonnade sequence of single and double pilasters -- or spaced series of brackets along the tablature running under its roof cornices -- all spell out some kind of secret code.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Visually, what makes a building seem to fit together? What kinds of things need to be in harmony?

This Italianate-style structure provides the perfect opportunity to test your architectural identification skills. You have five pressurized minutes to count the following: Triangular Pediments – Curved Pediments – Thin Pilasters – Thick Pilasters – Triple Hooded Windows – Single Hooded Windows – Entablature Brackets – Door Bays – Window Bays. How many did you come up with?



DATE COMPLETED: 1875
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Italianate

INTERESTING FACT

The Le Droit Building got its name from Amzi L. Barber “The Asphalt King,” a former teacher-turned-banker-turned-real-estate-developer who financed James McGill's design. He named it after his father-in-law, J. Le Droit Langdon (also a real estate developer) but left out the c because he thought it sounded more French. What does Le Droit mean in French? (the right)

For more information when you get home, Google: “James McGill architect,” and “Amzi L. Barger”.

NEXT STOP

Independent Order of Odd Fellows
421 7th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

If you print the children's edition, your kids can also follow along with their own fun activities.

TOUR
STOP

07

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

(District Architecture Center)

421 7th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

LAYER CAKE WITH LEGACY

It almost looks like three buildings stacked on top of each other. Floors 1-2 have that street shop-window retail look. Floors 3-5 sit under a mysterious “IOOF Temple” sign. And floors 6-7 top it all with four fine windows peeking out from its Mansard style roof. Cornices make the dividing lines. It wasn’t always like that.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows first put a basic “Classical Revival” style building here of brick and granite in 1845. It got gussied up and expanded to “Second Empire” style in 1872 with a long balcony, fancy window hoods (like the last building we looked at), and three bulging Mansard roofs that looked more like crowns. Inside it featured a huge hall (they actually called it a saloon) measuring 42’ by 70’ with a 20’ ceiling that made it one of DC’s most popular places for entertainment.

In 1917, architect William S. Plager toned it down to what we see today as Neoclassical style - a little new (like all those huge windows) and a little old (like the Mansard roof and those classic cornices). And while the Odd Fellows still keep offices on the top two floors, the first is fittingly the home of District Architecture Center.

NOT SO ODD?

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (the first fraternity to accept both men and women) still operates on the top two floors of this building – that’s more than 173 years of continual tenancy. The group began in England in 1730 as a

brotherhood of mechanics, and laborers and other odd jobs who were oddly dedicated to social causes – they created the first orphanages and homes for the elderly.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Among the organizations, stores, businesses near where you live, what is the longest running that you can think of?



DATE COMPLETED: 1917
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Neoclassical

INTERESTING FACT

Among the old-time entertainments that played the Odd Fellows Hall were (a drum roll, please)...

- John “The Wizard” Wyman Jr. of the famed bullet-catch
- Signor Antonia Blitz and his “learned canary birds”
- Doctor Coillyer’s Model Artistes who posed together to recreate famous paintings

For more information when you get home, Google: “William S. Plager architect” and “District Architecture Center”

You’ve completed the tour! Thanks for taking us along.

As you head home you can use these final conversation starters to wrap up the experience: *What do these buildings and their history tell you about Washington, DC? Was there anything that surprised you about what you learned and experienced today?*

What's Next?

Are you still looking for more to do? Visit some of the locations below that are in the Penn Quarter neighborhood!

The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery

A historic art museum, founded in 1962 and opened to the public in 1968.

Located at 8th Street NW & F Street NW

The Smithsonian American Art Museum

Established in 1829, is home to one of the largest and most inclusive collections of American art in the world.

Located at 8th Street NW & F Street NW

The Smithsonian Museums and the National Gallery of Art on the National Mall are just a few blocks away, between Independence and Constitutions Avenues, NW, running from the Capitol Building to 15th Street, NW.

Ford's Theatre

Opened in August 1863, this was the site of the assassination of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865.

Located at 511 10th Street NW, Washington, DC 20004

Chinatown Friendship Archway

In 1986, the District of Columbia dedicated the Friendship Archway, a traditional Chinese structure designed by architect Alfred H. Liu in the style of Ming and Qing Dynasties gates. The archway has seven cantilevered roofs put together without nails in the ancient Chinese tradition of Dougong. The gate is 60 feet high with over 7000 glazed tiles and 280 painted dragons. Built to celebrate the friendship between Washington, D.C. and its sister city of Beijing, China, it is the largest single-span archway of its type in the world.

