



NEWS

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December 2007

Building Survey Begins ‘Beyond the Boundaries’

by Donna Hanousek, Chair,
Beyond the Boundaries

Beyond the Boundaries—whose mission it is to assist neighborhoods outside the Capitol Hill Historic District with their historic preservation efforts

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society, in partnership with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 6A and 6B, is starting to survey the historic resources in neighborhoods both north and east of the Capitol Hill Historic District. On Saturday, November 17th, EHT Tracerics, a firm that will provide architectural historian consulting services to the survey effort, conducted a training session for survey volunteers. The volunteers, many of whom live in the survey areas, will be performing on-site survey work and photography. Now what exactly is an historic survey, and what can it be used for? The following is a brief explanation.

Survey. Historic surveys are major research projects that document the buildings and development pattern of an area. A survey encompasses research at both the neighborhood and individual building levels. Survey at the building level includes two primary components: archival research (featured in the April 2007 CHRS *News* article on House History) and on-site survey.

On-site Survey. On-site survey creates a current record of the building stock. The surveyor records basic building information for each building within the survey area. The volunteers will be using a survey form tailored to Washington, DC, by Tracerics. The one-page form begins with the most basic information, such as address, lot and square, number of stories, number of bays, and style. It captures a wealth of

the complete building record into a database. The database will be made widely available to the community. It can be used to inform renovation projects, provide material for call box projects, or for brochures on neighborhood builders, architects, or architecture. It will also provide a foundation for the next level of survey, which will be a detailed context statement on the overall neighborhood development.

The complete research results can be analyzed and woven together to chronicle the neighborhood’s development in the context of the overall development pattern of Washington, DC.

information: building form, construction, and material; foundation type; roof form and material; window type, material, and number of lights (glass panes); chimney type and material; and information on dormers, porches, outbuildings, and additions, where applicable.

Survey volunteers will also take digital shots of each building head-on. These photos will provide a building inventory and serve to confirm survey form information.

Survey Results. Tracerics’ staff will review the survey forms and photographs submitted by the volunteers. They will resolve any questions or inconsistencies, add archival information (such as the names of the builders and architects), and enter

The context statement shifts the research focus from the individual buildings to the larger neighborhood, and will augment the building database with information on people, events, and institutions from the past. The complete research results can be analyzed and woven together to chronicle the neighborhood’s development in the context of the overall development pattern of Washington, DC. This comprehensive documentation can serve as a neighborhood archive, as well as provide the basis for either individual landmark or historic district applications, should a building owner or the neighborhood, respectively, wish to pursue any such designation. ✧

President's Column

by Dick Wolf

In this holiday season let us give thanks for the Hill and all the people and organizations that continue to make it one of America's great neighborhoods. Now, thanks to the American Planning Association's recent "Great Neighborhood" award, the Hill is being recognized across the city and nation as such.

During the past year the Capitol Hill community has continued to earn its reputation as not only a great place to live, but as a place where its residents continue to build its institutions. The Schools Library Project has finally come to fruition, with six Capitol Hill elementary schools having new libraries with

books and librarians. This was accomplished under the sponsorship of the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, to which CHRS made substantial contributions out of the proceeds of our House Tour.

The Townhomes Community Building was dedicated in September, completing the building of this mixed income community, a process which started in the late 1980s. It has won all the national awards such a development can win. It is a triumph of architectural talent thanks to architect Amy Weinstein, who has done so much to create new award-winning Hill structures. Most importantly, the success of this development can be found in the fact that it has become a model of how a mixed-income

community can fit in and be a part of the Hill.

When the Eastern Market burned in late April, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, which is funded through community contributions, provided up to \$400,000 to cover merchant expenses that could not be provided by the city. The Foundation was the catalyst for the rapid and successful installation of the temporary structure at Hine that now houses the merchant businesses formerly located in the burned South Hall. CHRS kicked off the fund-raising drive with a contribution of \$10,000, and long-time board member and former president Gary Peterson acted as "Mr. Eastern Market" in dispensing the Foundation's monies. Congratulations to Gary, the Foundation, and the Mayor for stepping in to turn tragedy into another Capitol Hill triumph.

