



Houseboats on the Waterfront

Preparations for World War II ended plans of filling the Southwest yacht basins with pleasure crafts. Instead, a severe housing shortage during the war turned the waterfront into a home for houseboats, providing an obvious alternative for the many government workers who toiled in offices near the National Mall. Houseboats continue to be a permanent fixture at Gangplank Marina, a live-aboard residential community established in 1977.

Architectural and historical information about the houseboats is available in the exhibit. The houseboats were built during the war and were used as temporary housing for government workers. They are now a permanent fixture at Gangplank Marina.