

The Speaker's Rooms H.S.House of Representatives Mashington, D. C. 20515 April 26, 1971

Mr. Lawrence A. Monaco, Jr., President Capitol Hill Restoration Society P. O. Box 9064 South East Station Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Mr. Monaco:

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Fourteenth Annual House and Garden Tour to be held this year on May 9, 1971. I understand that last year's Tour was enormously successful, and I am sure that it will be even finer this year.

The Society's House and Garden Tour serves a special purpose since it presents to the people of the Washington metropolitan area an opportunity to observe Capitol Hill as a lovely urban residential community as well as the seat of our Government. Your Tour also has another worthy objective since a portion of the profits from the Tour will be donated to the day care centers on Capitol Hill. Such donations are important because they benefit the entire community.

My schedule unfortunately does not permit me to be with you on May 9th. However, please be assured of my best wishes for a most outstanding House and Garden Tour.

Sincerely

Parkul The Speaker

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14th ANNUAL CAPITOL HILL

HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 9, 1971

Patrons

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(Continued on page two)

PATRONS — Continued from page one

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TOUR HOUSE NUMBER 1

638 G Street, Southeast The home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gemmill

The simple mid-nineteenth century facade of this house hides an interior of great spaciousness created by designers Silver and Olivia Tesone. Through the opening of the wall between the stair hall and the living room into an arcade, the placing of an array of exotic plants, and the use of a window wall facing the garden from the dining room, an atmosphere of airiness has been created.

The first of several interesting paintings by Maine artist William Moise hangs on the right-hand wall of the hall. Another is located on the opposite wall of the living room. The fireplace mantel on the same wall is a contemporary New England version of Adam style woodwork. Not to be overlooked is the fine Sheraton style chest near the doorway into the kitchen.

The fluorescent light panels and the large window and exterior door openings in the kitchen add to the general air of spaciousness which culminates in the dining room overlooking the garden. Here are located three more paintings by Mr. Moise as well as a very fine late Victorian china cabinet and dining table made for the Gemmill family in Indiana in 1890.

The deep garden is well provided with decorative trees including an elm, apple, pear, and, more rare, a Tamarisk from the Near East.



530 F Street Terrace The home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Reid

This charming new town house was planned and decorated to complement the inherited Victorian antiques and furniture, rugs and bric-a-brac the Reids have collected during their many years' residence in various countries.

Handwoven Tunisian rugs, the Biedermeier secretary, a painted Sheslam wood screen, and a Tunisian brazier. all combine with the Victorian furniture to present a lacy, Valentine effect in the living room. The many prints and lithographs include some by Mrs. Reid's grandfather, one of the first photographers in the Territory of New Mexico.

An unusual, large, slightly askew brass scale unearthed in Mexico is the focal point as one enters the foyer. To the left, through the powder room door can be seen one of Mrs. Reid's collection of Tunisian bird cages.

The rug, around which the dining room was planned, was made by hand in Quito, Ecuador: a Chinese rosewood silver chest and two molas from the San Blas Islands are representative of the Reids' travels. Behind the handsome flowered paper wall are very practical storage cabinets for crystal, silver, table cloths, etc.

A screen room off the dining room provides a secluded retreat in which Washington's delightful Spring and Fall evenings may be enjoyed. A decorated Costa Rican bar cart is conveniently placed for serving from either the dining room, the screen room, or the patio.

The family room-cum-library on the second floor, in Mr. Reid's favorite blue. is accented by a Zebra skin rug, white pottery and hanging plates from Tunisia. as well as two excellent paintings of Indian pueblos in New Mexico.

A Mexican bark painting, lithographs and Tunisian rugs adorn the hall walls, at the end of which is a Japanese doll presented to the Reid's daughter when she was a Cherry Blossom Festival princess in Washington.

Over the bed in Mr. Reid's room hangs an eagle-feather Cherokee Indian headdress presented to him by the Cherokee Nation. Water colors by Indians, beaded Indian belts and Tunisian plates decorate the walls.

The draped divan-lit, hanging cupids. and delicate Victorian sofa upholstered in Korean obi cloth, in Mrs. Reid's room, are delightfully French. A brass child's bed from Mexico, complete with its fur coverlet, serves as a bed for Chila, her Schnauzer.



