



NEWS

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October 2008

CHRS Parking Forum

City's Parking Working Group Recommendations Listed

by Gary Peterson

The September 23 CHRS Community Forum on new zoning regulations regarding parking began with a PowerPoint presentation by Travis Parker, Office of Planning (OP) Zoning Review Manager. The zoning review process is a result of the new Comprehensive Plan adopted in December of 2006. A three-year review process has been started to rewrite the 1958 Zoning Regulations to make them consistent with the new Plan. The Mayor and City Council members have selected a 24-member, city-wide taskforce to advise OP and the Zoning Commission. The rewrite has been divided into 20 working groups of which parking is but one group. The working group meetings are open to all and the calendar can be found at www.dczoningupdate.org.

The parking working group met often from February to April of 2008. The working group recommendations were reviewed by the taskforce on May 28 and were published for public comment on May 30. On July 31 the Zoning Commission held a public hearing and a decision is expected on October 16, 2008. The Commission

is expected to comment on the recommendations and no zoning regulations will be formulated at this time. The next stage will be to draft regulations. All new regulations, not just parking, will be considered by the Commission at the end of the process.

Parker presented some interesting statistics:

- 37% of DC households do not own cars.
- 42% of DC residents use a car to get to work (58% don't).
- 70% of DC residents live within 10 minutes of a Metro Station.
- 100% of DC residents live within 5 minutes of bus service.
- There are twice as many parking spaces as cars registered in the city.

He cited a number of hidden costs of too much parking. For instance the parking requirement increases the cost of housing by as much as \$50,000; precludes or limits some types of housing; limits the reuse of existing buildings; increases traffic generation by as much as 40%; and, causes detrimental environmental conditions.

Parker outlined the 11 parking recommendations.

1. Remove parking minimums except in cases where there is a non-residential use in a

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Reservation 13 — Update on DC Government's Plans

by Beth Purcell

Reservation 13 (the DC General campus) is a 67-acre parcel bounded by Nineteenth Street and Independence Avenue, SE. In 2002, the City Council approved a Hill East Waterfront Master Plan for Reservation 13. In the future, ownership of Reservation 13 is expected to pass from the US Government to the District, pursuant to Public Law 109-396.

The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development issued a "Request for Expressions of Interest" (RFEI) for development of Reservation 13. Multiple developers and architects attended a pre-proposal conference in June 2008. Responses are due October 31, 2008. The RFEI provides insights into the city's plans.

Existing drug treatment and STD clinics to remain on Reservation 13

Currently, the District has moved the various building inspectors from the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs into portions of the old DC General Hospital. It is not known if this will remain a permanent addition to Reservation 13. Other existing uses of Reservation 13 include Women's

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President's Column

Eastern Market Town Square Planning: A Project We Can Support

by Dick Wolf

Even with a contentious September 9 neighborhood meeting to solicit neighbors comments regarding planning for the Town Square Project in which some expressed objections to continued planning on the grounds that the process was exclusionary and possible design solutions imposed unacceptable traffic burdens, it is necessary to continue the effort. As a member of the Town Square Steering Committee, CHRS remains committed to understanding both the opportunities and the limitations of various proposed improvements to the plaza in the hope of creating a Town Square for Capitol Hill.

For nearly 40 years the Capitol Hill Restoration Society has been committed by both action and investment to improving Eastern Market Plaza and its environment. From the saving of the Market in the mid-1960s, to Market repairs in the early 1970s, to the investment of Society funds to support the first plaza planning effort, we sought to gain recognition of the Eastern Market area as the central business district for the Hill — as the Comprehensive Plan for the city states — as well as establish the plaza as both a significant public space for the Hill and a focal point that perceptually links the two most important business areas of the Hill — Eastern Market and Barracks Row Main Street.

The history of this area demonstrates that in the thinking of the public agencies that plan and invest in civic projects for the city, Capitol Hill as a distinctive entity and important neighborhood did not exist. Community action was needed to save Eastern Market. Community action changed the

Metro stop name from “Marine Barracks” to “Eastern Market”. The design of the plaza was dictated by WAMTA with Metro brown brick, focusing on making the area only a major transportation interface. No consideration was given to making the space friendly and inviting or supportive of the unique character of both the adjacent residential and business areas.

