

PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT NEWS

Opportunities for Preservation 2022

Where are the opportunities to bring valuable touchstones from our past to enrich our present and future? Sometimes opportunity lies in a threatened historic building that could be redeveloped with imagination. Sometimes it's looking at familiar elements of our surroundings in new ways. Sometimes it's adopting new technologies—or re-discovering old ones for new reasons. Every year Preservation Connecticut offers stories that we hope will inspire preservationists around the state.

This year we begin with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's designation of the Deborah Chapel as one of the eleven most endangered historic sites in the country. Turn to page 4 to read about the threats to this unusual and significant historic building along with the efforts to preserve it for future generations.

While we tend to think of trees as natural assets that provide food and living environments for many creatures as well as offering shade and converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, historian Leah Glaser offers some perspectives on the importance of trees as historic resources, too.

In another story, Marena Wisniewski of the State Historic Preservation Office looks at the eternal question of keeping wooden buildings protected with paint and suggests that a traditional technology—linseed oil-based paints—may be a modern solution.

Finally, we offer a few resources for thinking ahead to the upcoming 250th anniversaries of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

We hope these stories offer food for thought and resources for action as we continue to celebrate Connecticut's past and build a better future on its foundations.

Carey Shea

The Deborah Chapel, in Hartford, is threatened with demolition by Congregation Beth Israel of West Hartford.

IN THIS ISSUE: 2 – Trees as memorials and witnesses

9 – Celebrating America's 250th

10 – Around the state

12 – Funding for preservation

16 – Historic properties exchange

20 – Picturing historic landscapes

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESERVATION

Trees as memorials and witnesses to history

By Leah S. Glaser

The summer of 2020 brought a national reckoning over our collective memory as embodied in public statues, while superstorms and wildfires exacerbated by climate change also consumed our collective memory in the form of old-growth trees and forests. Rich in environmental benefits, mature trees have also defined Connecticut's landscape and self-identity. They tie local histories to place by physically and symbolically storing individual and collective memory.

Exhibit A is Connecticut's Charter Oak. Forests supplied Eastern Woodland tribes with tools, shelter, and food as they seasonally migrated to and from the shoreline. A lone tree is a central element of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Seal and represents their forested homelands. In Hartford, descendants of white settlers appropriated an oak, known to local Native people (likely the Saukiog) as a "peace tree," for Connecticut's own creation story about the Charter Oak. After a storm destroyed the massive and ancient tree in 1856, it earned its own memorial obelisk erected in Hartford by the Connecticut Society of Colonial Wars in 1907.

Few places are more historically and culturally tied to the shade tree than state forests and local parks. These landscapes reflect deliberate decisions by administrators and activists in the early 20th century to save parts of our historic landscape in response to rapid industrial development. Connecticut led national forestry policy. It was among the first states to hire a state forester and to purchase forests to protect state watersheds and timber supplies.

During the Progressive Era, some groups advocated for tree conservation on environmental grounds. Other groups

This is one of 13 sycamores that Oliver Wolcott, Jr., planted in Litchfield in 1779. Wolcott was an early adopter of a custom, described by Katharine Matthies, in *Trees of Note in Connecticut*, in which people planted sets of trees representing the 13 states. Other memorial trees commemorate the national centennial in 1876 and the Connecticut constitutional convention of 1902.



believed in preserving trees as an extension of New England's heritage and sponsored tree plantings for almost any anniversary occasion. In 1934 Katharine Matthies, a member of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, published *Trees of Note in Connecticut* (Yale University Press). In it she listed trees for their size and beauty and a few for their historical significance, such as scions of Charter Oak planted across the state.

"Witness trees" connect past and present, often inscribing the landscape with colonial land claims and thus asserting the disputable narrative that Native people willingly surrendered fertile land to European settlers. Matthies noted a sycamore that marked an Indian planting ground known as Hequetch that first was protected by treaty and then reportedly was

deeded to settlers in Stamford. Other trees, Matthies noted, marked colonial victories over the British Empire. A sycamore in Danbury "witnessed the retreat of the British to Ridgefield after they burned Danbury." Sadly, this tree was cut down in 2014. A tamarak tree in Ridgefield marked the site where 500 patriots under the command of Benedict Arnold built a barricade to British troops. The former president and conservationist Theodore Roosevelt planted the "Roosevelt Oak" in East Haven on Arbor Day, March 9, 1908, to mark General Lafayette's encampment there during the Revolutionary War.

Since 1985 the Connecticut College Arboretum Notable Trees Project has maintained digital records of thousands of individual trees across the state, recording

continued on page 13

Protecting Connecticut's street trees

In March of 2014, *Connecticut Preservation News* reported that utility companies and the state Department of Transportation had drastically increased removing trees along Connecticut streets and roads in the name of increasing safety and reducing power outages. As we pointed out then, widespread and often unthinking tree removal

had negative consequences for air quality, comfort, and historic and scenic character. That trend continues. For background information and resources for communities, visit the New Haven Garden Club website, www.gardenclubofnewhaven.org.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Preservation Connecticut's annual review of **opportunities for preservation**. I hope you will find new insights and inspiration in some of the stories assembled here. As I write this, I'm about to head out for a three-day retreat with executive directors of other **statewide preservation organizations** from the Northeast. It's always an intense time, with discussions scheduled for nearly every waking moment. I expect to come back tired, as usual, but also with new ideas to try out.

We enjoyed a lovely opening reception for our **Picturing History: Historic Landscapes of Connecticut** photography contest on Saturday, June 11, at the Art League of New Britain. Turn to page 20 to see the Best in Show and Viewer's Choice winners. The Picturing History photography contest is the creation of Preservation Connecticut Trustee and dear friend Ellen Gould. This project has been an effective and fun engagement tool for Preservation Connecticut and has raised money for the organization. We thank Ellen for her expe-

rience, insights, and guidance in making this year's contest a success. We're already starting to think about the next Picturing History contest—what do you think the subject should be?

Our **Talking About Preservation** series continued through the spring. **Kathy Maher**, director of the Barnum Museum, Bridgeport, provided key insights into the importance of disaster and resiliency planning. Next, researcher **Tom Schuch** shared his work on New London's Black Heritage Trail. Social media superstar **Ken Staffey** brought us into his world of researching "HouseStories." Finally, **Karin Patriquin** of Patriquin Architects closed out the series with a detailed discussion on undertaking a Passive House retrofit in an historic building. Thanks to these presenters for sharing their stories and their knowledge with us. The talks were all recorded and can be found on our YouTube channel. And stay tuned for more Talking about Preservation in the fall.

