

Capitol Hill Restoration Society

55th Annual
House



& Garden

TOUR

Windows on our World

Mother's
Day Weekend
May 12-13, 2012



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55th Annual House and Garden Tour



Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH

55th Annual CHRS House & Garden Tour
 4:00 – 7:00 pm
Please visit the participating restaurant offering discounts to House Tour ticket holders.

SUNDAY, MAY 13TH

55th Annual CHRS House & Garden Tour
 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
 Refreshment Break: 2:00 – 5:00 pm at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol Street NE
Please visit the participating restaurants offering discounts to House Tour ticket holders.

CHRS would like to thank:

Chuck Burger for the Refreshment Break bags and goodies in them
 The Lutheran Church of the Reformation

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President's Welcome: Windows on our World

Dear Friends and Visitors:

Welcome to the 55th Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour! Each year the Tour features a different and unique part of Capitol Hill's diverse and historic neighborhood.

The Tour is a celebration of Capitol Hill. This year's Tour features a wide variety of fascinating houses, most constructed in the late 19th century and early 20th century. There are also several gardens, not to be missed.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society believes that Capitol Hill should be a good place to live, work, and raise families. For this reason, since our founding, we have worked continuously to defend and protect the history, architecture, and amenities of Capitol Hill life. We will continue to use the historic preservation law to defend the Capitol Hill Historic District.

I especially want to thank Paul Cromwell and Ann Richards, Co-Chairs of the House and Garden Tour, for their excellent and tireless work in planning the

Tour, and handling its thousands of details. I also want to thank the many volunteers who make the Tour possible, all the writers, house captains, house docents, fundraisers who have worked so hard, and the generous Tour sponsors. Finally, I want to thank our members for supporting the work of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society and the Tour.



Have a wonderful Tour and a happy Mothers' Day.

Beth Purcell
President, Capitol Hill Restoration Society

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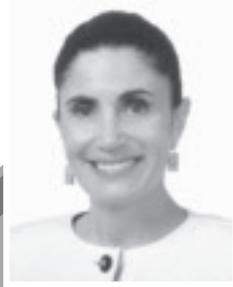
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Pam and Bob Schmidle

Square 786

When the Schmidles bought their two-story row home in 2008, they did so sight-unseen while living in Okinawa, Japan. Their older son and daughter-in-law inspected the home and loved its abundant light as well as its location, just a stone's throw from the Supreme Court. When the Schmidles moved in, they immediately put their own touches on it, repainting every room and displaying a stunning collection of Japanese and Chinese artwork and antiques.

The homes at 317 and 315 A were constructed in the latter part of the 1860s, probably by Francis Obold, a prolific builder during the last forty years of the century. Obold used both as income properties. An early renter was Horace Chapman, a government clerk, and his family. Obold added 10 x 12 kitchens to the rear of both homes in 1883. And in 1886 Obold created three more homes on the rear of the lot, two from an existing brick workshop building.

The front sitting room of 317 has soft bisque walls, which contrast nicely with a black and gray block print that measures 6 feet long by 2.5 feet tall. Mrs. Schmidle fell in love with this print by Daniel Kelly when she first saw it on display in a Japanese art gallery. Called "Rolling Out," the monochromatic print features three women on bicycles as they ride toward a village. The artist, an Idaho native, has lived in Japan for most of his life and has had his work featured in the Smithsonian. An avid art collector, Mrs. Schmidle says this print is her favorite piece in the house because of its hues and its sense of serenity that reminds her of Japan.

A fireplace centers the room, and six pieces of Japanese art hang on the opposite wall—ranging from paintings by the artist, Kaneko, to origami kimonos and the Japanese Kanji symbol meaning "flower." In the corner rests a radio in an ornate wooden case; Mr. Schmidle's father sat next to this radio as a child as he listened to Franklin Roosevelt's Fireside Chats. The antique drum table by the fireplace belonged to Mr. Schmidle's grandmother while above the mantle hangs a drawing of Beaufort, SC, created by a nine year old child in the 1800's.

Perhaps the most playful and unexpected element in the house is the six foot brass rooster which stands proudly in the front windows. A gift from his parents, the rooster is a happy presence in the room and is also Mr. Schmidle's nickname among friends and colleagues. Keep an eye out for roosters—they are nesting throughout the home.

Past the sitting room is a dining area painted blue/gray with paintings by South Carolina artist, Nancy Ricker Rhett, and Connecticut artist, Harvey Kitter. Notice the framed giotaku (Japanese fish rubbing) on the wall, a treasured



gift from the Schmidles' younger son and daughter-in-law. There is another in the home; see if you can find it! The lovely marble top table occupying the corner is a piece from Mrs. Schmidle's family. The solid cherry table is the room's centerpiece and was handmade by a family friend more than 30 years ago. A simple antique church bench sits in the corner with, what else? - a rooster perched above.

The adjoining kitchen juxtaposes nicely with the traditional and antique décor of the rest of the downstairs. With a cork floor and stainless steel countertops, Mrs. Schmidle says this room is perhaps her favorite because it leads onto their terrace, - a small, flowering oasis for the family.

Upstairs, there is a library painted a deep red with a map from 1905 of Mr. Schmidle's hometown. Two Chinese paintings hang on the adjacent wall and reflect the masculine hues in the room. The other painting in the room was done by Rikki Schmidle, an award winning artist and one of the Schmidles' daughters-in-law. Another of her paintings hangs at the bottom of the stairs. Down the hall, the camel colored guest room displays some of Mrs. Schmidle's most prized Japanese treasures. Antique quilts from South Carolina are folded on a cedar chest made by Mr. Schmidle's grandfather; and a rooster, of course, looks down on visitors from a corner of the room. The master bedroom's two windows face the Frederick Douglass Museum. At the foot of the bed rests an antique Chinese wedding chest, and an antique black obi is draped across the dresser. The interior designer for this home is Michele Bobb of Room Therapy; the painter is John Leu. ★ wf

Cheers and thank you to the
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 and tour chairs Paul Cromwell and
 Ann Richards for bringing us another
 brilliant House & Garden tour!

