

U

U Street Historic District: see Greater U Street Historic District

M.J. Uline Ice Company and Arena (Washington Coliseum)

1132, 1140, and 1146 3rd Street, NE

The M.J. Uline Ice Company, manufacturer of ice for area residents and businesses, was founded by Migiel “Mike” Uline, lately the owner of a string of ice plants in Ohio. The main block of the company’s Washington ice plant was erected in the spring of 1931, with additions in 1935-36. The simple brick structure is typical of utilitarian rail-side industrial buildings of the period. Built by the Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore, the plant’s architects of record were Kubitz & Koenig, the Baltimore construction engineering firm of civil engineers Otto Kubitz and Martin Koenig, Jr.

The adjacent Uline Arena was added in 1939-40. Hailed as “a triumph in concrete” when complete, the arena was the first thin-shell concrete building erected in Washington and one of the first in the country. Roberts & Schaefer, a Chicago engineering firm, designed the structure, using its exclusive U.S. patent rights to the innovative German “Zeiss-Dywidag” system of reinforced concrete roofing. The contractor was the White Construction Company of New York. The vaulted roof allowed for a 140- by 270-foot unobstructed interior space that accommodated the largest indoor hockey rink in the country. Built for ice sports, it was immediately adapted for boxing and musical events, and then also for professional basketball, tennis, wrestling, and even midget auto racing. Like many other public accommodations in Washington at the time, the arena’s events were racially segregated, except for matches involving black boxers. During World War II, local chapters of the NAACP encouraged a boycott of the arena and after the war resumed the campaign for nearly a year, until Uline relented in 1948. Ironically, as Washington Coliseum, the arena subsequently became an important venue for African-American cultural and political events. Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad and his disciple, Malcolm X, spoke there in 1959 and 1961. And in the 1980s, it was most notable as home to performances of Washington’s indigenous Go-Go music. It is also remembered as the site of the first United States appearance of The Beatles. *DC designation November 16, 2006, NR listing May 17, 2007*

Oscar W. Underwood House

2000 G Street, NW

Residence from 1914-25 of House Democratic leader after the 1910 election and 1912 Democratic presidential contender; author of the landmark Underwood-Simmons Tariff of 1913; built c. 1870s; *NHL designation and NR listing December 8, 1976, DC listing March 3, 1979*

Union Savings Bank (1906) at 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE: see Anacostia Historic District

Union Station and Plaza

Massachusetts & Delaware Avenues, NE

Built 1903-08 (Daniel H. Burnham, architect); alterations 1975, 1987-88; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing March 24, 1969 (Plaza and Columbus Fountain listed April 9, 1980, amended with additional documentation October 12, 2007); HABS DC-139; US ownership; see Bibliography (Goode: Washington Sculpture); see also Columbus Fountain and Columbus Plaza*

Union Trust Company

740 15th Street/1500 H Street, NW

Imposing headquarters of city's third trust company, established in 1890 as Union Trust and Storage Company; first established under Federal legislation of 1890; built 1907 (Wood, Donn & Deming, architects); addition 1981; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing January 19, 1984; within Fifteenth Street HD*

United Brick Corporation Kiln Complex

2801 New York Avenue, NE

Built c. 1927-31; *NR listing October 3, 1978, DC listing March 3, 1979; within National Arboretum*

United Mine Workers of America (The University Club)

900 15th Street, NW

Built in 1912 as the University Club, this building is now more closely associated with the legendary union leader John L. Lewis. A self-made man, Lewis was president of the United Mine Workers of America for more than 40 years. In 1936, in the midst of the Great Depression, his purchase of this elegant building from a failing club not only provided a base of operations for lobbying government officials, but also validated the strength of the union in its war of class struggle. Lewis expunged the inscribed university names and shields from the facades, and added a top floor pavilion housing a heavy-timbered assembly room for union officers. The building recalls not only the influence of the elite gentlemen's clubs that were once significant in Washington's social life, but also the achievements of the United Mine Workers of America, which reshaped its appearance and occupied it for more than a half century. It forms part of the monumental streetscape around McPherson Square, and typifies the efforts of private organizations to embellish the national capital (President Taft laid the cornerstone). It is a fine example of Italian Renaissance Revival design, by the influential Washington architect George Oakley Totten; the 1937 alterations (also Italianate) were designed by the noted Washington architects Porter & Lockie. The building is six stories (originally five), with rusticated facades of limestone and tan brick, a piano nobile of monumental arched windows, and central portico; grand interior rooms remain. *DC designation April 22, 1999; NR listing September 13, 2000, NHL designation April 5, 2005*

