



NEWS

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June 2007

Eastern Market Focus: Roof Truss Support System

By now everyone knows the basics about Eastern Market — it was built in 1873, designed by Adolf Cluss, an architect/engineer who emigrated from Germany. It is the only surviving operating market of the city's public market chain. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, and its interior was protected in 1991. Since the furnishings and layout of the market have changed over time, the truss system that supports the roof and forms the vast open space is a signature element of the Market's interior.

Monte Edwards's article that follows explains the historic importance of the truss system and some of the problems that now confront the architectural firm Quinn Evans as they assess the fire damage, oversee emergency stabilization efforts, research options, and make recommendations to the city for the restoration and repair of the market.

In other months, we'll take a closer look at other elements of the Market.

The Eastern Market Roof System: Connectors and Connections

by Monte Edwards

The Eastern Market fire caused the connectors in the South Hall roof trusses to fail. The uniqueness of their design, together with their historic relevance in the evolution of roof support systems, requires



The damage to the South Hall of the Market included failed connectors in the historically significant roof trusses.

a competent and well-thought-out plan for their restoration.

Distinctive features of architect Adolf Cluss's design include the South Hall roof trusses, consisting of wrought iron tension members and cast iron compression members (modern steel was not yet available when it was completed in 1873). The Market as a whole provides a unique example of the evolution of roof truss design: by the time the North Hall was built in 1908, modern steel was available, and we need only to look up in the two sections of the Market to see examples of those two very different roof support designs.

Continued on page 4

Tommy Wells to Speak at the CHRS June Meeting

Community Forum set for Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at St. Peter's Church basement hall, 2nd & C Streets, SE

Tommy Wells, the Ward 6 Councilmember newly sworn in this last January to replace the retiring Sharon Ambrose, will be the CHRS speaker at the June Community Forum on June 13, 2007. Tommy, our friend and neighbor for many years, has a distinguished history in civic affairs in the District of Columbia. He has been director of the Consortium for Child Welfare and an ANC 6B commissioner. He took office with a substantially new set of Councilmembers, a new mayor, and a booming city still beset with a variety of basic problems. It has not been a restful five months.

Mayor Fenty has engaged the Council in such controversial areas as a mayoral takeover of the public schools; an initiative to rebuild the library system; fixing a broken emergency medical care system; and, in the planning and zoning areas, a new comprehensive plan and a rewrite of the zoning regulations. In addition to these initiatives, there will be an extensive

Continued on page 3

President's Column

by Dick Wolf

We have just concluded our most successful house tour ever. That success rests on a confluence of fortunate events: an outstanding array of houses and venues; wonderful weather; the efforts of our outstanding tour chair, Ann Richards and her excellent helpers; great graphics and publicity; and finally the support of many Hill residents in all varieties of ways. Thank you, one and all.

This year's tour coincided with the tragic fire at Eastern Market. While we sold tickets across from the shattered hulk of the market, we were surrounded with exuberant vendors who took to the street to sell. Next door to our booth, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation raised funds to help keep Market's merchants together in order to facilitate the Market's

rehabilitation as a going concern: "It's more than a building". CHRS will continue to do what it can to support that effort, in addition to the funds it has already contributed.

More than anything, the Market fire and the community outpouring of support for its rehabilitation showed how important Capitol Hill

able contributions to the city's life. Capitol Hill is not simply a piece of real estate.

In that vein, CHRS will continue to support in even more substantial ways the neighborhoods on the edges of the historic district as they seek to achieve historic district status. We already have in

The Market, although the heart of the Hill, is imbedded in the center of the historic district and surrounded by an irreplaceable set of buildings.

is to the city. The Market, although the heart of the Hill, is imbedded in the center of the historic district and surrounded by an irreplaceable set of buildings, both residential and commercial. These structures are the framework for a community that has grown to be vibrant and self-reliant and makes inval-

place our initiative called "Beyond the Boundaries", which is working with neighborhoods both southeast and northeast of the Capitol Hill Historic District: along and on both sides of H Street, NE; Hill East; and Barney Circle. We invite residents of those areas to become part of this effort. ✧

Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

Fifty years ago, Capitol Hill faced a number of threats, including proposed freeways, a mall extension along East Capitol Street, and wide-spread urban renewal like that inflicted on Southwest. The first tour sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, then a newly-formed civic organization, was part a "how-to" view of how others were renovating or restoring their homes and part a statement to Congress that a stable neighborhood was located east of the Capitol.

