

EAST END/ECKINGTON

NoMa
ECKINGTON
LeDROIT PARK

Boundaries: **North:** Rhode Island Ave.; **East:** railroad tracks; **South:** Massachusetts Ave.; **West:** 7th St. NW

Location: north of Penn Quarter; east of Shaw; south of Howard University; west of Gallaudet University

East End, east of the Verizon Center and overlapping with the eastern part of Shaw, is the focal point of big commercial development in the early 21st century. The new convention center opened here in 2003. National Public Radio is headquartered in the area sometimes called **NoMa** (**N**orth of **M**assachusetts Avenue), and XM Satellite Radio and Black Entertainment Television have headquarters across New York Avenue NE in **Eckington**. A new Metro station on the Red Line (New York Avenue) opened here in 2004 to attract more technology firms. Not coincidentally, McKinley Tech, the District's science magnet high school, is in this neighborhood. To the east is Gallaudet University, the world's first four-year university for the deaf.

West of New Jersey Avenue NW, there are a few residential blocks not yet gentrified, so you may be able to find a good deal on a townhouse; some are in excellent shape despite innocuous-looking exteriors. East of New Jersey Avenue, toward North Capitol Street, are some of the most forlorn blocks in the District, with tracts of decaying public housing barely a 15-minute walk from the Capitol.

If you want to live close to this growing technology hub, or to Gallaudet or Howard or even Children's Hospital and Washington Hospital Center, your best bet may be to look north across Rhode Island Avenue. Plain townhouses are still available for under \$300,000 here, but property values have grown tenfold in the past 40 years and are still going up. For many longtime residents, as the *Washington Post* pointed out in a 2005 profile of the North Capitol corridor, the trouble is that property taxes rise at least as fast as market values.

This is a frontier of light industry and probably the grayest part of town, lacking the wedges of greenspace that frame most of the residential areas. However, north of **LeDroit Park** is the semi-scenic McMillan Reservoir and its eye-catching old waterworks that look like the battlements of a red brick castle.



Online Resources: www.capitalcommunitynews.com/dcnorth.cfr, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eckington>, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mvsna>

Zip Codes: 20001, 20002

Post Offices: LeDroit Park, 416 Florida Ave. NW

Police Station: Police Station: Fifth District Headquarters, 1805 Bladensburg Road NE, 202-727-4510

Emergency Hospital: Howard University Hospital, 2401 Georgia Ave. NW, 202-865-6100

Libraries: Watha T. Daniel, 8th St & Rhode Island Ave. NW, 202-671-0212; Sursum Corda, 1st St. & New York Ave. NW, 202-724-4772

Public High Schools: Dunbar, 1301 New Jersey Ave. NW, 202-673-7233; McKinley Technical, 151 T St. NE, 202-281-3950

Government: Ward 2, School District 1

Community Resources: *Capital City Market*, see **Shopping for the Home**

Public Transportation: Metro: New York Ave. (Red Line), entrance on New York Ave. NE east of Florida Ave.; Rhode Island Ave. (Red Line), entrance on Rhode Island Ave. NE east of 5th St. Metrobus routes: 80 (North Capitol St.); 90-93 (Florida Ave.); P6 (New York Ave.); G8 (Rhode Island Ave.)

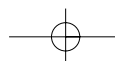
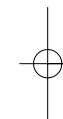
PENN QUARTER

CHINATOWN
JUDICIARY SQUARE

Boundaries: **North:** Massachusetts Ave. NW; **East:** Louisiana Ave. NW; **South:** Pennsylvania Ave. NW; **West:** 15th St. NW

Location: north of the Mall; east of downtown; south of Mt. Vernon Square; west of Capitol Hill

Penn Quarter is a mostly commercial area with a few luxury condos, but locals and tourists come here for dining, entertainment, and work. The area is largely defined by the Verizon Center and the 7th Street arts district, but also, along H Street NW between 5th and 7th, is **Chinatown**—or what's left of it. A festive Chinese arch still spans H Street outside the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro station, but the only contemporary nod to the neighborhood's ethnic heritage is Chinese lettering in the windows of the Starbucks, the CVS drugstore, and the burger joints. Most of the Chinese families have long since moved out to the suburbs. There are still



plenty of good Chinese restaurants here, however, and the dean of them all is Tony Cheng's—downstairs for Mongolian barbecue cooked in front of you, upstairs for seafood, and in the foyer for photos of every President since Kennedy dining here.