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Wimberly Fair and Jeff Massie

Square 786

The Milburn was constructed by John F. Donohue in 1901. It contained eight flats and an office. Donohue grew up on Capitol Hill at 6th and A SE, and worked in the grocery business, getting his start during the Civil War as a provisioner. Donohue shifted careers in the 1880s moving into real estate on Capitol Hill and then into insurance. The John F. Donohue, Sons and Company was formed in 1901 with son Milburn listed as Treasurer. Today the Donohue Companies include development, construction, real estate, building services and hospitality services. The Milburn was turned into condominiums by the legendary Beau Bogan in late 1970s.

The former real estate and insurance office is now home to Wimberly Fair and husband Jeff Massie. Fair, an interior decorator, has deftly combined layers of colors, patterns, and textures—mixing old and new, and creating a space that is original and inviting. Her love of travel, vintage textiles, and art is reflected throughout this lovely home.

As you walk through the front door, you immediately notice the antique Bessarabian rug in the main room, which explodes with rich reds, jewel toned blues and greens, bright yellow, and black. The bold color palette from this rug was Wimberly's inspiration for the rest of the room. White couches are piled high with pillows, varying in textures and colors, from all over the world—including Europe, India, Turkey, Greece, Asia, and her favorite boutique in Los Angeles. A traditional Suzani from Uzbekistan is draped over the couch, and above the arm chair hangs an oversized framed photo of Parisian street graffiti that reflects the blacks and reds in the rug. To add an additional punch of color, she painted an occasional table teal. On either side of the armoire hangs two Chinese scrolls purchased in San Francisco during the Chinese New Year for good luck. The jester's mask is from one of the oldest and most renowned mask-makers in Venice. His work has been featured in Hollywood productions such as "Eyes Wide Shut" and was a special purchase she and her husband made on their honeymoon. The mask, with its split personality, is signed by the artist and hangs above a mirror Wimberly silver leafed and distressed. The five foot mirror rests on a bench made of reclaimed wood and is surrounded by hand

blown glass candlesticks in different shapes and sizes. The mirror reflects the candlelight, setting a casual but elegant mood for entertaining guests.

The main room also features a curved set of windows facing East Capitol Street, where a round dining table fits perfectly. She painted a set of vintage chairs black before recovering them in a small, subtle leopard print, which acts as an unexpected neutral in the room.

Past the living room is a small kitchen. Wimberly brightened the kitchen by hand painting bold blue and white stripes. She picked the wall colors based on a piece of art she bought at the Raffles Hotel during a trip to Singapore. The result is dramatic, playful, and classic all at once.

Leading into the bedroom, the colors become neutral and serene. A soft sea foam green was selected for the bedroom walls to go with the cream, white, and silver color palette of the furniture, textiles, and lighting. Wimberly carefully selected antique silver filigree frames, mirrors, and paintings from her travels to create visual interest on one wall. Above the bed hangs an antique handira, or Moroccan wedding blanket, that was hand woven by women in the Berber tribes of the Atlas mountains. This is her favorite piece in the house. This blanket has been worn by multiple generations of Moroccan brides. On their wedding day, in far away South Carolina, they draped it over their prayer bench. It will always have a special place in their home. ★ wf



Grubb's Pharmacy Garden

Dr. Michael Kim

Square 786

The garden in front of Grubb's Pharmacy was created by new owner Dr. Michael Kim following design recommendations from a colleague with a green thumb. When Kim purchased the pharmacy in 2006 the front yard was devoid of any plantings. The subsequent additions of traditional iron fencing, a water fountain, a variety of plants and bushes and a doggie waiting area provide a tranquil setting which can be therapeutic in a holistic way. The building at 326 has served as a neighborhood pharmacy since the late 19th century and is currently the oldest pharmacy in DC. The Grubb's name comes from Charles Grubb, who owned the pharmacy from 1933 to 1966. Edward Dillon owned the pharmacy from 1967 to 2006, but never changed the name.

The buildings at 326 and 328 were constructed prior to 1857 when they were owned by Dr. Samuel C. Busey as income property. (The 1846 city directory lists Henry Goodwin, Columbus Harrison and William Jones as residing on the corner of 4th and East Capitol, although not necessarily in the same house.) Purchased by Louis Huber after the War, the houses served as grocery stores, a Chinese laundry and a barber shop. The first pharmacy on the premises was owned by Harry T. L. Hoyle in 1897. It was acquired by pharmacist Adolphus E. Powell about 1900, who was followed by pharmacist Orlando Hall in 1922.

Huber upgraded the property in 1892 by raising the house three feet and underpinning it with brick foundations. He also added an 8' x 8' bathroom in the rear and added two show windows on the front and a bay with a 12' x 5' "prospectus. An early photograph shows a front awning, typical of businesses in the latter part of the nineteenth century. ★ .pc



Ed and Patricia Verona*Square 840*

The house of windows! Forty six windows! You enter 2 Sixth Street through a unique artifact: this is the only house on Capitol Hill with a “perfect keyhole” entrance, fashioned with lovingly rounded brick (the only other one like it in DC is in Georgetown). The keyhole is original and has never been reworked. For the Veronas the keyhole entrance was one of the house’s biggest attractions.

The entry floor of the home, constructed in 1892 by M.E. Gregg, had a center hall flanked by two parlors and, on the right, a dining room. The original kitchen was at ground level with service stairs on the north side providing access to the dining room. Within the hallway can be seen a lovely three-story look-up to the third floor, the staircase’s well forming a curling oval. What is now the hall closet was once the entrance to servants’ quarters in the basement (now blocked off). It was altered by the previous owner.

The current kitchen now is located in the tower parlor. It was converted by a former owner and updated by the Veronas when they purchased the home in 2008. Besides new appliances and cabinetwork, they placed new Italian grey stone above the countertops and added an island in the middle.

The remaining parlor serves as a modest-sized living room that is dominated on the north by a large contemporary (2007) Russian painting, done in oil and lacquer in classic icon style, of St. George and the Dragon by Vladimir Putin’s favorite painter Gayun. St. George is the patron saint of Moscow, where the owners bought the painting. The Saint in the center is surrounded by symbols of the Evangelists.

