



# NEWS

www.chrs.org

May 2011

## The 2011 Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour From Lincoln Park to the Old Naval Hospital

By Paul Cromwell

The Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 (4–7 pm) and Sunday, May 8 (12–5 pm). The walk from the first stop at 812 C Street, SE to stop #14 at the Old Naval Hospital is approximately one mile. A map of the Tour is available on the CHRS web site (www.chrs.org). Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 on Tour weekend. They may be purchased in advance on the web site or by calling the CHRS Office at 543-0425. They also may be purchased at a ticket booth at

Eastern Market on weekends and at six cooperating locations: Coldwell Banker Real Estate, Prudential Carruthers Real Estate, Hill’s Kitchen, homebody (on 8th Street, SE), Riverby Books (on East Capitol Street, SE) and Appalachian Springs at Union Station. On Tour days tickets may be purchased at any location on the Tour.

The 14 stops on the Tour feature the old (a circa 1853 Mansard Roof home), the frames (before 1875), the

aesthetic style, the late Victorian row house, and several commercial locations, including a former organ factory (see photo, page 5). The northern point on the Tour is Lincoln Park, named after the Civil War Hospital on its eastern edge while the southern point is the Old Naval Hospital, now being renovated and restored as the Hill Center.

Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel the traditional Mother’s Day Tea (refreshment break) when we lost the location just as the tickets went to press—with no time to find

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CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY

54TH ANNUAL

# HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

MOTHER’S DAY WEEKEND ♻️ MAY 7-8, 2011

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# President's Column: Eastern Market Crossroads

By Beth Purcell

It's great to have a guilt-free excuse to spend an afternoon enjoying Eastern Market, especially in great weather. On any other weekend it's hurry-hurry—a quick walk with the dogs to buy vegetables and then return home immediately. But, if your job is to sell bulbs for the Capitol Hill Garden Club, or to sell House and Garden Tour tickets for CHRS, you can sell and enjoy the Eastern Market scene for hours.

The people-watching and dog-watching at Eastern Market are

world-class. I've met CHRS members and other residents, out-of-town visitors, and reconnected with friends I haven't seen in awhile. Eastern Market really is the crossroads of Capitol Hill. It's great to catch up with people—I reconnected with a friend who needs cat traps to trap, neuter and return feral cats—we created a plan to help these cats. There are many friendly people from out of town (frequent questions are about finding restrooms and an ATM). And the dogs, there is such a

variety: puggles, poodles, bulldogs, pit bulls, and greyhounds. (I need to remember to bring dog biscuits next time I sell tickets.)

After the end of a wonderful afternoon shift selling House Tour tickets, I silently thanked the many people who have devoted so many thousands of hours to preserving Eastern Market over the years. ★

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## CHRS Preservation Café to Feature Pat Taylor on Backyard Vegetable Gardening

If you're interested in growing vegetables but haven't been able to get a place in a community garden, go to CHRS's May 18 Preservation Café titled "Backyard Vegetable Gardening." After providing a brief introduction to local community gardens and how to get on a waiting list, Hill resident Pat Taylor will focus on what to do at home in the meantime in order to produce those fresh vegetables you're longing for. She will illustrate her presentation with photos and discuss how to grow veggies and herbs in containers and raised beds; the best kinds of soil, conditions, and locations for success;

and how to maintain, harvest, and enjoy your plantings.

An expert on urban vegetable gardening, Pat Taylor has been growing vegetables for some 30 years and is coordinator of the King's Court Community Garden.

Spring is here and it's prime planting time, so mark your calendar for "Backyard Vegetable Gardening" on Wednesday, May 18, from 6:30–7:15 pm. The Preservation Café will be held downstairs at Ebenezers Coffeehouse at 2nd and F Streets, NE. The Café is free, accessible, and open to all in the Capitol Hill community; no reservations are necessary. ★

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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Jean Kohanek, design & layout

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### OFFICE MANAGER

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To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: CapHRS@aol.com.

www.CHRS.org

Celebrating more than 50 years helping to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the 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.

To start or renew a CHRS membership:

- ★ On the web at www.CHRS.org
- ★ Call (202) 543-0425; 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.

