Built in 1895 as an elegant town home and purchased in 1951 by the League, the Pen Arts Building is included on the National Historic Register as part of the DuPont Circle Historic District. Originally built for opera singer Sarah Adams Whittemore of the presidential Adams family, its most famous resident was Robert Todd Lincoln, eldest son of President Abraham Lincoln.

Pen Arts is within walking distance of fashionable Connecticut Avenue and the White House. This lovely Victorian brick edifice with its greening copper turrets, sturdy towers, basket weave ornamentation and variation in window arrangement presents an imposing exterior on a strategic corner. The interior’s spacious rooms and eight fireplaces on three floors is the setting for receptions and other social activities, as well as National Board meetings. It houses the president’s suite, business offices, the NLAPW archives and library, and an unparalleled collection of art by our women members. The Pen Arts Building welcomes League members and their referrals to our official home and headquarters.

Only Commemorative Endowment Fund income is expended toward keeping Pen Arts in good repair. Gifts to this fund become perpetual memorials to those so honored and their names are inscribed in a permanent Commemorative Endowment Fund book for posterity.

If you would like to make a donation to our Commemorative Endowment Fund, make checks payable to NLAPW - CEF and send to NLAPW • 1300 17th St., NW • Washington, DC 20036, or visit www.nlapw.org and donate using our secure online system. (All donations are tax deductible.)
Private Historic Elegance

Our formal parlor is home to many social gatherings, outreach concerts, workshops and National Board meetings. The elegant furnishings were donated to the League by branches or members’ estates. Of architectural note are the ornate fireplace with Empire mirror and curved windows with heavy antique glass in the intimate alcove.

Originally commissioned by the Smithsonian, this portrait of First Lady, Mrs. Grover (Frances) Cleveland, now graces our formal dining room.

Two single rooms - #4 (left) and #5 (right). All rooms have Wi-Fi, television and air conditioning.

Pen Arts, purchased in 1951, is home to our archives, records of illustrious members, our library of members’ work, and a collection of fine art.

The Vinnie Ream Room (at right) honors our beloved Pen Woman who, at 19, sculpted the statue of Abraham Lincoln which stands in the Capitol Rotunda.

Two double rooms offer an optional cot.

Gold Room (above)
Rose Room (at left)

A smaller double, the Purple Room (not shown) is on the top floor, known as the “Owls Nest.”

To book your visit, or obtain more information, contact:

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