TOUR HOUSE NUMBER 3

401 Sixth Street, Southeast The home of Mr. Don Ellington

This elegant home began life in 1800 as a modest brick dwelling well to the rear of the brick early Victorian style front part of the building which was constructed around 1850. In this later addition the drawing room, dining room and hall boast the original plaster moldings and medallions which were designed by Brumidi, a contemporary and friend of the Meads (the first owners), and well-known for his frescoes in the Capitol.

In the entrance foyer is a fine example of a Goum window carpet, as well as a Victorian what-not, signed "L.S., 14 May 1868." In the drawing room, among many fine antiques from Mr. Ellington's collection, is an unusual Kerman garden carpet, a large Imari cache-pot, and a cocktail constructed from a coffin stand.

The handsome, three-panel Queen Anne screen in the dining room is noteworthy; the original pine floor provides a fitting background for the vibrant Bokhara which adds color to this room.

The kitchen is the outstanding feature of the house. Centered amidst its old beams is an original Pullman car light, used as the chandelier. The fireplace wall is faced with used bricks and provides a pleasing background for many unusual items, including a very early brass Mexican telephone. The patent medicine chest, with all its drawers intact, serves as a spice chest. Stunning dark cabinets with attractive hardware line two walls.

To the right of the kitchen is a bright, charming breakfast room with a view of the garden. The pine corner cupboard dates from the 17th century. The spectacular garden, occupying an entire city lot, contains flowers, trees, shrubs and hedges in profusion and provides a verdant, country-like retreat unexpected in the heart of the City.

On the second floor, the large front bedroom is furnished in "6th Street primitive", with an extensive collection of old tobacco tins displayed. The antique Kerman rug provides the grace note.

The library, with its wood-burning fireplace, has a marble mantel from Gilbert Stuart's last studio. Mr. Ellington's collection of Charlie Banks Wilson drawings is displayed to advantage here.

The rear bedroom is a private guest suite, including its own bath and a complete galley kitchen, conveniently arranged for early breakfast or midnight snacks.



821 Independence Avenue, Southeast The home of Mr. Raymond L. Gooch

A slice of Victorian gingerbread updated for sophisticated living in the 70's. Only recently restored, the facade of this mid-19th century home features new trim which duplicates the original "carpenter's Gothic" trim visible in a 1903 photograph furnished Mr. Gooch by the previous owner. The house is typical of the more modest frame dwellings common to the neighborhood during that era.

The interior has been substantially rearranged from the original floor plan to suit today's patterns of living. The L-shaped living area is a study in contrasts -- a romantic Victorian sofa in Bargello fabric vs. the contemporary glass-topped cocktail table and stainless steel and leather chairs by Brauer. An additional whimsical note is the wicker chaise longue backed by floor-to-ceiling hinged sidelights.

Gray quarry tile in the efficiently planned kitchen matches the asphalt gray carpeting throughout the remainder of the house. A large stained glass panel picks up the vibrant aubergine of Mr. Gooch's custom-made cabinets.

The front dining area features a glass-topped table made from an operating room discard and plate glass from a now-demolished lending institution. Bamboo chairs and a Marimekko screen provide color accents.

The master suite above echoes Mr. Gooch's eclectic taste -- a rococco revival walnut bed complete with unusual "fan" coverlet and pillow shams -- a bamboo dresser with beveled mirror -- a chrome chair strapped with ochre leather -- a Japanese tansu topped with souvenir shell trivia from the turn of the century -- even a doll house piano stool currently used as a plant stand.

This interesting and unusual house, with its side galleries and handsome bricked terrace, demonstrates that care and thought can make an early home relevant to today's living.



'TOUR HOUSE NUMBER 5

619 Constitution Avenue, Northeast The home of Messrs. Neil Gregory Caldwell and Laurence T. Sheppard

The exterior appearance of this cylinder-bayed three-story brick house does not hint at the elegance and luxury of its interior. Extensive structural changes provide a backdrop for the owners' collections of antiques and inherited pieces.

The former small parlor at the front has been widened to provide a spacious dining room. The handsome 17th century chandelier is French, its light reflecting in the gleaming silver collection. In this room are a few pieces from what is one of the most extensive collections of Western and Oriental porcelain privately owned.

In the rear foyer is the first of several very tall, narrow doors designed especially for the house. The kitchen is situated so as to provide ready access to the dining room, the foyer for interior service to the drawing room, and to the garden through the Dutch window. Cleverly designed wall cabinets hold an extensive collection of crystal stemware. Over the breakfast table is the only light fixture salvaged from the house.

