

Anne H. Bass Receives Harlan Griswold Award



The State Historic Preservation Office of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation jointly presented the Harlan Griswold Award for Historic Preservation to Anne H. Bass, of South Kent, on April 4, 2012. Printed here are remarks by Helen Higgins, the Trust's Executive Director.

photo courtesy of Anne Bass

We often recognize people who preserve a building or even a cluster of buildings, but not many people single-handedly preserve and restore an entire valley, as Anne Bass has.

The story begins with three farms in South Kent and New Milford. Owned by interrelated families from the 18th to the 20th centuries, their history follows the larger history of Kent—from early settlement to subsistence farming to more specialized enterprises such as tobacco growing and dairying. Parallel to the agricultural story are iron and clay mining and small industries such as blacksmithing, cider and brandy making, spinning and weaving, and charcoal making.

With the decline of agriculture, decay set in. The farms flipped quickly from owner to owner. Some of the buildings were treated well, or at least left alone, while others suffered unfriendly alterations. Barns, fences, and stone walls fell into disrepair, while fields that had been maintained since the 18th century reverted to scrubby forest. Part of the land was subdivided for new development and could have become a sort of large-lot Levittown.

Anne Bass came to South Kent in the 1990s and began buying land as it became available. Not content to build the usual display house and sweep away the rest, she set out instead to restore the land and its buildings, to re-create the historic landscape that very nearly was lost.



Anne H. Bass (inset, with Connecticut Trust board member Jeffrey Morgan),

received the 2012 Harlan Griswold Award for her restoration of an entire landscape—including houses, farm buildings, and the land itself—in South Kent.

Restoration has been based on careful historical research and evaluation. The three farms have been documented in detailed reports that with their appendices weigh 35 pounds! Based on this, restoration has taken a variety of approaches appropriate to each building's history, condition, and proposed use.

The Federal-era Samuel W. Peet house was the best preserved, boasting a high-style parlor and a bedchamber with original stenciling on the walls. One of Mrs. Bass' first projects, it has been restored for guest quarters.

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From the Executive Director

The early spring (did we really have a winter?) meant that the Connecticut Trust was able to get an early start on preservation activities. On March 2, more than 100 preservationists, municipal officials, architects, developers, and real estate professionals gathered in Hartford for **Breakfast with Donovan**—Donovan Rypkema, that is. The nation's leading expert on the economics of preservation gave an exciting presentation on the economic benefits of the State's preservation programs in creating jobs, leveraging resources, advancing sustainable growth, and enhancing community quality, as well as on the economic effects of Local Historic District designation. Donovan's ability to breathe life into those seemingly dry topics left the audience energized and ready to get to work. Of course, the morning could not have happened without our partners at the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development, which commissioned the economics of preservation study and funded the Trust's LHD study.

A month later, on April 4, we gathered again in Hartford, this time at the State Capitol, for the Trust's **annual meeting and awards ceremony** (be sure to read about the award recipients, beginning on page 1). At the meeting we also said thank-you to five **departing Trustees** whose terms on the Trust's Board had come to an end: **Serena Bechtel** (Greenwich), on the Board since 2009; **Jim McLaughlin** (Durham), since 2006; **Leroy Diggs** (Danbury), since 2006; **Donald Poland** (Hartford), since 2006; and **Douglas**

Williams (Thompson), since 2006.

Another change: according to the Trust's charter, three trustees are appointed by the Governor. In early April, Governor Dannel Malloy accepted the resignation of **Theodore F. Ells** and appointed **Edmund F. Schmidt** in his place.

Ted Ells came to the Trust almost fifteen years ago. From the beginning, Ted was a leader on the board. No responsibility, no task was too great for his enthusiastic, "I will help." Ted's ideas for the Trust's financial growth, especially in the early 2000s, led to, among other things, our two wonderful Cuba trips. When Ted became chairman of the board, in 2002, we saw his exemplary leadership and consensus building skills at work. He led the Trust with equanimity, vision and humor.