I could go on with the initiatives and challenges that we face in the year ahead in continuing to make the Hill a "model urban community", the mission of CHRS as stated in our by-laws. Suffice it to say, the Hill was not built in a day or even a few years; it's been decades in the making, and we will continue to devote all of our energies to attaining that goal.

A good holiday season to all from the board of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. ✧

Another Good Neighbor Leaves Us

Angela Simmons of 9th Street, SE, died recently. A quiet person, she was devoted to her family, friends, and neighbors. She was the former wife of Tom Simmons, who was President of CHRS some years ago. Tom was a prominent architect in the District, and it was his modern house on Ninth Street that Angela lived in for many years. She was a devoted member of CHRS and helped in many ways on tours and teas before her disabilities interfered. Her son Marco survives her, along with three brothers and other relatives. Marco and our children grew up together on the Hill—Hill kids. She is fondly remembered by those of us who were her friends and neighbors.

—Dick Wolf

October 30 CHRS Members Meeting Covered Full Range of Public Safety Issues

by Rob Nevitt

The meeting at St. Peters featured Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Assistant Chief Diane Groomes, new First District (1D) Commander David Kamperin (who replaces Chief Groomes), and Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells.

Issues raised ranged from parking (patrol officers are briefed on the regulations on overnight parking, but there is still imperfect understanding of them) to drug dealing (drug "wars" are not as much of an issue as in the past, but there is a lot of anger out there that leads to everything from disputes

to homicidal situations).

Chief Groomes is responsible for the new foot patrols that Chief Lanier has deployed. The corps of "Full Striders" (Chief Groomes' phrase for foot patrols) are not yet at the levels desired. Officers coming out of recruit training are

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To contact any of the above, please contact the Society offices by calling 202-543-0425 or sending email to CapHRS@aol.com.

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 entire District of Columbia. From the beginning, the Society has played a key role in maintaining the diverse, residential character of our neighborhood. With your participation we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Start or Renew a CHRS Membership

* On the Web at www.CHRS.org

* Call 202-543-0425 and choose option 2

* Pick up a form at one of our meetings

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

Members Meeting *continued from page 2*

going directly into these patrols. Preliminary community reaction to the system has been very positive, and there are indications that crime rates are decreasing where the patrols are deployed.

The patrols are only part of the many new efforts to increase police effectiveness. These efforts include: flattened hierarchies at the command level, new youth programs, more flexibility in shifting resources, identifying "violent zones", and a reverse 911 system, all enacted with a goal of increasing communications between police and citizens. In addition, attempts are being made to reduce the rates of witness intimidation and to pursue further technological advancements.

Commander Kamperin pointed out that 1D is the only police district with an overall crime reduction this year, though street robbery is still "a challenge". Other challenges lie with the 911 system, and how the neighborhood will handle the traffic that will come with use of the new baseball stadium next season. The MPD website is a good source of basic information, and there is a listserv to which one can subscribe. At the more particular level, officers are required to door knock in the area of break-ins and other neighborhood disruptions, but that sometimes breaks down. Commander Kamperin urged citizens to get to

know the names and contact information of their PSA Lieutenants. A list of lieutenants and their areas of enforcement will be available shortly from the MPD.

Councilmember Wells and the police presented a unified front on many issues of concern, including youth crime. While the MPD works at street level, Wells is promoting the development of vocational curricula for students who aren't interested in following an academic trajectory into college. Wells stated that the 1D headquarters will remain in Southwest Washington, but did not provide a specific location. Chief Groomes added that the creation of an MPD crime lab was going to represent a great advance in MPD crime-solving capabilities. Currently, the MPD has to get in a queue to use the FBI crime lab, which means long delays and high expense.

