

Connecticut and the Civil War



Even though none of its battles were fought in Connecticut, the Civil War touched every corner of the state. Men and boys from every town marched off to fight, many of them never to return. Connecticut manufacturers supplied Union forces with armaments and ammunition, ships, and even cloth and buttons for uniforms. Connecticut men were found at every level of military and civilian leadership, while Connecticut women managed farms and businesses, kept families together, and provided much-needed morale by writing letters and sending care packages to soldiers in the field.

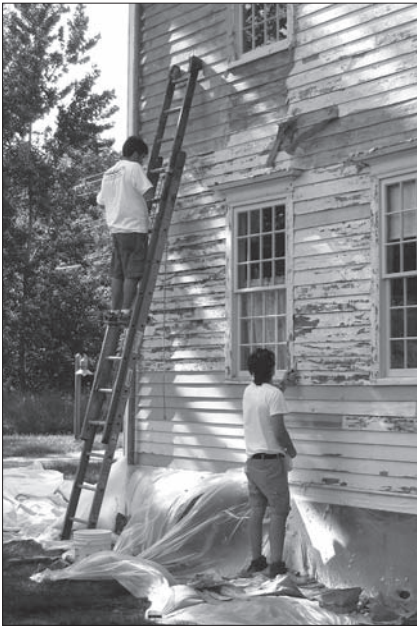
In the realm of ideas, Connecticut also participated actively

in the debates over slavery and states' rights that preceded the war. Once fighting began, the state, like many others, experienced division over the prosecution of the war and even whether it should be fought at all. After Appomattox, Connecticut citizens struggled to reunify the nation, to heal soldiers' physical and mental wounds, and to complete the process of ending slavery and bringing black Americans into full citizenship, a process that many undertook only with ambivalence.

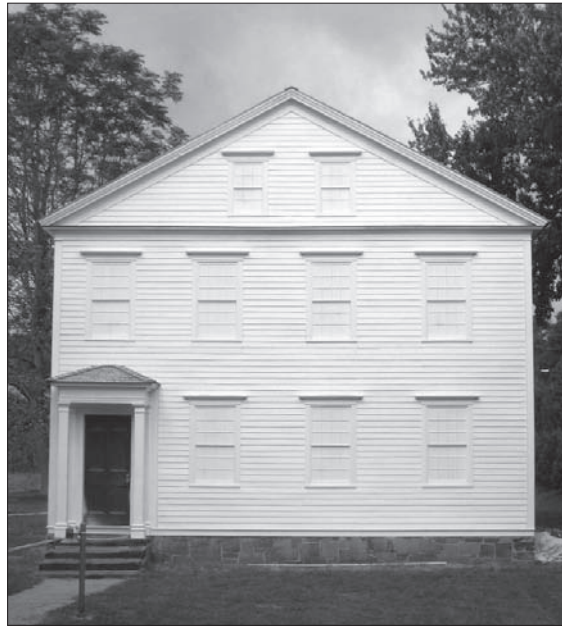
As we observe the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Connecticut's landscape is full of reminders of the struggle that threatened to tear the nation apart. The monuments that dot the state's main streets and town greens are only the most obvious reminders. Homes of prominent people, sites of military camps and hospitals, and the factories that supplied the goods needed to carry out the fighting all survive as well. You can read about some of them, beginning on page 6. We encourage you to seek them out, and to search for others as well, in the hope that these places can help us continue to think about what the Civil War meant, and means. 🌿

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prep work



primed—even the windows!



the finished product

Boarding House Restoration Nearly Complete

Over the summer and early fall, contractors completed nearly all the exterior restoration of the Trust's headquarters, the Whitney Armory boarding house. The work was funded in part by the Historic Restoration Fund of the State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, with funds from the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut. Restoration included repairs to siding and trim, complete repainting, and the installation of wooden storm windows to improve energy efficiency and make the building more

comfortable. We wrapped up with some interior repainting to remove signs of water damage from last winter's ice dams and newly washed windows to let the sun in.

As the boarding house faces its 185th birthday next year, it is looking ready for another 185 years of active use.



new storm windows installed

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit statewide membership organization established 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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Expanded Rehabilitation Tax Credits

When the General Assembly passed legislation to expand two of the state's historic rehabilitation tax credits, Julie Carmelich, the tax credit administrator for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), thought it would be possible to have new regulations for implementing the credits in place by early fall.

Unfortunately, the new regulations will not be in place that soon. It now appears that the new regulations won't be completed until the middle of 2012.

There's good news, though. For those who want to get rehab projects underway more quickly, the SHPO is accepting new applications for the expanded tax credit programs now. Until the new regulations can be adopted, the office will work under the existing regulations, with the approval of the Attorney General's office.

