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Welcome to the Capitol Hill Restoration Society 2015 House & Garden Tour!

The Society extends a huge THANK YOU to the home owners and neighbors who are opening their homes to us this weekend and to all the volunteers who make the annual H&G Tour a success. We really appreciate the time and effort it takes to open their home and to be a volunteer.

We hope that you will enjoy this year’s Tour—we have some great houses to see. To the guests and visitors, please be mindful that these are private homes. They are not for sale and they are not designed for public accommodation. So no ‘using the facilities’ (there are restrooms available at the DC Public Library at 7th & D Streets, NE.), no drinks in the homes, no strollers, carriages, or wheelchairs—the docents will watch over them outside. Please, no plopping down on the sofa, browsing through bookshelves, or checking out the closets. Children under 5 must be carried while inside the homes. No pets, although working dogs are okay. No photos without permission. Purses, backpacks, shoulder bags, and brief cases must be carried in front of the guest to avoid accidents. Homeowners reserve the right to ask for removal of shoes or wearing booties over your shoes. Be careful climbing stairs or stepping out to the gardens and crossing streets. In a nutshell, be respectful, be responsible, be careful, and be nice.

Please DO enjoy this year’s collection of wonderful Capitol Hill homes. Feel free to critique—that’s half the fun. We hope you get lots of ideas for remodeling, redecorating, or art collecting. If you aren’t a member of CHRS yet, please join us; there’s a form at the back of this booklet. If you love Capitol Hill and its historic character, then CHRS is your kind of team.

Northeast Capitol Hill is a neighborhood on the move! Long the quiet side of the Hill, Northeast is now the focus of urban development on H Street, NOMA, Union Market, and Union Station. If you haven’t been to H Street in a while, swing by for lunch or dinner—there are now a wide variety of eateries to explore.

Present your CHRS tour ticket at participating H Street restaurants for discounts on food and drinks!
Schedule

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2015
Saturday Twilight Tour
4:00 PM–7:00 PM

SUNDAY MAY 10, 2015
Mother’s Day Tour
12:00 PM–5:00 PM
Refreshments
1:00 PM–4:30 PM
Saint Monica & Saint James Episcopal Church Community Hall
222 Eighth Street, NE
Washington DC 20002

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Dear Friends and Visitors,

Welcome to the 58th Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour!

If you’ve been on the Tour before, you know what a unique and wonderful place Capitol Hill is. If this is your first time on the Tour, you’re about to find out!

Northeast Capitol Hill is a neighborhood on the move. Long the quiet side of the Hill, Northeast is now the focus of urban development as H Street, NOMA, Union Market, and Union Station rapidly move forward.

This year we explore near northeast from the long established homes just behind the Supreme Court to the refurbished homes bordering the new H Street district. The tour starts at East Capitol and 2nd Street, NE and runs east to Eighth Street and then north to E Street, zig zagging across the Stanton Park neighborhood.

The first half of the tour celebrates traditional Capitol Hill architecture and interiors. These homes include a wood slatted home from shortly after the Civil War followed by three Federalist Style homes that reflect the latter half of the 19th century urban style. The second set of homes reflects the changes brought by the 20th century—from a traditional Victorian bayfront to a 30 year old pop-up above a mechanic’s shop to a 1970’s infill with a garage bay built in. And in between you can take a break at a nineteenth century Vicarage chapel.

Capitol Hill taste in the arts runs the gamut from ancestral oil-on-canvas portraits of the almost forgotten to modernist Giacometti-inspired elegantly tall rough-hewn sculptures. There are heavy Victorian wall coverings, minimalist curving walls, and faux finished walls with backgammon-inspired diamonds.

Libraries? It wouldn’t be Capitol Hill without them - some in traditional chestnut cabinets, others housed in built-ins up to the ceilings, or up winding staircases to the converted attic getaway. There are hidden stairways, almost hidden trom l’oeil window treatments, and brick walled hidden gardens.

There’s something for everyone on the CHRS House & Garden Tour! You’re supporting CHRS’s preservation and education efforts while you enjoy the homes that make this neighborhood so special.

On behalf of CHRS, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the homeowners featured on this year’s Tour. It’s a big job opening your house to hundreds of visitors, two days in a row. We really appreciate the effort involved, and are so grateful you are willing to show off what makes your home so special!

Other people who deserve thanks are the House Captains, the docents, the historical researchers, writers, designers, ad sales people, logistics mavens, and our Office Manager, Carl Spier. The Tour absolutely would not happen without them! A special thanks goes to the Historic Preservation Committee of the DC Daughters of the American Revolution for their help with the refreshment break. But of all the people who deserve thanks, the biggest vote of gratitude is reserved for House Tour Chair, Patrick Crowley, who tirelessly pulled everything together, and on top of that, hosted the homeowners’ party AND put his house on the Tour!

A final vote of gratitude goes to all of our CHRS members, who love this neighborhood and do all they can to keep it a special place.

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Proud To Support Capitol Hill Restoration Society
Cass Gilbert’s Supreme Court looms large in Tom and Mary Edsall’s everyday life. Their home is directly behind the High Court’s great east façade. Few properties so aptly define Capitol Hill as “Washington’s Backyard.” The Edsalls were already long-time Hill dwellers when, in 1999, their daughter Alexandra, a law clerk on the court, looked out an office window and, noticing a “For Sale” sign, urged her parents to inquire. They were immediately captivated by the property.