On the west wall as you leave the living room is a particularly noteworthy set of four icons, three of which are antique and which were acquired in 1994 before it became illegal to export such venerable objects out of Russia. The largest, brightest icon, of St. Gabriel the Archangel (in the middle of a row of three) is the work of homeowner Patricia Verona. In 2007, while living in Moscow, she attended an icon-painting class taught by Russian monks still gifted in the craft (monks who, she learned, had a certain affinity for the grape).

The dining room contains an original “warming oven” (north wall). It was completely covered over by an owner in the 1970’s but recent renovations have uncovered it fully, although it is no longer functional. The service stairs also were removed when a rental unit was created at the ground level.

Important works from Latin America and Russia adorn this room, along with a miscellany of other acquisitions. The large painting on the west wall was done in Latin America, most likely by a Spanish immigrant painter. It shows Jesus flanked by the founders of the Dominican (St. Dominic

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and Franciscan (St. Francis) orders, with native worshipers below. Probably commissioned in the 17th C. by a private family for a church in Quito, Ecuador, it was acquired by the Veronas in Quito in 1985, after the church it had resided in was destroyed by a major earthquake in that city in 1984.

Over the warming oven is a dramatic drawing in conté crayon by Mamanimamani, a contemporary Bolivian master who now lives and works in Germany. Dated 2001, the work shows one of a set of two archangels who watch over miners. The image incorporates the green coca leaf chewed by miners in Bolivia.

The second floor library is notable for its immense Persian carpet, approximately 16 X 21 feet, of a kind typically made for a mosque. It was inherited from Ed Verona’s grandmother who ordered it hand-made and had it shipped to her New England home in the early 20th C. Another corner of the room has a super fine, brilliantly colored rug from Uzbekistan which the Veronas acquired in 1994.

The room also contains a cabinet full of Ed’s mineral collection acquired over the years when he worked with mineral and petroleum companies. A distinctive touch: every one of the samples was collected personally, on the site, by Ed himself. A dramatic double portrait of Simon Bolivar can be seen on one wall and a collection of mainly contemporary Soviet/Russian works on the east wall. The sitting room on this floor displays both woven items of note and other artworks.

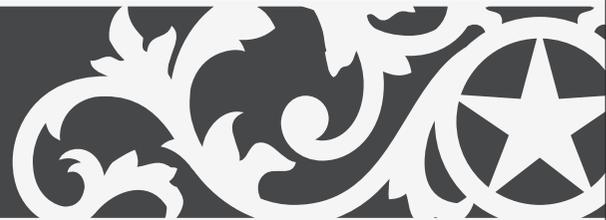
On the third floor landing, one can get a fine view of the coiled staircase down to the main floor. On the same landing is a striking, if somewhat damaged, portrait of St. Michael, done in Bolivia and acquired in that country (Patricia’s birthplace). From there, one enters the very spacious tower room—the master bedroom—with a stunning 17-foot ceiling. All the exposed brick is original to the house. More carpets and artworks grace this accommodating space. ★ *mc*



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630 East Capitol Street NE (front garden)

Ted and Stacia Cadmus

Square 868

The French knot garden consists primarily of American hybrid boxwoods called “Winter Gem” and forms the geometric outlines of the garden. They also border the pathway to the front steps in alternating conical and round shapes. A sago palm, brought from Stacia’s home in Charleston, South Carolina centers the garden. Each of the four quadrants of the garden have a columnar Japanese holly for vertical height. The open spaces are filled with teucrium (felty germander) and lemon thyme. An American boxwood is on the stairs. The three rows of plants immediately in front of the house are variegated holly, white oleander (also from Charleston) and dwarf irises. There are three gardenia bushes in pots in the back of the garden grown from cuttings of 50 year old gardenia bushes from Stacia’s home in Charleston.

The house dates from 1882 when a permit to build was issued to the owner of the lot, Mrs. Emma Gelston. ★ *pc*



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Rex and Laurie Elsass*Square 897*

As you enter the ground level of 710 East Capitol Street N.E., you sense that you are entering a unique environment. The activities supported by the Elsass company, "Strategy Group for Media," reflects both the architectural design of the home and the electronic media that is integrated within it. The home was constructed about 1892 and soon occupied by the sculptor, William McCauslin and his extended family. McCauslin (aka McCauslen) prepared a number of Vice Presidential busts for display in the United States Capitol. The family remained in the home until William McCauslin's death in 1929.

When the Elssases purchased the house in 2010 they were not historic renovation neophytes: they had already restored a circa 1900 residence as well as the early 19th Century Gooding House, a stagecoach inn in Ohio. For 710 the Elssases worked with the design firm of Huffman & Huffman to focus on providing a comfortable residence while providing a unique environment for their special presentations. The only original detailing left in the home was the living room fireplace mantel, and the stair railing and balusters. Huffman & Huffman created the interior trim details using the era of the home as a starting inspiration. New wood floors and light fixtures were added throughout the home, along with custom window treatments. Details such as the Turkish Maramara marble stone pattern introduced in the ground level vestibule intrigue and invite you to look further into the house.

The ground level lounge is anchored by a working gas fireplace surrounded by a wall upholstered in leather with polished nickel nail head trim. The ceiling is hand silver leafed by Alan Carroll – a celebrated NYC artist. This comfortable elegance easily blends with modern audio-visual technology. Many of the visual screen displays are concealed by two way mirrors so that they do not dominate the room when not being used. Concealed speakers are distributed throughout the house to allow full enjoyment of the audio portions of presentations and for musical relaxation. Opposite the upholstered wall is a wet bar that continues the Maramara marble pattern on the counter top and back splash – even into the concealed wine cellar/humidor room! The dishwasher and refrigerator are cleverly concealed with millwork to match the surrounding wall panels.

Open the door to the bathroom on this level you are in for yet another surprise – the floor and walls are covered with the unique marble patterning – with the fixtures interspersed. The shower's glass doors allow it to become a part of the powerful overall pattern.

The rear of the ground floor contains a working den with a desk along the back wall and a window to a wide dog-leg that allows light into the room. Yet another surprise

appears when the panels in this room pull down to reveal a Murphy bed to accommodate guests.

Venture outside to a large, private garden that doubles as a parking area by the addition of a coiling door along the rear. Steps lead up to the dining room on the main floor.

