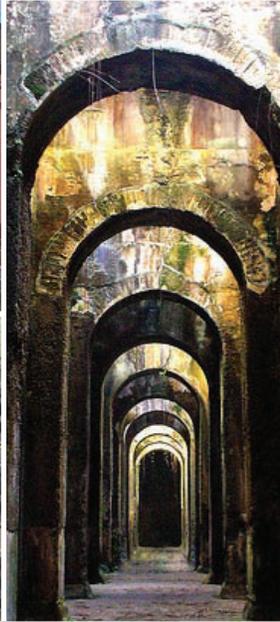


HISTORIC BLOOMINGDALE Diverse Divine Design



Bloomingdale 
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2013



Saturday, October 19, 2013
www.bloomingdalec.org



DC Water is proud to sponsor
the 2013 Bloomingdale House Tour

We would like to
take this opportunity
to remind you about the



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To Apply:

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For more information visit: ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes





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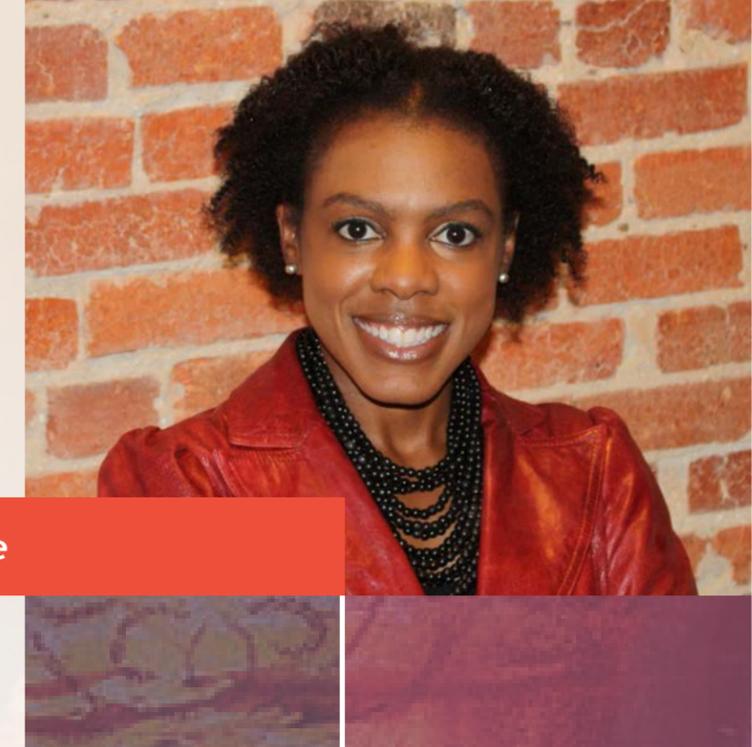


HOUSE TOUR & Art Show

October 19, 2013



President's Welcome



Teri Janine Quinn
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Bertha Holiday
First Vice President

Jared Earley
Second Vice President

Sherry Howard
Treasurer

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Jennifer McCann
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Betsy McDaniel
Recording Secretary

Scott Roberts
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Robert V. Brannum
Past President

Dear Friends and Visitors,

Welcome to the 2013 Bloomingtondale House Tour. The Tour is a celebration of Bloomingtondale 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 Bloomingtondale 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 Bloomingtondale 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 First Vice President of the BCA, for her excellent and tireless work in planning the Tour. I also want to thank the many volunteers, house captains, fundraisers and Tour 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 Bloomingtondale Civic Association and the Tour.

Enjoy the Tour,

Teri Janine Quinn

PRESIDENT, BLOOMINGDALE CIVIC ASSOCIATION



About the 2013 Bloomingdale House Tour & Art Show Reception...

Purpose

This fourth biennial Tour is sponsored by the Bloomingdale Civic Association (a 501 [c] [3] organization) with major support provided by DC Water. As the Association's major fundraiser, proceeds are used primarily for college scholarships for Bloomingdale youth, beautification, and other community enhancement efforts. The proceeds of BCA's 2011 Tour were used to provide approximately \$800 to BCA's General Operating Fund, \$1200 to underwrite some of the expenses of the 2013 Tour, a \$500 donation to Crispus Attucks Park, and a \$1250 scholarship to each of the following youth.

BCA 2013 Scholarship Recipients



Rica Spriggs of Randolph Place is a 2013 graduate of McKinley Technology High School, who recently began studies at East Carolina University. Rica plans to major in Special Childhood Education, and in her spare time she enjoys rock climbing, modeling, and reading.

Samantha Washington of First Street NW is a 2013 graduate of Capital City Public Charter School. As a member of Hampton University's Class of 2017, she plans on majoring in Communications. In her spare time she loves to watch football and going to the movies.



Theme and Activities

'**Historic Bloomingdale: Diverse Divine Design**' inspired the planning of the 2013 Tour. Diversity is reflected in the Tour's three major foci: Interior design in varying settings and for persons with differing needs, the many media and perspectives of Bloomingdale's growing arts community, and an educational component (for both our youth and adult residents) that commemorates Bloomingdale's past and its influence on current challenges.

By design, the Tour seeks to bring together the Villagers of Bloomingdale to celebrate their rich past and common future -- highlighting its beautiful homes, thriving businesses, talented artists, and engaging our youth and elders in the stories of our neighborhood and city.

Tour Major Activities Schedule

1:00pm - 5:00pm: Tour Check-In/Start Point is Open (1st & T Streets NW). All must go here to receive tour credentials. Tour tickets available for sale.

1:00pm & 3:00pm: Tom Noll conducts children's book signing and reading at 1st & T Street, NW pocket park.

1:30pm - 6:00pm: Tour houses open, History Kiosks open; historical posters available for viewing along tour route.

3:00pm - 8:00pm: Art Show and Reception at 410 GooDBuddy Gallery at 410 Florida Avenue NW. Artwork available for sale.

