

PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT NEWS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESERVATION

Preservation and climate change

Weather-related emergencies have featured prominently in the news during the summer of 2021, with floods in Germany and China, wildfires in California, Oregon, and Greece, and predictions for another busy year for hurricanes, two of which have already brought high winds and flooding to Connecticut as we go to press.

These events provided the background for the climate report released in August by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body charged with assessing the science related to climate change. The report places the blame for global warming squarely on the use of fossil fuels. Unlike earlier reports, the IPCC document explicitly ties events to the warming climate. Moreover, the report finds that changes are more extensive and are accelerating more quickly than previously believed. The IPCC concludes that it is too late to reverse some of the effects already being experienced and calls for immediate and wide-ranging actions to forestall further warming.

Battling climate change is a broad challenge that needs to take place on three fronts. The first two are directly related to energy sources: increasing energy efficiency to reduce present reliance on fossil fuels, and developing alternate energy sources, such as wind or solar power. The third front involves broader measures such as encouraging more compact development to reduce the energy needed for transportation, or even something as simple as wearing sweaters to reduce need for heating.

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Conversion of the Armstrong Rubber Company building in New Haven to a hotel is following the rigorous Passive House energy efficiency guidelines.

Becker + Becker

Make your own historical marker

By Sarah Marsom

Call me an eternal optimist, but there are infinite opportunities for preservation. To pursue these opportunities, we must explore what's outside of the boxes we've created. This isn't to say historic designations or walking tours don't have value, but it is to remind you (and me) that there are possibilities that have yet to be explored, histories that need to be preserved, partnerships to forge, and stories that should be told.

Let's consider the ways we can tell stories utilizing signage. Historic markers have been used formally since the 1800s in America as a way to tell stories of places deemed important. In the early- and mid-1900s, many states launched formal historic marker programs; these are the markers that you have probably seen outside a historic site or maybe alongside a road where a significant event occurred. While these signs have provided insights into the past for many people, they come with a sizable price tag and are not the only option.

Looking to Rochester, New York, for inspiration, Hinda Mandell and Shawn Dunwoody chose to create something from nothing. The site of Anna and Frederick Douglass' first home is a parking lot. In an effort to tell the story of both Anna and Frederick Douglass, the duo began to coordinate interpretive interventions in 2017. They used a variety of arts, crafts, and community engagement strategies to install temporary story-telling installations.

These installations developed community interest commemorating this story, which led to relationship building, funding opportunities, and an understanding of the past. In 2018, a permanent state historic marker was installed, replacing the knit one, and in 2020, a three-dimensional art piece was installed at the site to visually communicate the history in a dynamic way.

We must make an intentional choice to create and seize opportunities to preserve our community's past. Sometimes that opportunity is creating something impermanent with the hope that the history connects with someone and makes an impression.

Is there a place in your community that you think has a story that should be told? I'd love to encourage you to seize the opportunity and make your own "sign!" What places are important to you in your neighborhood or larger community? Whether the place has history that is over 100 years old or its importance is tied to something that happened more recently, create your own "historic marker."

Step 1: Pick a place that is important to you for any reason and then assess where you would want to put your marker. Is there an electrical pole? If it is a business with windows, you can inquire if they would put up your "historic marker" (for some period of time). Is it a place where you or someone you know lives? Consider putting the marker on your door, in a window, on a fence, or someplace else that you feel comfortable with people



In Rochester, New York, Hinda Mandell and Shawn Dunwoody used a variety of arts, crafts, and community engagement strategies to mark the site of Anna and Frederick Douglass' first home in what now is a parking lot.

stopping and admiring. If the building is boarded up, you can consider utilizing the plywood as a foundation for your marker.

Step 2: Now that you have chosen a site and you have identified a place or two that would work for a historic marker, you need to think about how you physically want to create a marker. If you want to put a marker on the sidewalk, consider using chalk or Rainwalk spray (rain makes the art visible). Would you like to utilize a fence? You could consider hanging a textile piece (crochet, knit, fabric). Textiles also wrap well around electrical poles. If you are utilizing a window, you could use tissue paper to create a stained glass effect, hang a poster, or something else entirely. Be mindful of the climate in your area. If you live someplace that experiences a lot of rain, you may want to think through ways that can make your historic marker water resistant.

Step 3: Understanding the materials you are working with will help guide your creative process to design your version of a historic marker. Your marker can tell the story any way you want to. You can utilize text or imagery to tell a story literally; you can create an abstract piece based on how the place makes you feel; or you can create something that makes a statement. Thoughtfully sketch out a design that will allow you to creatively express yourself within the design restrictions (material, scale, installation technique). If you are using text, be mindful of the story you are telling. You want someone whether their age is 8 or 80 to read the marker and walk away feeling a new connection to the place.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Preservation Connecticut's annual report on **opportunities for preservation**. Every year, we look for new ideas and concepts and programs for revitalizing historic places, as well as sites in need of rescue or renovation.

This year, our main article highlights the role preservation can play in the increasingly urgent task of halting and reversing climate changes that threaten many aspects of our day-to-day lives, including, of course, the places in which we carry out those lives. Historic places can play an important part in that effort, but the task challenges preservationists to reconsider some of our basic approaches.

In addition, preservation consultant Sarah Marsom, a presenter at a recent "Talking about Preservation" program, challenges us to greater creativity in marking the places that tell important stories about our history, and Connecticut's National Register coordinator, Jenny Scofield, presents the first in a series of articles on how the Register can represent a broader range of American history.

As summer turns into fall, Preservation Connecticut staff continues to be actively

involved in the **Olmsted in Connecticut** documentation project, along with the State Historic Preservation Office and a consultant team from Red Bridge Group. CCSU intern Pat Wallace has been making contact with property owners, and the consultants are planning an intense week of site visits in mid-September. Watch our social media sites for updates on what we're learning.

