



2011 Bloomingdale House Tour Art Show & Reception

FRESH, FIERCE & FABULOUS!



Saturday, October 15, 2011*
Tour 1-5pm | Reception 2-6:30pm

*Rain Date: Sunday, October 16

Art Show/Reception Location

410 GooDBuddY Gallery, 410 Florida Avenue, NW

After the Tour, this Program Book will be available at <http://www.bloomingdalecivic.org>



clockwise from left:

- Bread for the City**
Shaw
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- Walker/Marchetti Residence**
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2011 BLOOMINGDALE HOUSE TOUR

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Thanks for all your hard work!

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- Jo Bond**, Chair, Special Activities
- Zach Sherif**, Curator, Art Show





President's Welcome

Dear Friends and Visitors,

Welcome to the 2011 Bloomingdale House Tour. The Tour is a celebration of Bloomingdale and highlights the diversity and history of this neighborhood. This year's Tour features a variety of houses, most constructed between 1850 and 1920.

Funds raised from the tour will be used to continue the community work of the Bloomingdale Civic Association (BCA), which includes but is not limited to, awarding college scholarships, promoting historic preservation activities and showcasing the artists/artisans, designers and architects that live in the Bloomingdale neighborhood. In keeping with the latter, the BCA is proud to present an Art Show following the Tour that will exhibit the work of more than a dozen sculptors, photographers, painters and other artists.

I especially want to thank Dr. Bertha Holliday, Chair of the House Tour Committee and Vice President of the BCA, for her excellent and tireless work in planning the Tour. I also want to thank the other members of the Tour Committee; Zach Sherif, curator of the Art Show; the real estate agents who serve as house sitters; the Fifth District police officers; all the businesses who purchased ads and other contributors – the Tour would not be possible without your hard work and generosity. Finally, I want to thank our members for supporting the work of the Bloomingdale Civic Association and the Tour.

Enjoy the Tour,

Teri Janine Quinn

Teri Janine Quinn

President, Bloomingdale Civic Association

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Greetings

Bloomingdale Civic Association
2011 Bloomingdale House Tour

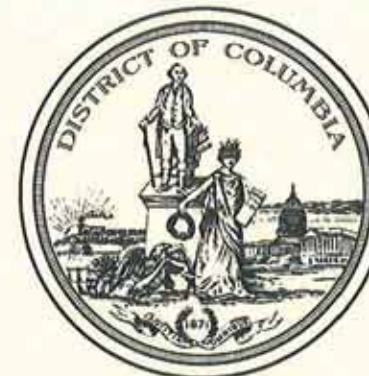
October 15, 2011

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to the attendees of the 2011 Bloomingdale House Tour.

Bloomingdale Civic Association provides college scholarships for local residents, promotes the Bloomingdale neighborhood citywide, and highlights the numerous artists, artisans, designers, and architects in this diverse and truly up-and-coming neighborhood.

On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, you have my best wishes for an enjoyable and successful event.

Vincent C. Gray
Vincent C. Gray
Mayor, District of Columbia





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COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

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September 15, 2011

**Bloomingdale Civic Association
Washington, D. C.**

As Ward 5 Councilmember, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to Teri Janine Quinn, President of the Bloomingdale Civic Association (BCS) and the members of the House Tour Committee on the occasion of the Bloomingdale House Tour.

I understand that this exciting event will raise funds for college scholarships for youth, highlight the numerous artists, artisans, designers and architects living in Bloomingdale along with focusing attention on the need for historical preservation and more.

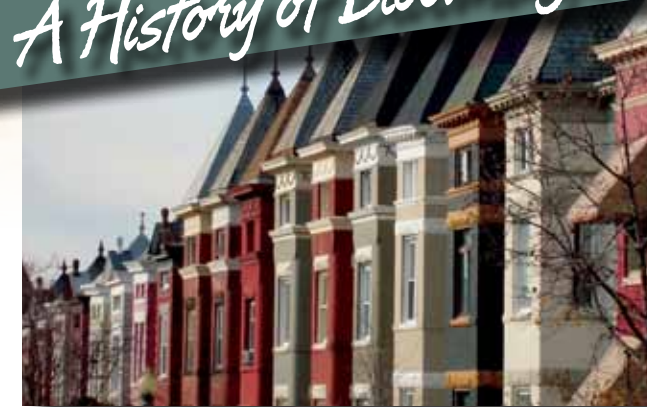
On behalf of the residents of Ward 5, you have my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Harry Thomas, Jr.
Councilmember, Ward 5



A History of Bloomingdale



Despite being located just outside the original boundary of the City of Washington as designed by Maj. Pierre L'Enfant in 1792, the area referred to today as the Bloomingdale neighborhood had its residential development origins over a century later. The lands that comprise the residential blocks of Bloomingdale were originally utilized for a variety of light industrial uses (e.g. train yards, flour mill). Landowners maintained orchards, large country estates, and a mixture of commercial properties.

