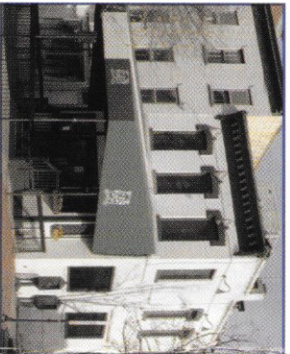


16. 1615 Q St. NW - The Cairo building has been an apartment building, a hotel, a sleazy rooming house and a drag ballroom. In the 60s and early 70s, the building hosted popular after hours parties, drag

shows, and drag balls. For a time, the building was managed by Ken White, a.k.a. Black Pearl, a leading late 60s African-American drag performer and promoter. When built by Thomas Franklin Schneider the building was the tallest in the city and caused consternation in the Fire Department which had no equipment able to reach the top floors (a reason for the later height restrictions on buildings in the city).

17. 1603 17th St. NW - The basement level of the building has housed gay or gay-friendly dining spots since Trumpets first occupied the spot in 1990. In the summer of 1998, Club Chaos opened in the space and quickly became known for the diversity of its clientele and the variety of its evening drag shows.



18. 1519 17th St. NW - From 1948 until 1985, this was the home of Annie's Paramount Steakhouse, a popular dining spot for the Dupont Circle gay community. In 1986, Travis Thorn opened JR's on the site of the first Annie's. That same year, JR's sponsored the first high heel drag race at midnight on Halloween. Twenty-five men raced in drag from JR's to the new Annie's, ran upstairs, drank a shot and ran back down to the street and back to JR's. Clinton Winter won the race and a bottle of

champagne. The race has been run every year since, except in 1992 when police closed the street.

19. 1606 17th St. NW - From 1978 until January 1980, this was the first home of Whitman-Walker Clinic, a gay community health center formed by the merger of the Gay Men's VD Clinic, the Gay Men's Counsel on Drinking and the Gay Men's Counseling Collective. The Gay Women's Health Center joined in November 1978. A funding crisis affecting the VD clinic prompted the creation of Brother, Help Thyself to raise funds in support of the health center.

20. 1736 R St. NW - This rowhouse was the first home of the Washington Area Women's Center, serving women, straight and lesbian, in the area. The popular women's radio program, Sophie's Parlor, found a physical site here as a co-feehouse for women that provided one of the few early woman-friendly performance spaces.



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EAST WASHINGTON Gay DC Walking Tours

EAST DUPONT, from 18th St. to 13th St. NW and from U St. NW to Logan Circle and Thomas Circle, is where gay community centers organized and where Whitman-Walker Clinic has provided healthcare. More recently, East Dupont has become a social center of clubs and restaurants popular with the city's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and queer residents.

The area includes the African-American Strivers neighborhood. In the 1920s, this neighborhood was the locus of Washington's own African-American literary renaissance, a precursor to the Harlem Renaissance. Langston Hughes, Angelina Weld Grimké, Richard Bruce Nugent, and Alain Locke all lived in the area and gathered for Saturday Nighters, a weekly salon at the home of Georgia Douglas Johnson.

The 1972 opening of the Washington Area Women's Center on R Street provided a much needed home for feminist and lesbian support and activities. The Center owed its existence to the work of Washington's feminists who had long sought a gathering place for women. The Center created a coffeehouse, Sophie's Parlor, that provided a rare performance space for women musicians. Meg Christian, Casse Culver and other lesbian artists performed here regularly. Women's businesses also started in the area. The Printer is one such surviving business.

Health and counseling organizations came early. In 1978, the Gay Men's VD Clinic, the Gay Men's Counseling Collective, and other groups combined to form Whitman-Walker Clinic, first located at 1606 17th St. NW. Barbara Lewis and Lauren Taylor organized the first lesbian health services that same year at the Clinic. From its second location on 18th St. NW, the Clinic developed HIV and AIDS diagnostic, medical and support services that became a hallmark of its role in the community.