The expansion applies to the Historic Structures Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the Historic Preservation Tax Credit to provide tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic industrial, commercial, institutional, former municipal, state or federal government properties, cultural buildings, residential properties of more than four units, or mixed residential and nonresidential properties. Only industrial and commercial buildings were included previously.

Structures may be rehabbed into a use for residential or nonresidential or mixed residential and nonresidential. Purely non-residential uses were never included prior to this change. 🌿

For more information on the state historic rehabilitation tax credit programs, contact Julie Carmelich at (860) 256-2762 or Julie.Carmelich@ct.gov.

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*Built in 1733, Phineas Meigs was a veteran of the French and Indian War. He died at the age of 74 when he responded to a battle during the British incursion along the shore. He is the last known battlefield casualty of the revolution in Connecticut

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Upcoming Meetings of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

December 7, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

January 4, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

All meetings take place at the
State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Economic and
Community Development
Main Conference Room
1 Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
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Hurricane Irene Hits Connecticut

Damage to Historic Sites Less than Feared

Hurricane Irene brought strong winds, heavy rain, and high water to Connecticut on August 27 and 28, but damage to historic sites was less extensive than many feared in the leadup to the storm.

Irene's effects were most strongly felt along the shore, particularly in East Haven, where high water destroyed more than twenty shoreline houses and tidal flooding left historic cars at the Shoreline Trolley Museum unusable. Preliminary estimates of the damage at the museum are more than \$5 million. The museum had already begun a campaign to construct new trolley barns at a higher elevation, to protect against future flooding.

More severe damage to historic sites was seen in Milford's Prospect Street National Register district and in Middletown, where



G. Farmer

In Middletown, hurricane Irene knocked down a tree, damaging the Giles Wilcox house.

falling trees damaged historic buildings. In addition, Norwich's Yantic Cemetery lost a number of trees that were part of the cemetery's historic landscape; the falling trees also damaged grave markers.

Tree Trimming Will Affect Historic Landscapes

Perhaps most visible legacy of Hurricane Irene will be its effect on trees across the state--not only trees lost to the storm, but also the ongoing effects of increased tree trimming and removal that will follow.

From the Merritt Parkway to country byways to city streets, roadside trees are an important and characteristic feature of the Connecticut landscape. Trees have been planted to commemorate significant people or events, to delineate public and private

spaces, to provide shade, fruit, or nuts, and to bring touches of nature into human-made environments.

In the aftermath of Irene, calls began for more extensive tree-cutting to prevent damage to buildings, road closures and power losses in the future. In September, Governor Dannel Malloy ordered the Department of Transportation to be more

Hurricane-downed trees and grave markers at Yantic Cemetery, Norwich.

Norwich Historical Society



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aggressive in removing trees or limbs along state highways. Power companies and town maintenance departments are sure to follow suit. The result could be the loss or mutilation of thousands of trees across the state.

The real problem is lack of maintenance, says Rudy Favretti, professor emeritus of landscape architecture at the University of Connecticut. "If a tree is maintained well the wind will blow right through it, and it won't offer as much resistance. Towns and the state should try to approach street trees from a preservation point of view."

Native American Burial Site Uncovered in Branford

The hurricane also brought a discovery: When the weather cleared, residents of Indian Neck, in Branford, discovered that the storm had uncovered some bones. The

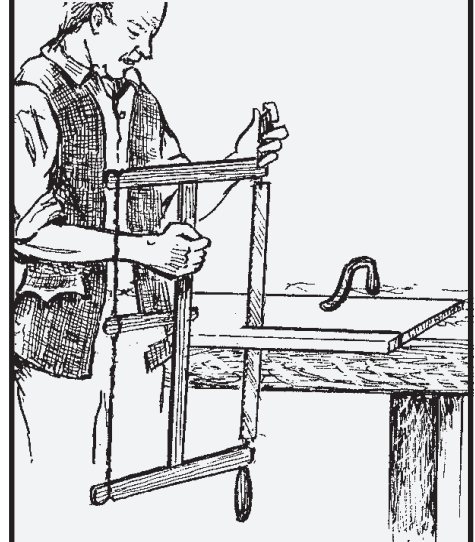
neighbors agreed to keep the discovery quiet, to prevent damage to the remains or to the site by the curious.

The state medical examiner and state archaeologist determined that the bones were human and appeared to date from before European settlement. The shoreline area is known to have been the site of numerous native encampments, which supported the conclusion that the remains were Native American.

In September, the bones were reburied in a ceremony led by members of the Native American Heritage Advisory Council, representing several tribes. Landscape fabric and large rocks in the grave will protect the remains in the future.

