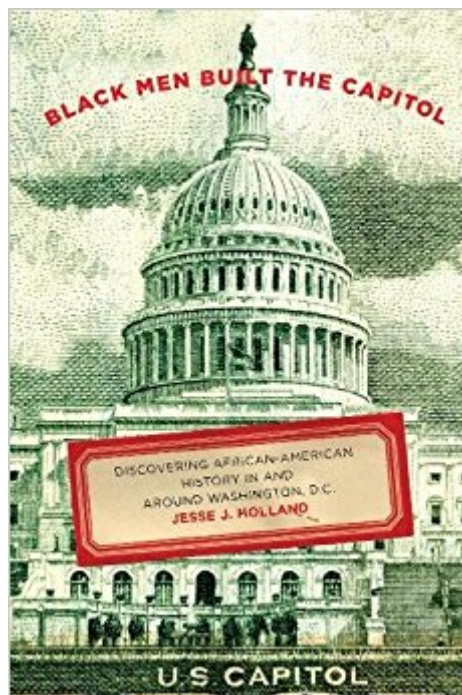


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# Black Men Built The Capitol: Discovering African-American History In And Around Washington, D.C.



## Synopsis

A story most Americans don't know. \*Slaves built the Capitol, White House, and other important Washington structures\* The National Mall sits on the site of the city's once-bustling slave market\* The grounds that are now Arlington National Cemetery were once a self-sustaining village for former slaves Millions of people visit the National Mall, the White House, and the U.S. Capitol each year. If they only hear the standard story, a big question remains: Where's the black history? Packed with new information and archival photos, *Black Men Built the Capitol* answers this question.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

About Jesse Holland's *The Invisibles*: Jesse J. Holland's riveting book *The Invisibles* shines a long overdue light on the enslaved men and women who were forced to serve in the nation's seat of executive power The White House. Not only does Holland reveal this ugly chapter of American history with sharp analysis and insight, he reveals the blatant hypocrisy of the nation's presidents and other leaders in permitting such a system of forcible servitude to exist. More importantly, he brings to life the stories and experiences of this group of nearly forgotten African Americans, who showed remarkable courage and resilient character despite being imprisoned by slavery in the heart of the so-called land of the free. --J.D. Dickey, author of *Empire of Mud: The Secret History of Washington, DC* Oney Judge, who dared to flee to freedom from George Washington's household. Edith Hern Fossett, a chef trained to prepare French delicacies for Thomas Jefferson. Andrew

Jackson's wily jockeys. Jesse J. Holland makes visible the courage, expertise and fortitude of the slaves held by U.S. presidents. Holland's contribution to a complete history of our complex nation is one worth savoring. --Donna Bryson, author of *It's A Black White Thing*

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I enjoyed this book and learned a lot about Washington, DC that I had never known before. Mr.

Holland writes with a light, easy-to-read style but his content is anything but light. Holland moved to DC only to discover that histories made little mention of the African-American contributions to our nation's capital. So he set out to change that, and this book is the result. Each page uncovers new facts about how 'black men built the capitol', as well as the 'capital'. What makes this an indispensable guidebook is that Holland starts each section with the standard history of an area or landmark and then gives the reader the 'rest of the story', adding the African-American perspective. If you are looking for a book to teach you about DC, a fascinating city by any standard, this is a good one. If you are looking for a book to learn about DC from an African-American perspective, this is a great one. I lived in DC for nine years, and thought I knew it well. Jesse Holland showed me, a white American who has a degree in history, just how little I actually knew. Valuable, entertaining, and should be in every history classroom in the DC area. Illustrated with maps and photos, including a section of color photos. Rob Morris, author of *Untold Valor: Forgotten Stories of American Bomber Crewmen Over Europe in World War Two*.

It's the truth. Finally , giving credit where credit is due. African Americans enslaved and free men, women and children, we must acknowledge and recognize their talents, skills, and contributions to the America. ....this book does that and more!

Very little is spoken about African American contribution in the construction and building of what we now call the Nation's Capital. Prior to 1790, New York City was the Nation's Capital. In this book by Jesse Holland, it starts at the beginning about taking pieces of Maryland and Virginia in order to build the district. How African Americans did the engineering and the physical construction from the rock quarries that existed in Northern Virginia. It's a very interesting read.

This would be a good book to take with you if you were sight seeing.

I have started reading this wonderful enlightenment book and I can't put it down. It feels like I am on a travel adventure back in time learning about the history of my culture. And what makes this so interesting is that my family will be at a family in Virginia and one of the things we will be doing is taking a tour in Washington, DC...Wow! this is on time.

How many people travel to DC and not really know the history? I am an ex teacher and knew some things, but not all. Great to learn about Black men that we didn't know about. There are some OLD

MEN that were here first.

Having lived and worked in d.c. and surrounding area for many years, some of the material was familiar to me. However, there was much information New to me. Well written and easy to read.

A very informative book. Very easy to read, and I found out about things I've never knew. Having visited D.C. many times I can't wait to go back to explore even more of my history.

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