C. Dudley Brown, an interior designer noted for his historic restorations, came to Capitol Hill in 1957 and lived and worked here until a few years ago, when he moved to Southwest. He recorded his impressions of those early years (and an early tour) in the following excerpts from an interview with

Megan Rosenfeld for the Ruth Ann Overbeck Oral History project.

One year, when his house was on the tour, Brown recalls:

"...once when we had a house and garden tour and I had two houses on the tour that year, I decided just to join the group that was going through this house [his home]. Like a tourist, I stood right by the fire place, listening to what the interpreters were saying. One woman said to another, "It's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to dust it."

This year's tour featured several houses on East Capitol Street, and Brown recalls a different era:

"The magnificence of East Capitol Street is an example, which now looks so pretentious, and all the million dollar houses and what have you. There were great big houses, and when I look back on how that street looked when we came here, it's

as though every other house had a "rooming house/tourist" sign on it. That's what they did with all those big houses..."

Rosenfeld: The people who used these rooming houses were temporary people? Or were they...before they found places of their own?

Brown: I was always amazed they were sort of like my grandmother's rooming house, but my grandmother never had a sign out in front of her house [231 Massachusetts Avenue, NE]. It was all done by word of mouth.

Rosenfeld: And they were like the cops and the...

Brown: Oh sure. And people who worked for the government. Government was big and all kinds of jobs and everything. Clerks and whatever. ...In our case, with our family, it was the FBI, it sure was." ✧

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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To contact any of the above, please contact the Society offices by calling 202-543-0425 or sending email to CapHRS@aol.com.

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Celebrating more than 50 years helping to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is now the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the entire District of Columbia. From the beginning, the Society has played a key role in maintaining the diverse, residential character of our neighborhood. With your participation we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Start or Renew a CHRS Membership

* On the Web at www.CHRS.org

* Call 202-543-0425 and choose option 2

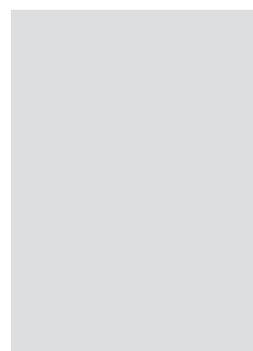
* Pick up a form at one of our meetings

Starting at just \$25 per year for a single membership, it's a great deal.

Tommy Wells to Speak *continued from page 1*

overhaul of social services and the possibility of providing all residents of the District with health insurance.

Those issues are just the "normal" stuff of city governance. The not so normal has been the destructive fire at Eastern Market and the drastic changes proposed for the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation which affects planning and development in Ward 6. Tommy has stepped up to these issues with hard work, thoughtful deliberation, and action.



We will hear from Tommy about his first months on the City Council, and we will get an opportunity to ask him some of our

questions. This should be one of our best programs of the year. ✧

From Trust To Trust

One of Washington's oldest easement-holding organizations, Preservation Trust, is closing its doors after a quarter of a century of service to the city. To ensure that the protection it has provided for its portfolio of nearly 100 historic properties will continue unimpaired, Preservation Trust has arranged to transfer stewardship of its easements to The L'Enfant Trust. Many of those easements are on Capitol Hill because the Preservation Trust was founded by Ruth Ann Overbeck, a Capitol Hill resident, historian, and historic

preservationist who died in 2000.

Carol Goldman, president of The L'Enfant Trust, noted that this reassignment of the easement does not cost the owner anything and is easy to accomplish. Property owners are reminded that they will need to have a recognized organization holding the easement when they wish to sell the property; if other arrangements are not made, the city government would likely become the easement-holding organization. To start the process, please call the L'Enfant Trust offices at 483-4880. ✧

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, patrons, and sponsors.