The rural nature of this area changed before the turn of the twentieth century as Washington neighborhoods began to experience the pressures of growth from the huge influx of workers and freed men following the Civil War. Streets were improved, curbed, and paved to introduce extensions of popular trolley lines—opening the area to residential development in the late 1890s.

Churches often led the way, and in 1902, the Rhode Island Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church built their elegant structure at the desirable corner of Rhode Island and First Street, Northwest. The church, now named Mount Bethel Baptist Church (current pastor Bobby L. Livingston, Sr.) houses an active congregation founded by former slaves. Mount Bethel was a staging point for the famed 1963 March on Washington.

Eleven homes along the unit block of Rhode Island Avenue joined the church a year later, in 1903, and the remainder of the surrounding blocks were built by such developers as Harry Wardman and S.H. Meyers within the following decade.

Home construction often necessitated school construction, with the Gage School in the 2000 block of Second Street being erected in 1904. The 21,000 square foot facility has been turned into a 92-unit condominium project (Parker Flats) sparking neighborhood revitalization.

Leftover from the earlier industrial use of the area to the north, is the city's McMillan Park sand filtration site and McMillan Reservoir, which was designated a historic landmark by the DC Historic Preservation Review Board in 1991.

Notable Residents

Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor in 1886, built a house at 2122 First Street, Northwest

in 1900 which was declared an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

One of Broadway's most accomplished and versatile singer, dancer and entertainer,

Chita Rivera (b. 1933) lived with her parents on the 2100 block of Flagler Place, Northwest until the age of 15.

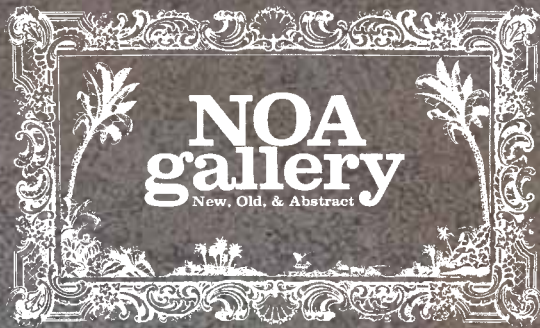
Another notable resident was Anna Julia Cooper (1858-1964), an educator, scholar, author, and activist who challenged biased notions of racial and gender inferiority. Cooper moved to the District as an adult and served in several positions at Dunbar SHS. She died in her home at 201 T Street, Northwest. With the 32nd stamp in its Black Heritage series, the U.S. Postal Service honors her legacy.

Present Day

Today Bloomingdale proudly maintains its close-knit community-oriented character. The population is primarily African American, which has maintained deep roots in the community for many years. There is also a growing Hispanic, Caucasian and gay/lesbian population. According to the 2010 census, the diverse population of Bloomingdale was 59% African American and 30% Caucasian with the last 11% split between Hispanic, Asian and international residents.

Bloomingdale is the rare D.C. neighborhood to have its own green space, Crispus Attucks Park. There are many active neighborhood groups and associations including, but not limited to, the Bloomingdale Civic Association, the Bloomingdale Garden Club, the Big Bear Book Club, the Big Daddy Running Club, Crispus Attucks Development Corporation, a chapter of the 4-H Club and even a Dog Association.

New businesses have opened in the area during the past few years including Bloomingdale Inn (a bed and breakfast), Window's Café and Market, Big Bear, Yoga District, Showtime Barbershop and Salon, FieldToCity (formerly Timor Bodega), Rustik and Boundary Stone. Every summer, the Bloomingdale Farmers' Market is open on Sundays on R Street between Florida Avenue and First Street, Northwest.