Congratulations to the **Merritt Parkway Conservancy** which celebrated its

20th year as steward of the Merritt Parkway with reflection and an awards program in June. The Conservancy presented Janus Awards to three of its founders, **Emil Frankel**, **Dee Winokur**, and **Peter Szabo**. Preservation Connecticut assisted in getting the Conservancy started and we are proud to see that it has grown into an eloquent and effective champion for one of Connecticut's most beloved historic places. The next time you enjoy the Parkway's verdant landscape or restored bridges, give a wave to Emil, Dee, Peter, and their colleagues at the Conservancy.



Happy summer,

—Jane Montanaro

Please remember
Preservation Connecticut
in your will or estate plan.
We are incredibly grateful
to the visionary donors who
have given to us.

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.

Board of Trustees

Officers

Caroline Sloat, chair, *Thompson*
Mary Jane Agostini, vice-chair,
Berlin and Niantic
Jonathan Wharton, secretary, *Branford*
Garry Leonard, treasurer, *Madison*

Gubernatorial Appointees

Sara Bronin, *Hartford*
The Hon. Catherine Osten, *Sprague*

Additional Members of the Board of Trustees

Cristina Aguirre-Ross, *New Canaan*
Deb Cohen, *South Windsor*
Edward F. Gerber, *Westport*
Ellen Gould, *Southport*
Henry Griggs, *Madison*
John Harrington, *Norwalk*
Garrett Heher, *Essex*
Jeffrey Kaufman, *Hamden*
Regan Miner, *Norwich*
Tom Nissley, *New Canaan*
Edith Pestana, *Hartford*
James Quinn, *Uncasville*
Pieter Roos, *West Simsbury*
Elaine Stiles, *Old Lyme*
Robert Tierney, *Old Lyme*

Advisory Council

Martha Alexander, *New Haven*
J. Barclay Collins, *Sharon*
William Crowe, *Canton*
Jared Edwards, *FAIA, West Hartford*
Inger Elliott, *Stonington*
Theodore F. Ellis, *Branford*
Robert Faesy, *Wilton*
Gerald Farrell, Jr., *Wallingford*
Walter Fiederowicz, *Litchfield*
Mimi Findlay, *New Canaan*
Glenn Geathers, *Hartford*
John Herzan, *Branford*
Charles Janson, *Darien*
Lee G. Kuckro, *Wethersfield*
Stephen S. Lash, *Stonington*
Charles T. Lee, *Greenwich*
Peter Malkin, *Greenwich*
Jeffrey Morgan, *Kent*
George Schoellkopf, *Washington*
John W. Shannahan, *Suffield*
John B. Toomey Jr., *Bolton*

Preservation Connecticut News

Editor: Christopher Wigren
Editor, *Historic Properties Exchange*:
Kristen Hopewood
Advertising: Christopher Wigren
Design: David Wolfram, *Middletown*
Printing: GHP Media, *West Haven*

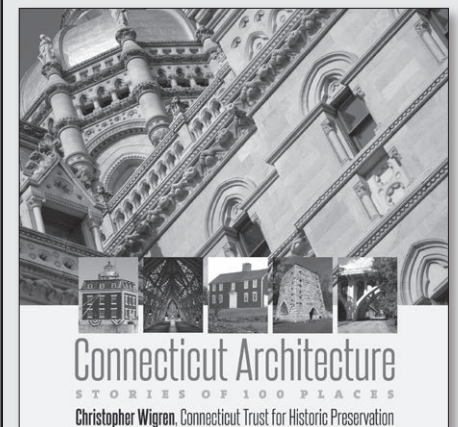
Staff

Jane Montanaro, *Executive Director*
Christopher Wigren, *Deputy Director*
Brad Schide, *Connecticut Circuit Rider*
Michael Forino, *Connecticut Circuit Rider*
Stacey Vairo, *Connecticut Circuit Rider*
Stefon Danczuk, *Archaeology Consultant*
Jordan Sorensen, *Development & Special Projects Manager*
Renée Tribert, *Making Places & Preservation Services Manager*
Kristen J. Hopewood, *Development & Administrative Assistant*

Preservation Connecticut News is published bimonthly by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, doing business as Preservation Connecticut, 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06517. Publication is made possible by support of the members of Preservation Connecticut and by funds provided through the Community Investment Act in the State of Connecticut. The contents and opinions stated herein do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State of Connecticut. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of Preservation Connecticut. Preservation Connecticut does not endorse advertisers and assumes no liability for advertisements.

© 2022, Preservation Connecticut. All rights reserved. ISSN 1084-189X

Connecticut
still revolutionary



GET YOUR COPY NOW!

"...intrigues the eye and mind in a journey through centuries of Connecticut history and architecture."

—David K. Left, town historian, *Canton*

Order at
www.preservationct.org/book
or www.wesleyan.edu/wespress

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESERVATION

National Trust recognizes threat to Deborah Chapel

Connecticut's second-oldest Jewish religious building stands vacant in a corner of the Beth Israel Cemetery in Hartford's Frog Hollow National Register district. The small brick structure is under threat of demolition.

In May, the chapel received nationwide attention when it gained a spot on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual list of the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The Trust compiles this list every year to raise awareness of threats facing some of America's greatest treasures and to rally support for their preservation. Making the list sends a clear message that if urgent action is not taken, an irreplaceable place of great national significance will be lost. In addition, sites included in the list often become priorities for National Trust's advocacy and assistance.

According to its website, the Trust particularly encourages sites to apply that illuminate a unique or overlooked aspect of American history and that expand our understanding of our shared national heritage, as well as sites related to historic places of importance to under-represented groups including women and immigrants.

According to the National Trust, the Deborah Chapel "...is a rare and early American example of an intact Jewish funerary structure which embodies the strong leadership of women within the 19th-century Jewish, religious, and communal organizations."

The chapel was constructed using funds raised by the Ladies' Deborah Society of Hartford, a Jewish women's civic association, and dedicated on October 18, 1886, by Congregation Beth Israel. Just ten years before, the congregation had erected its synagogue on Charter Oak Avenue—the first purpose-built religious building for Jews in the state (previously they had used second-hand structures originally built for other purposes, usually churches). And the chapel was only the second.

Located in the Beth Israel section of Zion Hill Cemetery, the building provided space for funeral services as well as caretaker's quarters and space where Society

members washed bodies in preparation for burial and wrapped them in shrouds sewn by the members.

Congregation Beth Israel moved to West Hartford in 1936 but continues to use the cemetery in Hartford. Services have not been held in the chapel for approximately 75 years, though the caretaker's quarters had been occupied more recently.