NEW MEMBERS

Amy Baroch
Adam Clampitt
Betty Clary & Phil Rhoads
Lisa Duggan
Kathryn & Peter Levit
Lisa Gisvold & Seth Lindenfeld
Margaret & William Goodwin
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Jamal Kadri & Sarah McClure
Scott & Aneta Large
Inez & Robert Lester
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Marisa Ridi & Peter Gotthold
Donna Scheeder
Elissa Silverman

Michelle & Chris Singer

PATRONS

Robert & Benita Cooper
David Massey & Katharine Matthews
Randell & Linda Norton
John & Kim Smith

SPONSORS

Bart Hudson

The Eastern Market Roof System *continued from page 1*

In terms of connections, it appears that the South Hall roof trusses had their beginning with another German displaced like Cluss by the 1848 Revolution. Albert Fink came from the same part of Germany as Cluss, leaving his home town of Darmstadt in 1849 for America. His principal involvement was with the B&O Railroad, where he patented his bridge truss in 1854, the basic design of which can be seen in the South Hall roof trusses. Cluss, who had started his professional career engineering a German railroad line, was well versed in railroad technology.

South Hall was built when metal truss design involved elements of experimentation. One innovation was using cast iron, not only for the compression members, but also to connect the truss elements. Cast iron, which is more brittle than steel, is not capable of withstanding twisting forces, and

the fire at the Market probably caused the roof ridge to expand by several inches, which may have cracked a number of the truss connectors. Additionally, the trusses most likely had shifted over the years, moving somewhat out of plumb, or tilted from vertical. Expansion and movement caused by the heat from the intense fire now increased the tilt to almost a foot for some trusses.

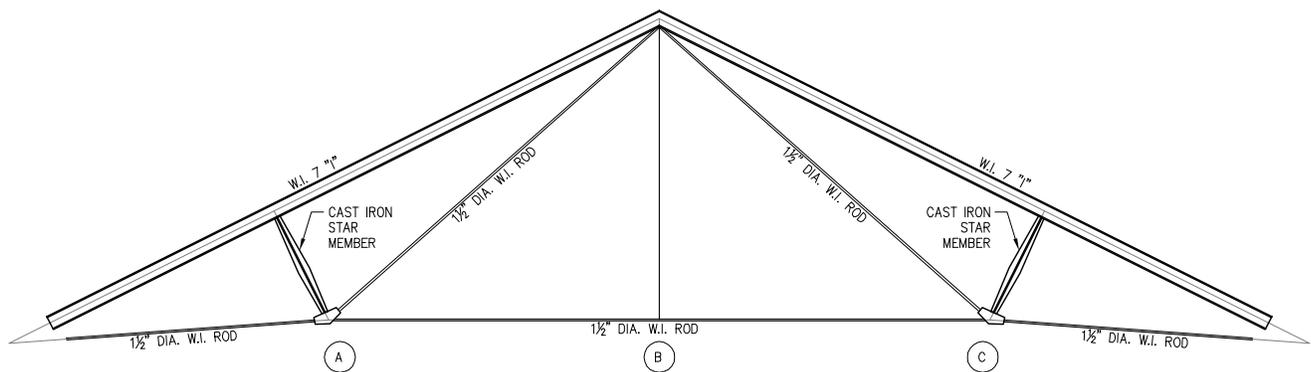
Further complicating the issue:

- The snow load requirement under the building code was for 20 pounds per square foot at the time of the 1970s restoration. Today the code requirement for the snow load is 30 pounds per square foot. The requirement to replace the roof means that the design will likely need to comply with the current building code.
- Wrought iron has been replaced as a structural element

by steel, and it is no longer manufactured in this country.

- All of the cast iron elements of the trusses, including the star members (which appear as elongated diamonds looking up) at the mid-point of each roof half, have probably also been subjected to twisting forces that typically cause cast iron to fail. Visual inspection and laboratory testing will be needed to determine the extent of the failure.

The roof system is unstable and unsafe. The reinforcement now being installed in the roof consists of temporary bracing to provide stability. This stabilization effort should be encouraged until a definitive evaluation of the condition of the trusses can be completed and a plan can be devised for restoration or replication that respects their historic significance. ✧



The compression members of the Market trusses consist of the beams that support the weight of the roof as a bending force and the cast iron star members that transmit weight as a pushing force, generally in a downward direction.