We were very fortunate that Ted was a gubernatorial appointee. That meant that he could stay with our board until replaced. He quickly recycled from powerful board chairman to powerful board

recruiter and helped to put together outstanding slates of new trustees in recent years. We are forever indebted to Ted and will miss him greatly—not least for his bottomless institutional memory of the Trust's past fifteen years, a critical asset. We are so happy that Ted has agreed to continue his affiliation with the Trust as a member of the Advisory Council.

Also at the annual meeting, we welcomed six **new board members**: Frank Chiamonte, Mary Ann Handley, Elizabeth Torres, Marye Wagner, Damaris Whittaker, and Patrick Zailckas. Watch for more information about them in the July/August issue of *Connecticut Preservation News*.

As they have done for several years, Mayo Crowe LLC generously sponsored the annual meeting. This year, Kronenberger Restoration became a second sponsor. We are grateful to both for their support of the Trust and its activities.

—Helen Higgins

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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Editor, *Historic Properties Exchange*: Jane Montanaro
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Upcoming Meetings of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

June 6, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

July 11, 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
Hartford, Connecticut

For more information call
(860) 256-2800

Our Places, Our Stories: Bringing Connecticut's Ethnic History to Life

Cultural assets associated with the ethnic groups who made today's Connecticut will receive increased recognition under a "Our Places, Our Stories," a new program of the State Historic Preservation Office of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (SHPO).

Phase I of the initiative will document the historical links between the people of various ethnic communities and the cultural landscapes they created: neighborhoods, buildings, shops, sites and events. The SHPO will offer survey and planning grants up to \$20,000 to nonprofit heritage organizations, historical societies, and cultural organizations.

Phase II will use the stories from Phase I to interpret and market cultural landscapes as visitor experiences organized as heritage trails and available via Web sites,

tours, smart phone applications, brochures, and other media.

The SHPO is also partnering with the Connecticut Humanities Council to collect and preserve oral histories related to the ethnic communities that have created our cultural landscapes. A conference called "Our State, Our Stories" will be held June 4, at Manchester Community College, to develop the capacity of individuals and organizations to collect and preserve oral histories. David Isay, president and founder of the national oral history initiative StoryCorps, will be the featured speaker. ❁

For more information on the grants, visit www.cultureandtourism.org or contact Cora Murray, at cora.murray@ct.gov. For the conference on June 4, contact Melissa@ctculture.org.

Historic Resource Consultants, 1997



Finnish Hall, in Canterbury, is one of the sites that may be used to tell the story of Connecticut's ethnic heritage. The hall was built in 1924 by Finnish immigrants who settled on Canterbury farms in the early 20th century.

Changes on the Historic Preservation Council

Connecticut's Historic Preservation Council provides citizen guidance for activities of the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Among its duties, the council approves listings on the State Register of Historic Places, requests to perform work on properties on which DECD holds preservation easements, and historic preservation

grants. It also can ask the Attorney General to take legal action to prevent the unreasonable destruction of historic resources under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. In performing these functions, the Council relies on staff support from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Twelve citizens, appointed by the governor to two four-year terms, make up the council. This year, the body saw a large

turnover, as Governor Dannel Malloy named nine new members, which made possible the retirement of seven members whose terms had expired.

Those retiring were Timothy Beeble (Bethel), chair; Sharon Churchill (Hartford), vice chair; Louise Costello (Danielson); Katherine Green (Middlefield); Richard Hughes III (West Hartford); Jean Russell Kelley (Guilford), and Donald Wills (East Hartford).

New members are Sara Nelson (Guilford), chair; Karyn Gilvarg (New Haven) vice chair; Wilson Faude (West Hartford); Katherine Harris (Manchester); Katherine Kane (Hartford); Kathleen Maher (Trumbull); Charlene Perkins Cutler (Danielson); Margaret Faber (Middle Haddam); and Norma Williams (Ridgefield).

Jack Robbins, of Danbury, remains on the council, along with ex officio members Nicholas Bellantoni (State Archaeologist) and Walter Woodward (State Historian). ❁

For more information on the Historic Preservation Council, visit <http://www.cultureandtourism.org>; click on "About Us" and then "Boards, Commissions, and Councils."

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Harland Griswold Award, cont'd from page 1

The Riley Peet house, a Greek Revival dwelling built about 1840, for Samuel's son, has been converted to offices.

