

THE BULLETIN



September 2003

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING - AGENDA

When: 17 September 2003

- **4:30 p.m.** on - Display by UDOT of transportation options for 500 No. and 300 No. Columbus Street.
- **6:30-7:30** - Business meeting.
 - Welcome and minutes.
 - Police report.
 - Transportation - Columbus St.
 - City Council - Eric Jergensen.
 - Legislature - Ralph Becker.

**Where: Utah Travel Council Bldg.
Conference Room
(s.e. corner of 300 No. and State St.)
- NOTE new location this month only**

For our September meeting, officials from UDOT will display alternate they are considering for signals and other traffic control measures for Columbus Street, particularly at the 300 North and 500 North intersections. Displays will be available from 4:30 on, and we'll have a short business meeting at 6:30. Please come, consider the options, and make your views known.

**Next Meeting: October 15, 2003
6:30, Washington School Library**

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council

<i>Chair:</i>	Katherine Gardner	328-1724
<i>Vice-Chair:</i>	Peter VonSivers	364-3310
<i>Vice-Chair:</i>	Claude Brandt	531-7501
<i>Secretary:</i>	Christine Wade	918-0114
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Polly Hart	355-7203
<i>Historian:</i>	Herminoie Jex	364-5326

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The Historic Landmark Commission

Nelson Knight and Scott Christensen

The unique and historical character of our Capitol Hill neighborhoods is what drew many of us to move here. We relish the charm of our older houses and enjoy comparing their histories and renovation stories.

The value of our historic buildings has not always been so clear. Long-time residents will remember struggles over proposals that would have dramatically changed the character of our neighborhood. The protection of Capitol Hill's unique built-environment has been a grass-roots effort, from fighting for designation of the historic district (finally achieved in 1984) to the house-by-house restorations undertaken by so many of us.

These preservation efforts have paid off in many ways. We have protected the unique architecture, street patterns, and landscaping that improve the livability and quality-of-life in our area. Our neighborhood is often touted as a success story that other areas seek to emulate, and our streets are lively and interesting places to walk.

Great economic benefits have come from our preservation efforts. Property owners within the historic district have felt comfortable investing a good amount of time and money on their properties because they know that these investments will not be undermined by inappropriate construction next door. Several national studies have shown that where local historic districts such as the Capitol Hill Historic District are established, property values typically rise or, at minimum, are stabilized.

Low-interest loans from the Utah Heritage Foundation were the catalyst for many of the Hill's early preservation efforts, especially along Apricot Ave. and Quince St. in the Marmalade neighborhood. The UHF still loans money for appropriate renovations to historic buildings, as does the city. These incentives are supplemented by the State historic rehab tax credit program that can return up to 20% of our restoration dollars in a direct tax write-off. Since 1993, 33 projects in the Capitol Hill district have received over \$270,000.00 in tax credits for nearly \$1.4 million invested in historic buildings.

The Salt Lake City Planning Division, in response to a request by council member Eric Jergensen, is currently examining the city's system of encouraging historic preservation in the city and review of projects by the Historic Landmark Commission. As part of this process, the planning staff and members of the HLC are looking at ways to refine the current system to ensure the protection of the Capitol Hill Historic District and the city's five other historic districts, while making the program more user-friendly and allowing for changes that will contribute to the health of these neighborhoods. For news of possible changes and opportunities to comment as the study proceeds, or for more information on the preservation program, see www.slcgov.com/ced/hlc or landmarks@slcgov.com or call 535-6189.

This Old House

George Washington Hill and Cynthia Stewart Hill House - 270 W. Reed Ave.

This month's house sits somewhat inconspicuously at the north end of the Capitol Hill Historic District, but it was once the setting for colorful cross-cultural exchanges in the 1870s and '80s. The house's resident, George Washington Hill, acted as an agent and interpreter for Native Americans visiting the city during this time. His house stood near the wall at the city's north boundary, and was also close to Warm Springs, a traditional camping spot for Native Americans. Many Indian visitors would camp in the Hills' yard or in a nearby circular dwelling constructed for their use. George would accompany them into the city to trade or conduct other business.

