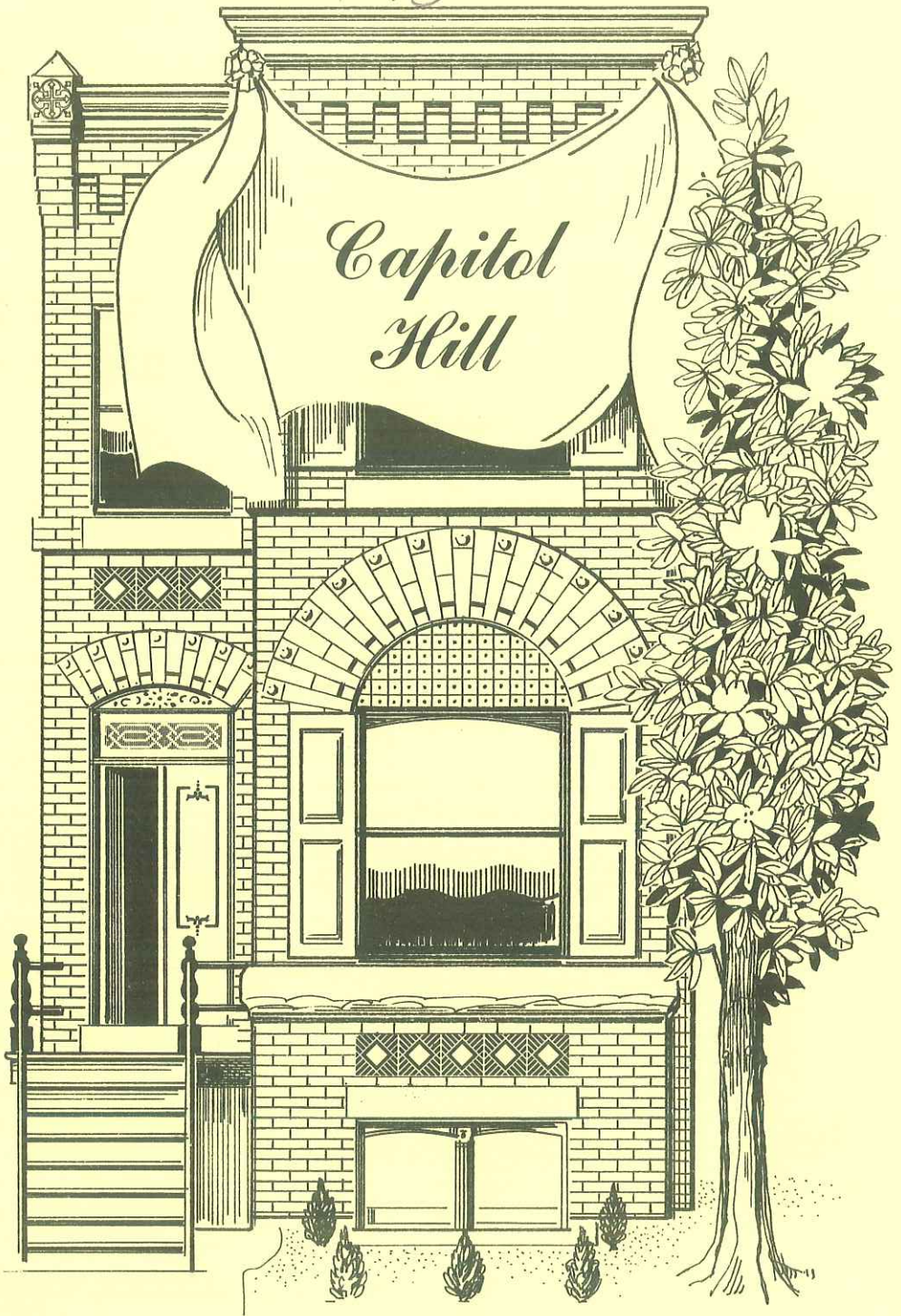
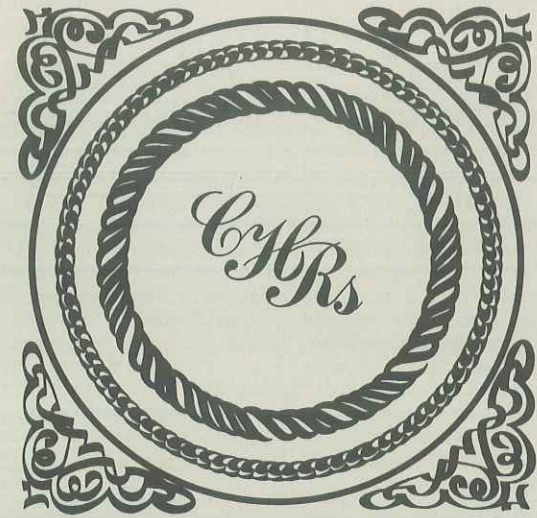