The drawing room's spaciousness is accented by two pairs of tall narrow doors, as well as by the glass south wall. The early Dutch desk once belonged to Marie Antoinette as did the two copper and brass urns from Malmaison. Among other treasures are one of a pair of 17th century children's coffins from the Chinese royal family and a matched set of four Chinese rugs, designed by Mr. Caldwell's mother and made for her in China.

The staircase retains the original bannister and is one of the few bits of Victoriana usable when restoration was undertaken.

The master bedroom takes advantage of the interior quiet of the block, as well as of the view of the garden. The painting over the fireplace depicts the first house Mr. Caldwell restored, begun at the ripe age of 14.

Throughout the third floor are many evidences of Mr. Sheppard's Naval heritage.

The library is the showcase for an extensive collection of flint glass, one of the early pitchers from the hands of Josiah Wedgwood himself, a Ming horse, and other Orientalia, including a celadon lotus bowl.

The glassed-in sun room and its rear deck, with a view of the Capitol dome, add frosting to one of the most sumptious restorations undertaken on the Hill.

TOUR MAP

NUMBER 1 638 G STREET, S. E.

NUMBER 2 530 F STREET TERRACE, S. E.

NUMBER 3 401 SIXTH STREET, S. E.

NUMBER 4 821 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S. E.

NUMBER 5 619 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N. E.

NUMBER 6 617 A STREET, N. E.

NUMBER 7 15 FOURTH STREET, S. E.

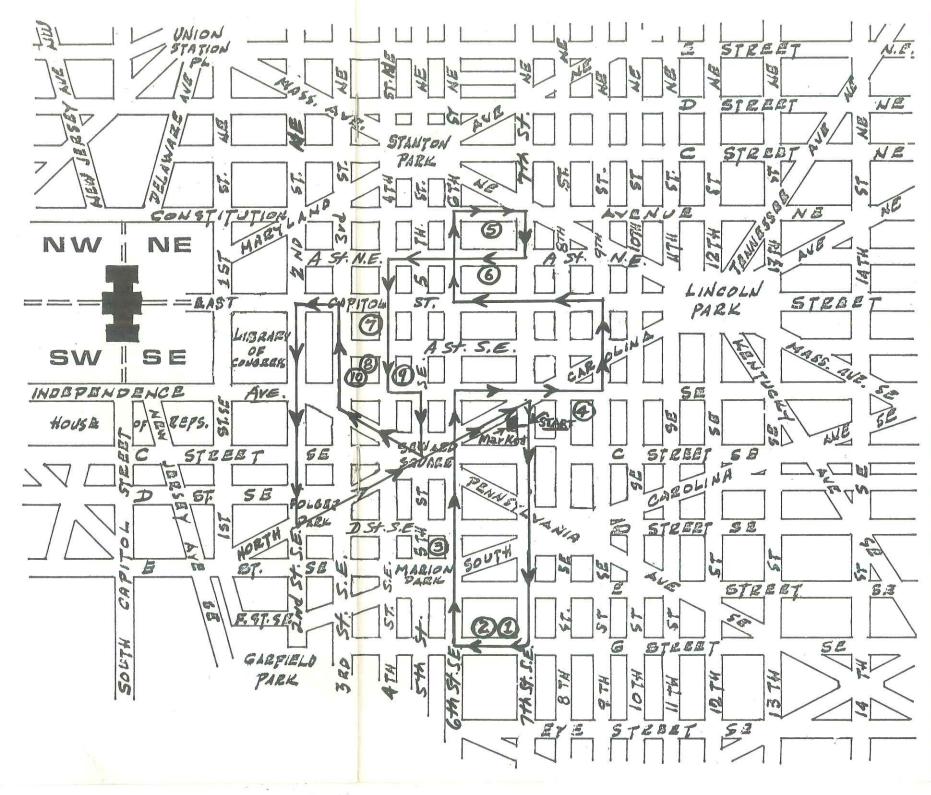
NUMBER 8 321 A STREET, S. E.

NUMBER 9 416 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S. E.

NUMBER 10 114 THIRD STREET, S. E.

TEA — ST. PETER'S CHURCH RECTORY 313 SECOND STREET, S. E.