The 18 by 30 foot Italianate frame dwelling was built in 1853. A soaring, three-story addition, adding 28 feet to the length of the house, was commissioned in 1976 by previous owner Mary Craighill, daughter of former Supreme Court Justice and Nuremberg Trials prosecutor Robert H. Jackson. Craighill, a dancer, with light and space in mind, created a studio on the top floor that can be reached by climbing a spiral oak staircase. It is now a study, overprinting both the Court and the rear garden.

The house’s history is well documented, since it was, for 20 years, the home of historian Constance Greene. She bought it for its proximity to the Library of Congress where she researched her seminal two-volume history, Washington, Village and Capitol, 1800 to 1978, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1964.

After buying the house in 1999, the Edsalls secured Capitol Hill contractor Ragnar Thoresen to correct the vicissitudes of age. Thoresen’s work produced an open, light-filled floorplan showcasing a collection of antique furniture and silver from Tom’s New England family.

The living room, which has two working fireplaces, has an American mahogany card table with lion paw feet from 1850, and a late 18th century tilt top wine table. The portrait of a woman above the front mantel is an early work of abstract impressionist Jack Tworkov, one of the founders of the New York School along with Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock.

Boston artist Joseph Ablow painted the portraits of Tom, a former Washington Post correspondent and current New York Times columnist, that hangs between the windows as well as that of his mother at the opposite end of the room. At the far end of the living room is a Pennsylvania mahogany chest with ball-and-claw feet from 1760, displaying an 1850 silver tea service originally belonging to Tom’s great grandmother.

In the front hall hangs a display case with the belle époque lorgnette, pince nez, and opera glasses made in Prague by Mary’s grandfather. Mary’s grandmother is portrayed in the bronze bas relief mounted by the entrance to the kitchen. An oil portrait of her father hangs on the north wall of the living room. In the hall outside the living room hangs the framed Commander’s Cross Order of Merit of the German Federal Republic awarded to Mary’s father. Bronze and brass African bracelets rest on the Chinese altar table at the foot of the stairs.

In the master bedroom, to the left, is a late 1700s inlaid English shaving mirror atop an 1820s Boston spiral-columned chest. The four-poster bed is covered with a handmade quilt from India. From the bedroom windows can be glimpsed the Library of Congress and the Senate office building complex. Past the spiral staircase leading to the third floor is Tom’s den with a fireplace and some of his memorabilia—including a framed check documenting a successful wager with political analyst Jack Germond.

Please return to the ground floor and visit the large kitchen and dining areas that open to an expansive garden and patio designed in consultation with landscape architect Sheila Brady of Oehme and Van Sweden. The patio was hand-laid by Thoresen, using brickwork patterns he adapted from his native Norway. Exit through the alley gate. —Ann Grace and Mike Canning
2015 CHRS House and Garden Tour: Northeast Capitol Hill—On the Move!

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The home tour doesn’t need to end here. Let us show you more.

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The home at 315 started life in the 1860s as a typical frame two room over two room with side staircase hall. Both 315 and its neighbor, 313, served as rooming houses through most of the 1870s. One roomer, M.J. Pope, ran a livery stable beginning in 1873 using the rear yards of both houses as well as a brick stable behind 313. Elias E. Barnes replaced Pope in the livery business in 1878.

The frame house morphed into a brick structure sometime during the mid-1880s, created perhaps by Edward Lynch, a contractor. When arriving at 315 B (now called Constitution Avenue) pause to exam the exterior brickwork. Note that the brick façades of 313 and 315 B were constructed at the same time, the brickwork running continuously from one to the other. But the rooflines are not the same. Viewed from the alley one can see that the roof of 315 has been “kicked” to allow for a higher more formal facade. A seam in the brick defines the newest section of the home. In 1889 the then owner, James Hughes, received a permit “to build a two story and cellar brick addition” of 14 by 20 feet. The cellar contained a furnace and storage for coal. Original access was by a stairway on the west side. The brickwork for the addition encompassed the bathroom, a previous addition to the frame home. The cellar access was by an outside stair on the west side but now access to the cellar through a hatch in the kitchen.

For much of the twentieth century a one floor five foot deep porch with three columns (but no railings) graced the front of the building. A patch of white hydrangea now anchor the front garden, along with roses, lavender and box wood.

Price Riggs purchased the property in 2002 and has taken a number of steps to make the home more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. She is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accredited professional and has tried to apply much of what she does in the commercial real estate industry to this house, while respecting the historical elements of the structure. Some sustainable improvements include:

- Replacing all of the windows, mechanical systems and appliances to improve energy efficiency
- Replacing the roof with a heat reflective (white) rubber roof with high insulation factor
- Purchasing furniture and finishes that are renewable (cork floor in the kitchen) or are sourced locally (within 500 miles of DC)
- Adding the green roof and bee hive (not yet fully operational) expand the sustainable efforts outside. The green roof (albeit only 16 square feet) will help with storm water run-off and the bees will help pollinate the gardens of DC

The interior is eclectic—a mixture of old and new with collections from Price’s family and travels. She admits to having a ‘pottery problem’ and, it appears, a carpet problem as well!

You will find examples of both through the house. In addition, a few notable pieces include an old French ½ bed, a late 19th century music box from Price’s great grandmother (complete with original metal records), the discharge from the Union Army for Price’s relative, and a hand stitched Mola from Panama (bought by Price’s travel-living grandmother in the 1950’s).