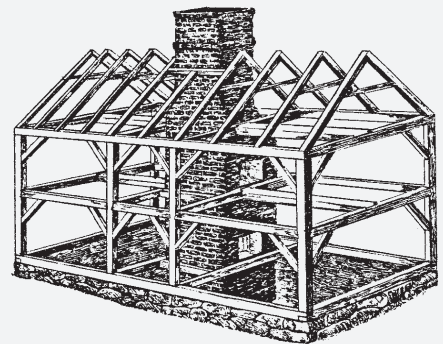
Archaeologists and Council members praised the neighbors and the Branford police and town engineer's office for their care in maintaining the integrity and security of the site. 🌿

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Connecticut and the Civil War

Here are some Connecticut sites that have connections with the Civil War. They include the homes or graves of prominent persons, manufacturing sites that provided arms or other materials needed to prosecute the war, sites connected with the politics of the period, and monuments and memorials. There are many others of course; we encourage you to seek them out.

Key

- (NR)** National Register of Historic Places
- (NHL)** National Historic Landmark
- *** Open to the public



National Register, D. Ransom, 1991

Cornwall/Cornwall Hollow ▲ General John Sedgwick house (NR)

A career military officer, Sedgwick was promoted to general early in the war and commanded divisions in the Peninsula Campaign and at Chancellorsville, Antietam, and Gettysburg before being killed at Spotsylvania Court House in 1864. Not far from his exuberant Italianate house stands a memorial designed by George Keller.



D. Ransom

Berlin/Kensington ▲ Soldiers Monument *

Erected in 1863, while the war was still in progress, this was one of the first Civil War monuments in the country. The concept of monuments was new and there were few models for such structures; the brownstone obelisk is modeled after grave monuments of the period.



D. Ransom

◀ Darien/Noroton Heights Fitch's Home for Soldiers and Orphans

Caring for large numbers of wounded soldiers after the war presented a challenge on a scale Connecticut had never experienced. Fitch's Home, opened in 1854, served as many as 500 veterans before being merged into the state veterans' home in 1940. Not all the injuries were physical; some soldiers suffered mental trauma, known then as "soldier's heart" and now as PTSD.

In 1891, many of these were transferred to the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane in Middletown (now known as Connecticut Valley Hospital). Fitch's Home was demolished in 1950 for veterans' housing. Many of its residents were buried in the Veterans' Cemetery in Noroton Heights where they are watched over by a memorial flagpole dedicated in 1936 and depicting soldiers from various wars.



National Register, D. Ransom, 1979

Canton/Collinsville ► Collins Axe Company (NR)

A leading manufacturer of axes and other edge tools, Collins easily made the change to supplying knives and bayonets to the U.S. army. The company also made pikes that John Brown used in his attack on Harper's Ferry.



Alden Purrington

Enfield/Hazardville ▲ Hazard Powder Company (NR)

One of three biggest suppliers of black powder, the Hazard company expanded during the war years to meet growing demand; today only a few buildings survive on Dust House Rd. Like a number of Connecticut manufacturers, Col. Augustus Hazard, who owned the company, had business contacts in the South and sympathized with the Southern cause.

Enfield

Putnam

Vernon/Rockville

Glastonbury

Windham/Willimantic

Norwich

Stonington

Madison

New London

Granby ▼

Soldier's Monument * (NR)

After the war, the demand for monuments sparked the development of a new business type. James G. Batterson, a Hartford stone supplier and contractor established what became a nationwide business. He employed his own architect (George Keller) and sculptors and produced major structures at Gettysburg and Antietam, as well as smaller, standardized designs found in many towns. Although Batterson was neither a sculptor nor a designer, Granby's monument, erected in 1868, is signed with his name.

National Register, D. Ransom, 1985



C. Wigren

Hartford ▲

Old North Cemetery: Grave of Frederick Law Olmsted * (NR)

Better known as a pioneering landscape architect, Olmsted served as Secretary General of United States Sanitary Commission, a civilian-run organization that coordinated efforts to aid soldiers. It oversaw sanitary conditions in camps, hospitals, and transport; provided food and other supplies for the wounded; and assisted in the operation of soldiers' homes.

C. Wigren



HABS, Everett H. Keeler, 1937



Glastonbury ▲

Gideon Welles house (NR)

Welles (1802-1878) served as Secretary of the Navy under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson. He had no naval experience, but his organizational skills and background in shipbuilding made major contribution. By the end of the war, Welles had built the U.S. Navy into the world's second-largest fleet.

Glastonbury ▼

Connecticut Arms and Manufacturing Company

Kitchen utensils had been produced here before the war, but the present brick factory was built in 1863 for a manufacturer of rifles.

C. Wigren



C. Wigren

Hartford ▲

Old North Cemetery: Graves of 29th Regiment Colored Volunteers * (NR)

Formed in 1863, after the Emancipation Proclamation authorized the recruitment of black soldiers, the 29th saw action in Petersburg and were among the first Union troops to enter Richmond after it fell. At least 26 members of the regiment received government issued headstones in this cemetery, but many have disappeared. African-American veterans from other units are also buried at Old North.

