

Timeline of Washington, D.C.

The following is a timeline of the history of the city of Washington, D.C., USA.

18th century

- 1752 - February: First survey of Georgetown completed.^[1]
- 1789 - Town of Georgetown, Maryland, chartered and incorporated; Georgetown University founded.^[2]
- 1790 - July 16: Residence Act enacted, selecting a site along the Potomac River as the future location of the permanent seat of the federal government of the United States.^[3]
- 1791
 - January 24: Federal District proclamation issued by President George Washington.^[4]
 - Team led by Andrew Ellicott begins survey of the future boundaries of the original District of Columbia.^[5]
 - L'Enfant Plan for design of the City of Washington introduced.^[6]
 - September 9: Commissioners appointed by President Washington name the federal district as "The Territory of Columbia," and the federal city as the "City of Washington."^[7]
- 1792 - Construction of White House (presidential residence) begins.
- 1794 - Tudor Place (residence) built in Georgetown.^[8]
- 1797 - "Bridge at Little Falls" crossing the Potomac River opens at the future site of Chain Bridge.^{[8][9]}
- 1800
 - Seat of Federal government of the United States relocated to Washington from Philadelphia.^[5] President Adams moves into White House.^[6]
 - United States Capitol building constructed.
 - Washington Navy Yard established.^[8]
 - Population: 14,093.^[8]

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19th century

1800s-1850s

- 1801
 - February 24: US Congress establishes the District of Columbia (comprising Washington County, Alexandria, and Alexandria County).^[6]
 - March 4: US president Jefferson inaugurated.^[8]
- 1802
 - "City of Washington" incorporated; mayor-council government established.^[8]
 - Jail built.^[8]
- 1806 - Public school opens.^[8]
- 1809 - May 20: Long Bridge crossing the Potomac River near 14th Street SW opens.^{[8][10]}
- 1814 - August 24: Burning of Washington by British forces.^[11]
- 1815 - Washington City Canal begins operating.^[6]
- 1816 - St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square built.^[8]
- 1818 - Central heating installed in the US Capitol building.^[12]

- 1835
 - Baltimore and Ohio Railroad begins operating.^[13]
 - Labor strike by federal navy yard workers.^[14]
- 1836 - December 15: 1836 U.S. Patent Office fire.
- 1840 - Population: 23,364 in city,^[15] 43,712 in district.^[6]
- 1842 - United States Naval Observatory established.^[11]
- 1844 - Baltimore-Washington telegraph begins operating.^[12]
- 1846
 - District of Columbia retrocession of Alexandria and Alexandria County to Virginia.^[6]
 - National Smithsonian Institution established.^[11]
- 1848
 - Cornerstone of the Washington Monument placed.^[16]
 - Washington Gas Light Company established.^[6]
- 1850
 - District of Columbia's stone for the Washington Monument dedicated.^[17]
 - Congress abolishes slave trade in the District of Columbia.^[6]
- 1855 - Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle) completed.^[18]

1860s-1890s

- 1860 - Population: 61,122^[15]
- 1862 - Slavery abolished.^[6] Congress requires city to provide schooling for black students.
- 1863 - National Academy of Sciences headquartered in city.^[5]
- 1864 - July: Battle of Fort Stevens^[6]
- 1865
 - April 14: Assassination of president Lincoln^[19]
 - first black school opens at 2nd and C, SE
- 1867
 - Howard University founded.^{[20][21]}
 - "Blacks given right of suffrage."^[4]
- 1869
 - National Convention of the Colored Men of America held in city.^[22]
 - American Equal Rights Association meets in city.^[4]
- 1870
 - Children's Hospital established.^[21]
 - Population: 109,199^[15]
- 1871
 - District of Columbia Organic Act of 1871 effected.^[6]
 - Norton P. Chipman becomes delegate to the US House of Representatives from the District of Columbia
- 1877 - Washington Post newspaper begins publication.^[23]
- 1878 - Telephone begins operating.^[6]
- 1880 - Population: 147,293 in city,^[15] 177,624 in district.^[6]
- 1881
 - February: Flood.^[6]
 - "Tiber Canal filled in to become Constitution Avenue."^[24]
 - American National Red Cross headquartered in city.^[21]

