This brochure was developed by the Historic Kappa House Restoration Foundation to provide information to residents and visitors on the social, cultural, and architectural history of several of Washington’s neighborhoods. The project was funded by a matching grant from the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
The trail provides an excursion into the District’s neighborhoods of Howard University, Columbia Heights, Greater U Street, Strivers Row, and Dupont Circle. More than sightseeing, it offers bits of history and an introduction to architecture. Notably, the trail focuses a lens on the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity members who made vital contributions to the Washington, DC community and the nation as a whole in the struggle for civil rights and in the fields of education, law, medicine, and the arts. We trust their remarkable legacies will awaken a spirit of achievable possibilities for younger generations.
The findings, statements and conclusions herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the DC Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO), or the National Park Service.

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WASHINGTON, DC is not only the capital of the United States of America; it also ranks as one of the world’s top tourist destinations. The city nearly bursts with history, its pillared government buildings and numerous memorials and monuments demanding visitors’ attention. In addition, the Downtown and Mall area boast theaters and museums of every variety.

But Washington has much more to offer than these well-known attractions. This is a city of neighborhoods, and within the neighborhoods are hundreds of African American heritage sites, including several related to the history of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

The Historic Kappa House Restoration Foundation, partnering with the Washington, DC Alumni Chapter, has chosen seven of these sites and linked them in the Historic Kappa Heritage Trail. Our primary audience is the Kappa men from all over the country who travel regularly to Washington, DC for business or vacation, or to participate in the annual Congressional Black Caucus Weekend, annual Kappa or Capitol Hill Legislative Conference, or other Kappa programs. The website component expands outreach to publicize the trail to other fraternities and sororities of the Pan Hellenic Council, along with Washington, DC residents and visitors who desire to discover and experience dynamic and historic neighborhoods beyond the White House, Capitol, and Mall areas.

Visitors to this trail are invited to learn about the significant people, places, and events in the Fraternity’s history. In doing so, a tour along the Historic Kappa Heritage Trail will reveal remarkable stories of those who shaped, defined, and created history, making contributions that transformed the community and nation and changed lives.

Recognition of service and achievement is the essence of the Historic Kappa Heritage Trail.
The Historic Kappa Heritage Trail, composed of seven specific sites, extends from four locations at Howard University; to the Sal Hall Stadium at Cardozo High School; to the Frank D. Reeves District of Columbia Municipal Center; and ends at the Historic Kappa House. Although you can begin the journey at any point along the route, it is best to start the walking tour at the Howard University Founders Walk. The entire three-mile walk on the Historic Kappa Heritage Trail should take about one hour.

The best way to explore Howard University is on foot. Take a 70 or 71 (Georgia Ave/7th Street) Metrobus to Howard Place (or drive there and park on Georgia Avenue). Walk up Howard Place to the university's main gate, at 6th and Howard Place.
Founders Walk, a pathway to Howard Hall, recounts the milestones of the University’s proud heritage through engraved bricks that reflect the important roles played by individuals and organizations in Howard University’s history. Among those honored and celebrated in the Founders Walk Plaza, Section XI, for Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity are the ten founders of the Fraternity.

Howard Hall was built as the home for General Oliver Otis Howard (1830-1909), a Civil War hero, Freedmen’s Bureau Commissioner, and president of the University from 1869 to 1874. The University was named in recognition of his service. Restored in 1998, Howard Hall serves as the University’s Alumni Center.

Founders Elder Watson Diggs and Byron K. Armstrong planned for the creation of the Fraternity while students at Howard during the 1909-1910 school year. Some of the campus buildings date to Diggs’s and Armstrong’s time: Rankin Chapel, just inside the gate, was built in 1895; and Howard Hall, off 6th Street at the end of Founders’ Walk, was built in 1869. Invited to join another fraternity, they declined the invitation. Instead, they enrolled at Indiana University in the fall of 1910. After transferring from Howard, they and eight other black male students established Kappa Alpha Nu on January 5, 1911. (It was later renamed Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.)

It was the vision of the astute founders on the campus of Indiana University to sow the seed of a fraternal tree whose fruit is available to, and now enjoyed by, college men everywhere, regardless of color, religion, or national origin. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity is justly proud that its Constitution has never contained any
clause that either excluded or suggested the exclusion of a man from membership merely because of his color, creed, or national origin. The constitution of Kappa Alpha Psi is predicated upon, and dedicated to, the principles of ACHIEVEMENT through a truly democratic Fraternity.

