



NEWS

www.chrs.org

November 2009

The Streetcar, Coming to Your Neighborhood Soon!

by Donna Hanousek

On October 22, 2009, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) held an open house to present the findings of the DC's Future Transit Study. While the proposed new streetcar system was not the only subject of the night, it was certainly the star of the show.

DDOT's proposed streetcar plan, in its current form, would eventually be a 37-mile system intended to carry 150,000 people per day. It is expected to be built in three phases, with the H Street/Benning Road, Anacostia, and Georgia Avenue lines to be part of the first phase. (Also part of the first phase, as depicted in the plans, is a line along Capitol Hill's Eighth Street, which would connect the Anacostia line with H Street, NE.) By completion

of the third phase, there would be 100 streetcar stops, covering much of the part of the city slated for special focus on economic stimulation. (To see an illustration of the proposed system plan, see page 4 or visit www.ddot.dc.gov/dcstreetcar and select "Future Alignments.")

In discussion among attendees, it was pointed out by some that Eighth Street appears too narrow to accommodate a streetcar line, especially one with overhead power lines. Councilmember Tommy Wells, who is generally a strong streetcar proponent, is opposed to an Eighth Street line.



DDOT presented the streetcar plan as both part of the solution to transportation needs and as a major

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Historic Photos of Capitol Hill at CHRS December Forum

Come see historic photos showing Capitol Hill by air and its life in the past—street scenes, schools, churches, and businesses. This is a chance to view vanished buildings that many of us have never seen—old St. Cyprian's Church, old Payne School, Providence Hospital, and scenes from Rosedale.

On Monday, December 7, at 6:30 pm, the CHRS Community Forum about Historic Photos of Capitol Hill will feature photos from the archives of the Historical Society of Washington, DC. Colleen McKnight, Special Collections Librarian with the Kiplinger Research Library, and local historian Cindy Janke will present these treasures. The Forum will be held at St. Peter's Church, 2nd & C Streets, SE, downstairs.

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President's Column: Good News on DC Parks

by Beth Purcell

Because we often confront challenges to Capitol Hill's quality of life, good news is always welcome. There is good news on the plans of the federal and DC governments for our public parks. In 2007 the National Capital Planning Commission, National Park Service, and DC government agencies began work on an integrated plan to preserve and improve all DC parks. The 2007 draft offered many excellent suggestions for improving the parks. However, in that draft, these government agencies focused heavily on recreation and virtually ignored the contribution of the parks' natural areas to human health and wildlife survival. CHRS and others advocated recognizing these contributions and balancing demands on parkland.

The 2009 draft report is a huge step forward. It recommends preserving the natural resources in parks, including establishing a tree-canopy goal for DC; conserving native species; protecting critical habitat; mapping resource protection districts; and identifying the parks' role in mitigating effects of global warming. Parks, including our triangle parks, are also a key feature of the L'Enfant Plan. The report calls for protecting the L'Enfant Plan's "visual openness and functional qualities." We hope that these government agencies follow through and also obtain the needed funding for these goals.

The 2009 draft report also continues the goal of linking the Civil War forts ringing Washington. A defensive system of forts was

established to defend the city from Confederate attacks during the Civil War. In 1864 there was a battle at Fort Stevens in northwest DC. The forts offer historical resources, mature hardwood forests, and diverse natural habitats, rarely found in cities. Several forts are nearby, east of the Anacostia River—Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Dupont, Davis, Stanton, and Ricketts. You can walk a 7.9 mile hiking trail linking these forts. The plan is to link all the forts with a greenway. See page 37 at www.capitalspace.gov/Draft_Plan/Big%20Idea%20intro%20and%20Fort%20Circle%20Parks%20CapitalSpace%2010.8.2009.pdf. For a map of the forts and for information on trails, see www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrail/trailNRT/FortCircle-DC.html. ★

Streetcar, *continued from cover*

economic engine, citing increased economic activity within a block of new streetcar lines in other parts of the country. DDOT is in the process of finalizing the network. Next up is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will be followed by a two-step procurement system through which one firm will be chosen to design, build, operate, and maintain the streetcar lines. The EIS review is expected to take 18 months.

Clearly, what started in the minds of many as a cute tourist attraction for H Street has evolved into a significant component of the District's transportation solution. Do we need the streetcar? The District government thinks "yes." It can carry more passengers than buses, and it will be quieter and cleaner (and of course there is that economic generator factor).

When I asked whether we really need this, ANC 6B Chair Dave Garrison had an interesting take on it. He said many of us thought the Circulator was a District folly initially, and it has evolved into a significant part of the entire transportation system. It seems reasonable that we keep open minds on the streetcar system in general, which might become an overall positive force for the District.