The comfortable rear patio contains a small fireplace and raised garden. Price is an avid cook/entertainer and grows mostly herbs and cutting flowers in the garden. She is hoping for the lemon tree to produce this year! The one story garage, constructed in 1917, has a recently added ‘green roof’ - instead of soil, the plants are growing in a material first used in the fuel tanks of air force planes to keep fuel from sloshing about. The brick structure beyond, no longer part of the property, was constructed as a stable in 1914. —Paul Crowell and Price Riggs
EHT Traceries congratulates the Capitol Hill Restoration Society on the 2015 House & Garden Tour.

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Owners: Fred Biery and Sally Stoecker

Square 811  *  House Captains: Meg Shapiro and George Olsen / Compass

The lot on which this house stands was initially valued at $359 in 1854 (about $9,500 in today’s dollars). The original parts of the house, the present dining room and kitchen, were constructed in the late 1850s, with the house appearing on Boschke’s map of the City in 1857. The front rooms (living room) and third floor were added in the 1870s. Francis O’Bold, a Capitol Hill developer, probably constructed the house and appears to have rented it until the early 1870s when it was sold to the Tuohy family, Capitol Hill residents since the 1850s, from County Clare, Ireland.

The property passed to Hugh Tuohy in 1874. The Washington Star described Hugh as, “educated in the old country,” a noted story teller, “a popular companion and ... welcome guest” with a “ready fund of Irish wit.” Hugh, declared at his death as the “oldest clerk (auditor) in the Treasury Department,” had previously worked as classics professor at Georgetown University and worked for the Treasury Department from 1862 until his death in 1906. In addition, he established a school for the drummer boys, fifers and buglers enlisted in the Marine Corps at the nearby Marine Barracks.

The house went to Hugh’s daughter Rosie, likely as a wedding present, upon her marriage to Jacob Mertz. Jacob was a tinkerer and was awarded a patent in 1915 for “a contrivance for the hanging of a lamp” on the rear of an automobile to light up rear license plates, according to the Washington Post. He served on the District police force as a railroad inspector and as a carpenter. After Jacob’s death in 1929, Rosie lived in the house with other family members and boarders until her death in 1943. One son, Anthony, entered the priesthood, and the other, Joseph, lived in the house until the boys sold the house in 1957.

The house went through a significant renovation in 1957, which included installing all the current mantels. In 1958 the owners, the Robinsons, had the house on the first Capitol Hill House and Garden tour. The house was put on the market in 1961 for $42,500 (about $350,000 in today’s dollars) and purchased by the Denison family who lived in it until 1986. Other renovations were done in early 1990s by the Masi family, including installation of the current dining room wallpaper and library shelving, wallpaper and window treatments. Boeing transferred the Masi family to Seattle and the current owners, Fred Biery and Sally Stoecker, purchased the home in 1994.

Enter the living room to the right of the entry way, which houses art and collectibles from Russia, reflecting Sally’s career as a Russian studies professor. Note also the needlepoints done by Fred’s mother and a knife and scabbard, known as a khanjar, from Oman, collected during Fred’s travels in his career as a mining consultant in Africa and the Middle East.

As you enter the dining room, to your left is a bronze of L’Angelus, depicting a French farmer observing mid-day prayer. The adjoining kitchen looks out to a serene private garden, home to a family of gnomes.

Leaving the dining room, as you pass through the front hall, notice the Army Air Corps World War 2 vintage map, one of several that Fred collected during his tenure at the Department of Agriculture. Head up the stairs and take a peek in the bathroom entered from the landing that features an enviable collection of rubber duckies. Don’t miss the poster warning of a link between hygiene and breeding of Bolsheviks.

Off the landing enter the library, which houses a 19th century barometer and notable collection of Soviet military caps, the baby Lenin pin collection, and a jug from Sally’s family’s tea and liquor store in Brooklyn.

Take the back steps down to the kitchen and out the back door to the garden. Exit the property through the alley gate. —Tom and Ellie Hamburger
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Andrew Betourney and Bruce Gipe  
*Square 919*  *House Captain: Lee Murphy/Washington Fine Properties*

The soft ticking of a long case clock sets the mood upon entering the Federalist style residence at 811 A Street, NE. The original structure was constructed about 1870, but doubled in size in the 1980s. The house belongs to Andrew Betourney and Bruce Gipe and was thoughtfully renovated by Falls Church architect Jeff DuBro in 2007.

When you enter the home you will be standing in the dining room, graced with wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling bookcases. The George Washington themed long case clock belonged to Andrew Betourney’s great-grandmother and years ago traveled with Andrew from Boston, Massachusetts. The classic Capitol Hill dining room ambiance gives way to the modern when you walk into the next room, the kitchen, which gives you the “wow” factor.

The old galley kitchen became an upgraded workplace with a five burner gas stove surrounded by a unique copper counter that is aging with a lovely patina. The backsplash for the kitchen features various colored square glass tiles. Notice the three hanging pendants above the eat-in counter, which continue the “squared” theme. Square panels are also featured above the newly installed cabinets. A small guest powder room has also been tucked away across from the kitchen.

In addition to cooking, Andrew and Bruce like to travel, and have picked up some treasures along the way! The photographs above the living room piano were taken by the owners themselves on a trip to Rajasthan, India. (Once upstairs, notice the tapestry on the wall of the den, also from Rajasthan.) Above the living room couch is a large oil painting of a pumpkin obtained from an art gallery on one of their shorter trips—to Barracks Row!