Another intern, **Marissa Gibbs**, is working on our social media outreach, incorporating recommendations made by the Yale Social Impact Club. A Tolland resident currently attending the University of Vermont, Marissa also will be planning outreach to new owners of historic properties.

Our headquarters, the **Whitney Armory boarding house**, is getting a much-needed new coat of paint. Thanks to an Historic Restoration Fund grant from the State Historic Preservation Office, Valley Restoration, LLC of Torrington, have begun prep work, and by the end of September we hope to have the building looking its best again.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact our lives, we are cautiously optimistic that the few in-person programs that we have planned will be held. If you haven't yet viewed

our **Picturing History: Historic Barns of Connecticut** photography show, the tour is winding down soon.

Or, join us October 3, at **Hunt Hill Farm** in New Milford (also known as The Silo, and a Skitch Henderson site catalogued on our Creative Places website) for a barbeque and gallery viewing. And, on October 28, members are invited to join us in Hartford for a tour of the rehabilitation work at the **Colt Armory**, including a visit inside the landmark blue onion dome, followed by a happy hour at the Hooker Brewery. For more information, and to register for these events, please visit our website. 🌿

—Jane Montanaro

Upcoming Meetings

Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

October 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

— Virtual Meeting

November 3, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

— Virtual Meeting

To participate contact Jonathan Kinney
(860) 500-2380; Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov

For more information call (860) 500-2343

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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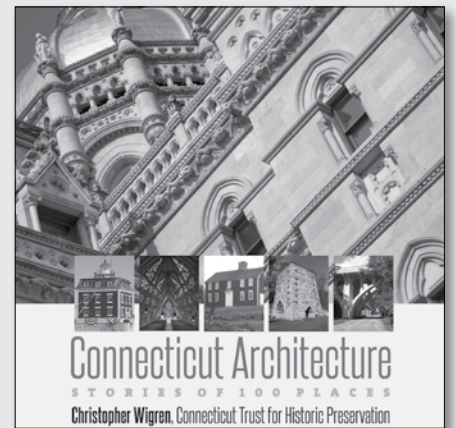
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—David K. Left, town historian, Canton

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Finally, there is a fourth area of needed action: measures to cope with the effects of global warming that cannot be reversed, such as changing weather patterns, more frequent and more powerful storms, and rising sea levels—that is, resiliency.

Preservation in an age of climate change

Architect Carl Elefante famously made the case for preservation as sustainability when he coined the motto “The greenest building is the one that is already built.”

Constructing new buildings consumes huge amounts of energy—to collect and process materials, transport them from source to plant to warehouse to building site, and assemble them (not to mention energy required to demolish existing buildings and take away the remnants). The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Research and Policy Lab estimates that it could take up to 80 years before the operational energy savings of a highly efficient new building outweighed the saved energy of an existing, less efficient one.

In addition, historic buildings were constructed to conserve energy to the extent possible under then-current technologies. They may be oriented to solar warming and light, and their thermal mass can retain warmth in winter and coolness in summer. Operable doors and windows provide natural ventilation. On a larger scale, historic neighborhoods and communities already possess infrastructure such as utilities, transportation networks, and community facilities. Reusing existing saves building new facilities.

Here is a look at some recent efforts to increase sustainability through preservation.

Increasing energy efficiency

Although historic buildings often have energy-conserving features, they still need to improve their performance. In the past decade, preservation projects have significantly reduced energy use in historic buildings by following guidelines from the United States Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program, which rates buildings that incorporate energy efficiency measures. Since the Capitol




General Israel Putnam's privy, in Brooklyn, was blown over by the hurricane of 1938, a fate that threatens many more historic structures and communities, due to climate change.

Building in Hartford (1926; NR) achieved LEED certification in 2010—the first Connecticut project using historic rehabilitation tax credits to do so—the program has become common in historic building renovation in the state.

More recently, users have begun upgrading historic buildings to the even more rigorous Passive House standards, which seek to reduce energy use for heating

and cooling to an absolute minimum through such strategies as superinsulation, airtight construction, and high-performance windows. Conversion of the East Haven high school (1936; NR) to the Tyler residential complex was the first multifamily project in the nation to combine Passive House certification and historic rehabilitation tax credits. Currently underway in New Haven alone are Passive

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Ken Byron

New turbines installed in the historic Collins Axe Company power house, in Collinsville, now generate electricity without burning fossil fuels.

House retrofits of the King's Block (c.1820; NR), requiring approvals from the New Haven historic district commission, and the Armstrong Rubber Company building (1968; NR), being converted to Hotel Marcel using state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Developing alternate energy

Many historic buildings have experienced changes in the types of energy they or their inhabitants used—from wood and candles to kerosene to electricity from coal- or nuclear-powered generating plants—while retaining their historic character. Solar collectors have become a common sight, and the number of wind turbines across the state is growing. With care, these new technologies are often successfully incorporated into historic settings.

Another opportunity for alternative energy comes from Connecticut's industrial history, which created dams for waterpower across the state. In Collinsville, the Collins Axe Company dam and power house (NR) have been put back to work by Canton Hydro LLC to generate electricity, saving an estimated 3.2 metric tons of CO₂ emissions annually. Canton Hydro modified the dam, first constructed in the 1830s and rebuilt in 1867, and installed new turbines in the power house which dates from the 1930s. The complex process of negotiating approvals and putting together the financing

is told by journalist/storyteller Ken Bryon on his website, www.kenbyron.com.

In addition to producing electricity without fossil fuels, small-scale hydropower installations contribute to diversifying the energy grid. What's more, they can generate income to support upkeep of the dams and waterways that are key elements of historic industrial sites.