Hartford ▲

Barry Square *

Connecticut troops camped here, on what was the edge of Hartford, before heading off to the war. A monument in the square commemorates Maj. Thomas McManus, a Hartford native who after the war organized veterans' groups and reunions.

continued on page 8

HAER, Jet Lowe, 2005



C. Wigen



Hartford ▲

Colt Arms Company (NHL)

Colt's Patent Fire-arms Manufacturing Company signed the very first contract to produce rifles for the army, in July, 1861. The company remained a major armaments supplier throughout the war, surviving the death of its founder and a devastating fire that destroyed most of the original armory in 1864. Two wings survive from the Civil War era.

Hartford

State Capitol * (NR)

The website Connecticut Monuments reports, "The State Capitol serves as a repository for Civil War memorabilia, thereby becoming itself almost a Civil War Memorial, although it

is not included in this survey. Generals Joseph R. Hawley, Alfred Howe Terry, and John Sedgwick are represented by sculpted figures on the Capitol's facades." Most affecting is the collection of battle flags, whose tatters tell vividly of the violence of battle.

Hartford

Bushnell Park: Soldiers and Sailors Monument * (NR)

Designed by Hartford architect George Keller and built between 1882 and 1886, the arch is an unusual combination of a classical triumphal arch

with Gothic detailing. Among the statues is a rare depiction of freed slave, breaking the chains of bondage and holding a book that symbolizes education.

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survived capture only to die later of causes not related to battle—one of them only three days after he was exchanged.

Litchfield ►

Josiah Gale Beckwith house * (NR)

Support for the war was far from universal, with opposition strongest in Fairfield and Litchfield counties. Resistance took many forms. Some Democratic-leaning doctors issued undeserved medical exemptions to draftees. Dr. Beckwith was one doctor suspected of doing so. The charges were never proved, but Beckwith's reputation was permanently tarnished.

Madison ▼

Allis-Bushnell house * (NR)

This was the birthplace of Cornelius Scranton Bushnell, a railroad investor whom Gideon Welles (see Glastonbury) asked to help develop ironclad battleships for the Navy. Bushnell convinced the Swedish-born engineer John Ericsson to provide the plans for what would be the Monitor, which fought the CSS Virginia (originally named the Merrimack) in the world's first-ever battle between two ironclads.

C. Wigren



Hartford ▲

Butler-McCook house * (NR)

Women played a crucial war in supporting soldiers in the field; they raised funds, collected and shipped supplies, and wrote letters that proved invaluable in maintaining morale. The McCook sisters of Hartford carried an extensive correspondence with their cousins, the Fighting McCooks of Ohio. In gratitude, the soldiers sent souvenirs to Hartford after the war, items that, along with many letters from the front, remain in the house, now a museum operated by Connecticut Landmarks.

Hartland ►

East Hartland Cemetery: Banning and Rowe Monument *

This brownstone obelisk tells the poignant story of two soldiers from the same small town who



Monroe

Stepney Green *

On August 24, 1861, a rally on the Stepney Green called for the North and South to negotiate a peace, and attendees raised a "peace flag." Counter demonstrators, many brought in by train from Bridgeport, ripped down the flag and overwhelmed the gathering with their own rally. P. T. Barnum, one of the counter demonstrators' leaders, was quoted in Bridgeport Daily Standard: "As good citizens we deprecate and utterly condemn these public exhibitions, falsely called 'peace meetings', that are really Secession demonstrations."

continued on page 12

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Monuments

War memorials did not proliferate after the War of the Revolution, the War of 1812, or the Mexican-American War, but they did so after the Civil War. What had changed? According to one observer, the idea of honoring soldiers who died in action in a particular war or engagement was relatively new, a Prussian invention, dating from 1793. By the end of the Civil War, conditions favorable to pursuit of the idea of war memorials came together. The Civil War had taken an emotional and family toll unprecedented in American history, making it understandable for society to seek an activity that would be compensating, at least to a degree. The talent, technology, and prosperity required for a large building program were all available. Perhaps the convergence of considerations such as these prompted communities to consider what could be done locally in recognition of the wartime experience.

From "Connecticut's Civil War Monuments"

Dream. Design. Build.