In the master bedroom and again note all the natural light this home enjoys. There is a working wood-burning fireplace bracketed with windows on either side. To the right side of the fireplace look through the glass and spy a lovely Juliette iron balcony. The master bedroom decor reflects contributions of a recently sold cabin located in West Virginia. The pastoral paintings in the bedroom are by Pauline Ney, a local West Virginia artist, and the carved wooden deer head above the bed once looked down from above the cabin fireplace. The master bathroom features a skylight and a smooth, pebble shower floor.

Next go upstairs and stand in the small den area, which provides a cozy workspace for Andrew and Bruce. In addition to the tapestry from Rajasthan, on a trip to Portland, Oregon they found a painting of Ganesh by Erika Ginter. If you take a peek inside the full bathroom you will see original black-and-white tile walls and floor and bead board walls, giving this bath a charm all its own. Also, please notice the design of the new staircase, playing off once more the “square” theme.

Walk into the master bedroom and again note all the natural light this home enjoys. There is a working wood-burning fireplace bracketed with windows on either side. To the right side of the fireplace look through the glass and spy a lovely Juliette iron balcony. The master bedroom decor reflects contributions of a recently sold cabin located in West Virginia. The pastoral paintings in the bedroom are by Pauline Ney, a local West Virginia artist, and the carved wooden deer head above the bed once looked down from above the cabin fireplace. The master bathroom features a skylight and a smooth, pebble shower floor.

Down the hallway is the guest bedroom with 3 large windows, flooding the bedroom with light. Tucked away in a closet in the guest bedroom are the washer and dryer. Space is utilized to its maximum with this renovation. As you head downstairs, please enjoy the painting entitled “House Hunting” above the stairway. Angelou Guincon is the artist, who likes to feature cows in unusual situations. Do we also detect that “square” theme again?? Throughout the house the owners have shown how you can tie a theme together in various and humorous ways!

It’s time to exit and get on with the tour, so please flow through the living room French doors, past the recycled trellises and out the back wooden gate. We hope you have enjoyed how this home was renovated to maximize light and living space! —Susan Young
CHRS Member Activities 2014–15

CHRS Preservation Café

- April 2015 .......... Capitol Hill Monuments
- March 2015 .......... How to Spot a Cheap Flip
- November 2014 .... Winterizing Your Home
- October 2014 ........ City Archeology
- September 2014 .... Bygone Breweries of Capitol Hill
- May 2014 ............ Alley Buildings of Capitol Hill
- April 2014 .......... Historic Waterfront of Washington
- March 2014 .......... Money Saving Preventive Home Maintenance

Walking Tours

- Groff Court (coming up: June 20, 2015)
- Rosedale
- Swampoodle
- Beyond the Boundaries
The Rectory of St. James was last on the House Tour in 1996. Following the sale of St. Monica by the diocese in 2008, St. James and St. Monica merged to form the Episcopal church of St. Monica and St. James. St. Monica held a congregation that identified with the African American Community while St. James was deeply rooted in its Anglo-Catholic liturgical heritage, according to the church website.

Father William Whitaker, a native of Manchester, England, became the Rector of the church in January 2015. He was ordained in 1994, and prior to his appointed here served for 12 years as the Vicar of Stanwell in Middlesex, England. Father William resides in the Rectory.

The rectory was constructed in 1892 by Harry Congdon for the church’s first rector, James Walters Clark. Upon entering through the front door you will be in a large central hall. Immediately to your left is the original “bread door” dating from the time that fresh bread was delivered daily. On your right is a Regency “lady’s desk” with garlands and goblet skillfully inlaid with varicolored fruitwood.

On your left is a light filled sitting room made even more so with yellow walls with white trim. Furnishings are an interesting mix of Federal and Victorian pieces, including a curio cabinet and a floor to almost ceiling mirror. Note the heavily adorned mantel—there is a different mantle in each major room.

The dining room is painted a strong red with white trim. Notice the picture molding on the walls beneath the ceiling. Francis Perkins was a member of the congregation and often used the rectory for official meetings and as a place of retreat. A photograph of Perkins rests on the buffet. Perkins was the Secretary of Labor throughout the Roosevelt administration and then served on the Civil Service Commission for seven years. As Labor Secretary she was instrumental in the development of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the She-She-She camps, a much smaller companion to the men-only CCC.

There is a narrow butler’s pantry with an original floor to ceiling oak storage cabinet and shelves. This leads into the kitchen. The alcove that seems to resemble a pizza oven housed the original oven. Note the mechanical call system that summoned servants to other rooms in the Rectory. The pull at the base resets all of the hands.

Passing the rear or servants’ stairs and then the grand staircase, one enters the library with its heavy green wallpaper and a beamed and coffered ceiling. Originally the room was lined with bookcases, two of which remain. Another original bookcase has recently been discovered and will be refurbished and reinstalled. Note, again, the mantel in the alcove. The bricked window on the right side of the alcove soon will be reopened to allow more light to enter the room.

Upstairs (not open) are seven bedrooms, three bathrooms and several small rooms for servants. The basement (also not open) has been used only for storage for a number of years but there are plans to make it a useful space in the not to distant future. Upon leaving the Rectory through the library exit, please watch your step on the brick pathway. Work on this garden will begin in the near future.
Church of St. Monica and St. James

Enter the church by the south door directly across from the Rectory. The church was constructed in 1880, beginning with the nave and following a few years later by the sanctuary and the great hall. St. James was built on three lots donated to the parish by George Dawson, an Englishman, whose brother was the vicar of St. Mary Church in St. Mary Cray in the Bromley part of southeast London. This Gothic church was the inspiration for St. James.