1963

Capitol Hill





“ A Heritage to Preserve ”

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society believes that the city must be a place to live in as well as a place to work in, and that its fine old houses can more properly be restored for the benefit of those who are willing to commit their lives to its future than be demolished for highways and parking lots for those whose faith in the city vanishes with the setting of eachday's sun. The Society is prepared to fight to preserve and promote the ideal of the non-commuting life, to defend the residential character of Capitol Hill, and to oppose those whose commitment to the city is partial, particularly those who would exploit its economic capacity while ignoring and weakening its cultural resources. The Society hopes to show, in these tour houses, what can be done to preserve the traditional heritage of the city in history as a place for tasteful, comfortable, and rational living.

At Long Last

At long last Major Pierre L'Enfant's belief that Capitol Hill (then known as Jenkins' Hill) would become a major residential section in Washington is being realized. After many vicissitudes The Hill is becoming what the great city planner thought it would be, either through restoration or through the erection of well designed new homes. All are private projects, without Government aid.

The Hill is attracting as residents members of Congress and their staffs, people of the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, the Smithsonian, and executive agencies, particularly those near the base of The Hill and within easy walking distance. Newspaper men and women and other writers make their homes here. Foreign Service officers back from far countries return to their homes on The Hill.

Capitol Hill, as someone remarked, has become a center of the intelligentsia. They enjoy its convenience, the tree lined streets, the parks, their homes and gardens. There is the ever-changing drama of Government in Congress and the Supreme Court. There are the matchless facilities of the Library of Congress and the Folger Library. There are the concerts at the Library of Congress. There is band music on summer evenings in front of the Capitol. For those who enjoy martial parades there are the weekly ceremonies at the Marine Barracks in summer. And cutting through the area are six great avenues where, if you look up, there is the great Capitol dome before you.

There are some Federal houses on The Hill, but it must be admitted that most have been swept away by the expansion of the Government and, now, by the building of elevated thoroughways. The Hill, however, has the most magnificent reminder of the Federal period--the Capitol itself, expanded as need and the Nation's majesty dictated. There are a number of Greek revival homes on The Hill. And, of course, the Victorian. That word, Victorian, is not a bad word on Capitol Hill. There are various Victorian periods demonstrated by Hill houses. There are handsome rows and single dwellings of the flat-front design Washington likes to call Federal. And there are the solid, bay-windowed Victorian houses. Whatever the Victorian period, the residents like the large rooms and high ceilings. The builders of yesteryear apparently did not figure costs by the cubic foot.

Despite the changes the Federal atmosphere and the atmosphere of later historic periods remain. Walk along New Jersey Avenue, S.E. near the Capitol and you are taking the path Mr. Jefferson followed from his boarding house to his inauguration. He walked back, too, and lived there a couple of weeks before moving to the White House. Encounter a solid and dignified figure near the dignified Belmont House at 144 Constitution Avenue, N.E. and you may look twice to make sure it is not Albert Gallatin, Mr. Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury. Stroll along First Street south of Pennsylvania Avenue on a summer evening and you may imagine the rustle of leaves is the rustle of the silk petticoats of the charming Peggy O'Neale Eaton. Years back, an angular figure leaving one of the boarding houses on the present site of the Library of Congress might have been Representative Abraham Lincoln.

North of those boardinghouses on the site of the present Supreme Court was the Brick Capitol, built for the meetings of Congress while the burned Capitol was being restored. It, too, became a boardinghouse later on. If your imagination can carry you back more than 150 years you may hear the rattle of carriage wheels. It would be the carriage of Daniel Webster coming to call on the dying John C. Calhoun. Another carriage brought Rose O'Neal Greenhow, who was to become a Confederate spy in the Civil War, to the bedside of the dying Calhoun in 1850. Calhoun had been a friend of her father. The Brick Capitol became a military prison in the Civil War, and Mrs. Greenhow and her little Rebel daughter, Rose, were received as prisoners in the same room where she had visited Calhoun earlier.

