Washington History
Submission Guidelines

Washington History (successor to Records of the Columbia Historical Society) is a richly illustrated, semiannual, refereed magazine that publishes articles on the history of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area for an audience of scholars, students, and the general public. Manuscripts must be sound in scholarship, fully referenced with endnotes, and invitingly written. Washington History seeks articles on all aspects of Washington, D.C. history. While manuscripts on Washington as the federal capital are welcome, they must relate the subject matter in some significant way to the life of the residential and commercial city.

Washington History accepts submissions at any time. The deadline for consideration for the fall issue is March 1; the deadline for consideration for the spring issue is September 1. Before submitting, please review our guide to preparing manuscripts. Manuscript length is flexible; the typical length is between 2,500 and 6,000 words. Endnotes, in Chicago style, will be limited to those necessary to document sources, with one note per paragraph. Manuscripts or proposals should be sent in Microsoft Word to editor@dchistory.org.

Manuscripts may take the following forms:

1. Analytical manuscripts that argue a thesis concerning the history of Washington, D.C. Articles of this type must be broad enough in subject matter to be considered significant contributions to the understanding of Washington history.

2. Descriptive articles based on previously unpublished information. Authors must provide historical context for their subject matter, interpreting its importance in the light of related events, personalities, or trends in Washington or other urban centers.

3. First-hand accounts or reminiscences of events or figures in Washington history. Eyewitness accounts should provide historical context and include the author’s relationship to the subject. Accounts based on documents or interviews from someone else should include text that analyzes and interprets the quotations in the context of other sources.

4. Picture essays based on photographs, works of art, architecture, artifacts, or illustrations, accompanied by a 2,500-word introduction. Such essays may argue a thesis or provide interesting new information.

5. Brief “Teachable Moments,” in-depth explications of a rich and telling photograph, document, or artifact. Teachable Moments typically run four pages with 1,400 words of introduction and detailed annotations.

Manuscripts must be accompanied by at least eight suggested illustrations complete with caption and source information. Authors are asked to investigate the accessibility to original photographs and other illustrations so that, if they are accepted, they may be obtained in high-resolution (300 dpi) scans. Washington History places a premium on illustrations of the highest quality, and the editors of Washington History provide additional photo research if needed. For more information or guidance on illustrations, please query the editor: editor@dchistory.org.

Washington History does not accept unsolicited reviews. If you are interested in reviewing books or blogs, please email editor@dchistory.org with a list of your areas of interest and a statement of your qualifications. We appreciate notices of blogs and books of interest to the magazine’s audience. Review copies should be mailed to Editor, Washington History, Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 801 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001-3746.

Contact Editor Bell Julian Clement at editor@dchistory.org.