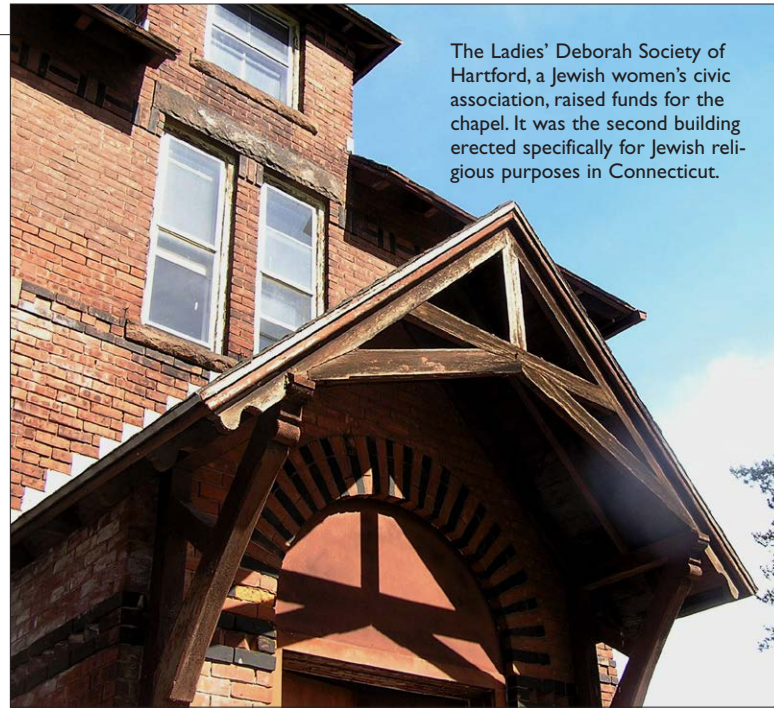
For several years Congregation Beth Israel has been moving toward razing the chapel. The synagogue intends to create a temporary memorial garden on the site, and eventually use it for burials.

In 2019, the congregation applied for a permit to demolish the chapel under Hartford's historic preservation ordinance, claiming that the building was deteriorated, hazardous, and an invitation to vandalism. The Hartford Historic District Commission denied a certificate of appropriateness (COA) for demolition. The synagogue appealed the decision, and in March 2021, the Connecticut Superior Court found in favor of the synagogue, ordering the Commission to issue a COA. The City of Hartford is in the process of appealing the decision.

At the same time, the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Connecticut are evaluating plans to intervene, if all else fails, under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. That law allows lawsuits to prevent the unreasonable destruction of historic buildings listed on the National Register.

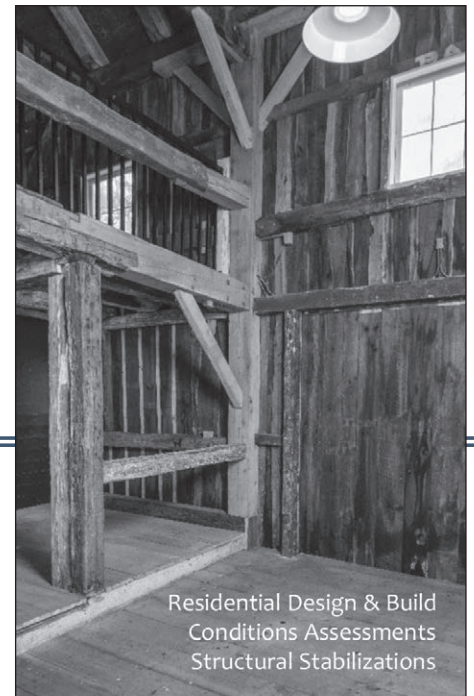
Preservationists suggest that the chapel could once again serve the cemetery, as a visitor center, office, or even a chapel. Alternatively, since the structure stands at one corner of the cemetery, it might be renovated for residential use, which would be consistent with its original function. Beth Israel counters that the deed restricts

The Ladies' Deborah Society of Hartford, a Jewish women's civic association, raised funds for the chapel. It was the second building erected specifically for Jewish religious purposes in Connecticut.



the property to cemetery-related use and that the deed restriction cannot be broken.

Beth Israel is offering to sell the chapel for one dollar, provided it is moved from the cemetery (see page 16). The same offer has been made in the past; a synagogue spokes-

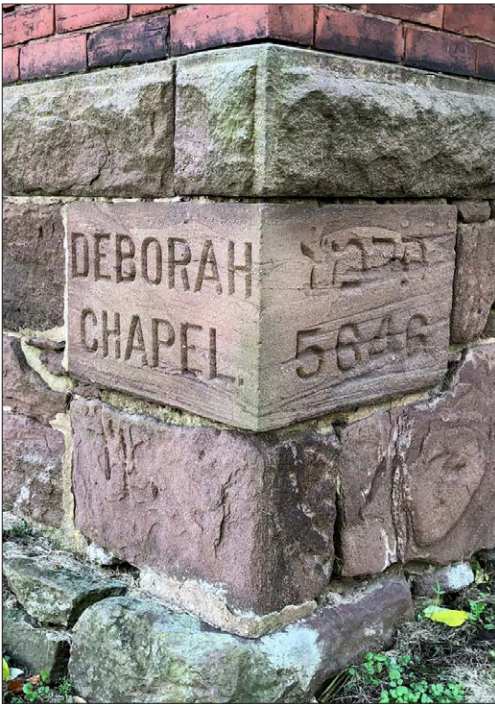


Residential Design & Build
Conditions Assessments
Structural Stabilizations

HUDSON VALLEY
PRESERVATION

Design. Renovate. Preserve.

Kent 860.592.0500 hvpcorp.com #0557364



The cornerstone of Deborah Chapel gives the Hebrew date of construction, equivalent to 1885-1886 in the Gregorian calendar.

person said it is being renewed now in light of the increased interest in the building.

Cary Shea, co-founder of the Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery, told the Hartford Courant that moving the building would be difficult and expensive, which is why there have been no takers to the congregation's offer.

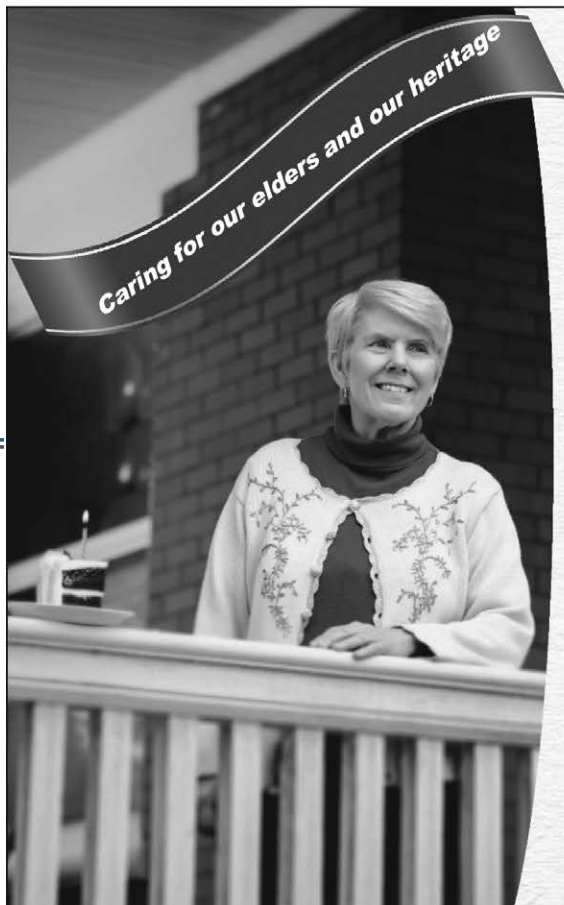
Through its lawyer, Beth Israel also has contested the chapel's National Register status since the building is not mentioned in the district nomination. However, according to Connecticut's National Register coordinator, Jenny Scofield, when the nomination was written, in 1979, it was common not to itemize every resource within an historic district. Nonetheless, structures that are located within the boundaries of a National Register district, fit the district's period and area of historic significance, and retain historical integrity are considered to be contributing resources, whether or not they are listed in the inventory. At its September, 2021, meeting, the State Historic Preservation Review Board determined that the chapel does meet those criteria.

