

*Capitol Hill House & Garden Tour* ❖ *Mother's Day* ❖ *May 13 & 14, 1995*





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## Welcome

**Welcome to the thirty-eighth** Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour. Thanks to the hard work of the house selection committee, this year we are able to visit homes built in the last century as well as those built in the last decade. The eight homeowners who have graciously opened their doors for us this year are providing a wonderful glimpse of life on Capitol Hill. Having the reception at the Sewall-Belmont House on tour this year is a special delight since forty years ago the first meetings of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society were held in this beautiful building.

While the house and garden tour is a celebration of our neighborhood in its "Sunday best," it also embodies the spirit of community in many other ways. Each year, over 200 volunteers participate in planning and running the tour, from the tour book designer and house managers to the docents and ticket sellers. Planning begins in the fall, with many of the "old hands" gently offering wisdom to the novices (like me). Many local businesses also take part in the tour by contributing goods or services, donating prizes, selling tickets, or purchasing advertisements that pay for the tour book. Still others—businesses and residents—support the tour through monetary contributions. So after seven months of planning and producing, of working with old friends and meeting new ones, once again we are ready to welcome you to this community-wide event.

Enjoy the tour and we hope to see you next year!

  
Gail Lau Kee  
1995 TOUR CHAIR



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For forty years the Capitol Hill Restoration Society has been working to preserve the way of life we all enjoy here on Capitol Hill—a place where one can walk to work, school, stores, and restaurants; a “small town” where neighbors are stimulating and friendly; a place where your efforts can make a difference.

Although the Capitol Hill House Tour is perhaps the most visible symbol of our efforts, we're hard at work on other projects as well. To help homeowners care for their Capitol Hill houses, we've published a series of guidelines on building styles, windows, doors, stained glass, exterior paints and colors, and how to get the proper permits. Another part of our effort is focused on coordinating and cooperating with other Capitol Hill groups—groups working to replace park playgrounds, plant street trees, or solve other local issues.

Over the years, we have become adept at dealing with the complicated and multilayered governments in our town. We have worked to save Eastern Market and our local police substation, fought the imposition of high rises incompatible with our streetscape, supported initiatives to establish residential parking on our streets, and developed a Master Plan with the Architect of the Capitol. The society's work is carried out by committees, some of which (such as zoning, historic district, environment, and city planning) work with government agencies on issues while others administer the society.

By joining the society, you will support the preservation of this unique neighborhood. As a member you will receive our monthly newsletter full of information about your community, current issues, and lively monthly meetings. We hope you will join our other volunteers who give unstintingly of their time and skills. And remember, in organizations, numbers count—the Capitol Hill Restoration Society has the experience to make your voice heard.

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New            | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$20    | <input type="checkbox"/> Single-Sponsor \$40    | <input type="checkbox"/> Single-Patron \$90     |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Archives      | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget            | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic District | <input type="checkbox"/> House Tour          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications  | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter    | <input type="checkbox"/> Program           | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity           |
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*As you walk* around Capitol Hill today, take the time to notice the rich architectural heritage—the stained glass windows, elaborate iron stairs, molded bricks, and carved stone. These are just a few of the elements in the architectural collage we call Capitol Hill—a composition of brick Victorian homes, both ornate and simple; frame houses with pitched roofs from an earlier time; tree-shaded streets opening up at intervals to the wider diagonal avenues. Then tucked in are some wider homes of light brick from the 1920s and new homes of the last decade—the quiet affirmation of a neighborhood that is nearly 200 years old, growing and changing all the time.

Stand in Lincoln Park; erase from view the trees, grass, statues, and houses. Picture instead this spot during the Civil War. In 1862 row upon row of white tents stretched east to the Anacostia River; platoons of soldiers drilled, wagons loaded with supplies or wounded soldiers trundled through the dust or mud. Fast forward in time just 40 years to Lincoln Park at the turn of the century, surrounded by large houses, the statue of Lincoln in the place of honor, horse-drawn trolley cars and carriages roll over paved streets, and gaslights line the sidewalks. This is the era that many have focused on for their picture of Capitol Hill—the Victorian Capitol Hill. The home you'll visit at 118 Tennessee Avenue, NE, slips right into this snapshot of Capitol Hill, recalling a time when living became more comfortable for many and the neighborhood came of age. Notice the marble carriage mounting block in front of 509 Ninth Street, SE—it is one of the few that remain on Capitol Hill, a surviving remnant of the nineteenth-century street furniture such as hitching posts and water troughs.

Of the houses you'll visit today, one, the Sewall-Belmont house, has, at least in part, been here longer than the Capitol itself and its residents have helped shape our

## Looking at Capitol Hill

nation's history. In 1800, its neighbors were boardinghouses and cornfields. Another house has stood on the corner of Third and A Streets, SE, for just about as long—its first residents little dreaming of St. Mark's Church rising in front of it. Both this house and the much smaller frame house at 408 G Street, SE, bear testimony to the universal desire of Capitol Hill homeowners to improve their houses—front porches were added to both.

