

PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT NEWS

CONNECTICUT PRESERVATION AWARDS 2020

This issue of Preservation Connecticut News is dedicated to the 2020 Connecticut Preservation Awards. Inside, you can read about the inspiring and creative ways people around Connecticut are working to protect, enhance, and enliven the state's historic places.

Connecticut's favorite road, the Merritt Parkway, owes much of its ongoing beauty to the advocacy and leadership of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, recipient of the Harlan Griswold Award (presented jointly by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Connecticut). Historian Bruce Clouette, recipient of the Janet Jainschigg Award, has spent decades searching out and interpreting the state's history. And an even dozen merit awards recognize individual preservation projects.

Although the coronavirus shutdown forced us to delay the announcement of this year's awards and to abandon our usual festive awards presentation, it cannot diminish the accomplishments these awards represent: volunteers empowered, jobs and homes created, justice delivered, and communities strengthened. We celebrate them all.

The restored Lake Avenue bridge, on the Merritt Parkway in Greenwich, receives a merit award this year. The recreation of its original color scheme was made possible by research commissioned by the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, the Harlan Griswold Award recipient.

Tod Bryant for the Merritt Parkway Conservancy

Harlan H. Griswold Award: Merritt Parkway Conservancy

Since 2002, the Merritt Parkway Conservancy has brought tireless efforts and effective leadership to the cause of preserving the landscape and character of Connecticut's best-known and historic roadway. For its contributions, the Conservancy is this year's recipient of the Harlan H. Griswold award for historic preservation.

Schuyler Merritt said the road that bears his name was built "to enjoy as you go," and since its first section opened in 1938, millions of people have found the Merritt Parkway to be one of those seemingly impossible things, a highway that actually is a pleasure to travel. As a result, the Merritt has garnered official recognition at the state, national, and international levels. Although maintaining the Parkway is ultimately the responsibility of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), the Department has a dedicated helper in the Merritt Parkway Conservancy.

The Conservancy was the brainchild of Emil Frankel, former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and former deputy commissioner Peter Szabo. After the Department abandoned efforts to widen the Parkway, in 1991, and adopted a policy of maintaining and preserving it they recognized that maintaining the Parkway's unique historic and scenic character would always be beyond the capacity of CTDOT alone and conceived a private organization with a mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the Parkway.

From the first, one of the Conservancy's principal activities has been to provide technical advice and historic preservation supervision to CTDOT. To accomplish this, the Conservancy retains a



Merritt Parkway
Conservancy

Protecting the Merritt
Parkway landscape is
a major focus of the
Conservancy's work.

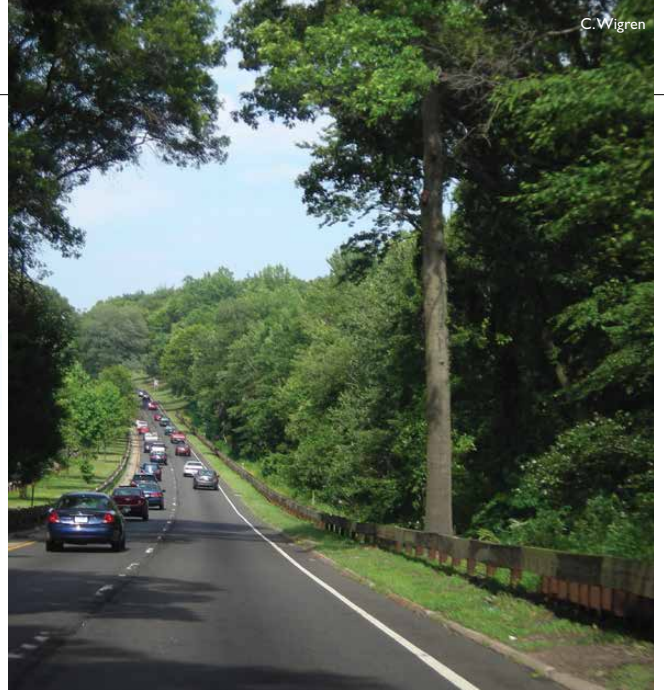
range of professional consultants—landscape architects, arborists, architects, and bridge engineers—who review and comment on projects. The Conservancy also sponsors "extra" projects that are beyond the capacity of funding capabilities of the Department. For instance, when the State contracted with a private company to renovate and manage the Parkway rest areas, the Conservancy created a booklet of design guidelines to assure the sensitivity of the renovations.

The Merritt is perhaps best known—and best loved—for its bridges, an outstanding sampler of 1930s design choices, from Neoclassical Revival to Art Deco. As these face repairs and restora-

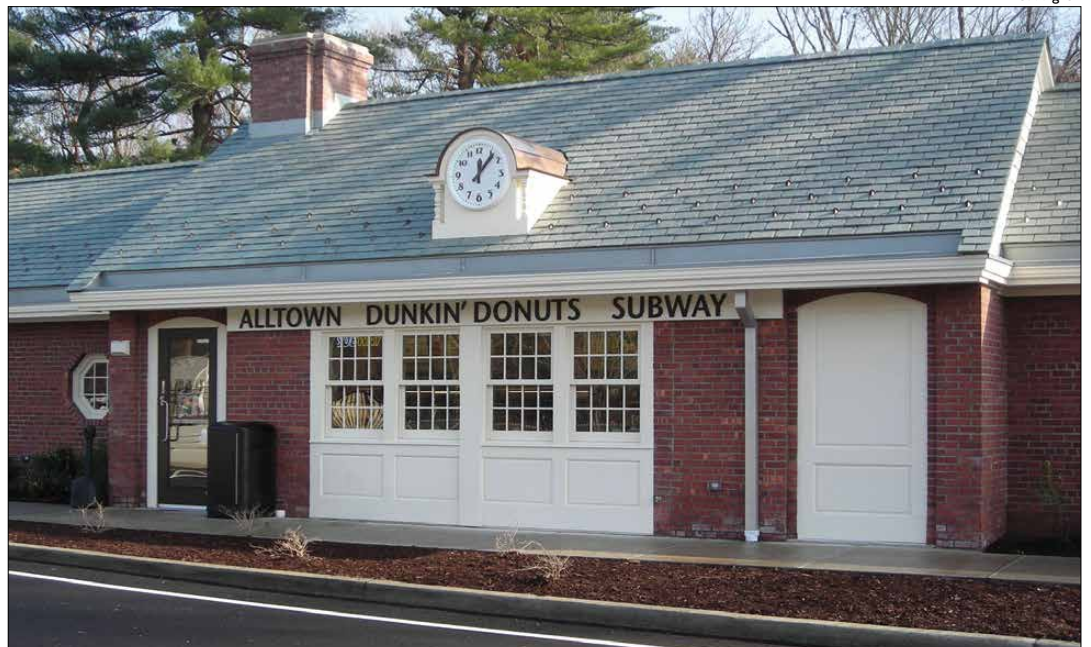
tion, the Conservancy reviews plans and provides advice to CTDOT. In one of its most visible efforts, the Conservancy commissioned paint analysis to determine the original paint colors of the Lake Avenue bridge, in Greenwich. The restored bridge, with its replicated color scheme, is separately receiving a merit award from Preservation Connecticut this year.