- 1885 - Washington Monument dedicated.^[11]
- 1888 - Electric streetcar begins operating.^[6]
- 1889 - National Zoo opens.^[6]
- 1890
 - Rock Creek Park established.^[6]
 - Population: 230,392.^[15]
- 1893 - American University founded.^[21]
- 1897 - American Negro Academy founded.^[20]
- 1899 - Height of Buildings Act of 1899 legislated.^[6]
- 1900 - Population: 278,718.^[15]

20th century

1900s-1940s

- 1902 - McMillan Plan for design of city introduced.^[6]
- 1906 - District Building (city hall) constructed.^[6]
- 1907
 - Union Station built.^[8]
 - Washington National Cathedral construction begins.^[1]
- 1910 - Population: 331,069.^[15]
- 1912 - "Cherry trees planted around the Tidal Basin."^[24]
- 1915 - Association for the Study of Negro Life and History established.
- 1917 - National Sylvan Theater opens.^[24]
- 1919 - July: Racial unrest.^[6]
- 1920 - Population: 437,571.^[15]
- 1922
 - January 28: Storm crushes Knickerbocker Theatre.^[6]
 - May 30: Lincoln Memorial dedicated.^[6]
- 1923 - Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art opens.^[24]
- 1924
 - National Capital Park Commission established.^[24]
 - Washington Senators baseball team wins 1924 World Series.^[6]
- 1925 - WMAL radio begins broadcasting.^[25]
- 1926 - Federal Triangle construction begins.^[6]
- 1930 - Population: 486,869.^[15]
- 1931 - National Symphony Orchestra formed.^[26]
- 1932
 - May: "Bonus Army" demonstration.^[27]
 - Arlington Memorial Bridge opens.^[24]
 - Folger Shakespeare Library built.^[28]
- 1935 - National Cherry Blossom Festival begins.^[24]
- 1937 - Washington Redskins football team active.^[6]
- 1940 - Population: 663,091.^[15]
- 1941
 - National Airport built.^[6]
 - National Gallery of Art opens.^[12]

- 1942 - Declaration by United Nations signed in city.^[4]
- 1944 - International Dumbarton Oaks Conference held in city.^[29]
- 1946 - International Monetary Fund headquartered in city.^[2]
- 1947 - WMAL-TV, WRC-TV, and WTTG (television) begin broadcasting.^[30]
- 1949
 - Whitehurst Freeway begins operating.^[6]
 - WTOP-TV (television) begins broadcasting.^[30]

1950s-1990s

- 1950 - Population: 802,178.^[15]
- 1953 - January 15: 1953 Pennsylvania Railroad train wreck^[13]
- 1954
 - March 1: United States Capitol shooting incident (1954)
 - Bolling v. Sharpe decided, schools integrated in 54-55 school year
- 1957 - May 17: National Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom civil rights demonstration takes place in D.C.^[31]
- 1959 - International Antarctic Treaty signed in city.^[19]
- 1960
 - Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan signed in city.^[4]
 - Population: 763,956.^[15]
- 1962 - Streetcar stops operating.^[6]
- 1963 - August 28: March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; King gives "I Have a Dream" speech.^[19]
- 1964
 - November: "D.C. residents are able to vote for president for the first time."^[32]
 - Capital Beltway constructed.^[6]
- 1965
 - April 17: March Against the Vietnam War.^[33]
 - Washingtonian magazine begins publication.
- 1967
 - Mayor-council form of government implemented;^[6] Walter Washington becomes mayor.^[12]
 - Smithsonian Folklife Festival begins.^[24]
 - Biograph cinema opens.^[34]
- 1968
 - April: 1968 Washington, D.C. riots occur.^[24]
 - American Association of Retired Persons headquartered in city (approximate date).^[21]
- 1969
 - November 15: Protest against Vietnam War.^[19]
 - Gay Blade newspaper begins publication.^[23]
 - Key Theatre in business.^[34]
- 1970 - Population: 756,510.^[15]
- 1971
 - April: Antiwar protest.^[35]
 - May: 1971 May Day protests against war.^[19]
 - June 30: New York Times Co. v. United States decided; allows Washington Post to publish Pentagon Papers about Vietnam.^[19]
 - Walter E. Fauntroy becomes delegate to the US House of Representatives from the District of Columbia.
 - National Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts opens.^[24]