Penn Quarter proper, a triangular area formed by Mt. Vernon Square, the Treasury Department, and the National Archives, emerged in the 1990s as a popular nightspot for the next age bracket past the club scene. Four of the city's most prominent theaters are here—the Warner, the Shakespeare, the National, and historic Ford's—and a hopping restaurant scene nourishes the theater crowds. Popular chain restaurants such as Austin Grill and ESPN Zone are here alongside signature local restaurants, notably Jaleo, which shares the historic Lansburgh department store building at 7th & E with the Shakespeare Theatre and luxury condos. Jaleo doesn't take reservations, and many people are willing to wait an hour for a table to sample the city's most renowned tapas. The meat-and-potatoes crowd goes a block south to the District Chophouse & Brewery, while nouveau cuisine fans head a few blocks west to Red Sage at 12th and Pennsylvania.

Artists and art lovers flock here, too, for the National Portrait Gallery at 7th & F streets and the National Gallery of Art at 7th and Constitution Avenue. The stretch of 7th Street between the two museums is lined with little galleries and studios. The U.S. Navy Memorial and the Martin Luther King Memorial Library (the main D.C. public library) are nearby, and some of the shops and office buildings around 9th and F streets date from the 19th century.

You aren't likely to live in Penn Quarter unless your timing is impeccable; there's not much housing, and vacancies are scarce. If you do find an apartment at the Lansburgh, or at Market Square at 7th & Pennsylvania NW, expect to pay an astronomical price. Despite perennial talk of the need for more downtown housing, no developer wants to pass up this "trophy" real estate where exclusive office towers and hotels—much more profitable than housing—could go.

Between Penn Quarter and the Capitol is **Judiciary Square**, Pennsylvania Avenue to F Street and 4th to 5th streets NW, named for the concentration of federal and local courthouses and Justice Department offices. The Metropolitan Police Department is also headquartered here, and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial occupies a broad plaza just outside the Judiciary Square Metro station. At the north end of the square, the National Building Museum, housed in the historic Pension Building, is one of the most underrated museums in Washington—both for its exhibits on architecture and infrastructure and for its intrinsic beauty.

Penn Quarter is part of the **Downtown Business Improvement District (BID)**, www.downtowndc.org, a special tax zone in which busi-

ness owners have actually *asked* the city to collect a slightly higher tax on commercial property. The added revenue pays for certain extra services, such as private street cleaning contractors, security cameras, and perky "ambassadors" who patrol the sidewalks to greet tourists. Originally the BID tried to shoo homeless people along to some other neighborhood, but more recently the agency has started working with community organizations to help make social services more accessible to the homeless. (The **Golden Triangle BID**, www.gtbid.org, adjoins the Downtown BID to the west and covers the area between Dupont Circle and Pennsylvania Avenue NW.)

Online Resources: www.downtowndc.org

Zip Codes: 20005

Post Offices: Ben Franklin Station, 12th St. & Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Techworld, 8th & K streets NW

Police Station: Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters, 4th & D streets NW, 202-727-1010, <http://mpdc.dc.gov>

Emergency Hospital: Howard University Hospital, 2401 Georgia Ave. NW, 202-865-6100

Library: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, 9th & G streets NW, 202-727-0321

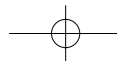
Government: Ward 2, School District 1

Neighborhood Festival: Arts On Foot (September), www.artsonfoot.org

Park: Freedom Plaza/Pershing Park (Pennsylvania Ave. NW between 13th & 15th streets)

Community Resources: *National Portrait Gallery/National Museum of American Art* (see **Cultural Life**); *Ford's Theatre* (see **Cultural Life**); *National Theatre* (see **Cultural Life**); *Shakespeare Theatre* (see **Cultural Life**); *Warner Theatre* (see **Cultural Life**); *U.S. Navy Memorial & Naval Heritage Center*, 7th St. & Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 202-737-2300, www.lonesailor.org; *National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Visitors Center*, 605 E St. NW, 202-737-3400, www.nleomf.com; *National Building Museum* (see **Cultural Life**); *International Spy Museum* (see **Cultural Life**).