The tension members consist of the 1½ inch wrought iron rods that transmit the pushing

force from the lower end of the star members as a tension or pulling force to the cast iron connectors at the wall and at the apex of the roof.

The 1½ inch horizontal wrought iron rod at the center of the truss pairs (between the connectors of the star members and the wrought iron rods that go to the roof apex and the wall)

is also a tension member to deal with the forces that would otherwise push outward on the walls.

The remaining element, the vertical wrought iron rod that extends down from the apex of the roof, does not serve a structural purpose, but merely prevents the long horizontal rod between the truss pairs from sagging. ✧

Temporary Market Structure Being Built in Hine Playground

On May 18, the DC government broke ground on Eastern Market's new interim site at Hine Junior High School, a location Capitol Hill residents and Eastern Market vendors and merchants identified and approved as an appropriate venue during the reconstruction of the permanent Eastern Market structure.

Turner Construction Company will manage the development of the site, located on the northern area

of the Hine playground. Turner, with 40 percent Local, Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (LSDBE) participation, began utility work last week and is expected to have the tent-like structure erected in 30 days, and outfitted with equipment within 60 days from today. The market will be completed and open for business in July.

With ample space, measuring 50 feet by 230 feet, the temporary structure will house all 14 of the original Eastern Market merchants. Outside vendors will receive addi-

tional space on the school's tennis courts located directly behind the temporary building site.

The cost of the physical structure will be approximately \$490,000, with construction costs budgeted at \$988,000 (this includes the cost of utility build out) and equipment costs for the market totaling \$1 million.

Until further notice, 7th Street, SE, between North Carolina and C Streets, SE, will be closed to traffic from the hours of 6 am to 6 pm on the weekends. ✧

How to Help

Contributions in aid of Eastern Market's displaced vendors and their employees can be made at <http://www.capitolhillcommunityfoundation.org/> Here are some other Eastern Market websites, information sources, and blogs:

- www.saveeasternmarket.org/
- www.easternmarketdc.com/blog/
- www.easternmarketCAC.org
- www.tommywells.org/
- http://rrc.dc.gov/rrc/cwp/view.asp?a=1193&q=459119&portal_link=cc



Mayor Fenty, Lisa Raymond, Dan Tangherlini, and Tommy Wells at a press conference for the groundbreaking of the Eastern Market temporary replacement structure located in the Hine Junior High School playground.

Call for Older Eastern Market Photos

Tom Jester of Quinn Evans Architects is looking for additional historic photos taken anytime between 1873 and 1969. Since they already have photos from the usual sources (Library of Congress, Washingtoniana, Historical Society of Washington, DDOT, Fire Department, city records, etc), they are looking for other unusual places, such as family photo albums, etc., that residents might know about. Tom can be reached at 202-298-6700, or leave a message at the CHRS office 543-0425.

Neighbors United Hosts Its First Annual Family Fair Celebrating the Neighborhood Community Center Kick-Off

Come hear about a proposed new recreation center for families at the Eastern Branch!

When: Saturday, June 9, 12:00 pm to 6 pm,

Where: C Street, SE, between 16th and 17th

What: Food... music... cheering... stepping... dancing... special guests... kids' games... dog

parade... meet and greet your local leaders... and a community yard sale*

For more information, please visit: www.neighborsunited.wordpress.com.

To volunteer or to contribute items, contact Beth Newman (black_gold58@yahoo.com). ✧

*Proceeds to benefit Neighbors United

Most Successful House Tour Ever

by Ann Richards

What a spectacular weekend it was! The weather was glorious, everything was spit-and-polished to a high degree, and everyone had fun, including the homeowners, who now have a carefree summer ahead, since they've crossed off all those chores that have built up over the years.

There were waiting lines for entry to several of the homes, but tour visitors were patient because they knew they were entering some of the finest homes in the neighborhood. East Capitol Street was almost carnival-like with people going back and forth across the street.