While the Metro plaza has lain fallow for many years, deteriorating into an increasingly industrial strength transportation hub, the surrounding business and residential areas have undergone a dramatic resurgence of investment and revitalization. Eastern Market has gained both city-wide and national recognition not just as an artifact of history but as a living example of old fashioned successful small businesses serving community shopping needs and as a gathering place for a diverse set of residents and visitors. This is why the American Planning Association recently recognized the area as one of the ten best neighborhoods in America. Barracks Row, again through community action, became a model “main street” program with a vital small business community; recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

What is missing is the reconstruction of the Eastern Market Plaza into a place of beauty and a center of civic activity. Consequently, in 2002, CHRS and CHAMPS, through special gifts, funded the first planning study of this area by the noted landscape architecture firm of Oehme van Sweden located on Capitol Hill. That study was widely noticed to the Hill community and Federal and local officials, evolving into a concept plan for a Capitol Hill town square. Because of funding

constraints and limitations imposed by the Park Service, who then owned the property, the planning effort stopped with the concept plan. However, it attracted the attention of Congressional representatives who provided an appropriation to Barracks Row/Main Street to continue the study. At the same time the property was made part of a land transfer from the Federal government to the District of Columbia.

With these new opportunities, the planning effort was reconstituted with a broader team headed by noted architect Amy Weinstein with consultants from Oehme van Sweden and transportation and tree experts. The newly available funds allow the team to conduct a much deeper set of studies, especially in the area of transportation, which dominates plaza usage and could continue to grow in ways not presently understood. Until these studies are performed and analyzed no ultimate plans can be made. But nothing should be foreclosed in the way of information gathering and designing around that information and even rearranging or limiting certain uses of the square.

As always, CHRS will support efforts to integrate business, residential, and aesthetic planning of the highest order so that the Hill will continue to prosper and further our mission of creating a “model urban community”. In that process we will continue to advocate for transparency and community discussion based on the best facts and information. History has shown that this way can be difficult but ultimately successful. We believe that following these policies will lead to a brilliant solution for a new Capitol Hill town square. ✧

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Celebrating more than 50 years helping to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is now the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the entire District of Columbia. From the beginning, the Society has played a key role in maintaining the diverse, residential character of our neighborhood. With your participation we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Start or Renew a CHRS Membership

* On the web at www.CHRS.org

* Call 202-543-0425 and choose option 2

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Starting at just \$25 per year for a single membership, it's a great deal.

CHRS Parking Forum *continued from page 1*

The Commission is expected to comment on the parking recommendations October 16, 2008: no zoning regulations will be formulated at this time. The next stage will be to draft regulations.

- rowhouse area and where there is spillover from adjacent commercial corridors.
2. Institute parking maximums with the more stringent maximums around transportation hubs and downtown.
 3. Allow shared parking facilities such as office use during the day and residential at night.
 4. Allow special exception relief from the minimum requirements.
 5. Require carshare spaces in large lots or garages.
 6. Update parking space size requirements.
 7. Update parking lot access by moving access to alleys when possible.
 8. Prohibit parking in front yards.
 9. Require trash receptacles to be placed in parking lots.
 10. Require 10% landscaping and 30% tree cover in all surface parking lots.
 11. Require bicycle parking spaces in new buildings.

At the conclusion of Parker's presentation David Garrison, ANC6B Commissioner and Bill Crews, at-large member of the Taskforce commented on the proposals and members of the audience made statements and asked questions. Garrison noted that parking involves more than just zoning and that DDOT and DPW also need to be involved. He also pointed out that we should value the way we now live and make changes that will only improve our lives. He doubted that the zoning proposals did this. The statements and questions from the audience generally indicated opposition to the changes and reflected concern over the new, large residential developments around the edges of the Hill. The parking program was the first of CHRS Forums on the rezoning of the City. ✖

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, patrons, and sponsors.

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Reservation 13 — Update on Plans *continued from page 1*

Services (methadone clinic); separate clinics for STD, HIV, TB, and detox treatment; the Office of the DC Medical Examiner; mental health clinics; and various homeless shelters and a new medical clinic to treat the homeless.

According to the RFEI, existing DC government uses (except the DC Jail) are to be phased out by 2012. However, the city plans to relocate and consolidate most of these existing uses in a new public building on Parcel L (fronting on the south side of Massachusetts Avenue, SE, extended). The proposed zoning will permit all types of DC government uses, including drug treatment clinics. This new public building would place these clinics on Massachusetts Avenue extended, where many had hoped that there would be retail and residential development.