Public Transportation: Metro: Metro Center (Red, Blue, and Orange lines), entrances on G St. NW at 11th, 12th, and 13th streets, and at 12th & F streets NW; Gallery Place-Chinatown (Red, Yellow, and Green lines), entrances on 7th St. NW at F and H streets; Judiciary Square (Red Line), entrances at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and at 4th & D streets NW. Metrobus routes: D1-D6 (K St. NW), S2/S4 (I St. NW), 42 (11th St. NW), 54 (Pennsylvania Ave. NW)



DUPONT CIRCLE

Boundaries: **North:** S St. NW; **East:** 14th St. NW; **South:** N St. NW, Rhode Island Ave. NW; **West:** Rock Creek

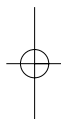
Location: north of downtown; east of Shaw; south of Kalorama and Adams Morgan; east of West End

Dupont Circle is home to dozens of nonprofit advocacy groups, and to many recent college graduates hoping to get paid for their idealism and commitment to social causes. It's also the capital of Washington's large gay and lesbian community, and many stores and restaurants display a pink triangle or rainbow flag in the window. Lambda Rising and Outlook, among other retailers, cater especially to the gay community, as do several bars and cafés along 17th Street NW. Dupont Circle—along with Adams Morgan to the north—is the heart of Washington's nightlife. An array of restaurants and bars, movie theaters, bookstores with long hours, and ample boutique shopping make this a neighborhood where the sidewalks don't roll up at sundown—indeed, not even at midnight.

Kramerbooks & Afterwords was Washington's first combined bookstore/café, and still leads the city's short list for late night dining and spotting political celebrities. Its upstairs bulletin board is a good place to look for short-term sublets or apartment rental postings. The original Teaism teahouse, now a local chain, still draws standing-room crowds to 2009 R Street NW. The Brickseller, at 1523 22nd Street NW, serves some 800 kinds of beer from all over the world; expect a half-hour wait for a table on weekends. Kramerbooks and other local favorites, including Luna Grill & Diner and Second Story Books, have opened locations in the suburbs.

If you don't want to dine out every night, there's an abundance of gourmet markets, bakeries, and eateries geared toward carryout; and there's a bustling farmers' market on Sunday mornings at the Q Street entrance to the Dupont Circle Metro station. The Safeway supermarket at 17th & R streets is known as the "Soviet Safeway" because of the notoriously long lines. If you're in a hurry, it might actually be quicker to take the No. 42 bus to the Safeway at 1747 Columbia Road.

The Circle itself is a gathering place for bicycle couriers, executives from nearby office buildings, and street people. At lunchtime and early evening, many come to play chess at tables with built-in chessboards, and there's often a small crowd of spectators. Between two concentric rings of benches, which are always crowded, grassy lawns serve as the neighborhood "beach." The fountain in the center of the circle is unique—most circles and squares downtown are dominated by the standard bronze statue



of a 19th-century general or admiral. At the other extreme, a tiny patch of grass at 20th Street & New Hampshire Avenue NW was "adopted" by one local citizen and unofficially dedicated as "Sonny Bono Memorial Park." It features one bench, lovingly maintained flowers, and a simple plaque in memory of the entertainer and congressman.

There are some art galleries on Connecticut Avenue and along the side streets north of the Circle, but rising rents have forced some struggling artists to 7th Street NW and Shaw, where zoning "overlays" encourage the development of studios and galleries. South of N Street NW, Connecticut Avenue is lined with office buildings whose storefront restaurants and clothing stores cater to the downtown office crowd. The Improv comedy club is here, at 1140 Connecticut Avenue, and several plain-looking buildings nearby camouflage swanky SoHo-type nightclubs—the kind with fashion police at the door.

Many row houses off the Circle have been converted into apartments of all sizes, and elegant old mansions have been turned into embassies or offices housing nonprofit groups, including Public Citizen and the Church of Scientology. "English basements"—apartments below row houses, with their own separate entrances—make popular rentals for singles and young couples just getting started, but even these fetch \$1,000 or more. An efficiency or studio apartment will rent for at least \$1,000 in the postwar high-rises along New Hampshire Avenue south of the Circle; in prestigious old apartment buildings to the east, between 14th & 17th streets NW, condo units command even higher rent.

For most young newcomers, the Dupont Circle area is one of the first stops on a house-hunting tour. If you're willing and able to pay a four-figure rent (or to buy a six-figure condo), you'll have a dazzling assortment of restaurants, shops, and nightlife within walking distance.