Although the initial vision for the Conservancy was as a private partner for CTDOT, advocacy quickly became an inescapable part of the organization's mission as well. The relationship turned contentious over plans for a massive new interchange with U. S. Route 7, in

continued on page 4



C. Wigen



C. Wigen

The Merritt Parkway Conservancy created a guidebook for the renovation of the Parkway rest areas.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's a virtual world!

Like most everyone, Preservation Connecticut has been operating in a virtual world. Our 2020 Connecticut Preservation Awards ceremony has been reimagined as a virtual celebration held on September 9. In case you missed it, the event can be viewed on our YouTube Channel. (Visit the social media section on our homepage and click on the YouTube icon.) Happily, we are still able to get out and congratulate the recipients in person. Small gatherings are happening around the state at the award sites beginning with an event Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 at the Greenwich Historical Society where we will bestow (again) the Harlan H. Griswold Award on the Merritt Parkway Conservancy. Attendance is limited to 40 people, so please register in advance—and watch social media and email for announcements of more small parties.

We are also celebrating the Connecticut barn with a blend of virtual and real activities. Join us on October 3, 2020, at

the Art League of New Britain where we will unveil the winners of our first online juried photography contest. Registration will be required to attend the opening and social distancing etiquette will be in place. The exhibit will be up until the end of the October by appointment, and a virtual tour of the show will be made available.

Another virtual program has been the Talking About Preservation series. Earlier this spring and summer, Circuit Rider Stacey Vairo coordinated a series of virtual preservation chats, "Talking About Preservation" held at noon on Wednesdays. The series was well attended and featured topics like Meet the Circuit Riders, Funding Sources (grants, tax credits), Sustainability, Archaeology, Historic Black Churches and more. Most of the sessions were taped and these, too, can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Talking About Preservation will resume on September 16, when we will explore preservation easements. Join us to learn more about this important stewardship tool. In the meantime, you can read about

Preservation Connecticut's most recent easement property, the Dr. Daniel Hooker House in Wethersfield, on page 5. We are honored that the owner, our former Board chair Lee Kuckro, has trusted us to protect this important property in perpetuity.

This summer, we've been reorganizing and digitizing our easement records, thanks to Andy Cain, an intern from the graduate program in Public History at Central Connecticut State University. Andy has been scanning old files and investigating ways to improve the management of our easements through an electronic database. In addition, he has taken part in some of the annual visits to our easement properties, in which we monitor their condition and check in with owners. Andy is the latest in a long string of interns to come to PCT from CCSU—some of whom have joined our staff! We thank him for his efforts and wish him well as he continues his studies.

Although we are now conducting much of our work virtually, the places and the impact preservation has on communities is real. During this time of distancing and isolation, I am grateful to all of you who have continued to support us and have continued your own preservation journeys. It is with added appreciation that we acknowledge all our preservation heroes of 2020. 🌻

—Jane Montanaro

Preservation Connecticut is a statewide nonprofit membership organization established as the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation by a special act of the State Legislature in 1975. Working with local preservation groups and individuals as well as statewide organizations, it encourages, advocates, and facilitates historic preservation throughout Connecticut.

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Connecticut
still revolutionary

Upcoming Meetings

Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

October 7, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

November 42, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

To participate contact Liz Shapiro
(860) 500-2360; Elizabeth.Shapiro@ct.gov

State Historic Preservation Board

September 18, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

To participate contact Jenny Scofield
(860) 500-2343; Jenny.Scofield@ct.gov

For more information call (860) 500-2343

Norwalk. Concluding that the design would overwhelm the Parkway and that CTDOT had not adequately considered other alternatives as required by law, the Conservancy successfully sued to block the project. Today, the Conservancy is taking part in a redesign process for the project.

Since the lawsuit, the Conservancy has gradually and carefully rebuilt a trusted working relationship with the Department. Today, its advocacy efforts are less adversarial and less public. Typically, they take place as part of the Conservancy's role of offering advice and technical assistance. The thorniest issues involve the Parkway landscape. The Merritt is, in essence, a 37-mile-long park, carefully designed in the 1930s to heal the scars of construction and blend the Parkway into the surrounding countryside. In addition to the constant need for maintenance, safety concerns increasingly threaten the Merritt's landscape. After two hurricanes and a freak snowstorm in 2015, CTDOT adopted a