The Benedict houses were built for two generations of a prominent Kent family, one in the late 1830s and the other in 1872. With their barns, they form an inter-related farmstead, and have been renovated as offices and housing.

The Turrill-Chase house, probably built in 1799, was a modest farmhouse, but over the years additions and alterations concealed its simple lines. With much original material lost, it needed more extensive work, almost a reconstruction. Today, handmade nails and antique woodwork co-exist with modern radiant floors to provide an evocative setting for lucky guests.

Throughout the property stands an impressive assortment of barns and out-buildings, some original, some rescued and moved from elsewhere. Often the most fragile elements of an agricultural landscape that has ceased to be actively farmed,



Restoration of the Turrill house included removing later additions and tracking down early woodwork and floorboards to replace lost originals.

the barns are key to the area's historic character.

In addition to the structures that we see, the valley is dotted with the remnants of earlier buildings. These potentially fruitful archaeological sites have been identified, documented, and set aside to allow for possible future excavation.

Buildings are incomplete without their landscape, and Mrs. Bass has restored this as well. She has had fields cleared of invasive plants and second-growth trees. Rebuilt fences and stone walls line fields and roads. Power lines have been buried, even along public roads. All was done with the aim of restoring the entire landscape to its historic appearance.

As a final touch, she has brought in a herd of heritage cattle, smaller than mod-

ern breeds, called Randalls. Grazing peacefully in the fields as their ancestors may have done two hundred years ago, the herd, now the world's largest, brings the historic landscape to life.

Looking at the results, it's possible to deduce the approach: bring in experienced and knowledgeable people and heed their advice. Insist on the highest quality of materials and design and craftsmanship. Above all, have a well-defined vision and attentive oversight. Those who work with Mrs. Bass make it clear that the vision and the oversight are hers. They tell of her intense personal involvement, both in terms of details and big picture, and what one consultant called the "general contractor gene"—that is, the ability to manage a myriad of small details.

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Extensive documentary and building research has guided restoration of the buildings and landscape.

In South Kent, Anne Bass cleared overgrown fields, repaired fences and stone walls, and buried wires to restore the agricultural landscape.

Finally, everything has been done with an eye to the future, to ensuring that another rescue job won't have to be done by another generation. Perimeter lands are held in trust; some of the land is protected by conservation easements, and archaeological sites have been conserved.

Anne Bass has made an important contribution to Kent, and to Connecticut. She has demonstrated the value of big-picture preservation, uniting structures and viewshed and land use into an entire preserved agricultural landscape. Thanks to her, this corner of South Kent retains its historic character. Although it has been

tidied up and put to different uses, we still can see the land that generations struggled to clear and live on. The houses and barns and fields that she has restored stand as a monument to them.

Harlan H. Griswold, the long-time chairman of the Connecticut Historical Commission and founder of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, once said, "To me, preservation is more about my grandchildren than about my grandparents." By restoring and preserving the landscape of South Kent, Anne Bass has prepared a great legacy for her grandchildren—and all of us. 🌿



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Janet Jainschigg Award Presented to Mary Donohue

The Connecticut Trust presented the Janet Jainschigg Award for Excellence to Mary Donohue on April 4, 2012. Printed here are remarks by the Trust's Executive Director, Helen Higgins.

T. Grady

On behalf of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation I am here tonight to present the Janet Jainschigg Award of Excellence to Mary M. Donohue, of West Hartford: architectural historian and former Survey and Grants Director for the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

The first step in preservation is to know what you have and, thanks to Mary Donohue, we in Connecticut know a lot. For more than 30 years, Mary worked for the State Historic Preservation Office (formerly the Connecticut Historical Commission, and then the Commission on Culture & Tourism), where her chief responsibility was to encourage, assist, and supervise the surveys that uncover the significant historic places all around us.

Most of these surveys were focused on a single town or a section of a town, but Mary also envisioned, created, and implemented more specialized studies, including surveys of heritage landscapes, outdoor sculptures,

historic synagogues, farms and resorts operated by Jewish immigrants, National Guard armories, Civil War monuments, and sites associated with the movement of French forces through Connecticut during the Revolutionary War.