The tour was a financial success, due in large part to the strong ticket sales on the weekend of the tour. Ticket sales looked strong in the weeks leading up to the event, compared to recent years, but the sales on May 12th and 13th were explosive at the kiosk at Eastern Market. Total ticket sales were about 1,850, which was a few hundred more than last year. Not all income and expenses have been

accounted for yet, but total net income should be in the range of \$60,000. [Please see article elsewhere for information about CHRS grant application process.]

The Saturday evening reception at the Community Building of Townhomes on Capitol Hill was well attended by tour visitors, who sampled delicious food donated by several Capitol Hill restaurants: Marty's, Finn macCool's, Old Siam, Trattoria Alberto, Tunncliffs, Mr. Henry's, Hawk n' Dove, and the Banana Café & Piano Bar. The Mother's Day Tea at Christ Church was just wonderful, with fine pastries, chilled berries and a lovely tea service.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered for this year's tour: ticket sellers at our Eastern Market kiosk, docents at the houses, servers at the tea and reception, and assistants with the jitney service. You all helped make this year's tour very special. And a big round of applause to Roxanne Walker, graphic designer of the fabulous poster; Paul Cromwell, researcher/writer of the tour book; Aileen Moffatt, publicity; Amanda



There were waiting lines for entry to several of the homes, but tour visitors were patient because they knew they were entering some of the finest homes in the neighborhood.

Molson, Volunteers; Michael Eck, Jitney; and Michelle Carroll and Aimee Occhetti, Tea/Reception, for their help in organizing the tour.

As for next year, the theme will be "Beyond the Boundaries." We hope to showcase some of the old and some of the new as our neighborhood as we know it expands further north and east. Stay tuned and save the dates: May 10th/May 11th.

Special thanks to the sponsors of the tour: Frager's Hardware, Stanton Development, Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells, and Muriel and Dick Wolf. Capitol Hill businesses and friends generously supported the tour by placing ads in the brochure. Major advertisers included Phyllis Jane Young, Riverby Books, Abdo Development, Coldwell Banker/Pardoe, Judi Seiden, Splash!, Hugh Kelly/Gary Jankowski, Bob Williams, The National Capital Bank, and Wentworth Studio. ✧

Thanks to 2007 Tour Supporters

CHRS wishes to thank all the CHRS members, homeowners, volunteers, businesses, and organizations that contributed their time, energy, and financial support to help make this year's House and Garden Tour one of the best ever. You enthusiastically served as house docents, guided the jitney buses, sold tickets at Eastern Market, and helped at the reception and tea.

Special appreciation goes out to our three tour sponsors — Frager's Hardware, Stanton Development, and Muriel and Dick Wolf — and to the nearly

30 businesses and organizations that advertised in this year's tour book.

In addition to the more than 60 tour supporters listed in the tour book, thanks also to the following Patron-level contributors whose donations were received after the press deadline: Burger Real Estate Services; Laurence Pearl & Anne Womeldorf.

The tour was a tremendous success, and we couldn't have done it without you. We look forward to enjoying the tour with you again next year! ✧

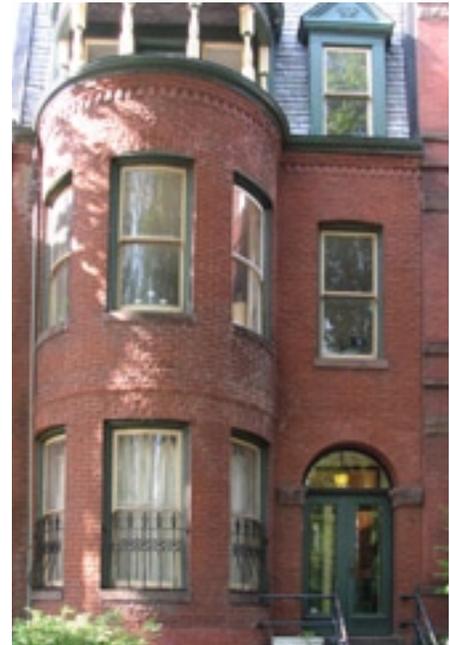
Meet Edwin Horatio Fowler: Nineteenth Century Architect, Draftsman and Capitol Hill Resident