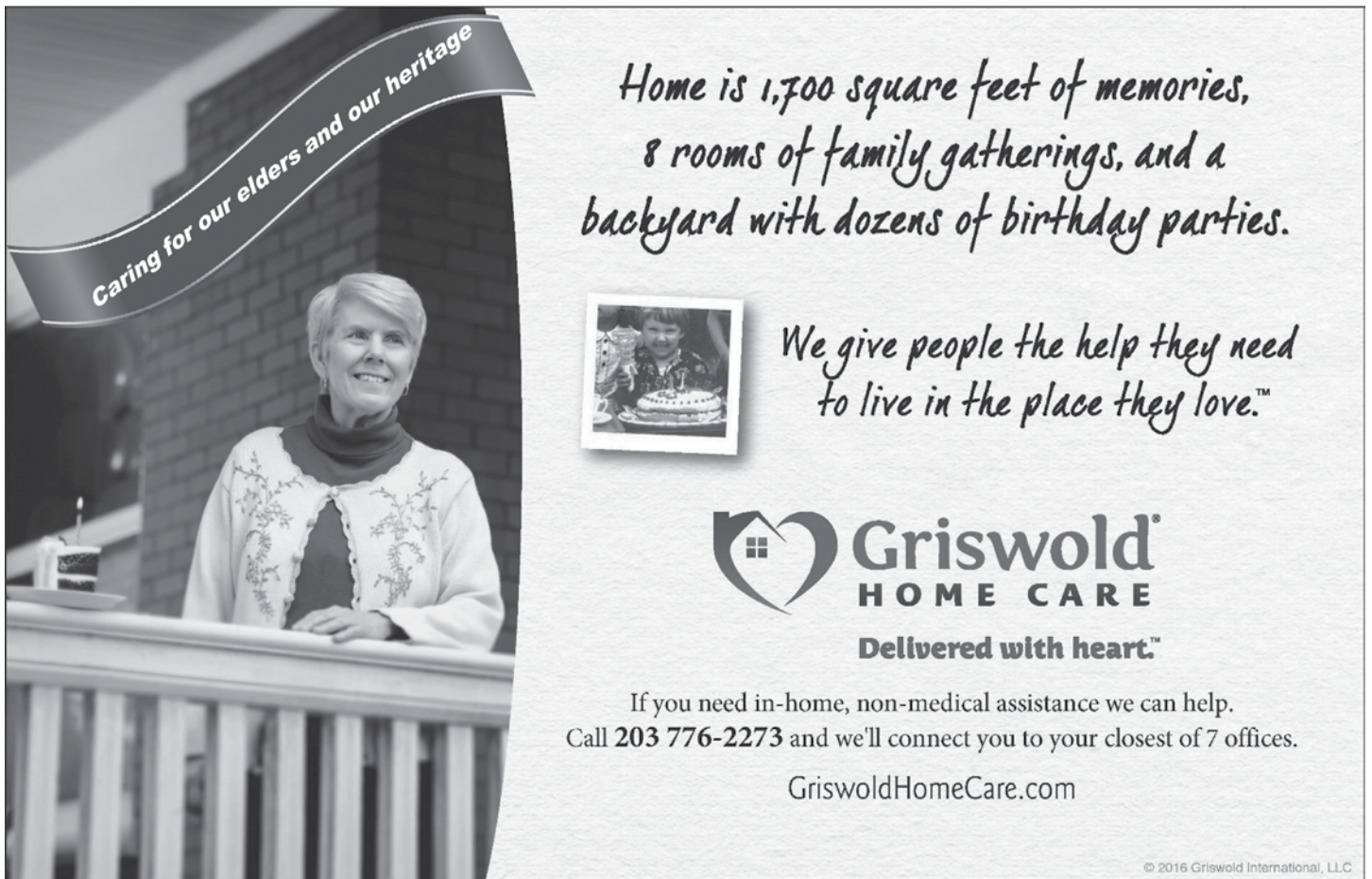
policy of clear-cutting all trees within 30 feet of the roadway, a policy which has had a drastic effect on the Parkway. In response, the Conservancy steadily urges CTDOT to mitigate its effects through replanting to help blend the newly-cleared areas into the Parkway landscape.

In other activities, the Conservancy has led the opposition to a proposed walking/biking trail within the Parkway right-of-way. While trails have been discussed on and off for decades, the Conservancy became convinced that a modern paved trail would irreparably harm the historic landscape. The organization also still works with CTDOT to sensitively design and carry out its ongoing program of renovations to the Parkway section by section. And, it engages the public through talks to community groups, publications, and a small museum in Stratford.

Harlan H. Griswold was the longtime chair of the Connecticut Historical Commission—predecessor to today's

State Historic Preservation Office—and a founder of Preservation Connecticut. After his death, those organizations established the Harlan H. Griswold Award to recognize individuals, corporations, or organizations whose activities exemplify his leadership, vision, and dedication to preserving Connecticut's heritage.


Harlan Griswold once said, "To me, preservation is more about my grandchildren than about my grandparents." The Merritt Parkway Conservancy exemplifies that attitude: through its assistance and advocacy for Connecticut's Queen of Parkways, the Conservancy is helping to build a better future for our children and grandchildren. The State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Connecticut are honored to present the Harlan H. Griswold Award to the Merritt Parkway Conservancy for its outstanding contributions to preservation in Connecticut. 🌿



Caring for our elders and our heritage

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Our newest easement property

Thanks to a preservation easement donated by Lee Kuckro in July, Preservation Connecticut will protect the historic character of the Dr. Daniel Hooker house in Wethersfield in perpetuity.

One of the oldest surviving brick structures in Connecticut, the Hooker house was built about 1725 for Daniel Hooker, a grandson of Thomas Hooker, founder of Hartford. Daniel practiced medicine in Wethersfield and served as army surgeon for the Canadian campaign of 1711. He sold the property to Caleb Griswold in 1733, and it remained in the Griswold family until 1848.

Brick construction was rare in 18th-century Connecticut; however, clay deposits in the Connecticut River Valley were used for brick production during the colonial era, and Wethersfield has more than the usual number of brick buildings, the most prominent of which is the Congregational meeting house constructed in 1764. Like several other 18th-century brick houses in Wethersfield, the Hooker house was originally one story high with a gambrel roof, but it was raised to two full stories in the early 19th century.