As a long-time observer of public safety in DC, and particularly on Capitol Hill, there is a familiarity about the issues raised. There is also a continuation of the admiration for the dedicated officers and Commanders trying to deal with the issues. What seems different now is that citizens have more of a sense that the police are there for them, both on the street and on the phone, and that police work is being directed in a proactive and comprehensive way. ✧

Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

NEW MEMBERS

Rachel Conconi &
Andrew Weinschenk
Kristen Dennis
Calnen Earley
Mary Repko
Heather & Eric Schoell
John Thompson
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November Preservation Café Drew a Crowd

by Shauna Holmes

The audience at CHRS's November 14 Preservation Café filled the Community Room at Ebenezer's Coffee House as dozens of Capitol Hill residents gathered for "What You Need to Know About Your Historic Wood Floors." Our guest speaker, Mr. Sprigg Lynn, is president of Universal Floors, Inc., a family-owned business in DC's Tenleytown that has been installing, repairing, and refinishing wood floors in the DC area over 50 years. Its customers have included the White House, the Library of Congress, the Octagon House, the State Department, and over 20 embassies, as well as many private homes.

A master craftsman whose involvement in the flooring business began in childhood, Mr. Lynn drew on his extensive experience to describe the kind of heart pine flooring found in most historic Capitol Hill homes and explain how to repair, refinish, and care

for it. Heart pine, which was extensively used on the floors of area homes built during the 19th century through the 1920s, is almost as hard as oak and doesn't turn red until it's 250 years old. Vertical cut, pinstriped heart pine is the best there is, he said, like gold, and is now very expensive, so those of us who have them are very fortunate. Another advantage is that bugs don't like to eat this kind of wood because they don't like its resin. He recommended the Goodwin Heart Pine Company's web site—www.heartpine.com—as a good source of information about the history, use, and care of heart pine floors (the How To and FAQs sections of its site map are very helpful in finding the specifics you're looking for).

Mr. Lynn provided numerous tips for refinishing and caring for heart pine floors. For squeaks, he recommended graphite or baby powder. Prior to sanding, make sure nails are set low enough that the sander doesn't hit them, and choose a contractor who won't use

overly aggressive sandpaper and will work with a light touch so as not to wear unnecessarily through the boards. Repairs can be major jobs, and when they are necessary, ask the contractor a lot of questions; the best repairs should barely show. Universal Floors, which stocks a warehouse with reclaimed antique wood, can be a good source of replacement heart pine for repair work (www.universalfloors.com).

Lots of older floors have been finished with wax, which will sink into the wood and last longer than anything else. Mr. Lynn's father likes paste wax the best; you can add color to it, and it won't be too slippery (Duraseal and Durafinish are brands he suggested). A simple way to tell if your floor is waxed is that a drop of water on it will turn white. Universal Floors also uses a lot of tung oil, which has been around for centuries. Some are low VOC (which is mandated in DC), and hardening agents and tints can be added to it. If you try to recoat your floor, be very careful and seek expert advice, because there can be bonding issues going from one finish to another, and peeling can result. To clean your floor, he recommends sweeping, vacuuming, and damp mopping.

Attendees left the Preservation Café with a wealth of information and tips, along with handouts and Mr. Lynn's business cards. If you wish to contact Mr. Lynn, he can be reached through Universal Floor's website at www.universalfloors.com, by e-mailing him at sprigg@universalfloors.com, or by calling 202-537-8900.

After a two-month hiatus for the holidays, Preservation Cafés will resume in February. Look for information about the date, time, location, and topic in CHRS's *News*, the website, and local Capitol Hill newspapers. ✧

Historical Permit Database Available

If you want to know who built your house, the early owners, when it was built, the architect, and the construction cost, check the database on the home page of www.chrs.org. There is a link to the database on the left side of the screen.

This project has been funded in part by a U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund grant administered by the DC Historic Preservation Office.

