



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

# NEWS

www.chrs.org

June 2020

## Celebrating Capitol Hill Homes and History

By Elizabeth Nelson

For the first time in 63 years, the House & Garden Tour has been postponed. This presents an unprecedented challenge for the House Tour Committee. To keep our spirits up, show our appreciation to our advertisers, and engage with the community until it's safe to go forward, we are offering the following activities:

### Whimsy of Capitol Hill Photo Scavenger Hunt

This went live on Mother's Day weekend, with 48 photos of yard ornaments from across the Hill. We've had considerable favorable response: nice notes from members and groups of "hunters" have been spotted peering into their phones for directions. It will remain on our website at [chrs.org/scavenger-hunt-2020](http://chrs.org/scavenger-hunt-2020). If you haven't taken the tour yet, please try it. We put a lot of heart into this and hope people enjoy the results.

### Historic Sites Scavenger Hunt

Next up is a project similar to the Whimsy Hunt, but featuring 40 historically significant sites including the John Philip Sousa house, Frederick Douglass's home and Gary Hart's house. We'll also include less well-known structures that played a role in the development of Capitol Hill. Look for more information in the

July issue of the *Hill Rag* as well as the *CHRS News*.

### "What I Love About My House"

The House Tour Committee is also working on another virtual experience—"home selfies." We are collecting short cell phone videos (two minutes or less) of people talking about some feature of their house that they think would be of particular interest or that they particularly like. These will be posted on our website.

Please consider creating one. There's no fixed format except for the limit on length. Two examples, "Elizabeth's Kitchen" and "Betsy's Secret Room," are already posted at [chrs.org/what-i-love-about-my-house](http://chrs.org/what-i-love-about-my-house). If you're stumped on the technology aspects—or are struggling to decide what to film—send a note to [HouseTourCHRS@gmail.com](mailto:HouseTourCHRS@gmail.com) and we will be happy to help you.

### Virtual House Tour

Last, but certainly not least, the House Tour Committee is developing a Virtual House Tour to augment (not replace) the traditional, physical House Tour—the "2020 #StayAtHome House Tour." Filming will be done with the same technology used for virtual real estate



The home of John Philip Sousa.

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# Historic Preservation Briefs

By Beth Purcell

The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB or the Board) considered the following cases at its virtual hearing on April 30, 2020. HPRB is responsible for determining if proposed changes to a building are consistent with the DC Preservation Act. A “concept review” is a preliminary determination of a building owner’s plan to alter the building, and if the concept is approved, the owner will return to the HPRB for a final review.

**Consent calendar.** The following cases, which CHRS supported, were approved on the consent calendar:

- **326 11th Street NE**, HPA 20-170, concept/two-story rear addition.
- **216 9th Street NE**, HPA 20-217, concept/two-story rear addition.
- **710 E Street SE**, HPA 20-134, permit/rear three-story addition. For prior coverage, please see *CHRS News* (December 2018–January 2019).
- **512 A Street SE**, HPA 20-219, concept/construct new two-story carriage house at rear alley.
- **630 C Street NE**, HPA 20-222, concept/two-story addition at rear; two-story carriage house. ★



IMAGE COURTESY BETH PURCELL

710 E Street SE.

## Thank You, CHRS Supporters!

CHRS wishes to thank the following donors for their invaluable support:

### CONTRIBUTORS

#### *Annual Appeal*

Barry W. Johnson &  
Edward Chapman  
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#### *General Donations*

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## Zoning Report

By Gary Peterson

Both the Zoning Commission (ZC) and the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) will start considering cases virtually in June. Below is a list of all ZC and BZA cases that have not been scheduled and have not been considered by the CHRS Zoning Committee.

In lieu of meetings, the Committee is considering conference calls as a way to consider cases. If you have any comments or questions regarding these cases please contact the Chair of the Committee, Gary Peterson, at [pgarylaw@aol.com](mailto:pgarylaw@aol.com) or (202) 352-0098.

If you wish to participate in the ZC/BZA virtual meetings please go to the Office of Zoning website, [www.dcoz.dc.gov](http://www.dcoz.dc.gov).

Interested in learning more about historic district designation?

Contact CHRS at [info@chrs.org](mailto:info@chrs.org).

- **BZA #20232**, 337 H Street NE (this is an ANC 6C appeal of a Zoning Administrator finding)
- **BZA #20238**, 203 Rear 3rd Street SE
- **BZA #20245**, 216 14th Place NE
- **BZA #20248**, 1006 10th Street NE
- **BZA #20250**, 216 9th Street NE
- **BZA #20280**, 622 I Street NE
- **BZA #20289**, 400 Seward Square SE
- **BZA #20300**, 1309 Potomac Avenue SE
- **BZA #20301**, 229 14th Street NE
- **ZC #20-06**, 1333 M Street SE (this is a PUD and map amendment request) ★

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: [caphrs420@gmail.com](mailto:caphrs420@gmail.com).