The Tour Committee

Bertha Holliday
Chair

Samilia Anthony
Advertisement

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Editor/Youth Involvement

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Grants & Sponsors

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Betsy McDaniel
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History Component/ Video Production

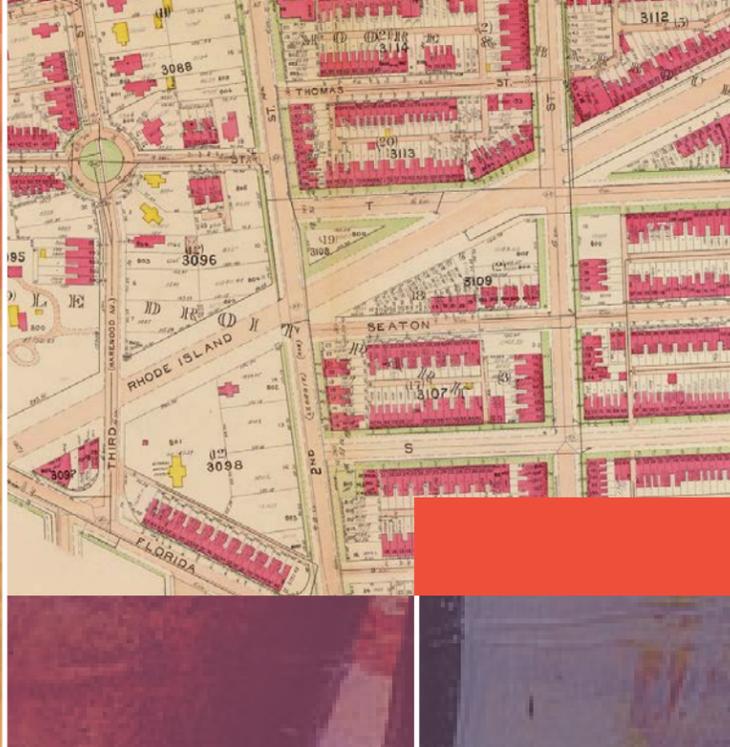
Ali Tharrington
Social Media

Zach Sherif
Reception/ Art Show Curator



BLOOMINGDALE CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOUSE TOUR COMMITTEE

L to R: M. Awosika, J. Bengfort, B. Holliday, F. Davis-Hipkins, S. Howard, A. Tharrington, S. Anthony
Not Pictured: M. Dandridge, B. McDaniel, J. Rodrigues, Z. Sherif



A Social History



BLOOMINGDALE: DIVERSE AND DIVINE BY DESIGN

Based on information provided by Cultural Tourism DC, Ledroit Park/Bloomingdale Heritage Trail Project

Origins

Located just outside the original city boundaries, Bloomingdale was once the country estate of Commander George Beale, a Navy officer in the War of 1812, and his wife Emily, the daughter of Commodore Thomas Truxton. The estate stretched from Florida Avenue to T Street NW, but by 1891 real estate developers had bought land up to Bryant Street, NW. In 1894, the arrival of an electric streetcar line on North Capitol Street encouraged commuting and the construction of rowhouses in the Victorian, Colonial and Italian Renaissance styles.

Building Bloomingdale

Noted developer Harry Wardman, responsible for 180 of the houses built in Bloomingdale, was only one of many builders who created the neighborhood between 1890 and 1910. To this day, his homes are renowned for their high-quality construction and materials. The classic Victorian rowhouses were designed for privileged buyers. The houses' first floors were raised for privacy and separation from muddy streets. Basements housed maids' quarters. An additional 16 houses along First Street were designed and built by Thomas Haislip, who lived in Bloomingdale. In 1902, Architect Francis Blundon built the houses at numbers 115-127 V Street NW.

Bloomingdale is also home to the McMillan Reservoir/Sand Filtration Site and the Bryant Street Pumping

DID YOU KNOW?

Demographics: Originally established by mostly European immigrants, African-Americans moved into the neighborhood in the late 1940s. According to the U.S. Census, in 2000 Bloomingdale was more than 90 percent African-American, but that percentage dropped in 2010 to 59%, and European-Americans were 30%, and other ethnic groups comprised the remainder of residents. (Source: *The Washington Post* / *Cultural Tourism DC*)

DID YOU KNOW?

Engine Company No. 12, located at North Capitol at Quincy Place NW, was constructed between 1896-1897, and was the last of the District's Victorian-style firehouses. It closed in 1987 and was home to the Salvation Army before being designated a historic landmark in 2006 and listed on the National Register in 2007.

Station. Located at Bryant and Second Streets NW, the Pumping Station opened in 1904 to distribute filtered Potomac River water from the McMillan Reservoir to the city. A few years before, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the park setting of the McMillan Reservoir and its filtering system just up the hill between First and North Capitol Streets NW and Bryant Street and Michigan Avenue. These facilities served to increase and purify the city's water supply. In 1987 the DC government purchased the McMillan land east of First Street from the federal government for mixed-use development. But community members wanted to preserve the site and worked to have it named a DC Historic Landmark. In 2013, debates over the site's future continue.

One of Bloomingdale's major institutions, St. Martin's Catholic Church, celebrated its first Mass in 1901 in a mansion near North Capitol and T streets NW. **Father Eugene Hannan**, a graduate of Gonzaga High School just south of here, founded St. Martin's to serve the growing Catholic population that dated to the city's very beginnings. The current church was built in 1939.

African Americans began attending St. Martin's around 1950, two years after Archbishop Patrick O'Doyle directed D.C.'s white parishes and schools to integrate. The desegregation of public schools in 1954 and a suburban building boom accelerated white flight from Bloomingdale and other urban neighborhoods. By the early 1960s, the St. Martin's congregation was nearly all African American. **Father Leslie Branch**, whose family lived on the 100 block of U Street, was St. Martin's first black altar boy, and in 1982 he became the U.S. Navy's first black Catholic chaplain.

Bloomingdale homeownership was promoted by prominent Washington businesswoman and activist **Flaxie Pinkett**, who grew up at 122 V Street. At age 14, Pinkett began working part-time for her father, founder of the successful real estate and insurance firm John R. Pinkett, Inc. She took over the family real estate and insurance firm in 1958, and later became the first black woman named "Man of the Year" by the Washington Board of Trade.



Father Leslie Branch



Flaxie Pinkett

A hidden neighborhood gem is Crispus Attucks Park, located off an alley near First and V Streets NW. After the 1970s closing of the C&P Telephone warehouse at this site, the community persuaded the company to donate the land for a park and community center. The center was destroyed by fire in 1990, but the park remains in the care of its neighbors.