The elephant in the room, however, is how to power the system. While DDOT Director Gabe Klein agrees that no one likes overhead wires, he thinks a cost-benefit analysis of alternative power sources needs to be made. If push comes to shove, he thinks the positives of a streetcar system would outweigh the negatives of overhead wires. The District is looking into dual-powered streetcars,

by battery and overhead propulsion. Technology currently allows the cars to run a mile on battery power, so perhaps there is hope that by the time the system is ready to be built, the area required to have wires might be limited to essentially recharge stations.

Much of the District's character stems from both its low-rise buildings and its green wire-free public space. Certainly overhanging power lines would be detrimental to the city's streetscapes and viewsheds, and would adversely affect a distinguishing characteristic of the L'Enfant city. Hopefully the city will seek cutting-edge technology for its streetcar program to avoid visual clutter and the safety problems caused by overhead lines. ★

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www.CHRS.org

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 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.

To start or renew a CHRS membership:

- ★ On the web at www.CHRS.org
- ★ Call (202) 543-0425; choose option 2
- ★ Pick up a form at one of our meetings

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

Zoning Committee Report

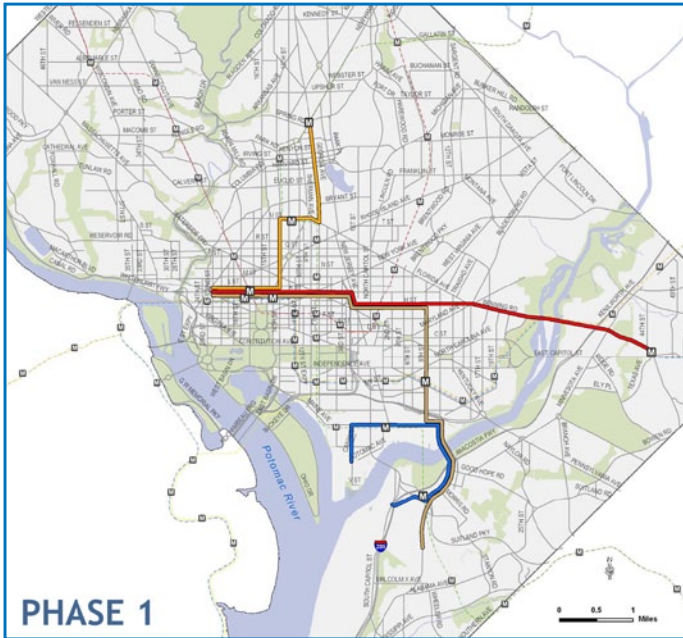
by Gary Peterson

The CHRS Zoning Committee heard three cases at its October 1 meeting. The first case involves the request of Frederic and Laure-Anne Badey for a variance from the height requirements, a variance from the use provisions, and a variance from the side yard requirements to allow a second-story addition to an existing accessory building proposed for living quarters in a R-4 Zone at 541 14th Street, SE. The property is very strange in shape, being only 13 feet wide on 14th Street to a depth of 100 feet and then 26 feet wide for the remaining 30 feet back to the alley. The two-story house occupies 58% of the lot and has 580 square feet per floor. The wide portion of the lot on the alley is covered by a large garage that has 650 square feet on one floor. The Badeys wish to add a second floor to the garage for living space. Given the unusual size and shape of the lot, the improvements already on the property, and the impracticality of adding on to the existing home, the committee decided to take no position on the application and not go on record in support of occupation of an accessory building.

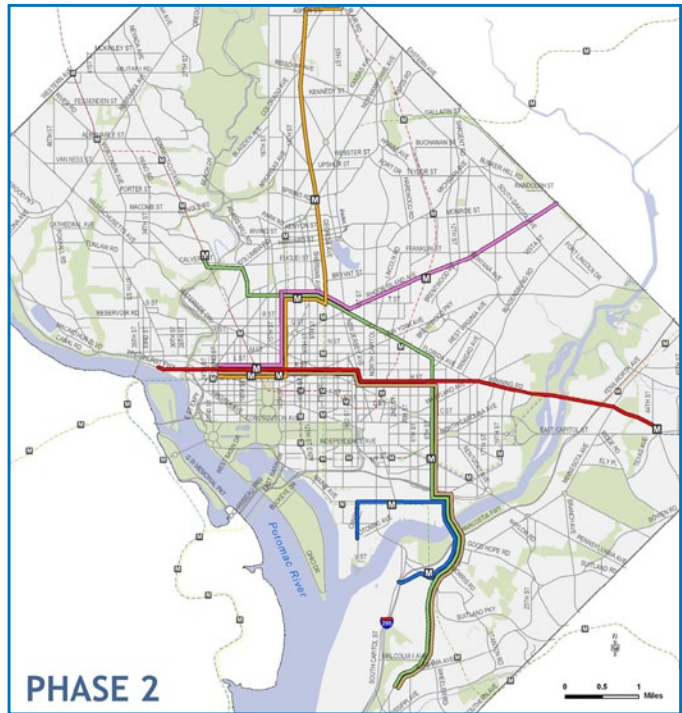
The second case involves the application of the National Indian Gaming Association for a variance from the lot occupancy requirements, a variance from the rear yard requirements, a variance from the nonconforming structure requirements, a variance from the driveway width requirements, and a special exception to allow the expansion of a building devoted to a non-profit organization's use in the CAP/R-4 Zone at 224 2nd Street, SE. The 7,182-square-foot property is improved with the Watterson