Planning for sustainability

Looking beyond individual buildings, community planning can contribute to sustainability. A basic principle is to steer development to areas where infrastructure already exists, saving the energy expenditures needed to develop new roads and utilities. Related to that are trends to more compact development, reducing travel, and the need for new transportation infrastructure. Walkable neighborhoods are promoted both for energy savings and for livability.

Preservationists have advocated such development patterns since the 1980s, in the interest of reversing disinvestment in built-up historic areas and stopping sprawl development that threatens rural resources and landscapes.

The zoning reforms presented by Desegregate Connecticut and passed by the General Assembly this year had their origins in social justice but addressed sprawl and sustainability concerns as well.

The legislation encourages development in existing areas already served by infrastructure and transportation through measures such as making it easier to create accessory dwelling units and reducing parking requirements in areas served by public transportation. However, new regulations must be carefully crafted so they don't create incentives for demolishing historic buildings or overwhelming historic neighborhoods with oversized new construction.

Resiliency

No matter what is done to combat climate change, its effects are already being felt and some of them are irreversible. In Connecticut, the greatest threats come from water—either rising sea levels in Long Island Sound or river flooding from storms. Historic communities built on the water, for transportation, power, maritime trades, or recreation, are increasingly vulnerable.

The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office completed its Resiliency Planning for Preservation in 2020. The program documents historic resources that are vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise; offers recommendations for incorporating preservation into resiliency planning; and provides guidance for owners of historic properties.

In Bridgeport two pilot projects are underway to protect the South End from rising waters using funds from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program. Plans include street regrading and a storm-water park on the west side of the South End; flood risk reduction on the east side of the neighborhood, to include raised streets, flood barriers, and a reconfigured entry into Seaside Park (1865; NR); and a resilience center in the Mary and Eliza Freeman houses (1848; NR).

For owners and stewards of historic places the National Park Service has issued new *Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*. These

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Understanding the National Register of Historic Places – Part 1

*Jenny Fields Scofield, AICP,
National Register and Architectural
Survey Coordinator, Connecticut
State Historic Preservation Office*

With an increasing focus on how history is represented and whose history is conveyed, it is essential to seek diversity within the National Register of Historic Places. The preservation community, from new to seasoned, and volunteer to professional, has established the concept of “repairing the National Register” as a trending topic. While exploring opportunities for enhancing the National Register, let’s talk about the foundation of the program.

The National Register is itself historic and evolved out of a pivotal moment in federal policy. Congress established the National Register program in 1966 under the National Historic Preservation Act. This was the first time that the federal government defined cultural resources (important historic places and archaeological sites) as an integral part of the human environment and declared that the preservation of irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest. Consider that achievement for a moment, during an era of displacement, separation of neighborhoods, demolition, suburbanization, and rapid construction.

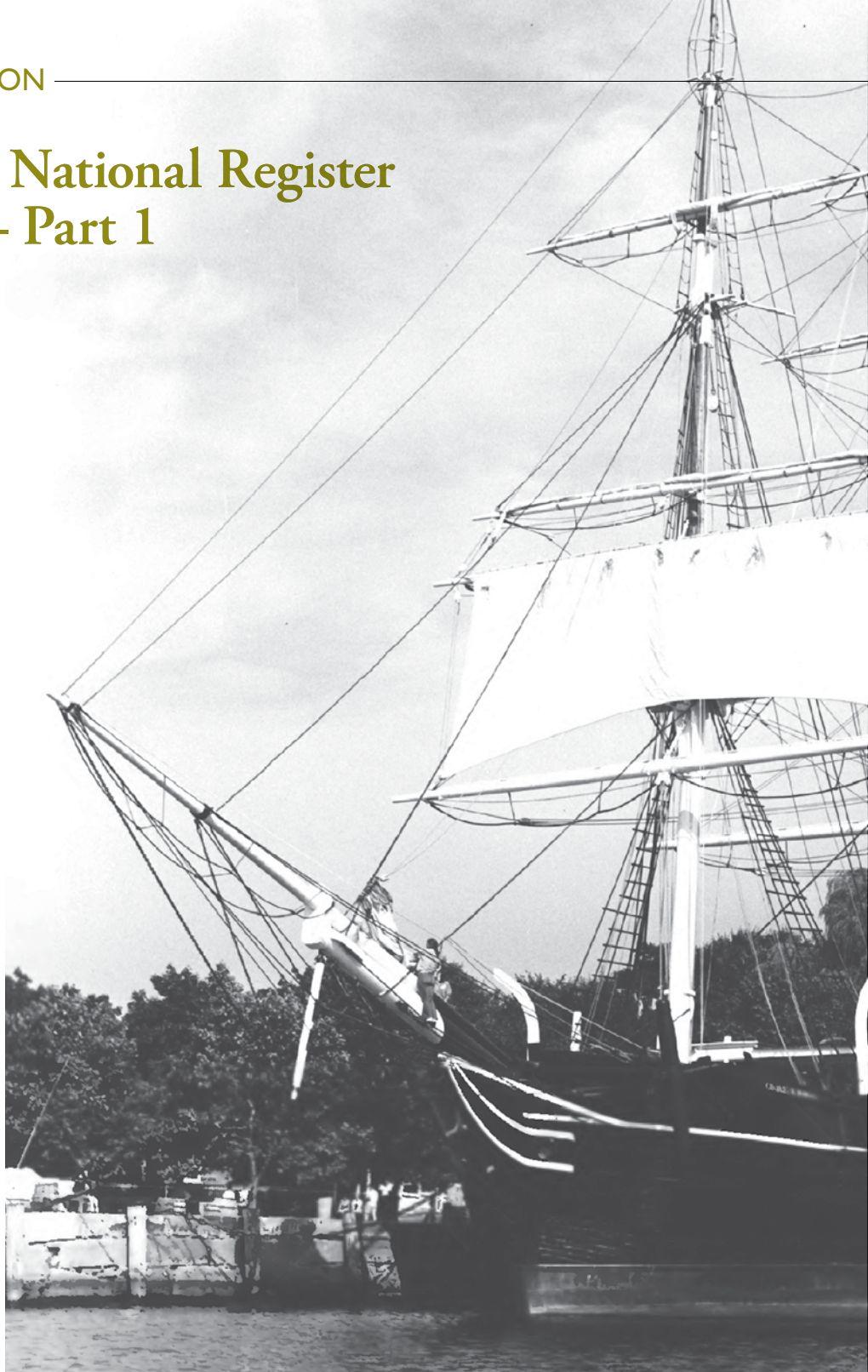
Housed within the National Park Service, the National Register is defined as “the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation.” The National Register is part of a larger system of preservation policy and checks and balances on government, designed to preserve historic places important to local communities. The National Register is tied to legislation that requires the consideration of historic properties when state or federal agencies are completing, funding, or permitting construction projects.