# House History, Part 2— How to Start and Where to Find Information

By Donna Hanousek and Matthew Gilmore

Part 2 of “Researching Your House’s History” was the topic of the April Preservation Café, held at Ebenezers Coffee House at 2nd and F Streets, NE, and drew over 25 people. Matthew Gilmore provided the second part (in an abbreviated-version) of his evening-long course in historic building and neighborhood research. This second session, “The People,” focused on identifying the people who lived in the houses. (The first session focused on “The Buildings,” and explained the research required to get the most basic building block of information—the construction date. For information on that session, please see the March newsletter.)

## Review

The session began with a quick review of Part One, reminding the audience to begin its building research with the 1887 Hopkins Atlas. There they can see the footprint of their house, as well as get a sense of the neighborhood—learning the early street and subdivisions names, as well as identifying the institutions.

## The City Directory

The next topic covered was using the City Directory to research the people who lived in the homes. The key directory is that of 1914, which was the first to have the Street and Avenue Guide Directory of Householders—an address/name lookup. The City Directory was first published in 1822 as “Boyd’s Directory of the District of Columbia,” and later as R.L. Polk & Co’s. Initially it was only published

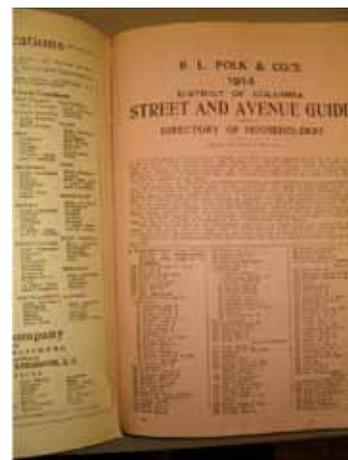


PHOTO COURTESY MATTHEW GILMORE

**The 1914 City Directory—the best source for matching house to resident.**

sporadically; then from 1861 it was published annually until 1943. Prior to the 1914 edition, there is no criss-cross of address and person, as well as address and business, so it is extremely difficult, but not impossible, to find who lived at a particular address. (That requires looking line by line through the entire directory, which is as thick as a phone book.)

To avoid that, first locate who lived in your house in 1914 and then work back in editions to find when they first appear at that address. The directory provides information on whether the person owned or rented, home and work address, and occupation. Race was also identified until 1870. Names of spouses were often included beginning in 1928, and phone numbers were added in 1969. It is worth noting that the Directory was done by canvas; as such, you might see “Refused” or “No Return,” either of which would indicate a

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# Update: HPRB Considers Hine School Proposal

By Nancy Metzger

**D**ue to printing deadlines, reporting of the decision of the District's Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to consider the Hine School proposal will be included in the June newsletter. It is expected that the HPRB will indicate its position on three critical elements of the proposal: site plan, general architectural directions, and overall height and massing. At later meetings the HPRB will consider design changes and refinements to the plan.

On April 5, 2011, CHRS sponsored a community information meeting during which architect Amy Weinstein and developer Stanton-Eastbanc presented the most recent iteration of the plan, distributed copies of the Terms of Agreement that set forth the District's requirements for space and uses, and answered questions from the audience. Capitol Hill residents then had about two weeks to consider the plans and write letters to the HPRB if they desired. About one week before the HPRB meeting, the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) released its staff report and recommendations.

CHRS submitted comments that were developed by its Board from recommendations from the CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, which had first seen the proposal in February. The comments were also informed by communications from CHRS members and others after the April 5 meeting.

Those who attended the April 5 meeting were introduced to the concept of compatibility as it applies to new construction in historic districts, which is somewhat different from the general expectation that new construction should mirror the historic district:

“Compatibility is based on a thorough understanding of the design principles of existing buildings, as well as those used to design landscape features and secondary buildings. Compatibility should also involve analysis of how major design principles are used in the neighborhood and study of how they can be interpreted using today's materials and construction techniques. Compatibility does not mean exactly duplicating the existing buildings or environment. A new building should be seen as a product of its own time. By relating to the existing buildings and the environment, but being of its own time, a new building shows a district's evolution just as the existing buildings show its past.” (From Historic Preservation Office's “Guideline for New Construction in Historic Districts.”)