by Amanda Molson

Born in New Hampshire in 1856, Edwin Fowler took a job in Washington as a draftsman for the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) in 1879 after graduating from Dartmouth College with studies in engineering. First authorized by Congress in 1807 as the Coast Survey, USC&GS employed surveyors, cartographers, mathematicians, and sailors to map the coastlines of the United States. By the middle of the nineteenth century, USC&GS was also principally responsible for determining sea depths, predicting tides and currents, using geodetics to measure the gravitational and magnetic field of the earth, and developing the lighthouse system. Serving alongside Fowler as a junior draftsman in the Drawing Division of USC&GS was Robert E. Peary, who would

go on to lead the exploratory team that set foot on the North Pole in 1909. USC&GS was rolled into the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the 1970s.

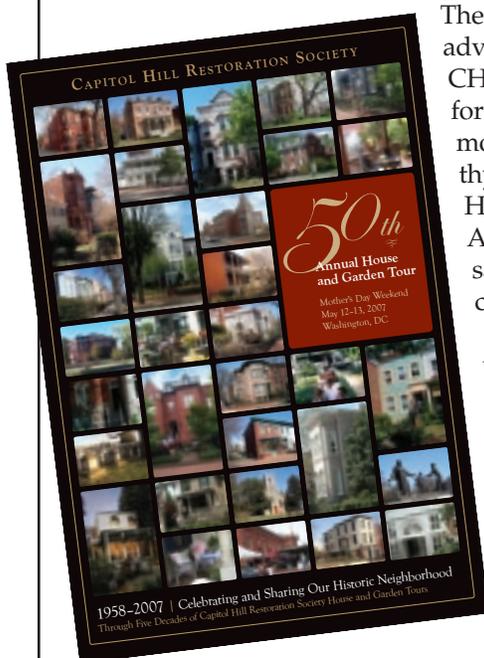
Although he first settled in Northwest Washington, Fowler moved to 207 A Street, NE, on Capitol Hill in 1883 after marrying a fellow New Hampshire native, Martha, that same year. The couple relocated to 1100 East Capitol Street, NE, in 1887, and so began Edwin Fowler's commitment to the Lincoln Park neighborhood. By the mid-1880s, Fowler was making strides at USC&GS, drafting charts for Long Island Sound and Cape Hatteras and mapping the coastal stretches from San Diego to Santa Monica and Tampa Bay to Key West. Earning a comfortable living, Fowler soon combined his talents in both engineering and drawing to moonlight as an architect-for-



One of Fowler's early houses, incorporating elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, is located at 1106 East Capitol Street, NE.

House Tour Posters, Notecards Available

Keep the memories of this year's Tour alive for years to come.



The colorful and attractive posters that advertised this year's 50th Annual CHRS House Tour are available for sale for \$10. The 18" x 27" posters feature a montage of 32 color photos of noteworthy and architecturally diverse Capitol Hill homes and other Hill landmarks. Also for sale are notecards with the same colorful image. The notecards cost \$5 for 10 cards with envelopes.

The posters and notecards will be sold (cash or check only) at the upcoming CHRS Community Forum on June 13 at St. Peter's Church, or they can be picked up from the CHRS office during office hours (no mail order sales). For more information, contact the CHRS office at 543-0425 or info@chrs.org. ✧

hire and speculative builder (not an uncommon side business for Washington draftsmen of the era).

Primarily incorporating elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, Fowler's first project was 208 11th Street, NE, in 1889. He then designed 1104 and 1106 East Capitol Street, NE, before markedly showing his creativity with a seamless bay on 1206 East Capitol Street, NE, in 1891. After producing 115 and 117 Tennessee Avenue, NE, as a speculative builder, Fowler created his own residence at 1126 East Capitol Street, NE, and its mate next door at 1124 in 1892. Fowler's home and many of his other designs exhibited such trademark Richardsonian Romanesque details as deep recessed entryways and windows below exaggerated arches, use of heavy stonework at the base, organic motifs carved in limestone, and the playful use of

Continued on page 9

May Preservation Café Focused on the Cost of a Beautiful Landscape

by Shauna Holmes

CHRS's May Preservation Café featuring Derek Thomas of Thomas Landscapes, focused on the cost of achieving beautiful landscapes for our Capitol Hill homes. First, so that we all understand the unique importance of our front and side yards as public parks in public space, he recommended reading the CHRS Guidelines "Yours, Mine, and Ours: Front Yards and Other Public Space on Capitol Hill." The planning, costs, and care we invest in our yards and tree boxes, he pointed out, enhance our community while giving us personal pleasure. The Guidelines also explain what is and is not allowed in public space and which kinds of projects require permits.

