



# **Capitol Hill**



In 1791, Pierre L'Enfant, designer of the nation's capital, expected the city's major development to rise on the broad expanse at the front or east face of the Capitol. Communities took root there slowly and unevenly. Initial population clusters formed near work centers: the Capitol, the Navy Yard, and the Marine Barracks. Until the Civil War, development seldom stretched more than five blocks away from these centers.

A building boom swept through Washington in the post-Civil War period. Capitol Hill's vacant areas, such as those to the north and east, began to sport new houses, small-scale commercial buildings, and churches. Frame construction all but ceased after 1880 and red brick structures became the norm. Solidly middle class Victorian bay front rowhouses from the last twenty years of the nineteenth century still dominate many blocks of Capitol Hill streetscapes. Early twentieth century successors evolved stylistically into simpler classic revival and Edwardian lines to be followed by flat front rows with "English porches."

Despite two world wars, a depression, the automobile, and the lure of the suburbs, the inherent charm of a community with more than 100 years of America's vernacular architecture prevailed. Some 8,000 Capitol Hill buildings were included in the National Register's Capitol Hill Historic District in 1976, ensuring that future generations would have the opportunity to enjoy the diversity of urban living, a cause which the Capitol Hill Restoration Society has championed for more than a quarter of a century.



### Motifs for cover design and interior graphics are from the entry portal of the Restoration Society's headquarters at 1002 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.

# **Tour Stops**

William and Elizabeth Dingeldein 501 Sixth Street, S.E.



Surrounded on three sides by a beautiful shade garden, architect/builder A.G. Pumphrey's 1893 pressed brick bay front house retains virtually all its original exterior features. Inside, Pumphrey would recognize only the staircase. The rest of the interior has a new informality.

The entrance hall includes a mission style hat rack from early twentieth century California and Mrs. Dingeldein's family trunk which has completed two transcontinental treks between California and the East Coast. Upstairs is the master bedroom with its circular bay which affords a lovely view of the Capitol dome. The original dining room's oak mantel has been relocated to this room. Ellis Stewart's reverse acrylic painting on glass sets the color scheme for the suite. Another cherished accent is the Venetian glass vase on the table. A charming English walnut dresser which contains Mrs. Dingeldein's family portraits highlights the quest bedroom. In Mrs. Dingeldein's study, the trunk brought from Austria ca. 1890 by her husband's grandmother shares the spotlight with another work by Ellis Stewart. The overpiece to the mantel in the master bedroom has become shelves for the rear bath.

Despite the use of traditional tongue and groove oak porch ceiling board in the living-dining area, the feeling is decidedly contemporary. Mementos here reflect the Dingeldeins' travels in Greece. In the front, Mr. Dingeldein's study is accented with family photographs and a handsome brass chandelier.

Metropolitan Police First District Substation 500 E Street, S.E.

The T. Glass Home 1249 C Street, S.E.

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Since 1851, the corner of Fifth and E Streets, S.E., has been home to the Metropolitan Police on Capitol Hill. Today's edifice dates to 1903, when its mid-nineteenth century predecessor, "the black hole of Calcutta," was replaced by architect H.P. Pyle's design. Built at an estimated cost of \$30,000, the third largest line item in the police budget for 1903, the substation represents one of the best institutional architectural styles of its era.

Inside, the lobby contains the station clerk's office. Note the historical display before entering the Captain's office. Through a connecting door is the administrative office, while across the hall is the report writing area.

Although institutional in scale, the staircase resembles residential designs of the period. The origin of the "rest area" at the landing has been lost in time and leads to interesting speculation from staff and visitors alike.

During the recent restoration, the lettering on the transom leading to the squad room was regilded and the room itself divided. Except for modern in-service training video equipment in the roll call room, roll call is conducted very much as it was in 1903. Public donations of furnishings are being sought for the officers' lounge.

Completed this spring, the city's restoration of 1Dl was a welcome response to the community's desire to retain the highly valued officers of the substation's command.

