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The Tenleytown Historical Society

Presents



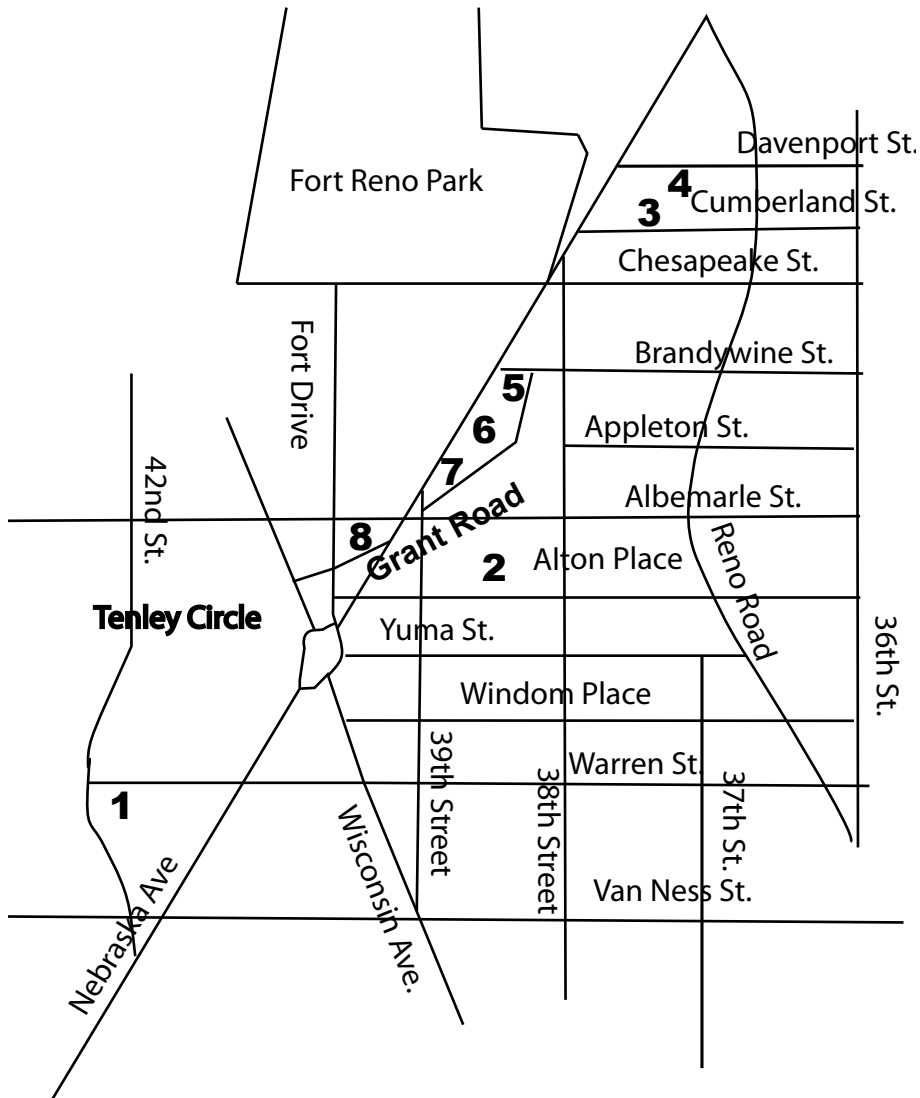
*House
and Garden Tour
of
Historic
Tenleytown*

Sunday, May 4th

1-5 pm

Tickets available at: St. Ann's Hall; St. Ann's Academy

N *Map of House and Garden Area*



The Tenleytown Historical Society wishes to acknowledge and thank the following who have contributed expertise and information to this project:

Dorothy Biard - author of the successful Grant Road application for designation as a Historic District - for information on the history of four houses in Grant Road Historic District

Lena Frumin - artist, for her sketches and layout of the tour guide

Judith Beck Helm - author of *Tenleytown, DC: Country Village into City Neighborhood* for information on Dumblane