The idea behind this policy is the overall goal to avoid or minimize the loss of historic properties. If you are going to avoid harming something, it is helpful to know what it is, where it is, and why it is impor-

tant. Within this government framework, the National Register is used to identify important places and communicate specifically why they are important. A place does not have to be significant to a national audience in order to be designated and National Register designation is not the only way to recognize important history.

The National Register has grown exponentially beyond its initial format 55

years ago, when newly formed State Historic Preservation Offices made their first formal attempts to quickly canvas their states for cultural resources. Early nominations consisted of only a couple pages of text that are similar to survey forms, with check boxes, simple locational information, and basic history. Many of the first resources documented were those easy to identify with minimal research effort—high-style architecture, the oldest portions of



Mary Anne Stets, 1974

The *Charles W. Morgan* whaling vessel was one of Connecticut's first National Register nominations, listed in 1966.



(ethnographic landscapes, for example) have greatly expanded. The requirements regarding "historic integrity," which refers to the amount of intact historic physical features present within a property or area, have substantially loosened over time, especially for resources that are not being recognized for design qualities. Connecticut has an estimated 1,700 National Register designations for individual properties and districts, with 500 listings accepted during the first fifteen years of the program.

Since its inception, the National Register has provided a method for organizing the history in a nomination form by themes in order to explain specifically why a place is important. To be eligible for listing, a resource must be historically significant under at least one of four broad categories, known as the National Register Criteria.

These categories, created in 1966, actually allow for creativity and inclusiveness in National Register documentation. For example, Criterion A applies to places associated with specific historic events, or significant "patterns of our history." Within this broad category is a range of topics available for significance arguments. Places associated with ethnic heritage, immigration, civil rights, women's history, LGBTQ history, the advancement of mental health,

treatment of marginalized people, or general lifeways and social history all fit under this theme and have been successfully recognized on the National Register in Connecticut.

Often, these important historical associations are not evident just by viewing a property and may not be uncovered in the first hour spent researching the history of a place. While Connecticut's National Register designations do include nominations on these topics and many others, there is ample opportunity to improve, expand, or correct the record the through nomination of additional resources and amendments to existing nominations (yes, you can do that!).

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Balustrade as made in clear cedar, turned, assembled, and installed on the belfry tower of The Berlin Free Library, Berlin, CT by The Glastonbury Restoration Company. Replication of original rotted work.



town, or places associated with historic events well-known to the general public.

The quality and level of detail in National Register nominations increased steadily as other regulatory and incentive programs became more dependent on the program. Beyond the plethora of National Register guidance now available and improved technical portions of the nomination form, the types of resources recognized as historic properties

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New Sites Listed on the National Register

Coastal estates and artsy Modernist houses, mill villages and urban neighborhoods are all represented in the Connecticut places most recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The development of the **Greenwich Point historic district** followed trends common along the Connecticut coast, as the land evolved through diverse usages: farmland, summer estate, golf course, nurses' retreat, veterans' home, and municipal park. Wealthy businessman J. Kennedy Tod built an estate called Innis Arden on the point beginning in 1887. After his death, the Town of Greenwich bought the property as a town park in 1945. Although Tod's mansion was demolished in 1961, estate outbuildings and landscape elements survive, along with historic facilities added for park use.

The **William and Mary Ward house**, in Middletown, is a two-story cube-shaped, Modern-style residence built in 1964 for William Ward, a professor of theatre and design at the nearby Wesleyan University, and his wife, a musician. The architect, John Martin, was a colleague of Ward's on the Wesleyan faculty. Ward collaborated with Martin on the design of the house, which is markedly different from other works by the architect. For many years the Wards made the house a gathering spot for sharing ideas among students, faculty, and artists.

The **Uncasville Mill historic district**, in Montville, is a small industrial village which produced textiles from 1823 to 1964. Peter Richards and his son Henry built the first cotton mill here in 1823, which was taken over by brothers Charles and George Lewis in 1830. Their Uncasville Manufacturing Company grew through the rest of the century, expanding the mill complex several times and adding worker housing. After 1911, the mill was acquired by Sidney Blumenthal and Company, based in Shelton, which produced many textiles including silk and upholstery fabrics. Textile production ceased in 1964, and until recently the Thomas G. Faria Corporation manufactured marine and automotive instruments at the site. Dakota Partners is now redeveloping the mill complex as housing.

The **Whistleville historic district** in Norwalk takes its name from its location near the New York and New Haven Railroad line, where trains would blow their whistles when approaching a sharp curve. From the 1880s to the 1960s the

neighborhood was home to immigrants who came to work in Norwalk's factories—first Hungarians and, later, Italians. The district's houses, stores, churches, and social clubs provided the setting for vibrant community life.

Lindsay S. Hannah, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates



The Chimes Building at Greenwich Point was originally a stable and carriage house for J. Kennedy Tod's shorefront estate.

Jordan Sorensen



On the William and Mary Ward house, in Middletown, changes in siding materials indicate the locations of public and private interior spaces.