Bringing Down Racial Covenants

In the 1940s, some homeowners in the 100 block of Bryant Street, NW broke the law when they sold their houses to African Americans. But other neighbors sued to block the sale of 116 Bryant Street NW to an African American couple, **James and Mary Hurd**. The resulting landmark Supreme Court case, *Hurd v. Hodge*, invalidated the enforcement of racially restrictive residential covenants, which prohibited the sale of a house to designated racial and/or religious groups. Then Howard University Law School professor **Charles Hamilton Houston**, a mentor of Thurgood Marshall, took the case all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1948, the couple won the landmark case, and moved into their Bryant Street home where they lived until 1997.



Charles Hamilton Houston

Rhode Island Avenue: The Dividing Line

The busy stretch of Rhode Island Avenue near First and T Streets NW was a racial dividing line when D.C. became majority African American in 1957. A few months later, Mount Bethel Baptist Church, a 1,500-member black congregation, purchased the white Methodist church across the avenue. "African Americans were not welcome on this [north] side of the street," noted Mount Bethel's longtime pastor Bobby Livingston, "unless you had a mop and a bucket in your hands." Mount Bethel's Rev. Leamon White oversaw the church's move. He helped desegregate public accommodations in the District in the early 1950s, and in 1963 helped plan the March on Washington. Signs for the march were assembled in Mount Bethel.

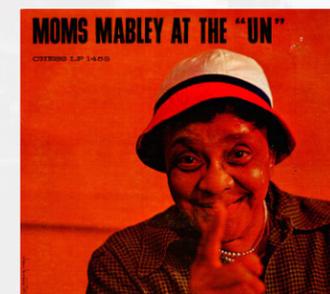
While some business along this corridor were "whites-only" (such as the Rhode Island Pharmacy, which banned Blacks from its soda fountain), others ignored southern custom and served all, including the High's Dairy Store at 84 T Street NW and Joseph Mensh's 5 & 10 next door on First Street NW. B. Ambrogio's at Third Street and Rhode Island NW (later B & J's Barbecue) welcomed African Americans to sit and eat.

DID YOU KNOW?

High's Dairy Store was once located on T Street NW in the row house next to Rustik Tavern. High's was once the largest ice cream store chain in the world. (Source *Cultural Tourism DC / Neighborhood interviews, High's Dairy Stores*)

DID YOU KNOW?

Comedian **Jackie "Moms" Mabley**, who lived at 1635 First Street, was a pioneer in her field; a Black woman who pushed the boundaries of taste, politics, and race, dating to the 1920s. She produced more than 20 albums, performed at the White House, and made appearances on TV shows, including *Ed Sullivan* and *The Smothers Brothers*. (*Cultural Tourism DC / Slate.com*)



Jackie "Moms" Mabley

Making a Home for the Talented Tenth

The influential psychiatrist **Ernest Y. Williams, M.D.**, a native of the British West Indies, was among the four physicians who owned the Victorian rowhouses on the corners of First and S streets NW. He lived and worked at 1747 First Street NW. Known as the "father of black psychiatry," the Howard University graduate founded the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry and Neurology in 1940. Years later he recalled attending an American Psychiatric Association conference in 1967 where he "saw a total of 63 Negroes . . . 48 of whom came from Howard, and all of whom I had had the pleasure of teaching."



Ernest Y. Williams, M.D.

Edward Brooke, elected Massachusetts Senator in 1966, Brooke was the first African American popularly elected to the Senate and would remain the only person of African heritage sent to the Senate in the 20th century until Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois in 1993, and the only African-American senator to serve multiple terms. Brooke was born at 1938 Third Street NW and later lived with his family at 1730 First Street NW. After graduating from Dunbar High School in 1936, Brooke lived at home and walked to Howard University, where he received a B.S. in sociology.

The house at 1635 First Street NW was once home to comedian **Jackie "Moms" Mabley**, known for her raunchy humor and biting social commentary. Mabley was friends with the "queen of Washington's underworld" **Odessa Madre** of 1719 First Street NW. Madre, a 1924 Dunbar High School honors graduate, operated a legitimate nightclub at 2204 14th St. NW called *Club Madre*, where Mabley, Nat King Cole and Count Basie performed. But she also ran illegal drugs, bootleg liquor, gambling and prostitution out of underground clubs around the city.

Howard University professor **James V. Herring**, who founded the Howard University Art Department in 1922, once operated the Barnett - Aden Gallery at 127 Randolph Place, the first privately owned black gallery in the U.S. and one of Washington, D.C.'s principal art galleries when it opened in 1943. Herring and gallery partner Alonzo Aden supported the development of local and national artists, including Lois Mailou Jones, Elizabeth Catlett, and Charles White.

Broadway star **Delores "Chita" Rivera** grew up at 2134 Flagler Place NW. A Dunbar graduate, Rivera trained at the prestigious Jones-Haywood Dance



Delores "Chita" Rivera

School on Georgia Avenue in Petworth. She's best known for originating iconic roles in Broadway musicals such as Anita in "West Side Story," Rose in "Bye Bye Birdie," Charity in "Sweet Charity," and Velma in "Chicago". She is the recipient of the Kennedy Center Honor, Presidential Medal of Freedom and two Tony awards

Lifting as We Climb

Samuel Gompers, the first and longest-serving president of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), which later became the AFL-CIO, built a house for himself at 2122 1st Street NW, which was declared an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It is to Gompers that the American labor movement owes its structure and characteristic strategies. Under his leadership, the AFL became the largest and most influential labor federation in the world, growing from a membership of 50,000 in 1886 to nearly 3 million in 1924.

As home to so many Howard University faculty and graduates, the Bloomingdale of the 1940s and '50s was a village of high expectations. On Randolph Place alone, four young women grew up to become judges.

Born Anna Johnston to Howard University's first Black treasurer, **Anna Diggs Taylor** became chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Michigan. She was best-known for her 2006 ruling that wiretapping American citizens without a warrant is unconstitutional. Alice Gail Pollard (later Clark) was the first black public defender in Howard County, Maryland, and went on to be a District Court judge there. **Norma Holloway Johnson**, the first and only woman to serve as chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Washington, famously oversaw the 1998 grand jury investigation into President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky. As a girl, she left Louisiana to live with a Randolph Place relative so she could attend Dunbar High School.