Two houses (508 G Street, SE, and 527 Ninth Street, SE) were built after the Civil War—for workers in the Navy Yard and the Marine Barracks, for shop clerks, masons, and mechanics. Capitol Hill was a thriving village in those years. The little settlements that had started in 1800 around the Capitol, the Marine Barracks, and the Navy Yard had not only grown together, they had expanded to the north. Capitol Hill had matured to a finely textured community, with grocers on many corners and small shops scattered among the residences, often with the family living above the shop. Horse-drawn trolleys traveled along main thoroughfares crowded with small shops, department stores, and houses. Another of our tour homes, 822 East Capitol Street, was built as the branch office of the Washington Mechanics Savings Bank, part of the great commercial boom in the early part of this century.

In the years following the First World War, the horse-drawn trolley gave way to the electric trolley, the gas light to the electric light, and the horse to the automobile. During World War II many Capitol Hill houses became boardinghouses for government workers who flooded into Washington, and after the war many houses were torn down as age, neglect, and hard use all took their toll. But two houses on the tour today—820 East Capitol Street, NE, and 414 D Street, NE—may be seen in the next century as testaments to our present-day Capitol Hill—a dynamic community whose residents invest in the future as well as cherish the past.



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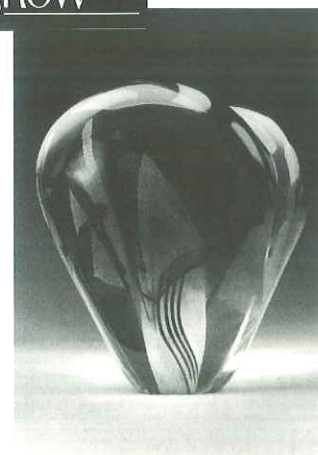
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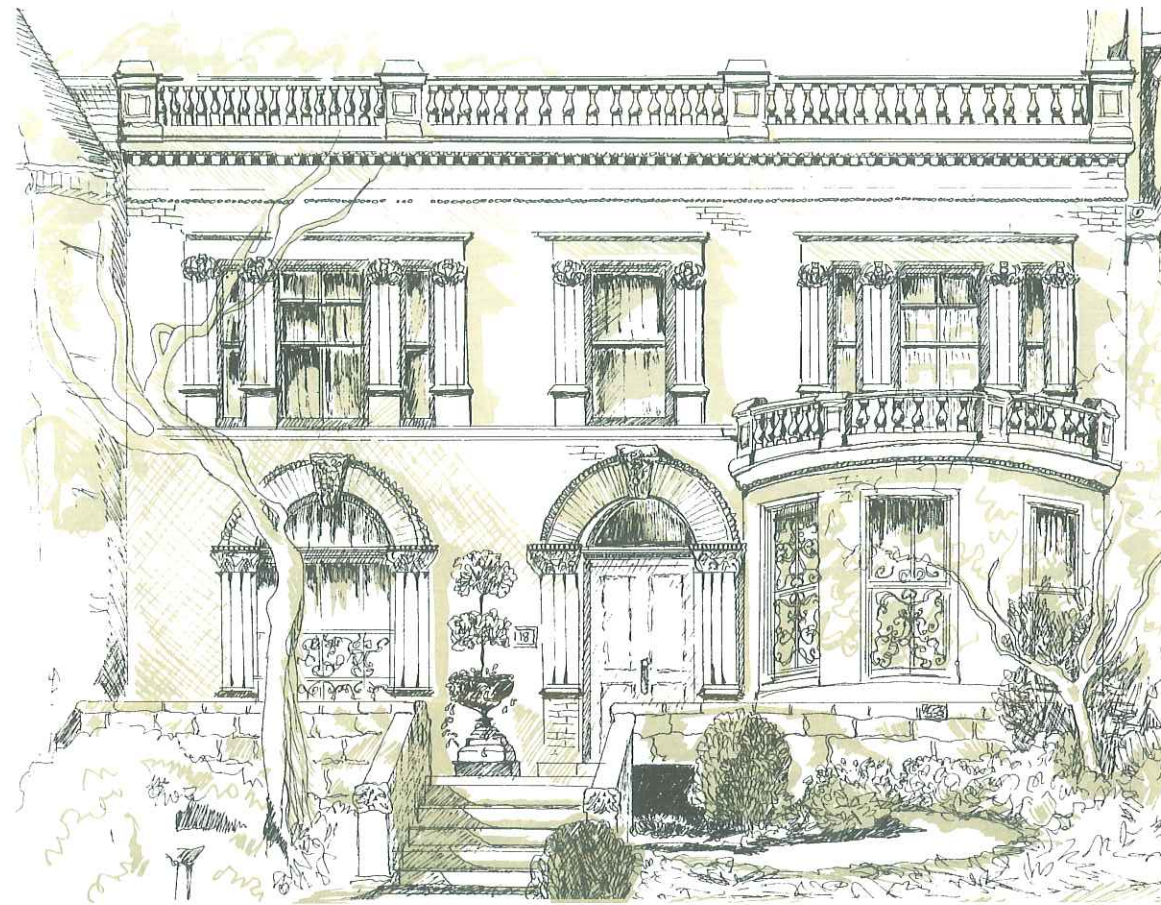
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Becky & Alan Dye ☒ 118 Tennessee Avenue, NE

*Evident at first sight* is the uniqueness of this handsome house, which combines elements of late Victorian, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Neo-Classical design. The 36-foot wide by 38-foot deep house, built of deep red brick and Indiana limestone, remains as impressive today as it was when it was designed in 1898 by Capitol Hill architect Edwin P. Fowler and built by Capitol Hill contractors Mead and Reynolds for George W. Strong, a local businessman.

