

HISTORIC MOUNT PLEASANT JOURNAL LIVING IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT: DECK THE HALLS!

December 2023

Our Historic Mount Pleasant (HMP) Newsletter strives to inform community members by illuminating <u>historic</u> <u>district permit requirements</u>, technical issues and solutions, and other aspects of the historic district, including its history.

By Jonathan Herz

What is Permitted?

In the Mount Pleasant historic district, changing the exterior appearance of your home usually requires a building permit and clearance from the DC <u>Historic Preservation Office (HPO)</u>. Even if you grew up in an historic district, odds are that you will need help navigating the seemingly arcane and detailed requirements for almost anything more permanent than holiday lights. But if you're just decorating for the holidays, there is no need to worry about permits.

Most maintenance and interior work will not require HPO review and approval. Small projects, like in-kind replacement of deteriorated elements (e.g., roofing, windows and doors, front steps and other site elements and repointing masonry) can be approved over the counter by HPO staff. But, major work, including significant demolition and changes to the exterior of a building, must be approved by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), which is advised by the HPO.



It is vital that your architect or contractor is familiar with historic district requirements. Work in an historic district not approved by the HPRB or HPO is unlawful even if you have obtained a building permit for alterations, repairs, or construction. The <u>Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978</u> establishes criminal penalties for willful violations, including fines of up to \$1,000 for each day a violation continues. Anyone who does work in violation of the act is required to restore the building or structure and its site to its appearance prior to the violation.

Fortunately, it's easy to avoid these problems. The <u>HPO can provide technical assistance</u> early in the planning stages through informal discussions with a preservation specialist on topics like products, services, or renovation

techniques. They will also explain preservation standards and the review process, identify any potential preservation or design concerns, and work collaboratively to explore mutually agreeable solutions.

Often, the HPO will ask the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and the neighborhood historic preservation organization for comments on the proposed work. In Mount Pleasant, the is available to review all cases going to the HPO and HPRB and encourages applicants to contact us early in the project development so we can identify potential issues, provide technical advice, and facilitate approvals. The Committee also welcomes questions about preservation-related work that does not require a permit.

So go ahead and be creative with your decorations. No one will be reviewing and judging them – unless you decide to enter a <u>Best Holiday Lights</u> competition like the one recently judged for Mt. Pleasant Street businesses by the Village and <u>DC's Main Streets</u>. <u>Last year's winners</u> included Overall Best in Show, Purple Patch Restaurant.

MT. PLEASANT HISTORY

Electric Christmas Lights

In 1882, Edward Hibberd Johnson, the vice president of the Edison Electric Light Company decorated the tree in his New York City home with specially-made electric bulbs. The New York Times later wrote, "A BRILLIANT CHRISTMAS TREE, HOW AN ELECTRICIAN AMUSED HIS CHILDREN... Mr. Johnson has been experimenting with house lighting by electricity for some time past."

Early versions were only for the rich, but General Electric (GE) made electric tree lights more affordable in 1903 with pre-assembled sets – still expensive at \$12. Department stores in the larger, electrified cities would rent outfits for the season for \$1.50. Called "festoons," the GE sets consisted of eight green, pre-wired porcelain sockets, eight miniature Edison colored-glass lamps, and a screw-in plug for easy attachment to a nearby wall or ceiling light socket. Interestingly, the 2-pronged electrical plugs we use today were first developed to facilitate connecting strings of Christmas light festoons.

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge pushed the

Xmas Lights Commemorating The Light of the World, Christmas is truly the season of light. Beautiful brightening of the home, to gladden everyone IN it, is accepted as appropriate for this hallowed holiday. But go just a step further! Extend your brightening activ-ties to the EXTERIOR as well as the interior of your home. Utilize the nature-nourished trees and shrubbery of your own premises to spread Christmas joy through that mystic element of electricity which, more than any other, symbolizes this holy Joyous green of verdant shrubbery—beautiful back-ground of white snow—colorful strands of electric lights could YOU pass premises so pleasant without feeling that the provider of such an eye-treat was keeping Christmas unselfishly for the benefit of everyone? A few flood lights, some inexpensive strands of colorful electric lamps and easily-obtainable weather-proof cord are are all that is required! An illuminating Engineer of this Company will gladly give you practical plans for the completion of Christmas cheer through economical exterior lighting. Just phone Main Ten Thousand and ask for an Illuminating Engineer of otomac Electric Power Company -Matchless Service-MAIN TEN THOUSAND