Housing

The original master plan for Reservation 13 envisioned 800 housing units. The city now proposes 3,000 “housing units,” possibly including “individual and fam-

ily housing; intern and/or student housing, a mix of townhouses, apartments, condominiums, redevelopment of Anne Archbold Hall and live/work spaces.” At least 15% of rental and ownership must be for households earning up to 30% of Area Median Income, and 15% for households earning up to 60% of Area Median Income.

Delays in demolishing buildings on Reservation 13

All buildings except Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) (Karrick Hall) and Anne Archbold Hall are to be demolished. Karrick Hall, the 10-story building visible from Nineteenth Street, SE, is a 120-bed residential drug treatment facility operated by CSOSA. The main wing of Anne Archbold Hall was constructed in 1932, and served as the Nurses’ Residence for nurses training at the old Gallinger Hospital. It is a brick and limestone Colonial Revival building, and was designated as a historic landmark in 2006.

The DC government has repeatedly promised to demolish

certain buildings on Reservation 13, including Buildings 9, 10, 25, and the north wing of Anne Archbold Hall (built in 1945). As recently as February 2008, a representative from the Deputy Mayor’s office assured the community that all necessary demolition preparation (including asbestos remediation) had been completed for Building 25 and the north wing of Anne Archbold Hall, that there was funding for demolition in place, and that the demolition would occur in fiscal year 2008. Instead, according to the RFEI, DC government will not demolish any buildings on Reservation 13. Demolition work will be left for developers.

Building 9 was partially remodeled in 2007 for use as a 144-bed men’s homeless shelter/hypothermia unit. Building 9 is again being remodeled to include 100 individual housing units for homeless women.

Building 25, a red brick building near the DC Jail and Congressional Cemetery, has been vacant for several years. In 2001, DC Department of Corrections (DOC) planned to use Building 25 as a 250-bed pretrial detention and halfway house. At a public meeting in 2001, called by Councilmember Ambrose at Watkins School, hundreds of community members protested the halfway house. The approximately \$14 million needed for the project was stripped from DOC’s budget, and the halfway house never opened. But Building 25 is south of Massachusetts Avenue extended, and according to the Master Plan, can be used for correctional purposes. Many view Building 25 as a threat to the community and want it demolished as soon as possible. Building 25 is apparently being evaluated for other uses. Alternatively, it may be demolished to make way for a new DC Jail building. See www.hilleast-waterfrontdc.com for RFEI. ✧

Boathouse Row Tour, October 5

On Sunday, October 5, from noon to 3 pm, the historic yacht clubs of Boathouse Row, located on the Anacostia river, will host a walking tour of the area between the Eleventh Street Bridge and the CSX Railroad Bridge. The yacht clubs will provide information about the history of each of the clubs and the development of recreational boating on the Anacostia River from the early twentieth century to the present.

Boathouse Row, the clubs’ home for over 100 years, is currently undergoing a master planning process as part of the planned transfer of ownership from the National Park Service to the District of Columbia. The walking tour will

provide visitors with the opportunity to learn more about Boathouse Row, the Anacostia River, and the master planning process.

In addition to the walking tour, the yacht clubs will provide refreshments and a BBQ. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this unique park and riverside nature preserve only a few blocks from Capitol Hill. To get there, follow Eleventh Street southbound to the Anacostia River and follow the signs.

Date: October 5th,
12:00 noon – 3:00 pm

Location: 1300-1800 Water St., SE

Contact: Mary Withum,
mwithum@msn.com ✧



Metal work on the east cornice of Eastern Market.

Eastern Market Grant

by Monte Edwards

The District of Columbia has received a \$2 million investment check from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to help restore and upgrade the interior of the fire-damaged Eastern Market. EDA Director of Legislative

and Intergovernmental Affairs Patty Sheetz, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee James Oberstar, and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton presented the check to Mayor Adrian Fenty on September 16.

Congresswoman Norton and Representative Oberstar congratu-

lated Mayor Fenty and the city for making a compelling case for the money. Some of you may remember the meeting held at Tunnickliffs the day after the fire during which our congresswoman and Rep. Oberstar pledged their support. ✧

Help Protect A Newly Planted Tree

Tree Forum Announced for December 2

The District's Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) and Casey Trees are inviting residents to join in a new pilot program that requests citizens' help in the watering of newly planted, young trees in the District by requesting a free "ooze tube."

