

DC PRESERVATION ADVOCATE



Fall 2007

THE MISSION OF THE DC PRESERVATION LEAGUE IS TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE HISTORIC AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF WASHINGTON, DC, THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION.

Fifth Annual Mayors Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

Twelve awards to individuals and local organizations in recognition for their outstanding contributions to historic preservation were presented Tuesday, October 9th at the Fifth Annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

Held in the recently restored **Atlas Performing Arts Center** on H Street NE, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty opened the ceremony citing the great progress of not only the H Street corridor, but of neighborhoods citywide. The evening was co-hosted by the **DC Office of Planning, the DC Historic Preservation Office, the DC Preservation League and the Atlas Performing Arts Center.**

"These awards are about more than beautiful buildings and attention to detail," said **Mayor Adrian M. Fenty** in his opening remarks. "What we are honoring tonight is the vision these people have shown by recognizing the important role historic preservation plays in building great places and great neighborhoods."

Individuals honored this year are: **John G. Parsons**, associate regional director of the National Park Service – Individual Lifetime Achievement; **Joy Ford Austin**, executive director of the DC Community Heritage Project of the **Humanities Council of Washington, DC** – Excellence in Community Involvement; **Past President Farleigh Earhart** and Conference Coordinator **Joan Brierton** for the DCPL's DC

Modern Symposium – Excellence in Public Education; and **Elizabeth Rugaber, Esq. of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman** - Historic Preservation Review Board Chairman's Award for Law and Public Policy. For their archeology survey at the Walter C. Pierce Community Park, **Howard University** and the **Kalorama Citizens Association** received an award for Excellence in Archeology.

Several noteworthy design and construction projects also received awards this year. Awarded Excellence in Design – Restoration and Rehabilitation were: the **Atlas Perform-**

ing Arts Center, 1333 H Street NE, CORE architecture + design; Sprenger Lang Foundation, Atlas LLC, Atlas PAC, Tishman Construction, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman;



Above: Among the awardees was DCPL's DC Modern Symposium. From left, Loretta Neuman, Edwin Fountain, Erik Hein, Edward Dunson, Rebecca Miller, Jim Smailes, Farleigh Earhart and Joan Brierton. Left: Mayor Adrian Fenty delivers his keynote address.

the **Murch Elementary School** cupola restoration project, 4810 36th Street NW, **Clark Construction Group, Gordon Contractors, Inc., Murch Elementary School; the Republic of Turkey Ambassador's Residence, 1606 23rd Street NW, Archetype Architects, Summer Consultants,**

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President's Letter

On September 19, several DCPL trustees and I went to St. Elizabeths in Anacostia for a tour of the historic resources there, led by GSA staffer Thomas Otto. I came away with several impressions, the deepest of which was that this was a property that too few residents of the District of Columbia have ever been able to experience — and that too few ever will, given the current plans for the site.



Edwin L. Fountain

Having been fortunate enough to go to school at two of the handsomest university campuses in the country (the serene, pastoral University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and the elegant, geometric University of Virginia in Charlottesville), I can say that the campus of St. Elizabeths is a collection of grand buildings and broad green spaces that would do any Ivy League institution proud. Indeed, it is a pity that Mayor Anthony Williams' proposal to relocate the University of the District of Columbia to St. Es ran into the opposition that it did, for never was there a site so ready-made for "an academical village" (in Mr. Jefferson's phrase).

And neither of my alma maters enjoyed anything like the view from the Point at St. Elizabeths, which is a panoramic view looking north and northwest over the city and to the south towards Arlington and Alexandria that few of us had ever seen, and that is ill-used by any of the attempts to capture it photographically. The view of Fourth of July fireworks from the Point must be breathtaking — but I know of no one who has ever seen them from there. This is truly a vista that should — that must — be preserved for District residents.

For the past two years DCPL has been emphasizing the theme of "Preserving Public Spaces," an effort to highlight and preserve St. Es and other "campuses" in the district that are facing development pressure — McMillan Reservoir, the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Walter Reed Medical Center, and most recently the old Naval Observatory site at 23rd and Constitution. Two major issues face each of these sites: how they are to be adapted for reuse, and how the historic fabric is to be preserved and protected from encroachment.

