

Lift Every Voice: Georgia Ave./Pleasant Plains Heritage Trail

How many dreams and memories reside in this short stretch of Georgia Avenue!

South of Florida Avenue, where it is called Seventh Street, its heart once beat to jazz riffs and the eager steps of people dressed in their finest. Here sweet aromas once wafted from commercial bakeries. Just north of Florida is where hot Saturday afternoons meant Griffith Stadium: the crack of the bat and shouts of baseball-mad crowds. And Georgia continues. It climbs toward Howard University, the historical heart of our country's African American intellectual community. Farther still, brick temples of learning give way to rowhouses and storefronts, and the steady beat of everyday life.

Lift Every Voice: Georgia Ave./Pleasant Plains Heritage Trail pays homage to the musicians and impresarios, Jewish shop-keepers and African American barbers, intellectuals and activists, and all who built a thriving community along this stretch of one of Washington's oldest thoroughfares.

“Pleasant Plains” once was the name of the Holmead family estate, which spread from Rock Creek to Georgia Avenue north of Columbia Road. Today's Pleasant Plains neighborhood lies mostly south of the old Holmead land. And while most of this trail lies in Pleasant Plains, it actually starts in Shaw, enters Pleasant Plains at Florida Avenue, crosses through Park View, the neighborhood north of Howard University, and ends in Petworth.



1. 1968 – The disturbances following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. *7th and T* – Music and social life
3. *Howard Theater*
4. *Armed Resistance* – 1919 riots
5. *Griffith Stadium*
6. *Medical Care for All* – Freedman's Hospital
7. *Ed Murphy Way* – Ed Murphy, GA Ave shops and industrial uses, streetcars
8. *Cleaning up Cowntown* – Livestock, slaughterhouses, bootleggers, bakery
9. *Teachers and Preachers* – Howard University
10. *Strike!* – Political action at Howard University
11. *The Lake So Blue* – Howard and the neighborhood, including the reservoir
12. *Beyond the Basics* – Miner Normal School, Howard Deli, The National Home
13. *Along the "Nile Valley"* – Afro-centric Businesses
14. *Urban Oasis* – Housing covenants, pocket parks
15. *"Treat Me Refined"* – Zora Neale Hurston
16. *From Beer Garden to Park View* – Origins of Park View
17. *The Next Wave* – Caribbean Community
18. *The Modern Shopper* – Groceries and grocers
19. *Mr. Lincoln's Ride* – Lincoln and the Anderson Cottage