Connecticut Circuit Rider Tod Bryant



The Uncasville mill, in Montville, is being converted to housing.

Tod Bryant



The Hungarian Reformed church and rectory in the Whistleville historic district reflect the area's immigrant population.

Briefly noted

S. Vairo

Darien. ►

Ever wanted to follow a preservation project from start to finish? The mother-and-son team of Ellen Hackl Fagan and Christopher Fagan, who recently bought one of Darien's oldest houses, the Pond-Weed house, have offered Preservation Connecticut the opportunity to document their restoration project as it unfolds. The house, probably built about 1725 and listed on the National Register, retains features common to coastal Connecticut in the 17th and early 18th centuries, including traces of Dutch influence from nearby New York. For a first step, the Fagans met with engineers and town officials to begin planning the work (pictured; Christopher Fagan is second from left). Preservation Connecticut is excited to share the process of restoring an historic house—as an educational experience for our fellow preservationists, tradespeople, and those who just appreciate old buildings. Check our website and social media posts to continue the journey.



New Hartford. ►

A three-alarm fire destroyed the New Hartford House in August. Built as a hotel in about 1898, the brick structure replaced an earlier hotel built in the 1790s to serve travelers on the Greenwoods Turnpike, which also burned. The hotel's wooden tower dominated the intersection of Main and Bridge streets—the very heart of the town center. The ruins were demolished the next day after consultation among the town and state fire marshals with the town building inspector, engineer, and first selectman. "We all agreed that it was just not safe, and that we had to do what we had to do," First Selectman Dan Jerram told the Torrington Register-Citizen. "There was some talk about saving the facade, but there was no way to do that. It was leaning against the town hall ... the only path forward was to demolish it." The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

C. Wigren, 2011



CTDOT/Gannett Fleming



◀ Merritt Parkway

(NR; State Scenic Road).

The Connecticut Department of Transportation recently completed the restoration of two more of the Parkway's distinctive bridges. The Clinton Avenue (1936) and Newtown Turnpike (1936) bridges, both in Westport, carry named roads over the parkway. Restoration was part of the corridor improvement work that the Department has been carrying out in stages since 1999. In addition to bridge restoration, the work includes roadway and safety improvements, installation of Merritt Parkway barriers and guiderails, and landscape restoration. For the Clinton Avenue bridge, contractors re-created decorative panels of red aggregate that had been eliminated in previous work and repaired or replicated the railings. At the double-arched Newtown Turnpike bridge, existing concrete veneer cast to resemble brownstone was falling off; the veneer was entirely removed and replicated, carefully matching the historic color. The Merritt Parkway Conservancy assisted in ensuring the historical accuracy of these projects.

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Preservation and climate change, cont'd from page 5

guidelines are the latest in a series of publications that provide information about how to apply the Secretary of the Interior's Standards to specific topics. The new guidelines cover risk assessment as well as various treatments for adapting historic buildings to be more resilient to flooding risk in a manner that will preserve their historic character.

What's needed?

Preservation, after all, is basically large-scale recycling, and it can make meaningful contributions to addressing the climate crisis. But the severity and urgency of the threat calls on preservationists—along with the rest of the global community—to rethink some of the priorities and methods that have driven our work for over a century.

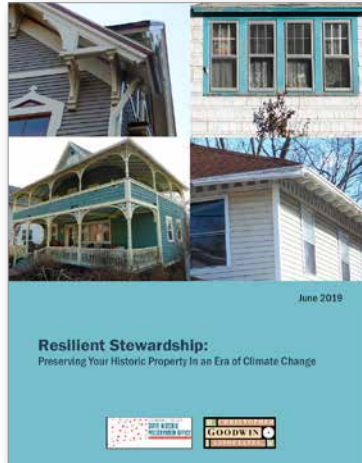
Adapting to change isn't new in preservation: while a few purists object to visible light switches or electrical outlets in pre-modern buildings, most of us accept such elements without a second thought. Similarly, solar panels are becoming increasingly accepted. What other changes might we learn to accept, in the name of climate needs?

One area for review is the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, a set of basic preservation principles created by the National Park Service. By law, federally funded or permitted projects must be evaluated according to these standards; and state, tribal, and local governments also have adopted the Secretary's Standards for their own preservation work.

Over the years, the Park Service has created guidelines to clarify the application of the Standards to specific topics—most recently the flooding guidelines mentioned above. A set of sustainability guidelines was published in 2011. However, these guidelines are relatively brief and conservative in their approach: where sustainability initiatives conflict with established preservation practice, the guidelines almost always side with existing practice.

As the global climate crisis has become more urgent, there have been calls for the Park Service to review and revise its guidelines—and perhaps the Standards themselves—to address sustainability more fully and more flexibly.

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office



This resilient stewardship guide is part of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office's Resiliency Planning for Preservation program

National Park Service



The National Park Service's Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Historic Buildings address one aspect of resiliency planning.

The flooding guidelines suggest how a new approach might be conceived, explaining: "Treatments that might not be considered in other rehabilitation contexts because of their impacts on the historic character of a property may be acceptable in the context of adapting the property to flooding hazards." In other words, the prospect of flooding may pose such a threat to the very existence of an historic building that it may be necessary to accept some changes that otherwise would not be considered—in the larger interest of preserving the building itself.

It might be argued that the urgency of the climate crisis justifies applying this principle to other sustainability measures for historic buildings, outside of flooding—in the larger interest of preserving the environment in which historic resources and the people who live and work in them must exist.

Other changes might include revising regulations that govern riparian rights to promote greater use of waterpower, as at Collinsville. Or, preservation funding programs might prioritize projects that increase sustainability.

