



www.chrs.org

April 2010

53rd Annual House & Garden Tour Celebrates and Supports Capitol Hill's Rich History

Saturday, May 8, 4–8 pm
Sunday, May 9, 11 am–5 pm

More than a dozen traditional and contemporary homes will be open to ticket holders, showcasing the finest in Capitol Hill living. The theme of this year's tour, Community Experiences – Cosmopolitan Stories, features homes that blend the past with the present. Sleek, modern kitchens, specialized media rooms, and high tech “one-touch” household control panels are integrated with other more traditional Capitol Hill nuances. A number of the tour homes have been owned by one family for

generations—three have been in residence since the early 1960s. Visit the CHRS web site (www.chrs.org) to see both exterior and interior photos.

All stops on this very walkable tour are located in the southeast section of Capitol Hill between Pennsylvania Avenue on the south and East Capitol on the north, bordered by 3rd and 8th Streets, SE. And there will be music! The Capitol Hillbillies will be on the “rolling piano” in front of Riverby Books both Saturday evening and on Sunday.

On Mother's Day—Sunday, May 9—CHRS will provide ticket holders with complimentary refreshments at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church at 4th and Independence Avenue, SE. As an additional bonus, ticket holders also can receive discounts from many of the Hill's restaurants on both Saturday evening and Sunday with presentation of a tour ticket. Please check the CHRS website for updates on those offers (www.chrs.org).

Tour tickets are \$25 in advance (CHRS members can purchase up to four tickets in advance for \$20) and \$30 the weekend of the tour. They can be purchased online at www.chrs.org and at select venues around the Hill (locations listed at the CHRS website). CHRS will also have a booth

at Eastern Market during weekends in April where tickets and CHRS memberships may be purchased.

Proceeds from the 2010 tour help to support CHRS's important community work, in particular, the Beyond the Boundaries project, which assists neighborhoods outside the boundaries of the Capitol Hill Historic District in their efforts to document and preserve their history.

Major sponsors of this year's tour include: Richard and Mimi Wolf, Schneider's of Capitol Hill, and P&P Construction, LLC. We also would like to thank the Adopt a House sponsors Gary Jankowski, Bob Williams, and Phyllis Jane Young (as of 3/17). ✧

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PHOTO COURTESY PAUL CROMWELL



616 North Carolina Avenue, SE, is one of the houses featured in this year's tour.

President's Column: Reservation 13/Hill East Waterfront/DC General—Promises, Promises

by Beth Purcell

The February 2009 issue of the News reported that the development of Reservation 13/Hill East Waterfront (the old DC General site) continues and that a master developer would be selected in 2009. We were wrong. The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) has failed to name a master developer. Meanwhile, DC government is making things worse. The city has dumped a virtual mountain of polluted snow and garbage at Reservation 13. When the frozen part melts, salt and chemicals will flow downhill and pollute the Anacostia River. And a lot of this mountain is solid garbage, which will remain behind. The city is also using

Reservation 13 as an overcrowded homeless shelter. According to news sources, as of March 10, 2010, 851 homeless people were living there. This is not fair to anyone.

DMPED's delay is even more inexcusable because the development team that is Capitol Hill's overwhelming favorite, Hunt Development Group (HDG), offers a wonderful plan with great ideas. For example, HDG plans to offer Anne Archbold Hall to KIPP for a new charter school. KIPP's students score very high on the city's standardized tests, and Capitol Hill families want high-quality schools. Unfortunately, we may never get the KIPP school (or any other school) at Anne

Archbold Hall. This beautiful brick and limestone building, a historic landmark, is deteriorating rapidly, as water and birds continue to get inside through open windows. In 2004, the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation promised to implement a plan to fix these problems and preserve the building, but did nothing. Since 2007, DMPED has been responsible for Anne Archbold Hall, and has also done nothing, while the building is demolished by neglect.