Retired D.C. Court of Appeals **Chief Judge Annice Wagner**, who grew up nearby on First Street NW, explained that this was a neighborhood filled with role models. Chief Justice of Tennessee's Supreme Court Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., a Dunbar graduate, grew up in the nearby St. George's Episcopal Church parsonage as the son of the church's first rector. Birch became the state's first African-American chief justice in 1996.



Samuel Gompers

DID YOU KNOW?

Odessa Madre, the "Queen of Washington's underworld," lived at 1719 First Street. A 1924 Dunbar High School honors graduate, at age 17 she opened her first juke joint – an establishment that sold liquor, hosted gambling, as well as, sold drugs and prostitution. During prohibition Madre's net worth was estimated at more than \$100,000. She also operated a legitimate nightclub at 2204 14th St. NW, called Club Madre. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC / The Washington Post / The Washington Blade*)



Odessa Madre

DID YOU KNOW?

McMillan Park was home to the "Bloomingdale Playgrounds," which included six tennis courts, playgrounds, baseball/football/soccer/track & field and multipurpose dance pavilions. The park also hosted a summer concert series that attracted thousands (*Washington Post*, 1924; *Washington Times*, 1917, 1919).

DID YOU KNOW?

The Memorial Church of the United Brethren in Christ, now home to the Metropolitan Wesley AME Zion Church located at North Capitol at R Street NW, was built in 1892.

Physician and public health advocate **Dorothy Ferebee** lived at 1809 Second Street NW. Early in her career Ferebee persuaded the white Capitol Hill Friendship House settlement house to open Southeast Neighborhood House in Anacostia, which provided health and social services for more than 60 years. Later Ferebee organized the Mississippi Health Project, bringing Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority volunteers to staff mobile clinics for tenant farmers. Here at home, she was the second president of the National Council of Negro Women and directed Howard University Medical School's health services.



Dorothy Ferebee

The Recent Past and Present

With desegregation of schools in the 1950s, many began to flee Bloomingdale for the suburbs, but others moved in. And then in 1968, Bloomingdale was hit by riots in the wake of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination. Consequently, in the 1970s, more residents left, but some with strong social and family ties stayed. In the 1980s, despite boarded-up houses and open-air drug markets, persons with longer-term visions began to move into Bloomingdale, renovating its homes, re-invigorating its institutions, organizations, and business sectors - and the Bloomingdale renaissance began!

Today, the villagers of Bloomingdale proudly stand on the shoulders of all that came before us.

Sources: AFL-CIO, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., Cultural Tourism DC, Google Scholar, High's Dairy Stores, National Institutes of Health, National Park Service, Slate.com, Tennessee State Courts website, The Associated Press, The Washington Post, The Washington Blade, Wikipedia, neighborhood interviews.



Anna Diggs Taylor

DID YOU KNOW?

Anna Diggs Taylor became chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Michigan. She was best-known for her 2006 ruling that wiretapping American citizens without a warrant is unconstitutional. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC*)



Norma Holloway Johnson

DID YOU KNOW?

Norma Holloway Johnson was the first African-American and only woman to serve as chief judge of the U.S. District Court. The Dunbar High School graduate, who lived on Randolph Place, famously oversaw the 1998 grand jury investigation into President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC / The Associated Press*)



Annice Wagner

DID YOU KNOW?

Retired DC Court of Appeals Chief Judge **Annice Wagner**, grew up on First Street, explained that this was a neighborhood filled with role models. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC*)

DID YOU KNOW?

Chief Justice of Tennessee's Supreme Court **Adolpho Birch, Jr.**, a Dunbar graduate, grew up in the St. George's Episcopal Church, 160 U Street, as the son of the church's first rector. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC*)

DID YOU KNOW?

Physician and public health advocate **Dorothy Ferebee** lived at 1809 2nd Street. She was the second president of the National Council of Negro Women and interned at Freedmen's Hospital. She helped establish the Southeast Neighborhood House in Anacostia that provided health and social services for 60 years. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC / National Institutes of Health*)



Adolpho Birch, Jr.

DID YOU KNOW?

Crispus Attucks Park is a hidden gem off an alley at First and V streets. After the 1970s closing of a C&P Telephone warehouse, the community persuaded the company to donate the land that eventually became the park. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC*)

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Martin's Catholic Church became a predominately African-American parish after the desegregation in the 1950s. **Father Leslie Branch**, whose family lived at 100 U Street, was St. Martin's first black altar boy, and in 1982 he became the U.S. Navy's first black Catholic chaplain. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC / Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.*)



Dorothy Ferebee



73 1/2 Bryant Street NW

In-law Suite of Lily and Randy Bengfort



DID YOU KNOW?

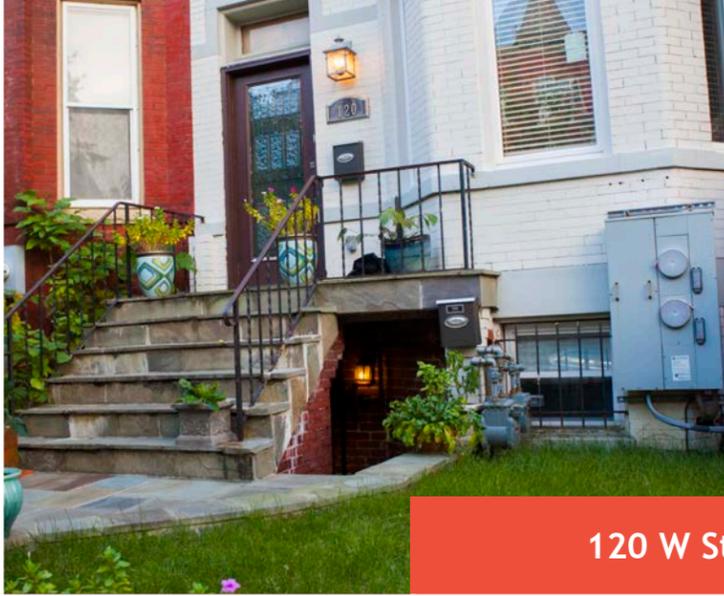
A **Safeway** supermarket was located in the space now occupied by Bloomingdale Liquors at First and Rhode Island, NW. (Source: *Cultural Tourism DC / Neighborhood interviews*)

When Ben and Jaci Bengfort began the search for a home in early 2011, they had only one "must" on their list: an in-law suite. They agreed that as they soon hoped to start a family, having space for Ben's parents, who reside in Columbia, MD, to be nearby would be important, but with a degree of privacy.