The ruins of Pompeii probably inspired the mosaic of the vestibule. Classically designed doorways and windows continue this motif, which gives way, upstairs, to more typical Victorian woodwork. Fireplace mantels are, in turn, Neo-Classical, Arts and Crafts, and Victorian; most unusual is that in the library.

The house's original floor plan is nearly intact: on the left a parlor and formal dining room with a bay, and on the right the second parlor (now the family library), still retaining the original curved wood curtain rods. The biggest changes were to rework the pantry between the dining room and kitchen to incorporate a half-bath and a bar/serving area. Upstairs, Mr. Dye's sunlit study has expanded to include what was a sleeping porch. The smallest room now houses a luxurious bath en suite with the largest bedroom.

The exceptionally wide center hall features its own large, tiger oak fireplace—the perfect reception hall in 1898 when ladies and gentlemen came calling on the Strong family. The upstairs hall is perfect today for the Dye family photographs and artwork. In 1906 Julius Egloff, who both resided at 901 A Street, NE, and kept a “saloon” there, became the house's second owner. The Egloff family remained in the house until 1939. In the years since, the house has also been home to several other families, to Hill staffers during a long period of rental in the 1960s and 1970s, and even to a Baptist Church.

The house's continuing appeal to the Dyes is its ability to provide ample space as their children have grown (Katherine, now a freshman in college, and Andrew, in the eighth grade at Capitol Hill Day School) while also offering the luxury of spacious, elegant rooms for entertaining. The garden adds another measure of work and relaxation, mostly for Mrs. Dye who is avidly addicted to its demands and charms. Some interesting nooks, not often seen in Capitol Hill's more commonly scaled homes, are Mrs. Dye's flower arranging area, Mr. Dye's wine cellar, and the forty-foot family/billiard room on the ground floor.



Dr. Gary Mintz ☒ 822 East Capitol Street, NE

*Behind the warm limestone facade* of the circa 1905 Beaux Arts bank building lies a surprise in use and design. The owner, Dr. Gary Mintz, moved here from Philadelphia where he had transformed another commercial space, a storefront, into his home. When he accepted a position at the Washington Cardiology Center, he embarked on a search for another distinctive commercial space to satisfy his penchant for light, space, and volume, which he found in this former bank building.

Dr. Mintz knew architect Michael Hauptman, AIA, of Brauer and Hauptman from Philadelphia and secured his services to transform the bank. Original architectural features such as the classical denticulated cornice and Roman-inspired windows set the framework for a stunning contemporary renovation. The owner and the architect collaborated on an interior rich in detail and freshness. A two-story living room centered by a fireplace provides light and space for the owner's art. Note the original safe deposit box in the far right corner of the room—it now serves as Dr. Mintz's mailbox. The Shaker-style cherry-wood cabinetry with soapstone countertops, found in every room, was custom handcrafted by the Kennebec Company in Bath, Maine.

The landscape architecture firm of Oehme Van Sweden and Associates, Inc., created a dynamic street-front setting where once there was just a concrete slab. The rotated garden grid reflects the interior layout of the living space and responds to the rigid geometry of classical architecture. Three ornamental grasses—*Panicum* “Heavy Metal,” *Molinia* “Windspiel,” and *Hakonechloa* “Ornamental”—highlight the building. Coincidentally, Dr. Mintz's house and the Oehme Van Sweden offices at 8th and G Streets, SE, were both built as offices of the Washington Mechanics Savings Bank, incorporated in 1906 “to serve Southeast, particularly employees of the Navy Yard.”

The state-of-the-art kitchen has two dishwashers and an ample soapstone sink, reflecting the owner's culinary interests. Natural light and air diffuse through the perforated steel floor of the extensively windowed study above. The voluminous dining room features an adaptable table handcrafted from cherry wood and iron by Philadelphia craftsmen Jack Larimor and Will Stone. The “origami-inspired” table generally seats six to eight people, but when it is rotated 45 degrees and its hinges are opened it can accommodate as many as twelve. A guest bedroom and bath at the rear complete the first floor.





Jeffrey & Willa Humber ✦ 820 East Capitol Street, NE

*On this site*, last used as a bank parking lot (and a neighborhood soccer practice area after hours), three brick town houses have been constructed where four once stood. The new town houses, of larger scale than many Hill residences, take advantage of modern design and construction technology while still fitting in with their older neighbors. Their light-filled interiors offer easy passage from one area to another in a manner quite different from that of nineteenth-century homes. The Humbers have been living in this, their fourth Capitol Hill residence, for a year.