Capitol Hill has been the scene of great events in which great men have taken part. It has had its periods of splendor and decay. Now its renaissance is well advanced as more and more Washingtonians find it a good place to live.

LIST OF HISTORICAL SITES

To Be Noted In Passing, But Not Part Of the Tour

The large house at 144 Constitution Avenue, N.E., one of the early fine houses on Capitol Hill, was the town house of Robert Sewell of Prince Georges County, who owned the house from 1799 to his death. For a brief period after 1800 he rented it to Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury. The British are said to have set fire to it in 1814 in retaliation for shots fired from the second floor at their column entering the Capitol. The damage was repaired. Since then changes have included the addition of a Mansard roof and necessary construction due to the grading of the street. The house is now owned by the National Woman's Party and is called Belmont House.

The house at 224 Second Street, S.E., was built about 1820 and was the home of George W. Watterston, Librarian of Congress, and his son. It is an example of Greek revival architecture. It was originally of two stories, with a high basement. The basement is now the entrance floor, and after the Civil War the third story was added. The bricks, of soft pink, have been called the loveliest on Capitol Hill. Brumidi, the artist, lived as a guest in the home for a time. Removal of layers of wall paper on the third floor in recent years disclosed a painting by Brumidi and a sketch of him by himself.

The Boswell house at 11 D Street, S.E., is on land acquired from Daniel Carroll of Duddington Manor. The property has been in the family since 1863, although the house facing D Street is later than that. Next to it is an interesting garden. The family has lived on Capitol Hill since 1805.

Nos. 156 and 158 North Carolina Avenue are early 19th Century homes, which have undergone some alterations through the years.

On Third Street, S.E., between North Carolina Avenue and D Street is the Brent School. It stands on the site of the Eastern Academy, erected in 1808, one of the two first schools built in Washington. There was also a Western Academy.

The Navy Yard, now the Naval Weapons Plant, has been a Washington institution for more than 150 years. President Jefferson once proposed erecting a large shed in which to moth ball the unneeded wooden ships of the day. The gate house design is attributed to Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the Capitol, and he was closely identified with the designing of the Commandant's house.

North on Eighth Street, S.E., are the Marine Barracks and the Commandant's house, at 801 G Street, S.E. The design is attributed to a French associate of Major L'Enfant, Col. Anne Louis de Tousard. Additions have been made to the original building.

The house at 423 Sixth Street, S.E., of red brick, was built before 1800, with subsequent additions. It is the home of Mrs. William H. Olds. It was built by Thomas Carbery, mayor of Washington, 1822-24, and is said to have four Adam mantelpieces.

Next door, at 421½ Sixth Street, is a smaller, attractive house, built by Major Carbery's brother, James Carbery, a naval architect, in 1820. It is the home of Miss S. L. Yarnall. Some of the floors are of the original boards, 10 to 12 inches wide. In front is a stout iron hitching post with two rings, which mystifies children in the neighborhood.

The first church on Capitol Hill was Christ Episcopal Church. Beginning in 1795 it met in a tobacco warehouse in the vicinity of New Jersey Avenue and D Street, S.E. The present church at 620 G Street, S.E., with Latrobe as architect, was built in 1807. The original structure has been enlarged and the tower was built in 1849. When the G Street church opened, one of the pews was reserved for the President. The pew was carpeted. The fact that Mr. Jefferson was President then gave rise to the tradition that Jefferson worshiped and maintained a pew there. He may have attended at times, since he believed in the value of setting an example. Also, he had contributed to the building of an Episcopal Church in Virginia. He, however, was a deist.

The first Methodist sermon was preached in Washington in 1802, in a house on Greenleaf Point. The group moved to the tobacco warehouse when it was vacated by the Episcopalians. In 1811 a church was built on Fourth Street between South Carolina and G Street, S.E. There was a succession of name changes, and it became known as Trinity Church. That, in turn, consolidated with other Methodist churches--Waugh, North Carolina Avenue and Wilson Memorial--in 1961, and it is now the Capitol Hill Methodist Church, occupying a red brick building at Fifth Street and Seward Square, S.E., built in 1896. There are plans for a new church.