Parts of the church, including the original organ, were heavily damaged by a fire on the night of August 31, 1931. Father Atkinson entered the burning building three times to carry out valuables, including a painting of the Madonna. The fire destroyed the roof, the wood ceiling vault and most of the trusses, but replacements were milled to match the original. The upper portion of the nave in construction resembles and upside down ship (“nave” from the Latin navis for “ship.”)

Above the altar is an antique crucifix originally attached to the east façade of the church. Originally created in Oberammergau in Bavaria, it was returned there for restoration and then mounted in the nave. Note the trap door in the center aisle near the altar. Stairs, now missing, led to the basement. Its original purpose is unknown. Upon leaving the church please visit the gardens but watch your step on the uneven brick paths. —Paul Cromwell
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>216 7th Street NE</td>
<td>Jeff Wilson</td>
<td>$1,604,000</td>
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<td>1325 Constitution Avenue NE</td>
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<td>649 Lexington Place NE</td>
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<td>623 4th Street NE</td>
<td>Daryl Judy</td>
<td>$997,000</td>
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<td>509 7th Street NE</td>
<td>Will Prendergast</td>
<td>$985,000*</td>
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<tr>
<td>1408 Q Street NW #31</td>
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<td>1605 S Street NW #3</td>
<td>Marilyn Charity</td>
<td>$965,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 10th Street SE</td>
<td>Jeff Wilson</td>
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<td>331 7th Street NE</td>
<td>Nate Guggenheim</td>
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<tr>
<td>431 15th Street SE</td>
<td>Lee Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td>630 Pickford Place NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>440 12th Street NE #308</td>
<td>Mark McFadden</td>
<td>$490,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1020 Pennsylvania Avenue SE</td>
<td>Lee Murphy</td>
<td>$375,000*</td>
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*Represented the buyer

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- Hill’s Kitchen
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- Hill Center
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The architect of 414 D Street, NE, Robert Gurney, lived here less than two years and created a modern interior with great integrity. The phrases “austere industrial” or “international minimalism” may describe this home as you enter, passing a glass block wall that hides the garage on the other side. (A mother-in-law suite -not on the tour- is also on this level of the home.) Smooth industrial railings flow up the stairs to the main floor where the stories begin.

Mr. Dick Custin is the current home owner who has brought the “international” part of the story to 414. In the employment of the State Department, Mr. Custin has traveled to South Africa, Poland, Brazil, Turkey, Afghanistan and France and his purchases are the jewels that give this home its beauty.

Beautiful dining room windows across the front of the house provide natural light to show off the curved walls, high ceiling, tribal rugs, masks, carpets and more. While in Afghanistan for 12 months, Dick purchased 30 Afghan rugs. These carpets range in ages from 20 years to 500 years old! The dining room rug receives the beautiful red color from pomegranate seed dye. The Afghan textiles on the railings of the dining room are used for pillows, or to put your possessions in while traveling. African masks from Ivory Coast were collected from South Africa. Each mask has symbolic meaning—the first mask representing wisdom.

Behind the dining room, to the left of the curved wall, is the powder room, and past that is the galley kitchen with birds eye maple cabinets, a new white and red tile backsplash and a toaster oven built into the wall. Two glass pocket doors enclose the kitchen, insulating the noise from guests while cooking. Both doors sport transoms to keep the kitchen light.

Beyond the kitchen is the living room with beautiful floor-to-ceiling opaque glass bookcases. Notice the uniqueness of the light fixtures and fans that drop down from the ceiling. Versatile and unique lighting is found throughout the entire house. (The house has over 17 different styles of light bulbs!) The two Turkish rugs (the only ones not from Afghanistan) are 40 and 70 years of age. The living room, again flooded with light despite being on the north side of the house, has doors on either side of the fireplace, which open onto the deck for entertaining and furnish a tree-framed view of an old school house during the summer.

Above the fireplace take note of the grass-woven hanging collected from the Congo. This woven hanging had 3 uses: decoration, currency or funeral attire for caskets! The basket by the fireplace was used in Vietnam for women to transport items. An etching of a 1600’s Swedish war ship, the Vasa, is drawn on pulp paper made from the rope that was attached to the anchor of the boat. The Vasa sank in mud in Stockholm’s harbor with its first launch, and was brought up from the mud in 1961 where it was dried out and is on display. Mr. Custin saw the Vasa as a child, and again as an adult.

Walking upstairs, please admire the alpaca wall hanging on the stairway wall. From Peru, beetle shells provided the dye for the red color. The master bedroom, to your left, incorporates beautiful casement windows and has a 500 year old Afghan rug on the floor. The red in the carpet is made from the root of cherry trees. This master bedroom provides a walk-in closet, bath with a Jacuzzi and steam sauna, and a gas fireplace.

Down the hall from the master bedroom, the en-suite guest bedroom displays a lovely view, embellished by the old school house (now condos) and greenery. The bathroom gives a feel larger than its square footage thanks to an LED light behind the mirror and glass on the shower. Look above the bed to see a Venezuelan backpack that was carried by women of the Amazon. Just for fun, blow dart guns are included inside within view!

As you leave 414, there is one more story: the root of Dick’s minimalism style that is heavy with treasures. Dick explained that he literally lived in a furnished shipping container while with the State Department in Afghanistan in 2009. It’s there that he learned the lesson of distinguishing what one has from what one loves.