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2011 BLOOMINGDALE HOUSE TOUR

1

114 W Street, NW



Our home was built in 1908. Ms. Jackson, a retired Howard University professor, owned & lived here most of her life. She died at age 104 with original architecture in place, the house full of antiques and a 100-year-old garden. The house transitioned through a crystal meth dealing group house, then a line of developers hoping to pop the turret & roof, add a fourth floor and make four condos. Neighbors stopped the developers but sadly not before demolition of all interiors. The city replaced the garden with gravel after replacing a pipe. The gutted house lay dormant for years with occasional squatters. In 2008, we approached the developer and asked if we could purchase the shell “as is.”

Our design style is in the eye of the beholder. Suddenly becoming first time renovators, with no experience, plans or permits and an FHA loan allowing 6 months for renovation, we had no time to plan a style. We did what felt good with no second guessing. The outcome is a balance of traditional and contemporary with a dash of whimsical. Our house is fresh, but not ripe; it is still a work in progress.

This gutted, south-facing, end unit was flooded with light and offered freedom to produce something open and fresh, so walls were kept to a minimum and most doors are glass. The open main floor’s focal point is a swooping iron and wood staircase. The back attic is raised (preserving the front view of the house) into a mezzanine/art studio. The original skylight is now a glass section of the floor peeking down over the swooping staircase. Instead of a typical bathroom in the mezzanine, the sink and tub are in the open room. Two can bathe comfortably

overlooking the city. Salvaged iron hoop fencing acts as the stair rail. The south glass wall opens to a deck overlooking the city, Capitol and monuments. The “Kerouac” turret room is designed for novel writing, Zen escapes and guest room. The basement is a cozy, groovy, two-bedroom rental pad. The house exterior face was re-pointed with cream mortar and the trim given a touch of pizzazz color.

Besides being fresh, we insisted on salvaging anything original in tribute to its past:

- Wooden trim on windows, doors & base boards
- 4 original doors
- Servant and attic staircases
- Wood floors with “ghosts” from original walls
- Tile on fireplace and front entrance
- Exposed brick and beams (we exposed)
- Items of Ms. Jackson’s found in rafters
- Replaced missing mantels with two salvaged mantels from a neighborhood house

On a tight budget, we made FIERCE use of Craigslist. Our FABULOUS contractor (Jose Lopez) sacrificed hours, materials and brain cells allowing us to do whatever work we could and to think a bit outside the box to keep cost low and vision FRESH.

We live in Bloomingdale for the fantastic community; a great balance of old and new where people on the sidewalk still say “hello”. Fast access to downtown, U Street, and Howard University Hospital where one owner works and goes to school.

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community in a positive bond built through educational experiences and exposure to relevant and effective programs and practices, and inspire teens to participate in enriching networking opportunities.



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2035 2nd Street, NW

2



Parker Flats at Gage School Home of Michael Fine & Benjamin Kanoy

Originally constructed in 1914, the Gage School was used for many years as a DC Public School. It fell into disrepair many years later and subsequently was taken out of service by DCPS. Some time later, as part of a major condo conversion, this modern condo was constructed along with 32 others inside the original Gage building. It captures much of the original character of a schoolhouse without sacrificing a unique and contemporary sense of style that DC condo owners have come to expect.

This two bedroom/two bath condo is roughly 1,200 sq. ft. and boasts an open floor plan, massive floor-to-ceiling Palladian windows, exposed original brick and 14-foot ceilings with Brazilian Cherry floors. When purchased by Michael Fine and Benjamin Kanoy in May 2008, very little needed to be done, as

the original builder really had a sense of what it meant to wrap city living in a slightly suburban DC setting.

The owners did add a few light fixtures, classic and clean paint on the walls and doors and replaced two of the closets with custom organizer systems. They describe their decorating style as predominantly contemporary with some mid-century modern touches and a few antiques thrown in for conversation purposes. Photo art graces their walls and the furniture is a mix of custom, one-of-a-kind pieces with white glass and shiny chrome carrying throughout. Michael and Benjamin have enjoyed putting their imprint on this beautiful and unique condo and look forward to remaining in their little slice of Bloomingdale for years to come.