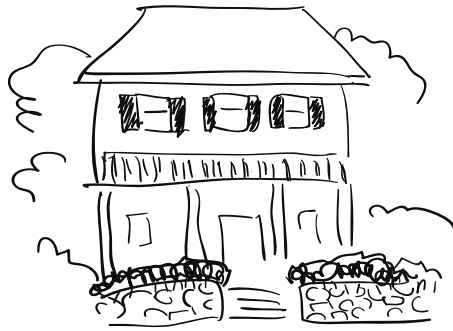
Judith Hubbard Saul - President, Cleveland Park Historical Society

Paul Williams, Kelsey & Associates, Inc. - house history specialist for sharing his resources and loaning maps of the District of Columbia

St. Ann's Church - for allowing Tenleytown Historical Society to use St. Ann's Hall on the day of the tour

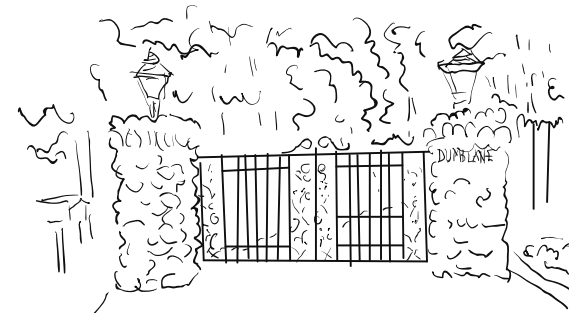
and to our neighbors who are sharing their homes and gardens:

- Cheryl Browning and Matt Pavuk**
- Theodore Burkett and Richard Clark**
- Masako and Bob Carlin**
- Sherry Houghton**
- Laura and Michael Kaiser**
- Carolyn Long and Doug Wonderlic**
- Betsy and Kendall Nottingham**



Cheryl Browning- Matt Pavuk
"The Burrows House"
Grant Road Historic District
4426 Grant Road, NW (aka 3926 Albemarle Street NW)

Constructed in 1880 by Thomas Paxton (who drove the stagecoach from Tenleytown to Georgetown) in the National Folk House style, the house was purchased by stonemason W. Thyson Burrows, head of one of Tenleytown's largest families, who added stone details and a massive stone fireplace. A stone porch across the front of the house extends down the right side. Porch walls and its 8 stone piers are shaped stone from the local Tenleytown stone quarry. This house is a unique example of the stone craftsmanship of W. Thyson Burrows who also built many of the stone retaining walls in Tenleytown. One of Mr. Burrows' daughters recalls being greeted by President Theodore Roosevelt, and on at least one occasion being boosted up on his horse and given a short ride, during one of TR's frequent evening rides to 'Tennallytown.' Cheryl Browning and Matt Pavuk, both Washington attorneys, have lived in the house for 20 years. Their furnishings and decor respect the house's history while providing modern convenience and comfort. In warm weather their side porch is cool haven with a variety of hanging and potted plants. The garden has been transformed over the years by Cheryl and Matt from the shrub and candytuft of 20 years ago to a country (as Tenleytown was originally) garden with roses, and perennials including daylilies, peonies, phlox, iris, hydrangeas and spring bulbs.



Betsy and Kendall Nottingham
Dumblane
American University Park
4120 Warren Street, NW

Built in 1911, Dumblane was designed and constructed by architect and designer Gustav Stickley in the Craftsman style for Hazen Bond, a wealthy lawyer. The name "Dumblane" or "Dunblane" was earlier used for a house built nearby in the mid 1850's, and later used as a school. When the 1911 Dumblane was built, at an elevation of 400', there was nothing to obstruct one's view to the west toward Virginia and, on a clear day, the Blue Ridge Mountains. Vari-colored (tapestry) bricks were used, and the roof with wide overhangs is green tile. The intact interior features built-in window seats, bookcases, sideboard and china closets. Glass in the interior doorways is original. In fact, successive owners, the Nottinghams are the fifth, have honored the original style and design of the house and made few changes. Dumblane was one of the first houses in Tenleytown to have a tennis court, central vacuum cleaner system, clothes dryer, billiard room, and an intercom system of seven (!) telephone lines. Furnishings reflect the house's style and are enlivened by treasures acquired during the ten years the owners lived in Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan. The grounds include large trees, wisteria shading the terrace, lilacs, Japanese red maple, as well as bulbs and perennials - providing pleasure to the viewer, and to the family's three dogs and their cat, named 'Tenley.' Betsy and Kendall, native Marylanders, bought the property three years ago because they love the city and have children and grandchildren nearby.