House, an 1815 house that is both an individually designated landmark and a contributing building in the Capitol Hill Historic District. The applicant proposes to demolish a small portion at the rear of the main building to construct a 4,258-square-foot addition and to also construct a 775-square-foot addition above the existing garage. The committee voted unanimously to oppose the application, finding that the grossly oversized addition did not meet the requirements for granting special exceptions or variances.

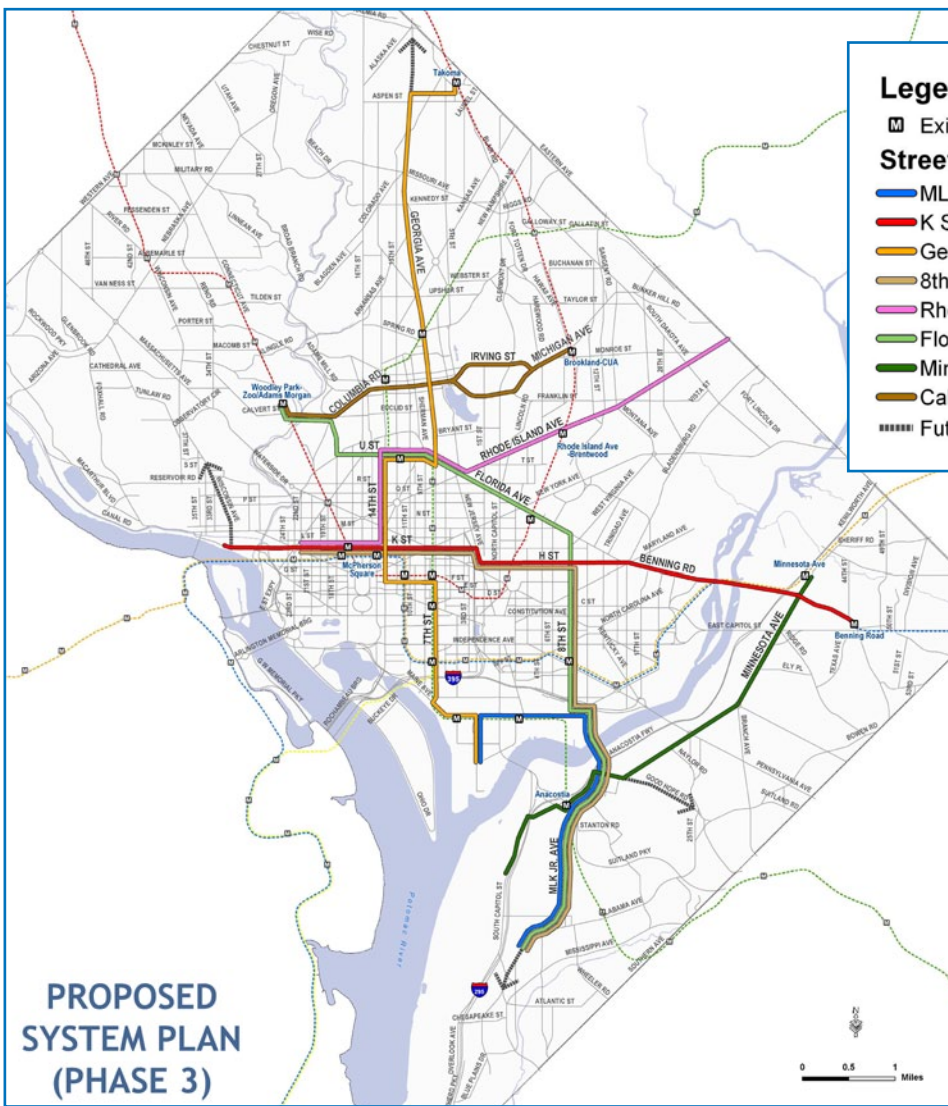
The final case was approved by the committee and involves the application of Christopher and Jean Whaley for a special exception to allow a two-story rear addition to a one-family semi-detached dwelling not meeting the lot occupancy, side yard, and nonconforming structure requirements located in a CAP/R-4 Zone at 321 6th Street, SE. The applicant proposes to construct a new two-story rear addition that will add 100 square feet on the first floor and 400 square feet on the second floor. The percentage of lot occupancy will change from 45% to 46%. The committee believed that any impact on the neighbors was minor. Subsequent to the meeting one of the neighbors asked that the committee reconsider its vote. The committee will reconsider its vote at the November 12 meeting. ★



PHASE 1



PHASE 2



PROPOSED SYSTEM PLAN (PHASE 3)

Legend

- Existing Metrorail Station
- Streetcar Lines**
- MLK Jr. Ave/M St
- K St/H St/Benning Rd
- Georgia Ave/14th St/7th St
- 8th St/MLK Jr. Ave/K St/H St
- Rhode Island Ave/U St/14th St/K St
- Florida Ave/8th St/U St/Calvert St
- Minnesota Ave
- Calvert St/Columbia Rd/Irving St/Michigan Ave
- Future Streetcar Extension

The District's proposed streetcar system plan.