Accustomed to remodeling upon purchase, the Humbers began to adjust their new house so that this house, only three years old, has an even newer kitchen. The stenciled floor is the work of Lenore Winters Studio, which also created most of the faux-finished walls in the house. The "old" new kitchen was removed to the previously unfinished basement, where the Humbers have added media, exercise, and computer rooms—all rare in Capitol Hill homes. Apart from these areas, the house is the work of Capitol Hill builders Sarah Yates and Michael Baker. The new kitchen and basement construction was completed by Ortiz Construction.

Furniture craftsmanship of Charles Webb and Thos. Moser is exemplified in the dining room, master bedroom, and in Mr. Humber's study. Almost all of the remaining wood furnishings are family heirlooms; some, like the armoire in the living room, have been in Mrs. Humber's family for several generations. Baseball caps, much in evidence, are the collecting passion of Mr. Humber.

Artwork in the house includes several large oil paintings by New Orleans artist Donald Boudreaux. Works by the Humbers' daughter, Alliah (a graduate of Parsons School of Design, now studying at Howard), include the dramatic "Angry Black Woman" on the staircase; several small transportation-related drawings (mostly in the downstairs kitchen) were made by the Humbers' son, Jeffrey, when he was an elementary school student. Much of the African art—masks, objects, sculptures—in the house was acquired through Z Rosa Gallery in Richmond and the Artfactory in Washington.

Of particular delight in mild weather are all the different outdoor living spaces—gardens, balconies, and decks. The view of the Capitol framed by the third-floor study balcony is a dramatic reminder of the distinctive nature of this community.



Tom & Alice Faison ✦ 527 Ninth Street, SE

*The 500 block of Ninth Street, SE*, is a rich sampler of Capitol Hill building styles—Italian flat front, frame "shotgun" cottage, "eclectic revival" apartment building, Richardsonian Romanesque house. In the center of the block sits Tom and Alice Faison's first home, a typical brick bayfront and a bit of an eyesore when they purchased it four years ago. From this modest 1880s house, they created a home of warmth and originality.

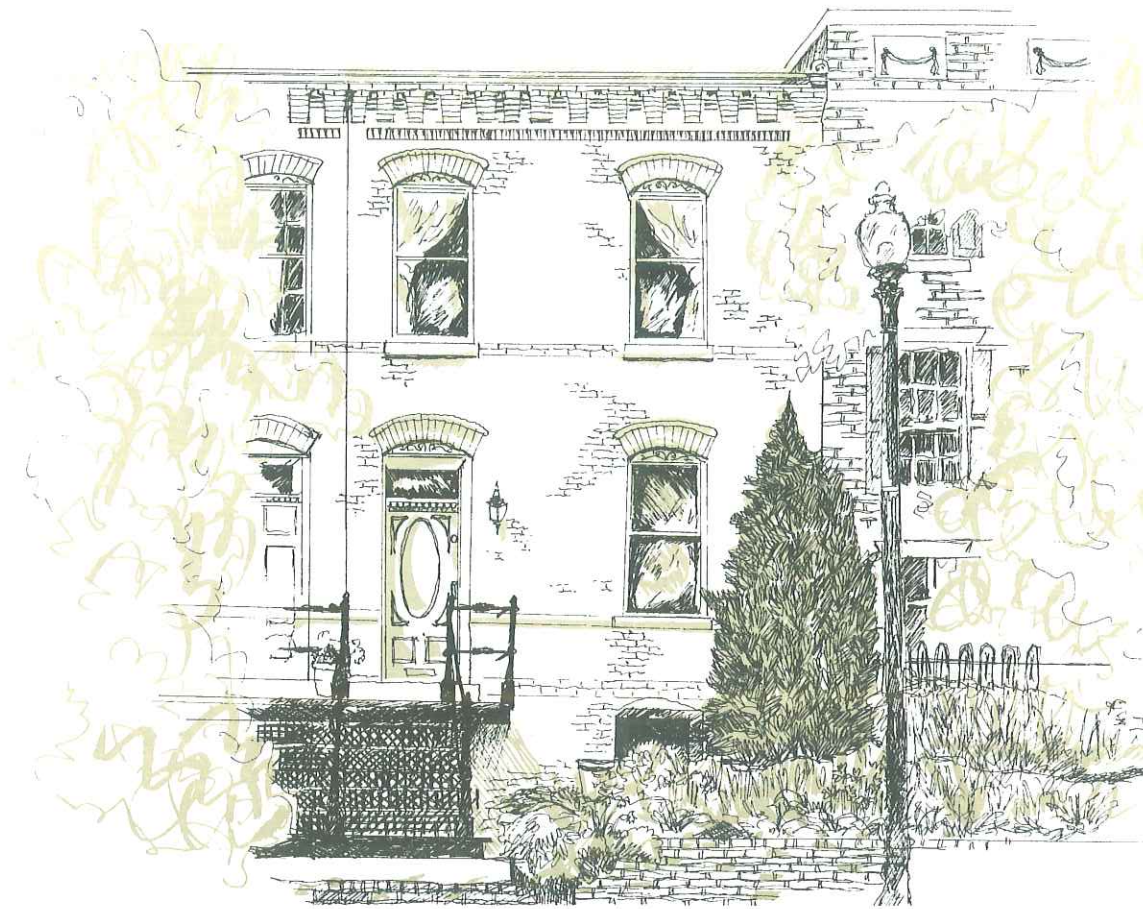
But the Faisons wanted to retain the character of the house and even kept its original floor plan, enhancing it with color, craftsmanship, and light to brighten what was a dark interior. Floor joists had to be replaced in the dining room, new wiring and pipes had to be installed, and the kitchen gutted. The Victorian-style front door, copied from an original nearby, was made from mahogany by Mrs. Faison's brother, Bill Hoxie.