Almost all of the rooms in this home contain enough electronic screens and devices to keep even a teenager engaged on the Tour. The sound and video systems are all controlled via an i-Pad, as are the temperature controls. The house can be pre-heated or cooled electronically prior to the owner's arrival – a true blessing on a snowy or hot and humid day.

The main level contains another feature coveted in Capitol Hill homes – closet space! The area under the main stair has two closets concealed behind wood paneling to match the rest of the walls.

The living room in the front of the main floor is anchored by the existing fireplace mantel. The visual space of this area is expanded by a large opening into the foyer, centered on a grand hand-made and gold leafed mirror opposite the fireplace. A touch to the i-Pad transforms the mirror into a large video screen, so that you can relax in the room and watch a program in comfort. The custom decorative folding screen in this room was hand painted by Alan Carroll. This screen sets a visual tone to the room as well as helping to soften the acoustics. Alan Carroll's artistry extends to the walls that are finished in a hand-glazed striae pattern.

The upper floor contains two bedrooms and a den with a Day/trundle bed for guests. Both bedrooms are filled with light. The master bedroom in the front has a large mirror paneled wall with a portion of it actually being a two way mirror that allows a video screen to be viewed through it. The wall décor is primarily devoted to antique prints of Washington DC ★ ar



Mike and Deborah Charlton

Square 941

Numbers 9 through 15 form a unique façade along this block of Ninth Street NE. Built on spec in 1892 in the Richardson Romanesque style by Edward Landvoigt, who listed himself as owner and architect, they boast rough stone blocks and wide arches. The two bay windows are faced with pressed metal. Landvoigt was born in DC in 1858, and lived with his wife and children on H Street NE.

From across the street the four houses look like one building with four front doors (shades of the Beatles in “Help”...), but when the current owners purchased #9 seven and a half years ago, it didn’t: their quarter of the façade was painted a limestone pink. They removed the pink paint, restoring the block of row houses much closer to its original appearance. Sadly, a 1960 renovation removed the original stone stoop and replaced it with a “modern” brick and wrought iron one.

The house had a brush with notoriety in 1911. According to *The Washington Post*, Thomas J. Collins, a 36-year-old plumber who lived here with his father, was arrested on April 10, 1911 for setting fires to 19 structures in the neighborhood over a three-week period, causing \$650 worth of damage. He admitted his guilt, and stated that he loved to watch fires and the horse-drawn fire wagons. A jury declared him to be insane and he was sent to the Government Hospital for the Insane (St. Elizabeths). However, he was released the following September and declared cured. The diagnosis was that temporary insanity had been caused by an excess of alcohol and cigarettes. The police were not pleased about his release, and the family sent him to Florida.

Entering the front door of #9, you’re in a room that is a bit different from when the house was built. Originally there was an entry vestibule, which was removed in the same 1960s renovation. This created a larger reception parlor, now used as the living room. The upstairs family room (not on the tour) was the original formal parlor.

To the left, the non-working fireplace is not original, but is of the period and believed to be made of slate. The current owners added the crown molding to the ceiling and restored/replaced the spindles on the stairs.

The breakfront on the right contains some of the owners’ collections. There are miniature Victorian picture frames holding family photos. The miniature shoe collection is all sewing implements. The antique shaving mug is a family piece signed by R.H. Prussia. The top of the breakfront displays a collection of American pottery all with matte green finish. The antique game table in the front left corner holds a collection of dresser bottles with amethyst, set in

silver tops. Much of the artwork and collectibles comes from galleries and flea markets from the owners’ travels.

Along the wall beyond the breakfront is an antique distressed pine warmer.

The brass plate indicates that it’s from a London hotel. Purchased at Macy’s now-defunct antique department on 34th Street in New York, it features metal shelves and iron side handles, probably used at one time for room service. By the stairs, the prints of the New York City Library and the General Electric Building are by Luigi Kazimir.



Beyond the front parlor, on the left, is what used to be a large pantry. Now used as a powder room and small storage area, it precedes the kitchen along the hall. The 1960s renovation swapped the kitchen with the dining room and added the powder room. The current owners renovated what was a small galley kitchen by removing two walls and creating an open kitchen and dining room. The display cabinet to the right contains a collection of mostly Victorian antique claret jugs with silver tops and handles. On the kitchen window ledge is a collection of antique poison bottles. Because not everyone could read in the 1700-1880s, these glasses were designed with ridges, dots and patterns on the outside so people would know they contained something dangerous, such as household cleaners and strong medicines such as iodine.

The kitchen opens to the dining room with a custom table from Maine and antique chairs. On the right wall is a signed Peter Max print of the Statue of Liberty and a signed artist proof by Susan Pear Meisel of Bethesda Fountain in Central Park.

In the back corner of the dining room is an antique pie safe/jelly cupboard from 1888 made of poplar wood.

Sliding doors lead to the back garden, with climbing clematis, pink hydrangeas, lavender, crape myrtle, Rose of Sharon, a fig tree, and topiary vines. A lush green lawn completes the picture of an English garden. ★ *ldj*

Dennis and Barbara Boland*Square 941*

When constructed the homes at #9 and #11 were mirror images in terms of layout. The Boland home has kept more of the original layout as #9 changed. A rooming house during World War II, when Washington was extremely crowded, it even had mothers with their children living in the basement. The current owners have lived here since 1971, when they bought it from Ralph Milone, who grew up here and whose initials can be faintly seen carved above the kitchen door. At the time, he was leasing the house to the Hartman family who ran it as a boarding house for elderly gentlemen. The current owners have been gradually making renovations to the house since 1971, and from their research into the house's history, they discovered that they have now lived here longer than anyone else since it was built by Edward Landvoigt in 1892.

Starting in the back garden, you notice the grape arbor and the large vegetable patch. The grape arbor is very old, and the owners use the grapes to make their own wine.

The kitchen was remodeled in 2008. The floors are large limestone tiles and the backsplash is miniature Carrara marble subway tiles. The counters are Carrara marble and



teak butcher block. The painted tin ceiling is an exact replica, from Standard Tinsmith Supply in Brooklyn, of the damaged original tin ceiling. The ornate steam radiator under the window is not original, but was salvaged from another location and installed during the kitchen renovation.