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church was organized in 1820. The building begun there was enlarged and finally razed to make way for the present stone edifice. This was dedicated in 1890 and still stands despite a fire in 1940, which did considerable damage. The rectory beside the church--it is also of stone--has a black marble mantel which came from Daniel Carroll's Duddington Manor. Daniel Carroll, a member of St. Peter's, had given the ground for the church.



The Sixth Annual House and Garden Tour of Capitol Hill

This is the sixth annual House and Garden tour sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. It will feature large and small houses finished in both traditional and contemporary fashion. Many of the houses also have interesting gardens.

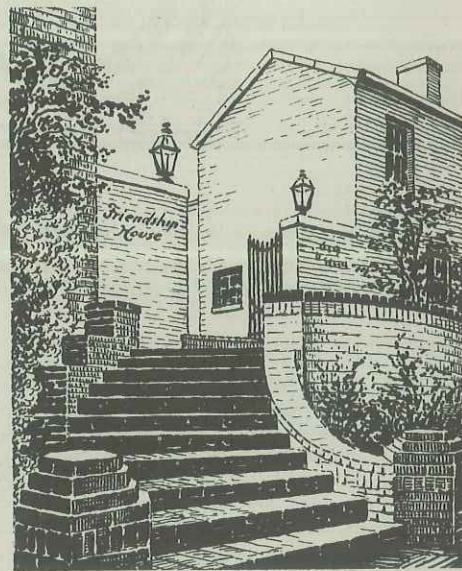
The Capitol Hill Restoration Society was founded in 1954 and one of its many functions is to preserve and restore historical sites in the Capitol Hill area. Proceeds from this year's tour in addition to benefiting various Capitol Hill restoration and preservation projects, this year will provide a grant for a history scholar selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to document historic Capitol Hill sites.



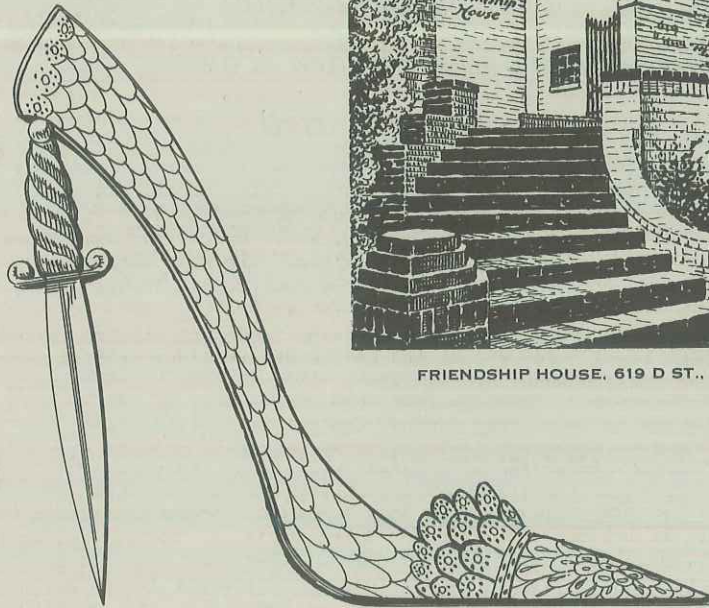
JITNEY SERVICE

Jitneys driven by Capitol Hill residents will be available to take tour guests from house to house and to the tea at Friendship House. The drivers of the cars, which will be marked, will point out other interesting hill sites.

*Host and Hostesses
Will Assist at
Each House*



FRIENDSHIP HOUSE, 619 D ST., S. E.



For your own comfort and to preserve irreplaceable floors and rugs it is suggested that ladies wear walking shoes.



Capitol Hill Homes on Tour

Mr. and Mrs. Allan M. Wilson, 322 Second St., S.E. 1

This beautifully restored flat front house on Second Street has a mansard roof which suggests a date of 1860-1870. In the formal living room to the right of the entrance are wall panels which reflect the interesting decor of the room. This room contains a number of 18th Century antiques, including a small Philadelphia Chippendale highboy of interest. Above the early Adams mantel framing the fireplace is a unique 18th Century painting of a Spanish woman done in the style of the 16th Century. There are two ancient Japanese scrolls over the piano. From the dining room, beautifully done in 18th Century style, French doors lead to a balcony with stairs to the patio. On the ground level are a large library, bedroom and bath. In the library is a Swedish spinning wheel, 200 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin H. Jackson, 320 Second St., S.E. 2

This is one of a series of attractive flat-front houses built in the late 19th Century. The living room and study behind it have ship pictures, reflecting Mr. Jackson's interests. One is by Edward Moraan, noted marine painter of about 1900. There are also water colors by William Zorach, contemporary painter and sculptor. The garden, paved with brick, has a fountain and pool, is reached by stairs from a terrace outside the study and from the dining room and kitchen which are on the lower level. To be observed in the second floor hall is a Spanish tin and glass chandelier.