- Center for Science in the Public Interest headquartered in city^[36]
- 1972 - Watergate scandal discovered.
- 1973 - Mayoral election established, per US Congress District of Columbia Home Rule Act^[32]
- 1974
 - 1974 White House helicopter incident^[37]
 - Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum opens.^[24]
- 1976
 - March: Washington Metro begins operating.^[13]
 - May: Concorde supersonic airplane begins operating.^[12]
 - US Bicentennial held.^[24]
- 1979
 - Marion Barry becomes mayor.
 - C-SPAN begins televising federal government proceedings.
- 1980
 - Western Plaza (later renamed to Freedom Plaza) containing a raised marble inlay depicting parts of the L'Enfant Plan for the city of Washington opens along Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. between the White House and the United States Capitol^[38]
- 1981
 - March 30: Attempted assassination of president Reagan^[19]
 - Washington City Paper begins publication.^[23]
- 1982
 - January 13: Crash of Air Florida Flight 90^[4]
 - Washington Convention Center built.
 - National Vietnam Veterans Memorial erected.^{[24][19]}
 - Washington Times newspaper begins publication.^[23]
- 1985
 - Federal News Service in business.
 - National Building Museum opens
- 1987
 - Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery and National Museum of African Art open.^[24]
 - Dupont Circle 5 cinema in business.^[34]
- 1990
 - Population: 606,900.^[15]
 - October 27: Mayor Marion Barry receives six-month prison sentence for cocaine possession.^[39]
 - November 6: Sharon Pratt Dixon wins mayoral election.^[40]
- 1991
 - Eleanor Holmes Norton becomes delegate to the US House of Representatives from the District of Columbia.
 - City bicentennial^[6]
- 1993
 - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum opens
 - National Postal Museum opens
- 1994 - November 8: Marion Barry wins mayoral election.^[41]
- 1995
 - April 17: President William J. Clinton signs the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995, establishing the District of Columbia Financial Control Board^[42]
 - October 16: National Million Man March held in city.
- 1996 - City website online (approximate date).^[43]

- 1999 - Anthony A. Williams becomes mayor
- 2000 - May 14: Million Mom March held.^[44]

21st century

- 2001 - September: 2001 anthrax attacks
- 2002 - International Spy Museum opens
- 2003 - Washington Convention Center rebuilt.^[6]
- 2007 - Adrian Fenty becomes mayor
- 2008
 - Nationals Park (stadium) opens.^[6]
 - Newseum opens in D.C..
- 2009
 - January 20: Inauguration of U.S. president Obama
 - Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian is released, taking place in D.C.
- 2010 - Population: 601,723^[45]
- 2011
 - Vincent C. Gray becomes mayor
 - CityCenterDC construction begins.
- 2014
 - Initiative 71 approved by voters, leading to the legalization of cannabis
- 2015 - Muriel Bowser becomes mayor
- 2016
 - January 2016 United States winter storm
 - DC Streetcar begins operating.
 - March–April: 2016 Nuclear Security Summit
 - National Museum of African American History and Culture opens.
 - District of Columbia statehood referendum, 2016
- 2017
 - January 20: Inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump
 - January 21: National Women's March on Washington scheduled.
- 2018 - The Washington Capitals win their first Stanley Cup in franchise history

See also

- History of Washington, D.C.
- List of mayors of Washington, D.C.
- Category:African-American history of Washington, D.C.
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Washington, D.C.
- List of National Historic Landmarks in Washington, D.C.
- List of United States Congresses
- List of US presidential inaugural ceremonies
- Timeline of Alexandria, Virginia

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External links

- ["Washington, DC - Historical Timeline of the Nation's Capital!" DCVote.org.](#)
 - [National Museum of African American History and Culture"Collection Search: Washington, D.C."Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution.\(Sortable by decade\)](#)
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