Currently only those blocks (squares 1000 through 1125) east of 12th Street are available. We hope to display all squares on the Hill as they become available. The database is for permits for 1877–1945. ✧



The approximate area included in the current historical permit database is shown on the 1846 map above. (Library of Congress collection)

Historic Preservation Briefs

by Nancy Metzger

Targeted Historic Homeowners' Grants:

Needs-based grants to owners of historic homes will soon be available in Capitol Hill. The Historic Preservation Office expects to announce by mid-December the first recipients of historic homeowner grants in the Anacostia Historic District, which was the pilot phase of the project. At the same time, the grant program will be opened to low- and moderate-income homeowners in Capitol Hill and the eleven other historic districts included in the legislation. The applications (parts I & II) will be available on-line or through the Historic Preservation Office. A timetable of deadlines and a fact sheet on the program will also be available from the website, planning.dc.gov (select 'historic preservation,' then 'financial incentives and resources'). Grants will be available for repair and preservation of exterior features, such as exterior walls and siding, windows, roofs, cornices, porches, steps, fences, masonry, or for such structural repairs like rebuilding a sagging floor or repairing a failed

foundation. For more information, see the Historic Preservation Office website, call the Historic Preservation Office at 442-8818, or email Brendan.Meyer@dc.gov.

New Projects: At the November Historic Preservation Review Board hearing, two important proposals were considered—the new Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints building at 522 Seventh Street, SE, and a new residential/commercial building at 1006–1010 Seventh Street, SE.

While approving the revised site plan and massing concept for the church (all parking is now underground), the Board suggested that more design attention be given to the center portion with the steeple, while treating the north and south wings to look like additions of slightly different times. This would visually break up a very long stretch of the building even more than the submitted plan and could make a smoother transition to the historic buildings at either end of the proposed church.

While the Board felt that the Seventh Street building plans across from the new Marine

Barracks and Practice Hall (1006–1010 Seventh Street) had improved since the September submission, it was felt that the first-floor base was still too short to visually support the upper floors. The mechanical penthouse, although modified from the previous plans, was also felt to be still too conspicuous.

In both cases, the importance of having two or three architects on the HPRB to discuss these design issues with the applicants' architects was very apparent. The comments made by Anne Lewis, now the sole architect on the HPRB, were very clear and concise and should result in much better projects for the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Historic Preservation Review Board:

Tersh Boasberg was confirmed by the Council and has been sworn in for a third term as chairman of the Historic Preservation Review Board. Nominations have not yet been announced for the remaining six members of the Board, which include the professional positions of architect(s), architectural historian, historian, and archaeologist.

Historic District signs: The CHRS office has received some calls about missing Historic District signs. There should be one sign per intersection within the Capitol Hill Historic District. If an intersection is missing a sign, please contact the office (543-0425; CapHRS@aol.com) with the location.

Updated Index of Historic Sites:

With the addition of the Foxhall Village Historic District, the Index of Historic Sites and Historic Districts by Street Addresses has been updated on the Historic Preservation Office/Office of Planning website at <http://planning.dc.gov>. Select Historic Preservation, then DC Historic Sites Index to access these two updated PDF files. ✧

CHRS Partners with the Trust for Architectural Easements for Southeast Capitol Hill Survey

CHRS will be working with the Trust for Architectural Easements over the next two years to survey the part of greater Capitol Hill just southeast of the historic district. The two-year effort will begin with the area bounded by D Street to the north, L Street to the south, 13th Street to the west, and 19th Street to the east. The Trust, whose mission is preserving historic neighborhoods, is generously underwriting the cost of the pro-

fessional contract work, as well as contributing staff to the volunteer portion of the survey work. The Trust, a non-profit headquartered in Washington, DC, holds historic preservation easements and supports neighborhood survey efforts throughout the east coast. We are pleased to be partnering with them in this important effort. Learn more about their good work at www.architecturaltrust.org. ✧

Review of Eleventh Street Bridges Final EIS

Following is a summary of findings by Smart Mobility, a transportation consulting firm from Vermont, that prepared this review of the Eleventh Street Bridges Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Capitol Hill Restoration Society.

Note that the full report can be found on the CHRS website (www.chrs.org).