According to some reports, DMPED will finally select a master developer this summer. Lets hope good news on the master developer and that DMPED is for real this time. ★

April 21 Preservation Café to Highlight What To Do With Your "Remuddled House"

After 80 or 150 years of successive owners, a house might not look the same as when it started out. Some owners want to update their houses to reflect the latest stylistic trends. On Capitol Hill, Victorian-era houses were thought too somber or too fancy and details were stripped away. Capitol Hill's smaller, plainer houses were often gussied up to make them look "prettier" or "more historic."

While there's no historic preservation requirement for an owner to restore a front façade, many owners recognize they have a house that's not living up to its historic roots. Judith Capen, AIA, and Nancy Metzger, both long-time members of CHRS's Historic Preservation

Committee, will be showing examples of what owners have done and can do to address those past remodeling mistakes. If you have a house that's been similarly abused, you can bring a photo to the Café to have them take a look at the problem and suggest a way back.

Please join us April 21, from 6:30–7:15 pm, at Ebenezer's Coffee House, 2nd and F streets, NE, in the downstairs community room, which is wheelchair accessible. These free events, sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, are open to all and do not require a reservation. For more information, contact the CHRS Office at 543-0425, or via e-mail at: CapHRS@aol.com. ★

March 17 Preservation Café Rescheduled

Due to the speaker's illness, the March 17 Preservation Café, "Take Back Your Closets!" has been rescheduled to May 19. Our apologies for this unavoidable change and we look forward to seeing you at the May presentation.

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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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.

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.

Streetcar Forum Provides Information and Lively Discussion

by Monte Edwards

The March 18 Community Forum addressed the District's proposed 37-mile streetcar system including routes and technology that might allow the system to operate with few, if any, overhead wires. It was well attended, with over 50 recorded attendees, and several more who did not sign in. The Forum was well received, with Commissioners from ANCs 6A, 6B, and 6C, a contingent from the Sierra Club, concerned citizens, as well as CHRS members. The number of non-members exceeded the number of CHRS members.

Scott Kubly, Associate Director in charge of Progressive Transportation Services Administration for the District Department of Transportation, was able to join us on short notice when one of the original panelists, Jeff Boothe, Executive Director of the Community Streetcar Coalition, was unable to attend. Scott's background is financial planning, operations planning, and policy planning. He joined DDOT about a year ago, working previously for a consulting firm in San Francisco, followed by five years at DC Metro, and most recently the City Administrator's Office. He is now DDOT's lead person for streetcars.

Meg Maguire, Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, was our other panelist. She is a Trustee of the Committee of 100, and served as National President of Scenic America for nine years. Under the Carter administration, Meg was a Deputy Director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service at the US Department of the Interior, managing, among other programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Parks and Recreation

Recovery Program, Historic Preservation Fund and the National Register of Historic Places.

Monte Edwards, CHRS Board Member, served as moderator and shared information about a recent streetcar technology showcase he attended in Charlotte, NC in January 2010. The city of Charlotte has been proactive in seeking out new streetcar technology. The showcase featured 6 manufacturers of non-overhead wire technology. Some offer the possibility of using ultra capacitors and batteries and recharging at the passenger stops with no need for overhead wires or other means to supply power between stops. Others supply non-overhead power by conductors mounted on the surface of the street or under the pavement and thus are immune from weather and snowplows. While some of the technologies are now undergoing field testing, two cities in Spain and one in Germany will begin operational service of non-overhead wire streetcar systems this year.