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143 U Street, NW



Home of Elizabeth Oyer & Geoff Wyatt

The owners were fortunate to purchase their home in 2007 from neighbors across the street who painstakingly restored and modernized the house over the course of two years. Their efforts included stripping numerous coats of paint from all of the woodwork and beautifully restoring and finishing it. They also installed some very modern amenities, such as a Unico system, which is uniquely designed to provide central heating and cooling in an older home without disrupting the original architectural details. The project was a real neighborhood effort, involving work done by other Bloomingdale neighbors as well.

When the owners purchased the house, the basement was a large open space, not accessible from the interior of the house. An internal staircase was installed and the space was divided

into a small guest bedroom with walls that double as built-in storage closets, a small play area for the owners' son in the turret space, and a television/office space. The basement is decorated in a much more modern style than the upstairs (which was compatible with the polished concrete floor and industrial-style lighting present when we moved in). The owner's brother, who is an architect in New York, designed the aluminum staircase.

These proud owners are delighted to live in Bloomingdale, which they find to have the most "neighborly" neighbors, the most historically and architecturally fascinating homes, and the most diverse and compelling culture of any place in Washington.

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132 U Street, NW

**Home of Tarpley Long**

From 1946 to 2010, 132 U Street, NW, was a Victorian Row House divided into two flats, each with two bedrooms, one bath, kitchen, living room, dining room and screened porch. Purchased in December, 2009, the home's current owner gutted the house and reconfigured the two units. Now the owner's unit has part of the upstairs as a master suite and bath, leaving an upstairs rental unit of one bedroom, bath, living room/kitchen and den. To make this accommodation for the owner's unit, one of the former bedrooms on the first floor had to be turned into space for a staircase.

The owner's unit retains all the original heart-of-pine floors and the three fireplaces have been restored to working condition. The kitchen and dining room were combined to make a large country kitchen with a screened porch off the dining room.

Although the house is in the middle of the block, there is an interior "light well" that allows there to be windows in every room in the house, on both the first and second level. As the renovation unfolded, it made sense to incorporate the light well space into the house proper, an architectural element that features a decking walkway and interior garden.

The decorating style is described as traditional furniture and an eclectic art collection. The living room houses the largest book in publishing history, "Sumo" by Helmut Newton and works by local artist Eric Nelson, Atlanta artist Shelley Richardson, and sculpture by Georgia artist Anthony Mann.

In 2009, the owner attended the Bloomingdale house tour and was so taken with the architecture and the lovely people (now neighbors) on the house tour that the owner decided to move here.

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Crispus Attucks Park



Crispus Attucks Park (Rest Stop with Bottled Water) Between U & V Streets, North Capitol & First Streets, NW

Crispus Attucks Park—named in honor of an African American former slave who was the first person to lose his life in the American Revolution’s Boston Massacre—is a unique urban green space. It is a private community park with public access occupying the courtyard space behind a single city block of houses in Washington DC’s Bloomingdale neighborhood and is an oasis of flowers, trees, open green spaces, quiet nooks and rocky pathways.

From 1910 to the 1970s, the site belonged to the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. C&P closed down operations on the property in the late 1960s, leaving behind an abandoned 8,275 square foot building and a 1.06 acre cement and asphalt pad strewn with industrial cables and spindles. The site sat neglected for nearly a decade, until neighbors began a campaign to convince C&P to convey the building and land to the neighborhood so it could be used as a community center and training facility for neighborhood youth. The campaign succeeded, and in 1977 the community group incorporated as “NUV-1”, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

The George Hyman Construction Company renovated the building at no charge in 1977, using scores of volunteers from the community for much of the work. In 1978, the community center began operation as Crispus Attucks Park of the Arts, and NUV-1 changed its name to the Crispus Attucks Development Corporation (CADC). The center’s programs

were targeted largely to youth, and included classes in visual arts, photography, bicycle repair, music, dramatic arts, auto and home repairs, and crime prevention, as well as a summer construction and neighborhood revitalization program.

In 1987, CADC lost its funding from DC Parks and Recreation Department, and the site was neglected when the structure was gutted by fire on July 3, 1990. As a result, the site became home to abandoned vehicles, homeless people and illicit activities. The community protested these conditions and in July of 1995, the DC Police raided the site, arresting trespassers and towing abandoned vehicles. Park reclamation efforts began soon thereafter.