One of the youngest of this year's Tour houses, this represents the modest rowhouse architecture popular during the World War I era. Its new interior admits far more light than its original design, an asset to the art glass collection featured here. Sitting room furnishings include art nouveau pieces from three nations central to the style's evolution. The English curio cabinet holds major works: the Tiffany trumpet vase with pulled feather design, the rare art pottery of Sicard interpreted in a short vase, and the Aurene piece executed by the first director of Steuben Glass. A copper fireplace screen, hand carved matching French settee and chair, and the Tiffany lamp on the writing table are other notable art nouveau works.

Pass under the unusual hanging mission style lamp into the den/dining room. The kitchen opens to incorporate the deck and brick patio with its built-in barbecue into the casual living area.

The dramatically scaled staircase window is an excellent setting for the large stained glass piece which originally hung in West Virginia. The front bedroom's handmade flower basket pattern quilt is a family heirloom. Note the century old French poster from Le Teatre de L'Opera-Comique. Finely matched burl drawer fronts on the antique German chest provide a rich color contrast. In the other bedroom, which has its own balcony, is another interesting antique piece, a marble-topped petticoat chest.

Elizabeth and Edmund Burke

126 Twelfth Street, N.E.

This 1913 flat front house retains its handsome original parquet flooring and entry hall woodwork, executed primarily in chestnut. The library's mantel is not original to the house, however. It is a garage sale acquisition. A portrait of Mr. Burke's grandmother and a pastel of Charlie, the resident pet, are other focal points. The hall atrium leads to the exit to the garden and the two-story sunken dining room. There, family antiques include the East Lake marble table and Mr. Burke's great great grandmother's portrait. In the china cabinet is the oldest item in the home, the cruet which was used on an American naval vessel during the Revolutionary War.

The living room blends traditional, antique, and contemporary furnishings. To the left, the Gibson Girl-like pencil drawing was executed by Mr. Burke's grandmother, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. Fern pressings are Burke family heirlooms from the island of Madiera. Hall furnishing include an antique sled and art acquired in China by Ms. Burke's father.

In the guest bedroom at the rear, family photographs, mahogany low poster beds, and the fabric textures are reminiscent of the era when the house was built. Note the bathroom's original fixtures and the small scale drop leaf mid-Victorian secrtary with a sampler made in 1832 as you walk through the hall. The master bedroom suite is in shades of peach and offwhite.

Jim and Gerri Johnson 634 C Street, N.E.



When Cyrus Mantz built this house in 1892, it cost more than double the average Capitol Hill rowhouse, a fact its handsome brownstone facade still reflects. Condemned in 1969, its interior has been redesigned to showcase the Johnsons' collection of American folk art and traditional textiles. String cloth walls in the step-down living room provide textural contrast to the American face jugs on the shelves. Hanging along the hall are three unusual handwoven rugs featured in Ms. Johnson's forthcoming book. Black walnut cabinets and handmade baskets highlight the kitchen. The dining room was designed to complement the ca. 1850 quilt made by Indiana parishioners for Dr. Johnson's grandfather. Notice the quilt's unique stitching pattern, the original remarbleized mantel, and handmade china cabinet. The bi-level garden is well established.

Dr. Johnson's dental tools were used in the meticulous restoration of the staircase. A western Maryland hooked rug brightens its landing. Turn right to the strikingly contemporary master bedroom suite. The handmade quilt on the bed is the work of Dr. Johnson's mother. A small sitting room overlooks the garden.

Boards salvaged from a southern Maryland tobacco barn line the den. Its shelves hold decoys and a stained glass window from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was divided to fill the transom as well as one of the original apertures. One last look upward at the staircase shows a quilt made by Ms. Johnson's grandmother.

Ms. Tina C. Hobson 413 Fourth Street, N.E.

This example of Washington developer Jacob Jones's modest single family dwellings was constructed in 1888. Its exterior walls are original; its interior could not be salvaged. When Ms. Hobson's son, Eric K. Lower, offered to create its new interior, he had no prior construction experience. Before the project was complete, he was so adept at the process that he became a full-time building contractor.