The National Trust's listing does not represent the first effort to save the chapel. The Hartford Preservation Alliance has been calling attention to the building since

at least 2015, when the chapel was included in HPA's own most endangered properties list.

The Deborah Chapel joins the Cigna headquarters in Bloomfield (2001), Merritt Parkway (2010), and Freeman Houses in Bridgeport (2018) as the only Connecticut places the National Trust has named as endangered since the list was established in 1988. "Recognition by the National Trust helped resolve immediate threats to the Parkway, Cigna Headquarters, and Freeman houses," said Jane Montanaro, Executive Director of Preservation Connecticut, "and we hope for a similar outcome with the Deborah Chapel." 🌿

For more information about the Deborah Chapel, visit the Hartford Preservation Alliance at hartfordpreservation.org, Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery on Facebook and Instagram, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation at savingplaces.org.



*Home is 1,700 square feet of memories,
8 rooms of family gatherings, and a
backyard with dozens of birthday parties.*



*We give people the help they need
to live in the place they love.™*

 **Griswold®**
HOME CARE
Delivered with heart.™

If you need in-home, non-medical assistance we can help.
Call **203 776-2273** and we'll connect you to your closest of 7 offices.

GriswoldHomeCare.com

Paint the town

By Marena Wisniewski

Painting is one of the biggest investments owners can make in their wood-clad buildings. It is also one of the most rewarding, giving instant visual improvement. More importantly, paint protects and preserves historic fabric. Paint is meant to bear the brunt of the elements; consequently, it will deteriorate with time. As the National Park Service points out in *Preservation Brief #10: Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork*, ideally, all that is required to care for a painted structure is periodic cleaning and selective repairs to the finish coat. But as most owners of wood buildings know, deferred maintenance often results in large scale deterioration, requiring wholesale paint removal and replacement.

Since the 1950s, most commercial exterior paints have been made with water-based synthetic resins or latex. These paints have additives for faster drying time and easier application, and they are relatively inexpensive.

But water-based paints come with drawbacks. They form a barrier, but just on the surface, rather than penetrating the substrate. Both latex and acrylic deteriorate under UV radiation from the sun, which creates breaks in the paint surface. These breaks allow water to penetrate behind the paint layer, leading to rot. Successive layers of paint also block moisture in the wood from evaporating, again, causing deterioration.

Perhaps most important to property owners, water-based paints with acrylic or latex binders only last between five and eight years without requiring substantial repair. This short time span leads many owners to seek an alternative treatment.

“Right in front of me the whole time”

Before the mid-20th century, linseed oil (made from flax seeds) was the dominant binder for paint in the United States. Unlike latex or acrylic paints, it permeates the wood substrate, helping to prevent water infiltration; it is applied in very thin layers, which allows permeability; and it is



Connecticut Landmarks recently used linseed oil based paint on garden lampposts at the Phelps-Hatheway House in Suffield.

flexible, moving with the wood substrate rather than cracking. And, when exposed to UV radiation, linseed oil paint “chalks,” rather than cracks—that is, pigment granules from the upper layer of the paint surface detach, leaving an uneven surface that appears chalky or cloudy. Rather than requiring scraping and sanding like waterborne paint, chalking is remedied by introducing new linseed oil to the surface, which rebinds the pigment to the rest of the paint and refreshes the paint layer. With regular maintenance, linseed oil paint can last between 15 and 30 years before repainting, and when repainting is required, it doesn’t need to be scraped or sanded.

As an added benefit, linseed oil paint is primarily a green product, made from traditional minerals and pigments rather than synthetic ones. Although historic linseed oil paint included lead white to aid in drying and consistency, modern versions utilize zinc white. And, linseed paint can be cleaned without solvent, reducing the contaminants that enter water sources.

While rare in the United States, linseed oil based paints are popular in the United Kingdom, and especially in Sweden, where oil is used as a binder for Falu Red paint, a traditional product widely used since the 17th century.

Linseed oil paints do have some disadvantages, including quality control, misinformation about the type of oil that should be used, initial cost of materials and labor, longer drying time, and higher level of skill required for application (with no artificial levelers, a steady hand and patience are required). However, these are largely outweighed by its longer lifespan and ease of maintenance.

Testing 1, 2, 3....

Linseed oil paint has shown promise to preservation organizations facing the cost and time of maintaining their historic properties. At the White Grass Ranch (1913) in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, the National Park Service began treating wooden windows and doors with linseed oil paint in 2012. Despite extreme temperatures

and intense UV exposure, the paint had not failed as of 2020. Areas that did show deterioration in the form of chalking had linseed oil applied to the surface, which refreshed the coating.

Recently, Connecticut Landmarks has begun to use linseed oil paint on exterior wood surfaces. Although it is too soon to evaluate the paint's effectiveness at these sites, the National Park Service's data indicates a promising result.

Prep work

In using linseed oil paint, proper planning is key to overcoming potential drawbacks:

Quality: Be sure that the linseed oil used is both *purified* and *boiled*, so that proteins and mucilage are removed (no more food for fungus), and the product has been heated so molecules bind together to create a unified, flexible barrier.

Time: Make sure to wait at least 24 to 48 hours between coats.

Environment: Linseed oil paint is best applied in temperate weather, with low humidity. Plan on the project taking longer if rain is in the forecast.

Skill: Perhaps most importantly, choose painters skilled in both surface preparation and application.

Looking back often helps to inform our future. As property owners increasingly search for more resilient and green products, the most cutting-edge technology in paint may be one of the oldest. 🌿

Saturday in the park

Lewis Fulton Memorial Park, Waterbury
October 1, 2022 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Preservation Connecticut and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office invite you to a celebration of the Olmsted landscape heritage in Connecticut.