Although DC government had foreclosed on the property for unpaid taxes and other items amounting to \$270,000, in 2002, the CADC succeeded in getting the foreclosure dismissed. In February 2004, the DC City Council passed Bill 15-0068, the “Crispus Attucks Development Corporation Real Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2004”; that returned full site control of the park to CADC, forgave all past unpaid property taxes and liens, and re-established the tax exempt status of the park’s land. CADC then took on the tasks of removing asphalt and chain link fences, building wooden retaining borders, and planting grass, trees and flowers—thus transforming the park into an urban green jewel.

For more information go to www.crispusattuckspark.org

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131 T Street, NW



The Home of Michael Little

This home is instinctively inspired by the American southwest and has many natural accents. The rounded free hanging stone fireplace and accentuated rounded stone walls stimulate the movement that carries throughout the open space. The house has been completely renovated from top to bottom with a two-bedroom unit planned for the basement. There are arches with high ceilings throughout with lots of natural wood and a stained glass ceiling leading to the kitchen, which—when lit up—creates a beautiful mosaic of colors. The modern galley-style kitchen has all stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops.

The large open floor plan on the first floor is just the right size for small family gatherings or business meetings. The music center is built into the walls and is a self containment center which doubles as wine storage. The second floor has

four rooms: three bedrooms and one reading room which is filled with natural light throughout the day. The rounded fire place and beautiful Brazilian hardwood floors make this area one of the favorite spots in the house. All bedrooms have large closet spaces and the rear bedroom has sky lights. At the end of the day, for relaxation, there is a sit down metal balcony that overlooks a two tiered deck.

NOA gallery & Design Studio conceived the design concept and performed the renovation of the house. The owner of the property, artist and designer Michael Little, is also owner of NOA gallery which is located at 132 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest. Mr. Little plans on using the property as a limited stay facility and calling it The Inn on T Street sometime during the coming year.

Amazing history, Victorian period architecture, a warm neighborhood feeling and a vibrant and über creative energy draw a lot of inspired and magical people to Bloomingdale... not to mention, of course, plenty of artists! A phenomenal group of DC artists call Bloomingdale home—and for good reason! It's diverse, inspired and always in bloom! Come enjoy a sampling of some of Washington's best and brightest creative talents, in all mediums, at our

Art Show & Reception 2011!

Curated by Zach Sherif



Art Show

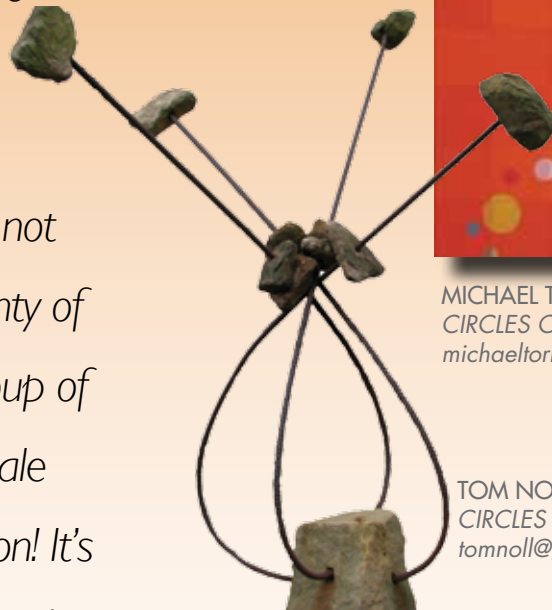
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Contact: Zach Sherif zpnyc09@gmail.com



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7



The Home of Gary W. Mendel

In the course of two years this home went from a 100-year-old grandfather of a DC row house to a 2-year-old modern youngster. The years and a couple of generations of “renovation” had the house in what can perhaps be described as old school plain and bad.

The owner decided to gut it down to the firewalls (literally every piece of framing, floor, drywall, pipes and wiring were removed). What took its place has really become the owner’s dream home. The home is FRESH because it’s completely wide open. The home is FIERCE because the style represents the owner’s vision come to life and its FABULOUS because of the master shower (and a few other things). The renovation is complete from top to bottom. Initially the owner renovated the basement (which was in terrible shape) to live in while the upstairs work was being done. A deck was added on top of the

bonus room roof that has a staircase leading to the deck on top of the two-car garage.

The decorating style is modern with dashes of contemporary. It’s an original design with architectural details and lots of fun. The stairway to the second floor, for example, is a one-of-a-kind that binds 97 thin, malleable sheets of plywood together vertically to form a cascading staircase. It should be seen.