Miss Rhea Radin, 520 Fifth St., S.E. 3

This two story house with a high basement, where there is a study and bath, is of the Victorian flat front style. The living room, of unusually large size, has two fireplaces. There are many antiques, including old family pieces, mostly Oriental, brought from California. These include a Han dynasty horse of about 200 B.C. The paintings and prints are also to be noted. The kitchen has early American furniture. Three bedrooms, each with a bath, are of different periods. Miss Radin's room, which has a fireplace, is furnished with family Victorian furniture. In the garden dwarf crab apple trees screen the parking area beyond.

N. E.

S. E.

U. S. CAPITOL

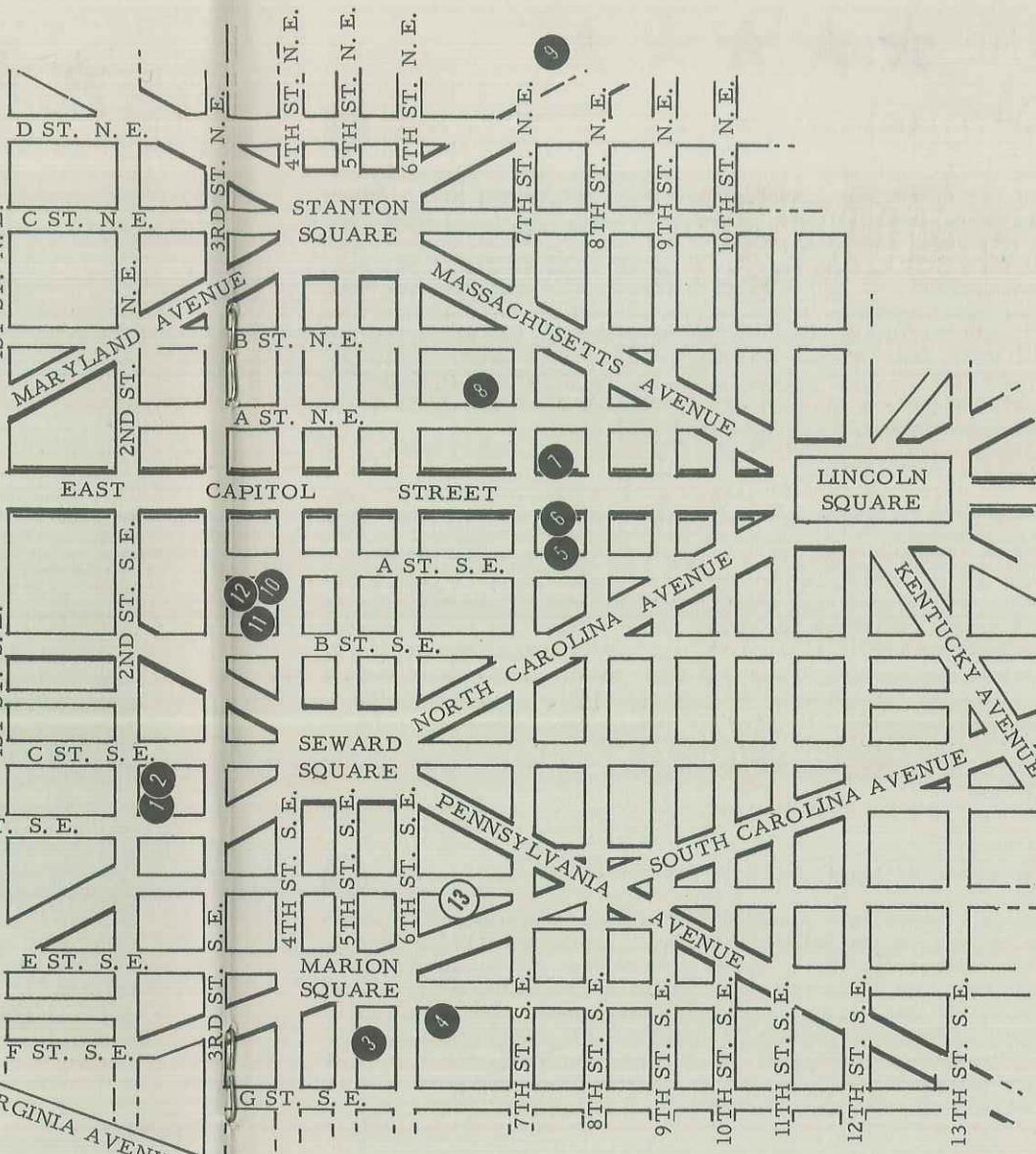
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