From these beginnings, the organization continued expanding its fraternal organization, adding undergraduate and graduate chapters with the intake of more than 150,000 young men who have become recognized leaders in the arts, science, law, business, education, government, and civil rights. Undergraduate and graduate chapters are located in every state of the United States, with international chapters in the United Kingdom, Germany, Korea, Japan, Bermuda, U.S. Virgin Islands, Nigeria, and South Africa. The Fraternity provides education and guidance to youth and sponsors programs providing community service, social welfare, and academic scholarship. The Fraternity is a supporter of the United Negro College Fund, Habitat for Humanity, and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

From this beginning, history documents the sizeable central role and influence of Washington, DC to the dramatic development and evolution of this great Fraternity. The dramatic impact of Washington, DC Alumni Chapter members on Fraternity polity became so weighty, the Alumni Chapter became known throughout the country as the “Flagship of the Fleet.”

Elder Watson Diggs enrolled at Howard University in 1909, but transferred to Indiana University in 1910. He earned his first degree at the age of 18 and earned a second degree at the age of 25 in 1916. Elder Watson Diggs is regarded as the father of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Founder Diggs was an educator who held teaching and principal positions in several public school systems throughout Indiana. Following his death, in 1947, the Indianapolis school board renamed a school to honor his memory. Founder Diggs was the first Grand Polemarch of the Fraternity and served in that capacity for the first six years of its existence. His extra meritorious contributions to the Fraternity earned him the first Laurel Wreath of Kappa Alpha Psi, its highest award, in 1924. The Fraternity’s second highest award is named in his honor.

Byron Kenneth Armstrong enrolled at Howard University in 1909 where he met Founder Diggs. Both were asked to join another Fraternity, but declined the invitation. Founder Armstrong transferred with Diggs to Indiana in the fall of 1910. At Indiana, Founder Armstrong studied philosophy, mathematics, and sociology, and earned an AB degree in Economics (1913). He also earned an MA degree from Columbia University (1914) and a PhD from the University of Michigan (1940). Founder Armstrong was a professor at colleges in Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Founder Armstrong was instrumental in the formation of several chapters of the Fraternity. In 1936, the Fraternity conferred its sixth Laurel Wreath upon him for his contributions to the development of the Kappa Alpha Nu. The Byron Kenneth Armstrong Award of the Kappa Alpha Psi honors his memory.
Return to Georgia Avenue and continue up the hill to the former **Miner Teachers College**, 2565 Georgia Avenue, NW. This building was designed in 1913 by prominent Washington architect **Leon E. Dessez**, who also designed the residence of the Vice President of the United States and the Historic Kappa House.

Between 1879 and 1955 Miner was Washington's main training school for African Americans teachers; it was also one of the top institutions of its kind in the country. Named for Myrtilla Miner, a white woman, the school was founded at 19th and N Streets, NW, as the School for Colored Girls in 1851. It closed in 1860 and reopened in 1863 after Congress granted a charter as the School for the Education of Colored Youth. From 1871 to 1876, it was associated with Howard University. It became part of the District of Columbia public school system as Miner Normal School in 1879.

Lucy Ellen Moten (1851-1933), an 1870 graduate of Howard University, served as principal of the school from 1883 until 1920. It was under her leadership that Miner Normal School became one of the top institutions in the country. She oversaw the construction of the Georgia Avenue building in 1913-1914, designed by Dessez in the Colonial Revival style.

In 1955, Miner Teachers College merged with Wilson Teachers College, for white students, to become DC Teachers College, which later became part of the University of the District of Columbia.

This architecturally significant building, now property of Howard University, is partially used to house overflow offices from the Administrative Building next door, while undergoing restoration throughout. Planned long-term use is to house the University's School of Education.
William H. Greene
Memorial Stadium
6th and Girard Street, NW
Washington, DC 20059

Continue north two blocks on Georgia Avenue. Turn right on Girard Street to William H. Greene Memorial Stadium. This 10,000-seat arena honors William H. "Stud" Greene, M.D. (1900-1983), a Washington physician and Howard University benefactor. Greene was installed as the Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in 1953 and bestowed the Laurel Wreath, the highest honor of the Fraternity.