button to light the <u>first National Christmas Tree</u> in Washington D.C., a 48-foot balsam fir covered with 2,500 specially-manufactured electric bulbs. By 1926, the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), with the clever slogan, <u>Matchless Service</u>, was encouraging Washingtonians to "Utilize the nature-nourished trees and shrubbery of your own premises to spread Christmas joy through that mystic element of electricity which, more than any other, symbolizes this holy season." The only problem was that these early sets were <u>small</u>, <u>dangerous and extremely impractical for the average family</u>. In 1927, GE introduced true outdoor lighting and, along with local electric companies, began to sponsor neighborhood "decorating with color-light" contests to promote business. In this century - until this year - the National Zoo's ZooLights, were "Powered by Pepco."

We Have a Winner!

The <u>December 17, 1930 Evening Star</u> displayed the Brighter Washington Christmas Committee of the Electric League cups to be awarded for outdoor Christmas lighting in two categories: the most artistic residential community and the most outstanding business section or community. The board of judges included an architect, the president of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company, and the president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations.

The following year, the Mount Pleasant Citizens'
Association Electric League Cup was awarded to
William S. Hodges of 1707 Irving St. NW "for having
the most attractive lighting about his house."

The November 30, 1931, Washington Times, noted that the "Chanukah Fete" was celebrated "various synagogues throughout the week," but with candles, not electric lights.

WINS ON HOME LIGHTING

William S. Hodges, 1707 Irving Street, Is Awarded First Prize.

William S. Hodges, 1707 Irving street, yesterday was awarded first prize by a Mount Pleasant Citizens' Association committee for having the most attractive Christmas exterior lighting about his house.

The Electric League cup will be presented Mr. Hodges at the association meeting Saturday evening, January 9.

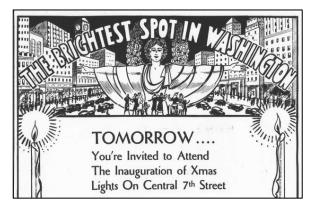
Honorable mention was accorded the residence of Hamlin R. Cochran, 1642 Hobart street, and the Presbyterian Home, 1818 Newton street.

The members of the committee making the award were Dr. A. A. Chenay (chairman), Mrs. Elizabeth M. Byers. Raymond J. Bowen, William T. Talbott and J. T. Miller.



Miss Virginia K. Thayer, secretary to one of the members of the Brighter Washington Christmas Committee of the Electric League, exhibits the cups to be awarded for outdoor Christmas lighting, the large cup being for the most artistic residential community and the smaller one for the most outstanding business section or community. The board of judges includes Robert F. Beresford, architect; Lloyd B. Wilson, president of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co., and Dr. George C. Havenner, president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations.

On the same "Chanukah Fete" page, note the Eastern Air ad: \$20 for "A Day in NEW YORK and home for dinner, Via 18-passenger Curtiss Condors, with a crew of 3 – pilot, co-pilot and hostess," and "The Inauguration of Xmas Lights On Central 7th Street."



Below are:

- 1. The Evening Star December 17, 1930 article on the Electric League cups.
- 2. The Evening Star December 30, 1931 article about the best Christmas decorations in Mt. Pleasant.
- 3. The Washington Times November 30, 1931 article about the "Chanukah Fete."

GROUPS ARE NAMED BY DR. C. H. MARVIN

Recently Appointed Commis sion for District Holds Organization Session.

MRS. PHILIP S. SMITH APPOINTED SECRETARY

The new Grorge Washington Bisen-ternals Commission, named recently by day at the call of the chairman, Dr. Glord Beck Marvin, effective organiza-tion of the chairman properties of the temporary of the commission of cele-leration to be held here in 1937. The commission of the commission of the proposed at ones with re-criticated to of local place and accitotics, and to make a property of the commission of the com-lete of the commission of the commission of the property of the commission of the commission of the property of the commission of the commission of the property of the commission of the commission of the property of the commission of the commission of the property of the commission of the commission of the commission of the property of the commission of the commission of the commission of the property of the commission of the property of the commission of the commission

mission headed by Cano Rudelph, for-mer District Commissioner.