Subtle touches as well as major systems achieved Ms. Hobson's goal of an energy efficient contemporary environment. Built-in plant repositories and storage units utilize space often wasted in other buildings. The rare nineteenth century Circassian rug in the living area, originally Ms. Hobson's great aunt's, established the home's muted colors. Other handcrafts, gathered world-wide, include carvings, basketry, and laces. A wall of mirrors unites living and dining areas, creates an illusion of width, and diminishes the amount of artificial lighting needed.

The compact kitchen contains energy efficient appliances such as the convertible convection and microwave oven. Upstairs, turn right to the library/guest room. This spacious work area contains a home computer and five full-sized filing cabinets concealed in a closet. Leaded glass doors found in the house admit light from the hall's skylight into the upstairs rooms. Another unusual light source is the master bedroom's transom system. Cedar trims the L-shaped bath and also lines the closets. A skylight, gold fixtures, and jacuzzi highlight the master bath.

Stuart Marshall Bloch and Julia Chang Bloch 100 Fifth Street, N.E.

OBold and Dwyer, a Capitol Hill contracting firm, built this single family dwelling in 1886. Originally two storeys plus English basement in height, the next owner, Carlos Hitchcock, added the mansard storey in 1890.

When the Blochs purchased the house in 1973, they asked interior designer Alison Martin of the design firm Alison Martin Interiors Ltd. to work with them. The result is a colorful melange of the modern, oriental, and Victorian. Ice blue walls create a gentle background for Chinese porcelain, pillows made from silk the Blochs brought back from China, lucite coffee tables, contemporary paintings, and the Koblensk stove. In the dining room, the large abstract canvas established colors and mood. The table top, made of one piece of wood, began life as a New York Elks Club's card table. Mrs. Bloch's mother presented them with the kitchen's gas heated built-in wok, custom-made in San Francisco.

Muslin-hung walls and a painted American antique corner cabinet create an atmosphere of calm and quiet in the second floor rear guest room. Mrs. Bloch's Venetian red study is enhanced by a side bay. On the top floor, primary colors dominate. Flower and dot patterns, greenery, and examples of Mrs. Bloch's pottery enliven the master bedroom suite. Mr. Bloch's deep chocolate second floor study contains a concealed media center and blends quixotic mementos with some of his favorite pictures.

## Tour Map

### Tour Stops

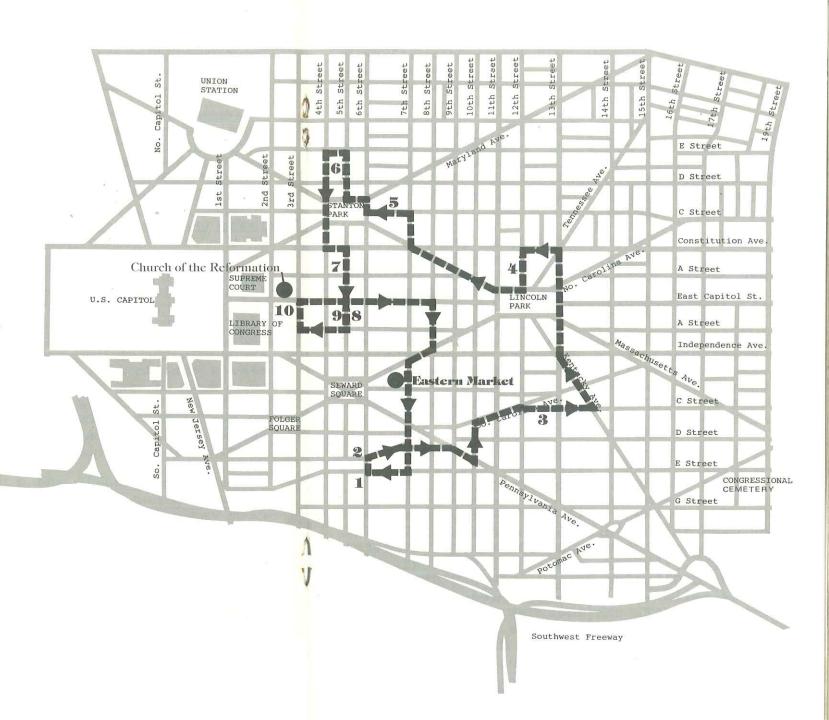
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- 9. 412 A Street, S.E.
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#### Refreshments

Church of the Reformation 220 East Capitol Street, N.E.

