

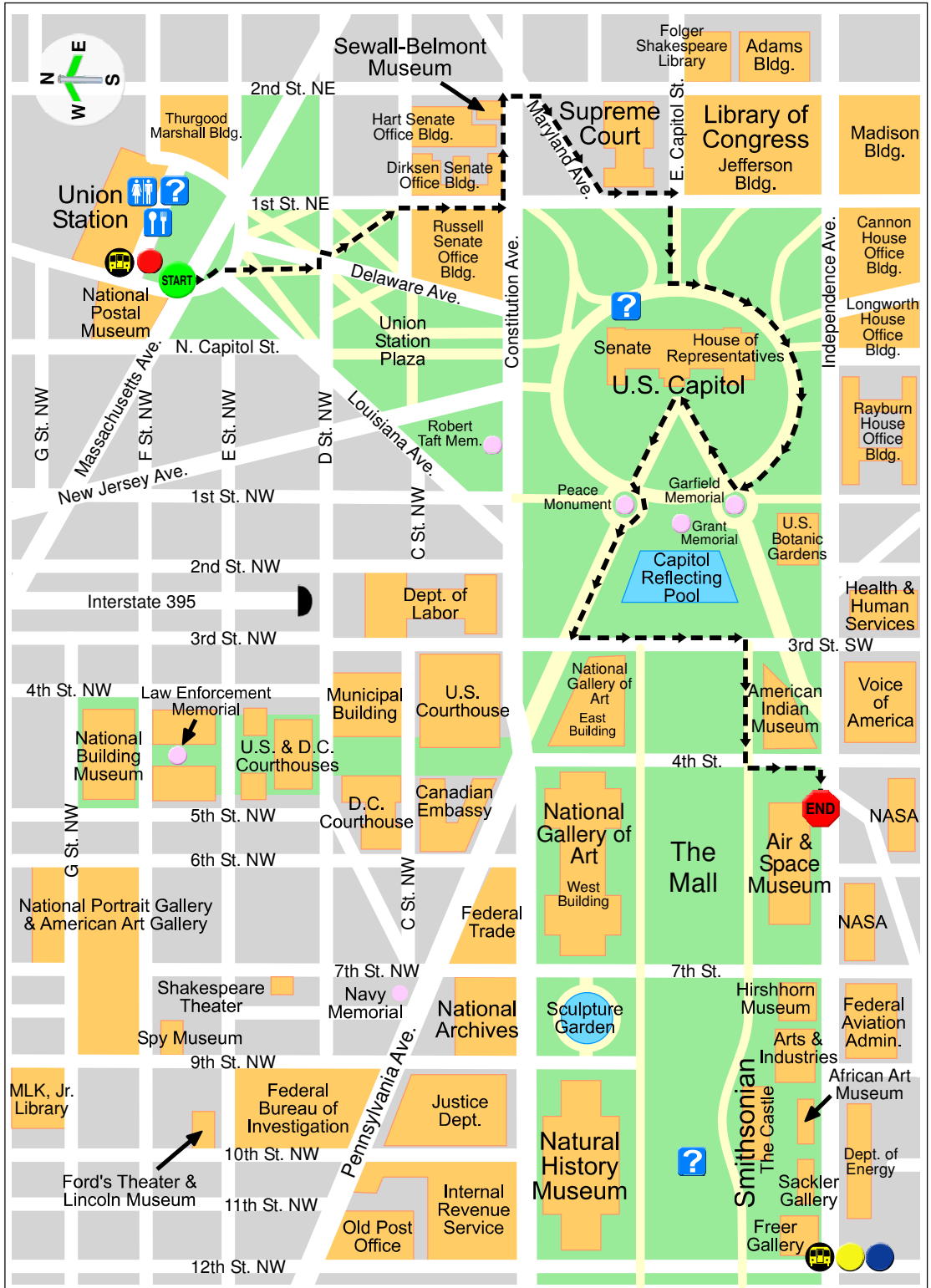
Washington, D.C. **Historical** Women's History #1



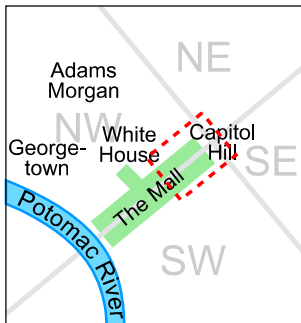
Duration: 1 to 6 hours **Distance:** 1.75 miles
Interest Categories: Historical

MAP KEY

- Tour Route
- Parks
- Bodies of Water
- Pedestrian Areas
- Notable Buildings
- Monuments
- Shops
- Recommended Eateries
- Restrooms
- Restaurants
- Information
- Subway Stations
- Bus Stops



Downtown Washington, D.C.