Lee Kuckro and his late wife, Anne Crofoot Kuckro, have both made significant contributions to historic preservation in Wethersfield, in Hartford, and across Connecticut. Among their many accomplishments, Anne documented Wethersfield's historic architecture in *Capt. James Francis Master Builder* (1974) and a forthcoming book on historic buildings in the town; she also was Director of the Hartford Architecture Conservancy Survey, in connection with that she wrote *Hartford Architecture Downtown* (1978). Lee chaired the Wethersfield Historic District



The Daniel Hooker house in Wethersfield is one of Connecticut's oldest surviving brick structures. It now is protected by a preservation easement donated to Preservation Connecticut.

Commission and served on the boards of the Hartford Preservation Alliance and Preservation Connecticut (then known as the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation), which he chaired.

The Hooker house reflects the Kuckros' commitment to preservation. After buying the property in 1968, they restored many original features, constructed two additions, and converted the 18th-century barn on the property to a studio. All this work was sensitively designed to provide comfortable and attractive spaces for modern living while respecting the historic character of the house as well as of Wethersfield's historic district.

A preservation easement is a legal agreement which allows the property to remain in private ownership while putting preservation protections in place. Under the terms of the easement, Preservation Connecticut must approve any alterations to the exterior of the house and barn and can require good maintenance. In addi-

tion, the agreement forbids subdividing the lot, which ensures that the house will retain its historic setting. Moreover, Preservation Connecticut will be available to advise Mr. Kuckro and all future owners on preservation matters relating to the property. 🌿

For more information on preservation easements visit preservationct.org/steward.

Helping hands

By Marena Wisniewski, National Register Specialist/Architectural Historian

Preservation isn't always easy. Often described as a labor of love, a successful project cannot be accomplished without the partnerships that exist within Connecticut's preservation community. Preservation Connecticut and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) often work collaboratively to protect historic properties and to connect project proponents with the tools needed to get the job done. As a state agency, SHPO offers multiple resources, from funding to technical expertise. Oftentimes, our office does not get a chance to recognize some truly great preservation work that is accomplished across the state. In celebration of Preservation Connecticut's 2020 Awards, here are just a few past award winners made possible through our office and through the dedication of their supporters.

777 Main Street, Hartford

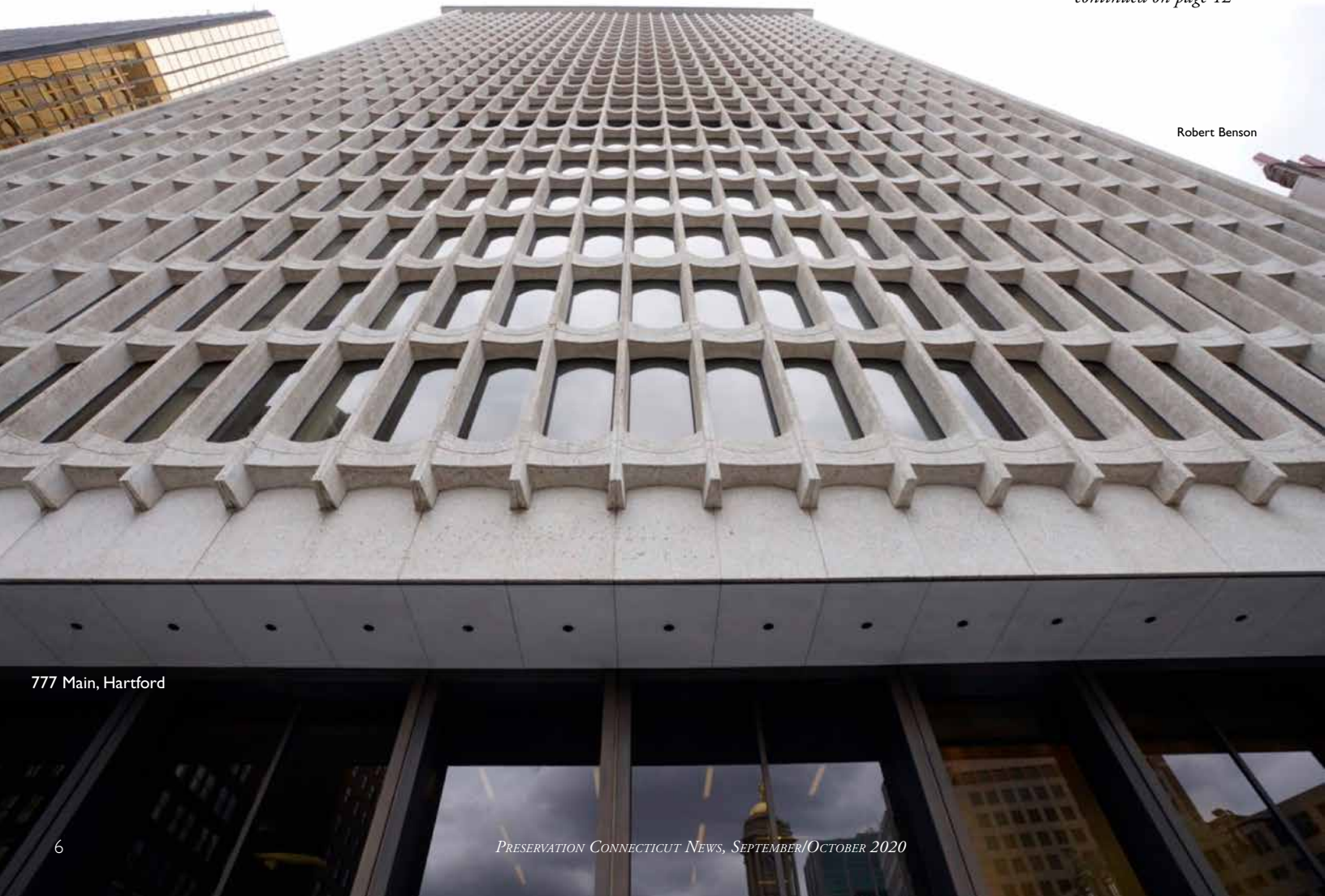
The Hartford National Bank and Trust Building was for most of its life a Modernist totem to mid-20th century corporate banking. At 26 stories tall with more than 2,000 precast concrete-panel windows, the building was an integral part of Hartford's urban renewal plan of the 1960s. After Bank of America vacated the building in 2012, developers sought to rehabilitate the tower into residential apartments and ground floor retail. After consulting with SHPO to list the building on the National Register in 2014, they received approximately \$20 million in state and federal historic rehabilitation and energy tax credits, a little less than one-fourth of the project's total cost.