Featuring:

- Previews of the Olmsted documentation project
- Exhibits
- Activities for kids
- Food trucks
- Tours of the park
- *and more.*

Rain date October 15.

More information: preservationct.org/olmsted/olmsted200.org



National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Elizabeth Mills Brown awards



Hill-Stead Museum received an Elizabeth Mills Brown award in 2021 for its visitor center, designed by Centerbrook Architects and Planners.

The Elizabeth Mills Brown Award recognizes design excellence in the restoration, rehabilitation, adaptation, and reuse of historic structures. The award is named after and honors the work of Betty Brown, a prominent Connecticut architectural historian, preservationist and civic leader, and author of the extraordinarily comprehensive and meticulously researched *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design* (Yale University Press, 1976). Preservation Connecticut presents this award in conjunction with the Connecticut chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Eligibility

- Projects must be in Connecticut and involve the restoration, rehabilitation, or reuse of historic buildings.
- Form-Based Codes for historic areas may be considered.
- Projects must have been completed within the past 5 years.

Judging criteria

The jury will be comprised of professionals from the architecture and preservation disciplines, including AIA CT and Preservation Connecticut.

- Alyssa Lozupone, Director of Preservation, Newport Restoration Foundation
- Valerie Talmage, Executive Director, Preserve Rhode Island
- Martha Werenfels, FAIA, LEED AP, Senior Principal, DBVW Architects

The Jurors will take into consideration and acknowledge the following:

- Projects will be judged to the Secretary of Interior's Standards in one or more of the four preservation approaches recognized by the Standards: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, or Reconstruction.
- Design excellence.
- Clarity of the submission narrative to describe how the project accomplished its goals while complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Registration deadline: 5 August 2022
Submission deadline: 16 September 2022

Awards will be presented at AIA Connecticut's annual awards program in November. 🌿

For more information visit aiact.org/elizabeth-mills-brown-award/



GULICK & Co.
RENOVATION CONTRACTORS



**MADISON
CONNECTICUT**

203-966-6151
45 Wall Street • Madison, CT 06443

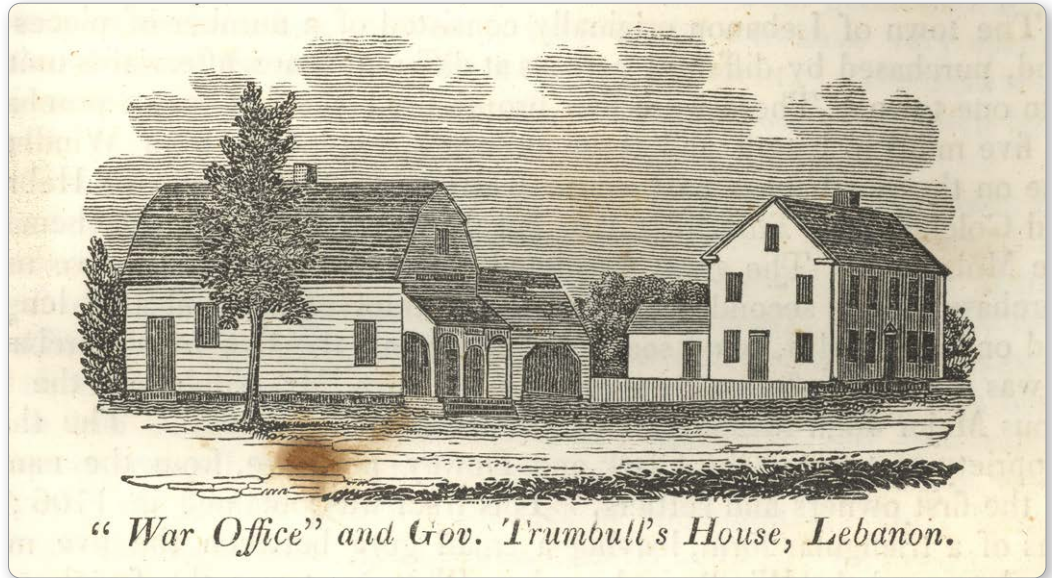
Over the past 10 years
Gulick & Company has been
renovating and restoring homes
from the shoreline to central
Connecticut.

We specialize in historic homes
from the 17th century to
the 20th century.

Look us up at:
Gulickcompany.com

For nearly 200 years, the Lebanon home and war office of Connecticut's Revolutionary governor, Jonathan Trumbull, have been considered one of the state's most significant Revolutionary sites. What other places might preservationists choose to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary?

Looking ahead: celebrating America's 250th



It's only four years until 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and only three until the anniversary of the American Revolution begins. Conversations about how to commemorate these events have been underway in a low-key way for several years, but now they are building momentum.

Congress created the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016, and the National Endowment for the Humanities and

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) have begun assembling resources for national, state, and local observances. In Connecticut, the General Assembly authorized the creation of a Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission this year. Anyone interested in helping with the effort can join a mailing list by sending an email to CT250@ct.gov. The State Historic Preservation Office and Connecticut Humanities also have announced programming.

Historians recognize that the commemoration of any historical event will be viewed through the lenses of present-day interests and concerns. What does the American Revolution mean to us today? How do we want to tell our national story?

To help answer some of these questions, the AASLH has published a field guide, *Making History at 250*. Introducing the field guide, John R. Dichtl, the President and CEO of AASLH, writes that the anniversary, "...is a chance for Americans to learn about and reflect upon the full sweep of our nation's past, celebrating examples of liberty, courage, and sacrifice while reckoning with moments of injustice, racism, and violence. The occasion calls on us to use knowledge of our country's past—beginning millennia before 1776 and continuing to the present—to build a stronger future."

He also urges, "As history professionals and citizens, we should approach 250th anniversary activities with a spirit of empathy and humility; with love of country and a desire to rekindle civic friendships; with respect for historical expertise and the perspectives of our fellow community members; with a forthright recognition of our obligations to our fellow citizens; and with a shared commitment to the common cause of an inclusive, democratic society."

The field guide lays out five themes for the commemoration, with a brief paragraph plus questions intended to inspire programming for each. (The questions listed here are summaries or paraphrases; readers are encouraged to consult the document themselves.)

continued on page 14

SCHOLAR PAINTING & RESTORATION

HISTORIC RESTORATION

Historic Masonry	Trim Restoration	Structural Repair
Copper Installation and Restoration	Lead Paint Stabilization	Window Restoration
Metal Restoration	Concrete Restoration	Asbestos Handling
Protective Coatings	Decorative Painting	Roof Repair and Replacement
Wood Siding Replacement	Waterproofing	Gutters

Website: www.Scholarpainting.com
email: scholarpainting@gmail.com
Phone: 877-447-2465

Briefly noted

Hamden. ►

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) announced that the Lake Whitney dam (1862; NR) will be repaired and strengthened using federal infrastructure funding. The dam was built by Eli Whitney, Jr., to replace an earlier one constructed by his father to provide power for the Whitney Armory, which manufactured rifles for the U.S. Army. The business continued under Whitney Jr. who also used Lake Whitney to supply the New Haven Water Company, predecessor to RWA. Since 2005 water from Lake Whitney has been supplied to RWA customers after treatment at the Whitney Water Purification Facility; the repairs will ensure the reliability of the water supply as well as continued protection for homes and businesses downstream. To comply with modern safety requirements while preserving the historic dam, RWA plans to construct a new, solid-concrete dam immediately behind the original rubble-stone structure. Work is expected to begin in 2023 and take about two to three years to complete.

