

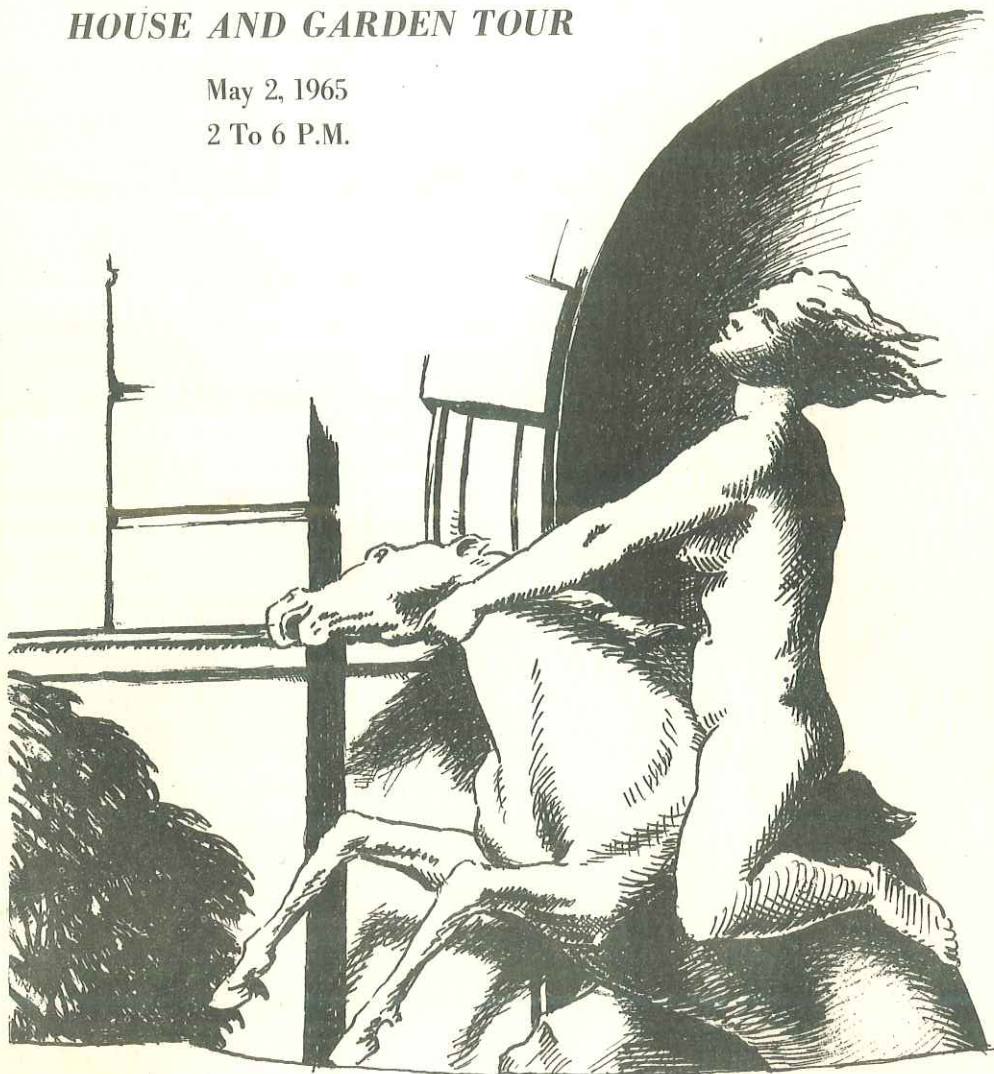
1965

CAPITOL HILL

HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

May 2, 1965

2 To 6 P.M.



25¢

Major Pierre L'Enfant once described the future site of the U. S. Capitol as "a pedestal waiting for a monument," and planned for substantial development east of the edifice on high ground. Speculators acquired all available land. Prices became unrealistically high, forcing the growth of the city west and northwest. As a result, construction of Capitol Hill's commercial and residential era began, for the most part, after the War Between the States.