Dr. Greene lived by two principles – Achievement and Entertainment. During his tenure as Grand Polemarch, he established the Life Membership Program as a way for members to provide perpetual support to the Fraternity. This has become one of the most popular programs of the Fraternity. As Grand Polemarch, Dr. Greene visited every chapter of the Fraternity at his own expense. It was while traveling west by air that he wrote the famous Kappa of My Dreams poem. Because of his concern and interest in young people, he established the first Kappa Alpha Psi Student Revolving Loan Fund at Howard University, to which alumni could make tax-deductible donations. This is an endowment fund from which students may borrow to meet emergencies.

Dr. Greene was a consummate supporter of Howard University who had a personal relationship with Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, the first black President of Howard University and world renowned educator, orator, and preacher. Dr. Greene was never too busy to support his alma mater, Howard. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees and was highly active as a Trustee Emeritus following his retirement from the Board in 1973, until his death. In 1982, the University acknowledged his contributions by conferring a Doctor of Humanities degree upon him. In 1984, The Bison Foundation, Inc. named Dr. Greene an inaugural member of the Bison Hall of Fame. Dr. Greene’s funeral attracted more than 2,000 people to the Howard Campus, including the District of Columbia Mayor and all members of the City Council; Kappa Brother Walter E. Fauntroy, DC Delegate to the House of Representatives; and Kappa Brothers Louis Stokes, John Conyers, and Mervyn Dymally, and all other members of the Congressional Black Caucus. This tribute recognized Dr. Greene’s support of his two great loves, Howard University and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.
Follow Fairmont Street back to Georgia Avenue. Turn right and continue north to Harvard Street. Turn right on Harvard Street and right again on 5th Street. Continue south on 5th Street (which becomes 4th Street) and turn right (west) to the Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library, at the corner of 4th and W Streets. This library honors Louis Stokes, Laurel Wreath Wearer, member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio’s 21st and 11th Districts, 1969-1999. Stokes served on the House Appropriations Committee, where he was influential and interested in veteran’s issues and secured funds for historically black colleges and health-care facilities. Stokes also served as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, charged with investigating the murders of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. He also served on the House Committee that investigated the Iran-Contra Affair.

The Library serves as a state-of-the-art academic research center. It provides support to students, faculty, and staff of Howard University, its consortium affiliations, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Health Science Libraries and Hospitals. Dedicated to the delivery of quality access to health information, the Library is essential to the teaching, research, and clinical needs of the colleges of health sciences and the Howard University Hospital.
Sal Hall Stadium at Cardozo Senior High School
1100 Florida Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

The remaining three sites are away from the Howard campus. Proceed two blocks west on W Street, turn right (north) onto Georgia Avenue, then left (west) onto Barry Place. Continue onto Florida Avenue; at 11th Street you will see the southeast corner of Sylvester (Sal) Hall Stadium at Cardozo Senior High School.

Sal Hall (1910-1988) was a Kappa member, respected educator and principal, and is also remembered as Cardozo’s legendary football and track and field coach for 12 years (1942-48 and 1954-62). His football teams had perfect seasons in 1948 and 1955. During his tenure they won 105 games, lost 22, and tied 8. Coach Hall’s 1952 team was voted National Champion with a 9-0 record. It was invited to play a post-season game in the Orange Blossom Classic in Miami, Florida, and his undefeated 1955 team played in the first city championship, after the games were integrated.

In track, Coach Hall’s teams won many championships. In 1944, his team won the 440 Relay Championship of America at the Penn Relays. In 1946, his team won the National Negro High School Championship in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1948, the Cardozo 960-yard relay team set a world record at Madison Square Garden in New York. In 1986 the stadium was renamed the Sal Hall Stadium in his honor.
Continue west on Florida Avenue until you reach 14th Street, then turn left (south) and proceed two blocks to U Street.

The Frank D. Reeves District of Columbia Municipal Center is on the corner of 14th and U Streets. Frank D. Reeves (1916-1973) was a Kappa member, a lawyer, and a civil rights activist. Among the highlights of Reeves’s illustrious career were his consultation with Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit, George E.C. Hayes, and others to shape the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case that desegregated public schools; his work with Kappa member Julian R. Dugas on the companion *Bolling v. Sharpe* DC Public Schools desegregation case; service on the Democratic National Committee (the first African American to serve); serving as an advisor to President John F. Kennedy; selection for appointment to the three-man panel that governed the city (he declined); teaching at the Howard University Law School; helping organize the Neighborhood Legal Services Program; co-founding the National Conference of Black Lawyers; serving as legal counsel to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); and founding the Joint Center for Political Studies. Reeves also helped organize the 1963 March on Washington and the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign.
To reach the last stop on the trail, **Historic Kappa House**, continue south on 14th Street, then turn right on S Street and proceed just over three blocks to 1708 S Street, NW. This has been the home of the Washington DC Alumni Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. since June 4, 1949.