October Preservation Café on Backyard Archeology Featured “Show and Tell”

by Shauna Holmes

Archeologist Bob Sonderman, a Capitol Hill resident, presented an engrossing program on Backyard Archeology at CHRS’s October 21 Preservation Café. As the longest-serving member of DC’s Historic Preservation Review Board and senior archeologist for the National Park Service’s National Capital Region, he has a long-time familiarity with the city’s history, archeology, and settlement patterns. The National Park Service (NPS) is the largest land manager in DC, and Rock Creek Park, which NPS manages, is one of the largest Native American sites in the city.

Because the confluence of the estuarial Potomac and Anacostia Rivers brought spawning fish to the area, including what is now known as Capitol Hill, Native Americans came for the fish from many different directions. Whoever controlled the land controlled the fish, so this location has been a power center for many centuries and was fiercely contested by regional tribes. Capitol Hill still holds numerous prehistoric artifacts, with areas in the southeast portion nearer the river, as well as areas near earlier springs, more likely than others to have prehistoric items that residents might unearth in their yards.

Capitol Hill homeowners are most likely, though, to find historic items left behind by earlier residents, which can tell stories about the people who used to occupy our homes. Since most frame houses on the Hill were built before 1875 and probably had no running water at first, they had privies behind the houses where lots of things were discarded. As to their whereabouts,

acidity in the soil can indicate possible locations of early privies and refuse heaps. Also, according to Mr. Sonderman, people have a tendency to bear left when heading out of their houses, so privies were likelier to be on the left side of the yard. Historic artifacts often suggest the status of their owners, so for instance, porcelain remnants could indicate higher status than red crockery. Similarly, beef bones would indicate slightly more wealth than chicken bones.

Mr. Sonderman brought a large variety of artifacts that were either found on, or similar to those on, the Hill, described them, and passed them around so the audience could look closely for the telltale markings and characteristics that help date them and indicate their type and location of manufacture. Samples included a small, prehistoric, Piscataway projectile point made of quartz; iron scissors; a late 19th century reed stem pipe; an example of Chinese porcelain made in the 18th and 19th century for export; a piece of striped annular ware popular with people of modest means between 1790 and 1820; a child’s wood top; a piece of salt-glazed stoneware used

for crocks; a shard of prehistoric ceramic with impressed decorations; buttons, another status indicator; and several examples of historic glass.

Early buttons were hand-manufactured, often of oyster shell, and when showing the buttons, Mr. Sonderman told a story: Oyster shells got significantly smaller during the Civil War because forests in our local watersheds were denuded to give Union soldiers defending the capital clear lines of fire, which caused the rivers and bay to silt up—hence oyster shell buttons in our area got significantly smaller during the Civil War. While holding up a 19th-century bottle, Mr. Sonderman showed the audience the easiest way to date a glass bottle: If the mold seam goes through the top lip of the bottle, it was manufactured after 1905, which was when the Corning machine technique came into use. Also, as a general rule, the thicker glass is, the earlier it was made, since the ability to manufacture thinner glass is more recent. Capitol Hill residents may well turn up old milk bottles in their yards; if the bottles have a grayish-purplish cast when viewed against

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H Street, A Public History Project

H Street Main Street is seeking help to develop a history of influential people, places, businesses, and events in and around H Street, NE. They need volunteers—writers, researchers, interviewers, and photographers.

There will be an information session on how you can get involved on Saturday, November 7, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room A-5, from 11:00 am–12:30 pm. This project is sponsored in part by H Street Main Street, the DC Humanities Council, and the Capitol Hill Community Foundation. Contact Tanetta Isler at 250-0466.

CHRS Files for Appeal of Mayor's Agent Decision

by Nancy Metzger

After examining the September 4 Mayor's Agent decision on 227 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, and talking with a number of lawyers knowledgeable in historic preservation law, relevant court cases, and Mayor's Agent decisions, the Board of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society authorized its attorney, Andrea C. Ferster, to file a petition for review of the decision in the DC Court of Appeals. As a first step in that process, CHRS has sought a stay of the Mayor's Agent decision pending the review.