Summary:

We have conducted a review of the Eleventh Street Bridges Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In summary, we have the following concerns about this project, and have concluded that it falls short of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements in several key respects. These are summarized below:

1) The Purpose and Need Statement does not suggest that additional capacity is needed, and the FEIS states numerous times that the project will not increase freeway capacity. However, all of the build alternatives not only include four additional lanes crossing the river, but also increase freeway capacity

by 50% at the system's primary bottleneck, the connection between the Eleventh Street Bridges and the Southeast Freeway. Adding freeway capacity is inconsistent with planning goals of the District of Columbia and the National Capital Planning Commission. Alternatives should be developed, evaluated, and refined that do not increase the freeway capacity in the project area.

2) The increased roadway capacity proposed results in much larger traffic volumes in the study area, including 44,000 additional Anacostia River crossings per day. The increases on the Eleventh Street Bridges (49,000 vehicles per day) are 9 times the reduction shown for the Pennsylvania Avenue Sousa Bridge. If the Eleventh Street Bridges were done without the Southeast Freeway boulevard conversion assumed in all 2030 traffic analyses in the FEIS, traffic volumes in the study area would be higher, especially on the Pennsylvania Avenue Sousa Bridge.

3) The impacts of the project are not fully disclosed or considered in the analysis. Peak hour freeway traffic will increase by up to 85% on

the Anacostia Freeway (also called Kenilworth Avenue or DC 295), and by over 12% on the Southeast Freeway heading into central DC during the afternoon peak hour. Freeway analysis was done only for the afternoon peak hour but should also be done for the morning peak hour which could be the worst case. The limits of the analysis should be extended to the downtown and along the Anacostia Freeway.

4) The increased traffic that will result from the project will result in increased air pollutant concentrations relative to the no-build alternative. However, the FEIS only compares the air pollutant concentrations to the standards, and not to the no-build conditions. Further, the effects of increased air pollution are not adequately considered for disadvantaged populations near the project, especially those living near Kenilworth Avenue. A large number of studies have documented health problems for those living near to heavily traveled roadways.

5) The alternatives are far too similar, and provide an inadequate range of options. All of the alternatives will significantly increase traffic on the Southeast and Anacostia freeways, which will restrict future options from consideration for downsizing or avoiding increased capacity on these facilities.

6) The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) transportation model relied on is inaccurate even for the base year. The hundreds of precise numbers presented in the FEIS for future traffic volumes, speeds and delays are misleading as they are highly uncertain. The model overestimates traffic volumes and underestimates transit use. The model deficiencies bias the results towards exaggerating any traffic benefits that may result from the preferred alternative. ✧

CHRS Zoning Chair, Gary Peterson, Picked to be Ward 6 Member of Zoning Review Taskforce

The Office of Planning and the Office of Zoning have initiated a two- to three-year public process to update and rewrite the DC Zoning Regulations, which have not been comprehensively rewritten since 1958. The new 2006 Comprehensive Plan has occasioned the rewrite. The rewritten Zoning Regulations will be guided by the land use policies in the Plan.

As part of the rewrite process, a Zoning Review Taskforce has been created. Members are persons appointed by a Councilmember, selected by a citywide group

with a vested interest in zoning regulations, or a government official concerned with zoning. Gary Peterson, Chair of the CHRS Zoning Committee, was selected by Councilmember Wells to be the Ward 6 representative. Two other CHRS members, Dave Powell and Bill Crews, are on the Taskforce representing other Wards. Travis Parker, the Office of Planning's Zoning Review Manager, is in charge of the process.

Anyone having comments on the zoning rewrite should contact Gary at garylaw@aol.com. ✧

Zoning Committee Report

by Gary Peterson

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society Zoning Committee, with seven members in attendance, had a meeting on November 8, 2007, to consider the following cases:

#17620, 1383-85 H Street, NE.

This case has previously been opposed by the committee. Subsequently the BZA continued the case for the failure of the applicant to address the H Street overlay. The applicant did not appear at the meeting, and the committee again voted to oppose. I attended the November 13 hearing prepared to argue the non-compliance with the overlay, but Drew Ronneberg of ANC 6A did so first, and the case was continued until January 8. This is an application that should be approved once everything is in order. Drew and I discussed with the applicant what is needed and agreed to assist him. He is handling this case pro se.