Scott Kubly explained the evolution of the streetcar project, and that the city's emphasis has been to get construction of the infrastructure underway: the Anacostia and H Street lines are scheduled for Fall 2012 completion. Mr. Kubly suggested that the most expedient approach might be to begin with overhead wires and transition to wire-free technology at a later date. He stated that the city will soon begin fine tuning streetcar routing, planning for sustainment funding, determining the feasibility of wire-free powering, addressing legal restrictions, and soliciting a turnkey operator. Scott's presentation

Continued on page 5

Historic Preservation Briefs

by Nancy Metzger

Offices On The Move

If you have an appointment in the next few months with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, DC Department of Transportation's Public Space Permit Branch, or the Historic Preservation Office/Office of Planning, please check the address carefully as all are scheduled for new offices. While confusing now, all this moving will mean that a number of agencies important to neighborhood residents will be in one location. The new address is 1100 Fourth Street, SW, on top of the Waterfront-SEU Metro Station on the Green line. DCRA and the DDOT Public Space Permit Branch moved in March; the Historic Preservation Office is scheduled to move April 15.

Council Rejects Special Billboard Agreement

Responding to a strong showing of citizen objections to a special billboard agreement between the city and Clear Channel, the DC Council unanimously passed a Disapproval Resolution on March 2, blocking the "Billboard Blight Removal Approval Resolution." The ingenious title of the bill masked the fact that very large "special" signs (like the ads hung on RFK stadium) would be permitted as substitutes for some old billboards already removed. A number of preservation and neighborhood activists contacted their Council members to discuss the problems with the bill and also testified at a Council Roundtable held by Councilmember Muriel Bowser's Committee.

Updates On Three Landmark Buildings

Winning landmark designation for buildings is sometimes the easiest step in protecting a building. The Old Naval Hospital is finally about to receive the care and attention it needs as the Hill Center begins its renovations. Friendship House, a 1795 manor house, has been sold to the Altus Realty Group of nearby Virginia. Price and plans are as yet unknown. The metal roof is peeled back exposing the house to rain and snow.

Another Capitol Hill landmark, Anne Archbold Hall in Reservation 13, sits vacant with a leaky roof and broken windows. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society drew attention to the impact of the city's lack of action in testimony delivered by Nancy Metzger at the oversight hearing of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the city agency responsible for the building and the development of Reservation 13:

"I am here today to ask that the District of Columbia take responsibility for the protection of one of its own landmark buildings, Anne Archbold Hall, the proposed centerpiece of the still-to-be-built Hill East Waterfront community in Reservation 13. Its present condition is deplorable, due to years of neglect. If it were owned by a private individual, the Board of Insanitary Buildings would be issuing warnings. ...

"In 2002, Anne Archbold Hall was named one of DC's most endangered buildings because the Reservation 13 Master Plan envisioned constructing a new road through the building. A landmark nomination convinced the

Office of Planning to look for a new solution—and everyone was pleased with the concept of Anne Archbold as the focal point of the residential portion of the plan, with an actual use to be decided later. Enter the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation in 2004 with a plan to protect the building; exit the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation in 2007 before the plan was implemented. Enter the Deputy Mayor's Office for Planning and Economic Development in 2007 with a new plan for the protection of Anne Archbold Hall. And now it is 2010, and Anne Archbold Hall is still not protected from damage from water, birds and humans. The north wing, where a great amount of water enters the building, has not been removed, although permission has been granted by the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Mayor's Agent.

"I was pleased and dismayed by the recent response of Ms. Hanson of the DMPED who said they "hope to select a developer and create an asset management plan by Summer 2010." By my calculations there are three months until Summer 2010—plenty of time to inspect the building and update the 2007 scope of work to stabilize and protect the building. In 2008, \$2 million was set aside for repair and stabilization of Anne Archbold, yet no repairs or protective remedies have been made. Where is that money?