To make these studies and many other projects possible, Mary oversaw more than 1,500 grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations that have helped to protect and preserve the state's landmark buildings and districts. As anyone who

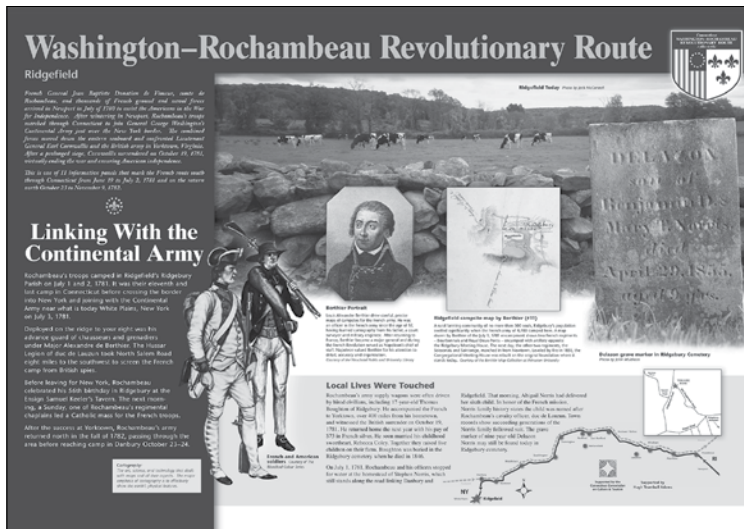
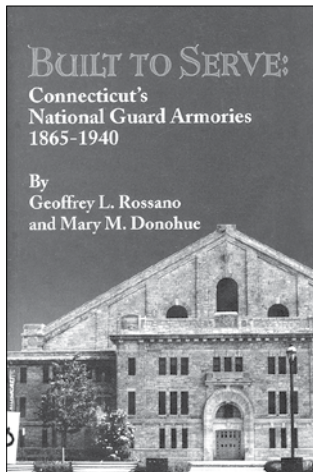
has ever made or received a grant knows, the process is always complex and rather mystifying to the neophyte. But, Mary's mastery of bureaucratic minutia and her cheerful helpfulness always made the process easier.

These were not mere studies on a shelf. Mary also oversaw public education programs designed to get this information out to the public. She adminis-

tered grants to publish survey results, she herself coauthored three award-winning publications—*Built to Serve: Connecticut's National Guard Armories 1865-1940*, *En Avant with our French Allies*, and *A Life of the Land: Connecticut's Jewish Farmers*—and in 2009, she masterminded an exhibition, "Living Modern in New Canaan," about that town's world-class collection of Modernist houses.



Mary Donohue received the Trust's Janet Jainschigg Award on April 4.



Beyond these official activities, Mary has shown a personal dedication to sharing information that can be almost overwhelming in its energy and enthusiasm. Many a researcher can tell about going to the SHPO office to consult a report, only to have her bring in a three-foot stack of books, saying, "While you're here, here are fifteen other new reports that I think you'd be interested in."

Mary brings her knowledge and expertise to the broader community. An expert on the state's Civil War monuments, she serves as a gubernatorial appointee to the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission. She is a member of the Hartford Courant's Place Board; an Editorial Board member and frequent contributor to *Connecticut Explored* magazine, and a member of the Connecticut Veterans Memorial Committee of the Connecticut Military Department. And for ten years, she served her community as chairman of the West Hartford Historic District Commission.

All this work has not gone unrecognized. Mary's projects have received awards from the American Association for State and Local History, the Connecticut League of History Organizations, Hartford Preservation Alliance, Le Souvenir Français, and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Most recently, the Connecticut Association of Landscape Architects awarded her its Frederick Law Olmsted Award for her work to protect and preserve

Connecticut's historic designed landscapes.