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Essentially, what is needed is a change in our conception of what preservation is *for*. This, in turn, will determine how preservation is to be done. Where preservation in the past was conceived as a way to teach history, to celebrate big-name personages, red-letter events, and high-style architecture, increasingly it is seen also as a means for social action—affirming the history and promoting the full participation of minority and neglected populations in society. In addition to this, preservation must also be a vehicle for combating climate change and promoting sustainability. By taking on these tasks, we also will be affirming the central importance of historic places, not as luxuries for those who can afford them, but as crucial elements of our everyday lives. 🌿

Programs and resources for sustainability

Connecticut Green Bank:
ctgreenbank.com

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office Resiliency Planning:

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/01_Programs_Services/Hurricane-Sandy-Program/Resiliency-Planning

National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties:

<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>

National Trust for Historic Preservation Research and Policy Lab:

<https://savingplaces.org/research-lab>

National Register, cont'd from page 7

So, what can you do? Keep in mind that early nominations were often focused on the history easy to obtain; these can be updated with additional themes of significance. Remember that historical narratives in National Register nominations are focused on communicating at least one of the reasons why a place is important; the nomination may not be the right place to provide general history or a full site chronology.

Now that you are getting to know the National Register, look for more information about the increasing diversity in the properties, people, and histories being recognized in upcoming issues. 🌿

News from around the state, cont'd from page 11

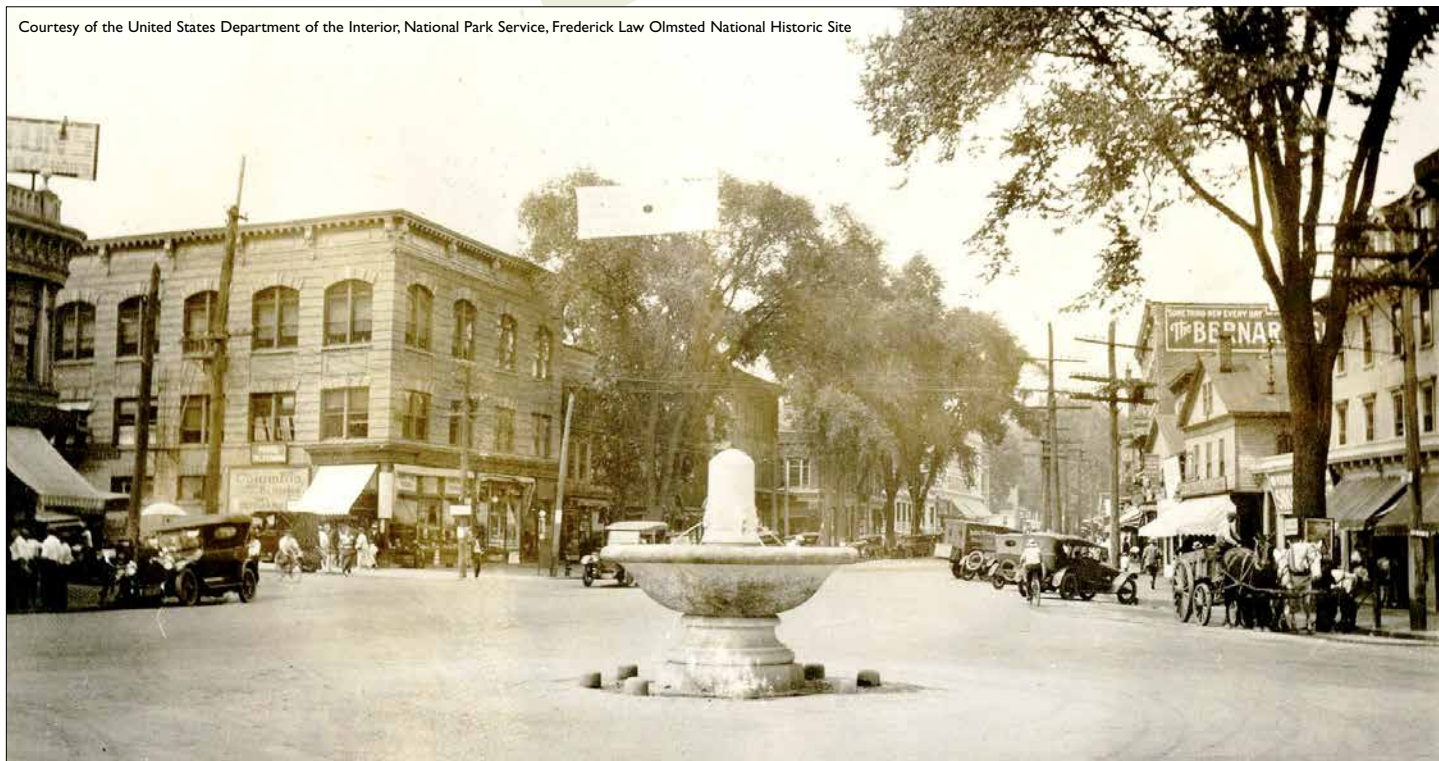
▼ Torrington.

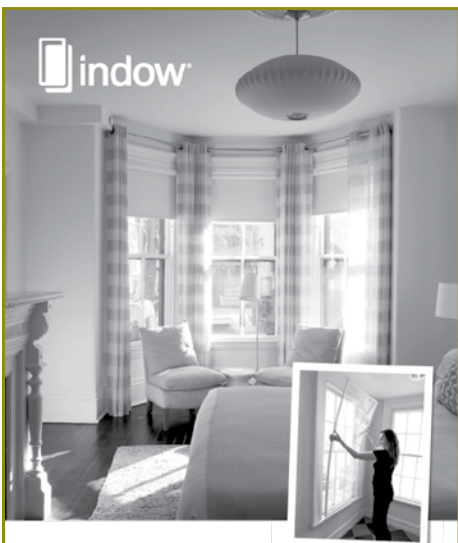
A 100-year-old fountain designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm will soon be moved to Franklin Plaza. The fountain, donated to the city by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1921, has led a peripatetic existence. “It was a watering trough for horses,” said Torrington Historical Society Executive Director Mark