"Every year promises are made to protect Anne Archbold Hall—but nothing is ever done. It is the city's responsibility to act to protect this landmark building so that it survives to be an exciting centerpiece for a new development at the Hill East Waterfront." ★



Capitol Hill Restoration Society
**53rd Annual House
 and Garden Tour**
May 8-9, 2010

Tickets available April 1 at www.chrs.org and at

Prudential Carruthers Realtors	homebody Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage	Appalachian Spring, Union Station Hill's Kitchen
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www.chrs.org | caphrs@aol.com | 202-543-0425



Streetcar Forum, *continued from page 3*

very nicely complemented what Meg Maguire identified as six specific steps that the Committee of 100 recommends DDOT undertake immediately to properly launch a \$1.5 billion system:

- **A Detailed Streetcar Route Plan**—site-specific information: the layout of tracks, pedestrian access, turnarounds on each segment; and the adequacy of the streets to support vehicular traffic as well as bicycles.
- **A Streetcar Business Plan**—capital and operating costs over the life cycle of the equipment; acquisition of land and facilities for maintenance, storage, etc.
- **An Operations and Maintenance Plan**—including interface with Metro buses and Metro rail personnel and training.
- **A Land Use Plan** along the streetcar corridors that respects neighborhood aspirations articulated in the Comprehensive Plan (as opposed to being driven primarily by achieving greater density).
- **A Streetcar Technology Assessment Study** on each type of streetcar technology, conducted by an objective engineering firm, to determine the pros and cons of all propulsion systems BEFORE the City commits to any one system.
- **A Public Streetcar Technology Showcase** to engage the public in understanding new technologies, system interfaces, “open system architecture,” etc.

The Q&A session lasted about as long as the presentation and involved far-ranging and sometimes lively discussions between the attendees and the panelists. Some attendees are eagerly awaiting streetcar service and are concerned that additional studies may delay the launch. Others opined that financial and technical planning should be in place before major purchases and decisions are made. The Forum identified issues that DDOT, the Committee of 100, and CHRS will continue to address. ★

Marines Announce Potential Sites for New Barracks

by Beth Purcell

On March 23 and 24, the Marine Corps held public workshops to seek community input on five potential sites for new barracks for Marines.

The Marine Corps has been a vital part of the Capitol Hill community since 1801. Many Marines still live in the 1970s building at 8th and I Streets, SE (southeast corner). This building no longer meets their needs for training and living space. More importantly, this building fails to comply with current Dept. of Defense (DOD) security standards—living quarters for all U.S. military personnel must have a clearance of 82 feet from a street. The building at 8th and I Streets is only 25 feet from the SE Freeway. To solve this problem, the Marines have begun a planning process to find a location to build a new living quarters and training facility. They began with a community workshop in February 2010. There was a second workshop on March 23–24 when they built on the input from the first one, explained the process for identifying potential

sites, such as a property (in the 3-acre range), distance from the Marine Barracks, consistency with zoning and land use. The Marines presented five potential sites that could work for a new barracks and training facility:

- **Square 882.** This parcel is immediately south of the Marine Annex (south of the SE Freeway). Although the new living quarters would be less than 82 feet from the street, it may be possible to comply with DOD security standards by reinforcing the walls of the building. DC Housing Authority plans a mixed-income apartment building on Square 882 (where Arthur Capper Seniors was), with groundbreaking scheduled for October 2010.
- **Tyler School, 10th and G Streets, SE.** The living quarters and training facilities would fit on this site. The entire site would be needed, including the playing field. The school building would have to be demolished.
- **Navy Yard.** There is a corner of the Navy Yard, inside the wall, where the Marine Corps has several buildings used for a printing plant and other purposes. If these buildings were demolished, the new barracks and training facility could be built inside the Navy Yard.
- **Open area near the Marine Annex (Astroturf field).** This site can potentially work, but using this site would require permission from DC government to close a street (street is not currently visible).
- **Exxon site at 11th and M Streets, SE.** This site, now vacant and fenced off, is another potential location for the living quarters and training facilities.

For details, including maps and plans, see www.sedistrictcimp.com. ★

Potential sites for the new Marine Barracks.



MAP COURTESY NORMAN METZGER

Construction Begins at Old Naval Hospital

by Gary Peterson

After years of frustrating delay, construction at the Old Naval Hospital will begin this month. The total restoration of the building, fence, grounds, and carriage house is slated for completion in June 2011.