Although much of the restoration of Hill houses hews closely to old lines, there is also considerable innovation and modernization. Furthermore, social patterns, as well as architectural patterns, are undergoing change. On the Hill, the past is not so much being preserved as the future is being born.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society strives for the creation of an open and harmonious new community, accommodating diverse people. It looks toward the day when L'Enfant's monument will be, in a larger sense, complete.

PREFACE

By May Craig

Living on Capitol Hill is a privilege, a precious personal link with the Capital City and our whole country. Congress represents the people and the whole country, more than the Executive or Judiciary. A hundred Senators and 435 Representatives have their official being in the Capitol and the House and Senate Office Buildings.

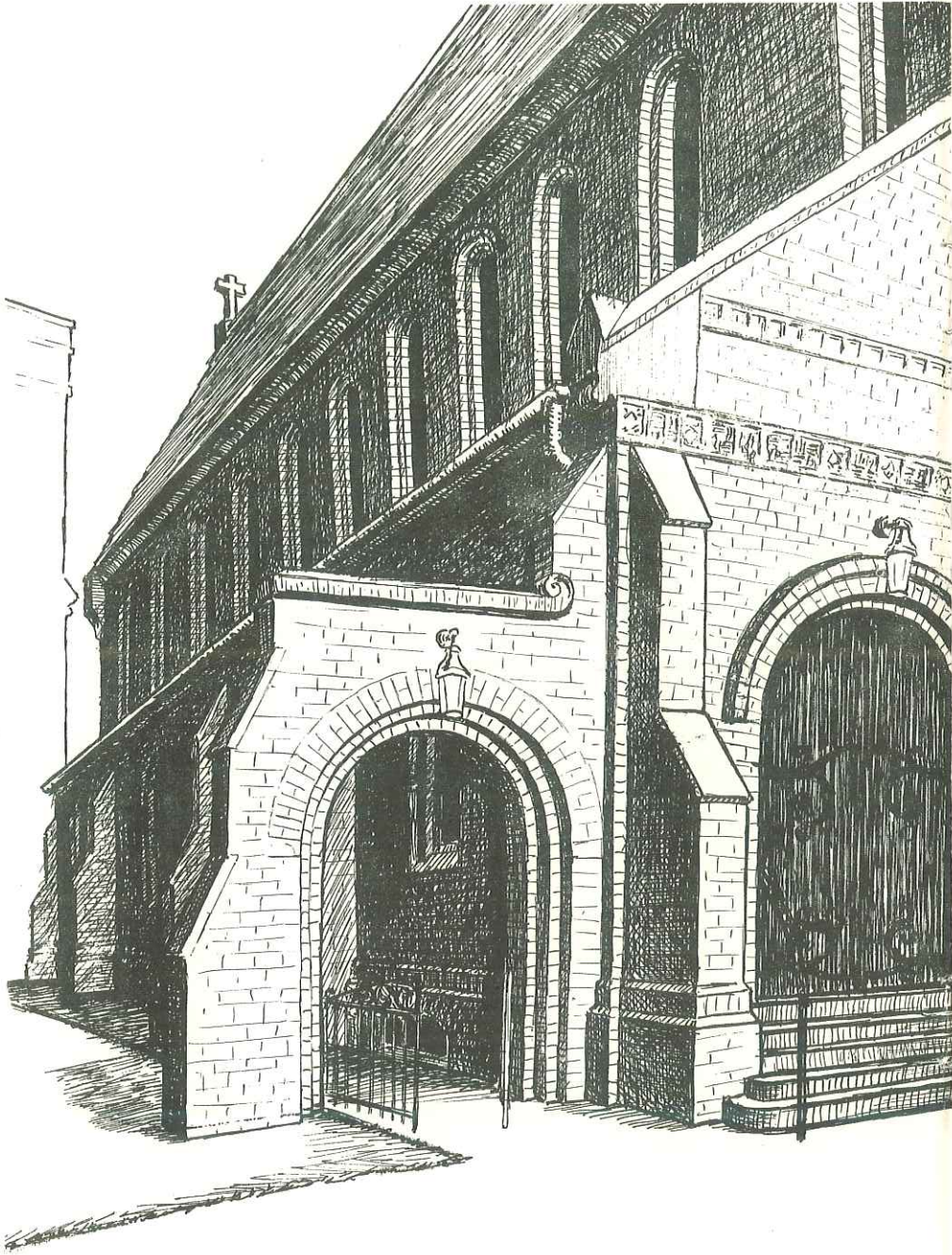
Being a newspaper reporter, I am at the Capitol nearly every day, and in nice weather walk to and from home, on stately, wide East Capitol Street, leading to the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River and the Maryland Hills. It is a pity it is not yet developed into the handsome boulevard it is meant to be some day.