Bloomingdale chose the owner of this fabulous home. The owner had a checklist: fixer upper, garage and an income property. The rest is history—literally.

Here is a link to a photo blog of the project start to finish.
134ria.blogspot.com

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9



The Home of Derek Wright

Derek Wright says the best part about his home is that it has managed to survive its 100-year life without changing much from its original form. The house boasts its original floors, pocket doors, and mantelpieces, meaning that much of it looks similar to when it was first built. Fortunately, it has seen some renovations, including the installation of central heating and air (relatively rare in most of the homes around here), a modern kitchen, and a half bath on the main level. The basement has also been renovated to serve as an in-law suite.

Mr. Wright attempted to maintain the charm and character of the old Victorian home without having the place look too much like it was still stuck in the early 20th century. The house is mostly furnished with wood and leather, which compliment the floors and pocket doors, and Derek has decorated the walls and open spaces with bits and pieces that he picked up during various travels over the years.

Mr. Wright has loved the Bloomingdale neighborhood since first moving to DC in 2005. He lived in three different places in LeDroit Park/Bloomingdale before finally saving enough money to buy a home earlier this year. He absolutely loves the fact that Bloomingdale is still actually a neighborhood, with neighbors you know and friendly faces all around.

Mr. Wright says the few shops and restaurants are enough to keep you happy if you don't feel like going out on the town. Bloomingdale is close enough to the bars, clubs, and restaurants on U Street that you can easily go out to meet friends and stay out all night, if that's what you want. Street parking is available and you can easily access Virginia by getting onto I-395 and Maryland via US-50. When you throw in the convenience of Rhode Island and Florida Avenues and their numerous busses, as well as the proximity of the Shaw/Howard metro stop, Bloomingdale is one of the most accessible neighborhoods in the District.



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12 R Street, NW



The Home of Bruce & Patricia Mitchell

This house is a Federal style home built at the close of the 19th Century—1895-1896. There is not much known history of the owner(s) of the home between the time it was built and when the Mitchells purchased it in 1991, except that the most recent “occupants” prior to their purchase were squatters who had made it their own. Vacant for over 20 years, the home came into serious disrepair and damage. Original fixtures, crown moldings, pocket doors and fireplaces (five in all) had been stripped and removed from the property, most likely sold on the salvage market that was quite popular in D.C. during the building boom years.

“Since all of the interior’s architectural significance had been removed, the decision to start over from a fresh, modern aesthetic was an easy one, and proved to be practical as well,” commented Pat Mitchell in a recent interview. The most recent update—the resurfacing of the fireplace with Pacific Ledge Stone—was inspired by a visit to a restaurant in Scottsdale and

pays homage to the Mitchell’s passion for Mid-Century Modern architecture.

The initial structural renovation took about four months and has been ongoing at some level since then. The lower level was completed about two years ago, which added an additional bedroom, full bath and laundry room to the home. Because the kitchen was finished during the original renovation, only minor updates have been accomplished since then. “At the time we originally completed the kitchen, the Great Room was not in the lexicon of the American home; since then, the kitchen has evolved and become, even more so, where everything happens,” noted Pat, “this kitchen redo will be the final frontier and the last thing we’ll do.”

The Mitchells plan to remove the wall between the kitchen and dining room to enlarge the area and open it up to the many guests who love to linger around the kitchen table during parties.



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THANK YOU to all of our neighbors who have opened their homes, and THANK YOU to the Bloomingdale Civic Association, which has made this all possible.



While you're enjoying the stroll through Bloomingdale, stop by the Art Show and one of our great neighborhood restaurants--Rustik and Boundary Stone are newly opened in the last year near First St & Rhode Island Ave NW.


Commissioner John Salatti
 "Together, Building a Better Bloomingdale"

Contact me any time about neighborhood issues or concerns:
 (202) 986-2592 or
 John.Salatti@gmail.com



Help keep events like this happening by joining us as members of the Bloomingdale Civic Association and bring your creativity and energy to this long-time backbone of the community. ~ Acacia and John Salatti

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147 Randolph Place, NW



Place of Interest
Big Bear Cafe
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12 R Street, NW



410 GooDBuddY Gallery
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Art Show & Reception



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134 Rhode Island Ave., NW



Place of Interest
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