In the motion for a stay pending appeal, CHRS makes the case that it is likely to succeed on the merits of its petition for review:

- The recommendation of the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on the Application's consistency with the purposes of the Act is entitled to deference because of the plain language of the Preservation Act, its legislative history, and administrative and judicial decisions; because the Commission of Fine Art's recommendation is not the

'critical view' in this case; and because the Mayor's Agent may not substitute her judgment for that of the HPRB, unless the HPRB's recommendation is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or contrary to law.

- The Applicant failed to demonstrate that the visible third floor addition, without a set-back, is necessary to adapt the property for current use.
- A visible third-floor addition can be inconsistent with the purposes of the Act.
- Denial of the stay will result in irreparable harm that outweighs any injury to the Applicant and the public interest favors CHRS.

As summarized in a story in the October CHRS Newsletter about the decision, Mayor's Agent Harriet Tregoning would allow construction of a third-floor addition, without any setback from the front façade, on the 1886 Italianate store building at 227 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. CHRS has contended that adding a visible third-floor addition to this

building would be detrimental to both the building and the historic district. As noted by John Sandor, an architectural historian, in a detailed letter supporting the Society's position in the Mayor's Agent case, "The individuality of each of the buildings contributes to the picturesque quality of the whole. Adding another story to the façade of 227 Pennsylvania Avenue increases the visual mass of one of the smaller commercial structures in the district, thus diminishing the overall historic variety. ... The decorative handling of the brickwork above the windows provides a simple but substantial conclusion to the composition. This historic design does not present much opportunity to incorporate anything that is fittingly subordinate and appropriately compatible."

The owner of the building, Heritage Foundation, was granted a building permit earlier this summer for the portions of the project that were not in dispute (restoration of the storefront and enlargement of the building to include a basement level and new rear addition). ★

Preservation Café, *continued from page 5*

a white background, they may have been made before 1915 in Alsace-Lorraine.

Ruth Troccoli, the archeologist in the city's Historic Preservation Office, came to the Preservation Café to meet Capitol Hill residents and join Mr. Sonderman in showing and describing the archeological artifacts. If homeowners find artifacts in their yards, there is no legal requirement to notify the city or bring an archeologist to look at or excavate the site, and the

artifacts are the homeowner's to keep. However, the best way for a property owner to find out what a given item is, and how significant it may be, is to e-mail Ms. Troccoli (ruth.troccoli@dc.gov) or Mr. Sonderman (bob_sonderman@nps.gov) with a description of the item and/or a photo or two. As experienced archeologists, they have both learned how to discern the attributes of artifacts and can tell residents about items they've found. Also, both Ms. Troccoli and Mr. Sonderman have a

professional interest in information about archeological "finds" in the city and any information they can contribute to the overall body of local archeological knowledge, patterns of distribution, and patterns of human behavior and movement. Who knows? What you may find in your yard could be fairly important. At the very least, it would be fun to learn what it is while contributing to archeological knowledge about our city. ★

Alley Life in Graceland Court

by Beth Purcell with Donna Hanousek

In the 19th century many alley dwellings were built in Washington. Alley dwellings responded to a need for low-cost housing and were created by subdividing a lot into two lots: one fronting on the street, and a second fronting on the alley. By 1873 there were already 500 inhabited alleys. Between 1877 and 1892, building permits were issued for 2,549 alley dwellings.

Five alley dwellings were built in 1892–1893 at Graceland Court (15th/16th Streets/Benning Road/Gales Street, NE). They were typical two-story frame alley dwellings, 12 feet wide and 30 feet deep. Although we do not have drawings of these houses, the typical floor plan for a Washington alley dwelling was a living room and dining room on the first floor, two bedrooms on the second floor, and in the back yard, a water hydrant and an outhouse.

We know that at least one Graceland Court house existed as late as 1954; by 1960 all five had disappeared. According to the 1900 census, all residents were African-American. In 1900 most adult residents worked as laborers or laundry workers; one drove a cart. Two families lived in each house; ten people lived in one of the houses. Most were from Maryland. By 1920, there was one white family.

Alley dwellings and alley life came to be viewed as marginal, unsafe, unsanitary, and for these reasons, undesirable. Newspaper accounts involving Graceland Court mirror this negative view: In 1897, a mother abandoned her infant; a child was sick with smallpox in 1905; in 1913, a man shot at a woman because he was jealous of her husband (then

PHOTO COURTESY DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Streetcar and unpaved sidewalk on 200 block of H Street, NE.

Historic Buildings of H Street, An Illustrated Talk

On Tuesday, November 10th, from 6:30–8:00 pm, architectural historians from the firm EHT Tracerics will present the results of the H Street Historic Building Survey to the community. The presentation will be held in the Great Hall of the Atlas Performing Arts Center (1333 H Street, NE), one of H Street's signature buildings. This is your opportunity to learn about H Street architecture from the pros! The evening will begin at 6:30 with light refreshments.

gave himself up because he could not escape on crutches). A happier story in 1906 involves a girl who stayed out too late at Glen Echo but returned safely to her family.