An Ohio native, George Washington Hill was born in 1822. [*continued next page*]

This Old House (cont.) He met and married Cynthia Stewart in 1845 in Missouri, and joined the LDS Church about a year later. He and his wife immigrated to Utah with the Smoot wagon company in 1847. During the trip, Cynthia gave birth to their first child, also named George. The family settled in Ogden, and eventually grew to six children. During this time, George was called to be a missionary for the LDS Church at Fort Lemhi, on the Salmon River in Idaho. George learned the Shoshone language, and he earned the respect of the Shoshone and their chief, Sagwitch. George later published a vocabulary of the Shoshone language and also learned the languages of the Bannocks, Flat Head, and Nez Perce. The Shoshone gave him the name Inkapompy, which means "man with red hair." From the 1850s through the 1870s, Hill served as a missionary to the Northwestern Shoshone and as a peacekeeper and intermediary between the tribe and the new settlers in the region.

George carried on this work when he moved his family to Salt Lake City in 1879. He became the Indian agent and interpreter for the LDS Church, and would assist in Indian visits to the city. Family lore also holds that his house on Reed Avenue was the setting for meetings of tribal elders with city and church leaders, including Brigham Young (but since Brother Brigham had died by the time of the family's move to the city, this part of the story may be discounted.)



George Washington Hill

Research by architectural historian Korral Broschinsky estimates the date of construction of this house sometime around 1876. The adobe structure has simply Greek Revival details common to many pioneer-era homes. At one time, a full-width porch stretched across the west side of the house, as you can see on the accompanying historic photo supplied by historian and Capitol Hill resident Scott Christensen. The house also once had three tall brick chimneys and was surrounded by several outbuildings. All of these details were removed during later remodeling work, but the original cornices, interior woodwork, and most of the windows remain.

When George Washington Hill died in 1891, Cynthia remained in the house, and was soon joined by her son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Frances Hill. Charles died in 1908, six months after his mother, but Frances remained in the house until her death in 1953. France Mae Baker, granddaughter of George Washington Hill, then bought the house and lived there until 1975. The house has since been a rental property.

— Nelson Knight

Volunteer Service Opportunities — September

Service Activities

- **Primary Children's Medical Center** needs volunteers for its information desks, gift shop, and other areas. Call 588-2446 for more information.
- **Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club** continues its service to our community. Join us each Thursday at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and a speaker at the Inn at Temple Square. For more information, call Moyle Anderson at 364-7294.
- Help the **Neighborhood Watch** for two hours or more monthly. To help, or for more information, please call Joan Legge, 355-8396.
- **LifeCare** (1025 S. 700 W.) needs volunteers to help homebound seniors and persons with disabilities by delivering food boxes or helping with yard work. For more information, call 978-2452.
- **TreeUtah** would like help hand watering during the summer. Visit www.treeutah.org or call 364-2122 if you do not have internet access.
- **Utah Food Bank** always welcomes volunteers to help sort food at their warehouse at 1025 S. 700 W. Please call Christine Thomas at 908-8660.

Food, Clothing, Other Donations

- **The LDS 19th Ward Relief Society**, located at 225 W. 500 N., sponsors a **clothing exchange** on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Everything is free!* Come and look, or bring something along to pass on to someone else. All are welcome!
 - **Crossroads Urban Center** helps feed the homeless in our neighborhood. This month they have a special need for **crackers, Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese**. Their **Thrift Store** needs dishes, silverware, pots and pans, and small groups for sorting. Please call Linda Hilton at 364-7765, or drop off food items at the Center's pantry, 120 W. 1300 S.
 - **The Road Home** (formerly Travelers Aid Society) is in need of volunteers at its community shelter, 210 S. Rio Grande St. Donations of personal hygiene items, socks, underwear, diapers, and any other items are needed. Call 359-4142 or go to www.tasslc.org.
- The 17th Annual Great Salt Lake Chili Affair, charity and fund raiser with all proceeds supporting **The Road Home** will be Sept. 17, 5:30 p.m., at the Salt Palace. There will be entertainment and a silent auction.