The bronze statue of "Freedom" on top of the Dome, faces East, because, although the West Front is the most impressive, the East Front has always been regarded as "The Front". The cornerstones are laid there and Presidents are inaugurated on the big steps of the East Front.

It may be because George Washington and many others of our early "freedom fighters" were Masons, that so much attention was -- and is -- paid to the East Front. Lafayette was a Mason, and the organization in the early days was linked with the French revolution and fight for independence and Frenchmen came to help our Revolution.

I came to live on Capitol Hill as a young bride because my husband's people lived here. My children were "born on East Capitol Street". I have owned several houses here, each nearer the Capitol. I have kept the "look" of my present home, red brick and colonial yellow trim. The restoration of the fine old houses here with historic meaning, and present success in keeping the old Eastern Market, mean, I hope, that we can expand the original beauty and dignity of the Eastern areas around the Capitol. I talk about this to friends and prominent people when I properly can and ask them not to destroy "Jenkins Hill", which was the original name of the farmer whose farm we now live on. I have yet to find many who ever heard of Jenkins Hill, and it attracts their attention to the historic nature of Capitol Hill which our Capitol Hill community organization must keep on working for.

(May Craig, one of Washington's most famous news correspondents, has been close to Capitol Hill's political and non-political sides for all of her adult life.)



DAY'S EVENTS

HOUSE TOUR

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

ART EXHIBITION
St. Mark's Church

A CAUTION

Ladies' high, sharp heels can damage the
old floors in the houses on exhibition.

Walking shoes are advised.



ENROUTE

Besides the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the Library of Congress, there are a number of other buildings and monuments of interest to the sightseer on Capitol Hill:

Lincoln Park, East Capitol Street between Eleventh and Thirteenth Streets, with the Emancipation Monument.

Marine Commandant's House, 801 G Street, S. E. It was built in 1805. It is attributed to both Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the Capitol, and Colonel Anne Louis de Tousard, an associate of L'Enfant.

The Frederick Douglass townhouse, 316 A Street, N. E., in which the Museum of African Art is located, is considered one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in the vicinity.

The Folger Shakespeare Library, Second and East Capitol Streets.

Alva Belmont House, Second Street and Constitution Avenue, dating from 1799. Now serving as headquarters of the National Women's Party, it has been suggested as the official residence of the Vice President.

Stanton Square, C Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets, N. E., is named for Lincoln's Secretary of War, and is the site of a statue of General Nathaniel Greene, Revolutionary War hero.