The Georgian style building, designed by Leon E. Dessez, FAIA (1858-1918), was completed in 1908 as a private residence. Dessez was an important Washington architect responsible for a number of private homes and institutions around the city. His best-known projects include the Admiral's Residence at One Observatory Circle (today the official residence of the Vice President of the United States); the iconic Miner Teachers College building on Georgia Avenue; Garfield Memorial Hospital (replaced by Washington Hospital Center); and, during his later years, the hospital at the Soldiers' Home (now the Armed Forces Retirement Home).

The Washington Chapter involved the Howard University Xi Chapter and the Miner Teachers College Beta Kappa Chapter when purchasing 1708 S Street, a former dance studio, for $49,000. To commemorate the inclusive nature of the relationship, the brass plaque on the front door was inscribed with the names of all three chapters.

To finance the purchase, the Kappas went to the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, a black-owned insurance company founded by Laurel Wreath Wearer C.C. Spaulding. Private contributions provided the funds for the down payment, remodeling work, and new furnishings.

The purchase of the property helped raise the status of the Washington, DC Alumni Chapter and came to symbolize black unity in the midst of a hostile, segregated city. During the Jim Crow years, when African Americans had very few places to gather for social purposes, the house became a focal point for black experience
and activity in DC, and a home away from home. In fact, many brothers lived at the house while attending college or for short periods. Prominent among these are Laurel Wreath Wearer and Congressman John Conyers, as well as Laurel Wreath Wearer and former Urban League President John E. Jacob. Others visited the House daily for fellowship, business meetings, and strategic and community meetings addressing critical social justice issues. History reveals a long list of members who impacted politics and the struggle for equality, as well as the fields of education, medicine, government, and the arts. Their enlightened contributions not only provide inspiration for today, but serve as a bridge from the past to the present.

The elegant Kappa Kastle, as it was sometimes called, was a social success and also gained a reputation as a glamorous setting for parties, weddings, and receptions.

With alumni chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity occupying a property diagonally across the street and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority later purchasing a property adjacent to the Kappa House, the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and S Street, NW, became known as Black Fraternity Row, as well as the toast of Pan Hellenic organizations in Washington, DC. Today, only Kappa Alpha Psi retains a presence at that intersection. However, the headquarters for the Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta Sororities are nearby on New Hampshire Avenue.

Located in the Dupont Circle Historic District, the **Historic Kappa House** is recognized for the historical significance of the property, its classic architecture, events and programs associated with it, and the accomplishments of the Chapter members who contributed to the rich history and culture of the Washington, DC community and the Nation.

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**A. Founders Library and Moorland-Spingarn Research Center**

500 Howard Place, NW
Howard University Campus
Washington, DC 20059

The Founders Library, completed in 1939, is the center of intellectual life on the Howard University campus and a proud monument to hope and achievement. Albert I. Cassell, FAIA (1895-1969) was the architect of Founders Library and several of the most prominent structures on the Howard University campus. The Founders Library is the main component of a continually evolving Howard University Library (HUL) system. Its traditional resources...
of print materials are supplemented with a rich and expanding digital component. The HUL website (www.howard.edu/library) is a virtual library of local and global resources, providing access to thousands of full-text journals, bibliographic databases, reference tools, data files and multimedia.

The Founders Library houses the University Museum and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, which collects, preserves, organizes, and makes available for research a wide range of resources chronicling the Black experience. Among these is an exhibit at the entrance of the Library of images from the award-winning history of Howard University, *The Long Walk: The Place Making Legacy of Howard University*. Co-authored by Kappa brother, Professor and Dean Harry G. Robinson, III, FAIA, with Professor Hazel Ruth Edwards, this book documents the campus’s evolution from the purchase of the first 150 acres to the University’s acquisition of its current holdings. *The Long Walk* also marks the first time the physical environment of Howard University’s main campus has been the subject of extensive research. The television version of *The Long Walk*, produced by WHUT, won an international video award, in competition with 2,867 entries from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and 11 other countries. The 250-page coffee table book and video are available for purchase at the University Book Store located at 2225 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20059.

