

The greater U Street neighborhood began a transformation into a prominent African-American “City Within a City” beginning about 1900. By 1920 it was the center of black culture, housing, architectural design, business, and society. The community largely formed due to the restrictions and segregation forced onto blacks elsewhere in the city, preventing them from occupying hotel rooms or shopping at local department stores.

Fortunately, many local landmarks remain along the U Street corridor, preserved when the neighborhood was declared an historic district in 1998, and artifacts, photographs, oral histories, and documents continue to be discovered that serve to enrich our understanding and significance of this corridor, which is once again thriving with business and commerce. These images are taken from the book *Greater U Street* and show the myriad activities, personalities, and entertainment venues during the first decades of the 20th century. □

—Paul Kelsey Williams
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Scenes from the Past

photos—courtesy
Kelsey & Associates.



1400 block of U Street looking west.

LINCOLN COLONNADE
KAB KALLOWAY
and his
COTTON CLUB ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY, NOV. 10th
ARMITICE NIGHT



Out for the evening at Bohemian Caverns on U Street.



At far left, Page Jewett auto dealership at 16th and U Streets.

At left, Thompson's Dairy milkman making his morning rounds.



Regulars in 1922 at the Better Ole Club, 1515 U Street.



Bakers Dozen meeting at the True Reformer Building, 12th & U Streets.

CLUB Bali
1901 14th ST., N. W. DUPont 7544
presents
HARLEM TROPICANA
Staged and Conceived by S. H. DUDLEY, JR.
STARRING
LOUIS JORDAN
"Ration Blues"
AND HIS TYMPANY FIVE
Featuring
★ MARGARET WATKINS
★ BILLY MITCHELL
★ Dances arranged by HELEN PENN
★ THE PENNETTES
★ Coleridge Davis and his Hardy Bros. Orchestra
★ COUNT LEROY
CLUB BALI—1901 14th ST., NORTHWEST
3 SHOWS—8:30-11:30 P.M.—SUNDAYS: 8:15-11:30 P.M.
BROADCAST EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 11 P. M. OVER WWDC
RENNY CALDWELL, Proprietor