McEachern. “It was installed right on Main Street, before there were islands or a rotary or anything like that. Then, when the intersection was modified, later in the 20th century, it was moved to Coe Park. It didn’t have running water, it was just moved there as a sculpture, more or less. Then, one of the city’s previous administra-

tions moved it up to City Hall and got it running again as a fountain. It’s been there ever since.” Mayor Ellen Carbone explained the move, “It’s in an obscure location, and moving it to a high-profile location will bring much joy to people.” 🌿

Courtesy of the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site



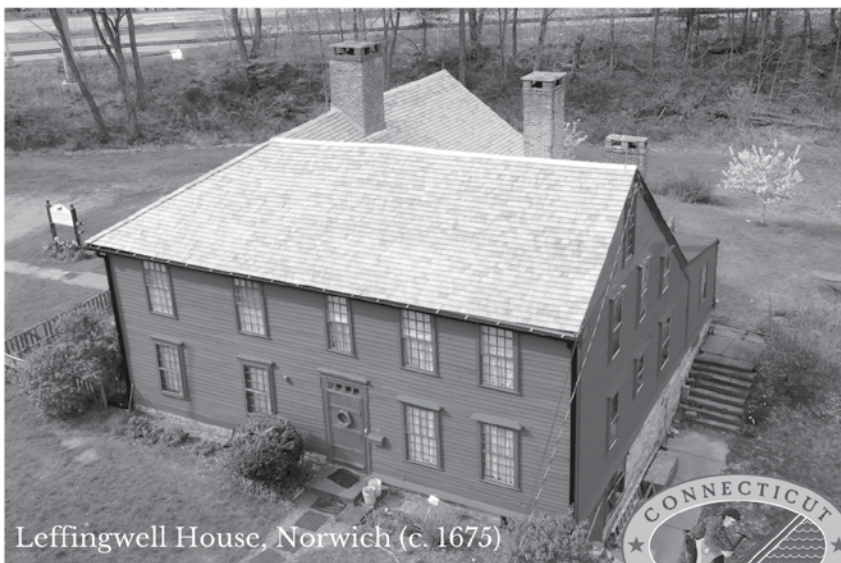


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Leffingwell House, Norwich (c. 1675)



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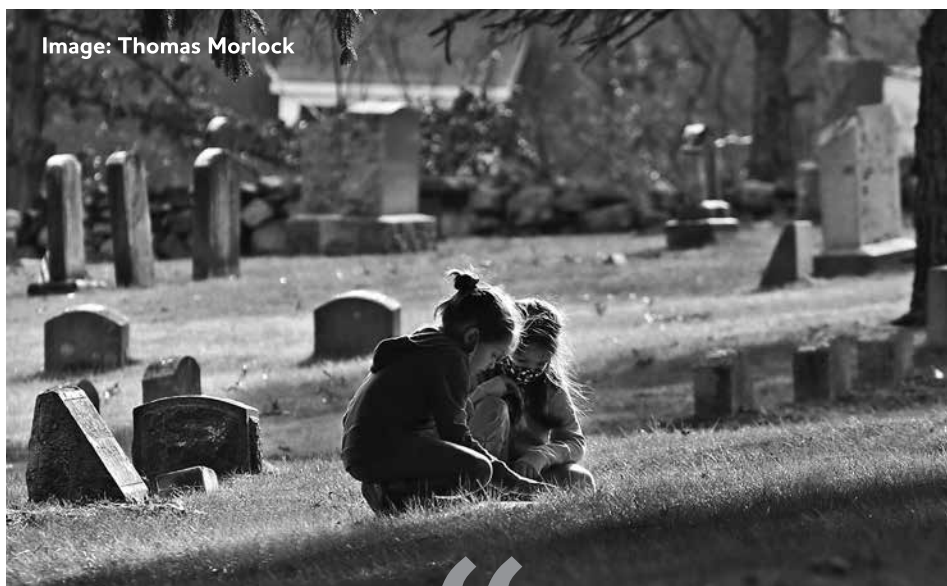
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Historic House in New Haven

Bull's Bridge in Kent

Liberty Community Housing



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HISTORIC PROPERTIES EXCHANGE

Threatened Buildings and Easement Properties Available — September/October 2021

Preservation easements protect the historic character of old buildings, structures and landscapes and require approval of proposed changes. When one of the many properties throughout the state on which Preservation Connecticut holds

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.

Perro House (c. 1850)

29 Hollow Road, Woodbury
\$375,000

Preservation Connecticut Easement

Charming c.1850 Greek Revival home in Woodbury's picturesque Local and National Register Historic District #1. Updated kitchen and bath, hardwood floors, open floor plan and walk-up attic. One car garage and a garden shed offer extra convenience. Fantastic location within walking distance to Hollow Park and center of town, museums, numerous restaurants and brew pub. 3 bedrooms; 1 bath; 1,457 sq. ft.; 0.91 acre. Changes to the exterior must be approved by Preservation Connecticut as a condition of the easement.

Contact: Lisa Titcomb, William Pitt Sotheby's,
203-419-5919, ltitcomb@wpsir.com



Polish National Home (1930)

60 Charter Oak Ave, Hartford
\$775,000

After over 90 years of operation, a Hartford landmark is for sale. Designed by local architect Henry F. Ludorf in the Art Deco style, the Polish National Home was a focal point for community activities of the local Polish population, and bears the symbol of Polish nationalism, an eagle, throughout. Ludorf linked the interior and exterior with repeating themes of octagons (windows, door panels, lighting fixtures) and abstract classical motifs. The first floor includes grand ballroom, adjacent dining area, and large modern kitchen. Second floor has traditional auditorium with balconies overlooking the stage. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and may qualify for historic rehabilitation tax credits. Building area is 24,570 sq. ft.; 1.25 acres.