**B. George E.C. Hayes Residence**
1722 S Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

**George E.C. Hayes**, Kappa brother, was an attorney and civil rights activist, and member of the team of lawyers who argued the landmark school desegregation cases before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954. Hayes’s involvement in the burgeoning civil rights movement

*George E. C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court*
began in the 1940s when, as a member of the District of Columbia Board of Education from 1945 to 1949, he worked to desegregate the schools in the nation’s capital. Through this work, he met the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) lawyers who were mounting desegregation battles in other states. Their work culminated in the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education. Hayes was one of five NAACP lawyers, along with Thurgood Marshall and James Nabrit, Jr., who convinced the High Court that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. The Brown decision, repudiating the long-established “separate-but-equal” doctrine, marked the beginning of the end of segregation in all public accommodations.

George E. C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court

C. Armond W. Scott Residence
1922 11th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Judge
Armond W. Scott
(1873-1960),
known as the Dean of the DC Municipal Court, received the seventh Laurel Wreath conferred by the Fraternity and was the first Eastern Province Member to receive this honor.

He worked his way through Biddle University (now Johnson C. Smith University) in Charlotte, N.C., and earned a law degree at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. He was admitted to the bar at age 21. Scott practiced law in Wilmington, N.C., but left hastily after a race riot. He eventually launched a successful 38-year practice which led to his appointment to the District of Columbia Municipal Court in 1935. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated him for the judgeship, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously endorsed him. The United States Senate confirmed his appointment by acclamation, the first such in over 40 years. His service on the judicial bench continued through the Truman and Eisenhower Administrations. Known as the Dean of the Municipal Court, Judge Scott pushed for humane treatment for those suffering with alcoholism and greater use of probation.
James (Biff) Carter (1924-1999), Kappa member, was a native Washingtonian who graduated from Howard University in 1949 with a BA Degree, from New York University in 1951 with an MA, and later received an Honorary Doctorate. He began his teaching career at Randall Junior High School, continued at Hart Junior High School, where he advanced to Assistant Principal, then became Principal first at Phelps Senior High School and then at Ballou Senior High School. While at Phelps, Biff was a highly successful football coach and also served as mentor and inspirational guide to many students there. This same quality was the hallmark of his successful tenure as Principal at Ballou. His knowledge and masterful teaching of leadership skills led to his being sought as a consultant and advisor to the U.S. Department of Education. He was frequently called as an expert witness before Congressional Committees concerned with educational issues. He later put his knowledge and skills to work in the office of Congressman John Conyers, Jr. Biff developed and organized the Annual Kappa on Capitol Hill Legislative Conference. Renamed in his honor, this conference convenes hundreds of participants for two and a half days of legislative seminars and meetings with Senators and Representatives. The James “Biff” Carter Legislative Conference has proven to be highly effective in addressing the range of legislative issues of special concern to underserved African American communities. James (Biff) Carter has been conferred the Elder Watson Diggs Award, the Fraternity’s second highest honor.

Frank D. Reeves (1916-1973) was a Kappa member, a lawyer, and a civil rights activist. Among the highlights of Reeves’s illustrious career were his consultation with Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit, George E.C. Hayes, and others to shape the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case that desegregated public schools; his work with Kappa member Julian R. Dugas on the companion Bolling v. Sharpe DC Public Schools desegregation case; service on the Democratic National Committee (the first African American to serve); serving as an advisor to President John F. Kennedy; selection for appointment to the three-man panel that governed the city (he declined); teaching at the Howard University Law School; helping organize the Neighborhood Legal Services Program; co-founding the National Conference of Black Lawyers; serving as legal counsel to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); and founding the Joint Center for Political Studies. Reeves also helped organize the 1963 March on Washington and the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign.
**National Pan-Hellenic Council Neighbors**

**Former Location**

- **Mu Lambda Alumni Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**
  
  1800 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
  Washington, DC 20009

- **Xi Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**
  
  1751 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
  Washington, DC, 20009

- **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**
  
  National Headquarters
  1707 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
  Washington, DC 20009

- **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.**
  
  National Headquarters
  1734 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
  Washington, DC 20009

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THE HISTORIC
KAPPA HERITAGE TRAIL
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