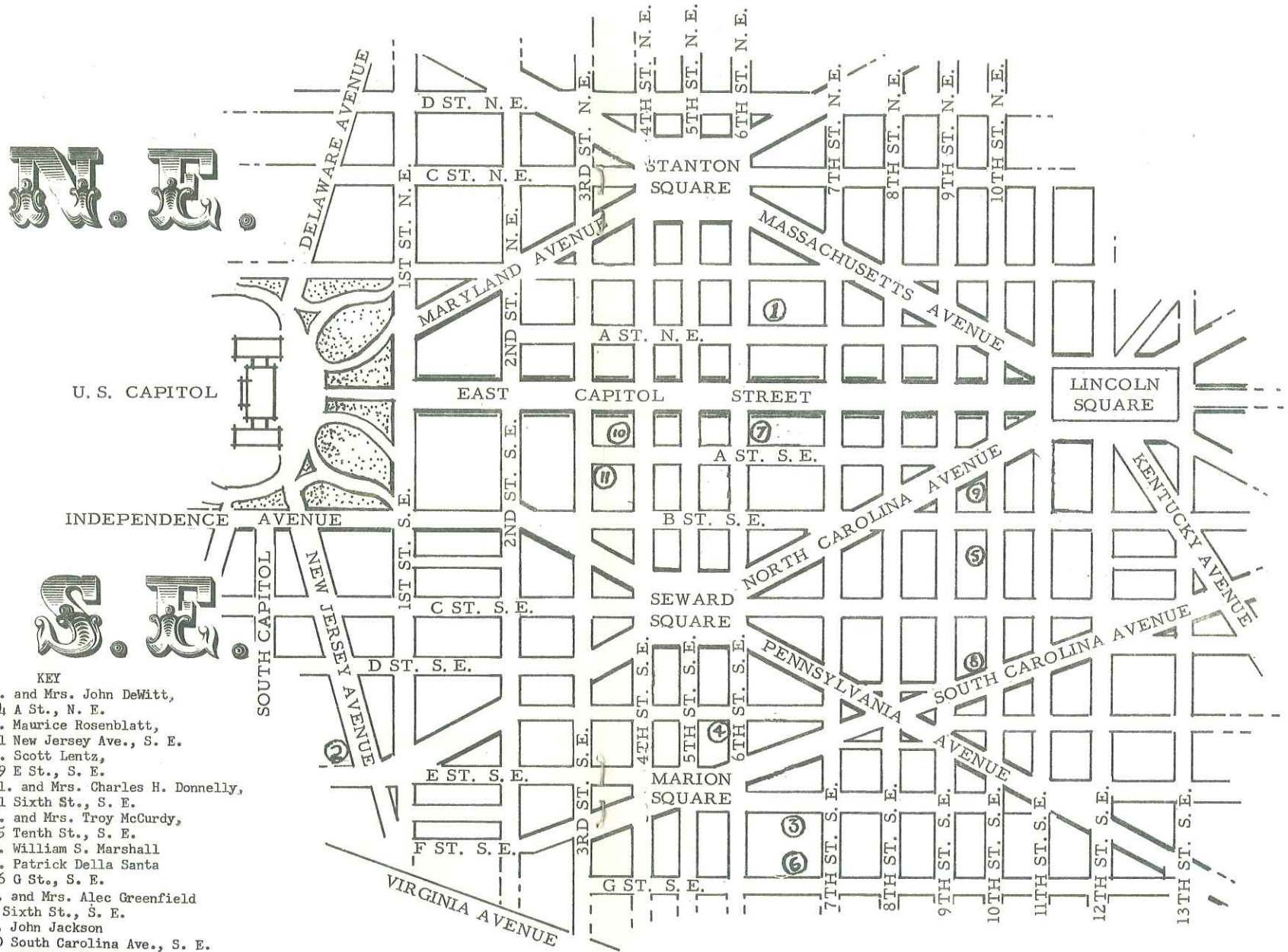
Friendship House, 619 D Street, S.E. This neighborhood center for children and adults' activities antedates Washington. On the front porch of the frame residence built there in 1796, Lafayette and Washington allegedly discussed plans for the capital city. The property's owners include Francis Scott Key.

Christ Church, 620 G Street, S.E., is the oldest church on Capitol Hill and the second oldest in the District. It was founded in 1794 and among its prominent worshippers in the first years was Thomas Jefferson.

St. Mark's Church, 301 A Street, S.E., began as a mission of Christ Church in 1867. Services were held in various places during the church's early years. Construction of the present building started in 1894. The First Family occasionally worships there now.

The Navy Yard: Latrobe is supposed to have designed its main gate at Eighth and M Streets, S. E.