Bloomingdale's spacious row houses and English basement apartments proved perfect for the couple's desire to engage in modern multigenerational family living. When the home was purchased in October 2011, the basement was a dark, ordinary, and occasionally damp, 700-square-foot space for 1-2 people. Habitable - but not fabulously so.

After a complete renovation, the family now affectionately refers to the in-law apartment as "The Grand Cave." Designed by Kim McCarl for big living in a small space, it's now thoroughly useful and livable to the last detail. The grandparents enjoy reading the Washington Post and watching TV in front of a fireplace, and have individual computing workspaces, and keep toasty with heated bath floors. A second bedroom allows grandkids, in-laws, or other guests to overnight. The formerly cramped basement easily accommodates dining for 4-6, sleeping for 4-5, and entertaining for the whole family of 8 (plus any little ones that come along!). Comfortable furniture, a grand entrance mirror for keys and hats and technology that controls lights, monitors water and tracks movement imbue this Grand Cave with a family focus and allow for fun urban style living.

2



120 W Street NW, Lower Level

Home of
Jared Earley

Call it karma, intuition, or pure good luck, but Jared's discovery of his apartment, his block, and the neighborhood he would eventually call home all stemmed from a random welcome he received in September of 2010. When an appointment to view the property was accompanied by the warm greeting of a stranger on the sidewalk who assured him that W Street NW was populated by kind, caring neighbors "who share homes and holidays and dinners together" as a matter of course; what followed has been a pleasing immersion into the true meaning of "community," and his home has since joined the ranks of those where dinners are shared and significant occasions are celebrated.

The apartment's identity reflects the occupant's vibrant, quirky, and "distracted minimalist" style - doubling as a creative work space, lively setting for hosting parties, powwows and a relaxing place for overnight guests. Flanked by handmade garden boxes and potted vegetables and herbs at both front and back entrances, and bursting with works-in-progress, kooky cat art, and pop culture ephemera from within, Jared's penchants for food, film, and music are evident in the colorful design and curious contents of the space. From the revived and recycled furnishings to secondhand bric-a-brac peppered throughout, beauty (and comfort) being in the eye of the beholder makes the cozy "120 Wunderground" a perfect spot for adaptable inhabitants who bring an imaginative aesthetic, and fancifully frugal flair.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **World Missions for Christ Extension Center**, a storefront church at the corner of First and Randolph Place, was featured in a PBS film entitled "Let the Church Say Amen," and was highlighted in a segment on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."

3



134 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Home of
Gary Mendel

DID YOU KNOW?

The former **Sylvan Theater** at 116 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, opened in 1913. In 1917, it joined the Crandall chain as Crandall's American Theater, and was later known as Sylvan Theater.

In the course of two years my home went from a 100-year-old grandfather of a DC row house to a 20-year-old modern youngster. The years and a couple generations of "renovation" had it in what can perhaps be described as old school plain and bad. I decided to give the house a makeover top to bottom, down to the firewalls. What took its place has really become my dream home. It's Diverse because it's completely spacious. Divine It's because it was my vision come to life and it's a fabulous Design because the master shower (and a few other things) is nothing short of amazing. I first renovated the basement, so I could live in it while the upstairs work was in process. Additionally, I added a deck above of the bonus room 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 stairs 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 that should be seen.

Bloomingdale chose me. I 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

4



49 T Street NW

Home of
Bertha Holliday

This Georgian Italianate house is distinguished by its formal double-wide façade with two covered arched and columned 36-foot wide porches, and its symmetrical exterior and interior design. In many ways, this house represents the history of Bloomingdale. Its 1916 building permit reveals the house and its ‘twin’ to the rear (54 Rhode Island) originally constituted a single 8-unit apartment building. But as crime and drugs took over the neighborhood in the 1970s and 1980s, the building’s tenants became troublesome. In the late 1980s, I was very interested in purchasing another newly renovated house on this block, but changed my mind because of the rowdiness of the tenants of the house I now own (a ‘partying’ crowd was always hanging over the porch railings). In the 1990s, the building passed through a couple of developer/ investor hands. I purchased the house in 2004 from a developer who put a firewall down the middle of the building, legally subdivided it, and renovated it into two single-family dwellings.

As part of the sales contract, the developer agreed to make numerous upgrades such as larger closets, larger master shower with installation of a steam unit, and upgraded finishing throughout. In 2008, the partial basement was dug out, enlarged and converted to a garage and 1200 square foot 2 bedroom/2 bath rental apartment. More recently, one of my three bedrooms was converted to an office for my home-based business.

The interiors are ‘eclectic’ - antiques and contemporary furnishings co-exist against exposed brick walls punctuated by chrome and glass and Afrocentric art that I have collected around the world.

When I first saw the For Sale sign for this property, I was in the midst of renovating my former 1st Street residence -- with no intention to buy anything! But I kept wondering, “What is that building?” I came, I saw, and I was totally captivated. Passers-by continue to ask the same question. And I respond: “It is an elegant, but comfortable single family home in the center of Bloomingdale!”

5



70 T Street NW

Owners MAPRO
Builders, LLC

Our home is **DIVERSE & DIVINE** because it demonstrates two DESIGN styles. We wanted a home where we could showcase MAPRO Builders’ work.

We purchased the home in late 2012. The two-story home and basement were in great disrepair, with signs of fire damage and years of abandonment, and we wanted our home to demonstrate the neighborhood and showcase MAPRO Builders’ work. Within six months of renovation, keeping three walls and a few joists from the original house, we converted a single-family home into a two family flat.

Adding a third floor, we demolished and rebuilt an 8-foot back addition, and MAPRO Builders installed all new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. We replaced the sewer line and installed a French drain, sump pump, and backflow preventer. Even though the house is “on the hill” and showed no signs of flooding, we wanted to mitigate any future risk, as well as, help divert water that might otherwise contribute to our neighbor’s flooding. We ordered new gas service to operate gas ranges in both units and a tankless water heater.