Not everything is as it seems in this five-room home. In the living room a new gas fireplace (one of two that were added) is treated to a 1790 English surround. The Delft tiles are actually contact paper, the first of many faux surprises. Light from the signature Capitol Hill rectangular bay is enhanced by an electrified eighteenth-century English candlestick. The Faisons capitalized on their love of shutters to infuse architectural interest throughout a house where little existed, and antiques from a North Carolina shop owned by Mr. Faison's mother accent every room.

The stairwell to the second floor is original but the tongue-and-groove paneling is new. Chintz curtains salvaged from a North Carolina estate provide a counterpoint to the master bedroom's vintage claret color. More shutters (these seven feet high) add detail and the illusion of height. In the nursery, young Thomas's broad-stripe wallpaper is, in fact, paint. An antique child's workbench is dwarfed by a schoolmaster's desk crafted for his great-great grandfather.

Back downstairs in the sponge-painted dining room, undersized shutters create the illusion of oversized windows. An English oak corner cupboard with mahogany beading and inlay anchors this room. After passing through the kitchen where an African grouse perches, notice the patio's herringbone brickwork and the planters filled with flowers and vegetables. It is here the Faisons enjoy the mornings with their son, a fourth-generation Hill resident. The sounds of the Marine Corps band, practicing in the next block, provide the background music, as has been the case since 1885 when John Philip Sousa was director of the band.





J. Mark White ✠ 508 G Street, SE

**Native Washingtonian and landscape architect** J. Mark White purchased his 1891 row home in 1986. Like many Hill houses of its vintage, it required reversal of some “remuddlings” from previous years and application of fresh design touches to reflect the owner’s taste. The result is a stylistic blend of old and new that leads from Mr. White’s smartly landscaped entryway to his expertly crafted rear yard. Early renovation priorities included partially restoring the original floor and staircase layout, refinishing glowing red Georgia heart-pine floors, and opening long-neglected fireplaces.

The living room features an antique fireplace mantel acquired from Bob Reed, a local wood finisher and craftsman. The open stair was reconstructed to its original configuration. It was previously altered when the residence was a rooming house and terminated clumsily at the fireplace hearth. Doorways and custom-designed transoms were reinstalled and recall the original room proportions.

An antique mantel purchased from Libby Sangster at Antiques on the Hill adorns the dining room. Upstairs, Queen Anne-style skylights illuminate the stair hall. Original doors with some original hardware echo the house’s earliest days. At the rear of the second floor, off the home office, is a lovingly restored sleeping porch overlooking Mr. White’s masterpiece garden.

The garden’s all-white blossoms, a designer’s thematic pun, revolve around the 45-degree angled turns of a brick stair system and local flagstone patio, also designed by Mr. White. The angled patio pulls the viewer’s eye toward a decorative urn and a lushly planted woodland garden with a built-in arbor and gate as a backdrop. Boxwood, Oregon grapeholly, and mountain laurel provide a contrast to the shiobana akebia, hibiscus, climbing and oakleaf hydrangea, lenten roses, narcissus, veronica, phlox, coneflower, azalea, Siberian iris, bleeding heart, Virginia summersweet, stewartia, lily, and Sombreuil and Lady Banks climbing roses. In warm weather, the private garden area becomes an extension of the streamlined all-white kitchen. Effective landscape lighting makes the garden enjoyable in the evenings and cool weather. Both spaces work together for maximum efficiency and comfort, making the garden the focal point of this home.



Shelly Wischhusen ✠ 408 G Street, SE

**From the charming Victorian front porch** with the plants on the roof, through the art-filled house, out to the intimate courtyard, and finally to the studio at the back, one knows that this house is the home of an artist. Ms. Wischhusen has created a very personal environment inside a house that retains many of its original nineteenth-century features.

Originally just four rooms—two up and two down—the house probably was built around the time of the Civil War and before 1870. The pitched roof is one indication of its early building date, since houses built later in the century most often had flat sheet-metal roofs. The first major renovation of the house occurred in 1899 when John Metheny sought permission to add a front porch in order to bring the house in line with others on the block and to build a brick flue in the front room. It was during this renovation that the originally freestanding summer kitchen was joined to the back of the house. Freestanding kitchens were common in the early nineteenth-century to reduce the spread of fire, particularly in frame dwellings. The city building inspector agreed to this project only when the plan was amended to place the kitchen on the brick foundation still visible in the garden. The bathroom was added beyond the kitchen at a later date and retains the original fixtures and pipes, some now being put to decorative as well as practical uses.