For more on alleys, including a bibliography, see *Hidden Washington: A Journey Through the Alley Communities of the Nation's Capital* at www.loc.gov/loc/kidlc/live-hiddenwashington.html. ★

Rosedale Demographics, 1900–1920

by Donna Hanousek

This is the second in a series of articles about the Rosedale neighborhood. The first, which appeared in the July issue, gave an overview of the May 30th Rosedale Walking Tour.

1900

By 1900, the study area in Rosedale* had a population of 567, distributed in 114 households living in 103 dwellings. The number of people who owned their homes compared to renting was comparable to the District as a whole: 73% of the Rosedale residents rented, while 76% of District residents overall were renters. Rosedale had fewer immigrants than the District as a whole: only 4.2% of Rosedale residents were born in another country, whereas 7.2% of the District population was foreign-born. The majority of Rosedale's foreign-born came from Germany (11 of the 24)—with England and Ireland the birthplace of several others, along with a smattering from Scotland, Norway, Austria, and Canada. This contrasted with the District, where Ireland was the country of origin for the largest number of immigrants, with Germany a close second.

Overall, Rosedale was about 82% blue-collar in 1900 and had only 5.9% of its work force in government jobs. But it is the occupation mix that is most interesting, as a staggering 59 (31.5%) of the 187 workers in the neighborhood were in the building trades-related occupations. This included 20 carpenters and two builders in just ten block faces (there are four block faces to a block). To gain greater perspective on this fact, Nancy Schwartz, a well-regarded architectural historian who studied a much larger area in the near northeast in 2002, said at the time of

her study, "There were 19 carpenters, builders, and contractors living in the study area in 1890, and many more in the blocks immediately to the south and west. It seems likely that some of them would have been actively involved in building their neighborhood." You can tell by that statement that she considered 19 such tradesman in one area to be a fairly significant number, and that was for an area of 64 squares—over 200 block faces. Rosedale had as many carpenters in its much smaller study area! And when you factor in all the building trades-related occupations, they accounted for almost a third of the neighborhood employment. (It would be an interesting follow-up study to try to find out where these folks were working.)

There were also fairly large numbers of domestic and unskilled laborers and retail/service employees, 41 and 32, respectively. One can suppose that the nearby H Street commercial corridor served as an employment center for this neighborhood.

1910

The study area in 1910 had grown to a population of 807, making up 159 households that lived in 151 dwelling units—so the area was significantly more built out and populated than in 1900. By 1910, a greater percentage of Rosedale residents owned their homes than in the District overall: 31% compared to 24%. The number of immigrants grew in the District overall from 7.2% to 10.3%, and the number grew similarly in Rosedale, from 4.2% to 6%. The majority (and by a large margin) of Rosedale's foreign-born population, now 44 people, was still from Germany, while the District overall drew people

from Ireland and Germany in almost equal measure, with Russia taking a distant third place. Rosedale was also home to immigrants from Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, and Austria (but this represented just a handful).

There were still many workers in the building trades (81), but now domestic and unskilled labor showed the higher numbers with 93 of the 316 workers. There continued to be a relatively large number of retail and service workers (55), and Rosedale was home to nine butchers, who worked in both slaughterhouses and butcher shops.

Rosedale remained highly blue-collar, with an 81% to 19% split between blue- and white-collar. There were very few workers who would be classified as professional, six at most. These included a nurse, an actor, a photographer, and three engineers (and we don't know whether the engineers were professional civil engineers, or steam or stationary engineers, which would instead fall into the occupation of skilled labor).

The number of government workers remained low compared to other greater Capitol Hill neighborhoods: a little over 7% of the Rosedale workers were employed by the government, compared to over 40% in Barney Circle (a neighborhood in southeast Capitol Hill and about as far from the Capitol as Rosedale) or Elliott Street (just a few blocks from Rosedale), which was made up of almost 30% government workers. **

1920

In 1920, Rosedale now trailed slightly in home ownership as compared with the District: 26% versus 30%. The overall numbers of foreign-born in the District dropped that year from

10.3% to 6.5% of the population, so Rosedale's 5.3% share of foreign-born was by then much closer to the District average. The 24 foreign-born Rosedale residents were still coming from Germany, but now they also came from England, in equal measure. There were also two Syrian families and a couple of folks each from Italy, Russia, and Ireland. At the same time, foreign-born residents in the District overall were distributed fairly evenly among Russian, Irish, German, Italian, and English, instead of having a predominance of Irish and Germans as it did earlier.

The labor profile in Rosedale also changed in 1920. While 27% of its workers were in the domestic and unskilled category, now government workers took second place with almost 24% of the workforce—a huge leap from the 7.3% in 1910. This was followed by the retail/service sector at 13%, and then transportation and a reduced building trades sector at almost 12% each.