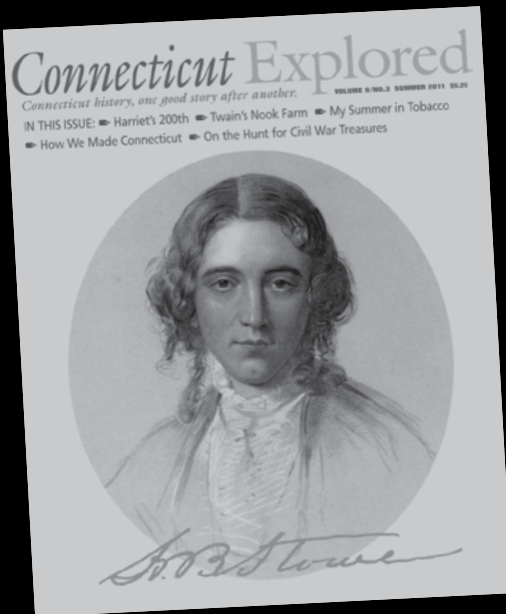
As Mary Donohue moves on to the next phase of her career, as executive director of the Manchester Historical Society, she may get a chance to experience preservation from the other side. Manchester should prepare to get shaken up!

The Jainschigg award commemorates Janet G. Jainschigg, a founder and benefac-

tor of the Connecticut Trust as well as a regional leader in historic preservation. She was a mentor and inspiration to many of us and, though a volunteer herself, insisted on the highest standards of professionalism. Mary Donohue exemplifies the professional excellence that the Janet Jainschigg Award celebrates. ❁

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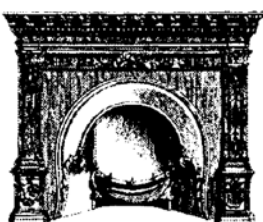
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Connecticut Preservation Awards 2012

One of the highlights of the Trust's year is the opportunity to recognize outstanding preservation achievements with our awards of merit, chosen from among nominations submitted by Trust members. This year, the reviewers were particularly struck by the number of people and groups involved in each of these projects. It seemed that the best stories were those where a wide range of people was involved in blocking demolition and putting together all the pieces it takes to make repairs, find and plan for new uses, raise the money, address difficult technical and/or design challenges, and actually carry out the work. In these cases, restoring a building isn't an end in itself (however wonderful an end it may be)—it's one piece of the larger project of restoring a *community*.

MERIT AWARD FOR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION

Cheney Mill Dye House, Manchester

Manchester Dye House LLC, Crosskey Architects, D'Amato Builders & Advisors

Built in 1914 as the yarn dye house for the Cheney Brothers silk mills, this building sat vacant and decaying for decades while other mill buildings around it were rehabbed as offices and dwellings. Finally, Manchester Dye House LLC was able to convert the dye house to 57 apartments, repairing the deteriorated roof, cleaning and restoring masonry, and replacing rotted windows with close replicas. The major challenges were cleaning contaminants and fitting apartments efficiently into the high-ceilinged spaces.

Careful design and creative financing, including state and federal historic and low-income tax credits, made it possible. As the final piece in the decades-long revitalization of this National Historic Landmark mill complex, the dye house demonstrates the potential of historic rehabilitation tax credits and other preservation incentives to foster job creation, generate affordable housing, and turn the worst messes into vital community assets.



MERIT AWARD FOR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION

Innis Arden cottage, Greenwich

Greenwich Point Conservancy, Town of Greenwich, Dodaro Ross Architects, Mark B. Thompson Architects, David Seymour, P.E., Gro Pro Landscape Co., Murphy Brothers Contracting, Lakota Builders & Associates, and H. Camacho Home Improvement

This Arts and Crafts bungalow was built in 1902 on J. Kennedy Tod's estate on Greenwich Point (a National Register nomination for the whole point is in process). After the estate became a town park, the Bungalow served as a bathhouse until it became too deteriorated to use. Thanks to sensitive restoration by the Greenwich Point Conservancy, the cottage will now be used by the Bruce Museum and the Greenwich Conservation Commission as an exhibition and environmental center.

The restoration of this significant building is an important first step by the town of Greenwich to care for neglected municipally-owned buildings on Greenwich Point through an impressive collaboration with wide group of partners and volunteers.

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Eli Whitney Museum



MERIT AWARD FOR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION

Twitchell house, Oxford

Oxford Historical Society; the Town and people of Oxford

Built in 1755, the Twitchell house has a long connection with prominent local families and is listed on the State Register of Historic Places. When development threatened the house, the developer was convinced to donate it to the Town. Moved to a new, town-owned site, the house received a new foundation and chimney base, and was restored for the Oxford Historical Society led by its tireless preservation chairperson, Dorothy DeBisschop.