Typical of many Capitol Hill houses, this home was owned by the same family for decades. Antonio and Maria Cardinale moved into the house in 1920 and lived here until Mr. Cardinale’s death in 1973, when his widow sold the house. The Cardinales built the garage in 1927 that is now used as the studio.

Ms. Wischhusen has collected so many treasures—paintings by friends, art from other cultures, rugs—it is impossible to mention them all. Longtime Hill residents will fondly note the horn chairs in the living room from the late Libby Sangster’s Antiques on the Hill, as well as two miniature portraits of her in the upstairs bedroom. Even in the patio garden, Ms. Wischhusen has been able to surround herself with art.



## Tour Houses

- 1 118 Tennessee Avenue, NE
- 2 822 East Capitol Street, NE
- 3 820 East Capitol Street, NE
- 4 527 9th Street, SE
- 5 508 G Street, SE
- 6 408 G Street, SE
- 7 300 A Street, SE
- 8 414 D Street, NE
- 9 Sewall-Belmont House  
144 Constitution Avenue, NE  
(Sunday only)

## candlelight tour

Saturday, May 13  
6:00-9:00 PM

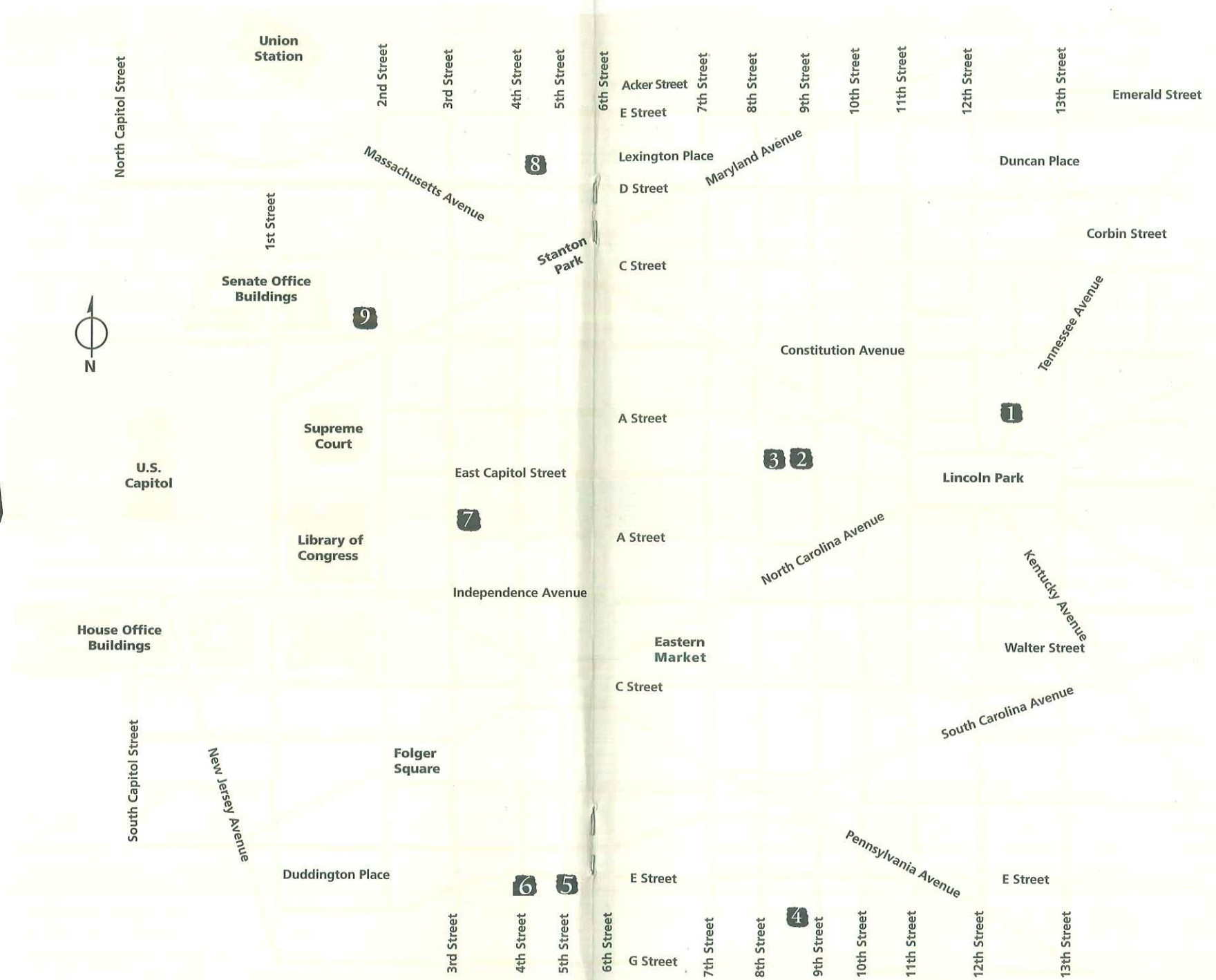
## mother's day tour

Sunday, May 14  
1:00-5:00 PM

## refreshments

3:00-6:00 PM  
Sunday, May 14  
Sewall-Belmont House  
144 Constitution Avenue, NE

## Tour Map



*On Sunday jitney buses will service the tour route with a stop at Eastern Market on North Carolina Avenue at Seventh Street.*

*Inclusion of a building on the tour does not mean that it complies with the laws and regulations of the District of Columbia.*

This map is courtesy of Prudential Preferred Properties. See their advertisement on the inside back cover of this tour book.