Online Resources: www.dupont-circle.com, www.intowner.com, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DupontForum>

Zip Codes: 20009, 20036

Post Offices: Temple Heights Station, 1921 Florida Ave. NW; 20th St., 1111 20th St. NW

Police Station: Third District Headquarters, 1620 V St. NW, 202-673-6930

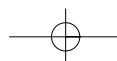
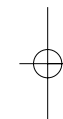
Emergency Hospital: George Washington University Hospital, 901 23rd St. NW, 202-715-4000

Library: West End, 24th & L streets NW, 202-724-8707

Public High Schools: Cardozo, 13th & Clifton streets NW, 202-673-7385; School Without Walls, 2130 G St. NW, 202-724-4889

Government: Ward 2

Neighborhood Festivals: Capital Pride Parade (June), www.capitalpride.org; Kramerbooks & Afterwords Block Party (August), 202-387-1400; Halloween High Heels Race



Parks: Dupont Circle, Rock Creek (points of access west of 23rd St. NW), Rose (26th & P streets NW), Scott Circle

Community Resources: *Phillips Collection* (see **Cultural Life**); Church Street Theatre (see **Cultural Life**); *D.C. Jewish Community Center* offers a health club, theater, after-school programs, and social activities: 1529 16th St NW, 202-518-9400, www.dcjcc.org. Visit www.dk-museums.com for a directory of more than a dozen small museums in the Dupont-Kalorama area.

Public Transportation: Metro: Dupont Circle station (Red Line), entrances at Connecticut Ave. & Q St. NW and south side of Dupont Circle at 19th St. NW. Metrobus routes: 42 (Connecticut Ave. NW), G2 (P St. NW), L2 (New Hampshire Ave. NW), N2-N6 (Connecticut Ave. NW downtown, Massachusetts Ave. NW uptown)

KALORAMA

KALORAMA TRIANGLE

Boundaries: **North:** Rock Creek; **East:** Connecticut Avenue NW, Columbia Rd. NW, 19th St. NW; **South:** S St. NW; **West:** Rock Creek

Location: north of Dupont Circle; east of Embassy Row (across Rock Creek); south of Woodley Park (across Rock Creek); west of Adams Morgan

Just up the hill from Dupont Circle, straddling Connecticut Avenue NW, is **Kalorama**, where every home that isn't an embassy or museum is a mansion or luxury apartment. Kalorama, Greek for "beautiful view," is perched on hills above Rock Creek, and many homes offer postcard-perfect views. Indeed, it was a view of the White House—now obstructed by downtown office buildings—that lured affluent Washingtonians to build homes here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Presidents Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt lived in Kalorama before they moved to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, and President Wilson retired here. Today, residents include senators, retired Cabinet secretaries, and members of the city council. Nearly a quarter of the houses here are embassies or chanceries, and in 1989, the whole neighborhood was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Many homes have ballrooms and formal gardens, and some have servants' quarters. Some houses are actually made of parts of European castles

or chalets that were moved here. Generally, houses start at half a million dollars, though some are closer to \$3 million. Even if money is no object, you will have to watch patiently and move quickly to buy a home here—homes often sell before they're even listed.

Many area apartment buildings were built before World War I and are still among the most elegant residences in town—and the most expensive. Condos often start at a million dollars. If you're lucky, however, you might find an efficiency renting for \$900 in the area bounded by Columbia, Calvert, and Rock Creek—the area known as **Kalorama Triangle** in the lingo of real estate classifieds.

If your Kalorama address leaves you a little short on bus fare, you can walk down Connecticut Avenue to shop and dine in Dupont Circle; walk across the Duke Ellington Bridge into Adams Morgan; or walk across the majestic Taft Bridge into Woodley Park. Get used to those walks—pleasant, but hilly—for groceries, videos, and other basics. Kalorama is all residential.

Online Resources: www.intowner.com

Zip Codes: 20008, 20009

Post Offices: Kalorama Station, 2300 18th St. NW; Temple Heights Station, 1921 Florida Ave. NW

Police Station: Third District Headquarters, 1620 V St. NW, 202-673-6930

Emergency Hospital: George Washington University Hospital, 901 23rd St. NW, 202-715-4000

Library: West End, 24th & L streets NW, 202-724-8707

Public High Schools: Cardozo, 13th & Clifton streets NW, 202-673-7385; School Without Walls, 2130 G St. NW, 202-724-4889

Government: Ward 1

Neighborhood Festival: Dupont-Kalorama Museum Walk (June), 202-667-0441, www.dkmuseums.com

Parks: Mitchell (off Massachusetts Ave. NW west of Sheridan Circle); Rock Creek (points of access off Waterside Dr. NW)

Community Resources: *Textile Museum* (see **Cultural Life**); other small museums in the Dupont-Kalorama area are listed at www.dkmuseums.com. The *Woodrow Wilson House*, where the Nobel laureate and ex-President lived, is the only presidential museum in the District: 2340 S St. NW, 202-387-4062, www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org.