The dining room has a beautiful view out to the neighbors' garden. On the wall is a wedding photo of the owner's grandmother taken in 1910. The mantle has been added to what was originally a Latrobe fireplace, as were all the fireplaces in the house.

The front room has been enlarged. At one time, just like #9 next door, this was a separate entry vestibule and large foyer, with the formal parlor upstairs. The fireplace is original, but on the right was butted up to the wall of the vestibule. When the walls came down it became more centered on the wall. The marble surround is a later addition. The photo on the wall opposite the fireplace is the owner's great-great-grandfather, a Civil War veteran. ★ *ldj*

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John E. Shore and Susan Bachurski*Square 941*

This stately home was the first built of a set with numbers 900, 902, and 904. The construction permit was granted to Thomas J. Hodgen on March 28, 1894. Hodgen listed as the builder a George W. Flather, and the architect was Robert C. Mangum. The building permit specified that the house would have exterior front walls of Indiana limestone 18 inches thick, and side and rear walls of brick 13 inches thick.

Eleven days prior to the permit, Hodgen had been granted a Special Application for Projections Beyond the Building Line, as the proposed front steps and bay window extended into public space. This application needed the approval of the Secretary of War, as the engineering commissioner was an officer of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Thomas Hodgen was a stocks and provisions broker whose business was called The Hodgen Commission. When he died unexpectedly in 1897 he had accumulated \$250,000 worth of real estate in DC, a huge sum in those days. (In 1936 his son, Thomas J. Hodgen Jr., tried to kill himself over debt, so the family fortune had probably been lost.)

The house went through a series of short-term owners until 1915 when it was sold to the family of Charles E. Cornell. He was a cigar manufacturer with a business at 751 8th Street SE. According to the 1920 census, he and his wife Georgiana lived at 906 East Capitol with their eight children, all of whom were recorded as mulatto. Generations of the Cornell family owned the house until 1964.

The house was sold to the current owners in 1978.

As you enter the front door you are in the large front parlor. An impressive wide staircase with original woodwork goes to the upper floors. The current owners replaced the pink entry and hearth tiles with small slate squares, completely redid the fireplace surround and mantle, added recessed lighting and painted the walls a dark apricot color, (inspired by a trip to Morocco), but otherwise, the room is unchanged from a major house renovation undertaken in the 1960s.

Many of the pottery and sculptures in the house are by artist Hanna Shore, the owner's mother.

The dining room has a similar color on the walls to the front parlor, this time inspired by a trip to Greece. The full wall of cupboards on the right, also from the 1960s renovation, hides a small powder room and a stairway down to the basement. The paintings are by local artists Bojan Valovic and Abbey Griffin.

The kitchen area was renovated ten years ago. It has a sitting area for watching television and a breakfast nook in the bay window (made of double doors), perfect for watching the

calming stone fountain outside in the patio. A skylight brings the light in over the cooking area.

The second floor contains the master bedroom, two bathrooms, and a guest room. At the back of the floor is a lovely office with deep purple walls contrasted with white upholstered furniture. The television stand is from Abaca Imports in Alexandria.

The third floor has a large front office with a walk-out balcony looking over the street – perfect for scaring neighborhood children on Halloween! The mid-section of the third floor is used for storage and in back there is a guest suite with a private bathroom and an expansive view of all the neighbors' gardens. Above the third floor is a small attic room, accessed by a very steep set of stairs. (Not open on the tour.)

What you can't see from the street is that the roof has solar panels, installed by the current owners, that offsets about 30% of their electrical usage. ★ *ldj*



Rindy and Frank O'Brien

Square 906

If you have ever peered through the tall, street-level windows into the first-floor unit of the five-story red brick building looking east over Lincoln Park, here's your chance to go from peeping tom to welcome visitor.

This is the fourth Capitol Hill home of Rindy and Frank O'Brien, and they have lived here only since July 2011. The space and light in their new condominium give them a feeling of openness they did not have in the three row houses they lived in previously.

The two-story unit has its own entryway and garden. Climb the few stairs to enter the light and open living room with its 12-foot ceilings, high windows, and French doors. Yes, there is pedestrian and motor traffic going by, but the unit is surprisingly quiet and the owners savor the urban bustle outside. The view over the park is splendid, and the tony surroundings and P&C market across East Capitol Street couldn't be more ebulliently aesthetic and convenient.

The building was constructed in 1901 as the Bernard Flats with six units. Bernard Walls was a grocer. He also constructed the apartment building at 1024 Massachusetts, on the corner, where he relocated his store. Old-timers still remember a People's Drug Store where the O'Briens now live. The building was attacked during the 1968 riots. Peoples did not reopen and the space was vacant for years before its reincarnation as a nine-unit condominium building in 1977. The O'Brien's unit, like others in the structure, incorporate many of architect Robert Bell's signature arched doorways.

Rindy's corner study, with its cheerful turquoise-painted furnishings, overlooks the park and their garden. The adjacent powder room makes good use of a narrow space. Note the display frame above the study's bookshelf, a family heirloom from the late 1800s. Hair from Rindy's great-grandmother and namesake, Durinda, and her sisters and their mother were coiled around wire to emulate a flower arrangement. A similar Victorian piece can be found in the Clara Barton home in Glen Echo Park.

Artwork throughout their home is by Rindy (whom many might recognize as a regular contributor to "The Hill Rag"), her brother, and other artists the O'Briens know personally. They fell for the large, colorful serograph—hand-painted print—of the "Peace Keeper" while Rindy was attending a photography workshop in Santa Fe, where they got to know the artist. The large panoramic "photo print" across the room is actually a composite of frames from a video made by Rindy's brother, Curt Belshe, who carefully pieced together components to create a "non-fish-eye" look. Many



will recognize the print's bright red gazebo in the nearby National Arboretum's Asian Collections.

The open flow from living room to dining room makes their home a wonderful space for entertaining. The kitchen was redone shortly before the O'Briens purchased the property from the estate of the deceased owner, the unit's original owner. The tall cherry cabinets, black granite counters, and stainless steel appliances make the well-designed kitchen functional and one to be admired by diners on the other side of the raised counter.