The CHRS comments and the HPO staff report highlighted differing (and sometimes similar) perspectives on assessing compatibility with the character of a historic district; and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and groups of neighbors had other views. For instance, the HPO staff report suggested that in looking at the office building at the northeast corner of Seventh and Pennsylvania, “setting the top floor back from the façade plane, canting the wall surface, or developing it with an alternative roofline could help lower the building's apparent height and add visual interest to the top of the building. The setback would not need to be substantial in order to achieve an impact with the result suggesting a dominant mass of six floors rather than seven.” CHRS, on the other hand, noted: “With a façade that is approximately 90' tall, the

proposed office building is over 30' taller than the present Hine building and even taller than the dominant façade of the altered Kresge building across Seventh Street. Even for this location on a 160'-wide avenue and facing an open plaza, that building volume is simply too tall and large to blend gracefully with its Capitol Hill neighbors. A significant reduction in height is necessary to achieve compatibility. The design of the building employs a large amount of glass with a brick framing of rotated corbelled columns. It is very difficult to assess and understand how this complex design would relate to the historic district but it does appear that the basic module (i.e., the individual framed section) would be nearly as tall as some of Capitol Hill's small alley houses. Instead of helping to reduce the apparent mass of this building, this design accentuates the large, almost industrial scale of the building. It is a building and design that is better suited for new offices in a historic warehouse or industrial area where the scale would be in keeping with nearby buildings.”

CHRS was also concerned about the design of the residential building at 8th and D/Pennsylvania saying that the “study of ‘texture in plane’ was interesting” but the building “fails to be convincing as a Capitol Hill building and still remains more evocative of one of the mid-century modern apartment buildings in the Southwest.” Other areas that CHRS voiced concern about were:

- Treatment of public space as an integral element in re-establishing connections within the neighborhood (also an HPO concern);



IMAGES © ROSA MEMOLO

On the House Tour: Former organ factory at 111 10th Street, SE (above); 1015 East Capitol Street, SE (right).

a replacement in or near the Tour footprint. However, we will be providing bottled water to Tour goers as they exit the Old Naval Hospital.

We are deeply grateful for the support provided by those individuals who serve as House Captains and house docents, and those who provided monetary donations. Complete lists may be found in the Tour brochure. We also truly appreciate the commercial establishments on the Hill who advertise in the brochure:

National Capitol Bank, Riverby Books, Splash Carwash, Frager's Hardware, Hello Cupcake, Schneider's, Tech Painting, Antique & Contemporary Leasing, EHT Traceries Inc., Lawlor Architects, The Wentworth Group, DC Access, Chris Cox Mortgage Lending, Coldwell Banker, as well as the real estate teams of John Smith; Judy Seiden; Megan Shapiro and George Olson; Linda Pettie and Michael Tubbs; and Grant, Ryall & Andrew. ★

- The impact of the 1960s east-west alley between 7th and 8th Streets and the rebuilt C Street, particularly on the North Residential building (also on the HPO list); and
- General architectural direction of several buildings (several others were not sufficiently developed for comment).

To read both CHRS' comments and the HPO staff report:

- Visit the CHRS website for both the letter and the comments that were sent to HPRB: [www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org)
- The Historic Preservation Office website will have the staff report (look under the HPRB section, April 28 meeting date and then

the Hine School bullet. The Historic Preservation Office website also has a link so that you can view the proceedings both during and after the meeting. (<http://preservation.dc.gov/DC/Planning/Historic+Preservation>) ★

1920 U.S. Census, Washington City, District of Columbia • Residents of Elliott Street, NE						
House No.	Name	Relationship	Birth	Place of Birth	Immigration	Occupation
607	John Mowatt	Head	1878	Scotland	1882	Salesman, Wholesale Vegetables
	Jeanne Mowatt	Wife	1883	Maryland		
608	James A. Rowen	Head	1889	Iowa		Manager, Retail grocery
	Pearl A. Rowen	Wife	1892	DC		
	Nellie P. Rowen	Daughter	1909	DC		
	Joseph C. Rowen	Son	1910	DC		
609	Frederick M. Graebner	Head	1887	Pennsylvania		Plate Printer, Bur of Eng & Prnt
	Elizabeth R. Graebner	Wife	1898	Kansas		
	Cora A. Richmond	Mother-in-law	1852	Michigan		
	James R. O'Drigan	Lodger	1881	New York		Accountant, ?
611	Charles B. Allen	Head	1887	Maine		Clerk, US Treasury
	Florence M. Allen	Wife	1890	Maine		
	Marian J. Allen	Daughter	1914	DC		
	Marjorie F. Allen	Daughter	1916	DC		
	Mabel G. Hutchins	Sister-in-law	1897	Maine		Clerk, Bur. of Work
	Squire M. Lane (wd)	Lodger	1848	Kansas		Clerk, Gen. Land Office
613	Albert Jameson	Head	1857	Maryland		Salesman, Trust Co.
	Laura H. Jameson	Wife	1863	Virginia		
	Annie E. Havener	Step-daughter	1887	Virginia		
	Bessie Havener (wd)	Step-daughter-in-law	1886	Maryland		

