Historic Preservation

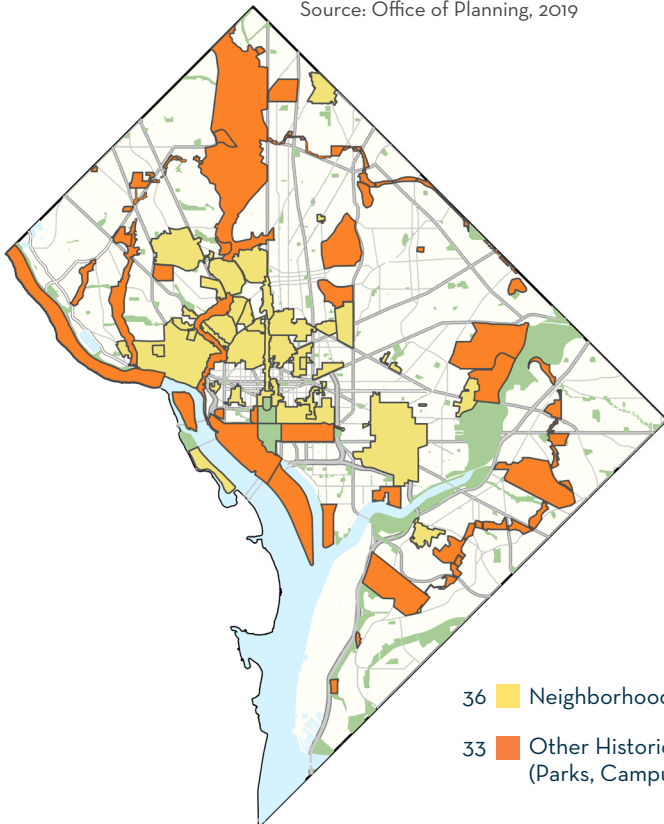*Element Summary: 10-Hp*

GOAL

Preserve and enhance the unique cultural heritage, beauty, and identity of the District of Columbia by respecting the historic physical form of the city and the enduring value of its historic structures and places, sharing responsibility for their protection and stewardship, and through planning leadership, ensuring their perpetuation for the benefit of the citizens of the District and the nation.

CONTENTS

- **HP-1 Planning for Historic Properties:** emphasizes the need for coordinated planning to guide the District's historic preservation programs.
- **HP-2 Protecting and Enhancing Historic Properties:** provides guidance for the review system that safeguards landmarks and encourages sensitive rehabilitation and new construction in historic areas.
- **HP-3 Expanding Preservation Knowledge:** supports engagement in local history programs that increase appreciation of the District's diverse cultural heritage.
- **HP-4 Investing in Historic Assets:** encourages revitalized communities and preservation of affordable housing through investments in repair and adaptation of historic buildings.

Historic Districts

Source: Office of Planning, 2019

36 ▦ Neighborhood Historic Districts

33 ▦ Other Historic Districts (Parks, Campuses, Military)

14th St and U St NW - Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation

Element Summary: 10-HP

SUMMARY OF MAJOR POLICY THEMES

Planning for Preservation

- Maintain a comprehensive historic preservation plan, designed to engage residents and inspire District communities, organizations, and individuals to action.
- Maintain Ward Heritage Guides with information and analysis that supports preservation planning and awareness at the ward level.
- Recognize a diversity of culture and identity to support a more equitable understanding of the District's heritage.
- Ensure that the views of property owners, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, neighborhood organizations, and the public are solicited and given careful consideration in the designation process.

Protecting Historic Places

- Ensure that building renovations and new development respect and enhance the architectural character of historic landmarks and districts through preservation protections.
- Apply historic preservation standards and guidelines consistently, thoughtfully, and appropriately to the circumstances and practical constraints of specific situations.
- Recognize and protect the District's significant landscapes as historic features in their own right, or as contributing features of historic landmarks and districts.
- Make archaeological artifacts and data visible to the public. Maintain public access to collections, use artifacts, and information as educational tools, and treat artifacts as objects of cultural interest.
- Develop resilient design principles for historic and cultural resources.

Expanding Public Knowledge

- Support the cultural economy by reinforcing the District's cultural heritage as a source of inspiration that engages residents and communities.
- Make information about local history and historic resources widely available to the public on the Internet and through both traditional and new media.
- Enable longtime residents and institutions to serve as guardians of memory about historic sites by making places and stories more vivid and accessible as a means to appreciate our history.
- Enhance existing heritage tourism programs by celebrating the cultural history of the District.

Investing in Historic Assets

- Support stable property values and neighborhood attractivness for residents and businesses through continual investment in the city's architectural heritage.
- Retain and enhance existing affordable housing units in older housing stock, including historic buildings through historic preservation.
- Maintain grant programs and tax relief measures for low-income homeowners and low-income senior homeowners faced with rising assessments and the cost of maintaining older and historic homes.
- Support initiatives for workforce development in artisan trades and traditional construction crafts that support preservation and repair of historic architecture.