—Susan Young
Wolf Lecture Series

THE DICK WOLF MEMORIAL LECTURE is an exciting new annual event showcasing excellence in research and writing on urban planning and historic preservation in the District of Columbia by a student or intern. The winner must deliver the presentation at a public event, at which he or she receives a $1,000 prize.

Dick Wolf (1933-2012) was one of the District’s most ardent and effective visionaries. He worked tirelessly and effectively on community planning, historic preservation, and sound neighborhood development. He served on the CHRS Board and the Committee of 100 of the Federal City. His vision for Washington was of a great, world-class city that houses both the nation’s great institutions as well as families with young children; balancing growth with preservation of the character of its irreplaceable historic residential neighborhoods. His mission to integrate sound, sustained city planning principles, practices, and administrative processes into all the city’s business inspires the Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture Series.

Contributions in support of the continuing Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture Series are deeply appreciated.
Sixty years ago, several concerned citizens of Capitol Hill gathered together to form an organization to advocate in defense of our remarkable Capitol Hill—its heritage, residents, architecture, and its central place in our nation’s history. For sixty years, CHRS has worked to protect our neighborhoods from shortsighted government planners, reckless developers, and encroachment by the federal government. The Society counts among its successes:

- Preventing the 395 freeway from bisecting the Hill;
- Preventing K Street type redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue through Capitol Hill;
- Preventing Congress from razing St Mark’s Church to build another Library of Congress;
- Creation of the first historic district;
- Drafted what became the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978.

The Society’s success in protecting the value of our homes rests upon countless hours of researching, attending hearings, writing reports, and testifying before review board and the city council. The Society also works to ensure that zoning and construction permit reviews adhere to regulations designed to protect our homes from the encroachment of well-meaning but poorly designed next door projects.

On January 28, 2015, exactly 60 years after the first CHRS meeting, 115 members and invited guests gathered in the parish hall at St Mark’s Episcopal Church to celebrate and reflect on CHRS’s achievements, from past struggles to those still continuing. It was an evening of laughter, of visiting with neighbors and friends and sharing stories of activism. It was an opportunity to remind ourselves of why CHRS came together in the first place.
Harry Wardman (1872—1938) was a major real estate developer in Washington, concentrating originally on building row houses in such northwest neighborhoods as Columbia Heights, Bloomingdale and Eckington. His footprint is also clearly found on Capitol Hill. As Wardman’s successes grew so did his ambitions. He built many high-end apartment buildings and hotels, including in 1918 the Wardman Park Hotel (now the Sheraton Park), in 1926 the Carlton Hotel (now the St. Regis) and in 1928 the Hay-Adams.

The home at 415 6th Street, NE, thought of as a typical Wardman row house, was built in 1911 as part of a row of eight. It was sold to Andrew Murray, a Scotsman by birth and a contractor, for $6,000. The small den behind the dining room and the sun room above it were added a year or two later. Nadine and Tom Hamilton bought the house in 1985. It is pretty much as they found it, except for a totally new kitchen and a remodeled basement.

The Hamiltons acquired a rather unique collection of primarily modern art over a period of forty years. Most of the works are prints and drawings—works on paper. There is a natural economic reason for that—works on paper are relatively affordable and Nadine and Tom started out poor (as is so often the case). They began in Chicago, so a number of Chicago artists are represented. Washington area artists are also represented, as are artists from around the country. Nadine and Tom discovered that a passion they shared along with art was travel, two passions that could be easily combined. Hence there is work from New Orleans, the U.S. Southwest, Northwest, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Maine, New York, London, Scotland, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, and Australia.

Some highlights: “Tilting,” the large, black and yellow woodcut/lithograph hanging in the front hall is by Susan Rothenberg (known for minimalist abstraction), as is “Dead Rooster #4,” the black and white woodcut on the opposite wall. To the right of “Tilting” is a self-portrait by Ivan Albright. Albright is probably best known for his “Portrait of Dorian Gray.”

Toward the top of the stairs on your right is a color lithograph by Hollis Sigler titled “I find Hope on the Horizon.” Behind you hanging over the staircase is another Sigler, a monoprint titled “Dancing on the Edge.” Her style was described as faux-naïve. Both of these works document her battle with breast cancer. Tom did the portrait of Nadine at the top of the stairs.

Levine did the color lithograph, primarily in earth tones, that hangs in the library. Levine was an artist with a bent toward social commentary. This work, a spoof on the way Americans kowtowed to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, is called “Reception in Miami.”

The colorful silkscreen hanging over the bed in the bedroom, “House: Dots, Hatches” was done by Jennifer Bartlett for the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian commissions a print each year and sells out the edition to raise funds.

Back downstairs, and dominating the west wall of the living room, is Robert Colescott’s amusing acrylic painting, “Lock and Key.” His satirical genre “often conveyed his exuberant, comical or bitter reflections on being African-American.” (Wikipedia)

In the dining room is an etching by William Wiley called “Canetti in Marrakesh.” Wiley also did, in quite a different style, “E’scape Goat” hanging in the den next to the dining room. “Polar Bear,” hanging next to the goat, is a woodcut by Richard Bosman. Take a peek in the powder room to see three posters advertising exhibits by Henri Matisse. Nadine picked them up when she was a student in Paris. There is another Matisse poster in the kitchen.

There are more works in the basement, including woodblock prints by Maine artist Carol Thayer Berry and several works by Mexican and Mexican-American artists.

Please exit the basement (or kitchen) to the side yard.