Selection from a 1920 U.S. Census survey of Elliott Street, NE. Census research offers a demographic snapshot of your neighborhood.

lack of participation. We also do not know whether there were any racial biases in the canvassing, as there has been no comparison done between City Directory and Census data. Keep in mind that the information was collected the December of the year prior to publication, so it would not incorporate recent moves and changes. The Directory stopped in 1973, but the Haines directory, which criss-crosses addresses and phone numbers, continues to be published today.

City directories, as well as the specialty directories below, can be found at the Washingtonian Division of the DC Public Library (910 G Street, NW, Room 307) and the Historical Society of Washington DC. Some can also be found at the Library of Congress. A very few have been published as Google Books—1887, 1892, 1903 (search <http://books>).

[google.com](http://google.com) with “directory of the District of Columbia”).

### Some Additional Specialty Directories

The Washington Elite List, later published as the “Blue Book,” was started in 1888 (and there are several other social registers); very few elite dwelt on Capitol Hill.

In 1913 Sherman’s Directory and ready reference of the colored population in the District of Columbia was published.

Andrew Hilyer’s Union League Directory, published in 1892, 1894, and 1901, focused on African Americans in DC.

The C + P Telephone Directory also published names, addresses, and phone numbers beginning about 1907.

### Census

Along with the City Directory, the Census is a prime source of information. There are individual census records with meaningful information available for every decade from 1850 to 1930, except for 1890. (The Census actually began in 1790 and 1800 with “simple counts,” growing more sophisticated through the years—see <http://1.usa.gov/ljwsrC> for an index of questions asked through the decades.) The types of information common to census data include address, home ownership status, sex, age, marital status and number of children, race, place of employment and occupation, place of birth and birthplace of parents, and years of school completed—a virtual treasure trove of data. If you want to research your particular neighborhood, you can do that by identifying the

enumeration district from the census enumeration maps. Keep in mind that sometimes enumerators had to go back to find residents they missed—so addresses might be out of sequence. These are available at the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library and at the National Archives.

In addition to Ancestry.com, you can access census information on microfilm at the National Archives—some may find it easier to scroll through microfilm than flick through census pages on a computer. Legibility of the census records varies with the handwriting of the particular census enumerators—bring a magnifying glass for this research just as you do for map research.

Having connected people to the building, the next research is more genealogical (and warrants its own whole presentation). Information on a few helpful sources follows below.

### **Government Records**

To find out more about individuals you need to track down all their personal details through government records.

There are government records on births, school attendance and graduation, marriage, military service, and death. Each of these documents can add to the story of a person's life. Government Records can be found at the DC Archives, the National Archives, Sumner School Archives, and DC Department of Health. Many military records are available at the National Archives, and Civil War records are available through the National Park Service: [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss).

The whole genealogical task is made much easier through tools like Ancestry.com—a fantastic online resource available free at the National Archives and Library of Congress. (It can be used on your own computer for a fee.)

### **Newspapers**

You can research specific people through the online search engine of the historic *Washington Post* (the ProQuest database 1877–1994 is available free to DC public Library cardholders [login through [dclibrary.org](http://dclibrary.org) on your home computer] or onsite at the National Archives or Library of Congress). Again—be cautious—online research is seductively simple, but often hard-to-read original sources indicates information is missing/inaccessible. You can also research specific people through the offline clippings and microfilm of the *Evening Star* (1852–1981) at the Washingtoniana Division of the Library.