STARTING POINT — EASTERN MARKET 7th & NORTH CAROLINA AVE., S. E.





617 "A" Street, Southeast Northeast
The home of Mr. Charles Blitzer

The prim and cheerful Victorian front of this home was added to a much older flat front frame structure at the turn of the century. Embellished now with antique ironwork and a delicate weathervane, the house opens to an astonishing vista of spaciousness as one enters. One of the most interesting design accomplishments in this home is the reallocation of space within the absolute limitations imposed by the original frame construction. Bearing posts (two of the six are exposed) and joists could not be disturbed, which meant that the stairs had to remain where originally installed. The manner in which the architect, Mr. Robert Reich, handled the new stairs is not only excitingly innovative, but adds interest and enchantment to the first impression gained upon entering.

There are many unique design features apparent at every turn. The old Pullman car light fixture in the breakfast room and the antique corkscrew wood soffit in the compact kitchen combine with the modern appliances and stacked washer and dryer to present a delightful blending of the old and the new.

On the dining level are displayed several of Mr. Blitzer's eclectic collection of drawings and etchings. A new experience for most visitors will be the descent to the living room level, past a large pool and fountain, with its indoor garden above. To the left, at the foot of the floating stairs, is a Charles Doering sculpture, "Steel Vehicle."

Mr. Blitzer has retained the open, spacious feeling of the house but at no sacrifice to ease of living. Comfortable chairs, conveniently placed near the shelves of books, attest to his literary interests.

The washed stone and redwood patio beyond the living room wall of glass and redwood is enclosed by louvered "summer" doors taken from an old Connecticut Avenue apartment building.

From the living room proper, spiral stairs lead to the master bedroom, an airy retreat of glass and redwood, disassociated from the front of the house. Here again old has been blended with new -- an antique pink marble lavatory and old mirrors from a Rhode Island Avenue mansion in the bath complement the architect-created stained glass windows. It is only steps from the bedroom to the spacious, absolutely private sun deck -- then through its glass wall to a warm. sunny library. A guest room at the front is separate from, but a part of the house.



TOUR HOUSE NUMBER 7

15 Fourth Street, Southeast The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Nicholson

This grand, old brick flat front was restored by Washington Evening Star columnist Constantine Brown and Mrs. Brown. The original owner, August Theilkuhl, began construction before the Civil War. His daughter married Henry Yeager, a flutist in the U.S. Marine Corps Band and this house was the scene of rehearsals by the Corps band under the direction of John Philip Sousa.

The original house was enlarged either by building an addition on the side or by acquiring the adjoining row house as the windows and outside wood trim are quite different, although of the same period. It used to have a fireplace in each room but only the one in the sitting room has been retained and the mantel replaced. The kitchen may have been a separate cookhouse as it is single-storied and is connected to the main house by a long "hyphen" corridor. The back yard is on two levels, with a smokehouse for preserving meat under the garden.

In the living room is a handsome rosewood bookcase with the original glass, containing, among other treasures, two miniatures of the Comtesse Charles de Bressan and Captain John Henry Clarke, USN, both dating from the late 18th and early 19th century; an unusual sewing table stands by the fire-place. The etching over the couch is by Sir Frank Brangwyn, and the other engravings and bird and animal prints are collectors' items. The map of the United States (over the dictionary) was drawn in 1812 by Delia Bass. In addition, two portraits of Smith Thompson, the great-great-grand-father of the present owner are hanging in this room. The swords over the old owl clock in the sitting room are family heirlooms from the Civil War.

The six vase-backed Restoration-period gondola chairs in the dining room and some of the Oriental rugs are quite old and rare. China displayed in the dining room is Spode's "India Tree." Venetian crystal and Tiffany finger bowls and saucers were inherited.

The front hall serves as a gall'ery displaying numerous family portraits dating from the mid-18th and early 19th centuries.

Additional ancestral portraits hang in the front bedroom including two charming children's portraits (Mrs. Nicholson's parents) over the bed.



321 A Street, Southeast The home of Mr. Thomas D. Robbins

This two-story brick flat front, formerly owned by the late Dr. Solon J. Beck, first archivist of the United States and an Assistant Librarian of Congress, along with his wife, the historian Elizabeth Hawthorne, is just a half-block from the Library of Congress. It retains the original, surprisingly spacious floor plan throughout.