Maps are not to scale



Washington, D.C. **Historical** Women's History #1

This is the first in a two-tour set that focuses on the evolving role of women and their contributions to society. The tours were produced in conjunction with the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum (www.sewallbelmont.org), which is dedicated to exploring this subject against the backdrop of women's struggle for equality. In addition to the museum, this tour features the Supreme Court and the Capitol, two places that served as battlegrounds for women's rights, as well as another hugely popular museum that you wouldn't think has much to do with women's history.

GETTING THERE: Washington, DC's street layout is a grid divided into quadrants (northwest, southwest, northeast, southeast), with the Capitol serving as the center of the design. The same street address may exist in more than one of these quadrants, so pay close attention to the quadrant (NW, SW, NE, SE) to avoid getting lost when traveling to a specific street address.

To get to the start point of this tour, take the Metro Red line to Union Station. Alternatively, use the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Trip Planner at www.wmata.com/tripplanner to get directions to the start point using mass transit. In the "Travel To" field, simply enter "Union Station".

START in front of **Union Station**, at the corner of Massachusetts Ave. and 1st St., NE. Walk south into **Union Station Plaza**, cutting diagonally across the plaza to Delaware Ave. Cross the avenue and D St., NE and continue through the park to the corner of 1st St., NE and C St., NE. Cross C St. and walk one block south to Constitution Ave., where you'll turn left across 1st St. Walk to the end of the block, passing the **Dirkson** and **Hart Senate Office Buildings**, to the **Sewall-Belmont House and Museum (SBHM)** (www.sewallbelmont.org, *photo at right*).

Originally built in 1800, this National Historic Landmark has served as headquarters for the **National Woman's Party (NWP)** since 1929. For almost a hundred years, the NWP has been a leader in the campaign for equal rights and women's suffrage. Evidence of this rich history can be found in the extensive collection of suffrage banners, archives and artifacts documenting "the continuing effort by women and men of all races, religions and backgrounds to win voting rights and equality for women under the law." Museum visitation is by guided tour only; tours of the museum begin on the hour, Tuesday through Friday from 11am to 2pm and Saturday from 12pm to 3pm. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

From the SBHM, walk south across Constitution Ave. and turn right down Maryland Ave. Turn left at First St. and you'll find yourself in front of the **United States Supreme Court** (www.supremecourtus.gov, *photo at right*). From 1922 to 1929, the NWP's fourth headquarters stood on this site. Known as the Old Brick Capitol, the building had previously housed Henry Clay's office during his tenure as Speaker of the House (his desk is on display at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum). In 1929, the building was taken by the federal government under eminent domain and razed to make way for this colossal Beaux-Arts edifice.



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party





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In 1879, long before the NWP and this building came into existence, Belva Lockwood became the first woman to practice law before the Supreme Court. This milestone didn't come easily, though. Lockwood became one of the first woman lawyers in the U.S. when she earned her law degree in 1872. At that time, however, women weren't allowed to argue cases before the Supreme Court. For five years she lobbied Congress to enact an anti-discrimination bill. Her hard work paid off in 1879, when Congress passed a law allowing all qualified women attorneys to practice in any federal court. Over a hundred years later, in 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to become a member of the Supreme Court, followed by Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1993.

Next, walk south to East Capitol St., then turn right and continue toward the **Capitol** itself. Turn left once you reach the path that encircles the Capitol and follow it around to the front of the building. **The United States Capitol** (www.aoc.gov/cc/visit/) was in many ways both the start point and the end point in the women's suffrage movement. In 1912, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns took control of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) Congressional Committee. Their involvement with the Congressional Committee breathed new life into a push for a federal suffrage amendment, granting women the right to vote. Three years later, having grown frustrated with the progress of Congressional lobbying, the pair founded the NWP in order to gain popular support for the cause and influence the federal government from the outside. The leaders of the NWP continued to return to the Capitol to picket throughout the suffrage movement, and lobby their congressmen for the vote. A sample of their Congressional Card Index is on display at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, a testament to the exhaustive preparation that went into the NWP's extensive lobbying campaign.

The Capitol is also where the battle for women's suffrage was won. On August 18, 1920, Congress ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which stated in part that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

With the **Capitol Reflecting Pool** to your left and the Capitol behind you, look down Pennsylvania Ave. toward the White House. On March 3, 1913, one day before Woodrow Wilson's first inauguration, a group of 10,000 women marched down Pennsylvania Ave., from the Capitol to the Treasury Building. Inez Milholland Boissevain, later a known martyr and symbol for women's suffrage, led the march on a white horse (*photo at right*).