### **Photographic Research**

It is difficult to find photos of everyday people by searching for photos of those people. A help is to find affiliations of that person, such as church, school, club, etc, and then search for photographs of the institution, which just might have a group shot, for example. The Library of Congress has many collections online; go to <http://www.loc.gov/pictures>. Most have extremely limited indexing and captioning, so it pays to be creative, diligent, and exhaustive. You can also research the *Washington Star* photo collection at the Washingtoniana Division. ★

*Matthew Gilmore is the editor of H-DC, a discussion list ([H-DC@h-net.msu.edu](mailto:H-DC@h-net.msu.edu)) devoted to the history of the District of Columbia. Mr. Gilmore has been giving local history research workshops since 1995, drawing on his experience as a reference librarian in the Washingtoniana Division of the D.C. Public Library. He has co-authored or authored four books, three on Washington History, the most recent on Foggy Bottom. He will be happy to answer any questions you have via e-mail: [dc-edit@mail.h-net.msu.edu](mailto:dc-edit@mail.h-net.msu.edu).*

## **See Historic Streetcar Film on June 7**

The CHRS June membership meeting will feature a film showing Washington's streetcars during the 1950s, followed by a panel discussion on historic streetcars. Everyone is welcome. If you rode on the old streetcars, please come and share your experiences with the audience.

Free and open to the public. For details, see Mark Your Calendar.

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# Nominees for the CHRS Board of Directors for 2011–12

The Nominating Committee, Beth Purcell, Gary Peterson, Barbara Eck and Elizabeth Nelson, has nominated the following individuals to serve on the 2011–2012 CHRS Board. Ballots will be mailed to all CHRS members in good standing as of May 1, 2011.

We thank Lisa Wilson, the current secretary, and Monte Edwards, the current second vice president, for their service. Monte will remain on the Board as the Chair of the Transportation Committee.

## Nominees

### **Beth Purcell, President** (returning)

Beth Purcell is completing her second term as President of CHRS. She also continues to chair the Environment Committee. Her work on the Beyond the Boundaries project has led her to be a co-leader of several recent historic walking tours (such as alley history). She helped to get CHRS included as a donee in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). She led Hill neighbors and CHRS Board members in participation in the annual bird count along the Anacostia riverfront. She has also helped plant hundreds of trees throughout our Hill neighborhood as president of Trees For Capitol Hill, Inc. She has been an Orange Hat walker for over 10 years in her Hill East neighborhood. Beth researches and publishes articles on the architecture of eastern Capitol Hill. She is employed as an attorney for the federal government.

### **Michelle Pilliod Carroll, First Vice President** (returning)

Originally from New York, Michelle Carroll began her love affair with DC when she came here for college and eventually made it her home. She has owned and operated her business, Pilliod Meeting Planning,

for 15 years. She brings her grace and expertise in overcoming the complexities of the meeting planning process to her work with CHRS. Twice she has chaired the House Tour, including one year when she planned her daughter's wedding to take place the same weekend! Due to her planning and organizational skills, it is second nature for her to undertake contract negotiations, deal with organizational structures and budgetary constraints, and adjust to last-minute changes. She and her husband Dennis have lived on the Hill for 12 years.

### **Shauna Holmes, Second Vice President** (new to this position; was At-Large)

Shauna Holmes has served as an At-Large member of the CHRS Board for four years. As an integral, 13-year member of the Historic Preservation Committee, she manages the CHRS Preservation Cafés and advises the Board on how to participate more actively in historic preservation review of federally-assisted projects in the Capitol Hill area. She also sometimes represents CHRS in project consultation and is a member of the DC Preservation League and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Prior to retiring in 2004, for over 21 years Shauna managed publications, training, awards, and educational outreach for the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. She is committed to working with neighbors and community organizations to protect Capitol Hill's historic integrity and distinctive character. She moved to Capitol Hill with her husband in 1997, joined CHRS, and has been an active member ever since.

### **Janet Quigley, Secretary** (new to this position; was At-Large)

Janet Quigley moved to Capitol Hill in 1995 drawn by its historic character and old trees. A 10-story, glass building proposed for the Medlink Hospital site ignited her interest in historic preservation and land use. She led a group of neighbors who advocated for historic integrity and appropriate scale. They joined efforts with CHRS, the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA), the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC), and St. James Church and were successful in persuading the city to downzone the property. She has testified before the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning adjustment, and has served as an ANC commissioner, a member of the SPNA Land Use Committee, and president of the Stanton Manor condo board.

### **Sharon Ivy Weiss, Treasurer** (returning)

Sharon Ivy Weiss is completing her second year in this office. She has also served on the CHRS Budget Committee and the House and Garden Tour. She started her career in public accounting but has been in the non-profit sector for over 15 years. Sharon has extensive experience in supervising the financial functions of organizations that manage federal grants and contracts and currently works as an independent contractor for several non-profit agencies in DC and Virginia.