We excavated the backyard so the rear basement would be at grade and dug a large window well in the front garden. The basement level was dropped a few inches allowing for 7+ ft ceilings and giving the basement an airier feel with natural light in all three bedrooms. Each of the two new units measures 1,400+ sq ft with open floor plans.

Unit one includes the basement and first floor and unit two includes the second and third floors. Both Units have three bedrooms and two and half baths. Unit one has traditional finishes including coffered ceilings in the kitchen and 4- to 8-inch crown molding. Unit two has modern finishes including stainless steel backsplash (suggested by design guru Zach Sherif) and a deck on each floor.

This is the most “neighborly” neighborhood we’ve experienced in D.C. Bloomingdale is a community where neighbors greet each other and lend each other a helping hand. In our first six months in Bloomingdale we received dinner invitations, renovation contracts, and guidance from our neighbors. MAPRO Builders LLC looks forward to being an active member of the Bloomingdale community!



77 S Street NW

Home of
Rene Albacete

Albacete, a landscape architect, attracted to the rich architectural character of the neighborhood, purchased the house in 1990 and incrementally made the renovations over the years. The house was renovated five years prior to purchase, but a series of renters lead the house into disrepair.

The electrical and plumbing systems were upgraded and central air was installed but the house begged for a cosmetic overhaul. The historical character has been preserved except in the kitchen and bathroom, which offered the opportunity to create an ultra-modern renovation to contrast with the old. The tension between the two provides interest.

The eclectic décor is a combination of many discoveries. The backyard was a barren concrete and asphalt paving, which was transformed into an urban oasis, with a terrace, a water feature and the planting of trees. The front yard tree is a white flowering Natchez Crapemyrtle, which was developed in the National Arboretum for cold hardiness. The five back yard trees are Heritage River Birches, which are cultivars of a local native species that grows along the river.

The intention of the design is to give the illusion of being in a forest. The roof houses solar panels and a contained vegetable garden. The panels provide 100% of the household electrical needs.



DID YOU KNOW?

Massachusetts Senator, **Edward Brooke** was the first African-American elected to the Senate in 1966. He was born at 1938 Third Street and later lived with his family at 1730 First Street. (Source: Cultural Tourism DC)



1807 2nd Street NW

Home of
Elizabeth Wilson

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1943, Howard University professor **James V. Herring**, founder of the Howard University Art, Department, established the first privately, black-owned gallery in the U.S. with gallery partner Alonzo Aden, who also once operated the Barnett Aden Gallery at 127 Randolph Place. (Source: Cultural Tourism DC / University of Maryland / Wikipedia)

Built around the turn of the century, the original owners were permitted to build two houses - numbers 1807 and 1809. Both homes are deep toward the back and wide up front, with two stories, three bedrooms and one bathroom, plus the enclosed porch on # 1807. Both structures endured the changing landscape of the District, and in 1997 current owner, Elizabeth Wilson purchased the property.

Her vision was to transform the well-maintained Victorian home, which was in immaculate condition, into a home comfortable for guests. Everything was upgraded and the middle bedroom was divided into a dressing room and bathroom suite, with the other half becoming an office.

The lower floors are magnificent with the original hardwood flooring, winding staircase and two pocket doors with original hardware. Since she spent time living in the Oriental/Asiatic regions of the world, the interior décor reflects those parts of the world with oriental carpets to compliment the design.

Elizabeth chose to live in Bloomingdale in 1995, when in my search for a home large enough to accommodate my collectable furniture, was also affordable. She wanted to live close to all that the city had to offer, while still a neighborhood. Now, with the development Chinatown - the Verizon Center, the new convention center and now the redevelopment between 6th to 12th streets - Bloomingdale is transforming into a D.C. hotspot. She is happy to call Bloomingdale home.

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After the tour, be sure to stop by some of our local businesses. And, if you live in Bloomingdale, please join the BCA and help make this great neighborhood even better!



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ART SHOW

Historic Bloomingdale has since its inception been the home to a diverse, vibrant and notable arts and design community - from accomplished fine artists in all the mediums - to successful writers and amazing poets - to revolutionary architects and visionary landscape designers.

And Bloomingdale today is as diverse and divine as ever!

The Bloomingdale Civic Association's House Tour And Art Show takes great pride to offer you a sampling of some of our remarkable contemporary local talent of 2013!

Please enjoy, delight and celebrate with us today's phenomenal artists and over a century of Bloomingdale's awesome diverse divine design!

Regina Miele



Andrew Cressman

Roseita De Berardinis



Jamie Nicholas

Frank B. Johnson



Lisa K. Rosentein



Suzanne Des Marais



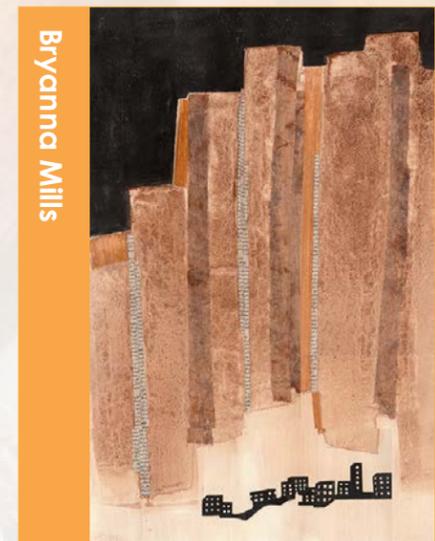
Lenora Yerkes



Gracy Obuchowicz



Bryanna Mills



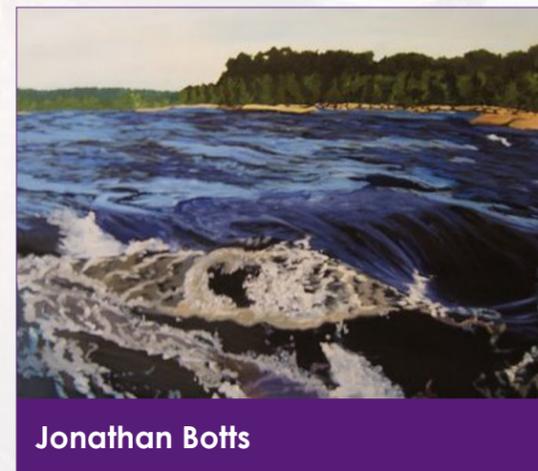
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Erin Fairbanks