Contact: Helen Krzyczynski, Coldwell Banker,
860-205-7063, helen.krzyczynski@coldwellbanker-moves.com



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Lost Acre Farm

132 Curtiss Road, Warren
\$10,000,000

Opportunity to own over 100 acres overlooking Lake Waramaug. Property includes c.1820 farmhouse of 3,372 sq. ft. with three bedrooms and four baths, prominent stone fireplace and exposed timber framing and beams. Property also includes three guest cottages, terraces and gardens, equestrian barn, pool, and pool house. Property consists of four parcels totaling 114.64 acres and faces the threats of subdivision and development.

Contact: Stacey Matthews, William Raveis,
203-671-9067, Matthews@raveis.com



10 West Road (1880)

Colchester
\$267,000

New England farmhouse on over 9 acres available in Colchester. Front porch showcases decorative turned posts and carved columns and brackets. Interior is 1,568 sq. ft. and includes three bedrooms and attached mudroom/storage area at the rear. Property includes classic gambrel barn, originally built for beef cattle, and the mostly level land has been used for haying or vegetable growing. Both house and barn in need of updating and house foundation needs repair. Property zoned Future Development or Residential. Rehab loan or cash only.

Contact: Jodi Lisitano, Keller Williams Realty,
860-301-2032, jodi.lisitano@kw.com



Deadline for the next issue is October 20, 2021

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.

Neither advertisers nor Preservation Connecticut are responsible or liable for any misinformation, misprints, or typographical errors contained in Historic Properties Exchange. To list a property or learn about properties listed, contact Kristen Hopewood at khopewood@preservationct.org, or call (203) 562-6312.

Step 4: Have fun creating your piece! Using your chosen medium create your marker! Don't get frustrated if your creation deviates from the design; let your materials inspire you as you work to tell the story. Your voice is valuable, and you should feel empowered to tell the story in whatever way you think is best.


Step 5: Install your historic marker! Make sure to take pictures and document this accomplishment. You have shown the world a new perspective as to why this place is important. Please consider your historic marker as a way to create impermanent art and to be respectful of public/private property. You never know, your historic marker may lead to something permanent. If your storytelling would require a clean up after

a rainstorm, make sure to go pick up the pieces to minimize littering.

Join me in seizing opportunities to preserve the past and tell a story about your community. 🌱

Heritage resource consultant Sarah Marsom strives to improve the preservation movement's accessibility by empowering the next generation of community advocates and increasing representation of lesser known histories. Learn more about her work at www.sarahmarsom.com.


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and faith programming, the Zion Baptist Church. The Waterbury NAACP was founded in this building in 1942, and it was once the home of the city's Urban League.

From 1924 to 1946, the Neighborhood House's work was guided by its social director, Leila Alexander (1881-1971), an educator originally from Ontario. Under her direction the organization expanded and moved to the present building and sponsored more than fifty activity groups, including sewing, knitting, dramatics, suppers, sports, community sings, art

programs, dances, films, and public interest discussions. It also offered leadership and assistance in health, housing, and employment and sought to build public opinion through interracial activities.

Waterbury historian Raechel Guest wrote in *Connecticut Explored* magazine that the area around the Hopkins Street Center was a vibrant African American neighborhood established during the early 20th century. Over the years, this neighborhood featured prominently in *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, a guidebook for African American travelers in an age

of segregation. During the late 1930s four tourist homes were listed on Pearl Street, all run by women. One block over on Bishop Street, the Jones Hotel, opened in 1925 by Black entrepreneur Mack R. Jones, was listed as offering lodgings for motorists until about 1947. The Pearl Street Neighborhood House itself was listed, too, as the "Community House Tourist Home" into the 1960s. 🌿

The Hopkins Street Center is located at 34 Hopkins Street in Waterbury. The Freedom Trail website has recently been improved and expanded; visit it at ctfreedomtrail.org.

Photo contest to feature historic landscapes

Get your cameras ready for the next Preservation Connecticut photo contest. In celebration of Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday in 2022, we are looking for photographs of Connecticut's historic landscapes. Photo submissions will be accepted beginning in January 2022, but don't wait to take those photos—anything taken in the past two years is eligible

What are historic landscapes? Historic landscapes are landscapes that have been shaped by human involvement and have historical significance. They may be associated with a person or event. They may be big or small; they may reflect conscious planning and artistic achievement, or they may have evolved through use and reflect the everyday lives of the people who inhabit or created them.

C. Wigren



Eolia (Harkness State Park), Waterford

Examples of historic landscapes include residential gardens and community parks; scenic highways; rural communities; institutional grounds; cemeteries; battlefields; and zoological gardens. They may contain water features such as ponds or fountains; circulation systems including roads, steps, and paths; buildings; or furnishings including benches, fences, lighting, and sculptures.

While we are flexible in the definition of historic landscape for this contest, we do insist that photos show how the landscape has historically been used and shaped by people. Please feel free to reach out to us with your questions and ideas. 🌿

For information, visit <https://preservationct.org/announcing-our-next-photo-contest>.



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Stops on the Freedom Trail

Hopkins Street Center, Waterbury

Connecticut Freedom Trail

Editor's note: In 2021 each issue of Preservation Connecticut News features a stop on the Connecticut Freedom Trail, which marks sites that embody the struggle toward freedom and human dignity of the state's African American community, celebrate their accomplishments, and promote heritage tourism. The first paragraph of this article was adapted from the Freedom Trail posting.

Located at the corner of Hopkins and Pearl Streets, this building was once known as the Pearl Street Neighborhood House. It served as a settlement house for Waterbury's African American community, particularly migrants arriving from the South after the First World War. It continued to be a settlement house and community center from the 1920s into the 1980s and is now used for cultural events

continued on page 19