MISTAKE: The numerical designations of the houses on your ticket do not conform to those on this map. --
 Editor



- KEY
1. Mr. and Mrs. John DeWitt,
614 A St., N. E.
 2. Mr. Maurice Rosenblatt,
421 New Jersey Ave., S. E.
 3. Mr. Scott Lentz,
639 E St., S. E.
 4. Col. and Mrs. Charles H. Donnelly,
401 Sixth St., S. E.
 5. Mr. and Mrs. Troy McCurdy,
215 Tenth St., S. E.
 6. Mr. William S. Marshall
Mr. Patrick Della Santa
636 G St., S. E.
 7. Mr. and Mrs. Alec Greenfield
22 Sixth St., S. E.
 8. Mr. John Jackson
920 South Carolina Ave., S. E.
 9. Mr. William E. Richards
111 Tenth St., S. E.
 10. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ducander
13 Fourth St., S. E.
 11. St. Mark's Church
301 A St., S. E.

THE TOUR

The Home of Mr. and Mrs. John DeWitt
614 A Street, N. E.

This Victorian house is a repository of art, including a painting, Carnival, by the internationally known Arthur Dove besides many sculptures and paintings by the owners. Oak paneling in the dining room of the 75 - year - old structure reputedly came from President William McKinley's White House billiard room.

The living room contains a Sheraton armchair, two French 17th Century carved straight chairs, an inlaid Italian desk, Empire sofa, and Victorian love seat. An old lantern pinion by the fireplace serves as a stand.

Paintings and sculpture in the room are as follows:

A crayon portrait of Mr. DeWitt's mother by Arthur B. Davies; Bermuda, by E. Ambrose Webster; a crayon sketch of Taos Mountain by John Marin; Dark Window, by Bernice Cross; Interior, by Eddie Rosenfeld; Pink Interior, by Mary Hackett; Provincetown Landscape, by Timothy Bright, Mrs. DeWitt's son; Mexican Boy, by Mrs. DeWitt; two 19th Century pieces from Africa; Carved Bird, by Mr. DeWitt, and a ship model constructed in 1865 in Cape Cod.

In addition to the paneling and Dove's Carnival, the dining room contains: a walnut corner cupboard, circa 1800; Chippendale chairs, and 16th Century Italian provincial carved panels.

There is in the DeWitt's garden a bronze head of Milan Pribichevic, the Yugoslavian patriot, by Malvina Hoffman. Also on view is Mrs. DeWitt's studio, having a number of unfinished paintings.

The Home of Mr. Maurice Rosenblatt
421 New Jersey Avenue, S. E.

This is a Victorian mansion, five stories with two rooms apiece. Many persons, viewing it from the back, see a resemblance to the houses of Charlestown, S. C., despite its Victorian plan.

The library contains a mantel and door finished as natural wood. Chandeliers in the house came from the George Washington Riggs House in Bowling Green, N. Y. They arrived packed in newspaper dated 1832.

The powder room contains, instead of an orthodox wash basin, a silver bowl resting on a piece of black marble.

The Home of Mr. Scott Lentz
639 E Street, S. E.

Mr. Lentz's home is an unusual transformation of a ramshackle stone-faced monstrosity to a gracious brick townhouse. The interior was completely redone in contemporary style. Its original high ceilings, however, were retained. The result is a gracefully designed townhouse for Mr. Lentz and his sister, Mrs. Lela Kendrick, including a handsome, self-contained bachelor apartment on the first floor for Mr. Lentz.

Art Neveu, French antiques, Venetian glass chandeliers, and an interesting display of modern art lend an impressive air. The rich colors of the matching red velvet antique sofas, the Bokhara rug, and a magnificent 16th Century Italian desk with ornately carved figures and little secret compartments, all complement the effective design of Mr. Lentz's home. The large portrait over the mantel was painted here in Washington by C. B. Ring in 1851.