An ooze tube is a watering bag specially designed to help young trees establish themselves in under-irrigated environments. All that is needed to install the tube is a hammer (to pound in the stake), a safety pin (to create the drip holes). A video demonstration is available on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXT_1FeAnRc). Instructions are also printed on the tube itself, but the video suggests a couple of modifications to those

instructions as summarized below.

The first step is to clear an area around the tree trunk of weeds, grass and anything that might puncture the tube. Mulching the cleared ground is a good idea as it will help the soil retain moisture and deter weeds. The ooze tube is simple to install: unwrap the plastic tube from around the stake, wrap the tube around the tree in a U shape, thread the stake through the slits in the tube and pound in the stake about a foot and a half from the trunk and on the up-hill side. Next, fill the tube with water, poke three small holes in the bottom with the safety pin, and you're done. Water will then drain out slowly over the course of the week.

After that, all that is needed is for someone to fill the bag every 1 to 2 weeks — depending on rain — from June till October. During the winter the tubes should be emptied

and stored so they can be used again the following year. The bags should be used over the next 2 to 3 years as the young trees begin to establish themselves.

To order your free ooze tube, first identify the young tree you are going to adopt, then contact Casey Trees at their website (www.caseytrees.org/programs/CFOozeTubeCampaign.html). You may also call 202-671-5133 to request an ooze tube. Participants will need to provide the approximate address of the young street tree being adopted and an address where the ooze tube should be delivered.

CHRS will be holding a community forum on street trees on December 2, 2008, time and place TBA. UFA, Casey Trees and Trees For Capitol Hill will provide information on caring for street trees. ✧

Making New Friends at the H Street Festival

by Elizabeth Nelson

Again this year, the Society hosted a booth at the H Street Festival. This is an important annual opportunity to discuss our history, mission and programs with neighbors who live outside the Capitol Hill Historic District boundaries. Volunteers distributed literature as well as pencils and magnets with our logo and web address. They also applied temporary tattoos and helped children (and adults) make beaded bracelets.

The highlight of the event was meeting organizers of the newly formed Capitol Hill North Neighborhood Association which operates between H Street and Florida Avenue. They moved their table over to join us so we could enjoy each other's company and swap information. We anticipate working together on topics of mutual interest in the future. Many thanks to Beth Purcell, Norman Metzger, Monte Edwards, Gary



CHRS Board Members Beth Purcell and Gary Peterson network with a member of the newly formed Capitol Hill North Neighborhood Association at the H Street Festival.

Peterson and Nick Alberti for making our participation possible.

The Society plans to have an increased presence at community

events. If you would like to help with these activities, please contact Elizabeth Nelson, 202 543-3512 or elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com. ✧

The Hill on Film

by Mike Canning

(Continuing our occasional series about how Hollywood has treated—or mistreated—elements of Capitol Hill. CHRS Treasurer Canning writes movie reviews for the Hill Rag.)

From the beginning of this series, the Capitol and its dome have been highlighted as the most obvious landmark to denote a Washington film. While this touchstone is the most flaunted in DC movies, other productions have occasionally concentrated at points around the periphery of the Capitol.

Take, for example, the front of Union Station, that grand semicircle that houses the colossal Christopher Columbus Fountain. It was the scene of a lively action sequence in 2002's *Hannibal*, the long-awaited

sequel to *The Silence of the Lambs*. The driveway of the semicircle serves as the site where Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) is blow-darted and spirited away by some bad guys while his nemesis Clarice Starling (Julianne Moore) watches.

Then there is *First Monday in October* (1981), that rare Hollywood product that deals with the Supreme Court. While no interiors shoots were permitted (though there is fine reconstruction of the Court's chamber), there are several scenes in and around the building, including one which shows Justice Loomis (Jill Clayburgh) driving her car into the back garage of the Court off Second Street, NE.

The Congress's U.S. Botanic Garden, in the shadow of the Capitol, has had its close up once:

in the 2005 version of the psychological/surreal thriller *The Manchurian Candidate*. The interior shows off its lush self in a scene depicting a luxurious reception for a brain-washed Congressman, played by Liev Schreiber.