Rosedale was about 77% blue-collar and 23% white-collar in 1920, so there was a small gain in white-collar from the 19% in 1910. The number of professionals remained low, at under 3%, including a dentist and an accountant. Most of the government workers were blue-collar, but several were clerical.

Interestingly, three workers classified their occupation simply as "teamster." Although we might not think of 1920 as the horse and buggy era, as late as March, 1917, the *Official Magazine: International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen,*

Did You Know?

- ★ **Effective July 1, the District of Columbia has made it illegal to use, sell, or permit the use of coal-tar pavement products.** The fine is \$2,500. These products typically come in the form of pavement sealants and pavement dressing conditioners. Non-coal-tar alternatives are readily available. The purpose of the ban is to keep toxic chemicals in coal-tar from poisoning local streams and threatening the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Recent scientific studies have shown that concentrations of toxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in dust from parking lots sealed with coal-tar products are about 80 times higher than in dust from unsealed parking lots. Rain washes these toxic PAHs from coal-tar sealant off paved surfaces and into rivers and streams. Property owners and contractors should avoid using products with listed ingredients that include the words "coal," "tar," "refined coal tar pitch," or "RT-12."
- ★ **The District Department of the Environment and DC Greenworks will host a seminar on green roofs and pervious pavers** on November 7, 2009, from 10 am–12 pm at the Trinidad Recreation Center, 1310 Childress Street, NE. Learn about the different types and designs of green roofs and their benefits. You will also learn about using pervious pavers instead of an impervious surface like concrete and asphalt for walkways, driveways, and patios. Learn how both of these practices can reduce storm water runoff.

and Helpers of America reported that, "There are more draft horses in the United States today than ever before in the history of the country" and further instructs their members to "Be kind to your horses." And given that the local Teamster Union was not established in DC until 1933, these teamsters were likely driving delivery wagons powered by horses.

Rosedale was significantly more blue-collar and less of a home to

government workers than the two comparison neighborhoods cited above, Barney Circle and Elliott Street, each of which were less than 56% blue-collar, with more than 40% of their workers in government jobs. Rosedale, which first developed as a home for workers from the building industry and domestic and unskilled laborers, at least until 1920, remained an almost completely blue-collar enclave. ★

* This study was based on a sample of individual U.S. Census records for the Rosedale neighborhood. While a substantial portion of Rosedale was built during the 1880s, since the U.S. Census records from 1890 are unavailable (destroyed in a fire), we could not study an earlier time. For 1900 and 1910, the sample data includes all of the Census records for the study area: 1500 and 1600 blocks of both Rosedale and Gales Street, the 1600 block of Kramer Street, and Graceland Court. The 1920 sample data consists of between ½ and ¾ of the individual Census records for the study area, consisting of 599 people, 129 households, and 118 dwelling units.

** The Elliott Street data is based on only 28 workers in 1910 and 36 in 1920 (those numbers reflect the entire labor force on that one-block street). The Barney Circle data is based on 47 workers in 1910 and 211 in 1920.

Support the Capitol Hill Restoration Society With a Gift to the Annual Fund

Please help us continue to preserve and protect the historic fabric of our neighborhood with your year-end tax-deductible contribution to the CHRS Annual Fund. There are three easy ways to contribute:

1. Send a Check

Fill out the form below and mail it with your check to:

Capitol Hill Restoration Society
P.O. Box 15264
Washington, DC 20003-0264

2. Visit www.CHRS.org

You may make your secure contribution with a credit card via PayPal.

3. Make A Tax-Free Contribution Directly From Your IRA

If you are 70 ½ or older and must take a mandatory withdrawal, you can support the CHRS Annual Fund with a tax-free gift DIRECTLY from your IRA. But time is short—you only have until December 31, 2009 to make your contribution via IRA for the current tax year. Your donation will not

be taxed as an IRA withdrawal and will count towards your mandatory IRA withdrawal. Please contact your IRA custodian directly for details about making a transfer. You should allow extra time to process the request before the December 31, 2009 deadline. Please call the CHRS office if you need the bank routing number at 543-0425.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. CHRS is a volunteer-run charitable organization, and dues are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



I/we would like to make a *tax-deductible* contribution to the CHRS ANNUAL FUND to support the Society's ongoing efforts to preserve and protect the historic fabric of our neighborhood.

Please find enclosed a check for:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

\$ _____ (other amount)

Please make your check payable to CHRS, Inc.



Name(s)

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Prefer to pay by credit card? You may make a secure credit card donation at www.CHRS.org via PayPal.

Thank you for supporting CHRS!

Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

Lane Parsons grew up in the Barney Circle neighborhood at 1616 G Street, SE, finally leaving in the 1940s to join the Navy after working for several years in the Navy Yard Optical Shop. Although the neighborhood looks very much like it did in the 1920s and 1930s when Mr. Parsons was playing with his friends, the rhythms of life were a bit different, as he recounts in this oral history interview with Nancy Metzger that was conducted in preparation of the neighborhood-sponsored Barney Circle Historic District nomination.