The grape-arbored patio and Japanese garden in the rear were designed and built by Mr. Lentz. The focal points are a large stone lantern from Japan and a typical Japanese dry pond. The smaller plantings are mostly evergreens, a mixture of azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias. These are mixed together in a clashing combination of reds and oranges. The largest tree is an unusual specimen of willow, and there is also a red-leaved peach tree which bears delicious fruit the size of a plum. A lacy sunburst locust carries out the Japanese atmosphere, and a watermelon red crepe myrtle tree provides the color in late summer.

The Home of Col. and Mrs. Charles H. Donnelly
401 Sixth Street, S. E.

This house is situated on what was once two lots. The present front section of the house was constructed about 1865 as an addition to the house on the back property.

The hall contains, a large Japanese map of the world executed in 1810 and based on a Chinese projection of 1807.

In the living room, the furniture is mainly of the 18th and 19th Centuries, and includes a Philadelphia Chippendale high chest, an English Chippendale armchair, an 18th Century Viennese clock, and a pair of painted Viennese mirrors, as well as a group of watercolor views by Hans Figura.

The dining room includes American and English antique furniture, as well as a secretary of possibly Scandinavian origin. On the walls are a variety of pictures, including a large and relatively rare 1854 lithograph of Washington, and a 1776 Italian map of the Americas. The large and modern kitchen beyond includes Mrs. Donnelly's glass collection, as well as the copper pots and molds she gathered in Paris and Vienna. To the left of the kitchen is a small breakfast room, which includes a corner cupboard from Georgia. Doors from both the kitchen and the breakfast room lead to the garden.

The second floor, with its dramatically curtained stairwell, has a large central library, similarly curtained, with bedrooms on either side. Among the interesting pieces in these rooms are a simple American maple bed and maple and cherry chest of drawers in the back bedroom; the handsome desk in the library originally owned by Governor Pingree of Michigan; and, the attractive sewing table, day bed, blanket chest and dressing stand in the front bedroom.

The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Troy McCurdy
215 Tenth Street, S. E.

Neat and compact, the house was restored three years ago at which time Mr. and Mrs. Troy McCurdy moved in. Among the important things to note is a large Chinese Ancestral portrait in the living room. More than 200 years old, it is from the Ming dynasty. Also in the living room are French oil lamps, circa 1845. A collection of Royal Copenhagen Christmas plates is arranged over the buffet in the dining room.

The Home of Mr. William S. Marshall
and
Mr. Patrick Della Santa
636 G Street, S. E.

Built in the 1840's, this handsome Federal home is one of the capital's landmarks. John Philip Sousa, the American bandmaster and composer, was born here in 1854.

In commemoration of Sousa's birthplace, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society presented a bronze plaque last June 27, 1964, officially marking it as one of Washington's historic landmarks. The Marine Band, in full regalia, highlighted the ceremony by playing some of the "March King's" most famous compositions.

Much of the Federal style has been successfully retained. All of the floors are of Georgia pine, the old moldings have been put back, and all of the doors are of the Federal period with old brass hardware. Note the Adams mantel in the drawing room.

A graceful musical lyre design has been incorporated in the delicate wrought iron handrails in the front stoop.

The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Greenfield
22 Sixth Street, S. E.

The Alec Greenfield's house epitomizes a smooth melding of past and present. An unpretentious facade shields a boldly modern interior. Bright colors, good contemporary furnishings, hidden storage space mingle with 17th Century Spanish chairs, Victorian chairs, and an interesting Flemish chest.

For the most part, the Greenfields did the renovation without help. Mr. Greenfield, an architect, designed all of it, including the unique enclosed bed in the master bedroom. Mrs. Greenfield made sure that all materials used, plus all the paint were washable.

Worth particular note in the living room are handmade 200 years old Bristol glasses in the book shelf, and the portrait of Mrs. Greenfield's mother by a celebrated English painter. Other paintings are by Mr. Greenfield. Framed in the front parlor are 19th Century Mandarin sleevebands. These are remarkable for their embroidered beauty, and were collected by Mrs. Greenfield's uncle when he was Belgium's First Consul to China.