Nearby the Garden, the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial has also been featured. It was used more than once as the site of a press event — offering a fine backdrop of the Mall — in the TV series "The West Wing." The monument also figured in the 1987 courtroom thriller *Suspect*, when lobbyist Dennis Quaid bounds up the Memorial steps on his way up to the Capitol — an unlikely route for a DC power broker unless he's just come from a quick visit to the National Gallery... ✧

Fall Preservation Café Series Begins with Creating an Accessible Home

by Shauna Holmes

CHRS's fall Preservation Café series began September 17 with *Tailored to Fit: Creating an Accessible Home*. Architect Rebecca Stevens and architectural designer Lindsey Vanderdray, both with Capitol Hill architectural firm Architrave, provided a wealth of tips for making our homes more comfortable and easier to live in as we deal with temporary or permanent mobility challenges and/or age-related limitations. Their presentation broadened the scope beyond wheelchair accessibility to include sometimes simple modifications or rearrangements to make the activities of daily life easier and safer to carry out.

For instance, the speakers congratulated the audience for having already taken a big step in this direction by choosing to live on Capitol Hill, where residents are already close to public transportation, services, goods, and entertainment. When we're bringing those goods home, they suggested having a seat or bench near the door to put stuff on while we unlock the doors. Then we don't have to juggle bags and packages while

fumbling for keys and won't have to bend over so far to pick things up. Having railings on both sides of exterior and interior steps and staircases will provide more balance and safety than a single railing, and glow-in-the-dark treads on stairs or motion-activated lights can make nighttime forays safer too. Adding good lighting doesn't have to be expensive and can help prevent stumbles and falls, as will taping or otherwise securing area rugs.

Single-lever faucet handles can be easier to use than ones that have to be twisted and can help prevent accidental scalding. Similarly, replacing cabinet and door knobs with levers or pulls can be easier on arthritic hands as well as hands and wrists that are sore from daylong computer use. Many folks find that lights activated by rocker, slide, or touch switches are easier to operate, as are phones with large digital displays and adjustable ironing boards that allow users to sit.

People who are planning to renovate a room or area, or build an addition, are in a great position to think right up front about making things easier and more readily accessible. With some thought for

the future and the possibilities it may bring, homeowners can build accessibility and ease-of-use into their plans and outfit their new kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas with hardware, accessories, and other carefully chosen items that will make life easier. Examples included installing a dumbwaiter to reduce trips up and down stairs, or a higher dishwasher to reduce bending over, or moving the washer/dryer upstairs where the clothes and other laundry are.

No design or feature can serve 100% of people all the time, so individual homeowners should think about their houses and what bugs them — make a list — and then start making changes. Depending on what those changes are and what they involve, be sure to get a building permit (or any other permit that may be necessary) before starting. If considering something really major and costly like installing an elevator, talk to the staff at DC's Historic Preservation Office; they are very interested in working with residents to devise measures that would allow people to remain in their homes. ✧

October 15 Preservation Café Will Focus on Historic Windows

by Shauna Holmes

Because windows are of such interest to Capitol Hill homeowners, they will be front and center at the CHRS's October 15 Preservation Café. *Understanding Capitol Hill's Historic Wood Windows* will focus on the evolution of window designs, types, and technologies that were used in our historic homes in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Members of the audience will gain a better appreciation of their homes' windows and why it's

important for repairs, materials, and replacements to be historically appropriate.

The Preservation Café's featured speaker will be Christian Kelleher of The Craftsmen Group, a Washington, DC, company that is handling window replacement at Eastern Market. After providing a brief overview of historic window materials and their impact on how American window design and technology evolved, Mr. Kelleher will discuss window repair and why preservation of historic windows is so important.

He will also talk about insulation materials like putty and weatherstripping and modernization techniques like putting insulating glass into historic windows.

Understanding Capitol Hill's Historic Wood Windows will be held on Wednesday, October 15, from 6:30-7:15 pm in the downstairs Community Room at Ebenezer's Coffeehouse at Second and F Streets, NE. The Preservation Café is free, wheel-chair accessible, and open to all members of the Capitol Hill community. ✧

Elliott Street: An Early History in Three Parts

by Donna Hanousek

Over the next few months we will be profiling Elliott Street, NE, which is located between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, NE, just south of Maryland Avenue. CHRS featured three houses on Elliott Street in its 2008 House Tour and conducted a mini-walking tour of the street. This month, we'll describe the buildings and the architecture of Elliott Street;

next we will highlight the builders and architects; and finally we will present some early demographics — ethnicity, occupations and early residents.