Access the unit's two bedrooms and baths on the lower level via the stairway at the entryway. The 10-foot ceilings, the long windows and French doors, and the exterior airy spaces give these "English basement" rooms a surprisingly light and spacious feel but privacy and quiet, too. The large, gorgeous blue-toned print is from a photo taken by Rindy in western Ireland. Note the archways in the bathrooms, found in other units in the building.

Peer through the windows and French doors to savor the great, albeit sunken, outdoors, which adds a note of quirky, and even mysterious, charm to this wonderful two floor unit. ★ rg



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Katie Kunzer and Paul Rosensweig*Square 941*

The corner of the 900-block of Massachusetts Avenue NE boasts a lovely display of early-20th-century federal-style homes. At 905 Massachusetts Avenue, the home of Paul Rosensweig and Katy Kunzer, the public enters through a garden gate, typical of Capitol Hill residences. As one climbs the steps to the front door, the stained-glass transom and geometric portico jump out to visitors, as does the lovely tiled entryway just inside the front door. The layout of the first floor has changed little over the last century, although the current homeowners have significantly refurbished much of the structure.

The original, and long term, resident of 905 was the Reverend E. Hez Swem, a Baptist minister. As an advocate for making churches comfortable for parishioners, he installed ceiling fans in his churches, a welcome feature during the humid DC summers.

The house sat vacant for several decades prior to the contractor-grade renovations in the 1980's, which eliminated a number of original features, including the steam radiators. Kunzer and Rosensweig purchased the property 20 years ago and have sought to restore the original integrity of the home, while updating the layout to suit a 21st-century lifestyle. This is evident in both the physical structure of the home as well as with the furniture and artistic choices in each room. Visitors should take note of the lamp hanging from the ceiling in the parlor-area. This "Two up, two down" style is reminiscent of the period where two of the lights would have been gas, while the other two would have been electric. Before leaving the front of the home, visitors should also note the custom clock hanging on the wall in the front sitting room. Kunzer had eyed the artist's work for some time, and finally found the perfect location to hang this one-of-a-kind time(less) piece.

Moving toward the rear of the house from the dining room into the kitchen, note that the front staircase is the original oak woodwork. During renovations, the homeowners found a flyswatter from the 1940's as well as a broken axe handle hidden within the walls between this staircase and the dining room. It makes you wonder what other treasures may be buried within the silent walls of the house.

Continuing to marry the vintage aesthetic of the home with the necessary updated feel, the homeowners redid the kitchen in 2003. It now boasts lovely light-faced cabinets and granite counter tops. This marriage continues to the second floor library and TV space, where, Kunzer says, her husband enjoys "man time." This space was converted from two of the original six bedrooms to suit a couple whose reading tastes are evident with their extensive built-in library. Farther down the hallway toward the front of the home, visitors must stop to marvel at the home's only original bathroom. While the tile needed replacing due to

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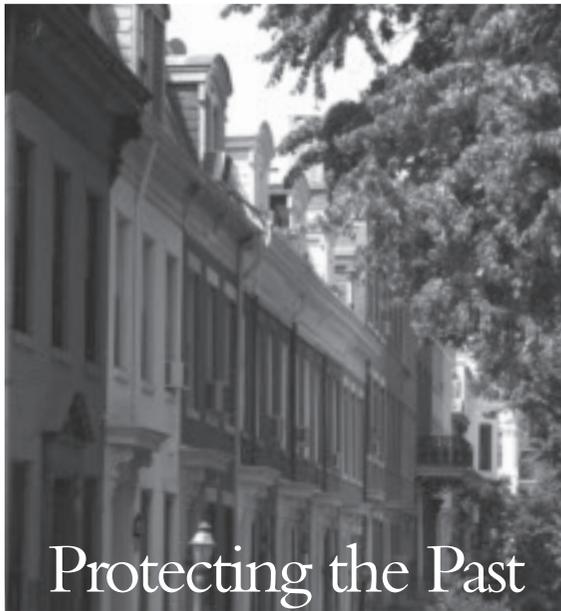
extensive damage, the sink is original (with a facelift) and so is the stunning claw-footed tub.

The master bedroom suite boasts a lovely bay window, which floods the room with light, complimented by the warm color palette. The walk-in closet and bathroom (not open) were once part of another bedroom that the couple renovated to serve as a true master suite. The furniture in this room exudes the antique, Victorian style one expects with a house from this era. Kunzer mentioned that her treasures come from near and far, some even found at Eastern Market.

The top floor of the house houses an office space and guest bedroom the couple uses to entertain their children and grandchildren. The door at the top of this flight of steps once led to a roof-top deck, which the couple hopes to rebuild at some point.

One final note about the home's basement is that the couple has maintained the English basement finish, keeping in mind that future homeowners may want to maintain the options for rental income. This is also where the final bedroom can be found. ★ *as*





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Suzonna Moore

Square 868

Perfection is what comes to mind in describing this jewel of a home: it is beautiful inside and out, to the very bounds of the property, at the corner of A and 7th Streets NE. The home anchors a development of six homes with similar facades facing 7th Street, with Suzonna's the jewel in this crown of houses built in 1882. She is fond of saying it's a small house with a big attitude. The seven represent some of the earliest homes constructed by Diller B. Groff, who built over 200 homes, mostly row houses on Capitol Hill, during the last twenty years of the nineteenth century.

Italianate Renaissance Revival in style, the house features limestone window sills, galvanized steel eyebrows, and cornices painted with colors appropriate to the early 1880s. The exterior of this gorgeous property is on display with its three exposed elevations: at front and back, but especially its length overlooking A Street. Working with seasoned experts, Suzonna restored the exterior and in the process removed more than 20 layers of paint and tuck-pointed the home with historically appropriate mortar. Four projecting two-story bays ensure that the garden and the neighborhood beyond are integrated with the home's interior, lending much light and spaciousness.

The garden reflects Suzonna's many years of beautifying the small wrap-around ribbon of a garden. She has mixed perennials with annual plants among the weeping cherry tree, weeping Norway spruce, hollies, an old magnolia, and a newly planted paper bark maple. She and her late husband planted the large Kwanzan flowering cherry tree in the tree box at the corner in 1987, shortly after they moved in. Low-voltage lighting accents special plants and the old brick, making evening use of the patio a particular delight. Two small fountains lend the comforting sounds of nature, especially to the intimate back patio, which is really an outdoor extension of the home's interior.