In approaching a landscaping project, Mr. Thomas recommended taking inventory of the trees and plants we have; assessing how well they are suited to the soil, exposure, and scale of our yards; and deciding what we would like to keep, move, or cut back. The more use we can make of the plantings we

already have, the more money we can save. DC residents can request a site assessment visit from UDC's Cooperative Extension Service to provide expert technical assistance and recommendations during this step (contact Ms. Sandy Farber—sfarber@udc.edu or call 202-274-7166).

Next, we should prepare a checklist of what is important to us in our garden, estimate how much time we can devote to planting and maintaining our yard, and decide on a budget for our project. It is critical to decide how much we're willing to spend both in money and time before consulting a landscaping professional so they can adjust their recommendations and design to our budget and to the time we can spend on maintenance. We should be realistic about landscapers' costs as well, and can expect that when they obtain and install our plants, the cost will be about 50-100% more than if we buy them and plant them ourselves. We should also be realistic about what we can and should try to do ourselves. For instance, we can easily

rip out liriopse ourselves, whereas it's best to turn removing or planting a 12-foot tree over to the pros.

Talk to friends and neighbors to locate qualified, reputable landscaping professionals to ensure your money is well spent. Frager's and Gingko Gardens have lists of qualified professionals we can consult. When approaching a landscaper, let them know up front the dimensions of your yard or garden.

The EPA estimates that 20% of household water use goes to yards. By selecting plants that are drought-tolerant and will survive well between periods of normal rainfall, we can save considerably on water bills and time. Such plants would include alpines, dianthus, sedums, succulents, some perennials, daylilies, and echinacea. Implementing our garden plans in stages can spread out the costs, and exchanging plants and cuttings with neighbors can further reduce expenses. Avoiding expensive mistakes is another way to save, as inferior hardscaping materials may soon crack or crumble, and inappropriate plantings may not flourish. ✧



Kingman Island Cleanup

The Hill on Film

by Mike Canning

(The following is one in a series of features that describe how Hollywood movies have depicted—both well and ill—elements of Capitol Hill. The writer is the treasurer of the Society and writes movie reviews for the Hill Rag.)

Any sophisticated DC filmgoer knows that many Hollywood movies are not really about Washington at all, but only use the city as a plot point, to connote the “Feds.” The standard movie shorthand is the establishing shot of the Capitol dome, the unequivocal symbol of our government. Yet filmmakers often use our Hill icon too facilely, cheapening its effect.

According to Hollywood, it appears that the Capitol is vis-

ible from almost anywhere in the DC area. For example, did you know that the dome loomed right outside the Pentagon office of the Undersecretary of Defense—as it does in *Eraser* (1996)? Or that you could see it from Denzel Washington’s room in the “Bethesda Arms” Hotel in 1995’s *Courage Under Fire*? Then there is the Goldie Hawn character, Sunny, in the 1984 comedy *Protocol*. Sunny, wounded in the backside and recovering at the George Washington University Hospital, calls excitedly to her mom to declare, “I can see the Capitol from my window!”

Even a master like Alfred Hitchcock can’t avoid messing with it. In his classic *North by Northwest* (1959), the only Washington scene opens with a

reflection of the Capitol in the nameplate of the “United States Intelligence Agency.” The trouble is that from a subsequent shot showing the Capitol’s West Front, it seems the Agency is located smack on the Mall, on about Fourth Street—ideal spot for a super-secret spy operation.

