

Nixon's resignation in 1974. Creating a National Cultural Center in Washington was fervently pushed by President Kennedy. In 1971, the Kennedy Center was dedicated as a living memorial to President Kennedy, as was Washington's Performing Arts Center. "I am certain," Kennedy said in 1962, "that after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we, too, will be remembered not for our victories or defeats in battles or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit."

II. Hispanic Heroes Memorials (Virginia Avenue, Between 18th and 24th Streets, NW)

Personifying the spirit of independence, five monuments honoring courageous Hispanic leaders and international friendships occupy places of honor in several small parks between the OAS building and the Kennedy Center.

José Artigas, the father of Uruguay's independence, led the Gauchos Revolt in 1811. He was known to carry a copy of the U.S. Constitution with him at all times. The "Gaucha Statue" was a gift of Uruguay in 1950. Simón Bolívar, the great liberator, devoted his life to the cause of South American independence. He led more than two hundred battles, winning freedom for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. The equestrian statue was donated in 1959 by Venezuela. José de San Martín, a soldier and statesman, fought for the freedom of Argentina. He also led a daring twenty-four-day march over the Andes to liberate Chile. Argentina gave the equestrian statue of San Martín in 1925. Bernardo de Gálvez, a Spanish colonial leader, supplied arms to the colonists during the Revolutionary War and forced the British from West Florida in 1781. King Juan Carlos of Spain gave the equestrian statue in 1976. Benito Pablo Juárez, the father of modern Mexico, was a revolutionary leader who became president of Mexico. He fought for the rights of the common citizen. The gesturing statue was a gift of Mexico in 1969.

Chapter 7

Mt. Pleasant, Meridian Hill and Adams Morgan Neighborhoods

Washington's first suburb was Mt. Pleasant, developed in the late 1860s on the heights north of the White House. Columbian College, later renamed George Washington University, built its first building on the heights, known as Meridian Hill, in 1820. Taken over during the Civil War by the Union army, the college was used as a military camp. Following the war, real estate speculators, recognizing the beauty and advantages of these heights, quickly purchased, subdivided and marketed Mt. Pleasant.

Ingleside (site 2), built in the 1850s, was the first significant residence in Mt. Pleasant, situated on a 140-acre estate. Fifteen years later, government clerks seeking a more idyllic lifestyle purchased property in Mt. Pleasant and started a new community. Separated from the city, they erected their own social hall for spiritual gatherings and temperance meetings; they raised poultry, kept cows and tended backyard vegetable gardens. An omnibus company was organized by 1871, marking the beginning of the Mt. Pleasant streetcar line and allowing city dwellers easy access to Mt. Pleasant. Rows of carefully sited, skillfully designed houses were erected, following the contours of the curving hillside. The aesthetically pleasing row houses featured front porches and rhythmic rooflines. In the early 1900s, some of the city's first and finest apartment buildings were constructed in Mt. Pleasant. A commercial corridor developed, and in 1925 the Mt. Pleasant Library was opened (site 3).