### ABOUT CHRS

Capitol Hill is a special place. We promote, preserve, and enhance the character of our historic neighborhoods.

Since its founding in 1955, CHRS has worked continuously to make Capitol Hill the desirable location it has now become. Due to CHRS's efforts, Capitol Hill won designation as a historic district in 1976. Today, that legacy of standing up for the community continues with our work in planning, zoning, historic preservation, and public safety.

CHRS is a volunteer organization, made up of Hill residents who love their historic neighborhoods and want to ensure that the unique character of the Hill is around for future generations. Come join us!

To learn more or join, please visit:  
[www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org)

# Online Resources for House History

By Beth Purcell

## Historyquest

First, try HPO's Historyquest. Go to [www.planning.dc.gov](http://www.planning.dc.gov) and type in "Historyquest" in the search box. Or go to: <https://dcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2ab24bc3b6da4314b9f2c74b69190333>.

Type your address into Historyquest, and find information on when your house was built, your house's first owner, and who built and designed it. (Complete information is not available for every house.)

## Newspapers on DC Public Library Website

You can check the names you found in newspapers on the DC Public Library website: [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org). Under "Research" check "databases" and see the Washington Post (1877–present) and Washington Evening Star (1852–1981). Enter your DC Library card number to get started. Or go to: <https://www.dclibrary.org/godigital/all?tsource=researchdatabaselink>

You can search the newspapers for names or addresses and find articles, notices, advertisements, etc.

On the library website under research and databases, you can also check "Nineteenth Century Newspapers." Enter your DC Library card number, then go to "publication search" and enter *National Intelligencer*. Type your query in the box "search within publication." The National Intelligencer was published between 1800 and 1869 and is an important source for DC and national news. Or go to: [https://go.gale.com/ps/staticResource?userGroupName=dclib\\_main&inPS=true&prodId=NCNP&type=About](https://go.gale.com/ps/staticResource?userGroupName=dclib_main&inPS=true&prodId=NCNP&type=About) ★

## New Suffragist Walking Tour

Mary Jane Schmidt has created a new website, The Women Who Shaped DC, which includes a 1.4-mile walking tour of historical sites on the Hill: [thewomenwhoshapeddc.com/capitol-hill-tour](http://thewomenwhoshapeddc.com/capitol-hill-tour).

The website was her senior year project at BASIS DC public charter high school, and included an internship at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality Monument. She will attend Bryn Mawr College in the fall. Schmidt is the daughter of the CHRS newsletter editor, Angie Schmidt. Mary Jane has lived on the Hill since she was 6 months old—a new generation with a deep appreciation for our neighborhood!

## Capitol Hill Homes, continued from cover

open houses and links to the videos will be posted on the CHRS website. #StayAtHome House Tour will be free to the viewing public. No date has been set for the release but we anticipate that it will be late summer or early fall.

Thank you to the House Tour Committee: Heather Schoell, Betsy Rutkowski, Jackie Krieger, Etta Fielek, Maygene Daniels, Joanna Kendig, Beth Purcell, Tiffany Barnard-Davidson and Nancy Metzger; and the Communications Committee: Nina Tristan, Jennifer Cate and Carey Paquette. ★



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Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
420 10th Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003

## Mark Your Calendar!

*Please check website for current information—cancellations and postponements are expected and will be posted as they are known.*

### JUNE

**1** Monday 6:30 pm  
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee.  
Details: Beth Purcell, (202) 544-0178.  
Check [chrs.org](http://chrs.org) for updates.

**16** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill  
Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, 2nd Floor  
boardroom. Check [chrs.org](http://chrs.org) for updates.

**18** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
CHRS Zoning Committee. Kirby House,  
420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details:  
Gary Peterson, [pgaryl@comcast.net](mailto:pgaryl@comcast.net).  
Check [chrs.org](http://chrs.org) for updates.

**27** Saturday  
Historic Sites Tour, a sequel to the  
Whimsy of Capitol Hill Photo Scavenger  
Hunt will debut on our website. Visit:  
[chrs.org/historic-sites-tour](http://chrs.org/historic-sites-tour).

### JULY

**6** Monday 6:30 pm  
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee  
Details: Beth Purcell, (202) 544-0178.  
Check [chrs.org](http://chrs.org) for updates.

**21** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill  
Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, 2nd Floor  
boardroom. Check [chrs.org](http://chrs.org) for updates.

**23** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
CHRS Zoning Committee. Kirby House,  
420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details:  
Gary Peterson, [pgaryl@comcast.net](mailto:pgaryl@comcast.net).  
Check [chrs.org](http://chrs.org) for updates.

**63rd Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour**  
September 12–13, 2020

More information at (202) 543-0425 or [chrs.org](http://chrs.org)



IMAGE COURTESY ELIZABETH NELSON

**A stop on the Whimsy of Capitol Hill  
Photo Scavenger Hunt.**

**NEW  
DATE!**