Low-heeled shoes, please

Please use our jitney service. It helps prevent traffic congestion and pollution.





James and Gertrud Hodgson 506 A Street, S.E.

In 1906, John C. Hesse commissioned architect J.F. Plager to design a two-family dwelling for this site. Hesse ultimately became Washington's Chief of Police. In 1961, the house was converted to single family use for the Hodgsons. Their son Lawrence recently completed its redivision into two separate units.

Walk through the side gate. At the end of the open corridor, steps lead to the spacious winter garden of the Hodgsons' new residence. Leaded glass Tiffany doors whose linear design reflects Frank Lloyd Wright's influence are from a buffet original to the house. In Mr. Hodgson's library hangs the portrait which his mother painted of his great grandfather. Opposite is an eighteenth century Surac rug. The sixteenth century northern Italian refectory table, once owned by Gifford Pinchot, nicely balances the baroque wardrobe.

Upstairs in the sitting room, southern German Biedemeier furniture is predominant. Most of the prints are seventeenth to nineteenth century German; most contemporary pieces are by Christopher Hodgson; and many of the polychromed carvings were done by Ms. Hodgson's father. Ms. Hodgson's charming bedroom contains a favorite print, "The Prince in the Thorns," illustrating the classic Sleeping Beauty. The new kitchen with its solid walnut cabinets leads onto the side gallery. All cabinetry as well as the variations of Chinese Chippendale railings were designed by Lawrence Hodgson. Mr. Hodgson, with "help from the family," accomplished the garden's brickwork.

Jack and Jeanne Mahoney and Mike and Dan 412 A Street, S.E.



Charles H. Flemmer, a Prussian immigrant carpenter who lived nearby, built this unusually articulated square bay residence in 1881. Clues for its well-executed interior restoration were fragments of plaster molding, the almost intact floor plan, and original interior shutters, door and window facings.

Throughout their home, the Mahoneys have blended family mementos with antiques. Florence Eck, Ms. Mahoney's mother, drew the charcoal nude in the living room and the acrylic "quick sketch" in lively colors which provides a focal point in the dining room. The dining table incorporates the top and legs from an antique piano which once belonged to the original Montello Ingram Church congregation on Capitol Hill. In 1892, W.S. Jenks, Washington's premier hardware store, marketed the wood burning cook stove. It and the blue and white ceramics lend a country air to this city kitchen.

Pass the second story bath with its stained glass windows and antique walnut and marble basin enclosure to reach the den furnished in earth tones. The third floor contains the master bedroom suite with its beautiful antique brass bed, handmade block chest, and Mrs. Eck's dressing table and mirror. The corridor of closets which leads to the master bath offers a solution to the perennial problem of storage space. Political memorabilia accent the upstairs hall. The boys' suite was designed both for companionship and the privacy so necessary in a family home.



Folger Shakespeare Library Reading Rooms 201 East Capitol Street, S.E.

A gift to the nation from Henry Clay and Emily Jordan Folger, the Folger Shakespeare Library has been part of the Capitol Hill community since it opened in 1932. Designed by Paul Cret, the original building is so architecturally important that it was one of the first buildings enrolled in the National Register of Historic Places.

Enter the original reading room through the Great Hall. Designed in the style of a high vaulted Elizabethan library, it contains a hall screen dominated by a replica of the Shakespeare Memorial Bust in Holy Trinity Church at Stratford-upon-Avon. At the opposite end, Nicolas d'Ascenzo's stained glass window depicts the "Seven Ages of Man." In this environment, scholars from all over the world use the magnificent collections of editions of Shakespeare's work, English renaissance literature and history, and early Americana such as one of the earliest mentions of the New World in English print. Here also is the only manuscript of a complete Shakespeare play which survives from the time of the publication of the First Folio. It was acquired by Henry Clay Folger in 1897.

