

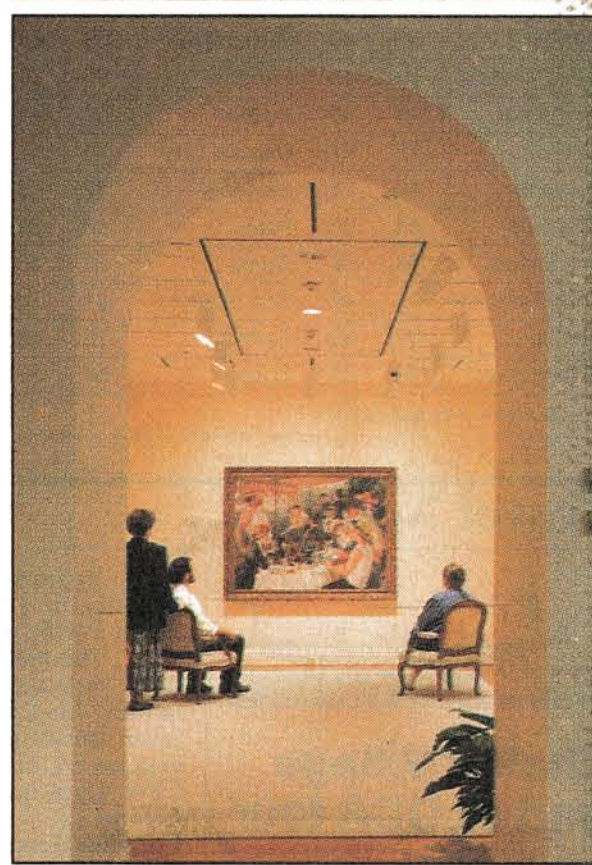
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Travel



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Housed in a 1907 Renaissance revival building that was originally a Masonic temple, the museum includes a wide range of works from women artists all over the world.



THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

The gallery that began as a Phillips family home features Impressionist and American Modernist paintings. Expanded in the 1960s and again in the '80s, it also provides a showcase for emerging musical talent in free Sunday afternoon concerts.



THE WILLARD INTER-CONTINENTAL

The hotel has had guests as distinguished as singer Jenny Lind, President Millard Fillmore and Martin Luther King Jr. It also serves as a great base of operation for a tour of Washington restoration.

WASHINGTON, RESTORED

By Marilyn Myers
Gazette Staff

WASHINGTON — The hottest properties and trendiest spots in Washington, D.C., today are classic examples of deteriorating historic structures put to creative modern use.

A tour of entrepreneurial preservation in the nation's capital is grand and energetic, highlighted by Union Station and the Old Post Office — both magnificent turn-of-the-century buildings now havens for shoppers and office workers.

But change-up uses aren't confined to eateries and boutiques. Several other re-worked spaces house Washington's growing art collection.

The Washington Project for the Arts (in the Jenifer building) and the National Museum of Women in the Arts (in the renaissance revival Masonic Grand Lodge) are only two recent examples of this phenomenon.

As a base of operation, stay at the Willard Inter-Continental. Franklin Pierce lodged at the hotel before and after his term as president. Renowned singer Jenny Lind took tea with President Millard Fillmore here prior to giving a concert. And Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "I Have a Dream" speech while a guest.

Long the center of Washington's social and political activity, this beaux-arts, mansard roof landmark built in 1901 was one of the city's first skyscrapers with 12 stories and a steel superstructure.

But by 1968, a year before it was designated a national landmark, the hotel had closed its doors. It was reopened 16 years later as an inspired restoration and development project with a contemporary addition that combines a renovated hotel with office space and retail and restaurant pavilions.

For a feel of the political and journalistic savvy of the city, be sure to have lunch in the downstairs of the Occidental — and an afternoon drink at the Round Robin Bar in the hotel itself.

From this jumping-off point, take the Metro or a cab to the Union Station. The beaux-arts monument to trains, reopened in 1989, still houses the Amtrak station as well as a stop on the Metro red line.

In its newest incarnation it incorporates offices, a plethora of quick eating spots as well as fine restaurants and a multi-level concourse of shops.

Poking around this train station can take several hours — longer if you decide to splurge and have lunch or brunch at Adirondacks.

Located in the former presidential reception rooms of the station, this contemporary restaurant is not only noted for its new American cuisine, but also for stunning Eliel Saarinen-reproduction chairs, an outstanding modern art collection — and, of course, the glitz of this renovated grand space itself.