SOUTH CAPITOL

NEW JERSEY AVENUE

DELAWARE AVENUE

VIRGINIA AVENUE



Jitneys stop at each house.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Mr. and Mrs. Allan M. Wilson, 322 2nd. St., S. E.
 2. Mr. and Mrs. Melvin H. Jackson, 320 2nd St., S. E.
 3. Miss Rhea Radin, 520 5th St., S. E.
 4. Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Odarenko, 621 E St., S. E.
 5. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew F. Euston, Jr., 712 A St., S. E.
 6. Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Adams, 713 East Capitol St.</p> | <p>7. Mr. Don King, 706 East Capitol St.
 8. Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Longchamp, 625 A St., N. E.
 9. Mr. William E. Richards, 411 7th St., N. E.
 10. Mr. and Mrs. Willard A. Edwards, 329 A St., S. E.
 11. Mrs. James W. Keady, 324 Independence Ave., S. E.
 12. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 3rd & A Sts., S. E.</p> |
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Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Odarenko, 621 E St., S.E.

4

This house in which the owners have retained the original facade is a part of one of the most interesting blocks of Capitol Hill. Other restorations show the influence of the Federal period. When the Odarenkos purchased this house in 1960 it was a typically neglected turn of the century Victorian house with dreary rooms, dismal backyard and gaunt coach house. It has been restored in a most pleasing free style manner which combines the comforts of contemporary living with the charm of the house that was. The portraits of the family in the living room were done by the internationally known artist, Arthur Kaufman, of New York. Of special interest is the circular garden, a do-it-yourself project on the part of Dr. Odarenko, and the Coach House which contains an authentic Franklin stove.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew F. Euston, Jr., 712 A St., S.E.

5

Mr. and Mrs. Euston have this to say of their house at 712 A St., S.E.: "It would be unfair to contemporary culture to term this house 'restored.' Improvement was undertaken here out of respect for an exotic peach tree. Although the house is 70 years old, no particular antiquarian significance is claimed for it." Mr. Euston, an architect, and Mrs. Euston, a teacher, valued the generous proportions of rooms, the simple plan, and the garden. Keeping only the second floor intact, they designed, built and landscaped a new ground level according to their preference for simplicity in color, texture and form. This preference may be seen in the solution for lighting and in the minimum need for furnishings.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Adams, 713 East Capitol Street

6

This is an example of a restored Victorian town house, built about 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Adams added some Federal period details to provide an appropriate background for antique objects and old prints. There are also contemporary paintings by prominent Washington artists and items collected by Mrs. Adams on foreign assignments for the Public Health Service. The front porch balustrade has decorative metal panels cast from a French Empire fragment and is contemporary with our Federal period. The rear garden with an Italian fountain was designed by Mrs. Adams.

Mr. Don King, 706 East Capitol Street

7

Mr. King is inclined to regard his house as somewhat of a mystery. Why is it only one story when the heavy foundation could support two stories? It was built about 1830 and is in the flat-front Federal style. There are a living-bedroom, and a large dining room and what had been a long entrance hall which has been made into a bath and kitchen. A window in the center of the front is now a new entrance. Almost all the furnishings are early American and Mr. King particularly enjoys a pair of antique coach horns which he uses as decorations. There is a small garden.



Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Longchamp, 626 A St., N.E.