#17665, 654 Independence Ave., SE.

The committee opposed this previously because the applicant wanted to build a garage with a bedroom and bath above, thus having two residential buildings on one lot. The applicant subsequently has hired a lawyer and is now connecting the house and new building with a glass enclosed walkway that is on the west property line. With this little trick the separate structure now becomes an addition to the main building. All the applicant now needs is a special exception to go from 60 to 70% lot occupancy. We have supported this once before for a unique property, the shotgun house, and we voted to support this one as well. The main house has only 400 square feet on each of two floors and is extremely small. The proposal keeps the rear of this 1860s house intact. (We have also opposed this approach on

other properties that have nothing unusual about them.)

#17683, 109 15th Street, NE.

This is an application to replace an existing porch. The existing porch exceeded the 60% lot occupancy. The new porch covers 69% of the lot, and the applicant needs a special exception to go up to 70%. The committee voted to support the application. I attended the hearing on November 20 and testified in support. The BZA approved the application by summary order issued from the bench.

#17692, 914 11th Street, SE.

This property needs a special exception to allow a pizza delivery shop, a FAR variance, and a parking variance. It is an existing building in a C-2-A zone. The committee voted to support the application. The building covers 100% of the lot, and the applicant would have to demolish part of it to get to the proper FAR or to provide the parking. This area is in sad need of improvement, and the committee believed the use was better than a vacant building.

#17694, 516 A Street, NE.

This is a cooperative apartment building that has 20 units, including two finished units in the basement. There is a third, unfinished unit in the basement. No one knows why it wasn't improved. The coop wants to improve it and sell it. They need a variance to increase the number of units from 20 to 21. The committee didn't think they made the burden of proof for a variance and decided to take no position.

#17705, 906 G Street, SE.

The applicant wishes to add a third floor to an already non-conforming structure and needs a special exception for the existing 68% lot occupancy. The applicant presented letters of support from most of the neighbors affected by the addition.

The committee voted to support, subject to letters from the remaining neighbors. The applicant does not have HPRB approval as yet, and this support does not support their HPRB application.

#17711, 612 Third Street, SE.

The applicant currently has a C of O for a two bedroom B&B and wishes to increase to six rooms, the maximum allowed in a historic district. There is ample room on the property to provide parking, and the committee voted to support if the applicant provided at least three dedicated parking spaces.

The next Zoning Committee meeting will be on January 10, 2008. ✧

CHRS Salutes Life Members

In this holiday season, CHRS wishes to extend a special thanks to those who have demonstrated their commitment to the Capitol Hill community by joining the Society as Life Members. CHRS deeply appreciates the generous financial support of the following Life Members:

*Gordon Wood Anderson
William Joel Ashley
Rita Bamberger
Steven M. Champlin
Leona & Rick Halberstein
Marilyn & Charles McMillion
Virgil Miedema
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Monaco
Julie & Vince Morris
Trudy & Gary Peterson
Bernie Robinson
Muriel and Dick Wolf*

For more information on Life Membership, please contact the CHRS office. ✧

The Hill on Film

by Mike Canning

(Continuing our regular series about how Hollywood movies have treated elements of Capitol Hill. CHRS board member Canning writes movie reviews for the Hill Rag.)

In an earlier note in this series, we saw how the emblem of Capitol Hill—the Capitol Dome—has been well- and ill-used in several movies. Another major landmark of our neighborhood—Union Station—has also been featured as a location in a number of Hollywood productions, because of both its imposing interior and its grand façade.

One sequence filmmakers have used involves that façade as a background behind a phantom phone booth that appears to exist at its left front. In the movie *Suspect* (1987), a suspicious character calls from that non-existent phone booth to give a clue to bolster a case lawyer Cher is trying. Ten years later, roughly that same shot is reprised in *The Shadow Conspiracy* (1997), a silly Charlie Sheen thriller.