Connecticut Light and Power Greenwich Service Station

Constructed in the Art Deco style, the Greenwich Service Station was originally built for Connecticut Light and Power in 1928. It is likely that the building is the earliest extant purpose-built station constructed for CL&P, which was incorporated in 1917 and rapidly expanded in the first half of the 20th century. The Greenwich Service Station is also a noted early example of Art Deco design in the state, its steel-sash windows and stylized capitals harbingers of the modern way of life brought by electrification. In 2014, the station was shuttered, but by 2017, developers worked with SHPO to list the property on the State Register of Historic Places, making the project eligible for state historic rehabilitation tax credits. The building was successfully rehabbed into office space using the credits the same year.

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Robert Benson



777 Main, Hartford

Awards of Merit

Preservation Connecticut is proud to present its merit awards for 2020. The recipients were selected before the coronavirus pandemic shut down most of the state's activity in March. Since then, our lives have changed in ways that we never imagined, and with effects that will linger for a long time to come. One 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.

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

Public buildings need to be accessible to all, but for the Blackstone Library this was difficult. Dedicated in 1896, the library is a community treasure, but for years, users who could not navigate the monumental front steps had to slink in through an insignificant basement door. Now, a new addition provides dignified access for all. Built of stone from the same quarry that supplied the original construction, it contains a spacious and welcoming lobby. 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.

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



Bryan Page, Page Photography

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

Lake Avenue bridge, Merritt Parkway, Greenwich

Ten years ago, the Lake Avenue bridge was flagged as structurally deficient, with its ornamental ironwork rusting away, but a replacement had to be put on hold due to the financial crash of 2008. In fact, the delay provided time for new plans. While the Department of Transportation (CTDOT) finalized specifications for dismantling, repairing, and re-erecting the bridge, the Merritt Parkway Conservancy researched the original paint scheme—a task beyond CTDOT protocols. Thanks to this collaboration, the restored bridge

once again provides a fitting gateway to Connecticut. Moreover, by its visibility it calls attention to CTDOT's ongoing work to enhance the parkway as an important transportation corridor and a treasured historic asset. (Pictured, page 1)

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

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Tod Bryant for the Merritt Parkway Conservancy

Re-opening the Lake Avenue bridge, November, 2019



Dale Kroop

Borough496 (Newhall Street School), Hamden



Robert Benson Photography

Mahogany Suite, Mark Twain house, Hartford



Jody Dole

Café Otis (Otis Library building), Norwich

Borough496 (Newhall Street School), Hamden

Historic preservation, economic development, and environmental justice come together at Borough496. Built in 1917 as a neighborhood school, the building closed in 2002 due to structural damage. At the same time, the surrounding neighborhood, which has a poverty rate nearly twice that of the rest of Hamden, was undergoing a massive residential remediation project to remove contaminated fill on which it was built. As part of its mission to foster economic and community development, the Hamden Economic Development Corporation converted the school to a community-based incubator. 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 its otherwise poor and blighted neighborhood.

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

Mahogany Suite, Mark Twain house, Hartford

Archival research and high-level craftsmanship combine to provide a new glimpse into the life and home of Mark Twain, built in 1874 and a National Historic Landmark. Like the rest of the first floor, the Mahogany Suite, the best guest quarters, was redecorated in 1881 by Louis Comfort Tiffany's firm, Associated Artists. Now that decorative scheme has been recreated, using five different wallpapers installed following traditional techniques. The original mahogany woodwork was stripped and restored to its historic finish. Twain once wrote that his house had "a heart and a soul." The restored Mahogany Suite now helps visitors better understand the house and how it reflected the heart and soul of Twain's family and their guests.

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

Café Otis (Otis Library building), Norwich

In 2018, the City of Norwich sold the former Otis Library, built in 1849, to Asaf Cohen, Sofia LeWitt, and Carol LeWitt. Husband and wife Asaf and Sofia oversaw rehabilitation while Sofia's mother, Carol, provided artistic vision. The building's history provided inspiration: a black-and-white color scheme suggesting printed words on paper, a bar where the circulation desk once stood, even books repurposed as beer-tap handles. Offering an array of foods and entertainment, Café Otis quickly became a Norwich hot spot. 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*



Smilow Center (Boese, Peppard lace mill), Norwalk

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

The Boese, Peppard Company lace mill is one of only five remaining buildings from Norwalk's once-thriving garment industry. In 2007 Open Doors (then called the Norwalk Emergency Shelter) acquired the abandoned building, which is listed on the State Register of Historic Places, with the vision of adapting it to complement the nearby Shelter. With upgrades to meet current codes while preserving the building's historic appearance, the nonprofit facility now provides much-needed services, including job training; clothing distribution; medical care; and

housing for sixteen men, many of whom are veterans. Connecticut Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits were part of the funding package for the project, giving the people of Connecticut a stake in its success.