8

This is a comfortable Capitol Hill Victorian house. What was formerly the basement is now the ground floor with entrance hall, study, bath, small kitchen and staircase to the first floor. The bay-windowed living room has French doors opening on a small front balcony. A balcony outside the kitchen leads to the garden. The furnishings are a collection of early pieces, some being French provincial. An old French fire screen, serves as a room divider when needed. The garden, of unusual size, is designed for greenery with trees and shrubs rather than flowers.

Mr. William E. Richards, 411 Seventh St., N.E.

9

"The Smokehouse" as Mr. Richards calls his home was a meat processing plant erected between 1860 and 1870. There were two 6x8-foot furnaces on the first floor, to produce smoke, matched by ovens on the second floor where meat was hung to be smoked. One of the furnaces is now a powder room, the other a fireplace; one of the upstairs ovens is a dressing room, the other a utility room. What was once an elevator shaft is now a kitchen on the first floor, a bath on the second, with a garden room in the penthouse on the roof. The front door, the 8-foot doors to the dining room and kitchen, paneling and hardware were designed by Stanford White and came from a house in the Northwest. Upstairs are two bedrooms, dressing room and study. In the corner of the living room is planted a tree which grows through the ceiling to the study. A 7-foot brick wall shields the house from the street and forms a forecourt.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard A. Edwards, 329 A St., S.E.

10

This house which was once a corner grocery was restored six years ago in the French style. The large living room, on a lower level than the rest of the main floor, is papered in white brocade with three black and white Piranesi murals for contrast. One of them is above a red velvet Louis XIV couch. Also notable are a French cloisonne clock, long in the family, two Venetian candle sticks, and the chandelier from a house once owned by Admiral Dewey. Black floors make a dramatic contrast. The dining room table will be set with a cloth and napkins from Brussels, pre-World War I Bavarian china, dirigold flatware, and red Czechoslovakian glass.

Mrs. James W. Keady, 324 Independence Ave., S.E.

11

The Keady home was formerly south of the Smithsonian Institution and then at 124 C Street, S.E.; both had to be given up because of Government building plans. The present house recently restored is a bay-front structure built before 1900. On the ground floor which was the basement, there is an apartment and a staircase to the first floor with a living room, dining room and kitchen. The living room has a gold leaf mirror flanked by a pair of Sheffield carriage lamps more than 200



years old obtained from a French family north of Quebec. Also notable are the English Minton tiles around the fireplace and a 19th Century Chinese caromandel screen. The visitor will also be interested in Mrs. Keady's extensive collection of glass paperweights from both Europe and the United States, some old, some modern. The European paperweights include one example by Baccarat of Paris. One of the most unusual is one described as a "candy tuft twist" obtained by Mrs. Keady in St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Third and A Streets, S.E.

12

St. Mark's is a Victorian "Gothic" red brick structure, with an impressive clerestory and a wealth of stained glass. The church was started as a mission of Christ Church in 1867 and became a parish in 1869. The cornerstone of the building was laid September 17, 1888. The original structure consisted of the north end of the present building. In 1894 the nave was extended and the present chancel, the tower, and part of the parish house were built. For years St. Mark's was a procathedral, used by the Bishop pending the availability of the diocesan Cathedral. Since 1954 the rector has been the Rev. William M. Baxter.

13

Friendship House, 619 D Street, S.E. This is a Washington property steeped in history. There was a cabin in the woods when the tract was bought by William N. Duncanson in 1769, a British army officer. He is said to have erected a large frame dwelling and the property was known as The Maples, or sometimes as Maple Square.

The house had a succession of owners, and in 1814 it served as a hospital for soldiers wounded in the attack on the Capitol. Francis Scott Key bought it in 1815. A later owner, Captain Augustus A. Nicholson, made it over into a brick house; whether he razed the original structure or replaced the frame sheath with brick is not known. In 1858 the house belonged to Senator John M. Clayton of New Jersey. He built a ballroom on the east side of the house and called on Constantino Brumidi, who was painting murals at the Capitol, to decorate it. None of Brumidi's work is visible today.

One of the owners of the house was listed as Count Louis de Pourtales, who is reputed to have provided a wine cellar 42 feet under ground. Waste no time looking for it; others have searched in vain. The house came into the possession of Mrs. Emily Edson Briggs (1831-1910) who wrote under the pen name of Olivia. Her family still held the house in 1937. It was then acquired by the present institution to become the center of neighborhood activities for both children and adults.



Why Live on The Hill?