Located at H Street, NW between 6th and 7th Streets, NW

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library – Central Library

When German-born architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe presented his designs for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in February 1966, D.C. Public Library director Harry Peterson said, "This is the most functional, the most beautiful, and most dramatic library building in the United States, if not in the world."

Located at 901 G Street, NW

Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum

By the time the office closed in 1868, Clara Barton and her staff had identified the fate of over 22,000 men. Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office went covered up for 130 years and was rediscovered by Richard Lyons of the General Services Administration in 1996, when the building was scheduled for demolition.

Located at 437 7th Street NW

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

The names of more than 20,000 law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty are carved on long, blue-gray marble walls

at this park-like memorial. Statues of lions and their cubs at four corners of the site represent the protective nature of those who serve.

Located at 450 F Street NW

Victorian Temperance Fountain

In the 1880s, when the temperance movement was going strong, a booze-hating dentist named Henry D. Cogswell erected a tiny stone pavilion capped with a statue of a crane. It once featured a water fountain, now, dry, to encourage teetotaling.

Located at 7th Street and Indiana Avenue, NW

Sixth and I Historic Synagogue

Constructed by the Adas Israel Congregation and dedicated on January 8, 1908, near what was then the main commercial district in town and the center of the Jewish community in Washington, Sixth & I is a hybrid center for arts, entertainment, and ideas and a synagogue that reimagines how religion and community can enhance people's everyday lives. It is one of the oldest synagogues in the city.

Located at 600 I St NW

United States Navy Memorial

Designed by architects Conklin Rossant of New York and dedicated in October 1987, the memorial honors those who have served or are currently serving in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marine.

Located at 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

National Museum of Women in the Arts

"The only major museum in the world solely dedicated" to celebrating women's achievements in the visual, performing, and literary arts, the museum purchased the former Masonic Temple in 1987. Initially drafted by architect Waddy B. Wood, the main building was completed in 1908 in an effort to bring the City Beautiful movement to Washington, D.C. Notably, Wood was recognized as being especially supportive of women architects during his lifetime.

Located at 1250 New York Avenue NW (at 13th Street, NW)

JOIN THE COMMUNITY!

Use our hashtag #AIAWalkingTours on Twitter and Instagram to share your pictures and experience with the AIA community!

Send us your feedback!

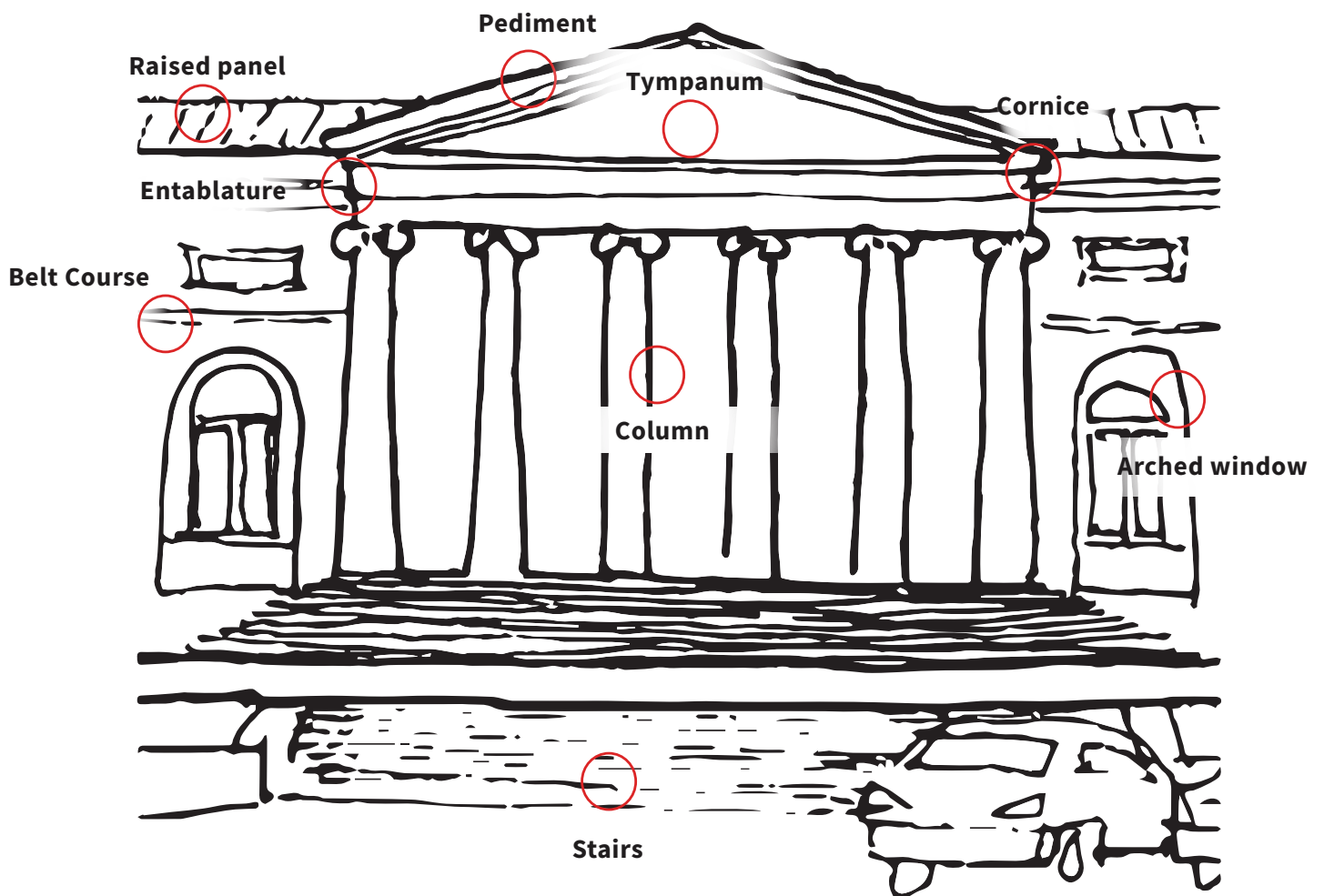
We encourage you to tell us about your experience using this children's architecture tour, what worked really well and how we can make it even better, as well as other neighborhoods you'd like to visit. Please email your comments to Katherine Adams (kadams@aiaadc.com) or Mary Fitch (mfitch@aiaadc.com) at the Washington Architectural Foundation.