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Recycled Art: Think Natural

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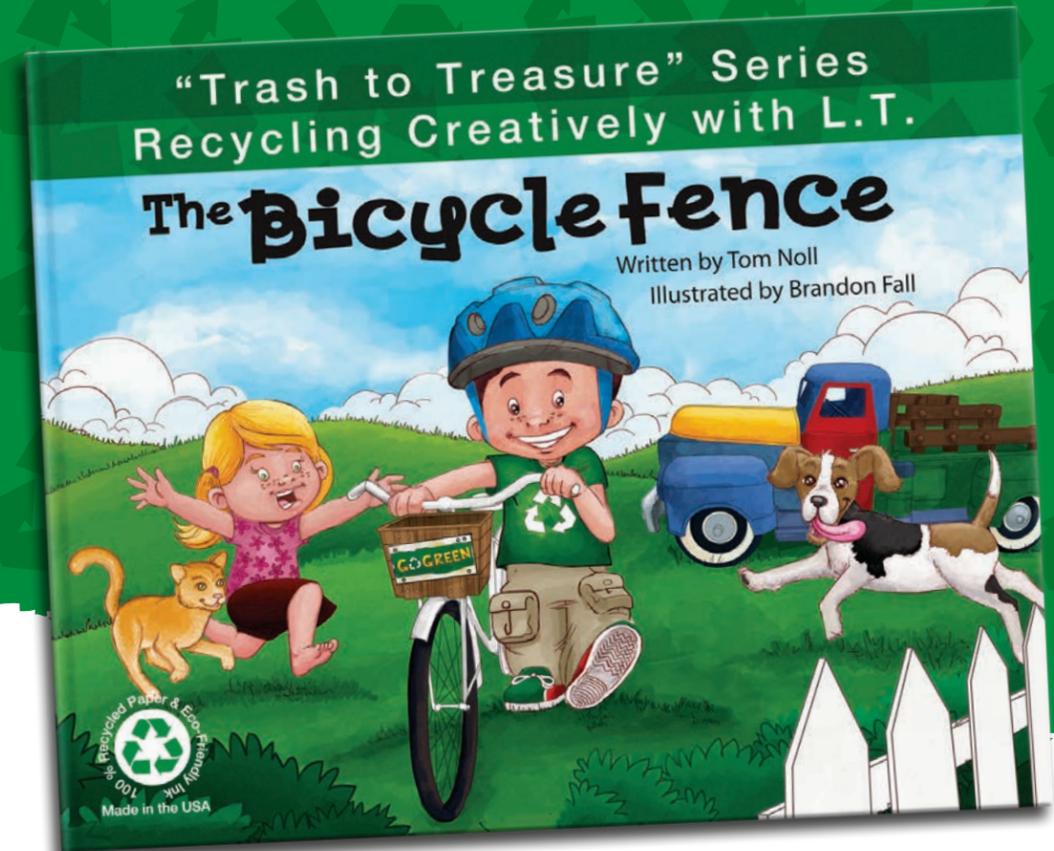
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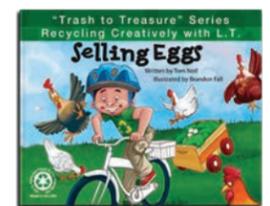
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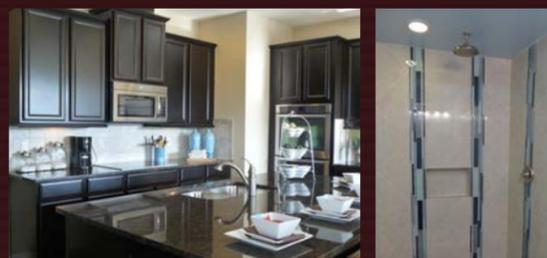
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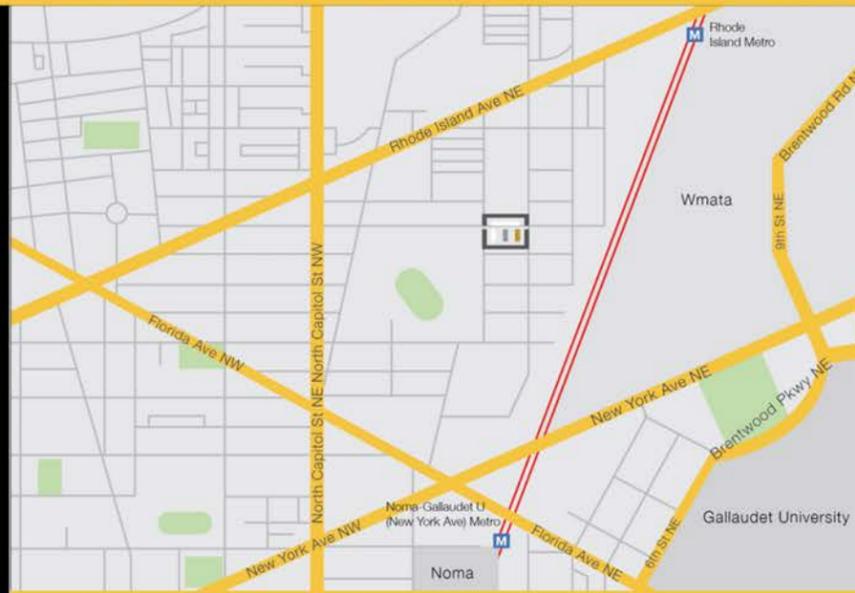
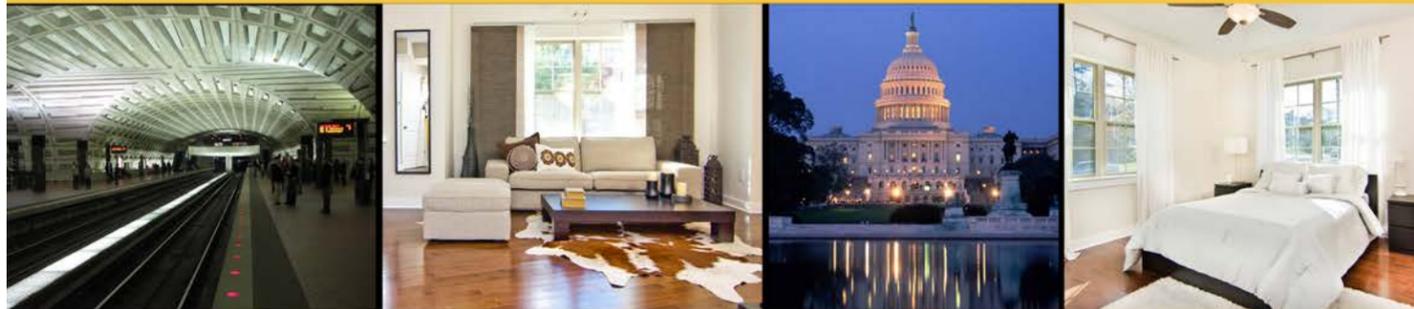
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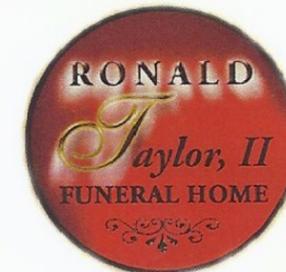