United States Botanic Garden

1st Street and Maryland Avenue, SW

Built 1902; Bennett, Parsons & Frost, architect; *DC listing November 8, 1964; within National Mall HD; US ownership*

United States Capitol: see The Capitol

United States Chamber of Commerce

1615 H Street, NW

Built 1925 (Cass Gilbert, architect); *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing May 13, 1992; within Lafayette Square HD*

United States Court of Military Appeals: see District of Columbia Court of Appeals

United States Courthouse for the District of Columbia

333 Constitution Avenue, NW

Built 1949-52; Louis Justement, architect; *DC designation April 26, 2007, NR listing July 5, 2007; within Pennsylvania Avenue NHS; US ownership*

United States Daughters of 1812: see National Society United States Daughters of 1812

U.S. Engineer's Storehouse (900 Ohio Drive, SW): see East and West Potomac Parks Historic District.

Constructed in 1913, this two-story brick building in East Potomac Park served as the base of operations as the parks were created. The simple Italian Renaissance Revival design is by Wood, Donn, and Deming. Facades are pebble dash stucco, with a hipped roof in terra cotta tile.

United States Naval Observatory: see Old Naval Observatory and Naval Observatory Historic District

United States Post Office: see City Post Office, General Post Office, Old Post Office, and Federal Triangle (Post Office Department)

United States Tax Court

400 2nd Street, NW

Designed in 1966 and constructed in 1974, the Tax Court is a striking and highly sculptural example of mid-century Modernist architecture. The Courthouse was one of four federal buildings directly inspired by and constructed in the first years of implementation of a sweeping initiative introduced by President John F. Kennedy to improve the design of the country's federal buildings. Under Kennedy's *Guiding Principles for*

Federal Architecture, the federal government moved away from the “cautious” Modernism that had characterized public buildings of the post-War era and committed itself to using renowned and respected architects to create new and creative public buildings. Also, in adopting the *Guiding Principles*, the government deliberately sought to avoid an official style for its federal buildings.

Designed by architect Victor Lundy, the Tax Court is an outstanding example of federal architecture of its time, and the most prominent public work of the architect’s notable career. It used the most advanced structural engineering to achieve an expressive purpose, and its structural daring is without precedent in federal architecture. Conceived as a monolithic block separated into its constituent functional units, the building’s *tour-de-force* is its massive granite courtroom block poised as if weightless above a fully glazed entry. The virtuoso suspension is accomplished through the use of steel post-tensioning cables concealed in reinforced concrete shear walls and structural bridges, invisibly connecting to six supporting columns. The cabling system creates an equal balance between forces of tension and compression to stabilize the building. The interior of the building mirrors the clarity of its exterior design and offers a rich array of modern construction materials. *DC designation June 26, 2008, NR listing August 26, 2008; US ownership*

Unity Church (ca. 1885) at 7th and A Streets NE: see Capitol Hill Historic District

Universalist National Memorial Church (1928) at 1810 16th Street NW: see Sixteenth Street Historic District and Bibliography (Sixteenth Street Architecture II)

University Club: see United Mine Workers of America

University Club (1920) at 1135 16th Street NW: see Sixteenth Street Historic District

Upshur, John Henry House: see United States Daughters of 1812

Uptown Theater (1936) at 3426 Connecticut Avenue NW: see Cleveland Park Historic District

USS Sequoia [National Register only]

Washington Navy Yard

Built in 1924, the presidential yacht *Sequoia* is one of four surviving presidential yachts. It was used by nine presidents between 1931 and 1977. *Sequoia* was the setting not only for presidential social and recreational activity, but also for crucial domestic and foreign policy meetings and decisions. *NHL designation and NR listing December 23, 1987*