From here, take the Metro red line to Gallery Place where you'll get off to prow around Washington's Seventh Street arts corridor.

At Seventh and D you'll find the Washington Project for the Arts, an artist-directed non-profit organization. Exhibits change often, but a not-to-be-missed permanent attraction is the mural in the women's restroom on the second floor. If the door is closed, simply knock before entering.

Also in this area are the National Portrait Gallery and National Museum of American Art, sharing quarters in the elegantly restored Old Patent Office Building located at Ninth and F streets.

Then walking farther west and north, you'll reach the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Housed in a 1907 renaissance revival building that was originally a Masonic temple, the great hall here is as impressive as the scope of the works on the walls, which include women artists from all over the world.

And if you get a little peckish, there's a small restaurant on the balcony of the grand hall that's perfect for a light lunch or afternoon nibble.

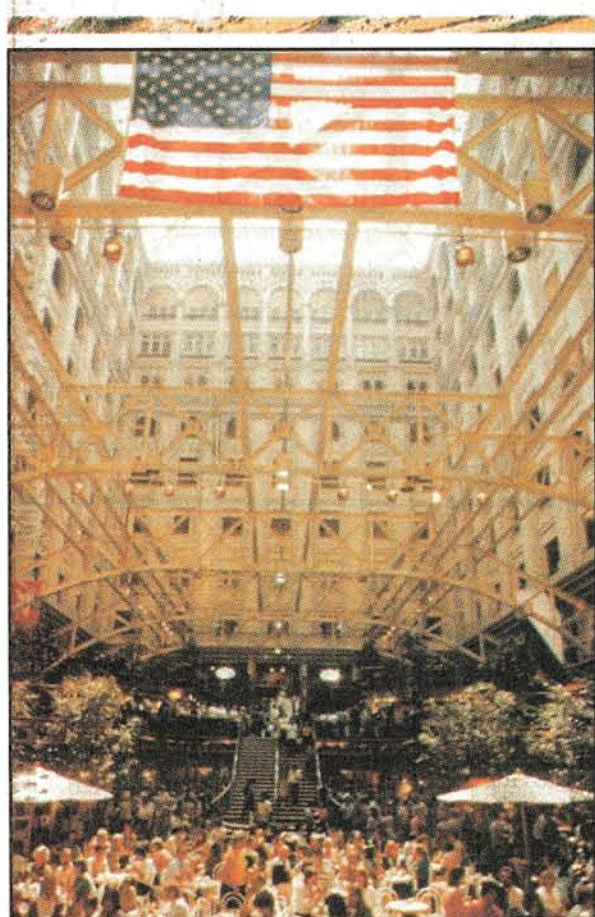
If, however, you are ravenous, wait to eat until you get to The Pavilion at the Old Post Office located at the Federal Triangle, 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Thanks to a preservation group and the National Endowment of the Arts, this fine romanesque revival building with the airy interior courtyard was reopened to the public in 1983. Twice slated for demolition, this significant structure, once termed the Old Tooth, now houses a considerable number of eating establish-



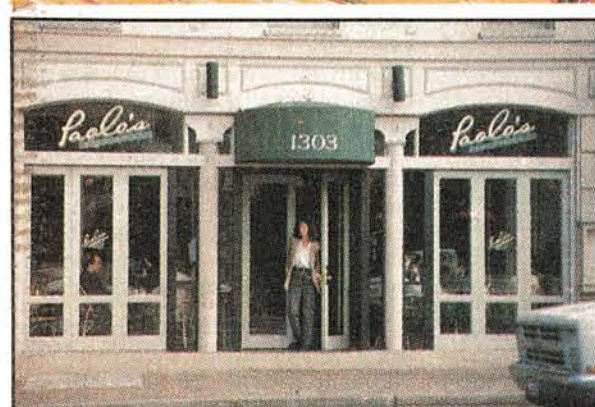
Patt. Clark/Gazette Staff

Old buildings get new life



THE OLD POST OFFICE

The romanesque revival building with an airy courtyard houses several cafes, shops and offices.



PAOLO'S RISTORANTE

It's a great stop in the Georgetown renovation district.



GEORGETOWN PARK

The complex of boutiques and cafes blends Victorian and Federal architecture inside a collection of buildings originally intended for tobacco storage.



UNION STATION

Completely renovated and opened this past year, the beaux-arts monument to trains houses the Amtrak station as well as a stop on the Metro red line.

See WASHINGTON/5K