A multitude of sources donated to the project, including members of building trades, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, area foundations, many volunteers from the community. The task of managing so many different groups and individuals alone is a remarkable achievement. The people of Oxford succeeded where many towns and small nonprofits fail by involving a wide range of people throughout the community.



MERIT AWARD FOR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION

Old Town Hall, Stamford

City of Stamford, Fuller & D'Angelo Architects, Altieri Sebor Wieber, LLC, Kroneberger & Sons Restoration, Inc.

Stamford's Old Town Hall is a Beaux-Arts style landmark and symbol of civic pride. Built 1906, the building survived the urban renewal program that demolished much of downtown Stamford. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, but by 1987 all city offices had moved out, and the building sat empty for 20 years. Now it has been restored, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which

suggested the Modernist design of the new elevator and stair tower. Other challenges included safely restoring asbestos-laden plaster; recreating lost trim and decorative finishes including remarkable scagliola and removing construction debris from demolished buildings to build a foundation for the addition. The restored building is now home to the Ballet School of Stamford, the Stamford Innovation Center, and small start-up businesses. Most important, as a reminder of what's no longer there, it provides a powerful lesson about the value of preservation.



MERIT AWARD FOR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION

Eli Whitney Barn, Hamden

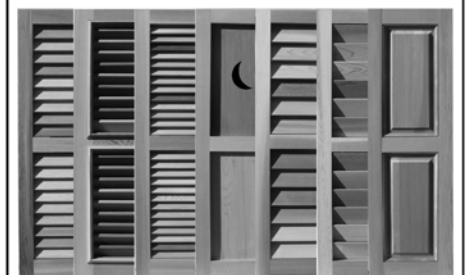
Eli Whitney Museum, Charney Architects LLC, Lebanon Country Collection LLC, Regional Water Authority, J.A. Rosa Construction LLC, Brian Casey, Cameron Simpson, Ben Dringoli, Museum carpenters and apprentices, and community volunteers

Built by Eli Whitney in 1816 to serve his Hamden Armory, the Whitney barn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been an active part of the Eli Whitney Museum since 1979. For years, the museum had worked on finding ways to use the building more effectively. One goal was to reconfigure the ell for accessible bathrooms and new activity spaces and to restore its exterior to more accurately reflect its early appearance.

Other goals included repairing structural damage caused by poor drainage and replacing the failing slate roof. Then the snows of 2011 destroyed the ell. But with funding already in place, the museum moved quickly with repairs and rebuilt the ell. As with any old building, there's always something else to be done, and the project also included plans for future phases as funding becomes available—a good example of careful foresight.

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Awards, cont'd from page 9

MERIT AWARD FOR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION

Sterling Block and Bishop Arcade, Bridgeport
Urban Green Builders; Cutsogeorge Tooman & Allen Architect; City of Bridgeport

The Sterling Block (1835) and the Bishop Arcade (1889) are a Greek Revival hotel and Victorian shopping arcade individually listed on National Register of Historic Places and also part of downtown National Register district. The arcade is a truly unique building in Connecticut, and one of only a handful of Victorian era shopping arcades in the nation.

Preservation and rehabilitation by Urban Green Builders created 23 apartments and 64,000 sq. ft. commercial space. Within the arcade, the original glass-and-iron canopy has been restored, as well as the iron columns and balcony and the storefronts. The reborn arcade is one of several downtown projects undertaken by Urban Green Builders, and part of a broader plan for "Re-imagining Downtown Bridgeport" with revitalized retail, commercial and residential development.



J. Urbano

MERIT AWARD FOR PRESERVATION LEADERSHIP

Massaro farm barn, Woodbridge

Woodbridge Conservation Commission, Town of Woodbridge, Massaro Community Farm, David Moore, Sam Hammer, Ron Zocher, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and community volunteers

After receiving the 57-acre Massaro farm, the Town of Woodbridge was faced with competing proposals for the property: raze the house and barn for a new recreation complex, or reuse the barn and much of the land for a community farm? Thanks to a careful business plan and support from the Conservation Commission and citizens, the community farm was approved.