Elliott Street was platted in 1889, following the tremendous growth that occurred in the northeast area of Capitol Hill during the 1880s. The east side of the street was fully subdivided in 1889, with the earliest buildings constructed in 1892 (637 and 639) and the rest of that side of the street

completely built out by 1910. The west side was initially only partially subdivided, with what appeared to be one side-by-side duplex erected in 1908 on the northern end of the block (640) and two small apartment buildings constructed on the southern end of the block (608-610), with the bulk of the initial build-out consisting of two apartment buildings that were constructed in the 1920s mid-block on the east side of the street.

Part One: The Buildings/Architecture of Elliott St.

This one-block long street is a microcosm of Capitol Hill residential architecture, offering nineteenth and twentieth century rowhouses and a variety of stylistic details, as well as a range of apartment building types.

The Washington Rowhouse, 1880s-1915

The most popular house type in the 1880s and 1890s was the asymmetrical rowhouse with a full height projecting bay and typically built on a raised basement with a cast iron staircase. The bays could be round or polygonal, but most often were square or canted. The buildings were constructed of sharp-edged machine-made red brick set with very fine mortar joints and often had brick decoration.

Style: Victorian (Queen Anne*), 1880s-1890s

Highly decorative with a vertical orientation: multiple textures and materials, brick belt courses, varied window patterns, lively roof lines (including gables and bay caps), large corbelled cornices, segmental arches, chamfered corners on the bays, patterns in wood window surrounds and trims, and towers and turrets. *Examples:* 637 and 641 Elliott Street exhibit several Queen Anne details.

[*There are several styles



of architecture considered part of the Victorian, such as Italian (bracketed), Eastlake (stick style), Richardsonian Romanesque (rusticated stone), and Second Empire (mansard roofs).]

Style: Early 20th Century (Renaissance Revival and very late Italian), 1895-1915

Minimally decorative, with classically-derived details: massive but simple wood cornices with dentils, rather than elaborate corbelled brick cornices (Queen Anne) at the roofline; smooth wall surfaces without

The oldest buildings on Elliott Street – 637 and 639 – date to 1892.

decorative brick patterns; rusticated or plain lintels; and rounded or canted bays with rounded corners. *Examples:* 607-611, 619-623, and 630 Elliott are prime examples of this popular Capitol Hill style. It was common to mix up style elements, and there was often a transitioning between styles, so you might have Queen Anne molded brick and corbelled cornice along with Renaissance Revival rusticated or

Continued on next page

plain lintels. There was often transitioning between styles. Examples: 625, 627, and 633 Elliott Street exhibit a mix of style elements.

Apartment Buildings, early 1900s-post WWI

Apartment buildings did not appear in the northeast until the turn of the 20th century. Early apartments were designed to look like houses to overcome negative images of crowded tenements. The one at 635 Elliott Street is a good example. Built in 1902 as an apartment building, this three-story, bay front rowhouse reads as a stately single-family residence. Another example of an apartment that reads like a house is 630 Elliott, which contained four apartments but reads as side-by-side row houses. Apartment buildings gradually got larger and became styled so as to be identified as apartments, but still remained small enough to fit comfortably within the streetscape. The apartments at 614 and 624 Elliott illustrate this very well. They are larger buildings, larger than a side-by-side duplex would be and, in the case of 614, there is only one entrance door. Yet they are both only two stories tall and contain some modest decoration, making them compatible with the rowhouses across the street.

Take Your Own Elliott Street Walking Tour

641 (1895): While not the oldest house, specific Queen Anne details: belt course, corbelled cornice, and segmental arch with molded brick decorative knobs. The square bay and raised first floor with cast iron stairs are Victorian features, as is the molded mullion between the windows, which has an Italianate appearance.

637 and 639 (1892): The oldest houses on the street (1892). Owned and developed by the Carr family. Flat fronts, unusual on this street, with

Queen Anne details. Note the elaborate, corbelled cornice at the roofline, string (sill) course, the molded brick decorative knobs along the segmental arch over the windows, and the scrollwork in the wood above the door transom, which is something more common in the older buildings.

635 (1902): Constructed as a three-story apartment building by the Carr family, and typifies how the earliest apartment buildings were designed to appear as single-family housing. This exhibits Queen Anne cornice, Italian Renaissance lintels, and almost a Romanesque curved building mass with belt and sill course.