Grand Houses, Changing Uses

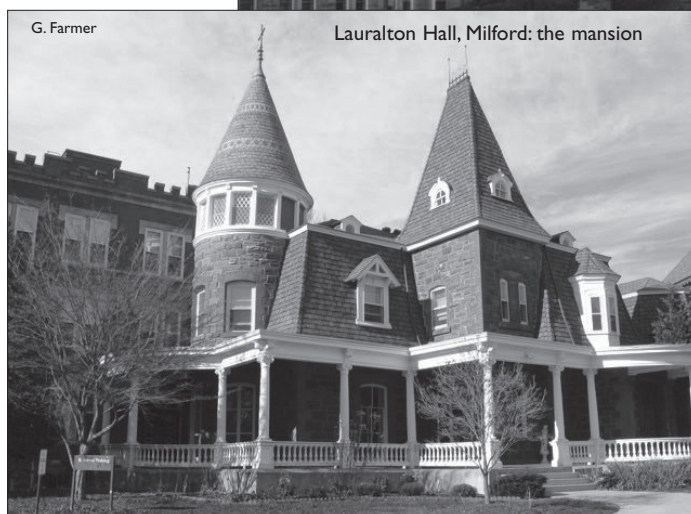
Connecticut residents of means have often erected impressive houses to impress their neighbors, express their refinement, or provide fine architectural settings for their lives. Recent listings on the National Register of Historic Places include four such houses from the coastal areas of Fairfield and New Haven counties. In addition, three of these houses have been significantly remodeled or put to different uses, examples of further growth and development that allowed them to continue to be useful and appreciated. Perhaps a similar future awaits the fourth house as well—like the first three, it richly deserves to continue to be a landmark of Connecticut's heritage.

Lauralton Hall, in Milford, is a Catholic girls' school located on a former private estate. Its centerpiece is an eclectic Second Empire/Queen Anne mansion built as a summer home for New York hardware merchant Charles Hobby Pond in 1864 and remodeled in 1889 for Henry A. Taylor, a banker and railroad financier.

After Taylor's death, his heirs sold the property to the Religious Sisters of Mercy,



G. Farmer
Lauralton Hall, Milford:
the Administration Building



G. Farmer
Lauralton Hall, Milford: the mansion

a religious order that served women, children, and the poor through health care and education.

The sisters opened the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy in 1905 as a boarding and day school. The school was distinctive for its goal of educating middle class girls and

young women in addition to the poorer classes, as was common in most parochial schools, and for its emphasis on advanced and professional study.

In addition to the mansion and its outbuildings, which continue to serve the school, two academic buildings were added in the early 20th century. The St. Joseph Building (1906), contained classrooms, chapel, dining hall, and an auditorium/gymnasium; a larger gymnasium was added to the building in 1930. The Administration Building (1917), originally called the Sacred Heart Building, contained classrooms, dormitories, a large auditorium



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Verneur Pratt historic district, Norwalk: the farmhouse

P.S. Esser



Verneur Pratt's workshop, converted from a barn

and an ornate chapel. Both employ the neo-Gothic style associated both with educational and religious institutions at the time. 🌿

The **Verneur Pratt historic district**, in Norwalk, recognizes the contributions of Verneur Pratt (1891-1966) to applying a scientific approach to the direct-mail business, and then to developing and popularizing microfilm cameras and reading equipment.

In the 1920s Pratt ran a publishing company that produced trade magazines and conceived and marketed the "Sales Audit," a system of series of marketing and advertising charts intended to put the direct mail business on a more scientific basis.

Pratt's direct sales activities collapsed in the Great Depression and in 1937 he moved to an 18th-century farmhouse in the Silvermine area. Converting the barn to a

laboratory and machine shop, he worked on refining microfilm, a technology for recording documents on film to save storage space.

Pratt patented the Optigraph microfilm reading device in 1936 and then developed the Flofilm line of microfilm cameras in the late 1930s and early '40s. The success of his inventions and, to a large degree, the popularity of microfilm in general can be attributed as much to Pratt's aggressive marketing campaign as to his innovative designs.

Pratt's house, originally built in about 1788 for Isaac Camp, represents a country version of Georgian architecture, with Colonial Revival additions from the 20th century. These additions, along with the conversion of the barn, probably built about 1800, to a work space and then a residence, are good examples of the reshaping of the Connecticut countryside in the 20th century. 🌿

Norwalk's **Gallaher Estate** (now Cranbury Park) was home to another inventor, Edward Beach Gallaher (1873-1953), whose projects included experimental electrical and hydrocarbon engines, marine engines, trolley roads, and electrical power plants. He also founded the Clover Manufacturing Company, which produced industrial abrasives. The *Clover Business Letter*, the company's house organ, served as an outlet for Gallaher's political views, and is often cited as example of the conservative response to perceived communist and socialist threats during World War II and the Cold War.