Margot Kelly ✎ 300 A Street, SE

**In the late 1960s** Margot Kelly purchased this stuccoed center-hall Greek Revival frame house at Third and A Streets, SE. One of the few wooden houses surviving from the Hill's earliest days, it was owner-occupied and largely unaltered for the sixty-year period prior to Ms. Kelly's occupancy. She undertook extensive renovations.

The house, built sometime between 1790 and 1820 as a modest dwelling, occupies a double lot. Since the house predates the building permit system, few records are available for the property. Ms. Kelly did obtain an 1888 customer registry from Galt's jewelry store listing several neighborhood residents, including a Dr. and Mrs. E. Handy living at 300 A Street, SE.

Ms. Kelly created a formal drive flanked by gardens of boxwood and ivy. The twentieth-century Greek Revival porch dominates the A Street facade and leads to a spacious hall providing access to all the rooms on the first floor. A den to the left is filled with art and artifacts from Ms. Kelly's extensive foreign and domestic travels. The room's fireplace opens to the dining room beyond. On the right of the hall is the formal living room with French doors leading to a landscaped patio and side garden. European antiques and wall-mounted Louis Comfort Tiffany-designed mosaics contribute to the room's household prominence.

Through the stair hall is the kitchen with its nineteenth-century brick hearth, brick floor, and beamed ceilings. The bathroom's Victorian washbasin, along with the hall stair and interior woodwork, are some of the remaining nineteenth-century features.

Upstairs off the center hall are two bedrooms and a hall bath as well as a master bedroom with its own sitting room and porch beyond. Take a peek through the open attic door at some of the original (date unknown) wallpaper.

A small staircase below the main hall stair leads to a cellar where one can find clues to original construction and room configuration in the exposed foundation. A now-covered cellar door leads to the wall of the adjacent Third Street flatfronts built in 1828 and testifies that the house and the now-covered yard to which the doorway led antedate its neighbors.



Robert M. Gurney & Therese Baron Gurney ✎ 414 D Street, NE

**For forty years** at 414 D Street, NE, there was a vacant lot, where now stands an award-winning Capitol Hill contemporary home. The original building on this site, a frame structure erected in the fall of 1879, was built by John W. Bowser and occupied by the Bowser family until the 1920s. It was taken down in the mid-1950s. Robert Gurney, AIA, began designing and building the present structure in the early 1990s as a home for his brother. It was a family project. Mr. Gurney designed it; he and his brothers excavated and built the foundation, framed and roofed the house, and did the rough and finish carpentry. Their father laid all the bricks and block in the house. Ms. Baron Gurney has focused on the interior.

Mr. Gurney was determined to design a house that was compatible with but not a copy of the neighboring houses. Using red brick, echoing the shape and curve of neighboring windows and doors and alluding to the pattern of the roofline molding, he has created a house that works both for the 1990s and for Capitol Hill. One of his exciting ideas is reflected in the downstairs hallway where the glass block wall allows light from a rounded first-floor transom to illuminate the space and shine on the black granite floor. Tucked in behind the staircase is a bench by Scottish architect/designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a favorite of the Gurneys. First-floor space, at a premium, also includes an office/guest room with a kitchenette and bath. Through the glass doors is the grass and brick patio, accented with pots of flowers and two icon storage sheds.

On the second level are two light-filled rooms where Ms. Baron Gurney's talents as an interior designer fuse with her husband's architectural skills. The curved wall in the dining room, repeated on the third-floor stairwell, allows for a graceful entry into the room. The dining room spotlights some of Mr. Gurney's home furnishings and design explorations. Floor-to-ceiling bookcases in the living room also hide the TV and stereo system.

Young Robert has laid claim to the back bedroom and bath, while his parents enjoy the front bedroom with its own gas fireplace and a luxurious bath complete with steam shower and whirlpool. After touring this home, it is easy to see why the Northern Virginia chapter of the American Institute of Architects awarded the project a 1994 Excellence in Design Award, as well as a Craftsmanship Award in brickwork to Robert J. Gurney. The project has also won a Builder's Choice award, presented by *Builder* magazine in 1994.



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*Sewall-Belmont House* ☒ *144 Constitution Avenue, NE*

*Truly one of the treasures of Capitol Hill*, the Sewall-Belmont House is a reminder of more than 300 years of American history. Before the nation was envisioned, this land on Jenkins Hill was part of the Cerne Abby Manor, with a small brick farmhouse. In 1799 Robert Sewall bought the property and incorporated the eighteenth-century house into the one he built facing the Capitol, then being raised on Jenkins Hill. From 1803 until 1812 the house was rented by Albert Gallatin, secretary of the treasury under presidents Jefferson and Madison, both of whom visited Gallatin here because he used the drawing room as his office in order to avoid the twenty-minute carriage ride to the Treasury building.

