Duke Ellington Residences

2129 Ward Pl. NW (birthplace)
1462 Rhode Island Ave, NW (1901, home of Dr. Cuthbert, Ellington's father's employer)
1104 23rd St. NW (1902)
1812 20th St. NW (1903-4)
420 Elm St. NW (1906)
1532 Columbia St. NW (1907)
2107 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (1908)
1206 T St. NW (1909)
1805 13th St. NW (1910-1914)
1816 13th St. NW (1915-16)
1703 8th St. NW (1917-18)
1955 3rd St. NW (1918-19, after marriage to Edna Thompson)
2728 Sherman Ave. NW (1920-22)
1212 T St. NW (Parent's home in 1919 or 1920, Duke's Washington address in 1923)

Early Ellingtonia

Griffith Stadium, 7th St. & Florida Ave. (Washington Senators' baseball park, where young Duke hawked peanuts)
Frank Holliday's Pool Room, 626 T St. NW
Howard Theater, 620 T St. NW (the major black theater in Washington, movies and stage shows.)
Gayety Theater, 513 9th St. NW (downtown burlesque theater)
State, War & Navy Dept, 17th & Pa. Ave. Duke was a messenger there, during the war, 1917-18. Now the Executive Office Building
Lincoln Theater, 1215 U St. NW (a major black movie theater, occasional stage shows.)
Poodle Dog Café, in the 2000 block of Georgia Ave. (“Soda Fountain Rag” written here.)
True Reformer's Hall, 12th & U St NW. (Early performing venue, room 10)
Armstrong High School, 1st & O St., NW (Duke's interest in art developed here)
Murray's Casino, 920 U St. NW (most popular dance hall in the 20's, Duke's 5-piece band played there)

Box 15591 Washington, DC 20003
Ellington Venues

Howard University, 2400 6th St. NW
March 5, 1943
June 2, 1962 ("Jazz for the Small Ensemble," trio only)
June 12, 1971

The Water Gate, a barge anchored on the Potomac near the Lincoln Memorial
June 6, 1946 (first concert here by a black artist)
June 13, 1947
July 16, 1969 (Jimmy McPhail as guest vocalist)

The White House
June 14, 1965 (Festival of the American Arts)
June 23, 1966
June 27, 1967 (played piano for the King of Thailand)
March 27, 1968 (octet played for Pres. Tubman of Liberia)
April 29, 1969 (THE Birthday Party)

National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Ave., NW
March 14-15, 1970 (Concert of Sacred Music)

Bolling Air Force Base, Anacostia, SE
Feb. 4, 1962
March 31, 1963
Dec. 13, 1964 (Johnny Hodges, Jr. on drums)
April 24, 1966 (with Washington vocalists June Norton & Jimmy McPhail)
Feb. 14, 1971

Earle Theater, 13th & E Sts, NW (downtown, whites only. Now the Warner)
Jan. 16 through Jan. 22, 1932 ("20 entertainers from Harlem")

Carter Barron Amphitheater, 16th & Kennedy Sts., NW
July 4 through July 10, 1966 (with Ella Fitzgerald)
July 3 through July 9, 1967 (with JATP & Ella. Same program that was recorded elsewhere and released on Pablo as "The Greatest Jazz Concert in the World.")

Willard Hotel, 1401 Pa. Ave. NW
Dec. 30, 1966
Howard Theater, 620 T St., NW
Sept. 26 through Oct. 2, 1931 (first engagement in DC after leaving Cotton Club)
Oct. 10 through Oct. 16, 1931 (billed as a "return engagement")
April 30 through May 6, 1932 (with Freddy Washington)
Dec. 2 through Dec. 8, 1932 (A "farewell appearance, with the Cotton Club band and Ivy Anderson, before sailing for Europe")
Feb. 10 through Feb. 15, 1934 (with Snakehips Tucker)
Nov. 30 through Dec. 6, 1934
Oct. 18 through Oct. 24, 1935 (with Bessie Dudley)
Oct. 2 through Oct. 8, 1936
Oct. 1 through Oct. 7, 1937 (with the usual "cast of 40")
June 2, 1940 (billed as "D.C.'s first swing concert," Master of Ceremonies was Bill Gottlieb, then Washington Post "Swing Critic," later known as Jazz photographer. Followed by jazz cruise later that night.)
Feb. 27 through March 5, 1942
Dec. 4 through Dec. 10, 1942
Apr. 19 through Apr. 25, 1946 (Hardwick leaves the band)
Feb. 21 through Feb. 27, 1947 (vocalists - Kay Davis & Al Hibbler)
March 26 through Apr. 1, 1948 (with Mantan Moreland)
Sept. 22 through Sept. 28, 1950 (with Dusty Fletcher)
July 6 through July 12, 1951
Oct. 3 through Oct. 9, 1952 (with a "giant revue")
Feb. 12 through Feb. 18, 1954 (with the Flamingos)
Sept. 16 through Sept. 22, 1955 (with Moms Mabley)
April 20 through April 26, 1962 (with Bunny Briggs)