Public Transportation: Metrobus routes: L1 (Connecticut Ave. NW); 42 (Columbia Road NW). Walk to Metro, Dupont Circle, or Woodley Park-Zoo stations (Red Line)

FOGGY BOTTOM/WEST END

Boundaries: **North:** N St. NW; **East:** 17th St. NW, Connecticut Ave. NW; **South:** Constitution Ave. NW; **West:** Potomac River, Rock Creek

Location: north of the Mall; east of Georgetown (across Rock Creek); south of Kalorama; west of Dupont Circle and downtown

Nestled between the White House and Georgetown, at the foggy bottom of a hill overlooking the Potomac, **Foggy Bottom** is home to the State Department, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. To the north, between Dupont Circle and Georgetown, are the upscale hotels and restaurants of **West End**. Together, these two areas essentially create one neighborhood—a diverse zone of overlap between elite Georgetown, powerful Pennsylvania Avenue, and hip Dupont Circle. George Washington University is here, and so are the headquarters of the American Red Cross, the Federal Reserve, the Pan-American Health Organization, the Bureau of National Affairs, and the General Services Administration—the “landlord” of government office buildings.

Most of the homes here are luxury apartments in modern high-rises, but there are a few blocks of old row houses west of New Hampshire Avenue. Many were built more than a century ago for workers at the Christian Heurich Brewery, which once stood where the Kennedy Center is today. The neighborhood attracts a lot of diplomats and prominent journalists; Mayor Anthony Williams also lives here. At the end of New Hampshire Avenue NW, between the Kennedy Center and the mouth of Rock Creek, is perhaps the most famous address in Washington besides 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: The Watergate. Scene of the 1972 burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters, The Watergate is a towering mixed-use complex with luxury apartments and condominiums, offices, the posh Watergate Hotel, designer boutiques, and four-star restaurants. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Senator Bob and Secretary Elizabeth Dole, and the most famous White House intern in history have all called The Watergate home. In its shadow, to the north, is the old water gate at the south end of the C&O Canal.

Between the Potomac and George Washington University (GW), you'll find apartments for more varied budgets, but even student-friendly housing isn't exactly cheap. High-rise luxury condos in the vicinity of 22nd and M are not known for their dazzling views, but they do offer a convenient location, lots of space, and modern trimmings. With rooftop pools,

concierge services, and carpeted hallways, these buildings look and feel like hotels. Like many urban universities, GW is more like a neighborhood than a distinct campus, and longtime residents of the West End and Foggy Bottom are constantly at odds with the school about student housing, parking, and proposals to expand school facilities. Parking can be a problem here.

Foggy Bottom and West End are just a few minutes' walk from the fine restaurants and clubs of Georgetown, Dupont Circle, and the downtown business district, but there are neighborhood attractions here too: Lulu's nightclub and Blackie's steakhouse, together filling a whole block of 22nd Street; restaurants and taverns that cater to GW students; and Asia Nora.

Some residents continue to fume about the closure of Pennsylvania Avenue NW near the White House, a precaution taken by the Secret Service after several security incidents in the mid-1990s. While a six-lane crosstown thoroughfare was severed, requiring tedious detours around Lafayette Square, the resulting pedestrian zone in front of the White House is popular with sightseers, photographers, street hockey players, and (of course) placard-waving protesters.

Online Resources: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FoggyBottomAssociation>, www.georgetowner.com

Zip Code: 20037

Post Office: Watergate, 2512 Virginia Ave. NW

Police Station: Second District Headquarters, 3320 Idaho Ave. NW, 202-282-0070

Emergency Hospital: George Washington University Hospital, 901 23rd St. NW, 202-715-4000

Library: West End, 24th & L streets NW, 202-724-8707

Public High School: School Without Walls, 2130 G St. NW, 202-724-4889

Government: Ward 2

Parks: Edward R. Murrow (18th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW); Rock Creek (access off 26th & M streets NW); Rose (26th & P streets NW); Washington Circle

Community Resources: George Washington University (see **Higher Education**); *John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts* (see **Cultural Life**)

Public Transportation: Metro: Foggy Bottom-GWU (Blue & Orange lines), 23rd & I streets NW. Metrobus routes: 30-36 (Pennsylvania Ave. NW), D5 (K St. NW), L2 (20th St. NW northbound, 21st St. NW southbound)