Gallaher began buying land in northern Norwalk in 1917 and in 1929 built a Tudor-style mansion. He employed architect Percy L. Fowler, best known for his church designs, including St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the Norwalk Green, and contractor William R. Matthews,

continued on page 14

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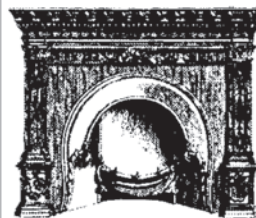
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Stonington/Mystic ▶

Clark, Thomas, and George Greenman houses

Before the war, the Greenman shipyard supplied ships to transport cotton from Southern fields to Northern textile mills. The shipyard quickly became a major supplier to the Union Navy. The Greenmans' houses, along with employees' houses and boarding house, are now part of Mystic Seaport. Another Mystic shipyard, Mallory's, also constructed ships for the navy, including the USS Varuna.

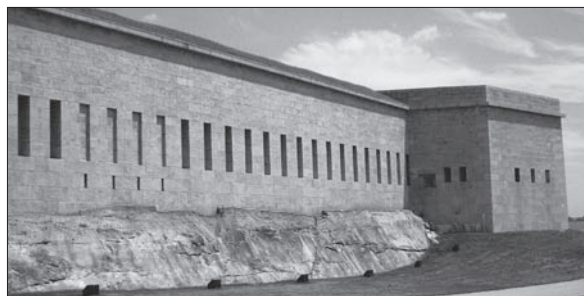


C. Wigren



New Haven ▲
Criscuolo Park *

Known in the 1860s as Grapevine Point, this piece of open land served as an encampment and training site for troops before shipping off to battle. Among the units that mustered here were the 29th Regiment Colored Volunteers, commemorated by Connecticut's newest Civil War monument, dedicated in 2008.



M. Scott

New London ▲
Fort Trumbull * (NR)

The Army recruited and trained troops at Fort Trumbull. The American Coast Artillery also manned the fort to protect New London harbor against Confederate attack, but none came.



M. Scott

Norwich ▲
William Buckingham house (NR)

As governor from 1858 to 1866, Buckingham (1804-1875) led Connecticut through the war. His reelection in 1860, by a margin of only 541 votes, was a harbinger of Republican victories in the national election that brought Abraham Lincoln to office later that year. Buckingham and Lincoln campaigned for each other and developed a close relationship that ensured Connecticut's strong support for the war despite opposition at home. The house later became a post of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans' organization.

Norwich ▶
Hopkins and Allen Firearms Company

Already a national leader, Connecticut's armaments industry continued to expand throughout the war. This factory, built in 1862, housed the Union Machine Company and then the Norwich Arms Company, which produced rifle barrels and bayonets here (today it is known by the name of a later occupant). Rifle stocks and magazine locks were made at another facility, on the Shetucket River.



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Putnam

**Grove Street Cemetery:
Grave of Thomas L. Taylor**

A black sailor in the U.S. Navy, Taylor served aboard the USS Monitor when it fought the CSS Virginia. Taylor died in 1932, the last survivor of that battle.

Torrington ▼

John Brown Birthplace site *

Perhaps the most famous abolitionist of the Civil War era and one of the most radical, Brown launched a raid on the U.S. arsenal in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, fueling Southerners' fears of a slave revolt. Brown's birthplace was restored as a museum in 1901 but burned in 1918; a granite monument marks the site.

Connecticut Freedom Trail



HAER, William Sacco, 1968

Vernon/Rockville ►

**Memorial Building/Vernon Town Hall
* (NR)**

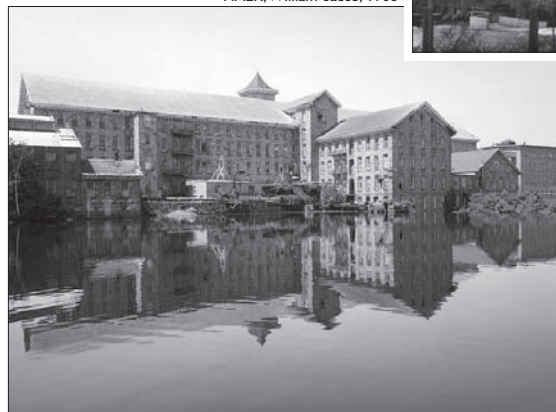
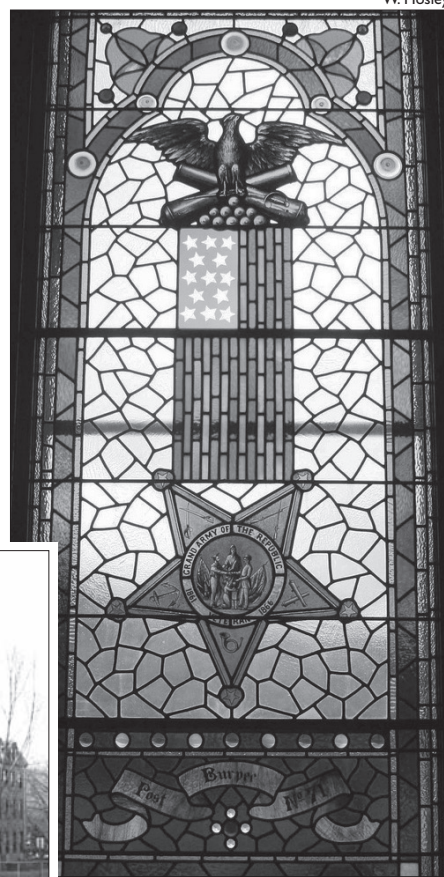
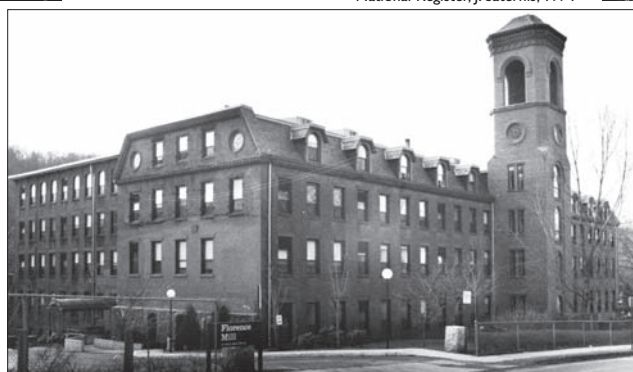
A few towns erected buildings as memorials to those who served in the war. Vernon's town hall, built in 1889-1890, incorporated a memorial hall for the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans' organization. The remarkably well preserved hall is now designated the New England Civil War Museum.