CHILDREN'S EDITION STARTS HERE

All pages printed in landscape format are for your children to follow along during the tour.

Architectural Vocabulary

Want to speak like an architect? Try to find a few of these building elements at each tour stop you visit!





Old City Hall

(DC Court of Appeals)

Monuments are statues, buildings, or other structures that commemorate a famous or notable person or event. Below are three examples of local monuments that include statues of notable Americans. See if you can identify the names of these notable figures.

MONUMENTS OF HISTORICAL FIGURES



A.



B.



C.

Answers: A. Martin Luther King Jr. B. Abraham Lincoln C. Thomas Jefferson

Pension Building

(National Building Museum)

When you think of a football field, "big" is usually the word that comes to mind. Well, the Pension Building can actually fit one inside it's Great Hall. Due to its large dimensions the Pension building has hosted more than 19 presidential inaugural balls. That's a big deal! Follow along with your tour guide's edition and connect the pictures below to this location's history.

FIRST INAUGURAL BALL FOR PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND WAS HELD IN 1885

Pension Building (National Building Museum)



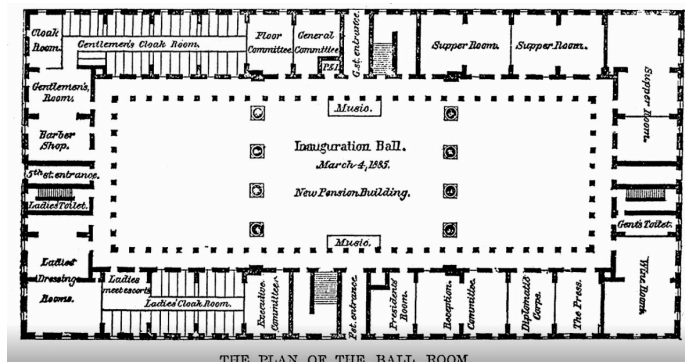
VS.

INAUGURAL BALLS OF TODAY

Pension Building (National Building Museum)



What's the same? What's different?



PENSION BUILDING FLOOR PLAN DURING GROVER CLEVELAND'S INAUGURAL BALL

Oriental Building Association

Date building was completed: _____

Architectural Style (ex. *Victorian*): _____

VOCABULARY

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

Arched Windows a curved or pointed structural element that is supported at its sides.

Dentils small rectangular blocks that suggest a row of teeth.

Keystone the wedge-shaped stone piece at the top of a masonry arch.

Quoins stones or masonry that form the exterior corner of two walls.

NOTES

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS BUILDING?

ACTIVITY

FILL IN THE BLANKS!

Find the architectural elements from the list on the left and circle them in the picture below.



BONUS

INTERESTING FACT:

Until 2008 the Oriental building was used for what?