Dr. Marrin ameunced the appoint-ment of John Poole as treasure and Mrs. Phillp Sidney Smith, pecreary.

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LOCAL ACTORS' CHANCE

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AWARDS READY | SERIES OF HOLD-UPS [



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LAID TO BOY, 18, 5 TRAPPED BY VICTIM

Quick-Thinking Taxi Driver Causes Arrest by Proposing Crime Partnership.

CONFESSION CLAIMED AFTER POLICE QUERIES

SUES FOR TREE'S DEATH

SELECTING CHRISTMAS TREES FOR WHITE HOUSE



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The reaconstant Diplos street of the street

CAPITAL HAS PART IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIMON BOLIVAR

Centennial of Death of Liberator of South America Observed Here.

ENVOYS ATTEND MASS HELD AT LOCAL CHURCH

Uniform of Patriot to Be Shown at Ceremonies Tonight at George-town University.

With the National Capital taking the lead, the United States today was joining with Latin American countries in consumentariant the restential of the death of Slimon Bolivar, the great liberator of his native vier-scale and she of Cookerboa, Peru, Beundor, Belivia and Panama.

FIVE PERSONS HURT
IN MOTOR MISHAPS

IN MISHAPS

TOURLES DATION

FOR Filled States and Company and Comp

OPENING OF The Northeast Chinese-American Restaurant 813 H N.E.

Rose Glow Tea Room

14th and Endid Sts. N.W.
Week Day Disners. 5th and 15c
Sonds. Disners. 5th
17 P.M to 736 P.M.
ttub Breakfast. 5th 40 Mc



FAR EAST 519 13th St.

THE GORILLA TIIRKEY \$1.00 TURKEY DINNER Home Cooking Sen

SPEND YOUR New Year's Eves Celebration)

VILLA

WILLIAM M SEAT WALLER WILMER J WALLER Trustees WILMER J WALLER BANK

ROMA
On the New
Rockville Boulevard
Superb Cuisine
plendid Service
parkling Music Superb Cuisine plendid Service parkling Music \$6.00 PER PLATE (

Special Entertainment Noisemakers, Souvenirs and Dancing Till (?)

FRENCH LANGUAGE

Gregg Shorthand TEMPLE SCHOOL

National University Law School

Winter Term Begins
January 4, 1932, at 4:30 P.M.
Standard three-year course leading to degree of LLB. B. C. L.
137d J. D.
Craduate courses leading to de-trees of Lib.M., M. P. L., S. J. D.
ind D. C. L.

School of Economics and Government

16 HOTEL LUDY

FLORIDA

Leisurely cruise over the warm, southern seas; suriny decks, invigorating salt air; quiet, rest, recreatios. Splendid service to Jacksonville - Miami Through tickets to the various Florida points. Fares include meals, regular berth on ship, leaves test for surine All-Ragense Tours to fascinating places in Outs and Pietds. Thurstreet design.

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Out Montmartre

A GALA NIGHT IN TUNE WITH GAMELY

NEW YEARS EVE Brautiful favors for the ladical An elaborate midnite supper prepared by our renowned chef, Laver Blanchi! Souvenirs! Noisemakers! Fun galore!

\$8 Per Person-Including Supper

are appearing in local theaters this week as

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"32 SAFETY VOWS

URGED ON DRIVERS

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Traffic Council Calls Upon
Motorists to Stop 'Hogging'
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NEW YEAR

COLUMBIA PHOTO SUPPLY

SINCE 1900 1424 New York Ave. N.W.

Lowest Cut Prices on Drugs and Toilet Articles Are Always

Available at GIBSON'S

and 9.44 p.m.

Rialte—"Strictly Dishonorable," at 11:38 a.m. 1:50, 3:44, 5:38, 7:33 and 9:39 p.m.