The wood-burning fireplace in the living room has its original mantel. Twin crystal chandeliers highlight the contemporary ceiling moldings. All the paintings and drawings are original, including two paintings by the late Ivan Stoppe, a portrait painter and muralist who worked for nine years on the design of a mural to be placed in the U. S. Capitol buildings. Two Oriental rugs cover the random-width pine floors, evident throughout the home.

The formal dining room seats twelve comfortably and can be expanded to seat more. Several interesting examples of Wedgwood, royal Worcester and carnival glass are displayed in this room. An unusual crystal and wood chandelier hangs above the dining room table.

The kitchen, completely modern and splendidly equipped, presents a Moorish effect with its wrought iron accents and vibrant, hand-lacquered blue cabinets. More-than-adequate shelves provide display space for bric-a-brac, as well as Mr. Robbins' extensive cookbook collection.

The kitchen opens onto a wide, lovely patio, complete with tiny pool...all accented by azaleas, tulips and spring flowers, with a nostalgic touch of Spanish moss and a Spanish bayonet plant.

At the left of the stairs is surely one of the earliest chair lifts still operating. The library on the second floor, centrally located, boasts a wood-burning fireplace. Displayed here is an original Herb Jones drawing of a red-headed woodpecker, which once appeared on the cover of a nationally-circulated wild life magazine.

Opening off the library is Mr. Robbins' private suite, consisting of bath, dressing room, and bedroom, which overlooks the garden.

At the front of the house are two guest rooms, with their bath.



TOUR HOUSE NUMBER 9

416 Independence Avenue, Southeast The home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Sheehan

The front of this simple 1840 frame house leads to an interior of some elegance. The original, random-width floors complement the fine Empire mantel in the living room. Continuing this early 19th century theme are the Directoire and English miniatures and Royal Berlin procelain plaque on either side of the hall door, and the contemporary portrait of, possibly, a Napoleonic gentleman over the fireplace.

The study contains a number of examples of the graphic arts, including a charcoal drawing by George Luks, etchings by John Taylor Arms and Joseph Pennell, and an English miniature of Lady Howard.

The dining room contains an antique chest and epergne from Brittany, complemented by dining chairs copied in France from a set in the Orleans Museum. On the fireplace wall are a collection of antique German and English plates. On either side of the door to the kitchen are eighteenth century copper-plate colored prints of Mary of Scotland, Henry VIII, and Lord Darnley.

From the kitchen, decorated with Italian and English ironstone plates, there is access to the delightful patio and garden, set for dining in cool evenings.

The stairway to the second floor retains its original bannister rail.

On the walls of the principal bedroom are water colors by Henry Labasque and Roux-Champignon. French sconces hang above the fireplace. Through the rear door can be seen a mural of a romantic French landscape in the small sitting room at the rear of the house.

A handsome Georgian chest stands in the upstairs hall.

The study at the front of the house has a Chinese rug, a collection of Italian plates, a large Japanese vase, and a seascape by Sunter.



114 Third Street, Southeast The home of Mr. and Mrs. Caspar Weinberger

This elegant frame house, although extensively remodelled over the years, retains some of the atmosphere of the early nineteenth century when much of the surrounding neighborhood was still being farmed.

In the living room are a number of fine pieces of antique furniture, including the American Chippendale mirror hanging over the Sheraton card table. The secretary made in New England, was shipped by sea to San Francisco in 1871. A fine Chinese jade peony plant is of special interest, as is the Italian-made, hand-carved chess set.

The dining room cupboard contains examples of antique china, including Minton, some Chinese pieces, and French Havilland in a morning glory pattern with gold trim. Many pieces of old silver, including coin silver spoons, are displayed. Of particular interest is a pair of early Georgian salt spoons, in mint condition, which have been in Mr. Weinberger's family for nearly 200 years.

The secluded garden contains a heated swimming pool, with dressing rooms and shower. The lanai at the end of the garden is warmed by a fireplace and is complete with a wet bar.

In the kitchen is displayed an excellent collection of old pewter.



St. Peter's Church and Rectory

313 Second Street, Southeast

St. Peter's Parish dates from 1821 when it was established to serve the eastern part of the City of Washington and the area of the District of Columbia across the Anacostia River. The present building succeeded the original on the same site in 1889. Its length of 165 feet and its 140-foot high spire make the church a conspicuous landmark on Capitol Hill.