Research on the building reveals that the brick was originally painted to look like sandstone and the finished building will also be painted. The building will also contain an elevator and two new fire stairs. The entrance will be from the 9th street side where the grade will be lowered to facilitate on-grade access to the

ground floor of the building and the elevator.

Upon completion, the Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital will offer educational opportunities for all ages, meeting and performance space, and offices for community organizations. (CHRS may move to this new location.) The carriage house will become a café and the grounds will be beautifully landscaped.

The total cost of the restoration is \$10 million and a fund raising campaign has started. Nearly \$7 million has been raised so far

with the majority of the money coming from the DC Government. Recently the restoration was awarded \$150,000 grant from Save America's Treasures. Underwriting/naming opportunities are available for the rooms, gardens and trees, and the decorative fence.

For more information and to view a 4-minute video about the Hill Center, please go to: www.oldnavalhospitalfoundation.org. You may also call Gary Peterson, Co-chair of the Campaign Leadership Committee at 547-7969. ★

PHOTOS COURTESY PAUL CROMWELL



Two of the houses featured in this year's House Tour, celebrating Capitol Hill home restoration and innovation.

Volunteers Needed

53rd Annual House & Garden Tour | May 8–9, 2010

Over 150 volunteers are needed to produce a successful House and Garden Tour each year. We need your help!

Ticket sales: If you would like to assist with ticket sales at our booth at Eastern Market, 2 hour shifts are open on Saturday, April 2, and then starting the following weekend, every Saturday and Sunday including tour weekend.

Docents: We also need docents to monitor the tour houses.

Volunteering is easy, fun, and only takes a few hours. If you can help, please contact CapHRS@aol.com and put "tour volunteer" in the subject line.

Barney Circle: A Snapshot of its Workforce: 1910–1930

by Donna Hanousek

1910: In 1910, 75% of Barney Circle’s workers were blue collar, similar to many nearby neighborhoods. However, Barney Circle was generally a proportionately larger supplier of government workers to the labor force than were many of its neighbors*, with 40% of its workers in government jobs, almost twice that of some of its neighbors. What really set Barney Circle apart was the proportionately large number of Navy Yard workers. Over 25%—one out of four workers—worked at the Navy Yard, as compared to 4-17% in the other neighborhoods. The percentage of Barney Circle residents that worked in the Navy Yard even exceeded that of the 500 block of 11th Street, which is significantly closer to the Yard.

1920: By 1920, all the neighborhoods showed a marked increase in numbers of white collar workers, with Barney Circle leading the way with 45.5%. The 1920s also continued to show Barney Circle with the largest share of government employees at 45%, although now the comparison neighborhoods have, except for Ives Place, grown their share of government sector employment significantly. Barney Circle continued to lead as the proportionately largest Navy Yard employer for all but one neighborhood, the 500 block of 11th Street. That Barney Circle was only about one percentage point less in rate of Navy Yard employment, still revealed Barney Circle as a proportionately large source of Navy Yard workers, given that it is located six to nine blocks away from the Navy Yard, compared with the proximity to the Navy Yard that 500 11th Street enjoys (within three

1910 Occupational Profile of Barney Circle and Nearby Neighborhoods

Areas	Total Workers	Blue Collar		White Collar	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Barney Circle	47	35	74.5%	12	25.5%
Heckman Street/ Duddington Place, SE	63	46	73.0%	17	27.0%
500 block 11th Street, SE	67	55	82.1%	12	17.9%
600/800 block B Street	135	114	84.4%	21	15.6%
Ives Place, SE	7	7	100.0%	0	0.0%
1500 block E Street, SE	59	44	74.6%	15	25.4%
Elliott Street, NE	28	20	71.4%	8	28.6%