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

BassamFellows Headquarters (Schlumberger Research Center administration building), Ridgefield

The Schlumberger Research Center administration building, Philip Johnson's first non-residential commission, fell into disrepair after the company left in 2006. Now, the design company BassamFellows has fully restored it. Removing layers of water-damaged roofing revealed the original roof fascia, while replacing destroyed ceilings allowed upgrades to lighting using original fixtures by lighting designer Richard Kelly. Oak millwork was hand sanded and refinished, and wood window frames were replaced, bringing back profiles altered over time. Oversized double-pane glass from special ovens improves energy efficiency. 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

continued on next page



BassamFellows Headquarters (Schlumberger Research Center Administration Building), Ridgefield

Nina Caruso, Crosskey Architects



Joseph R. Ensign house, Simsbury

Joseph R. Ensign house, Simsbury

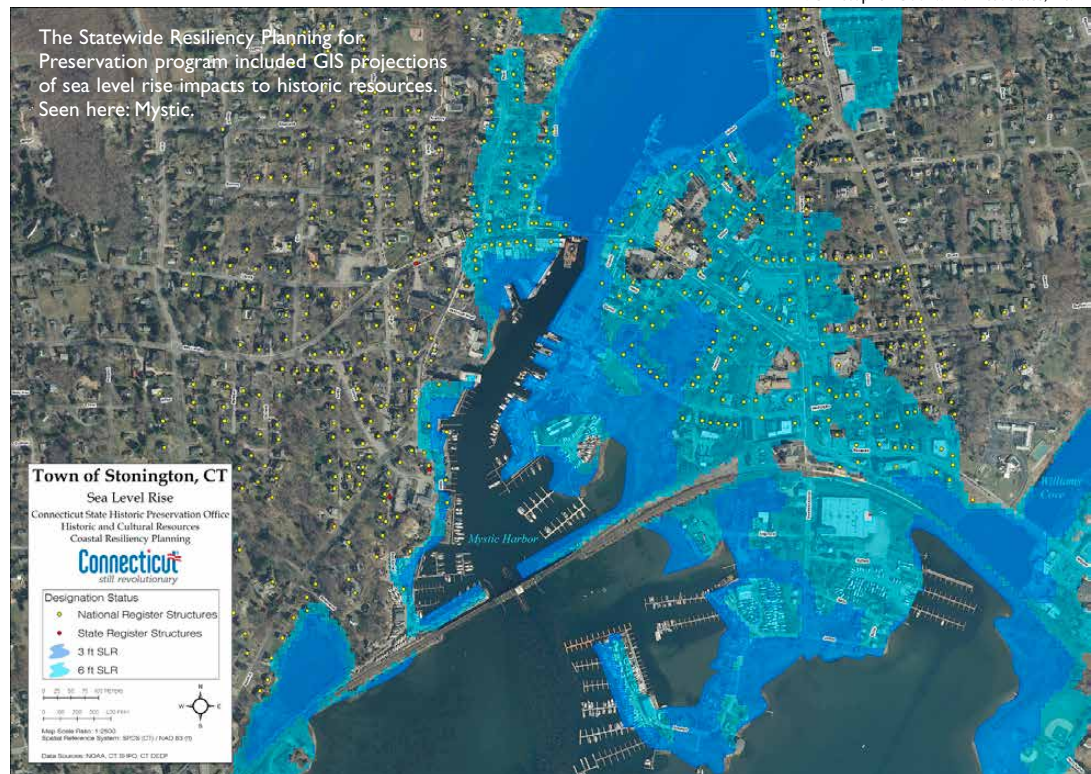
Anchoring the south end of Simsbury Center, the Joseph Ensign house was converted to a bank in the 1980s. When the bank left, longtime residents Mark and Ieke Scully acquired the property. Combining Ieke's passion for preservation with Mark's work in energy efficiency, they rehabbed the house. The real focus of the project was sustainability. To conserve energy and reduce the carbon footprint, the Scullys reused the addition, preserving its embodied energy. Other sustainable features included storm windows, a solar array, pervious brick paving, to capture runoff, and bicycle and electric vehicle parking. In addition to environmental sustainability, the project contributes to community sustainability, by promoting economic and preserving a piece of the town's historic character.

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

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

Resiliency Planning for Preservation, Statewide

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy underscored the need to incorporate historic preservation into resilience planning and disaster recovery. Using funds from the National Park Service, Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office made Resiliency Planning for Preservation a part of its Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance program. To help protect historic resources from the effects of climate change, the project team surveyed thousands of properties, listed hundreds on the National or State Registers, digitized data on historic resources, produced context reports, and carried out a wide-ranging resiliency planning and outreach program. The result is a comprehensive approach to preservation planning amid climate change along with tools to carry that out. Connecticut is now in a stronger position to protect 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

GNCB Consulting Engineers

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. The collapse was the result of the ceiling's age—dating to 1859—and the flexibility of its framing, which flexed over time, loosening connections between the heavy plaster and the frame. If not corrected, the entire ceiling was at risk. While many owners might have replaced the ceiling completely, the church wanted to save its historic fabric. The approach was to reinforce the framing and re-attach the loosened plaster and moldings with a combination of mechanical fasteners and consolidants. The First Congregational Church is to be commended for its sensitive approach to preserving its historic sanctuary.

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



First Congregational Church of West Haven

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

For years, the J.R. Montgomery Company manufactured yarns, tinsel products, and communications wire in this factory, perched between the Windsor Locks Canal and the Connecticut River and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the once-vacant complex has been converted into 160 apartments. The daunting undertaking required, among other challenges, remediating contamination, providing access to the tight but scenic site, and coordinating an array of state, local, and private players. The project reinforces transit-oriented development projects in Windsor Locks as well as other revitalization efforts. With its neglected buildings put back to good use, the Montgomery mill once again makes a welcoming statement that Windsor Locks is committed, lively, and growing.

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 Department of Economic and Community Development; 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

continued on next page

Crosskey Architects



J. R. Montgomery mill, Windsor Locks

Awards of Merit, cont'd from page 11

Thomas Bevins house, Woodbridge

The Thomas Bevins house almost didn't make it. Built about 1800, for many years it was a rental property of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. In 2013 the General Assembly authorized the Authority to sell the historic buildings. To help preserve three Woodbridge houses, the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society agreed to provide buyers who could restore them. Builder James Urbano bought the severely deteriorated house in 2016. He replaced a substandard rear section with a new addition, maintaining the house's total footprint to prevent increased runoff into the water supply. Today, this modest farmhouse, located behind stone walls along a dirt road, once again provides a vivid 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

James Urbano



Thomas Bevins house, Woodbridge

Helping Hands, cont'd from page 11

Ponemah Mills, Mill No.1, Norwich

Dominating the skyline of National Register-listed Taftville in Norwich, Ponemah Mills sat vacant for over 10 years. Mill No. 1, completed in 1871, is iconic for its paired mansard-roofed stair towers, which by the early 21st century, seemed destined to deteriorate and eventually disappear. However, in 2017, the first phase of conversion into housing neared completion, completed partly through the utilization of state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. Phase I provided 116 new apartments, while Phase II added an additional 121 units. With Mill No. 1 rehab complete, developers are working on Mill No. 2, which will add an additional 77 units, and activate the entire complex.