And what an interior it is! Stepping through the A Street entrance, the visitor will immediately sense the soft, relaxing tones of the pastel terra cotta-colored paint on the walls and the ceilings, creating the illusion of greater height. Decades ago, two interior walls were removed to open the first-floor space, which also highlights the sweeping

staircase leading to the second floor. The interior is furnished with art, objects, and furniture collected from the 70-plus countries the owner has visited. New and vintage are mixed with family heirlooms, including Oriental and other traditional furnishings and artwork.

Ascending the staircase, the visitor should take note of the stained-glass skylight designed by Suzonna which harmonizes beautifully with the home's interior and exterior colors. Two bedrooms at either end anchor the second floor, the hallway space diminished by incorporating a small guest bath.

The master bedroom, at the back of the second floor, contains Art Deco furnishings once owned by Leslie Howard, of "Gone with the Wind" fame. Suzonna gutted the back wall to create the master bath and added a historic-looking balcony with glass block pavers cantilevered over the patio, supported by antique Art Nouveau brackets and wrought iron. The bath has a garden-room feel, with an enlarged vintage window and French doors. The glass shower and cast-glass sink lend an air of openness to the beautiful yet completely functional bathroom. Speaking of function, the free-standing closet structure hides well-designed storage compartments, a stacked washer/dryer, and a cat litter box with private entrance so that all needs are met in this small but concealed space.

This beautiful little home is full of surprises along with furnishings and design touches that reflect its owner's superb taste and, to be sure, her persistence and hard work. ★ rg



Kristen Hartke and Rick Weber*Square 866*

On the 600-block of Massachusetts Avenue, Northeast there sit two quaint, wood-framed houses and the owners refer to it as a “Charming Farmhouse in the City.” Kristen Hartke and Rick Weber purchased the home sixteen years ago when their daughter was still an infant. Since then, the family has transformed the interior into a private tropical oasis.

A robust front garden greets the visitor and the house itself is set back from the property line, unlike most of its neighbors. As you approach the home, note the soft yellow hue of the house’s clapboard siding. John P. Pepper, an attorney, who died in 1867, owned the lots for both 621 and 623. He may have constructed both houses, or they may have been constructed by the next owner, Thomas W. Smith, who owned a large lumber yard near what is now Union Station. Smith added 12’ x 20” brick rear additions to both 621 and 623. And in 1891 Smith continue the bay on 621 to the roofline.

Visitors will climb the cement steps to the front sitting porch to enter the home. A slim alleyway separates this house from the one to the right, exposing the brick side of that home. Guests enter the home and are immediately greeted by a color-palette atypical in many homes. Ms. Hartke is a trained artist and believes in utilizing color as a way to showcase her home. The entry boasts a warm pink, which compliments the front parlor’s yellow and bold purple accent wall.

Upon the table in the foyer, visitors should take note of a wedding portrait of Mildred, one of the home’s earlier residents. Ms. Hartke highlighted that this photograph was taken in front of the original fireplace located in the front parlor. The homeowners had the unique opportunity to visit with Mildred in their home. The elderly woman shed some light on the original placement of fixtures (the paned glass doorway between the entry and the parlor seem to be original), as well as offered stories about her childhood. According to Ms. Hartke, Mildred’s father designed and built the front steps as well as other aspects of the house.

Moving from the front of the house to the dining room and sitting room toward the kitchen, guests are greeted with warm drapes, which replaced the pocket doors the immediate previous owners had removed as well as a warm and inviting color palette. Many of the homes photographs are Ms. Hartke’s own work, and there is a host of other pieces to admire as well. Many beach-themed examples adorn the walls, particularly in the former side porch/sun

room area. Ms. Hartke recently repainted the space a muted grey-blue to make several orange paintings “pop.” In the middle of this space stands a whimsical palm tree disguising a lally column. This is a nod to Ms. Hartke’s time growing up in Florida while her mother worked for NASA. Visitors should also note the “antique” flip-flop hanging on the wall in the same space.

Finally, the backyard garden capitalizes on the beach-theme with a series of seashells in the garden beds. The wall of roses that Ms. Hartke received as a Mother’s day present, usually bloom the same weekend.

This home evokes the farmhouse feel that Hartke sought when they first began house hunting. She and her family have truly made the home their own by incorporating art and color in each room of the first floor. Their garden spaces continue this farmhouse feel to the exterior of the home, establishing a quaint oasis in the middle of DC. ★ *as*





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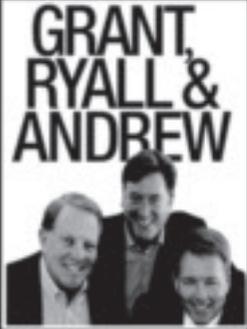


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Robyn and Simon Hinson-Jones

Square 838

The home at 514 Constitution Avenue NE is one of six rowhouses built in 1884 by Samuel H. Walker with covered second level balconies, raised pied-a-terre entrances and high, double hung windows. All six homes were built in the Queen-Anne style with Stick style detailing (the trussed balcony & decorative stick work below the roof overhang). The houses also feature elaborate brick corbelling along the roofline and at the chamfered corners of the two-story bays. Walker sold several and listed others as rentals. Currently, the home includes one bedroom as a bed and breakfast which allows visitors to feel welcome in Capitol Hill and to enjoy items collected by Robyn and Simon from all over the world.

Entering at the ground level, Simon's unique toad sculpture greets visitors and sets the tone for a home that melds Robyn and Simon's life of international travel with Simon's art and local items from Eastern Market. Simon's career as a CPA led him to Zambia, South Africa, Belgium and Nigeria. Robyn is a retired career diplomat with assignments at the American Embassies in Europe, the Caribbean and Africa. She was the Consul General in Lagos, Nigeria. They brought back representative art and furniture from their travels. As you move through the house, you can sense their passion for world travel and for their Capitol Hill home. Simon moved to a second career as an artist and graduated from the Corcoran School of Art and Design in 2008. The historic architectural elements of this house inspire and complement his work.