1910 Profile of Barney Circle and Nearby Neighborhoods: Government Workers

Areas	Total Workers	Government		Navy Yard	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Barney Circle	47	19	40.4%	12	25.5%
Heckman Street/ Duddington Place, SE	63	13	20.6%	4	6.3%
500 block 11th Street, SE	67	23	34.3%	10	14.9%
600/800 block B Street	135	24	17.8%	13	9.6%
Ives Place, SE	7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
1500 block E Street, SE	59	16	27.1%	10	16.9%
Elliott Street, NE	28	8	28.6%	1	3.6%

1920 Occupational Profile of Barney Circle and Nearby Neighborhoods

Areas	Total Workers	Blue Collar		White Collar	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Barney Circle	211	115	54.5%	96	45.5%
Heckman Street/ Duddington Place, SE	95	89	93.7%	6	6.3%
500 block 11th Street, SE	91	61	67.0%	30	33.0%
600/800 block B Street	86	60	69.8%	26	30.2%
Ives Place, SE	14	12	85.7%	2	14.3%
1500 block E Street, SE	69	42	60.9%	27	39.1%
Elliott Street, NE	36	20	55.6%	16	44.4%

blocks). In addition, a comparison with some other streets that are also a bit more removed from the Yard, namely Ives Place and the 1500 block of E Street, SE, found a much lower rate of Navy Yard workers—10% or less. This suggests, at least for the 1910–1920 period, that Barney Circle was home to a large proportion of Navy Yard workers given its location at the edge of Capitol Hill.

1930: By 1930, Barney Circle still led in white-collar employment, while two of the comparison neighborhoods actually reversed their previous trends to become more blue-collar. Surprisingly, one of these neighborhoods is closer in to the Capitol—the 600 and 800 blocks of Independence Avenue (then B Street)—which suggests that locations further out from the Capitol did not necessarily mean a more working class neighborhood. Further, by 1930, the numbers in government employment dropped for every neighborhood, except for Ives Place, and the Navy Yard was no longer a major employer for any of the neighborhoods. While the government was still a significant employer—over 30% of Barney Circle workers were government employees—growing numbers of Barney Circle residents were employed in the private sector, filling the growing service industries, in both blue and white collar jobs. ★

* The following areas were used as comparison points to Barney Circle: the 600 and 800 block of B Street SE (combined); the 1500 block of E Street, SE; Ives Place, SE; the 500 block of 11th Street, SE; Heckman Street (Duddington Place), SE; and Elliott Street, NE.

** The 1930 Census did not identify Navy Yard workers as a distinct category within U.S. Government employees. We therefore assigned classes of jobs as likely to be Navy Yard jobs and categorized the workers accordingly.

1920 Profile of Barney Circle and Nearby Neighborhoods: Government Workers

Areas	Total Workers	Government		Navy Yard	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Barney Circle	211	95	45.02%	54	25.6%
Heckman Street/ Duddington Place, SE	95	32	33.68%	7	7.4%
500 block 11th Street, SE	91	40	43.96%	24	26.4%
600/800 block B Street	86	33	38.37%	9	10.5%
Ives Place, SE	14	1	7.14%	1	7.1%
1500 block E Street, SE	69	24	34.78%	7	10.1%
Elliott Street, NE	36	15	41.67%	3	8.3%

1930 Occupational Profile of Barney Circle and Nearby Neighborhoods

Areas	Total Workers	Blue Collar		White Collar	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Barney Circle	374	194	51.9%	180	48.1%
Heckman Street/ Duddington Place, SE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
500 block 11th Street, SE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
600/800 block B Street	105	86	81.9%	19	18.1%
Ives Place, SE	58	41	70.7%	17	29.3%
1500 block E Street, SE	62	35	56.5%	27	43.5%
Elliott Street, NE	69	50	72.5%	19	27.5%