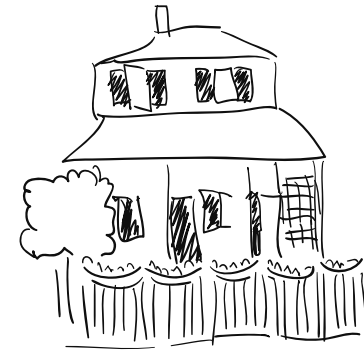
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Carolyn Long and Doug Wonderlic
Armesleigh Park
3815 Alton Place NW

3815 Alton Place was built in 1921 as part of Harry Kite's Armesleigh Park subdivision, which encompasses three square blocks bounded by Albemarle, Alton, Yuma, Windom, 38th, and 39th streets. Alexander Sonnemann was the architect for all of the Armesleigh Park houses. Carolyn Long and Doug Wonderlic, both Smithsonian employees, bought the house in 1987 and have been slowly renovating it, using materials and design elements appropriate to a 1920s house. The informal garden has evolved spontaneously, without benefit of professional planning, often making use of "found" materials and plants traded with neighbors. The winding path along the west side is paved with slates from the original roof. Both the garden and the interior of the house reflect the owners' interest in folk art from the American South, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

7



Leigh Ann Oliver
The Christian-Curran House
Grant Road Historic District
3837 Albemarle Street, NW
(at intersection of Albemarle
and 39th Streets and Grant Road, NW)

Though no deed record or building permit for this house has been found, its construction date is thought to be between 1850 and 1875. Built elsewhere, Tenleytown lore says that the house was moved from the grounds of the Naval Observatory to its present location around 1890. When Albemarle Street was cut through to Wisconsin Avenue, the house was shifted slightly on the lot. News reports of the time report that a house, sitting on logs pulled by horses, was moved from the Observatory to a residential lot in Tenleytown. Described as a Pyramidal Folk House, the style is consistent with houses built in the 1840s or 1850s. A porch extends across the front of the house and along one side. Though the exterior has been covered with aluminum siding, a former owner has suggested that its walls were of hewn log. The house was owned by the Christian and Curran families. Mr. Christian is remembered by older neighbors for the Model T Ford he drove around the neighborhood in the early 1900s. Leigh Ann, who purchased the house in 1999, was recently married and will be moving to California, so the house is for sale. Leigh Ann hopes that its next owner will enjoy it as much as she has - and that maybe one day she will return to Washington, DC and be able to buy it back!

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Masako and Bob Carlin
4531 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Wakefield
Garden facing 4537 Grant Road, NW

When Masako and Bob Carlin purchased their home in 1990, their “garden” was thickly covered with ivy and dense weeds and surrounded by an old fence. The renovation began in 1992 with simple plantings of impatiens just inside the gates. The flower bed was a modest 2 feet by 6 feet! Six years ago when the old fence was replaced, Masako’s enthusiasm for gardening took off and she finds herself digging in the soil from spring through autumn each year, creating flower beds, both inside and outside the gate, one section at a time. There are now azaleas, climbing roses, and abundance of perennials, and bulbs. Bob has helped out by building the steps from Grant Road to the garden gate, and the bank area outside the gate provides enjoyment for all who pass by. Masako and Bob have plans to rebuild the steps and widen the gate and Masako is constantly finding new plants and new corners in which to put them. “We experiment - sometimes we fail and sometimes we succeed.” The current garden is the result of six years work, a succession of ideas and layouts. Says Masako, “I am not a professional. I just follow my heart!”