—Tom Hamilton
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Owners: Akemi Kawano-Levine and David Levine

Square 861 * House Captain: Chuck Burger/Coldwell Banker

The first known mention of the house at 600 E Street Northeast dates to January 17, 1891 in a Washington Post article about the “boom in Northeast property”, entitled “Pretty Little Homes—Many Cozy Dwelling Houses for People of Modest Means” which notes that the builder Charles Gladden was to erect “a store and dwelling combined” for Thomas Reidy for $2500. Reidy, who emigrated from Ireland at the age of 25, ran the store as a grocery and lived there with his wife Annie and four children until his death in 1901.

In 1928, the grocery opened as one of the District Grocery Society (DGS) stores operated by Isaac Casel, a Polish immigrant active in the life of Washington’s Jewish community, who lived there with his wife, Freida, of Russian descent, and their two sons. The end of the corner store at this property dates to the renovation done by former owners in 1978, which was likely when the entrance was moved from the E Street side to the current double door entrance on 6th Street. Newer brickwork surrounding the first floor corner window, on the side of the house facing E Street, hints at where that entrance may have been.

Current owners Akemi Kawano-Levine and David Levine undertook the renovation that you see today starting in 2010. Without significantly changing the footprint from the 1978 renovation, they added skylights, solar panels, upgraded lighting, the kitchen, bathrooms, and woodwork throughout the house. The extensive renovation took two years, and included removing 4 roof tops layered one upon the other, and many layers of paint covering brick in need of repointing.

Enter the house through the wide double doorway to a recently redesigned sitting room that takes advantage of the generous light pouring in from the huge skylights two stories above. Turning to your right, you pass the kitchen and built-in family eating area to descend into the family room. This room was part of the 1978 renovation, and was likely originally the front room of the grocery store and on the same level as the rest of the current ground floor living quarters.

Returning back past the kitchen and sitting room, enter the room to the left of the stairway, currently home to Akemi’s grand piano and the family fleet of bicycles.

Climbing the staircase, with its custom-made iron railing from the 2010 renovation, turn left to enter the master bedroom. Behind the bed, on the brick wall hangs a star discovered during the recent renovation. The wall shows hints that there was once a chimney there. The owners postulate that this was likely part of a breezeway between this house and its neighbor.

The master bath floor, raised in the 2010 renovation to allow adequate height for the staircase, features ceramic tiles made to look like slate. The bedroom shares a balcony with the second bedroom. This bedroom, in turn adjoins to a bath shared by the third bedroom, currently used as a study. Note the handsome desk custom made by Art Woodstone Studio of Manassas, Virginia from a slab of wood chosen by Akemi and David. —Ellie and Tom Hamburger
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Patrick Crowley  
*Square 871 ★ House Captain: Dru Tallant/CHRS*

630 E. St., NE provides our tour with FUN, FOLLY & FACTS. As you walk up the stairs, please take note of the bright red two-faced park bench resting in the front yard. After many layers of lead paint were stripped away, a bas relief was revealed. However, the bench isn’t in its final resting place. Patrick Crowley, home owner, has decided this bench will be installed above his gravesite, “so others might rest in peace.”

When you enter Patrick’s home, understand that, when purchased, this home and the adjoining townhouse had been converted into a church! Patrick purchased it in 1999 and worked with a developer to re-establish this structure as a separate dwelling. Walls were installed, spaces were redesigned and a large, comfortable home was created. Along with this creation, Patrick had to find furniture to fit the scale of the high ceilings and large rooms. He accomplished this by purchasing the massive early 20th Century walnut armoire and late 19th Century American Renaissance bookcases flanking the fireplace.

The next step for the well thought out execution of returning this space to a home was to commission a paint finish expert (Michael Norris) to stylize the walls and ceilings throughout the entire home. Very different faux finish treatments can be enjoyed in every room, along with faux grained doors. (Yes, faux grained)

In 2014 a long-awaited project was begun: that of opening interior walls put in by the developer in both the upstairs and downstairs bays. What was revealed were the beautiful, original historic moldings you see today. Patrick installed the historically accurate arched windows (up and downstairs).

The pilaster columns framing the bay window sitting area were built under the direction of Merlino Construction, transitioning from the sheet rock walls of 1999 to the original plaster walls. Note the tromp L`oeil in the window frame—then check the bas relief on the hall armoire.

The center room holds numerous prized possessions of the owner, not the least being the oil portrait of Crowley’s mother, Catherine Crowley. This painting was done by local artist, Terri Maxfield Lipp, and you can see a self-portrait of Ms. Lipp on the stairway wall at the lower landing. Another treat in this room is the collection of some 30+ antique world globes. (The 1881 globe still shows the Africa before the continent became standardized European colonies.)

The kitchen at the back of the home provides drama with a backsplash, wall and ceiling of gold-painted, embossed Anaglypta. The kitchen leads to the backyard with a newly installed deck and decorative steel railing built by Craftsman Ironworks. Three Cryptomyria Japonica trees were installed to provide screening from homes across the alley. The upstairs of this charming home provides a whimsical globe to give a spin as you pass by.

The upstairs hallway also shows the owner’s love of art. His own drawings are on display on the wall. (Patrick serves on the board of the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop.) Please enjoy the oversized detail of Gustave Callebotte’s “Paris Street; Rainy Day” that was once hanging along Michigan Avenue outside the Art Institute of Chicago.