1930 Profile of Barney Circle and Nearby Neighborhoods: Government Workers**

Areas	Total Workers	Government		Navy Yard	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Barney Circle	374	115	30.75%	29	7.8%
Heckman Street/ Duddington Place, SE	n/a	10	15.90%	n/a	n/a
500 block 11th Street, SE	n/a	14	20.10%	n/a	n/a
600/800 block B Street	105	24	22.80%	7	6.7%
Ives Place, SE	58	10	17.24%	3	5.2%
1500 block E Street, SE	62	13	22%	4	6.5%
Elliott Street, NE	69	7	10.14%	1	1.4%

Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

In a 2003 oral history interview with veteran real estate broker Helen Carey, interviewer Betsy Damos asked questions about the real estate market and Capitol Hill in the 1960s. The conversation veered to the riots in Washington in April 1968 and Mrs. Carey remember how it was in the area near Barracks Row during those days. The entire transcript can be found at the Ruth Ann Overbeck Oral History website, www.capitolhillhistory.org.

DAMOS: "... But how did the riots in 1968 after Martin Luther King was assassinated affect things?

CAREY: I had just opened an office all by myself, and not in the station wagon (laughter), on the 500 block of Seventh Street [546 Seventh Street SE]. Barry Linde had the office next to me. He built all those houses. The day after the riots, I went down. The city was burning. People were coming past the office bringing TVs and whatever they'd gotten out of the shops up here.

DAMOS: Coming down from H Street?

CAREY: No. There was some breakage here on Eighth [SE]. There was a TV shop on Eighth that they broke into. Actually, they broke into the liquor store, and District Lock they didn't break into, for some reason. So, yes. It was very close by. Going down to the housing projects, primarily. It was like Mardi Gras. Everybody was whooping and hollering. 'Hey, what'd you get?'

DAMOS: It turned out to be not so funny, because some of the businesses didn't recover.

CAREY: That's right. It was not ominous to me, because I didn't have anything of interest. But it was just peculiar. It was a mob psychology, I guess. But it was a happy mob. ... So then the next day, we got the Army in with the Jeeps [with] tape all over [the windshields], and the [helmets] and stuff. They were bivouacked up in the park across the from the police station, between Fourth and Sixth and E [i.e., Marion Park]. And their guns and everything ...

DAMOS: Quite a scene!

CAREY: Yes, it was. I loaded up my files, which I didn't have all that many. I had them in boxes like this. Into the station wagon (laughter). And my electric typewriter, which was really special to me. And I was the only one on the freeway. I stopped and looked at the city. Not another one on the freeway. And everything was smoke ... against the sky. I didn't have a camera, but I wished I did ...

DAMOS: Property must have changed after that.

CAREY: You couldn't get insurance. Finally, the city got insurance. You couldn't get fire insurance. Forget it. They weren't going to insure DC (laughter).

DAMOS: Poor DC! We've had so much of this. So maligned!

CAREY: So we hobbled along for a couple of years before they came back in and thought they weren't going to burn anymore.

DAMOS: It was a hard time. Property value went down, so it became a real buyer's market?

CAREY: No. It was about the same. For this area, the problem was not that bad. In other words, you had H Street [NE], and then you had Seventh and Eighth [SE]. H [Street] NE was the one that got hit the most. Farther down Pennsylvania, there was some, but it wasn't like everything—the 200 and 300 block. It was mixed. The people who rented here were, like you said, staffers and people who were committed to the Hill. They were staying. It wasn't a general 'shewww' [makes a sound like a rush of people leaving]. It didn't affect things all that much. I mean, it wasn't good! But I don't remember that the rental market really was downgraded very much. It stayed pretty much the same." ★

Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

NEW MEMBERS

Jenna Jarrett Opiela
Mortimer & Frances Sellers

PATRONS

Michael & Ann Grace
John & Kathy Montgomery
Kirk Spurgin & Ross Randall
Diane & John Shages

SPONSORS

Drew Ronneberg
James Skiles & Lynn Church

You Can Go Home Again

by Michelle Pilliod Carroll

Two children that lived in our house at 1001 C Street, SE came home today: Rose Wertlieb Freedman, 94 years old, and Francis Wertlieb Blacher, 89 years old. Four generations of the family were represented.