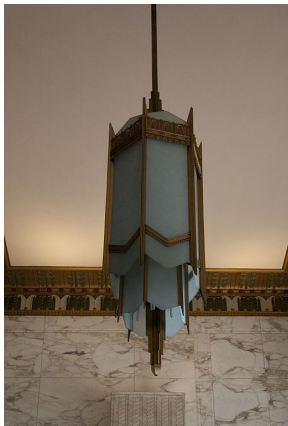
The Hecht Company Building

As with most architectural periods the styles extend far beyond just buildings. These style have inspired everything from clothing to furniture. The Hecht Company Building was built in Art Deco style. Below are some examples of art deco in the wild.

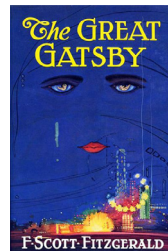
BUILDINGS



MOTIFS AND DECOR



PRINT, PAINTINGS, AND POSTERS



WOMEN'S FASHION



Old Patent Office Building

(National Portrait Gallery & Smithsonian American Art Museum)

Columns and porticoes are not only synonymous with Greek temples. These elements are very popular in the Washington, D.C. area and can be spotted in a number of different buildings. Below list some of the similarities and differences that you notice between an actual Greek temple and one of the buildings on the tour.

SECOND TEMPLE OF HERA

Paestum, Campania, Italy



OLD PATENT OFFICE BUILDING (BACK)

Washington, D.C.



SIMILARITIES

DIFFERENCES

SIMILARITIES

DIFFERENCES

Le Droit Building

Think of the different types of buildings that exist in your town. What are some common buildings you can find in any town? For example; the post office, the courthouse, or the school. Write what those buildings are below and draw an example of your favorite town building.

COMMON TOWN BUILDINGS

IMAGINE IT. DRAW IT!

Draw an example of your favorite town building.

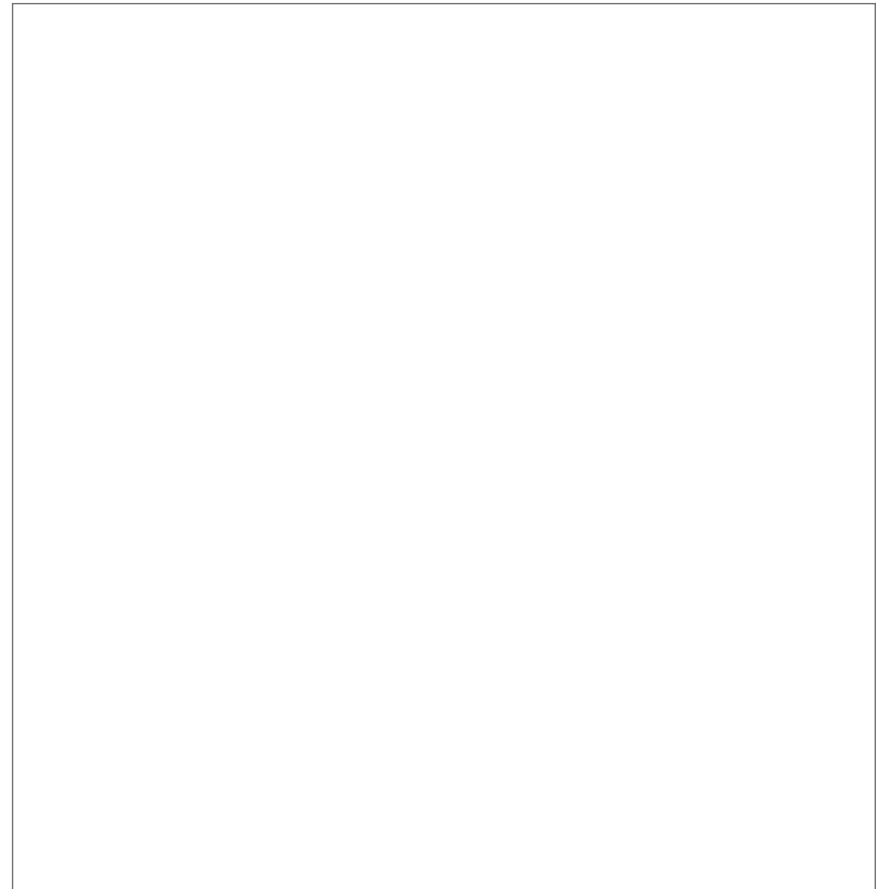
- 1

- 2

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- 4

- 5



Independent Order of Odd Fellows

(District Architecture Center)

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is built from brick and granite as are most DC buildings. But that isn't the only material that is used throughout the city and the world. Match the type of building material with the building below.

BUILDING MATERIALS



Brick



Log



Stucco



Aluminium

FILL IN THE BANK

Write on the each line the correct material to each corresponding building.



A.



B.



C.



D.

Answers: A. Stucco. B. Log C. Aluminium D. Brick