Mrs. Mendez and daughter Nancy

We Like The People

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Mendez, Jr., and their four young children, live at 311 Fifth Street, S.E. Mrs. Mendez says: "We did not feel it was at all necessary to move to the suburbs in order to 'live happily ever after.' We feel that The Hill will survive as a residential community in spite of all the hazards it is subjected to--bulldozers, freeways, city planners (tear down the old - make way for the new). We like the young people up here. They have a sense of purpose and it shows in the success of all their efforts to make this a better community. We are also glad for the opportunity to live among people older than ourselves. We find their maturity of judgment a continuous education."



Naturally Desirable

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hodgson, Jr., and their five children live at 506 A Street, S.E. The Hodgson's moved there from Arlington in June 1961. Why? Mr. Hodgson says: "The death of our central cities is a great capital loss; reclaiming them with private means is possible only in areas which are naturally desirable. Closeness to public institutions including the seat of Government, a great library, and great museums and galleries is a unique advantage. Convenient shopping, transportation, and parks, together with real privacy, make for a pleasant and stimulating environment for families with children."

Home Again

Mrs. Marjory Hendricks is president of the Water Gate Inn on the Potomac at F Street, N.W. Her business is convenient both to Foggy Bottom and to Georgetown. This is her explanation why she came to Capitol Hill: "Moving to Capitol Hill is coming home again. A long time ago I lived at 125 A Street, N.E., where the Supreme Court now stands. My university professor son frolicked on the Capitol lawn when he was a baby. Many changes have been made on The Hill during the many years, but the Capitol dome is still a thrilling sight and the Stars and Stripes as awe inspiring as ever! My neighbors on The Hill have extended traditional American hospitality to me and made me feel welcome."

Not at Any Price

Warner W. Hall, 804 East Capitol Street: "What does Capitol Hill have to offer not available elsewhere? Hundreds of its homes are within a few minutes walk of the Library of Congress, the Capitol, the House and Senate Office Buildings, and the Supreme Court. Also, they are only a few minutes by cab or bus from the new Stadium, the Armory with its flower, automobile and horse shows, and the Marine Barracks, with the weekly summer displays in the dress parades, with the Marine Band and ruffles and flourishes. From The Hill it is only a few minutes to the Smithsonian, the Botanic Garden, the National Museum of Art--attractions not readily available to the great majority of Americans at any price."



Charm and Character

Senator and Mrs. Clair Engle of California, lived for a number of years in Arlington, but now live at 434 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Says Mrs. Engle: "Our principal reason for moving to Capitol Hill was the convenience. My husband was tired of commuting through the traffic and wanted to be nearer the Capitol. Now he is in walking distance of his office. Then, too, we like the houses. They have a charm and character hard to find in new construction."

End of Neglect

George Cheely, 619 G Street, S.E., stresses the schools. "After many years of neglect, facilities for children are beginning to receive new emphasis in Capitol Hill planning," Mr. Cheely says. "The biggest single project is the rebuilding of Hine Junior High School, the 90-year-old building at Seventh and C Streets, S.E. Replacement of the building is scheduled in this year's budget. Meanwhile, Brent Elementary School is already attracting new residents because of its accelerated shift to the 'Amidon Plan.' The kindergarten and first grade have already made the change; other grades will have accomplished it before next fall. Pre-school children are perhaps most provided for of all. A cooperative nursery school operates three mornings a week at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, and Christ Church and Friendship House have five-day a week programs. Friendship House and Christ Child House both provide after school activities and summer camps."

Not Just a House

May Craig, 717 North Carolina Ave., S.E.: "I have lived on Capitol Hill most of my life and it is a wonderful thing to live near the Capitol, the U.S. Supreme Court, the Congressional Library, of one of the great capital cities of the world. Besides I do not live just in a house, I live in a fine old house, part of the history of the early city, at the junction of North Carolina Avenue and Independence Avenue, both among the oldest streets. North Carolina Avenue was among the 13 named for the original States when the city was laid out. I have owned and lived in other houses on Capitol Hill; at my present home since 1940."

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society wishes to express its appreciation to the owners of the houses who have so graciously opened their houses for this tour and to all other persons who have helped in so many ways to make the tour possible.

Tour Chairman Nan Wallace

Research Francis Douglas
and
Writing

Art Charles Mendez, Jr.

Produced by
THE CAPITOL HILL
RESTORATION SOCIETY