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CONNECTICUT PRESERVATION AWARDS 2020

Preservation Connecticut is proud to announce its Connecticut Preservation Awards for 2020. Recognizing individual projects, long-term contributions, and professional achievement, the awards demonstrate the many ways historic places contribute to the life and vitality of Connecticut communities.

This year we present our awards during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which has upturned public life in ways that no one could have imagined just a few months ago, and with effects that will linger for a long time to come. One award recipient has gone out of business; others are struggling to adjust to the new realities. But the places themselves remain. By their enduring presence they tell stories of survival and adaptation through decades or even centuries of unimaginable change. And through those stories they offer hope that we, too, will survive and adapt.

Preservation Connecticut will host a virtual awards ceremony on September 9, as well as individual presentations for each awardee. For information, visit PreservationCT.org.

HARLAN H. GRISWOLD AWARD: Merritt Parkway Conservancy

presented jointly with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office

Since 2002, the Merritt Parkway Conservancy has actively championed Connecticut's historic parkway, as a private partner assisting the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT). Over the years, the Conservancy has promoted Parkway history, provided supplemental landscape care, and consulted on numerous Parkway improvement projects. But its greatest accomplishment has been to balance the two seemingly incompatible roles of supporting CTDOT and when necessary challenging it. and Preservation Connecticut.

JANET JAINSCHIGG AWARD FOR PRESERVATION PROFESSIONALS: Bruce Clouette

Historic preservation begins with research: we cannot preserve what we do not understand. For 45 years, Bruce Clouette has helped the people of Connecticut understand and preserve the places that embody their history. As historian, architectural historian, and industrial archaeologist, he has documented historic sites, guided their preservation, and shared his knowledge through always-engaging books and articles, conference presentations, teaching, talks, and tours.

AWARDS OF MERIT

Preservation Connecticut's merit awards for 2020 recognize the grit, sweat, brains, and investment behind the rescue, re-use, or recycling of eleven historic Connecticut places, plus a statewide plan for resiliency. We are honored to recognize these efforts and celebrate the results: volunteers empowered, jobs and homes created, justice delivered, and communities strengthened.

Branford: James Blackstone Memorial Library entry pavilion

Thirty years ago, the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted as a civil rights measure, to ensure the dignity of all citizens whatever their physical condition. The Blackstone Library has

more than met that goal while respecting and enhancing its historic architecture, with a new addition that creates a dignified entry while leaving the architect's original design intact and in use at the front.

Project team: James Blackstone Memorial Library; Silver, Petrucelli & Associates, Inc.; Michael Horton Associates; Criscuolo Engineering; Langan Engineering; Downes Construction Company

Lake Avenue bridge, Merritt Parkway, Greenwich

Restored in a public-private collaboration between the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, the Lake Avenue bridge once again provides a fitting gateway to Connecticut. Moreover, by its visibility, it calls attention to the Department of Transportation's ongoing work to enhance and improve the parkway as an important transportation corridor and a treasured historic asset.

Project team: Connecticut Department of Transportation; Mohawk, Northeast, Inc.; Milone and MacBroom; Merritt Parkway Conservancy; Jablonski Building Conservation

Hamden: Borough496 (Newhall Street School)

Long vacant and structurally unsound, this historic school was turned into a community-based incubator, called Borough496, by the Hamden Economic Development Corporation. Offering working and meeting spaces, plus business training, mentoring, and events, Borough496 is putting its historic building to work to create jobs and wealth in an otherwise poor and blighted neighborhood.

Project team: Hamden Economic Development Corporation; Buchanan Architects, LLC; PAC Group, LLC

Hartford: Mahogany Suite, Mark Twain house

Archival research and high-level craftsmanship combine to provide a new glimpse into the life and home the famed author Mark Twain, a National Historic Landmark. The Mahogany Suite, the best guest quarters, has been restored using five different wallpapers installed following traditional techniques, and its original mahogany woodwork was stripped and restored to its historic finish.

Project team: The Mark Twain House & Museum; John Canning & Company, Ltd.; David Scott Parker Architects; Downes Construction Company

Norwalk: Smilow Center (Boese, Peppard Company lace mill)

The Boese, Peppard Company lace mill is one of only five remaining buildings from Norwalk's once-thriving garment business. Open Doors shelter has adapted the once-abandoned building to complement the nearby shelter. The facility now provides a job training center; a clothing area; a community health center; and sixteen efficiency apartments for single men.

Project team: Open Doors; Gill & Gill Architects; Peterson Engineering Group; Archer Engineering; Kluetsch Consulting; Heritage Resources; PAC Group Construction Managers; Smilow Charitable Trust

Norwich: Café Otis (Otis Library building)

Paying homage to the history of Norwich's former library, Asaf Cohen, Sofia LeWitt, and Carol LeWitt made it a gathering spot like no other in the community. Sadly, the coronavirus pandemic forced Café Otis to close. While the renovated building awaits new occupants, the developers, building on their success, are renovating three more historic downtown buildings.