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party

The parade (*photo at left*) included delegations of women from all over the U.S., as well as from countries that already enjoyed full or partial suffrage. Male supporters of the women's suffrage movement also marched. The avenue was lined with 100,000 spectators, many of whom were in town for President Wilson's inauguration. Some of the spectators joined counter-protesters in throwing things at the women and tearing down their suffrage banners. Police did not intervene to protect the marchers, and eventually soldiers had to be called in to break up the riotous crowds so the women could continue the parade.



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Once past the Capitol Reflecting Pool, turn left at 3rd St. and keep walking until you reach the back of the American Indian Museum. Turn left, crossing 3rd St. and continuing west down The Mall, toward the Washington Monument. At 4th St., turn left again and follow the street to Independence Ave. Turn right and walk a few hundred feet until you reach the entrance to the **Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum** (www.nasm.si.edu). This is the most popular of the Smithsonian museums, and contains the world's largest collection of aircraft and spacecraft.

The National Air and Space Museum is hosting a temporary special exhibit, "Treasures of American History," while the National Museum of American History is being renovated. Until April 13, 2008, you can find on display here an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) charm bracelet, a "Jailed for Freedom" pin, Susan B. Anthony's belongings, a women's suffrage sash and a table once owned by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

END your tour inside the museum, at the bright red **Lockheed Vega 5b** airplane flown by America's most famous female pilot, Amelia Earheart (*photo at right*). Earheart was a member of the NWP and an advocate of the ERA.



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party

Washington, D.C. **Historical** Women's History #2



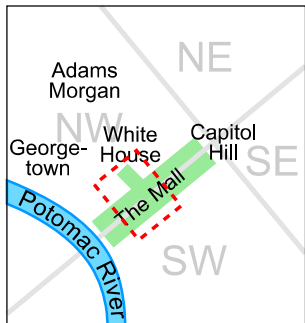
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Downtown Washington, D.C.





Washington, D.C. **Historical** Women's History #2

This is the second in a two-tour set that focuses on the evolving role of women and their contributions to society. The tours were produced in conjunction with the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum (www.sewallbelmont.org), which is dedicated to exploring this subject against the backdrop of women's struggle for equality. The Sewall-Belmont House and Museum is featured in the first tour in this set. This tour highlights over a dozen interesting and educational sights, including the world's only museum dedicated to women artists and the early headquarters of the group that spearheaded the women's suffrage movement.

GETTING THERE: Washington, DC's street layout is a grid divided into quadrants (northwest, southwest, northeast, southeast), with the Capitol serving as the center of the design. The same street address may exist in more than one of these quadrants, so pay close attention to the quadrant (NW, SW, NE, SE) to avoid getting lost when traveling to a specific street address.

To get to the start point of this tour, take the Metro Blue, Orange or Red line to Metro Center. Use the 13th St. exit, then walk two blocks north to the start point. Alternatively, catch the 80, G8, S2, S4, X2, D6, D3, 68, D1, or 42 Metrobus to the corner of H and 13th Streets, NW. You can also use the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Trip Planner at www.wmata.com/tripplanner to get directions to the start point using mass transit. In the "Travel To" field, simply enter "1250 New York Avenue NW".

START at the **National Museum of Women in the Arts** (www.nmwa.org) on the corner of New York Ave. and 13th St., NW. Opened in 1987, it is the world's only museum dedicated exclusively to recognizing the contributions of women artists. The museum's collection includes over 3,500 pieces of sculpture, paintings and decorative art. Many items in the collection were procured by Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay starting in the 1950s, in response to their discovery that the art texts of the time made almost no mention of female artists. Today, the museum showcases works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Clara Peeters and Frida Kahlo, as well as special exhibitions and programs.

From the museum, follow New York Ave. west toward the **White House**. Cross over 15th St., then turn right on Madison Place. At 717 Madison Pl. you'll find **Taylor House**, now part of the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Formerly known as **Cameron House**, this was the headquarters of the National Woman's Party (NWP) from 1916-1917. Founded in 1913 by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, the NWP was an organization that fought for women's rights throughout the early 1900s.

The efforts of the NWP were particularly focused on winning passage of a constitutional amendment that would ensure women the right to vote. To that end, NWP members began picketing the White House on January 10, 1917. As the country got more deeply involved in World War I, the general public became increasingly hostile toward the picketers, culminating in a confrontation on August 14, 1917. During the melee, the suffragists controversial "Kaiser Wilson" banner (*photo at right*) was destroyed by counter-protesters. Later that same day, angry mobs gathered outside of Cameron House, and someone fired a shot into the second floor of the headquarters. Despite this and other, similar confrontations, the NWP demonstrations lasted until 1919. During that time, five hundred women were arrested and 168 women served prison terms.



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party

From Taylor House, cross Madison Pl. and enter **Lafayette Park**. In the southeast corner of the park you'll find the Lafayette Statue.