Robert Benson



Hoyt-Barnum House, Stamford

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 the c.1699 Hoyt-Barnum House is the oldest residence in the city of Stamford. In 2017, with plans for a new police station on the house's original site downtown, city officials planned to move the building to the Stamford History Center in north Stamford. However, moving the building would have automatically resulted in the house being delisted from the National Register. Town officials and the Center worked with SHPO to create a moving plan (which included moving the house in two pieces!) and documentation to ensure that the house remained listed and eligible for future financial incentives. 🌿

For more information about SHPO's programs, visit ct.gov/historicpreservation. Congratulations to this year's awardees!



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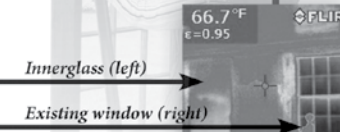
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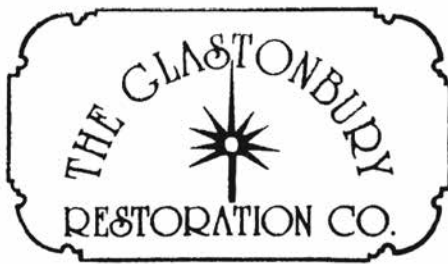


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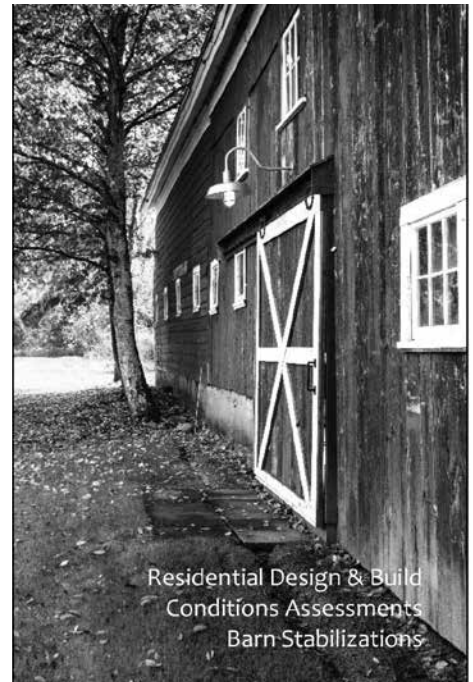
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If you let us know that you have mentioned Preservation Connecticut in your estate plans, we would honor your commitment to preservation with membership in our Legacy Society. For more information, please visit www.cttrust.org/bequests or call Jordan Sorensen at (203) 562-6312.



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easements is on the market, we may list it here. To learn how to safeguard your property for future generations through an easement, explore Stewardship on our website, preservationct.org/steward, or contact Christopher Wigren, Deputy Director.

Ebenezer Gaylord House (1769)

48 Gaylord Road, New Milford

\$389,000

New England style Colonial house and former tavern in historic Gaylordsville. Ebenezer Gaylord was part of the founding family of Gaylordsville. The house sits just 500 feet from the famous Washington Oak tree where General Washington is said to have met with the Marquis de Lafayette on his way to Hartford. From this house minutemen watched the Tories as they traveled to New York and Washington's troops may have encamped on the secluded 2 acres of land while their generals met at this tavern to plan strategy for the colonies. Features a Federal era curved entry stairway, wide-plank flooring through much of the house, and early doors and trim. 2760 square feet, 13 rooms. The house has the potential to be listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places and may qualify for Historic Home Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

Contact: Pat Catchpole, William Raveis, 860-488-7749, pat.catchpole@raveis.com



Pond Weed House (c. 1730)

2591 Post Road, Darien

\$725,000

Opportunity to own and restore the oldest home in the Noroton section of Darien. Built by Nathaniel Pond, it served as a tavern and blacksmith shop over the years. Later, Nathaniel Weed bought the property and it remained in the Weed family for 150 years. This 2,240 square foot saltbox Colonial house contains many of its early architectural features and includes three bedrooms, two bathrooms and central air with three fireplaces, a walk-up attic and original root cellar. Property has opportunity for subdivision, mixed-use and the addition of a secondary structure for income. Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1970s, it also has the potential to qualify for Historic Home Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

Contact: Barb Hazelton, Houlihan Lawrence, 203-621-4484, bhazelton@houlihanlawrence.com



Leverett Spencer House (c. 1875)

140 Dublin Hill Road, Higganum

Gothic Revival cottage built for local factory workers, reflecting the growth of the textile and farm equipment industry in the area. The 1000 square foot house, including enclosed porch, features wood clapboard siding and original decorative barge-boards in the gable eaves. A new roof and windows were recently installed. House available at no cost, but interested party must cover deconstruction and relocation expenses.

Contact: Elizabeth Hart Malloy, 860-345-2400, director@haddamhistory.org



Caprilands Herb Farm Samuel Parker House (1738)

534 Silver Street, Coventry

Caprilands Herb Farm, the former home and 62-acre property of Adelma Simmons, pioneer in 'agri-tourism,' is available for purchase. Property includes the 1738 Samuel Parker House, with multiple attached outbuildings, including an old kitchen ell, modern greenhouse, chicken coop and woodshed. Other accessory buildings include an 1850s English barn, 1980s timber frame greenhouse and modern barn. A detailed conditions assessment report of the buildings, funded by a SHPO Survey & Planning Grant, is available. Property also contains actively tilled farmland as well as wetlands, is zoned for Commercial Agriculture and is served by a private well and a private septic system. The site is a half mile from Coventry's major commercial route 44 corridor, and three miles from the Nathan Hale Homestead.

The estate of Adelma Simmons and the Town of Coventry are working together to secure the future and eventual reuse of this historic property.