Vernon/Rockville ▼

Florence Mill (NR)

The market for woolen cloth, primarily for military uniforms and blankets, expanded rapidly during the war. The Florence Mill was built in 1864 to take advantage of the increased demand.

National Register, J. Saternis, 1974



Norwich Evening Record, 1894

**Windham/Willimantic ▲
Willimantic Linen Company**

Despite its name, Willimantic Linen produced cotton thread. Management had anticipated the war and bought up large supplies of cotton before the fighting began. As a result, the company was able not only to keep operating but even to expand while many of its competitors were shut down for lack of raw materials. Mill 2 was constructed in 1864, in part to provide thread for the Union army.



Much of the information in this article came from the Spring, 2011, issue of *Connecticut Explored* and from Matthew Warshauer's *Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice, and Survival*.

If you want to know more...

Connecticut and the Civil War, <http://finalsite.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=2296>: the official website of the state's Civil War commemoration.

Connecticut Explored, Spring, 2011.

Connecticut for the Union: The Role of the State in the Civil War, by John Niven (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965).

Connecticut History, Spring, 2011.

Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice, and Survival, by Matthew Warshauer (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2011).

Connecticut's Civil War Monuments, http://www.chs.org/finding_aides/ransom/overview1.htm.

The Military and Civil History of Connecticut during the War of 1861-65, by William A. Croffut and John M. Morris (New York: Ledyard Bill, 1869), available on Google Books.

New England Civil War Museum. <http://www.newenglandcivilwarmuseum.com/>.

Gallaher estate, cont'd from page 11

who specialized in country estates and institutional buildings, including the chapel and academic buildings at Princeton University.

The Gallaher mansion's stone construction, carved ornament, leaded-glass windows, and elaborate interior woodwork were all intended to create the appearance of a 16th-century English manor house. At the same time, the garage, basement game room, and up-to-date services all served a lavish 20th-century lifestyle. Among the house's most distinctive features are murals by Mildred Cleora Tuttle, an artist trained at Yale.

Gallaher left the estate to his alma mater, Stevens Institute of Technology, which sold the property to the City of Norwalk for use as a public park. 🌿



H. Cuzzone

Gallaher estate, Norwalk



H. McGrath

Graham house, Stamford

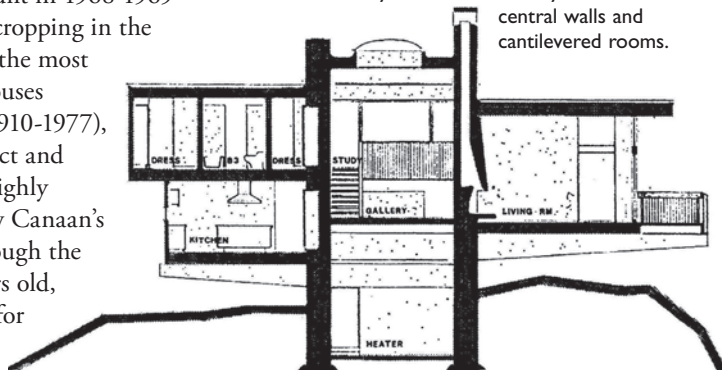


H. Cuzzone

Gallaher estate: the game room mural

The **Graham house**, built in 1968-1969 on the crest of a rocky outcropping in the Stamford woods, is one of the most dramatic and sculptural houses designed by Eliot Noyes (1910-1977), a master Modernist architect and industrial designer and a highly influential member of New Canaan's famed Harvard Five. Although the house is less than fifty years old, the usual age requirement for

Graham house: an original drawing by architect Eliot Noyes shows the central walls and cantilevered rooms.