Lisbon. ►

The Burnham Tavern was listed on the National Register in March. Located seven miles north of Norwich on the Woodstock turnpike, the property was operated as a tavern from 1755 to 1840 and was a stop for stagecoaches through the mid-19th century. The pedimented entry pavilion, along with elaborate paneling in the parlor and a vaulted ceiling in the upper-story meeting room, reflect the building's important role in the community. As such, it also served as a rendezvous point for Continental forces during the Revolution. When railroads replaced stagecoaches for travel, the property became a farm. Beginning in



Historic American Engineering Record, HAER CT-186-C-3



Lisbon Historical Society

1921 it was operated by two generations of the Hoydila family, originally immigrants from Austria-Hungary. The property still includes 129 acres of fields. It was bought from the estate of George Hoydila, Jr.

by the Town in 2012 and is under a long-term lease to the Lisbon Historical Society, which is restoring the tavern (photograph, 2018).

New Haven Preservation Trust



▲ New Haven.

In April, teams from High Caliber Contracting slid the William Pinto house (c.1810; NR) some 87 feet up the street to a new location and a few weeks later lowered it onto its new foundation, which awaits reinstallation of the original stone as veneer. The house, known for its elegant Federal detailing and association with early Jewish residents of New Haven, was moved to make room for a new mixed residential and commercial development to be constructed by developer Gerald Seligsohn. Plans for the move were reviewed by the National Park Service ahead of time, and if the work is approved the house will be able to keep its National Register designation.

Connecticut Circuit Rider



Stamford. ▲

Structural problems are threatening a former factory dating to the early 20th century. Originally part of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company lock works (NR), the building was converted to apartments, The Lofts at Yale & Towne, by developer Building & Land Technology (BLT) in 2010. Gaia Real Estate, which bought The Lofts from BLT in 2016, has ordered tenants out because of concerns about the foundation. The building was constructed on wooden piles in the wet South End soil, and receding water levels have left them vulnerable to decay, causing the building to tilt and crack. Claiming that it is not possible to reinforce the building, Gaia announced plans to construct a new building on the site. The company wanted to apply for special “critical reconstruction” status which allows zoning bonuses in exchange for replicating the historic appearance. However, Gaia wants to construct two additional stories, which members of the city Historic Preservation Advisory Commission felt did not meet the requirements. Preservationists are asking the City to require more in-depth structural analysis before any decision is made about the building’s future. They cite decades of experience in reinforcing historic structures built on piles in Boston as documented in BostonGroundwater.org.

◀ Madison.

After years of debate, town voters approved a referendum in February calling for the reuse of the Academy School (1921, 1936; NR) as a community center. The town Youth and Family Services and Beach and Recreation departments will be among the new users. In addition, the building will provide a gymnasium with a stage, a lounge with a café, commercial kitchen, community spaces, and an auditorium. Renovation, estimated at \$15.9 million, will include ADA compliance and a geothermal system for heating and cooling. It is hoped that the community center will open in 2024.

Sue Halpern



Grants approved

At its June meeting, Preservation Connecticut's board approved \$274,600 in grants for preservation projects around the state.

The 1772 Foundation, Inc., offers grants for repairs to historic buildings owned by nonprofit organizations, in cooperation with Preservation Connecticut. This year, 23 applications came in, requesting a total of \$210,212; the foundation made awards to 15 organizations totaling \$109,600.

- Derby Historical Society, Ansonia: \$9,000 for fire alarm system and associated repairs at the David Humphreys house (NR, LHD)*;
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford: \$9,000 to restore bay window on the Harriet Beecher Stowe house (NHL);
- Kent Historical Society: \$3,000 for roof replacement for the Skiff Mountain school;
- Manchester Historical Society: \$6,000 to re-roof the Woodbridge house (NR);
- Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown: \$9,000 for exterior repairs to the Joseph Mansfield house (NR);
- Art League of New Britain: \$1,600 for window repairs (NR);
- New London County Historical Society, New London: \$9,000 for porch repairs at the Shaw Mansion (NR);
- Calkins Family Association, Norwich: \$10,000 for roof repairs to the Hugh Calkins house (NR);
- Governor Samuel Huntington Trust, Scotland: \$9,000 for roof replacement for the Samuel Huntington house (NHL);
- Shelton Historical Society: \$8,000 to repair chimneys at the Brownson house (SR);

* LHD: Local Historic District
NHL: National Historic Landmark
NR: National Register of Historic Places
SR: State Register of Historic Places

- Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA, Southington: \$9,000 for foundation repairs to the Olney house (NR);
- Hicks-Stearns Family Museum, Tolland: \$9,000 for water management repairs to the Hicks-Stearns house (NR);
- Wethersfield Historical Society: \$9,000 for structural repairs to the Hurlbut-Dunham house (NR, LHD);
- Winchester Center Historical Association: \$2,000 for stabilization of the Winchester Chapel (SR); and
- Ellsworth Memorial Association, Windsor: \$7,000 for window restoration at the Oliver Ellsworth house (NHL).

Preservation Connecticut's Maintenance & Repair grants are funded through the Community Investment Act and support work on historic buildings of religious organizations. This year, the program received 16 applications requesting a total of \$240,000 and granted \$50,000 for five projects:

- First Congregational Church, East Haddam (NR): \$15,000 for steeple repairs;
- Congregation Mishkan Israel, Hamden (NR): \$10,000 to clean and repair stained glass;
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron (NR): \$7,500 for roofing;
- Christ Church Episcopal, Roxbury (NR): \$7,500 for roofing; and
- Congregational Church, Wilton (NR): \$10,000 for painting and carpentry repairs.

In addition to these ongoing programs, the board approved an endangered building grant of \$15,000 to the New Haven Preservation Trust as seed money for the hoped-for relocation of the Pierce Welch house, which faces demolition by Yale-New Haven Hospital. Finally, the board approved eleven grants, totaling \$100,000, to homeowners in Stamford's South End, using money provided by local developer BLT as mitigation for demolition in the South End National Register district. 🌿

For information on preservation funding opportunities through PCT, visit preservationct.org/current-funding.