Down the hall, the master bedroom faux parchment paper wall treatment was done by Brian King, and the master bathroom skylight flaunts a “high flying” stained glass kite, along with an extra long claw-footed tub and wall spout. In the master bedroom, you again see the beautiful sitting area that was opened up in 2014 to allow the historically accurate arched windows to be installed and the home brought back to original authenticity and beauty.

Leave the main floor by the rear door and go down the steps to visit the enclosed garden and then the English basement apartment. This spacious two bedroom rental unit is full of light. Note the current tenant’s bedroom’s furniture, made by her great grandfather from trees he felled in his own front yard! Please exit via the front door of the rental unit returning to E Street. —Susan Young
Finley’s Boxing Gym opened in the early 1960’s by former Golden Gloves competitor Jimmy Finley, who boxed competitively from 1948 until 1962. When Finley first purchased it, he operated his auto repair business out of the lower level and used the upper level to store salvaged fenders and radiators. When he was ready to retire from the ring in ’62, he wasn’t quite ready to give up the world of boxing. So he moved the junk out of the top floor and transformed it into a bare-bones boxing gym. “The game’s in my blood,” he explained to the Washington Sunday Star in October of 1964. “I just want to be around it as much as possible.”

That same article described the space as “grubby and woefully inadequate,” with a dimly-lit pool table at one end of the long room, and “an 18-foot roped square with a bare lightbulb swinging overhead” at the other. The bare walls and ceiling were plastered with fight posters and newspaper clippings to inspire the many sweaty hopefuls who jabbed away at their dreams. In one corner were the mattress and stove that Finley used on the many nights that he slept in the gym. To enter, visitors made their way down an alley from 9th street, opening a battered door in the back of the building to climb the dark, rickety staircase to the second floor.

But bare-bones as the space may have been, Finley’s Gym was something of a local legend in the boxing world. By 1975, it had become DC’s last professional fight gym, and remained so until Finley finally closed its doors in 2001. It even attracted its fair share of star power in its four decades. Mike Tyson, George Foreman, and Larry Holmes all made appearances in the ring at Finley’s Gym. Musician Miles Davis was known to stop by Finley’s for a workout whenever he was in town to do a show. And the gym was even featured in two movies: Burt Lancaster’s 1973 thriller “Scorpio,” and Morgan Freeman’s 2001 political thriller “Along Came a Spider.”

Nowadays, a visit to the upper level of 518 10th St. NE is a completely different experience. —Alia Khan
Alia Kahn and Gary Barnhart

Square 936  •  House Captain: Alia Kahn/East Side Yoga

East Side Yoga, Capitol Hill’s newest yoga studio, is tucked away in the heart of the neighborhood in the bright, airy space above 10th Street Auto Repair at 518 10th Street, NE, a space that was once a carriage house but was constructed in 1896 as a warehouse. Formerly home to Finley’s Boxing Gym (a clandestine institution in the boxing world), the space has been completely transformed into a modern-day oasis by East Side Yoga owner Alia J. Khan and her partner Gary Barnhart of GL Barnhart Construction.

Finley’s Boxing Gym was opened in the early 1960’s by former Golden Gloves competitor Jimmy Finley, who boxed competitively from 1948 until 1962. When Finley first purchased it, he operated his auto repair business out of the lower level and used the upper level to store salvaged fenders and radiators. In 1962 he moved the junk out of the top floor and transformed it into a bare-bones boxing gym. Its back alley entryway would have scared off all but the would-be professional boxers. This was well before the modern era of gleaming equipment, high end de core, and fussy concern for customer satisfaction.

Nowadays, a visit to the upper level of 518 10th Street is a completely different experience. There’s still an auto shop downstairs, but just about everything else has changed. This is apparent just from walking by the exterior. Entering the space no longer requires a questionable journey through an alley and up a back staircase—instead, an iron staircase has been added to the front of the building. The chain link fence that surrounded the perimeter has been wrapped in zen-inspired bamboo reeds.

As striking as the street-view changes are, the real magic happens when you actually enter the property. If you’re visiting after dark, the experience begins from the moment you set foot on the stairs. Fairy lights create a glowing canopy that envelops you as you climb the steps and cross the catwalk to the front door. Rustic planter boxes hand-built from salvaged wood surround the wooden catwalk and are filled with fragrant, herbal plants like lavender and rosemary.

The interior space itself is a farmhouse-inspired haven of custom-built furniture, fixtures, and finishes that truly make you feel like you are no longer in DC. The “patchwork wall,” that greets you upon entering is composed of a mix of salvaged wood donated by Frager’s, old siding from Community Forklift, and scraps from GL Barnhart Construction’s job sites around the neighborhood. Every yoga studio offers a place to keep one’s shoes near the entrance—usually in the form of Ikea-esque cubbies. At East Side Yoga, the cubbies are made up of old apple crates from Eastern Market resting inside of a custom-welded steel frame. The 4-inch-thick wood that makes up the top of the reception bar and its matching corner tables is roughly 100 years old. The fight posters that once plastered the ceiling have been replaced by “firefly-inspired lights” that twinkle behind panels of burlap. The entire space evokes a feeling of spa-meets-country-home, providing clients an oasis from the everyday.

While the space may have been completely made over, one thing remains the same: the occupants’ commitment to building community around this special space. Finley made it clear that his gym was really for his community. “It just gave me great pleasure to see the kids come in,” he told the Washington Post in August 2001, when he was closing his doors for good. In breathing new life into this space, East Side Yoga owner Khan hopes to create a new kind of gathering place for the Capitol Hill community.

—Alia Kahn
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