Literacy, Reading, and Children

- **The Children's Museum of Utah** needs energetic, fun-loving seniors, and others to volunteer for work in the galleries, at the front desk, and behind the scenes. Call 328-3383.
- **Washington School** needs volunteers to read to a child one hour a week. Call Ann Pendell, 578-8140, Tuesdays or Thursdays for details.
- **Literacy Volunteers of America-Wasatch Front** is seeking volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.
- **Become a foster parent** and strengthen a family! Right here in our Capitol Hill neighborhood are children in need of safe, stable, loving homes while their families heal. You can be married or single, with or without children, renter or homeowner. Visit www.utahfostercare.org or call 994-5205. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

If you have items for the Bulletin or questions about the mailing list, or would like to help produce the Bulletin, please call Illona Stuehser (533-0678), Autumn Cook (596-9729), Christine Wade (918-0114), or Stephen or Corinne Sorenson (364-3838).

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Polly Hart

When Polly Hart was growing up in a Chicago suburb, her family repeatedly came to Utah to ski because “when you live in the Midwest, it’s just as easy to go west as east, and the snow is so much better.” She fell in love with Utah skiing – so much so, that it was the skiing that ultimately drew her back to make Utah her home.

Polly graduated from Colgate University in upstate New York with a degree in fine arts, then lived in New York City for the next eight years. Among other jobs she worked for three years for the famed Sotheby’s auction house as the administrator of their old master paintings department. She also designed and made jewelry. Finally the lure of the slopes was too strong, and she moved to Utah.

Here, Polly continued her work as a jeweler and, in 1997, completed work on a master’s degree in historic preservation at the University of Utah. She lived in Sandy for the first year and a half “because it was only three minutes from the bottom of Little Cottonwood Canyon,” but when the time came to buy a house, “I couldn’t bear to invest in



Historic Preservationist

Sandy.” This led her to West Capitol Street where she had “the best of all worlds – a modern home in a historic neighborhood.” In 1994, Polly bought the historic Thomas Quayle home on Quince Street from the Utah Heritage Foundation, restored it, and has lived there since (see January 2002 *Bulletin* pp. 1-2). “I absolutely love the neighborhood,” she says. “Living on Quince Street is like having a second family.”

In the early 1990’s she became concerned and involved in opposing a proposed development on Almond Street. That, and the discovery “that I couldn’t make a living doing” historic preservation full-time, served as catalysts to her involvement in politics (Polly has worked part-time for the Democratic Party and has been a candidate for the Salt Lake City Council) and in the community. She continues to be a mainstay of our Community Council where she currently serves as treasurer.

Polly continues to love skiing and Utah’s other outdoor life. Her parents and sister continue to come to Utah to ski (her father is 83, and not only still skis but wind-surfs as well.) She shares her historic home with Sitzmark, her eight-year-old German Shepherd/Labrador, and Rocket, her five-year-old Husky who occasionally pulls Polly up the mountain when they cross-country ski. Her love for jewelry-making also continues; her work will appear in the Sundance catalog beginning in the Christmas issue.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS – SEPTEMBER

Gallivan Center

- Lunch Bunch Concert Series - Weekdays through Sept. 19, Noon to 1 p.m.

Salt Lake Art Center

- Art Talks features artists, curators, critics and poets – each Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 p.m., 20 So. West Temple

Temple Square Concert Series - 7:30p.m.

- 5 - Victoria Ferris - Violinist
- 6 - Samuel Kummer - Organist
- 10 - Tien-Ni Chen - Pianist
- 12 - Lev Vinocour - Pianist
- 13 - Paradigm Chamber Orchestra

- 16 - Orchestra at Temple Square Concert (free tickets may be available; check Conference Center ticket office.)
- 17-18 - Summer Piano Competition
- 19 - Davis Master Chorale
- 20 - Orchestra at Temple Square Concert

... and please remember ... chances to let your views be known on two important issues:

- * **Wednesday September 17** – Community Council meeting on **UDOT proposals for Columbus Street** (see front page for details.)
- * **Wednesday, September 24** – Open house on **RDA plans for the block at 500 North and 300 West [the old Safeway corner]** – 4:00-7:30 p.m., Utah Symphony and Opera Studios, 336 No. 400 West.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council
c/o Salt Lake Association of Community Councils
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