The current plan for the St. Elizabeths campus is to locate as much of the Department of Homeland Security as can be fit there, contained within a foreboding double-fence security perimeter. There are many reasons why that is an inappropriate use of St. Es, not the least of which is that it would cloister off this public treasure while yielding little in the way of economic benefits to the surrounding community. But politically, that fight is an uphill battle. Instead, DCPL is focusing its attention, as part of a coalition with, among others, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National

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This program has received Federal financial assistance for the identification, protection, and/or rehabilitation of historic properties and cultural resources in the District of Columbia. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its Federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

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DC Preservation Advocate

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DCPL's mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the historic and built environment of Washington, DC, through advocacy and education.

Readers are encouraged to submit information and opinions.

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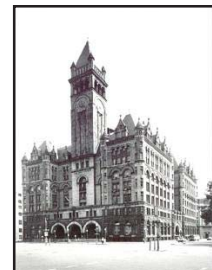
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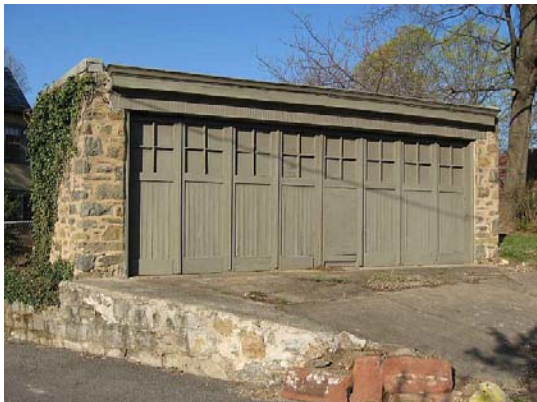
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Uncovering the Past in Shepherd Park

By Richard Hage

Reprinted, with permission, from the Oct/Nov. issue of the Shepherd Park News.

When Mary and Alexander Shepherd traveled from their in-town mansion at 17th and K Streets to their country home, they knew they were almost there when they passed the delightful porter's lodge, located where Walter Reed's main gatehouse now stands at Elder Street and Georgia Avenue. It was built of stone with a mansard-style second floor with arched windows. A graceful, cedar-lined half-mile drive took the Shepherds and their seven children up to the fourth highest point in DC. A loop of the driveway swung their carriage to the front of their country mansion, Bleak House. If one stayed on the drive, a second loop, also between cedar trees, would take them to the east side of the stone carriage house, a building that has survived since the building of Bleak House in 1873. Like the porter's lodge, it likely had a second story where perhaps the livery-man lived.



Photograph by Richard Hage

Bleak House, so named because the family was reading at that time the novel by Charles Dickens, was the summer and weekend getaway house from downtown Washington. The house sat on 300 acres bounded on the east by Georgia Avenue and running down to Rock Creek (there was no 16th Street in those days), and from today's Hemlock Street south through the grounds of Walter Reed. Looking north, the Shepherds could see open ground interspersed with other mansions, including that of Lincoln confidant Francis Preston Blair, located at the giant "acorn" on Newell Street and East-West Highway.

Until quite recently, one could trace the location of the old driveway from the porter's lodge to the carriage house by noting the parallel rows of cedar trees lifting their tops above today's houses. And in Bleak House's former backyard just north of the carriage house, the cherry trees grew to heights of 30 feet or more.

The building of Bleak House and its porter's lodge and carriage house in 1873 coincided with the termination by Congress of the territorial form of government (akin to the territories of the old west, say Dakota) and Shepherd's position of governor. Within two years, he was bankrupt, his mansion on K Street sold, and the family moved to their country home on a year round basis.



Photograph by Richard Hage

In 1880, the family moved to Mexico where Shepherd controlled a silver mine. He died in 1902. But the family owned the land and home until 1910.

In 1916 the porter's lodge and mansion were demolished to make way for a subdivision. But the carriage house just happened to be of a size and location suitable for a garage in the new age of automobiles and so it stands today at the rear of 1332 Holly Street. The mansion was at the rear of what are now the lots for 1321 and 1325 Geranium Streets and extended into the alley. The epitaph for the country retreat was written by one of Shepherd's grandchildren:

What fun we children used to have
On Granddad's old estate –
The drive between tall evergreens
Through the wrought iron gate...