PARSONS: "There used to be a bakery called Holmes to Homes. They had a horse and buggy delivering baked goods. They used to come around the neighborhood and I got friendly with the driver and he used to let me drive the horses

and all. ... Once we were up at 19th and Potomac and had the horse and wagon parked right there at the corner and some car was making a U-turn and came close to the horse. The horse backed up and I thought he was going to tip the wagon over. But he didn't.... But it used to be fun. I sort of helped him to deliver his bakery goods. I used to ride up on the horse and wagon."

METZGER: "That would be fun. What other things would be delivered?"

PARSONS: "We had a huckster come around the neighborhood all the time, delivering fresh vegetables and all. He had a truck, double parked there, and all the neighbors would come out and buy what they wanted off it."

METZGER: "Was that usually once a week?"

PARSONS: "Probably a couple of times a week. The milkman came. And it seemed like we had two mail deliveries a day too—door to door. Houses had furnaces then, most of them on G Street did. And they had a section in the front of the basement there where they stored the coal. And they used to dump the coal in the street when they delivered it and usually a black man would take a bushel basket, fill the basket up, and take it up and empty it in that window."

Other oral histories of life on Capitol Hill can be found at the Ruth Ann Overbeck Oral History website, www.capitolhillhistory.org. Volunteers for the program should contact Bernadette McMahon at bmcmahon@his.com. ★

November 18 Preservation Café Will Be Roofs 101

If you wonder whether your roof is in good shape, or if you're trying to ascertain the reason for troubling leaks, come to Roofs 101, CHRS's November 18 Preservation Café. David Lindeman, the head of L&M Contracting, will bring over 30 years' experience to give members of the audience the information and answers they need. Mr. Lindeman, who has worked on many Capitol Hill roofs, runs a DC roofing company that received the *Washington Consumers' Checkbook's* top rating for quality.

The presentation will focus on care and maintenance of the low-sloped roofs common in Capitol Hill and will help homeowners to analyze what's going on with their roofs. For instance, a roof may or may not be the source of a home's leaks; Mr. Lindeman will explain how to look at your roof and what to look for to determine if your roof is actually the reason for your problems and, if so, what your options are. He will discuss types of roof materials, maintenance, and appropriate roof coatings. The audience will also hear how to tell if and when roofs and coatings need to be repaired or replaced.

The Preservation Café will be held on Wednesday, November 18, from 6:30–7:15 p.m. in the downstairs community room at Ebenezers Coffeehouse at 2nd and F Streets, NE. The event is free, accessible, and open to all in the Capitol Hill community; no reservations are required.

Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

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Capitol Hill Restoration Society
420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mark Your Calendar!

NOVEMBER

10 Tuesday, 6:30–8:00 pm
A Community Presentation about the “Historic Buildings of H Street,” an illustrated talk. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H Street, NE. Architectural historians from the firm EHT Tracerics will present results of the H Street Historic Building Survey to the community. This is your opportunity to learn about H Street architecture from the pros. The evening will begin at 6:30 with light refreshments.

12 Thursday, 7:30 pm
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Reconsideration of 321 6th Street, SE, and consideration of cases involving 1026 K Street, SE; 1242 H Street, NE; 1212 Wiley Street, NE; 1215 D Street, SE, rear. Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

17 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Board of Directors. Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Beth Purcell, 622-4303.

18 Wednesday, 6:30 pm–7:15 pm
CHRS Preservation Café. “Roofs 101” with David Lindeman of L&M Contracting. Ebezener’s Coffeehouse, 2nd & F Streets, NE, downstairs. Free, accessible, no reservations required. Details: Shauna Holmes, 546-5211.

19 Thursday, 10:00 am
Historic Preservation Review Board. 441 4th Street, NW, Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

30 Monday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee. Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

Saturdays through November 21
9 am–12 pm (rain or shine)
H Street NE Freshfarm Market,
625 H Street, NE (across from H Street
Self Storage). Fresh fruits and vegetables,
pasture-raised meats, local dairy, breads
and baked goods, cut flowers and more.
www.freshfarmmarkets.org

DECEMBER

7 Monday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Community Forum. St. Peter’s Church, 2nd & C Streets, SE. Historic photos of Capitol Hill. The Historical Society of Washington, DC, has a vast treasury of Capitol Hill photos. Colleen McKnight, Special Collections Librarian with the Kiplinger Research Library, and local historian Cindy Janke will share these with us on December 7. Come see Capitol Hill by air and DC life in the past. This is a chance to view vanished buildings that many of us have never seen—old St. Cyprian’s Church, old Payne School, Providence Hospital, and scenes from Rosedale. Contact: CapHRS@aol.com or 543-0425.

17 Thursday, 10:00 am
Historic Preservation Review Board. 441 4th Street, NW, Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

22 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Board of Directors. Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Beth Purcell, 622-4303.