Project team: Otis Home, LLC

Ridgefield: BassamFellows Headquarters (Schlumberger Research Center administration building)

The Schlumberger Research Center administration building, Philip Johnson's first non-residential commission, sat vacant after 2006. Now, the design company BassamFellows has fully restored it. With its elegance of proportion, spacious and light-filled interiors, and timeless material and color palette, the restored research center feels as contemporary today as it was in 1952.

Project team: BassamFellows Inc.; Alan Peterman

Simsbury: Joseph R. Ensign house

Combining dual passions for preservation and energy efficiency, longtime residents Mark and Ieke Scully created a program for this historic house that includes a restaurant, salon, apartments, and Airbnb rental. The real focus of the project was sustainability, including storm windows and a solar array, plus bicycle and electric vehicle parking, and permeable pavement to reduce runoff.

Project team: Solectran, LLC; Crosskey Architects, LLC; Acorn Consulting Engineers; James K. Grant Associates; CR3 LLP; Prescott Construction; Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office; National Park Service; Hassett & George, PC; Marcum; Webster Bank; Eversource Energy; Home Energy Technologies; Simsbury Main Street Partnership

Statewide: Resiliency Planning for Preservation

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy underscored the need to incorporate historic preservation in resilience planning and disaster recovery. Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office has created a comprehensive approach to preservation planning amid climate change along with planning tools to carry that out. Now, Connecticut is better able to protect its irreplaceable historic resources amid environmental threats.

Project team: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.; Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office; Dewberry; Milone and MacBroom; Towers | Golde, LLC; Ocean Surveys, Inc.; Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center; University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography

West Haven: First Congregational Church of West Haven

In 2018 a forty-square-foot section of ceiling and decorative cornice collapsed in the First Congregational Church's sanctuary. Many building owners might have replaced old plaster completely with a more modern ceiling. But the church chose instead to reinforce the historic ceiling and attic framing and re-attach the loosened plaster and moldings.

Project team: First Congregational Church of West Haven; GNCB Consulting Engineers; Kronenberger and Sons Restoration; John Canning & Company

Windsor Locks: Montgomery Mill Apartments (J. R. Montgomery Company mill)

The J.R. Montgomery Company manufactured yarns, tinsel products, and communications wire in Windsor Locks from 1891 until 1989. Today, its once-vacant mill has been converted into 160 apartments, a daunting undertaking that, among other challenges, required remediating contamination and providing access to the tight but scenic site between the Windsor Locks Canal and the Connecticut River.

Project team: BC Montgomery Mill LLC (Beacon Communities); Beacon Communities Services LLC; Crosskey Architects LLC; Beacon Concepts; Long Consulting LLC; James K. Grant Associates; Fuss & O'Neill; Cirrus Structural Engineering LLC; Keith Construction, Inc.; WaypointKLA; Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office; Connecticut Department of Housing; Connecticut Housing Finance Authority; National Park Service; Eversource Energy; Bank of America; Town of Windsor Locks; Connecticut Main Street Center

Woodbridge: Thomas Bevins house

When the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority decided to sell its rental properties, the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society agreed to provide buyers for three Woodbridge houses. Builder James Urbano bought the severely deteriorated Thomas Bevins house and restored it. Today, this modest farmhouse once again provides a reminder of Connecticut's rural past.

Project team: Amity Woodbridge Historical Society; South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority; F. & J. Urbano Company, Inc.; Andrea Rose Urbano

The Connecticut Preservation Awards for 2020 are sponsored by AHS Cultural Resource Management; The Architects; Architectural Preservation Studio, DPC; Jay Bright Architect; John Canning & Company, Ltd.; Cirrus Structural Engineering; Crosskey Architects; Focus Government Affairs; GNCB Consulting Engineers, P.C.; Gilberto & Sons, LLC; Grunberg Realty; J. P. Franzen Associates Architects, P.C.; Gulick & Co.; Neil Hauck Architects; Hoopes, Morganthaler, Rausch & Scaramozza, LLC; Hudson Valley Preservation; Huestis Tucker Architects, LLC; JMKA Architects; Kemper Associates Architects; Knight Architecture, LLC; LaRosa Building Group; Onekey LLC; Prutting + Company; The Russell Agency, LLC; and Evelyn Cole Smith Architects, LLC.

*Established by special act of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1975, **Preservation Connecticut** works with local preservation groups as well and individuals as well as statewide organizations to preserve, protect, and promote the buildings, sites, and landscapes that contribute to the heritage and vitality of Connecticut communities.*

*For more information, visit **PreservationCT.org** or contact Christopher Wigren at 203.562.6312 or cwigren@preservationct.org*

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