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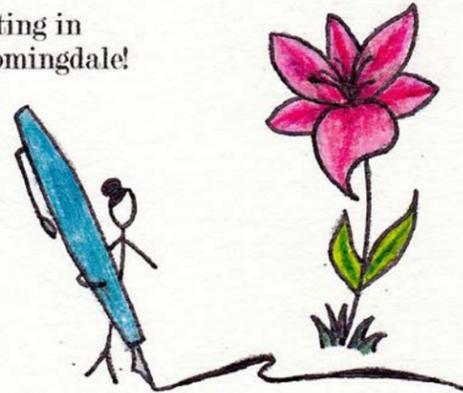
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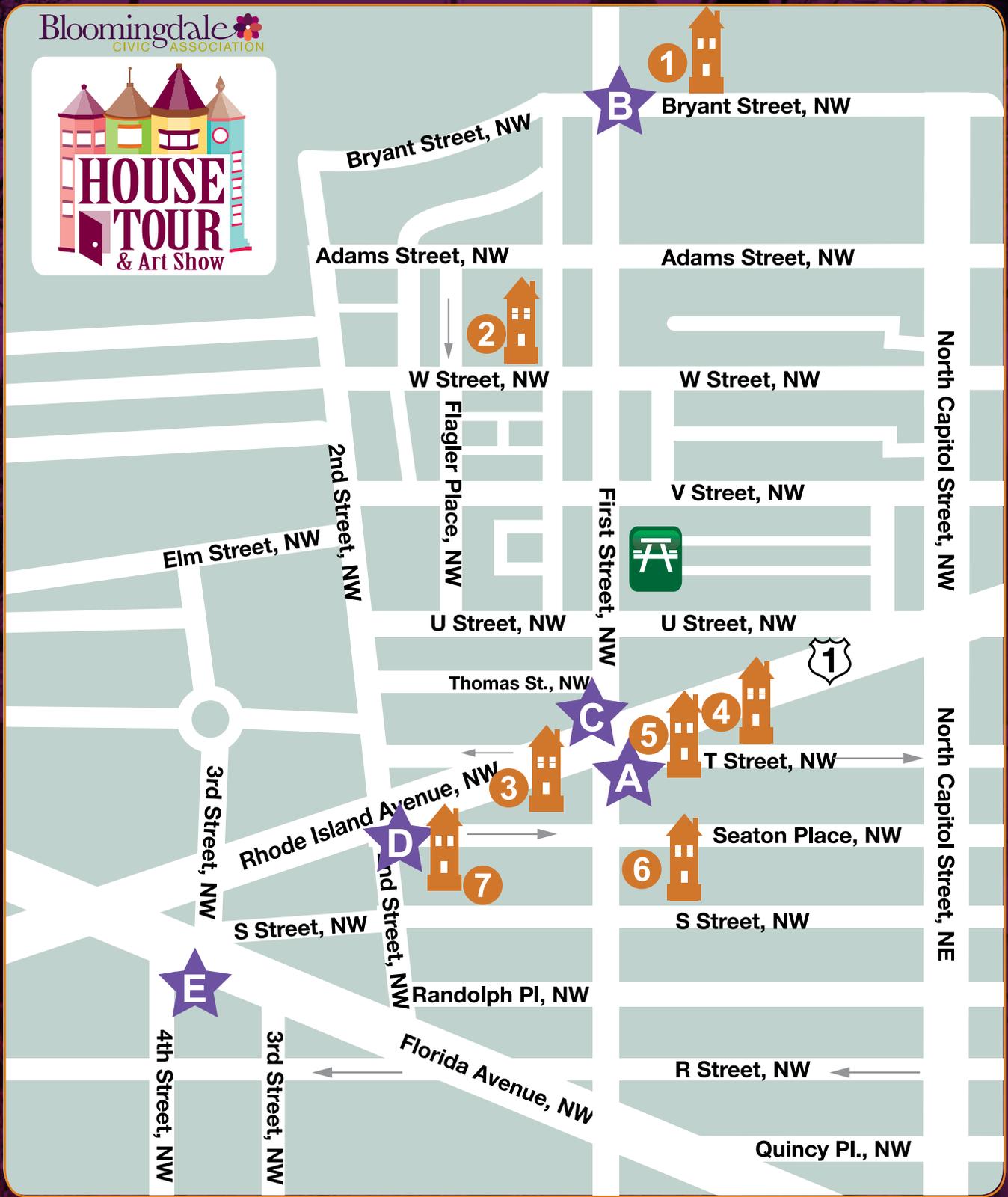
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- A** Rustik Tavern
84 T Street, NW
Registration & Ticket Booth
- 2** 120 W Street, NW
- C** 49 T Street, NW
- 7** 1807 2nd Street, NW
- B** History Kiosk
First and Bryant Street, NW
- 3** 134 Rhode Island Ave
- 5** 70 T Street, NW
- D** History Kiosk
2nd and Seaton Place, NW
- 1** 73 1/2 Bryant Street, NW
- 4** History Kiosk
First & T Street, NW
- 6** 77 S Street, NW
- E** 410 GooBuddy Gallery
410 Florida Avenue, NW
Art Show & Reception