Sheraton Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd., NW
May 22, 1964 (White House Correspondents Assn. dinner)
March 20, 1966 (Washington Jazz Festival. with Eckstine, Peterson, Mongo Santamaria, etc.)
August 25 through ?., 1973

Georgetown University, 37th & O Sts., NW
Feb. 10, 1974 (last Washington performance by the full band)

The Robert E. Lee (Potomac River cruise ship, docked at 6th & Maine Ave, SW)
June 2, 1940 (following performances at the Howard. Billed as "8:30 till dawn.")

Uline Arena, later renamed the Coliseum, 3rd & M Sts, NE
Dec. 6, 1943 ("6,000 roared approval...from the opening "Moon Mist" to the Closing "Things Ain't")
June 2, 1962 ("Jazz at the Coliseum," with Mulligan, Monk, Peterson & Eldridge)
June 3, 1962 (more "Jazz at the Coliseum," with Brubeck & Shearing)
May 29, 1964 (DC Cab Assn. Benefit)

Masonic Temple, 10th & U Sts., NW
Oct. 12, 1931

Statler Hilton, 1001 16th St. NW
March 11, 1967
Hawthorne School, 17th & M Sts., NW
Feb. 11, 1974 (last Washington appearance. Duke sat in on Marian McPartland's jazz education class.)

Duke Ellington's, 9th & V Sts., NW
Nov. 1 – 5 & Nov. 7-11, 1948 (debut of club named for Duke. Ben Webster sat in all week, then rejoined the band. Duke's was followed by other name bands – Illinois Jacquet, Buddy Rich, etc. The club lasted only through New Year's. Before, and after, called the "Music Hall")

Constitution Hall, 18th & D Sts., NW
October 25, 1956 (with the National Symphony. Rhythm section only.)
May 31, 1962 (shared bill with the National Symphony. Backed Dinah Washington on "Do Nothin")
Dec. 5, 1966 (Concert of Sacred Music, with Bunny Briggs and Jimmy McPhail)
Aug. 31, 1969
Oct. 2, 1970
May 10, 1971 (shared bill with Nancy Wilson. Backed guest soloist Don Byas.)

Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW
May 30, 1965
April 20-26, 1971 (the Blue Room)

Fox Theater (14th & F Sts, NW. Downtown, whites only)
Oct. 28 through Nov. 3, 1932 (big hits: "Trees" and "Limehouse Blues")
Nov. 9 through Nov. 15, 1934 (with "Snakehips" Tucker)
Dec. 13 through Dec. 19, 1935

National Guard Armory, E.Capitol & 20th St.
Oct. 21, 1951
April 20, 1955 (on LP "Washington, DC Armory Concert")
Feb. 5, 1960 (a Mardi Gras ball, with the Milt Buckner Trio)
May 20, 1961
Nov. 9, 1968

Kennedy Center
Oct. 3, 1973 (Benefit for med. & dental students at Howard U.)

Smithsonian Institution, American History Museum, 14th & Constitution Ave., NW
Jan. 20, 1969 (Nixon's Inaugural Ball. Duke on the main floor, Guy Lombardo on the ground floor.)

Turner's Arena, 14th & W Sts., NW
March 7, 1943 (admission: $1.10. With Betty Roche & Jimmy Britton)
Dec. 3, 1944
March 17, 1946
Nov. 16, 1947

By Max Grimmer
The Duke Ellington Society, Washington DC