The station has also served films as—rightly enough—a destination, usually at the end of a chase sequence. In the thriller *Along Came a Spider* (2001), a nasty kidnapper sends DC detective Alex Cross (Morgan Freeman) on a wild goose chase all over Washington, which ends at Union Station. A year later, another thriller, *Hannibal* (2002), has a major sequence in front of Union Station, which ends with arch-villain Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) being knocked out by a dart from one set of bad guys and then hauled off in black van while Agent Clarice Starling (Julianne Moore) watches. Most recently, in *The Sentinel* (2006), Michael Douglas, as a Secret Service agent suspected of treason, chases an informant right into the station—only to find himself, in the very next shot, on the Metro esca-



tor at National Airport (with a view of the Capitol). Whoops!

Perhaps the most telling use of the station in films is in Alfred Hitchcock's great *Strangers on a Train* (1951), where trains featured in the film supposedly began and ended at the station. In fact, the film, under the credits, opens right at the station, with a cab arriving at a curb cut in the far southwest corner, precisely where, in that day, cabs used to perform drop-offs and pick-ups.

Union Station has been the location for inspiration in at least

People arriving at Union Station for the 1909 presidential inauguration.

one film, the essential DC movie, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939). One scene has the newly minted US Senator Jefferson Smith (Jimmy Stewart) arriving from his home state at the station (which is a set). While there, he notices a misty Capitol dome gleaming through the front doors of the station (a process shot wherein the dome was added as a backdrop behind studio doors). The hopelessly naïve senator is smitten and charges off on a whirlwind tour of the city. ✧

This Holiday Season, Give the Gift of Membership in CHRS

This year, give the holiday gift that keeps people informed, engaged, and involved in our Capitol Hill community. By purchasing a gift membership for your friends and neighbors, you will help them to learn more about our neighborhood and open the door for them to participate in CHRS programs, forums, and special events. In addition, CHRS members are eligible to purchase discounted tickets for the annual House and Garden Tour.

Upon receipt of your order, CHRS will notify the recipients of your gift with a holiday card welcoming them to CHRS. They also will receive a set of Historic Guidelines and updates on CHRS activities.

There are three easy ways to pay for your gift memberships:

1) complete the form on page 9 and mail it to CHRS along with your check;

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Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

In 1963, Bryan Cassidy, his wife, and infant daughter left Ireland for the United States and wound up on Capitol Hill (and that's another story). Because of that emigration, thousands of children have been introduced to the sport of soccer and made new friends, while their parents have spent hours on the sidelines, chatting with other parents, encouraging the team, and also learning the finer points of the game. In this interview with Ida Prosky for the Ruth Ann Overbeck Oral History Project, Bryan recounts how he was inspired during a return trip to Ireland to try to organize a soccer league, which has since become an institution on the Hill.

"...We actually were able to chauffeur our kids over to [play] some of [the] teams in Alexandria, already established by the Alexandria Soccer

Association. So the interest in that grew, and we began to gather more and more kids, and we played in whatever piece of spare ground we could play in. And we basically played for the Alexandria Soccer Team. They were very nice to us—they became the mother team that had fostered us and encouraged us. That was 1971 when the idea first came about. [The older Soccer on the Hill teams played in Alexandria while the youngest formed their own league.] By the time it got to 1983, we had enough kids in a particular age group, called the Brazilians. When we took them to Alexandria, we won the trophy from Alexandria in that age group. And that was when Alexandria said, 'Hey, start your own club.' We thought, hey, well, why not, you know? So from then on it just grew and grew and grew.