Kent Historical Society



The Kent Historical Society will re-roof the Swift Mountain school using a grant from The 1772 Foundation, administered by Preservation Connecticut.

Trees as memorials, cont'd from page 2

their size, location, ownership, and condition. Yet this database only suggests the potential for trees to serve as living, historic touchstones that can mark, locate, and recall events that help connect people to place and to the past. I would argue that older trees and old-growth forests rival stone monuments in historic significance. They can yield new information about changes to landscapes through dendrochronology. But they also reflect the ways communities remember their history. By reflecting ideas about natural resources as living and evolving vessels of communal memory, trees can serve as some of the most significant monuments to our past. 🌿

Leah Glaser is professor of American history and coordinator of the Public History Program at Central Connecticut State University. She is co-editing the forthcoming book Branching Out: The Public History of Trees. This story first appeared in Connecticut Explored, Spring 2021. Used by permission.

Connecticut's Notable Trees, Marty Aligata



According to a plaque erected in 1974, Native people (likely Tunxis) reportedly met to barter goods beneath Bristol's "Peaceable Oak" on Route 69. Colonists likewise held town meetings under its branches in the heat of the summer, and there are stories of the trunk's holding shot from the Revolutionary War.

Congregation Mishkan Israel



A Maintenance & Repair grant from Preservation Connecticut will help Congregation Mishkan Israel clean and repair stained-glass windows in its Hamden sanctuary.



Built Rite Carpentry

**Rick Gallagher and Son
Litchfield, CT**

Period house & barn structural repairs,
building disassembler,
post and beam restoration,
sash & door restoration,
wood roofing.

Email: builtriterestoration@gmail.com
Phone: (860) 919-6982

Celebrating America's 250th cont'd from page 9

Unfinished revolutions:

How have the ideals of the revolutionary era been put into practice, or not? How can we continue to create a more perfect union?

Power of place:

What places are preserved today for their historic value? What other kinds of stories could be told there?

We the people:

Who is considered an "American"—and who gets to decide?

American experiment:

The leaders of the founding era understood that they were undertaking a revolutionary experiment. How can we continue to refine and improve what they built?

Doing history:

Which stories have been collected and preserved, and which have been omitted or excluded? How can we come to a fuller understanding of our history?

For preservationists, the focus of commemorations around the Revolution and the nation's founding has traditionally been identifying physical places connected with the story of the revolutionary era. In the past, these typically were battlefields, sites of political events, and the homes of prominent political and military leaders. The challenge in 2022 is to discover what places help us to understand and remember the events of the American Revolution from previously uncelebrated perspectives. 🌿

For more information:

- *Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission:* CT250@ct.gov.
- *U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission:* www.america250.org/
- *AASLH:* aaslh.org/programs/250th/

KRONENBERGER & SONS RESTORATION

We're Remaking History!



- General Contractors
- Masonry Restoration
- Structural Stabilization
- Window Restoration
- Lead & Asbestos Abatement



MIDDLETOWN, CT
860-347-4600



www.kronenbergersons.com

We help to:

Secure and maintain funding for the...

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT

Work to expand...

STATE HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

Allowing millions of dollars more to go towards supporting historic preservation projects in Connecticut.



CONNECTICUT
PRESERVATION
ACTION

THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY'S
UNIFIED VOICE IN HARTFORD SINCE 1980

To learn more please visit:

WWW.CTPRESERVATIONACTION.ORG



Owning an old house is the best way to create historic preservation...

Tom Nissley 203-322-1400

tnissley@bhhsNE.com
Berkshire Hathaway HS
New England Properties



Licensed in CT #RES.0763363



R.J. ALEY^{LLC}

The Old House Experts

Serving Greenwich, CT to New Haven, CT

CT Trust for Historic Preservation Member

NAHB Certified Green Builder

CT Lic. # 570003

(203) 226-9933

rjaley.com

Bathrooms & Kitchens • Additions & Remodeling • Carpentry & Repair Work
Porch Repair & Rebuilding • Historic Preservation • Wood Window Restoration
Wood Storm Windows & Screens • Plaster Repair & Restoration
Energy Efficient Upgrades • ENERGY STAR® Home Builders

McAree

MASON CONTRACTORS, INC.

Period Fireplace Restoration,
Firebox Restoration,
Herringbone Firebox Construction,
Rumford Fireplace Construction
and Design,
Brick and Stonework Repointing

Email: McAreemason@gmail.com

Phone: (860) 585-1207

Infrared Proof: Our Storm Windows Save Energy!



Innerglass

Window Systems, LLC
The Compression-Fit Advantage

Innerglass Interior Storm Windows keep the building *warm* in the winter without sacrificing the charm and beauty of *existing* historic windows.

Noise reduction better than replacement windows.

Compression-fits to ANY window, no matter how crooked!

Innerglass (left)

Existing window (right)

66.7°F
ε=0.95

FLIR



Innerglass Window Systems, LLC

15 Herman Drive • Simsbury, CT

1-800-743-6207 • www.stormwindows.com



Historic Home Specialist

MJ Agostini, Realtor

Cell 860-995-9665 Office 860-788-7001
RE/MAX Right Choice
1195 Farmington Avenue Berlin, Ct

RE/MAX



HISTORIC PROPERTIES EXCHANGE

Threatened Buildings and Easement Properties Available — July/August 2022

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.

Hartford Preservation Alliance

IMMINENT THREAT

151 Ward Street, Hartford (1886)

Listed as one of the 2022 National Trust for Historic Preservation's Most Endangered Historic Places, this Romanesque Revival Jewish funerary structure is located in Hartford's Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery, part of the Frog Hollow National Register District. Deborah Chapel, built in 1886, was originally owned and operated by the Hartford Ladies' Deborah Society and serves as an example of women's leadership in 19th century Jewish organizations. Vacant since the 1990s, it faces demolition for increased cemetery space. News reports indicate that the building is available for \$1, but interested party must relocate and cover relocation expenses.

Contact: Tracy Mozingo, Executive Director, Congregation Beth Israel, 860-233-8215 x2250, tmozingo@cbict.org



PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT EASEMENT

Thomas Lyman House 105 Middlefield Road, Durham (between 1787 and 1798) \$790,000

Distinguished Georgian house on over 13 acres. Built by prominent Durham farmer, merchant, and town selectman Thomas Lyman, the house stayed in the Lyman family for nearly two hundred years. House measures 3,999 sq. ft. and features double-hipped roof, spacious central hall floor plan, and elegant paneling. Includes five bedrooms and three bathrooms and many recent interior updates. Preservation easement protects the exterior of the house plus further development of the property. Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places which makes it eligible for historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Contact: Patricia Moreggi, Coldwell Banker, 203-215-6957, patricia.moreggi@cbmoves.com



Deadline for the next issue is August 20, 2022

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.