The first community center, organized by the city's Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), opened on 13th St. NW in March 1972 and lasted just over a year. The center at 1213 - 1219 13th St. NW provided a location for same-sex dances (an important issue in the early 70s), organizational meetings, classes and other services. The cost of operating the center severely strained GAA's finances.

In 1975, the new Washington Area Gay Community Council (WAGCC), an organization of businesses, community organizations and activists, spurred planning for a second center. The second gay community center opened in July 1979 at 1469 Church St. NW. In 1983, the center moved to 1638 R St. and to 1228 17th St. in 1988. Faced with eviction and faltering finances, the second center closed in November 1990.

Both 17th Street between P and S and 18th Street between S and U have been home to a number of popular clubs and restaurants, becoming alternates to Dupont Circle entertainment spots. Paramount Steakhouse, known as Annie's, has been a popular restaurant and after-hours gathering place since the late 1940s. JR's (opened 1986) and Cobalt (1996) added social spaces for the gay community, spurring similar businesses to locate on 17th St. Since 1998, Club Chaos has been a center for drag performances, the Latino/a community, and drag king performers.

1. 2435 18th St. NW - A top floor walk-up apartment was home to Dr. Franklin E Kamenny, co-founder of DC's Mattachine Society, from September 1956 until February 1962. During that time, Dr. Kamenny was hired by Georgetown University, moved to the Army Map Service, was fired from his Army job because of his homosexuality, and went through a period of unemployment. Dr. Kamenny recalls:

"And eventually, in September of '59 ... during that period I was living, ... about eight months in '59, on about twenty cents worth of food a day. Now, twenty cents, again was a lot more money than it is now, but it's still not terribly much. I lost a great deal of weight. I remember going to sleep - I slept on my side so my one knee was resting on the other - and my knees were bony, and it was very uncomfortable. So once in a while, when I was able to afford twenty-five cents, I'd get a great big pat of margarine to put on my potatoes. It was potatoes and frankfurters every day. And it reached a point where I was eating sufficiently little so I became obsessed with food. The whole day would center around dinner time when I could eat. And mixed up a batch of mashed potatoes and a few frankfurters--a frankfurter or two, not a few--and that was it for that day."
Oral history recorded by Dr. David Johnson

2. 2335 18th St. NW - The third home of Whitman-Walker Clinic (November 1980 - 1987) is listed in the Adams Morgan Heritage Trail. Here the Clinic developed many of its AIDS programs, held the first AIDS training for physicians and organized its first 'buddy' programs. Survivors recall that at the height of the AIDS panic of the 80s, some would wait for the anonymity of dusk to mount the steps to Clinic offices.



3. 1803 Florida Ave. NW - The Printer has been a fixture in the community since Tina

Lunson opened the print shop in the 1978. The shop was one of the early lesbian business ventures in the area. The Printer is run by Wendy Melechen who took over the business in 1986.

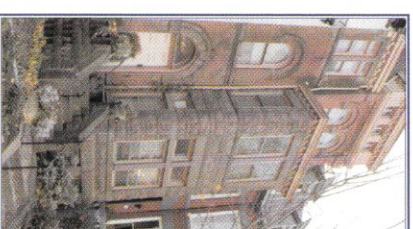
4. 1825 18th St. NW - This was the second home of Whitman-Walker Clinic



(January to November 1980). Unable to afford the rent at its first location, during its first funding crisis, the two year old Clinic moved to this spot in January 1980. The building was partly occupied by the Washington Area Women's Center.

5. 1624 S St. NW - The Skyline Faggots Collective formed in the summer of 1971 when some members of the original Gay Liberation House separated to set up a neighboring collective. The Skyline Faggots were instrumental in producing the 1972 gay men's liberation issue of *Motive* magazine which became a popular text of early gay liberation.