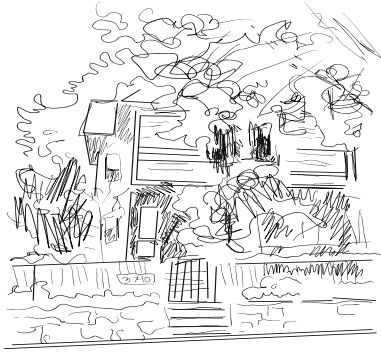


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Sherry Houghton
Wakefield
3729 Cumberland Street, NW

Listening to Sherry Houghton enthusiastically talk about gardening, it is not surprising to learn that she is a landscape designer by profession. Her own garden surrounds the home she moved into with her parents in 1949. Her father, too, was an enthusiastic gardener and some of the plants he originally installed, including the boxwood, roses and arborvitae (which was inspired by 10 year old Sherry’s suggestion that he plant something tall to shield their yard from their neighbors) are still in place. Time as well as neighbors’ building alterations have provided Sherry an opportunity to utilize her design skills - as a shady garden became a sunny one. She has added trees, giving some thought to the shadows they will cast - once in a while she gets a surprise when they grow taller or wider than anticipated! She redesigned the land at the back of the house, eliminating a very steep driveway. A deck now connects what used to be two sections of garden on either side of a driveway which has been filled in with dirt and a mixed vegetable and flower, annuals and perennials. And there is a very tranquil and private green area. Sherry also has an ‘experimental’ area where she can ‘play’ and indulge her fancy. The plantings at the front of the house, including many azaleas, are more formal. At this time of year, Sherry happily watches her garden for signs of seedlings from last year’s plants and contemplates what she wants to experiment with for the current year.

4



Laura and Michael Kaiser
Wakefield
3701 Grant Road, NW (aka 3740 Davenport Street, NW)

This property was originally part of the tract known as Fletchall's Chance, a 1715 land grant. The alley running along the west side of the house used to be Chappell Road (or Chappell Lane on some maps), likely named for John Chappell, the son-in-law of Margaret Masters, who inherited Fletchall's Chance in 1767. If you look due north from the house, you can see traces of Chappell Road on the other side of Nebraska toward Reno. Apparently, the property extended to that point when the house was built in the 1890s. The frame house is sited to take advantage of breezes in the summer and daylight in the winter. The rooms open onto each other railroad style and, on the second floor, are also accessible by a side hall. Many of the double-hung windows have the original wavy glass. The heart-pine floors are original, as are the coffered walnut wainscoting in the dining room and the chestnut banister and living room mantel. Laura and Michael Kaiser bought the house two years ago from Caryl Marsh, who lived there 37 years. Michael is an executive with a national non-profit organization and Laura is a writer for *Interior Design*, *This Old House Magazine* (where she used to be an editor), and *The Washington Post* "Home" section. They have begun renovating the house to bring it into the 21st century while preserving its historic character. After living in Manhattan for more than a decade, the couple is relishing the opportunity to get their hands into the soil and have made great progress battling the wicked vines choking the yard. Some of the trees, particularly the splendid maple in front, may be as old as the house, and the rest of the triangular property is a work in progress, benefiting greatly from the generosity and knowledge of their neighbor Sherry Houghton.

5



Theodore Burkett and Richard Clark
3816 Brandywine Street, NW
Wakefield
Garden facing 4565 Grant Road, NW

This property, along with others along Nebraska Avenue between Albemarle and Brandywine Streets, NW was owned by Chevy Chase Land Co. and developed in the early 1940's. Ted and Dick purchased the property in the fall of 1987 from the estate of the original owners. Though the garden had deteriorated slightly from lack of maintenance, it was still in fairly decent condition. Dick and Ted removed a small border abutting the neighbors' property and installed the tiered garden at the back, replacing a gully and the likelihood of continued erosion. The wall next to the driveway was heightened by the addition of about three tons of stones and a second tiered garden built there. Additional stone was added to the Grant Road frontage. Dick is a firm believer in conserving water and tries to utilize plants which are drought tolerant. This can be challenging on a steep site in full sun! Ted is a model train enthusiast and was inspired to install one in his garden by friends. Because of the steepness of the yard, the track has been converted to a cog railroad. With a grade of over 6%, normal trains (unless short) cannot make the run. The train adds an unexpected whimsical delight to this garden.