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the National Register, it was listed because of its exceptional importance as a work by Noyes and particularly as the culmination of a series of related designs by Noyes.

The series began with Noyes' own house, built in 1954 with living spaces and a courtyard sandwiched between two massive stone walls (see CPN, November/December 2008). In the following years, the architect created several other variations on the wall-house idea, but they were not built. Finally, Robin Graham, owner of a Manhattan art gallery, provided an opportunity to construct the fully-developed version of the idea, a house with two walls close together forming a wide hallway, and the rooms hung outside the walls.

With its rugged fieldstone-and-concrete walls, stone pavement, and numerous skylights, the central space is more like a street than a hallway—in fact, Noyes sometimes referred to the space as a street. In contrast, the living spaces are lightly framed and cantilevered out from the stone walls so that they float over the landscape, with views defined by carefully placed windows. 🌿

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New Haven. More than 100 residents have signed a petition against a new monument in Wooster Square, which is both a National Register district and a local historic district. As the matter shows, historic district commissions are responsible for more than buildings.

The monument is dedicated to the DeLauro family, who have been community leaders for many years. Both Ted and Luisa DeLauro represented the Wooster Square neighborhood on the New Haven Board of Aldermen, and their daughter Rosa has been New Haven's U.S. Representative since 1991.

The privately-funded monument, designed by architect Barry Svigals, consists of a table, a bench and two chairs, all carved from red granite. They represent the family's kitchen table, where community affairs were discussed.

Construction on the foundation began in September, and neighbors soon objected that they had not been consulted. Some felt that the chunky design was not appropriate for the historic district.

Contrary to some news reports the monument was not approved by the historic district commission, says commission chair Katharine Learned. City officials did make a presentation to the commission in September, but did not apply for a certificate of appropriateness. At the time, commissioners did not consider that an application was needed, since they understood the monument to be a piece of artwork that would not destroy any historic fabric and could be removed. However, Learned said the commissioners did not have information on the extent of the foundation.



The DeLauro Family monument, in New Haven's Wooster Square

State enabling law for local historic districts says that property owners must obtain a certificate of appropriateness before constructing or altering any building or structure visible from a public right-of-way. The law defines a structure as "any combination of materials, other than a building, which is affixed to the land, and shall include, but not be limited to, signs, fences and walls..." In 2007, the state Supreme Court ruled that this definition included large sculptures that are affixed to the ground only by their weight (see CPN, September/October 2007).

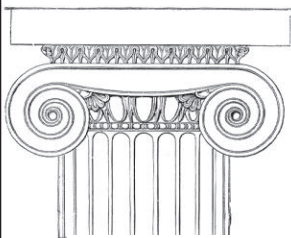
The historic district commission has asked city counsel to review the Wooster Square monument, which has been installed and was dedicated on October 23. 🌿

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Puddlers' Lane, Amesville

Clustered around quiet side roads deep in the woods between Falls Village and Salisbury, this grouping of small Greek Revival houses is hard to classify. A farming village, maybe? But there is no sign of a church or school or store or any other amenities that one might expect.

In fact, the houses are almost all that survives of the Ames Iron Works. Founded in 1835 by Horatio Ames, whose father owned a successful shovel factory in North Easton, Massachusetts, the Works made railroad axles and wheels from the iron that was mined and refined in Litchfield County.

Ames' biggest claim to fame came during the Civil War, when he developed and produced cannons for the Union army--some of the biggest cannon ever made at that time.

The houses were built for skilled workers, called 'puddlers,' who carefully stirred and monitored molten iron to ensure the proper composition. The houses are all nearly alike, but can be distinguished by small individual features. This individuality is perhaps a reflection of the puddlers' high status, or perhaps a reflection of the more intimate scale of the iron works, in contrast to the huge textile mills of eastern Connecticut, which employed hundreds of workers and housed them in long rows of identical, barracks-like tenements.

Horatio Ames was a better ironworker than manager, and his company was closed after his death in 1871. The buildings were replaced by railroad yards, which in turn were demolished. Now the puddlers' houses alone are easily visible.

In this, Amesville is like many other factory villages in Litchfield County, which have been scrubbed of nearly all traces of the industry that created them as the 20th century brought weekenders and exurban

development to replace manufacturing as a dominant economic force in the region. It could be considered a kind of adaptive use.

So completely have traces of industry been erased from many quiet Litchfield County villages that it can be difficult to realize that they once were filled with smoke and steam and the clang of machinery.

CONNECTICUT *Snapshots*



C. Wigen