The carriage house, with all its rigs,
Had a smell too, of its own.
So many memories linger still;
Hayrides we loved to take,...

The dear old walls torn down
For sub-divisions squares...

But to us who remember it
It remains hallowed ground.

Landmarks Fire Fund

DCPL has established a fund to assist with the planning costs associated with preservation efforts at Eastern Market and the Georgetown Public Library. To contribute to this fund, please send a check to DCPL and note "Landmark Fires" in the memo line. If you wish the money to go towards one particular building, please note that as well. To donate by credit card, please call the DCPL offices at 202.783.5144. All funds are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged in the DC Preservation League e-Advocate and Annual Report.

Society Presents Lecture on Tiffany's Laurelton Hall

*Louis Comfort Tiffany's Laurelton Hall:
Mysticism and Symbol*

The Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians presents a lecture by Richard Guy Wilson, on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at The Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives. 6:30 P.M. - reception, 7:00 P.M. - lecture

As a designer, Louis Comfort Tiffany collaborated with some of the most important American architects of the day. This lecture offers a unique and rare opportunity to understand Tiffany's genius as an artist, in particular his vision of architecture and belief in the unity of the arts. After examining the career of Louis Comfort Tiffany, this presentation focuses upon Tiffany's design for his own home, Laurelton Hall, built 1902-1905, at Oyster Bay on Long Island.

Destroyed by fire in 1957, some fragments of the structure have survived and were included in the recent exhibition on

Laurelton Hall at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This talk takes a close look at this unique house, investigating Louis Comfort Tiffany's architectural designs leading up to Laurelton Hall, and also considering some of the symbols and meanings in the house and gardens.

Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History, University of Virginia, has written on many aspects of American and modern architecture. He contributed an essay to the Metropolitan Museum of Art's book, *Louis Comfort Tiffany and Laurelton Hall*.

The lecture is held at The Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives, 1201 17th Street N.W., at the corner of M Street, in the Lecture Hall. Reservations are not required. \$10.00 for Latrobe Chapter members, \$17.00 for non-members, Free for full-time students with ID.

For general information, please see the Latrobe Chapter website at www.latrobechaptersah.org or contact Andrew Drabkin at 202-277-7106 or andrewdrabkin@hotmail.com.

Maloney Named District's State Historic Preservation Officer



DC Planning Director Harriet Tregoning announced on Wednesday, October 10th, that long-time staff member David Maloney has been selected as the District's new State Historic Preservation Officer - filling a post which has been left vacant for more than a year.

"David has been working on preservation issues for more than 25 years and he is hands-down the best candidate for the job," Tregoning said. "We are delighted that he has decided to take on this new leadership position. He has been and will continue to be a huge asset to us."

Maloney had been serving as acting director since January 2006 and had been Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer since 2003. Maloney is extensively involved in all aspects of the preservation program, with lead responsibility for preservation planning and the review of major commercial and government projects downtown and in the Mall area. He represents the Mayor on the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.

Prior to joining the HPO in 1985, Maloney served for seven years as staff architect and program manager for the

Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, focusing on residential and historic preservation programs. He received a BA in Architecture from Princeton, attended the graduate architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania, and received an MA in Urban and Regional Planning from the George Washington University.

"David's architectural expertise, his knowledge of the city, and his more than 20 years of experience with preservation in Washington give him the practical background to be an excellent SHPO," says Edwin L. Fountain, DCPL President. "More importantly, his calm and patient demeanor, mixed with a willingness to stand his ground, will make him a highly effective advocate for preservation and mediator among the many divergent government, commercial and community interests in Washington."

Interested in Volunteering?

DC Preservation League is always looking for new volunteers. For more information, contact Erik Hein at erik@dcpreservation.org or at 202.783.5144.