The building is constructed of stone from a Baltimore quarry in the neo-Romanesque style made popular in the late 19th century by H. H. Richardson, whose most famous building is Trinity Church in Copley Square. Boston. It has obvious affinities with the old Post Office Department building on Pennsylvania Avenue, the former Washington Loan and Trust Company building at 9th and E Streets, N. W. and the recently demolished National Presbyterian Church at Connecticut Avenue and N Street, N. W.

The design is a rather sophisticated essay in Romanesque style, including a nave of six bays with triforium and clerestory and side aisles the full length of the nave, each aisle and the nave terminating in a semi-circular apse.

Especially since the alterations made in the roof lines of the nave and aisles and in the outline of the Second Street facade as a result of a serious fire some years ago, the exterior, despite its construction in rusticated ashlar, is strongly North Italian in total effect.

The Rectory, located on the south side, blends in style and material with the Church building. The two structures constitute a rather unusual set in the neo-Romanesque style and add architectural character to the neighborhood.

At the conclusion of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Fourteenth Annual House and Garden Tour, the members and officers of the Society, and all of the many friends of the Society who have worked these past months to make this Tour successful, invite you to the Tea at St. Peter's Rectory.

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY TOUR COMMITTEE

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Tour Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Robert Kreinheder
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Tea: Mrs. John E. Hogan and Mrs. Robert Garske
Jitney: Mr. J. Harley Murray and Mr. Austin Beall
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Treasurer: Miss Margaret Kane
Tour Booklet: Mrs. James E. Forcum
Poster and Booklet Cover Art: Mr. Larry Swann
Booklet Art: Mr. Darrell Phebus

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society wishes to express its deep appreciation to the hundreds of persons who have given so generously of their time, talents, and efforts for this Fourteenth Annual House and Garden Tour.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society, a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was founded in 1955. It is now one of the largest active groups in Washington, D.C., with a membership of over 600 persons, some of whom do not reside on Capitol Hill, but who are interested in the cultural and social development of this area.

The purpose of the Society is to preserve, support, and encourage the preservation of historic sites and buildings on Capitol Hill; to foster, support, disseminate, and encourage good practices in the preservation and restoration of buildings and grounds; and to support the preservation of Capitol Hill as a model urban residential area.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society believes that Capitol Hill must be a place to live, as well as a place to work, and that its fine old houses can be restored for the benefit of those who are willing to commit themselves to its future, rather than be demolished for highways, office buildings, and parking lots for those whose faith in the city vanishes with the setting of each day's sun. The Society will do whatever is possible to preserve the traditional heritage of Capitol Hill in history as a place for graceful, comfortable, and convenient living.

The Society's activities include participation in community affairs in an effort to help solve problems involving transportation, reduction in crime, beautification and cleanliness of Capitol Hill's streets and parks, and other activities.

The Society conducts research to document historic Capitol Hill sites, and seeks to identify and foster the restoration of historic landmarks on Capitol Hill. Notable examples of this activity are the Belmont House; the birthplace of John Philip Sousa; and the Frederick Douglass Museum. Its most recent identification is Christ Church, Washington Parish, established in 1794.

It cooperates with government agencies and commissions with a view to meeting their objectives, while preserving the community interests of the Hill's varied residents. It conducts research into all requests for changes in zoning on Capitol Hill, making responsible recommendations to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia. Finally, it maintains close and active liaison with the Congress to support legislation which will benefit both Capitol Hill residents and the entire city of Washington.

The Society sponsors the now famous Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour, presently in its fourteenth year, when its residents open their homes and gardens to show visitors the best examples of old house restoration, versatility, originality and variety, as well as the adaptability of these old houses to today's life. A portion of each year's tour proceeds are contributed to worthwhile community projects.

A full year's dues of \$3.00 a person or \$5.00 for husband-wife membership are collected early in the Society's year, beginning in September. If a member joins the Society for the first time between March 1 and August 31 of a year, the dues for the remainder of the Society's year are \$1.50 a person or \$2.50 for a husband-wife membership. The Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church at 4th and Independence Avenue, S.E., is where the Society meets at 8:15 p.m. on the second Monday of each month beginning in September and ending in June.

Interested in becoming a member? Write to:

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY
Post Office Box 9064 South East Station
Washington, D.C. 20003