### **Chuck Burger, At-Large** (2-year term; returning)

Chuck Burger was first elected to the Board in 2009. While a full time Capitol Hill real estate agent with Coldwell Banker, he has served on a variety of local and District

committees including six years as Chair of the District's Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board. Currently he serves as Vice Chair of Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) and is on the Boards of CHAMPS, Barracks Row Main Street, Anacostia Coordinating Committee and heads the citizens' ad hoc Sign Tigers. His professional skills include a broad knowledge of city neighborhoods, zoning regulations, building codes and District politics. He and his wife, Nancy Broers, enjoy their old historic wooden home with their two canine companions, Bandit and Katie.

**Catherine Davis, At-Large**  
(2-year term; returning)

Catherine Davis, born in the District and raised in Northern Virginia, moved to Capitol Hill with her husband in July 2007. She was formerly employed by the U.S. Departments of Education and Commerce, and now works full-time for her 2-year-old son. A graduate of the University of Virginia, Catherine has lived in Charleston, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Chicago, IL; and is proud to call Washington, DC home. She has served on the Board since 2008 and has been active in the production of the House and Garden Tour since 2008 as well.

**Drury Tallant, At-Large** (2-year term)

Drury Tallant is a "semi-retired" architect and urban planner. He practiced on a wide variety of design and construction projects in a small architectural firm in his home state of Louisiana. Some of his more unusual projects include the establishment of the Riverfront Streetcar – New Orleans' first new streetcar line in over a century; the creation of a downtown development district for Baton Rouge; and the renovation of the USS Kidd—a WWII destroyer berthed in Baton Rouge on a cradle that accommodates the

seasonal 45-foot variation in level of the Mississippi River. He returned to academia for graduate studies in Urban Planning at the University of New Orleans, and a Ph.D. from Cornell University in Urban and Regional Planning. He moved Washington in 1993, sequentially renovating three homes on the same block. He has been active in the Stanton Park neighborhood of Capitol Hill lobbying for protection and enhancement of the Capitol Hill Historic District, the neighborhood immediately to the north, and the H Street Corridor in particular.

**Maurice Walters, At-Large**  
(1-year term)

Maurice Walters is an architect with an office on Capitol Hill. He has over 25 years of experience in the design of residential, transit-oriented urban design, mixed-use and historic preservation projects in the United States and abroad. On numerous occasions he has presented projects for approval to the DC Historic Preservation Review Board, the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and the Zoning Commission as well as many ANCs and local community groups.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Phelps Foundation for the Phelps High School for Architecture, Construction and Engineering, a DC public school.

Maurice and his wife, Mary Jean Pajak, first lived on Capitol Hill from 1987–1992. In 2001 they returned to the Hill and undertook an extensive renovation of their home, which was part of the 2007 CHRS Home and Garden Tour. ★

## Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

### NEW MEMBERS

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# Looking Back on Capitol Hill

By Nancy Metzger

Many Capitol Hill residents were fascinated by a photograph of the old and new Hine Junior High Schools, taken in January 1966 by William Barrett shortly before the old Hine building was demolished for the present playground. The photograph was used in the February and March presentations of the Hine School project to illustrate the height (58') of the two buildings at the cornice line.

Built in 1892 as the first Eastern High School and renamed in 1923 as the G. Hine Junior High School, the first Hine was a handsome three-story brick building with a rounded center pavilion and arched windows. It joined two other schools on the site: Wallach School, designed by Adolph Cluss and built in 1864, and Towers School, built in 1887 at the 8th and C Streets' corner of the square. The three schools remained a nucleus for the education of white children in the center of Capitol Hill as other schools—elementary and junior high schools for black children and white—were built all over the Hill.

After World War II, community leaders, the school board, and city commissioners advocated the need for modern school buildings and urged its replacement, along with Wallach and Towers schools. (Restoration and adaptation of historic school buildings seems not to have been on the radar screen at the time.) In the meantime, the toll from neglect continued and the handsome brick building became known as "Horrible Hine" and deplored as a "fire trap", unsafe and unsanitary.

In November and December 2002, Hilary Russell interviewed Elias and Mariana Souri, siblings who grew up in a house on Lincoln Park as members of an extended Syrian-American family, for the Ruth Ann



Girls' Basketball Team at Hine Junior High School, 1925.