Fifth Annual Mayor's Awards

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KEG LLC, Gaal & Associates, Renovations Unlimited, Republic of Turkey; the Summit Grand Parc (former Mine Workers Building), 1500 I Street NW, **Martinez & Johnson Architecture, EHT Traceries, Inc.;** and the **Wisconsin Avenue Bridge Restoration**, in the Georgetown National Landmark Historic District, **KCI Associates, Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park, District of Columbia Department of Transportation.**



Left: The staff of the DC Historic Preservation Office, from left: J. Brendan Meyer, David Maloney, Timothy Denee, Patsy Fletcher, Steve Callcott, Jennifer Steingasser (Office of Planning), Jonathan Mellon, Johanna Hernandez, Anne Brockett, Bruce Yarnall, Ruth Troccoli, and Toni Cherry.

Sledmere House, 1000 Rhode Island Avenue NW, **Martin Hardy and Michael Vallen**, was honored with the award for Excellence in Design – New Construction, and the State Historic Preservation Officer's Award went to **Carroll Square**, 921-935 F Street NW, **Oehrlein & Associates Architects, Akridge, Smith-Group, Clark Construction.**

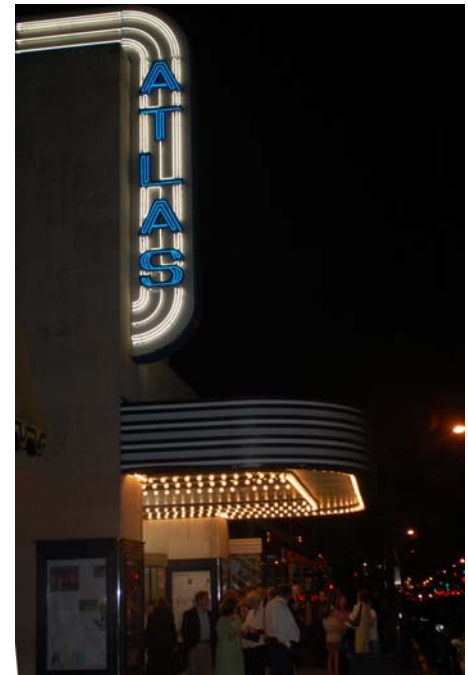


Right: From left, event sponsors ("a few cool Hardware Stores"), Mark Friedman and Gina Schaefer, DCPL Board Member Colden Florance, Mayor Adrian Fenty and DCPL Executive Director Rebecca Miller.

The Lead Corporate Sponsor of the Event was "*a few cool Hardware Stores*" – owning four local ACE hardware stores in Logan, Glover Park, Tenleytown and Federal Hill, Baltimore. Additional Sponsors were **Nixon Peabody LLP, USBank, and Jones Day**, and the *Atlas Performing Arts Center*.



Above: Howard University students, pictured with Mayor Adrian Fenty, received an award for their r their archeology survey at the Walter C. Pierce Community Park done in conjunction with the Kalorama Citizens Association.



Above: The newly restored Atlas Theatre marquis on H Street NE. Honored with a Mayor's Award, the theater recently underwent a major rehabilitation. Left: Harriet Tegoning (center), Director of the DC Office of Planning, presents the SHPO's Award to (from left) Mary Oehrlein, Matt Klein, Andrew Rollman and Mike Alto.



President's Letter

Continued from page 2.

Trust for Historic Preservation, the Commission on Fine Arts, and the National Park Service to minimize the impact on historic resources. We are calling on GSA (and DHS, its likely tenant) to, among other things:

- preserve regular public access to the Point and to the adjacent Civil War cemetery;
- place major new development on the periphery of the core campus, and extend the clustering or “quadrangle” design of the campus, characterized by multiple buildings that relate to each other.
- avoid intrusion of development into the forested slopes of the site, so as to protect to the maximum extent possible the character-defining Anacostia viewshed, as well as the significant views into St. Elizabeths from the Mall and other public areas throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area;
- ensure that new development references, enhances, and does not overwhelm the setting, views and interrelationships of the existing campus;
- re-evaluate plans to crowd this historic campus with 6.3 million square feet of new construction, consider relocating parking structures off-site, and limit the occupation of St. Elizabeths to core DHS headquarter components.