630 (1908): Another Carr building; although listed simply as a dwelling, contained four apartment units for many years. This too is an example of how an apartment was made to look like a house, only this time, as a side-by-side duplex. This handsome building, with its smooth surface and simple classical ornamentation, like the ornamented metal brackets at either end of the cornice and the substantial dentilated cornice, are indicators of Renaissance Revival/late Italian.

631 (1895): Three-story dwellings with Queen Anne features: massive corbelled brick cornice, segmental arches with decorative knobs, canted bay, and belt and string courses. 631 and its neighbor 633 are the only buildings on Elliott to display decorative arches over the doorways, which is Victorian, whether that means Queen Anne or Richardsonian Romanesque. The steps are masonry, which gives a more modern look to the entrance when compared to most of the other houses with their Victorian cast iron stairs.

629 (1895): Displays the Queen Anne corbelled cornice and a string course (continuous sill under the windows), like the earlier more decorative styles, and has a square bay. However, the square bay has a rounded brick trim on both sides of the bay, running the



full length. It also has rusticated lintels, more Renaissance Revival, but with a twist, they are metal rather than stone. On the second story, there is a lintel course, one continuous course of ornamentation rather than individual lintels. This house has some unique decoration.

625 and 627 (1893): The next oldest houses on the block, after 637 and 639. Also Carr properties, these also exhibit Queen Anne details like the corbelled cornice and the decorated segmented arches over the upstairs windows, along with the rusticated lintels of the Renaissance Revival. They both have belt courses and string courses. Number 627 appears to have its original windows; you can see the scrollwork in the wood above the window and the decorative molded mullion between the windows. These buildings also have square bays, which is very nineteenth century.

623, 621, 619 (611, 609, 607) (1910 – Beers) These follow the Washington rowhouse typical pattern of Renaissance Revival, including canted bays with rounded corners, smooth surfaces with little decoration, heavy but simple dentilated cornice, and flat lintels. These are the quintessential twentieth century Washington rowhouse.

614 and 624: both 1920s apartment buildings of a scale that fits into the neighborhood. Number 624 has a smooth surface with subtle arched decorations above the windows and a simple metal cornice. Number 614 has arches over the door and the windows and subtle brick decorative patterning over the windows, below the cornice, and has a medallion in the center of the building. ✧

Mark Your Calendar!

OCTOBER

5 Sunday, noon–3 pm

Boathouse Row Tour. Walk along historic Anacostia boathouse row, get information from the yacht clubs about club and area history and recreational boating, learn details about the proposed transfer of Boatrow House land from the National Park Service to the District, and enjoy a barbecue. Location: 1300–1800 Water Street, SE. Details: Mary Withum, mwithum@msn.com. See page 7.

6 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202 546-1034.

6 Monday, 4:30 pm

Deadline for voter registration. DC residents can check their registration status online: www.dcboee.org/voter_info/reg_status/

15 Wednesday, 6:30–7:15 pm

CHRS Preservation Café. Christian Kelleher of the Craftsmen Group will take a stylistic look at windows and what technology changes mean to the windows of our homes. Ebenezer's Coffee

House, 201 F Street, NE, lower level community room. Event is free and open to the public, no reservations required. Details: Shauna Holmes, 202 546-1034. See page 5.

21 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Dick Wolf, 202 543-4353.

23 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board, 441 4th Street, NW, Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202 546-1034.

25 Saturday, evening

Fourth Annual Literary Feast, a multi-venue event in 31 homes, followed by dessert and dancing at St. Mark's Church. Sponsored by the Capitol Hill Community Foundation to benefit arts education in Capitol Hill public schools. For dinner descriptions and menus, visit <http://aliteraryfeast.org>.

30 Thursday, time TBA

Boathouse Row Master Plan meeting, Watkins Elementary School, 420 12th Street, SE. Details: Matt Larsen, matt@jsallc.com.

NOVEMBER

3 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202 546-1034.

4 Tuesday, 7:00 am–8:00 pm

Election Day. Poll hours show above are for DC and Maryland residents. Virginia polls are open 6:00 am–7:00 pm.

13 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee (tentative), Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, 202 547-7969.

18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Dick Wolf, 202 543-4353.

20 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board, 441 4th Street, NW, Room 220 south. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202 546-1034.



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