The small study contains a frieze taken from the Columbia Institute, and the master bedroom displays a weighty vase made out of a shell case used in the Russo-Japanese war.

The Home of Mr. John Jackson
920 South Carolina Avenue, S.E.

This house strikes visitors as one which has borne much more than the usual amount of renovating.

The front yard, which is sizable for the Hill, is entirely bricked. All front windows have been extended from ceiling to floor. The lower hall is floored with stone, and it leads past the stairway and living room-dining room to a modern kitchen with a brick floor.

Flanking both front windows in the living-dining room are book cases which reach from floor to ceiling. Among other things, they hold a collection of 18th Century English brass and pewter mugs and old French goblets. An 18th Century melodian, an heirloom, occupies the center of the room. Four original Hogarth engravings hang in a cluster on one wall.

Mr. Jackson has added both molding and chair rail to the master bedroom. The bedside lamp was made from an ancient Chinese vase. The small hallway on the second story is floored to match the downstairs one.

A formal brick patio is reached by French doors in the main room downstairs.

The Home of Mr. William E. Richards
111 Tenth Street, S. E.

The Organ Factory, restored by William E. Richards, was originally built as a stable in 1878. An addition was built in 1887. Ten years later, in 1897, Samuel S. Waters purchased the stables and converted it into an organ factory. Here he built organs for the next sixty years until his death in 1963. Two of his organs were built for the Georgetown Convent and for the old Earl Theatre, now the Warner Theatre. The machinery in the organ factory was run by a gasoline engine rather than electricity. The engine was presented to the Smithsonian Institution when the factory closed.

Although the stable was built in 1878, tradition says that the same site was used to garrison British troops when they invaded the city of Washington during the War of 1812.

The restored Organ Factory, which is now a private residence, has several interesting features. In the front court, there is a swimming pool, the first residential pool built on Capitol Hill. The interior and exterior doors were hand carved in Spain as designed by Mr. Richards. The master bathroom contains a full-size steam room. A five foot high wrought iron chandelier in the living room, and two smaller chandeliers on the balcony came from an old motion picture palace in Baltimore which was being demolished.

The railing on the exterior balcony on the second floor was once part of the factory's front fence facing the sidewalk.

The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Ducander
13 Fourth Street, S. E.

The Ducander's house has been awarded a restoration prize. It is admired basically for its simple lines and good proportions.

A number of its furnishings came from other houses. In the hall are a Chippendale mirror which once hung in the home of Senator Hiram Johnson on Maryland Avenue and a former candle holder from Duddington, the estate which once took up much of the present Hill. Matching Louis XVI marble mantels were brought from Chicago 60 years ago. The dining room mirror used to hang in the German Embassy. The chandeliers belonged to our last ambassador to Czarist Russia.

The dining room cabinets, designed to complement the mantel, hold part of a Crown Derby Dinner Service made in 1790.

The kitchen contains overhead beams and a mantel from other old Washington houses. Sculptor Paul Bartlett executed the pair of eagles on the mantel in 1917.

Also, there are an upstairs sitting room, two bedrooms, an attic room built when the house was restored, and a carriage house used for a garage and sitting room.

OFFICERS

Mr. James B. Hodgson, Jr., President, Capitol Hill Restoration Society

Mrs. J. Stephen Lord, Tour Chairman

Mr. Henry Hecht, Art Exhibition Chairman

COMMITTEES

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Tea Hostesses	Mrs. James A. Haley
House Hosts, Hostesses	Mrs. Wilcomb Washburn
Tea	Mrs. Joseph Sharlitt
Tickets	Mrs. J. Peter Maucher
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Contributing Editors	Mrs. Paula Weaver Miss Diane Eppinger Mrs. Robert Novak
Art Editor	Mr. John Hoxie

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society expresses its most sincere appreciation to those who graciously opened their homes for this year's tour.

The Society also thanks members of The Capitol Hill Symphony Orchestra who consented to play at the tea.