While the ship may have sailed with respect to the re-use of St. Elizabeths, DCPL will continue to work with GSA to

minimize the impact to this National Historic Landmark. The ship however is still in port many of the other campuses on DCPL's watch list. We need the help not only of preservationists but of community groups and District planners to make sure that these public spaces are developed in ways that not only preserve their historic resources, but that contribute to the vitality and economic development of their surrounding communities.



Above: Center Building of St. Elizabeths, designed by Thomas Walter, 1852, 1852-58. Below: Administration Building, early 20th Century, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge Architects.



Detail, south end of east side as it appeared in January, 1972. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, HABS DC, WASH, 415-8.

Eastern Market Site of Annual Meeting

DCPL's **Annual Membership Meeting** will be held in the East Hall of Eastern Market on Wednesday, November 14th, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the Annual Meeting. The event is free for DCPL members. Non-members can join online before hand at www.dcpreservation.org/join to participate.

On Monday, April 30th, a fire ravaged the South Hall of Eastern Market causing millions of dollars in damage. Designed in 1873 by renowned local architect Adolph Cluss, Eastern Market has been the historic center of the Capitol Hill neighborhood for well over 134 years. Restoration plans are underway and a temporary structure has been erected to house displaced vendors.

Free Workshop: Researching House Histories

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

6:30 to 8:30pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library
Washingtoniana Division, Room 307
9th and G Streets, NW

Have you ever wanted to know more about your house than its age? Join local historian, Matthew Gilmore, for a hands-on workshop, in which he will show you how to utilize the many resources of the Washingtoniana Division and other public records to uncover the mysteries of your home's past.

Matthew Gilmore, co-editor of H-DC, will speak on the basic resources everyone needs to know for doing research on Washington DC buildings, places, institutions, and people. Materials will be available in the Division for research, though the discussion will cover materials also located at a wide variety of Washington DC institutions. A tour of the division will follow and a chance to work with some of the sources discussed. A former a staff member of the Washingtoniana Division, Mr. Gilmore has been offering workshops since 1997. For a peek at some of the sources discussed, check out: <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~dclist/neighNew4.pdf>

The workshop is free but registration is requested, so that enough handouts can be prepared. For more information and to register, please email: dc-edit@mail.h-net.msu.edu or call or 202-459-7372. Please feel free to send an example address we might use as a case study.

Co-sponsored by H-DC, the Washington DC history listserv and website, the Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library, and the DC Preservation League.

Council Chairman Gray to Speak at Coalition Meeting

The Fall Historic Districts Coalition meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 28. **Council Chairman Vincent Gray** will be the featured speaker. The entire Council serves as a Committee of the Whole for the Office of Planning (including historic preservation and zoning), so Chairman Gray has been the committee chair in charge of the oversight and budget hearings for the office this past year. He has agreed to talk with the Coalition about the challenges and opportunities for historic preservation in the city. The meeting will be held at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, starting at 6:30 pm.

Historic Tax Credit Conference November 7-9; DCPL Local Partner

Building owners, non-profits, State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO's), federal officials, developers, investors, syndicators, architects, attorneys, accountants and historic consultants are rarely brought together under one roof. The Institute for Professional and Executive Development (IPED) will present three days of programming dedicated to the Historic Tax Credit (HTC) community, November 7-9 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW.

Covering every step involved with HTC transactions, the conference offerings include everything from basic tax rules to changing LEED standards. Registration fees are \$795 for general attendees and \$695 for non-profit/government/education organizations. For more information, visit www.ipedinc.net, call 202-331-9230 or email info@ipedinc.net.

New Building Permits Database Unveiled Workshop Offered

After a great deal of time and effort, at long last, the Washington DC Building Permits/Permits To Build from 1877 to 1949 have now been organized into a searchable database.

Join Brian Kraft on November 13, 2007 at 3 pm and 6:30 pm at DC Public Library in the computer lab on the 3rd floor for a seminar on how to use the new database. Space is limited, so please RSVP to michelle.casto@dc.gov or call 202-727-1213.

Washington Studies Conference

34th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C.
Historical Studies
November 1-3, 2007
The Carnegie, 801 K Street NW

Presented by:

D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana Division
George Washington University
The Historical Society of Washington, DC

For more information, call 202.383.1850 or visit:
<http://www.historydc.org/2007Conference>



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