Contact: Atty. George Purtill, 860-659-0569



David Barber House (c. 1740)

169 Main Street, Hebron

Restoration project for locally significant historical house. David Barber was a ship builder and Revolutionary War soldier. Cut stone center chimney colonial on 1.9 acres contains five fireplaces, beehive oven and smoking oven. Most interior wall surfaces stripped to the framework; summer beams and corner cupboards in front rooms. Connected to public water and sewer. House originally sat on Rt 66, but was relocated to current location in 1946 when the Department of Transportation straightened the road. Great opportunity for someone experienced in major renovation projects.

Contact: Jim Celio, Century 21 AllPoints Realty, 860-228-9425

Deadline for the next issue is October 15, 2020

Historic Properties Exchange is published to advertise endangered properties in Connecticut by Preservation Connecticut, a statewide nonprofit organization located at 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06517. Real estate advertised in this publication is subject to the Federal Housing Act of 1968.

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To spread the information he has uncovered, Bruce has written or co-written numerous books and articles, including histories of Hartford Hospital and the city of Bristol. He helped create exhibitions such as the permanent installation on the history of the Connecticut legislature at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, and he has provided text for radio broadcasts and websites.

In this work, Bruce covers an astounding array of subjects, from colonial homesteads to immigrant communities, turn-of-the-century farm work, architecture of every type and period, mental health treatment, gravestone art, and highway and railroad bridges. But he is particularly known as the chronicler of Connecticut's industrial and engineering history. Connecticut was a national leader in industrialization, and still has a rich heritage of industrial sites. Bruce has taught us not only about mills and factories, but about systems for water and steam power, mill communities and the immigrant groups who peopled them, and the development of products that Connecticut sent around the world: textiles, clocks, machine tools, iron bridges, and more.

Bruce decided he wanted to study history for a living as a high-school freshman, thanks to a creative teacher who made history *fun*. As a college student he discovered local history, writing a senior thesis on New England mill towns. These early

influences still shape his approach to history.

"I love history as a puzzle," he says, "making connections, solving puzzles, seeing things not seen by others." In particular, he is drawn to local history, with its focus on human actors rather than broad trends or movements. "It's all done by *people*," he says. "All the great national stories play out on the local level. Each community is built up by generations of individuals, and together it all adds up to the Great American Story."

This focus on local, human history allows Bruce to find stories that others miss. It's a common truism that history is written by the winners, but he looks for the also-rans, too—the technological dead ends, the unsuccessful enterprises, the forgotten players that are real parts of our past.

With his interest in tracking down the unexpected, his vivid explanations and his generosity in sharing what he knows, Bruce brings history to life. As one of his co-workers writes, "Driving on back roads throughout Connecticut with Bruce is a treat, with his lively and entertaining commentary on buildings, bridges, and local history along the way."

All this is in service to preserving historic places. For Bruce, preservation is important for the same reason local history is: having touchstones of the past among us makes it clear that history doesn't happen out there—it happens *here*. Preserving historic places makes history concrete and helps us to appreciate it as the product of human actors.

Furthermore, Bruce says preserving historic places is important for creating the future. "Historic sites teach us that what we have wasn't always here—it was created. And they teach us that what we will have tomorrow can be *our* creation." In other words, we have a responsibility to build well for future generations, just as past generations built well for us.

The Jainschigg award commemorates Janet G. Jainschigg, a founder and benefactor of Preservation Connecticut as well as a regional leader in historic preservation. She was a mentor and inspiration to many and, although a volunteer herself, always insisted on the highest standards of professionalism. For his scholarly excellence, his commitment to delving into the human stories that add up to History, and his skill and generosity in sharing his knowledge, Bruce Clouette exemplifies the professional excellence that the Janet Jainschigg Award celebrates. 🌻



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Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 Connecticut Preservation Awards was postponed to September 9 and presented virtually. We want to thank the sponsors who made the program possible. We look forward to seeing them—and you—in person next year.

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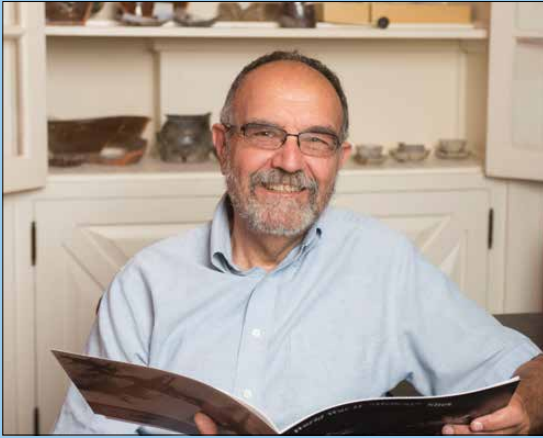
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CONNECTICUT PRESERVATION AWARDS 2020

Janet Jainschigg Award: Bruce Clouette

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Historian Bruce Clouette, 2020 recipient of the Janet Jainschigg Award for professional excellence.

If you want to preserve historic places, the first step is to know what they are. For more than forty years, the historian and historical consultant Bruce Clouette has sought out historic places across Connecticut and helped us understand not only what and where they are, but, crucially, why they matter.

Bruce's work has spanned the spectrum of preservation-related historical research. He has done surveys to identify historic resources. He has written National and State Register nominations for hundreds, if not thousands, of buildings, districts, landscapes, and archaeological sites, as well as National Historic Landmark studies for places as wide-ranging as Philip Johnson's

Glass House in New Canaan, the Coltsville historic district in Hartford, and the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Eagle*. He has documented historic structures for the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record.

In addition to research and designation, Bruce has produced cultural resource management reports to help governmental agencies oversee their historic properties, as well as environmental assessments to analyze the effects of public projects on historic resources. Some of those assessments have led to mitigation projects to provide some balancing benefit for demolition. As a consultant he also works with architects and developers to plan restoration and rehabilitation work to protect the character of historic buildings.

continued on page 18

As the chronicler of Connecticut's industrial history, Bruce Clouette prepared the National Historic Landmark study for Coltsville, in Hartford.

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