Overbeck Capitol Hill Oral History project. They recalled their childhood and particularly their time at Hine, which coincided with the integration of DC schools.

E. SOURI: At that time, it was not the Hine that is here now. It was a much, much older building with creaky wood floors. Actually, when I think back that building had a lot of class. It's just a shame it couldn't have been renovated rather than torn down. When I think back it was a substantial building – big, high ceilings, big doors with transoms, and, of course, the old blackboards, but I remember specifically the creaky halls because I guess the floors were falling apart. But when I think about it, it was a much nicer building than the one that's there now. . . .

E. SOURI: Well, we were at Hine when integration started. That was 1954. And I remember the white kids walking out of school and a lot of them stayed out of school for days. It was what they called the strike.

M. SOURI: We didn't.

E. SOURI: Well, no, we didn't but it was difficult for us going to school because the kids would be outside jeering and calling us names.

RUSSELL: Which kids were those?

E. SOURI: The white kids, who were basically on strike, who didn't want to go into the school because the blacks were in there now. ☆

[The complete transcription is available at the Capitol Hill History website, [www.capitolhillhistory.org](http://www.capitolhillhistory.org).]

# Airplane Mishap Involved Capitol Hill

By Lisa Dale Jones

Recently there have been reports of air traffic controllers falling asleep on the job and endangering passengers on commercial airlines. But in 1923 there was an airplane accident that involved Capitol Hill. A pilot whose step-father had been the Marine Commandant was injured and taken to Providence Hospital on Capitol Hill when his plane crashed (and killed his passenger). It was the first airplane accident in the District, as reported in *The Washington Post*. ★

PHOTO COURTESY SHORPY.COM



Mrs. Lelia Gordon Barnett, wife of the Marine Commandant, and her son, Basil Gordon, in 1916.

*The Washington Post*, December 10, 1923

## Passenger Killed, Basil Gordon Hurt As Plane Crashes

Edwin Trusheim, 21 years old, of 210 B street southeast, was killed, and Basil Gordon, 29, stepson of Maj. Gen. George Barnett, was seriously injured when the airplane in which they were riding crashed to the ground on a vacant lot at Half and L streets southwest shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Trusheim, a passenger in the machine, which is owned by Gordon, was killed almost instantly, being crushed under the heavy motor as the craft was wrecked. Gordon, who piloted the plane, was taken to Providence hospital, where, it was said last night, he has a good chance for recovery, despite the seriousness of his injuries.

Yesterday's accident is the first time in history that an airplane has fallen within the city limits of the Capital, despite the great amount of flying which has been done in the vicinity during and since the war.



**Capitol Hill Restoration Society**  
420 Tenth Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

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## Mark Your Calendar!

### MAY

**2** Monday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, nancymetzger@verizon.net, 546-1034.

**7-8** Saturday & Sunday  
CHRS Annual House and Garden Tour. Tickets available at: [www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org).

**12** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, PGaryl@aol.com, 547-7969.

Saturdays, April 16–November 19  
9 am–noon (rain or shine)  
H Street NE Freshfarm Market,  
625 H Street, NE (across from H Street  
Self Storage). Fresh fruits and vegetables,  
pasture-raised meats, local dairy, breads  
and baked goods, cut flowers and more.  
[www.freshfarmmarkets.org](http://www.freshfarmmarkets.org)

**17** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Beth Purcell, eap1@mindspring.com, 622-4303.

**18** Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Preservation Café: “Backyard Vegetable Gardening” with Pat Taylor, the King’s Court Community Garden Coordinator. Ebenezer’s Coffeehouse, 2nd & F Streets, NE, downstairs. Free, accessible, open to the public; no reservation needed. Details: Shauna Holmes, shaunaholmes@yahoo.com, 546-5211.

### JUNE

**6** Monday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, nancymetzger@verizon.net, 546-1034.

**7** Tuesday, 6:45 - 8:30 pm  
CHRS Membership Meeting, “Washington, D.C. Streetcars in the 1950s” featuring archival film footage. Maury Elementary School multipurpose room, corner of 13th Street and Constitution Avenue, NE (entrance on 13th Street). Note: venue not confirmed; free, open to the public, no reservation needed. Details: CHRS Office, CapHRS@aol.com, 543-0425.

**9** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, PGaryl@aol.com, 547-7969.

**21** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Beth Purcell, eap1@mindspring.com, 622-4303.