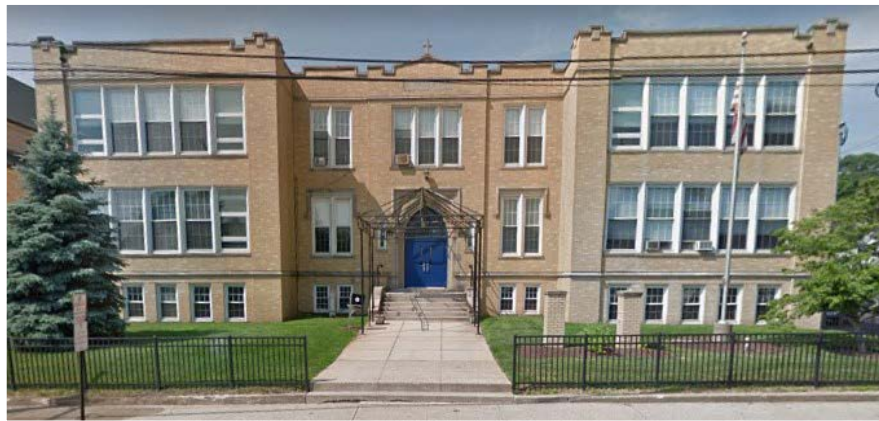


390 Church Street, New Britain (1911)

\$780,000

Romanesque Revival church, including four car garage and rectory, on 0.62-acre lot. Former St. Andrew's Catholic Church, built in 1911 to serve New Britain's Lithuanian population, continued to operate until closure in January 2022 due to parish consolidations. Church is 9,715 sq. ft., rectory 4,235 sq. ft. May be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places to qualify for historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Contact: Dan Garofalo, Reno Properties Group, 860-666-7400



430 Coram Avenue, Shelton (1927)

\$500,000

Former St. Joseph's Elementary School in downtown Shelton available for redevelopment. Closed in 2017 due to school consolidations. Neoclassical building measures 32,720 sq. ft. and currently operates as Echo Hose Ambulance Training Center. May be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places to obtain historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Contact: Stephen Hodson, Hodson Realty, 203-268-7743, steve@hodsonrealty.com

1055 Broad Street, Hartford (c. 1913)

\$1,800,000

Redevelopment opportunity of historic industrial building with eye-catching white marble façade. Constructed in 1913 for the George O. Kolb Bakery and its mass production of "Pan-Dandy bread." Later additions were made in 1916, c. 1922, c.1926, and c. 1945. The company remained in operation until 1923 when it was acquired by General Baking Company, who streamlined their output to a single product, a loaf of white bread known as "Bond Bread." Profits declined in the 1950s and 1960s due to competition from supermarkets' in-house bakeries producing a fresher, less expensive alternative. In 1971 the Hartford facility was closed and sold to the Max Sanders Trucking Company, a firm established in Hartford in 1923. The complex is currently occupied by Thomas W. Rafferty Inc, a manufacturer of curtains and draperies. This property is listed in Preservation



Connecticut's *Mills: Making Places of Connecticut* industrial survey and located in the Frog Hollow National Register district, which makes it eligible for both State and Federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. Building area is 64,561 sq. ft.; 1.24 acres.

Contact: Damon Bowers, Cushman & Wakefield, 860-616-1433

EDWARD F. GERBER'S LEGACY



"My entire life, I've been passionate about preserving historic buildings and places. I felt compelled to join Preservation Connecticut's Legacy Society, as well as contribute during my lifetime, because Preservation Connecticut is the only statewide preservation organization and it needs individuals like me to support it. The Legacy Society allows me to be flexible in my estate planning by donating outright today and from my estate further down the road."

What will your legacy be?

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE? PLEASE CONTACT JORDAN SORENSEN: JSORENSEN@PRESERVATIONCT.ORG OR 203-562-6312

Upcoming Meetings

Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

August 3, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

—Virtual meeting

September 7, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

—Virtual Meeting

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

State Historic Preservation Board

September 16, 2021, 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
or visit portal.ct.gov/DECD/Services/
Historic-Preservation/About-the-State-
Historic-Preservation-Office



**MODERN COMFORT
ORIGINAL CHARM**
WINDOW INSERTS THAT INSTALL
WITH NO MOUNTING BRACKETS.

Keep the comfort inside.

stugrantwindows.com | 860.916.9494

Preservation Circle

- ☐ Chairman's Circle \$ 1,000
- ☐ Preservation Patron \$ 500
- ☐ Circuit Rider Sponsor \$ 250
- ☐ Heritage Partner \$ 100

Basic Membership

- ☐ Business \$ 100
- ☐ Non-profit/Municipal \$ 75
- ☐ Family \$ 50
- ☐ Individual \$ 40



You can join the Preservation
Connecticut online too, at
www.preservationct.org

JOIN PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT!

Name ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

Employer (for matching gift program) _____

☐ Check enclosed (payable to "Preservation Connecticut") Charge my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Mail to: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517-4002 Telephone: (203) 562-6312 All contributions are tax deductible.



Historic Landscapes of Connecticut photo contest, cont'd from page 20

Viewers' choice, black & white:
 "Olmsted-inspired Serpentine Path in Thompson,"
 by Tina Haddad.

Viewers' choice, color:
 "Hill-Stead Sunken Poetry Garden,"
 by Peggy Boissoneau



Viewers' choice, smartphone:
 "Olmsted's Evergreens at Brooksvale Homestead,"
 by Leslie Hutchison.



Viewers' choice, Olmsted:
 "Walnut Hill Park Rose Garden on Olmsted Trail,"
 by Peggy Boissoneau.





940 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517-4002

Phone: (203) 562-6312
Email: contact@preservationct.org
Web: www.preservationct.org

Address Service Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW HAVEN, CT
PERMIT NO. 72



Connecticut's Olmsted Heritage

Historic landscapes of Connecticut

Preservation Connecticut's 2022 photography contest opened June 11 at the Art League of New Britain. In recognition of the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth this year, the contest had historic landscapes as its theme.

Out of 81 photos submitted, the jury selected picked 37 for the traveling gallery show, along with four viewer's choice images, one from each of the four contest categories. After spending the month of June at the Art League, the show travels to the Woodbridge Town Library for the rest of the summer. Arrangements are underway for additional sites; follow PCT for information as it becomes available.

We are grateful to this year's jury: art director and photographer (and PCT Trustee) Ellen Gould, visuals editor Caroline E. Couig, and landscape architect Barbara A. Yaeger.

In addition to helping build appreciation for historic Connecticut landscapes, the contest brought in over \$4,000 to support PCT's work.

continued on page 19

Best in show:
"Foggy Fulton Park, Brass City,"
by Kathryn Gage.