"So Soccer on the Hill got together kids from different schools, that went all over the city to various schools. But on weekends they came together. And,

like I said, they're still friends. They've made long relationships—long-lasting relationships. They met at weekends and had a great time. ...Not only was this a great social occasion for the kids, but it would also be a wonderful social occasion for the parents. [One parent] always brought a flask of hot tea. We had tea and cookies, English-style, at the games. And it was very civilized... What went on on the field wasn't necessarily civilized, but we had great times. It was a wonderful time for families to get together. And neighbors cooperated in driving their kids to the practices and driving them to the games and whatever. ... So when soccer got started—it was called Soccer on the Hill after Antiques on the Hill [a store formerly at the corner of Seventh Street and North Carolina, SE, opposite Eastern Market]. ... So that's how that got started. When people did find there were places for their kids to get involved in, they began to stay here." ✧

Give the Gift of Membership in CHRS *continued from page 8*

2) visit the CHRS website, www.chrs.org, and link to the Membership page (you will have the option to use PayPal);

3) call the CHRS office, 543-0425.

Membership Levels

\$25 Single Annual Membership
\$30 Household Annual Basic
\$60 Household Annual Patron
\$120 Household Annual Sponsor

Special Offer

For every four new memberships you purchase, we will give you one additional free membership. Five people can enjoy your thoughtful gift, and you will only be charged for four memberships.

Please call Jeff at the CHRS office (202)-543-0425 to take advantage of this special offer.

Please send CHRS gift memberships from (print your name here):

1) To: _____

Recipient's Address: _____

Membership Level (circle): \$25 Single \$30 Household Basic
\$60 Household Patron \$120 Household Sponsor

2) To: _____

Recipient's Address: _____

Membership Level (circle): \$25 Single \$30 Household Basic
\$60 Household Patron \$120 Household Sponsor

3) To: _____

Recipient's Address: _____

Membership Level (circle): \$25 Single \$30 Household Basic
\$60 Household Patron \$120 Household Sponsor

Mark Your Calendar!

DECEMBER

3 Monday, 6:30 pm

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

5 Wednesday, 10:00 am

Workshop on how to use the DC building permits database, conducted by Brian Kraft. MLK Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street, NW, Room 311. Registration required—call 727-1213.

5 Wednesday, 6-9 pm

1st Annual Livable/Walkable Community Awards, sponsored by Councilmember Tommy Wells and local merchants, will

provide food, drink, and entertainment and honor award recipients. Suggested contribution of \$10 will support the Ward 6 constituent services fund. East Hall of the Eastern Market. Details: 724-8072 or www.tommywells.org.

8 Saturday, 10 am–3 pm

Workshop highlights lessons learned and achievements of 2007 Community Heritage grant recipients. Sponsored by the DC Council on Humanities and the DC Historic Preservation Office. Thurgood Marshall Academy, 2427 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE. Details: Lisa Mae Crawford, 291-6336 or lcrawford@wdchumanities.org.

12 Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Workshop on how to use the DC building permits database, conducted by Brian Kraft. MLK Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW, Room 311. Registration required—call 727-1213.

18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

20 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board, 441 4th Street, NW (#1 Judiciary Square), Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

Anacostia River Bird Count: Saturday, December 15, 2007

Every year the National Audubon Society sponsors an annual bird count in December–January (known as the Christmas Count). This count provides valuable longitudinal data on numbers and types of wild birds in the US. The count is done in DC at the following nearby locations: National Arboretum, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Kingman Island, Fort DuPont Park and Congressional Cemetery.

Volunteers are very welcome, including children and people who have not counted birds before. There is a \$5.00 per person charge (to defray Audubon's costs). Capitol Hill Restoration Society will pay this for members who participate.

Activity: Help with Audubon's annual bird count—learn about birds and habitat. Please bring binoculars if you have them, and wear walking shoes appropriate to the weather.

Date/Time: Saturday, December 15, 2007, 7:00 am (rain or shine)

Where: Meet at the parking lot, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, 1550 Anacostia Avenue, NE.

RSVP: Louis DeMuoy, 301-656-3146; email: Ldemouy@starpower.net ✉

JANUARY

7 Monday, 6:30 pm

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

10 Thursday, 7:30 pm

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

15 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

17 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board, 441 4th Street NW (#1 Judiciary Square), Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

REMINDER: The next issue of the *News* will mail in late January. Happy holidays from the editors.



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003