Earle—"Manhattan Parade" and these stricts. Huller & d'Albert, Inc.

the Grant of Control Chairman and Chairm

No. 79 for CATARRH & SINUS TROUBLE
Homoeopathic Pharmacy
187 B St. A.W. Florie NA. 1608

"Retrospection and Introspection by Mary Baker Eddy," The Life of Mars Baker Eddy," by Sibyl Wilbur. "Mary Baker Eddy, A Life Size Portrait," by Lyman P. Pewell. Location of Reading Rooms:



Biographies of Mary Baker Eddy THE following authentic biomage authentic biomage and the Eddy, the Discoverer, Founder and Leader of Christian Seence, may be reed, or borrowed, without during at any of the Christian Seience Reading Rooms: 39 9lb IOIS E STREET Supper

NEW YEAR EVE anly \$5 per person

-- Lichiding everything -- noise makers. Fators senvenirs etc. Dancing from 11 P.W. to 4 A.M. Make reservations at once Restaurant Madrillon

OPERA COMPANY
WEST ATTENDATE THAT THE STATE OF THE STATE THURS, (RO.) JAN T.-FAUST (IN PRINCE) (See) JAN, S.-CARMEN (IN SAT. (Mail) (Builde Bir) JAN, B.-HANNEL & GERTIL (IN Regish) FAOLIACCI (IN HUMAN SAT. (KAY.) JAN, B.-RIGOLETTO (IN SAT. (KAY.) JAN, B.-RIGOLETTO (IN SAT. (KAY.) JAN, B.-RIGOLETTO (IN SAT.) (KAY.) (

NAGEL BUSTER

CRAWFORD

1932 Calendars

Incody to compare to compare

844 North Howard Street Baltimore, Maryland

Nine KIDWELL'S Nine

Markets MARKETS, Inc. Markets

Start the New Year Right! -:- Shop With Us Open New Year's Day Till 1 O'Clock

NEW YEAR'S SPECIALS TURKEYS (Extra Faney)
CHICKENS (Fancy Frying & Baking)

VEAL CUTLETS 18. 25c | LARGE FRESH HAMS ... 11.

Pure Hog Lard to. 9c; 3 tos. 25c | SLICED BACON. Comp'nd Lard to 8c; 3 to 23c BACON SQUARES.

Pig Liver to 7c; 4 to 25c STRIP BACON.

Wheth or Floor SMOKED SAUSAGE. 18. 12½c FRESH SPARE RIBS 18. 12½ NEW SAUERKRAUT. 41. 7c FRESH PIG TAILS. 18. 10

A REAL
PEACH SALE
Frontier Brand can 12½ TRY
Orinda Club Brand can 14¢ A CAN
Sutter Pack Brand can 15c TODAY Pure Sweet Apple Cider .gat. 17c | Pure Sw. Apple Cider 15 gat. 12c

Cooking Apples (large) 10 the 17c; bu. bas. 69c LARGE GRAPEFRUIT . each 5c TOKAY GRAPES 1b. 10c

A Great ½ Price Orange Sale!

ORANGES 15c ORANGES 20c ORANGES 25c

TANGERINES (very fancy) ORANGES 15c

405 H Street N.E. 7th and C Streets S.E. 2611 14th Street N.W. 8215 Georgia Ave., Silver Spret, 12th and H Streets N.E.

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Miss Evelyn Nesbit Thay

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A Happy and Prosperous New Year to All!

FRESH-KILLED FOWLS . 16. 20c | SMOKED HAMS

Round Steak ... 18c | Lamb Much Cheaper Sirlein Steak ... 19c | BREAST REAL LAMB ... 6. Perter'se Steak ... 20c | LEC SPRING LAMB ... 16. | Perter'se Steak ... 20c | LEC SPRING LAMB ... 17. | Hamburg Steak ... 12c | Rib & Loin Lamb Chops ... 14c | Chuck Reast ... 12c | Shoulder Spring Lamb ... 18. | Plate Beef ... 8c | Shoulder Lamb Chops ... 10.

. п. 19

EGGS that are fresh . . . doz. 29c CREAMERY BUTTER . . 15. 32c SUGAR 10. 41/cc POTATOES 10. 10. 13c

LARGE PAPER SHELL PECANS 10. 18c; 3 no. 50c Sweet Potatoes 10 no. 13c

(targe No. 11-80 and Backet. 60c

SCREEN pecial Preview of the Laugh Riot of 1932 STEPPING SISTERS In PERSON Minna Gombell Louise Dresser Jobyna Howland

Tonight BELASCO No Secretary ELLIS AND SYBNEY "JEWEL ROBBERY" NEXT MON.-Seats Thurs.