Thirty-five years later, this shot gets a wacky reprise in *Forrest Gump* (1994), when Forrest’s girlfriend is showing him the DC headquarters of the SDS and the Black Panthers during the turbulent 1970s. Again, a window reveals a full frontal view of the Capitol’s West Front, placing these radical bastions right in the middle of the Mall!

Can’t our great emblem get no respect!?!✱

Edwin Horatio Fowler *continued from page 7*

Capitol Hill’s traditional rounded bays topped by gabled rooflines to mimic Richardsonian’s conical-roofed towers.

At his most prolific during the 1890s, Fowler produced 1014 and 1108 East Capitol Street, NE; 907 and 1103 East Capitol Street, SE; 1312 North Carolina Avenue, NE; 118 and 128 Tennessee Avenue, NE; 1018 Massachusetts Avenue, NE; 112 12th Street, SE; 129 and 131 12th Street, NE; and the Lane Chapel Church at 14th and C Streets, NE—all near Lincoln Park. Fowler also designed a handful of residences in Northwest Washington and a turn-of-the-century single-family dwelling at 1200 East Capitol Street, NE, which would be radically expanded into the present condominium building after Fowler’s death.

In addition to his membership in the local chapter of the New Hampshire Association, Fowler was also a founding member of the University Club in 1904, a gentlemen’s association that consisted

of alumni from such esteemed institutions as Dartmouth, Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, and Cornell. As the Vice President of the Dartmouth Alumni Association, Fowler represented his alma mater. Fowler’s obituary notes that he contributed to the beautification of Lincoln Park, and these efforts were likely related to the addition of fountains in 1884 and pathway improvements in 1894.

Fowler would never see the success of the University Club, which still exists today, as he died at the age of forty-seven in the year of its founding. By his death on March 11, 1904, in his own home at 1126 East Capitol Street, NE, Fowler had achieved the rank of Chief Draftsman of USC&GS. He had studied mapping techniques in England and France in 1900, and USC&GS noted upon his death that Fowler had worked diligently through a long (but undefined) illness in the last months of his life while under great mental pressure.



Fowler showed his creativity with a seamless bay on 1206 East Capitol Street, NE, built in 1891.

Fowler’s last designs on Capitol Hill were 210 Maryland Avenue, NE (later demolished) and 610, 612 and 614 Third Street, NE, in 1902, all removed from Lincoln Park and perhaps indicative of his attempts to expand his architectural impact to other areas of Capitol Hill. ✱

Mark Your Calendar!

JUNE

4 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

9 Saturday, noon - 6:00 pm

Neighbors United Family Fair will feature food, music, dancing, yard sale, dog parade, kids' games, and special guests. Fair will celebrate the kick-off of the initiative to create a new community-owned recreation center for families at the Eastern Branch of the Boys and Girls Club at C Street, SE, between 16th and 17th Streets. Details: www.neighbor-sunited.wordpress.com or Will Cobb, 577-7046.

13 Wednesday, 7:00 pm

CHRS Community Forum/Membership Meeting, with featured speaker Tommy Wells, Ward 6 Councilmember. St. Peter's Church basement hall, 2nd & C Streets, SE. Meeting is free, open to all, no res-

ervations required. Refreshments at 7:00 pm, CHRS business at 7:30 pm, speaker at 7:45 pm. Details: Dick Wolf, 543-4353. See page 1.

14 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Cases for consideration: 620 E. Capitol St., NE (accessory building); 507 C St., NE (addition to office); 121 6th St., NE (addition to row dwelling); 320 So. Carolina Ave., SE (addition to row dwelling); 656-66 Penn. Ave., SE & 325-27 7th St. SE (addition to offices). Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

19 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Dick Wolf, 543-4353.

28 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board, 441 4th Street, NW (#1 Judiciary Square, Room 220 south). Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

Earth Conservation Corps Eco-Boat tours of the Anacostia River

Starting point: ECC, First Street & Potomac Avenue, SE

When:

Wednesday: 9:30-11:30 am
& 5:30-7:30 pm —or—

Saturday pm (start time varies)

Call ahead to reserve: Josh Burch, 554-1960 x 103
jburch@ecc1.org

Suggested donation: \$20 per person



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