The new reading room is part of the addition which provides the Library with stack space and a large underground vault as well as the latest in climate control, security, and space for scholars and staff. Return to the Great Hall and note the exhibition on the Library's construction.

### Refreshments

Church of the Reformation 222 East Capitol Street, N.E.



Begun in 1869 by a handful of Capitol Hill residents worshipping in a Civil War army barracks, the Lutheran Church of the Reformation now occupies a neo-Byzantine edifice which was built in 1934. Architects Porter and Lockie's design for the church was executed in Indiana limestone, a complement to its institutional neighbors. The church's deceptively plain facade contains an eight-ton stone carving of Christ above the front portal.

Refreshments in the social hall will be served to the accompaniment of a woodwind quintent from Capitol Hill's Shoestring Orchestra.

# Acknowledgments

The Society is grateful to the following:

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The hundreds of other people who gave so generously of their time, their ideas, and their resources

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# Capitol Hill Restoration Society

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society, Inc., a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was founded in 1955. It is one of the largest active civic and cultural organizations in the Washington area. The purposes of the Society are to support and encourage--

the preservation of Capitol Hill as a

model urban residential area;

the preservation of historic sites and

buildings on Capitol Hill; and

good practices in preserving and restoring buildings and grounds.

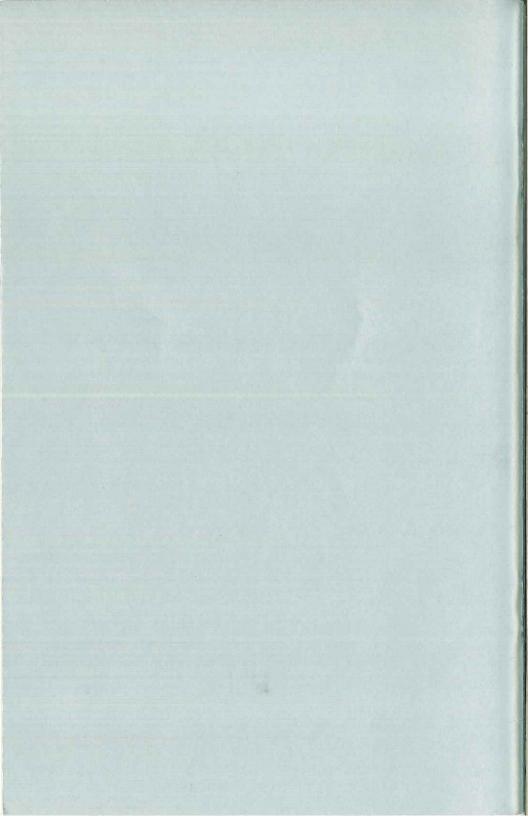
The Society believes that Capitol Hill should be a good place to live and work, and that its fine old buildings should be preserved for the benefit of those who are willing to commit themselves to the future of the Hill.

The Society holds meetings each month from September through June, with a program and business meeting preceded by light refreshments.

If you are interested in becoming a member, call or write for details:

Capitol Hill Restoration Society Post Office Box 9064 Washington, D.C. 20003

(202) 543-0425



CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY **26TH ANNUAL** HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR Sunday, May 8, 1983

Jitney service starts and ends at Eastern Market, Seventh Street and North Carolina Avenue, S.E.

\$9 in advance \$10 on Tour day (\$6 is tax-deductible)

Children over one year require ticket Low-heeled shoes, please!

### **TOUR STOPS**

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- 3. 1249 C Street, S.E.
- 4. 126 Twelfth Street, N.E.
- 5. 634 C Street, N.E. 6. 413 Fourth Street, N.E.
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- 9. 412 A Street, S.E.
- 10. 201 East Capitol Street, S.E.

#### TEA

Church of the Reformation 222 East Capitol Street, N.E. 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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