The family originally came from Russia to DC and first lived at 4½ Street, SW, then moved to 508 F Street, NE, then to 1766 Florida Avenue, NW, before moving to our home at 1001 C Street, SE. The family lived here for over 60 years.

During that time a part of the house was a laundry, a tavern, a Highs, then a dry cleaners.

The family went from being shoemakers, grocer and liquor store owners, owned a car wash, had a business "Triangle Beer and Restaurant" at 14th & Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, a liquor store on 9th Street, NW, to owning the running the tavern at 300 10th Street, SE. The other part of the tavern is 1001 C Street, SE, where the family lived.

From our experiences with the Wertlieb family we have come to

believe that this was a home filled with love and laughter.

During WWII there were 17 people living in the house. The men were away and all of the women and children lived together. The "kids" remember this well and had a wonderful time living with their extended family. During the 40's and 50's there were three generations of Wertlibs living in the house.

As everyone reflected on living and visiting here it was almost like being transported to another time. The children would go to Eastern Market, the various corner stores in the neighborhood, and always playing and interacting with the diverse groups that were their neighborhood.

As Rose mentioned, "we never locked our doors." The neighborhood was a mix of Irish, African American, Italian, German, Chinese and Russian.

The children all went to Hine School.

While visiting a video was made. We will be receiving the edited version and will pass it along to the Overbeck Project/Historical Society.



PHOTO COURTESY MICHELLE CARROLL

A resident reunion at 1001 C Street, SE.

This was a very special day for Rose, Francis, and their families and it was for my husband Dennis and myself. We enjoyed stories (which were many) like the children going to the basement, once their father returned with moonshine from Maryland, and pouring it into bottles for the "store." We were so thankful to have this opportunity and hope that they will return and look forward to the video. ☆

Zoning Committee Report

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society Zoning Committee on March 12, 2010, considered one case, BZA #18046. The case involves the application of Catherine A. Plume, for a special exception to allow a rear addition to an existing one family row dwelling, not meeting the lot occupancy requirements, in the R-4 District at 307 9th Street, SE. The applicant wishes to go from 60% lot occupancy to 67% lot occupancy. The committee was given letters of support from adjacent property owners and voted unanimously to support the application.

The next meeting will be on April 8, 2010.



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

Mark Your Calendar!

APRIL

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

8 Thursday, 7:30 pm
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th St., SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

10 Saturday, 1:00 pm
Barney Circle Historic Walking Tour—history and architecture of Barney Circle neighborhood. Meet at the park at 16th & Potomac Avenue, SE. Free. Details: eleanormh@aol.com or eap1@mindspring.com.

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

21 Wednesday, 6:30–7:15 pm
CHRS Preservation Café.
“Re-muddling: Reversing misfortunes that have been visited on Capitol Hill houses.” Ebenezers Coffeehouse, 2nd & F Streets, NE, downstairs. Free, accessible, no reservation required. Details: Shauna Holmes, 546-5211.

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

24 Saturday, 8:30 am–2:00 pm
Earth Day River Cleanup & Celebration. Anacostia River cleanup. Details: www.anasostiaaws.org.

Saturdays, May 1–October 30
9 am–noon (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

MAY

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

8–9 Saturday & Sunday
CHRS Annual House and Garden Tour. Tickets available April 1 at www.chrs.org.

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

19 Wednesday, 6:30–7:15 pm
CHRS Preservation Café on de-cluttering: “Take Back Your Closets!” with Jill Lawrence from Jill-of-all-Trades Professional Organizing Services. Ebenezers Coffeehouse, 2nd & F Streets, NE, downstairs. Free, accessible, no reservation required. Details: Shauna Holmes, 546-5211.

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