PAULINE LORD In Dan Totherob's New Drama

"DISTANT DRUMS"

Foorth Altraction of the Neuma

FRODENSIONAL PLANEISS SEASOR

Sights, 56c-52, 56c-51, 56c-51, 56c

Set, Mat., 56c-52

TED SHAWN

and His Dancers
Central High Auditorium, 13th &
Cilifton St.

Cuesday, January 5, 8:15 P.M.
Admission 2,600 Record Seate 31,50
n Sale: T. Arther Smith Concert Bureau
Miller and A.

LAST 2 DAYS

HARRY LANGDON On the SCREEN

WHEELER & WOOLSEY

BOW AT CHITAGE DAYERS IN

REST IN "PEACH ONENO IN TOMORROW NIGHT

NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW 8 RKO VAUDEVILLE ACTS

"MEN OF CHANCE" OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES
FOR THIS SPECIAL
FOR THIS SPECIAL

ALL SEATS RESERVED Tickets now seiling at the bex office STARTING FRIBAY

Ele Samuela, Vanesa briding Pico Vandenille and Rieards Curies in "Man of Chance" on the serven.

EARLE UGHTNER "Manhattan Parade" OE PENNER

iew Year's Eve Show

MAS DOTHE LEON JANNEY JUNIOR COGHLAN

PAUL LUKAS SIDNEY FOX LEWIS STONE

MIDNIGHT SHOW NEW YEAR'S EVE 11:30 RIAITO

0 "DELICIOUS" STAGE
FANCHON and MARCO'S
"SKETCHES" IDEA LES STEVENS
THE DIPLOMATS
CHILDREN CNDER IZ
IS CENTS ALL TIMES

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ROSA LOW Prince, St. 50 St.00, 75c, 55c, Soxes, 518.06 Tickets Mrs. Wilson-Green's Bureau Droup's, 1300 G street: District 6493.

GAYETY-BURLESK "KUDDLING KUTIES

WANDA DeVON BIG MID-NITE SHOW NEW YEAR'S EVE AT 11:30 P.M. FILMS

CAROLINA THE MAGNIFICES MATTON BOOK OF RAME AND STATE AT STATE APOLLO MATTHE AT JACKE COOPER THE CHAMP

AVENUF GRAND SEE BETT LAND, Red CHANGOTE HERE CHECKED FROM HIGH WATER BOARD TO BE BE D and E LADORE BARRYMOOF AND FLISSA COLONY OR A PARSON FOR THE STATE OF THE STAT

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EDW. G. ROMINEN, H. B. WARNE
EDW. G. ROMINEN, H. B. WARNE

Miss Ellen Waller

E. F. MILLER Sall Room, Tap. Acre-

ROUND TRIP

THOS. COOK & SON

DEATH CLAIMS 'MIRACLE MAN' HEALER

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Police Post Vets Honor Lieut. Smith

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Delivers any

Majestic Radio this week only! Until closing Saturday you can take your choice of any MAJESTIC RADIO model in our stock on a DOWN PAY MENT OF ONE DOLLAR!

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New Pan-American Mail Pact Is Ready

—and Mary likewise knows that Dupont returns everything crisp, fresh, sweet, clean and beautifully finished. Wearing apparel is starched where necessary and hand finished. Bed and table linens are ironed and neatly folded.

This is an excellent laundry serv-ice for the particular family.

Phone today-Columbia 4200!

Other DUPONT Services:

Damp Wash Blankets
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Plus 16c a lb. for wearing apparel.



You're Invited to Attend The Inauguration of Xmas Lights On Central 7th Street

Tomorrow afternoon at 5 P. M. Central Seventh Street from G to K becomes Washington's gay white way! Thousands of vari-colored lights will transform this popular business section into a brilliantly illuminated Christmas Shopping Center.

CENTRAL SEVENTH STREET . . . always outstanding for quality merchandise at reasonable prices, as usual, is prepared to serve you honestly, modernly, skillfully and well. In these three busy blocks one may buy everything imaginable for Yuletide Comfort and Good Cheer. We promise that your Holiday Gift Excursions, here, will be more interesting, more attractive and more satisfactory than ever before.

Shop On Central 7th Street And Save Xmas Dollars

Central 7th Street

From G st. to K st.

