

African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC

Nomination Criteria

Cultural Tourism DC and the DC Historic Preservation Office welcome nominations to the *African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC* searchable database at www.CulturalTourismDC.org.

The African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC, Advisory Committee judges all submissions for suitability. The committee is composed of historians and other specialists from numerous Washington, DC educational and cultural institutions and Washingtonians with a special interest in African American history. The committee selects new sites for posting to the African American Heritage Trail database year-round.

The Advisory Committee chooses sites based on their ability to convey stories of African American history and culture in Washington, DC, or stories of national history. The committee gives priority for inclusion to buildings or landscapes that still exist in their historic form and can be visited or viewed from the exterior. However, buildings that have been razed or otherwise significantly changed are still considered if they are well documented. In addition, the committee looks for sites that:

- represent a “first,” such as a first school or church;
- are associated with a person, event, issue, or place of local and/or national importance;
- have multiple meanings or uses that convey the African American experience; and
- are geographically diverse within the boundaries of Washington, DC.

Please note that the *African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC* does not include sites related to people who are still living. Without exception, the committee will not consider sites where the associated historically significant person has not been deceased for at least ten years at the time of nomination. Also, a building bearing the name of an historic figure but is otherwise not historically significant will not be included. Please consult the *African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC* searchable database before submitting your nomination.

Checklist

In order to be considered for inclusion on the *African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC*, the individual and/or group associated with a specific site must be:

1. A Washingtonian (individual or group) of significance who has lived or worked within the boundaries of Washington, DC during a pivotal or formative period; OR
2. A non-Washingtonian (individual or group) of national or international reputation whose time in DC represented a significant period, in time or importance, within the entirety of their life and work.

If no individual or organized group is associated with a site, but a significant event took place there, the event must be demonstrably important to Washington, DC, or national history.

In addition, ONE of the following criteria must be met:

- a. There are reasonable grounds for believing that the nominee is regarded as eminent by a majority of members of his or her own profession, calling, or community;
- b. The nominee has made some important positive contribution to human welfare or happiness.
- c. The nominee's contribution is unique or exceptional.
- d. The nominee shall have been such an exceptional and outstanding personality that the well-informed passer-by immediately recognizes his or her name.
- e. The nominated event shall be of considerable significance in DC or national history.

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Nomination Form

Nominations may be submitted at any time. The *African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC* Advisory Committee reviews them throughout the year.

To nominate a site associated with an individual or group, please provide the following information. Feel free to attach additional material on separate sheets or email information to the address below.

Site Address _____

Name of Individual or Group Associated with Site _____

For individuals only: **Date of Birth** _____ **Date of Death** _____

Historical Significance (On a separate sheet, please describe how your nomination meets the specific criteria for inclusion in the African American Heritage Trail.)

References (On a separate sheet, please supply three citations to historical documents, books, news clippings, or other written records to support your factual information. Websites may be included if they are affiliated with major educational or other institutions.)

Your Name _____

Your Affiliation, if any _____

Date of Nomination _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _____ **Email** _____

Please return this form to:

African American Heritage Trail Coordinator
DC Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

Questions? Please call (202) or email Kim.Williams@dc.gov