The ground level served originally as the dining room and kitchen, as it does today. The hallway features one of Simon's abstract paintings of Lagos Harbor, Nigeria. The story of this painting epitomizes the spirit of their home. Simon photographed the harbor years ago with one of his friends and then they went separate ways. Years later, Simon used the photograph as a basis for this painting. He was at the Corcoran School of Art when a professor walked over to him and asked, out of the blue, "Is this Lagos Harbor?" She had recently been to a photography show in Georgetown that featured the work of Simon's friend from his time in Lagos, and she recognized the images in the abstract painting.

A table made of Namibian railroad ties anchors the dining room. The room has bold accent colors on the walls that allow Congolese masks and Simon's painting "The 13th Day of Christmas" (inspired by a visit to Fort Totten) to become focal points. The tiled floor takes you through the kitchen and to a light filled two story 1990 addition at the back of the house.

Plants in the atrium area make way for the transition to exterior masonry steps leading to the back garden. Whenever possible, Simon and Robyn host their bed and breakfast guests in this quiet patio, surrounded by plants and a small

fountain. The steps are guarded by a pair of Belgian gargoyles. You can relax in the sun and transport your thoughts across the sea to a small garden in Europe. A carriage house forms the back of the garden. The carriage house is not open to the tour, but contains a garage and Simon's studio on the upper floor.



The pied-a-terre level features a double parlor with two fireplaces. The front entrance features a leather covered chest from Niger. As you enter, you will also notice that the large interior doors are hung with the original, ornately cast hinges. Details like this appear throughout the house. The front parlor features two silk panels flanking the fireplace – created by local artist Tsolmon Damba from Eastern Market. The sewing machine table in this room and the Duncan Phyfe reproduction table on the lower level were also purchased from Eastern Market. The original pocket doors that separate the two parlors are guarded by a pair of Benin bronze leopards.

The back parlor opens up with the glass addition, which allows light to bathe the room. The photo of Robyn with Nelson Mandela in 1995 is just one indication of the significant people that she and Simon have met over the years. The master bathroom is sculptural. It is tiled with 2x2 black tiles and has both a walk-in shower and a soaking tub. Light from the addition touches this room as well – entering through a surprise break in the frosted glass wall separating the two rooms.

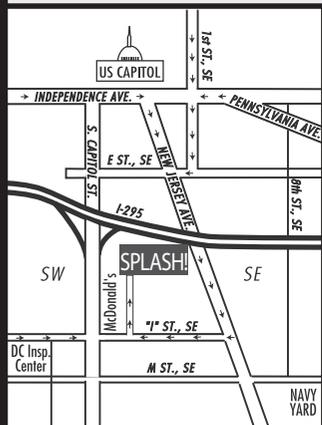
The upper floor guest room features three of Simon's paintings of nearby Frederick Douglass Court - alerting guests to the hidden treasures found on Capitol Hill. This gracious room and use of the double parlors is the core of Robyn and Simon's "Apple Tree Inn" bed and breakfast. The house is available as a cozy bed and breakfast for a single guest or a couple. The combination of Simon's art, pieces from Eastern Market and international art and furniture welcome visitors from around the world. ★ ar

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David and Marcia Morgan

Square 815

Francis Obold, who lived at Nine 4th Street NE, built this single-family brick dwelling in 1886, along with the five houses to its north. The home is wider and more ornate than its neighbors. Originally two stories plus an English basement in height, the house was enlarged by its next owner, Carlos Hitchcock, who added the top floor Mansard story in 1890. At age 60, Hitchcock had left his hardware business in Pittsford, Vermont, to join his daughter and son-in-law in the District. His son-in-law, Henry W. Taylor, was Chief Engineer of the Capitol. The house stayed within the family, with Hitchcock's granddaughter, Florence Hardy, still living in the house in 1967. In the 1970s, the house was thoroughly renovated, much of the original detail being retained with only one significant modification: the removal of a wall, which originally separated the two front parlors.

Current owners David and Marcia Morgan believe in the importance of historical authenticity. When they purchased the home in 2005, they sought to maintain its historical charm yet modernize its infrastructure. Local architect Steve Lawlor and general contractor Leigh Mailloux were brought in to service the home's renovation. The owners stressed the importance of remaining "sympathetic" to the house and its legacy in all of their projects. They used traditional plaster instead of drywall when renovating the interior walls and replaced the home's wood front doors with exact replicas of the originals.

In early 2012, the owners completed an extensive kitchen renovation. The outer kitchen wall was torn down, and the space expanded to include the once adjacent "mud room" leading in from the outside. They added several windows to the new exterior wall, allowing for an influx of natural light. Brand new "arctic cream" granite countertops now sparkle next to custom bisque-colored cabinetry.

The prevailing aesthetic throughout the house reflects the owners' penchant for traditional décor matched with contemporary accents. Originally hailing from Kentucky, the owners have stocked the house with numerous antiques from their home state, including the corner cupboard in the dining room and several pieces in the living room. The owners describe their style as "a comfortable and functional blend of old and new."

Neutral colors pervade the home. The warm tan walls of the living room are hand-painted to reflect the texture of fabric. Area rugs in soft shades of blue highlight the amber tones of the hardwood floors. A mélange of green and blue Rookwood pottery rests on a living room side table, providing a sneak peek of the owner's larger collection which is displayed in beautiful array on the second floor.

Among the home's most striking original features are the side porches, which run the length of the house on the street-facing south side. The Morgans have added new decking to what they call their "favorite spot," a place where they can spend hours relaxing, reading, and enjoying the fresh air.

The third floor of the home is reserved for the master suite—a dramatic space that includes recessed lighting, stunning views of the Supreme Court and Capitol Building, and a luxurious, travertine-tiled bathroom. The master bath originally stood at the top right of the stairs and was larger than the bedroom itself. The Morgans renovated the entire floor, reinstalling the bathroom on the opposite side and opening up the space to become an enhanced and livable bedroom area.

The garden, replete with slate stepping stones and a verdant supply of plant life, includes hydrangeas, roses, azaleas, grape holly, ferns, and acanthus, among others. The garden frames the lovely brick home, as it sits resplendently on the corner of a charming street, adding history and style to the Capitol Hill community. ★ cp



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