6. 1620 S St. NW - In the summer of 1970, shortly after the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) organized at Grace Episcopal, GLF took over a house used by the antiwar Berrigan brothers. For several years in the early 70s, the collective, known as GLF House, hosted gay liberation raps, religious groups, gay youth groups, and outreach to





the homeless and gay prisoners. Here GLF coordinated its support of the 1970 Black Panthers' Peoples Revolutionary Constitutional Convention, the 1971 Gay Mayday demonstrations, zaps at Catholic University and the American Psychiatric Association, and DC's first Gay Pride in May 1972.



7. 1515 U St. NW - Sisterspace grew out of a book corner in Cassandra Burton's Consignment Boutique on U St. and by 1995 was an independent bookstore. With Faye Williams, Burton turned Sisterspace and Books into one of DC's most popular spots for African-American women, providing discussion and meeting room for women in the community, as well as for books, readings, and concerts. Williams said "This is more than a bookstore ... This is where people come to connect."

8. 1461 S St. NW - Georgia Douglas Johnson's home was the site of Saturday Nighters, an important weekly salon in the early and mid-20s that gathered young innovative African-American writers, poets, and artists, many of them gay, lesbian, or bisexual. The group included Alain Locke whose work promoting the *New Negro* fostered the career of artists such as Langston Hughes and Richard Bruce Nugent. Nugent, Hughes, Angelina Weld Grimké, and Alain Locke all lived within walking distance of Johnson's home.



9. 1407 S St. NW - This is the fourth home of Whitman-Walker Clinic, which moved here in 1987, and the first one owned by the Clinic. The building was larger than 2335 18th St and provided additional space for the growing number of AIDS support services at the Clinic as well as the Lesbian Services Program.

10. 1231 T St. NW - This was the home of Richard Bruce Nugent's grandmother. A native Washingtonian, Nugent lived here from 1924 to 1926. Nugent published the first black gay story, "Smoke, Lilies, and Jade" in *Fire!* the ground-breaking 1926 magazine of Harlem Renaissance artists. Nugent left DC for New York City in 1926, never to return.



11. 1326 R St. NW - Alain Locke, gay 'godfather' to the Harlem and Washington Black Renaissances and professor at Howard University, lived on here from 1918 until his death in 1954. He played an influential role in identifying, supporting and promoting the works of young black artists, among them Langston Hughes, Bruce Nugent, Wallace Thurman and Countee Cullen. As editor of *The New Negro* he promoted the artists, poets, writers, and dramatists of the Black Renaissance of the 1920s.

12. 1213-1219 13th St. - In a warehouse next to a car parking lot, DC's Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), opened the first gay community center in March 1972. Although GAA couldn't fund the center for more than a year (it closed in July 1973), it provided a place for same sex dances, art shows, and meeting space for fledgling community organizations. This first community center made concrete the need for a gay and lesbian meeting and social space.

13. 1406 14th St. NW - From 1970 until the mid-1980s, La Zambra was known as one of the great weekend dance spots, a stop on the party route that included the ClubHouse and Nob Hill. The club was known informally as "Lucy's", after the manager, who reputedly would walk the bar to the delight of the customers. In the early 1980s, the Sapphire Sapphos, an early African-American lesbian group, met at La Zambra.

14. 1415 Corcoran St. NW - Angelina Weld Grimké, African-American poet of bisexuality and lesbianism, a member of the Saturday Nighters at Georgia Douglas Johnson's home, and colleague of many members of the Harlem Renaissance lived here with her father until his death. Grimké taught at Dunbar High School, where Nugent was one of her students. She moved to New York City in 1930.

15. 1469 Church St. NW - This small building opened as the second gay community center in July 1979. For several years there were attempts to recreate a community center following the 1973 closure of the Gay Activists Alliance community center. The Washington Area Gay Community Council began organizing for a new center in 1975. Despite a space smaller than that of the GAA center, the Gay Community Center was large enough for art fairs, same-sex dances and meeting space for community groups. The community center moved twice before closing in November 1990. James Crutchfield headed the center for more than half of the center's life.