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party

Lawyer Inez Milholland Boissevan was a popular speaker for the cause of suffrage, and had led an historic march down Pennsylvania Ave. in March of 1913 (see below). Boissevan, who suffered from anemia, collapsed during a speech in 1916 and later died. Many activists considered her a martyr to the cause. On August 6, 1918, Boissevan's birthday, the NWP held a protest in Lafayette Park, using the **Lafayette Statue** (*photo at left*) as their platform. Twenty-six women were arrested and sentenced to as much as fifteen days each in the city's prison. An article in *The New York Times* described the scene as follows: "One young woman, Miss Huff of Iowa, was carried off bodily under the arm of a big policeman, while the crowd laughed in amusement, punctuated by some hisses."

Continue west across Lafayette Park to Jackson Place. In January of 1918, the NWP moved their headquarters across Lafayette Park to 14 Jackson Place, an address formerly known as the **Ewell House**, where the organization remained until 1921. This is where Alice Paul celebrated the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, unfurling the NWP Ratification Banner over the balcony of the headquarters and declaring victory for women (*photo at right*). While the building is no longer there, you can still walk along Jackson Place and imagine the celebration that occurred there on August 26, 1920 when women finally won the right to vote.



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party

Walk south on Jackson Pl. toward the **White House**, where NWP members picketed President Wilson for two years starting in 1917. The NWP was the first group in the history of the United States to use this form of protest against the President. In 1919, they built "watchfires of freedom" by burning President Wilson's speeches. The President's speeches often proclaimed his support for democracy; the purpose of these demonstrations was to highlight the hypocrisy of those statements as long as women remained disenfranchised.

Walk east along Pennsylvania Ave., so that the White House is to your right. At the corner of 15th St. you'll find the **Treasury Building**. On March 3, 1913, one day before Woodrow Wilson's first inauguration, a group of 10,000 women marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, from the Capitol to the Treasury Building. The avenue was lined with 100,000 spectators, some of whom threw things at the women and tore down their banners.



Photo courtesy of the National Woman's Party

In order to gain publicity and attract new members, the NWP often employed pageantry in their demonstrations. Those who completed the march were treated to "The Allegory," an elaborate feminist pageant performed on the steps of the Treasury Building (*photo at left*). One hundred women and children participated in the tableau, depicting historical women like Joan of Arc and Queen Elizabeth and personifying ideas like Freedom and Liberty. A reporter from *The New York Times* wrote that the pageant was "one of the most impressively beautiful spectacles ever staged in this country."



Washington, D.C. **Historical** Women's History #2

From the Treasury Building, walk south down 15th St., then turn right on E St. Cross 17th St., then turn left in front of the Corcoran Gallery. Walk a block and a half until you find yourself in front of the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) National Headquarters** (*photo below*).

Membership in the DAR is limited to women 18 and older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. But for such an exclusive organization, the goals of the DAR are quite inclusive: The 165,000 DAR members volunteer a combined 60,000 hours annually to sick veterans; award over \$150,000 per year to students in the form of scholarships and financial aid, and donate over one million dollars per year to underprivileged schools.



While the DAR's mission is not focused on women's issues, its membership has included prominent figures in women's history, such as Susan B. Anthony, Red Cross founder Clara Barton, and Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science Church. More recent members include First Ladies Laura Bush and Rosalynn Carter, Senator Elizabeth Dole and former Attorney General Janet Reno. In addition to the organization's national offices, this building contains one of the nation's foremost genealogical libraries; the city's largest concert hall, **Constitution Hall** (www.dar.org/conthall); and the **DAR Museum** (www.dar.org/museum). The museum includes 31 Period Rooms and an impressive collection of pre-industrial American decorative arts.

From the DAR headquarters, continue south on 17th St. until you reach Constitution Avenue. Cross the Avenue and turn right once you enter **The Mall**. Walk west along the pond, with Constitution Avenue to your right, until you reach the **END** of your tour at the **Vietnam Veteran's Memorial**.

The memorial comprises three parts: the **Three Soldiers** statue, the **Vietnam Women's Memorial** (*photo at right*) and the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**. While the idea seems innocuous, the creation of the Vietnam Women's Memorial (VWM), dedicated to American women who served in the Vietnam War, was controversial. Frederick Hart, sculptor of the Three Soldiers statue, argued that the statue of three men stood for the whole veteran population regardless of gender. After two separate pieces of Congressional legislation, the approval of three federal commissions, and the work of thousands of volunteers, the VWM was finally dedicated after a 10-year struggle on November 11, 1993.



Designed by Glenna Goodacre, the statue depicts three uniformed women, one of whom is tending to an injured soldier. This is significant because 87% of the women who participated in the conflict served as nurses.