The house's next historic moment came in 1814 when, according to legend, shots were fired by Commodore Joshua Barney's men from the second-story windows as the British marched by on their way to burn the Capitol. Legends are notoriously difficult to authenticate, but the British did set fire to the house, destroying the front two rooms before a thunderstorm doused the flames. The house remained in the Sewall family for the next 108 years, changing from candlelight to gaslight as succeeding generations lived in and modified the house. In 1922 Senator Porter Dale of Vermont purchased the property, restoring the house and garden and adding to the drawing rooms the paneled walnut doors with silver hinges and door knobs from Daniel Webster's home. The National Woman's Party bought the Sewall house in 1929, renaming it the Belmont house for Alva Belmont, a benefactress of the party. It became the headquarters of the women's drive for equality under the direction of Alice Paul. In 1974 Congress designated the house a National Historic Landmark as a monument to the women's movement in the United States, to be maintained in cooperation with the National Park Service.

On the ground level adjoining the brick terrace and enclosed garden, refreshments will be served from 3-6. Docents will be available to talk about the house, its furnishings, and its residents. Be sure to allow time to savor this treasure.



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Free guided tours of the Capitol Building are available from the United States Capitol Guide Service on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

### *United States Capitol Tour*

*Having given Capitol Hill its name*, the Capitol defines the distinctive nature of the community. Radiating avenues and sight lines funnel attention to its majestic 287-foot cast-iron dome dominating the skyline. Then known as Jenkins Hill, Capitol Hill impressed President George Washington. City designer Pierre L'Enfant termed the location "a pedestal waiting for a monument." William Thornton designed that monument in 1793 as the new nation's largest building. Many of Capitol Hill's first houses were directly related to the Capitol's construction, housing artisans, workers, and members of Congress. Many nineteenth-century members of Congress stayed in Capitol Hill boardinghouses. Capitol Hill's growth paralleled that of congressional staff from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s.

Today the Capitol is both the working home of Congress and a museum of American history and art. The building itself reflects the rich architectural artistry of William Thornton and of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Charles Bulfinch, and Thomas U. Walter. Meticulously preserved chambers—including the Rotunda, Statuary Hall, the Old Senate Chamber, and the Old Supreme Court Chamber—reverberate with history and art. From Vinnie Ream's statue of Lincoln to Constantine Brumidi's *Apotheosis of Washington* in the eye of the Dome, the Capitol is adorned with superb examples of nineteenth and twentieth century American patriotic art, justifying its reputation as the temple of American democracy.

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*May 14-20, 1995*

*This year's Preservation Week theme—"Real People, Real Places, Real History!"— calls on us to recognize our historic resources and the important role they play in shaping our communities. It's about celebrating the people and places that have influenced social, economic, and political development in our city and across America. Capitol Hill, largest of Washington's historic districts, takes pride in its 6,000-building designation. The Hill is a neighborhood inextricably linked to its history and to the more than 60,000 sites comprising more than 700,000 historic properties—our people, our places, our history.*

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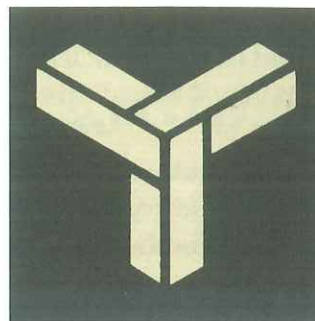
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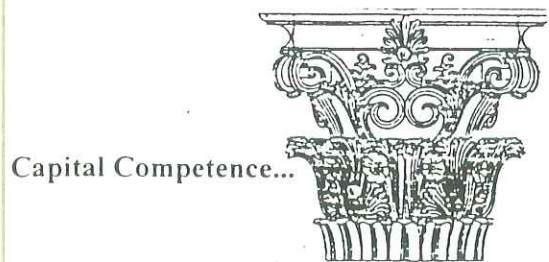
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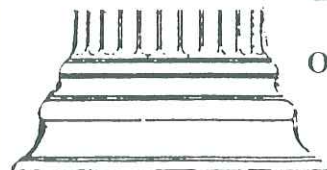
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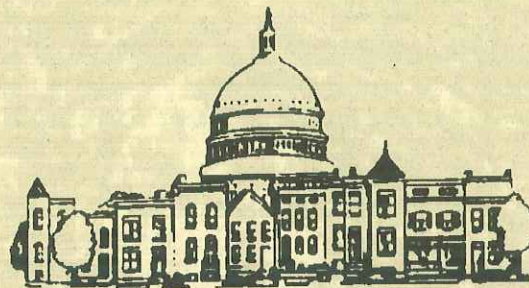
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- Send me information about the Capitol Hill Restoration Society and Historic District!
- I would like to be more involved in the Capitol Hill neighborhood!
- Please send me advance notice of the 1996 House and Garden Tour.

**Nº 0857**