The newly formed Massaro Community Farm immediately set about stabilizing the structure and then restoring it, with a Department of Agriculture grant matched by town and volunteer labor. Now the barn is a functional and symbolic center for the enterprise. The success of the Massaro Community Farm is testimony to how a community can benefit from civic activism and good public policy.

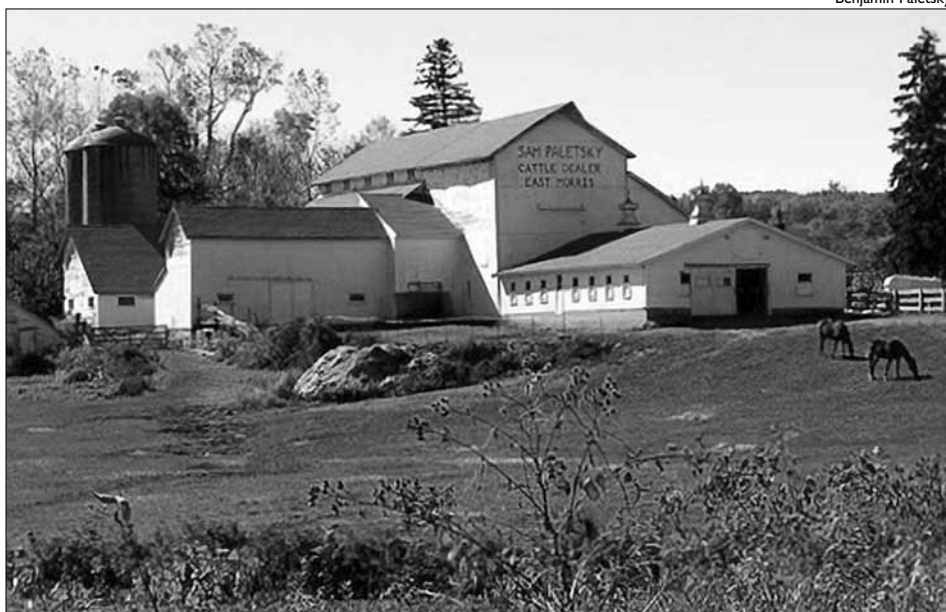


Benjamin Paletsky

FACEBOOK FAN FAVORITE

Samuel Paletsky barn, Morris

The Trust posted photos of a number of our recent grant recipients on our Facebook page, and invited our Facebook Friends to "like" as many as three of them. The winner was the Paletsky Farm barn, in East Morris. The Paletsky family, who have farmed here since the 1940s, received a Barns Grant in 2011 to explore new ways to reuse their early 20th-century dairy barn. The enthusiastic response by the Trust's Facebook Friends shows the importance of historic barns in the Connecticut landscape, and the determination of the people of Connecticut to preserve these distinctive structures as active and useful elements of our state.



C. Wigren



A federal judge ruled against Chabad Lubavitch of Litchfield County in its attempt to enlarge this Litchfield house for a synagogue.

exercise of religion, and discriminated against them as Jews (CPN, November/December 2009).

Judge Hall's ruling, dated February 17, granted summary judgment to the defendants—before the case went to trial. She found that Chabad had not presented sufficient evidence that it could prove religious discrimination by showing that the historic district commission treated it any differently than it treated secular applicants.

"Chabad cannot establish a substantial burden on the free exercise of its religion, because the statutory scheme Chabad challenges is neutral and of general applicability, and not imposed arbitrarily, capriciously, or unlawfully," Judge Hall wrote.

In March, Chabad filed notice that it would appeal Judge Hall's ruling to the Second U. S. Court of Appeals, in New York. If the appeal succeeds, it won't mean Chabad can build, merely that the original lawsuit can go to trial, where it may or may not succeed. ❖

Read the entire decision at <http://courtweb.pamd.uscourts.gov/courtwebsearch/ctxc/SytGL6nn.pdf>.

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Litchfield. Judge Janet C. Hall of the U.S. District Court dismissed the lawsuit by Chabad Lubavitch of Litchfield County against the Borough of Litchfield, the Litchfield historic district commission (HDC) and individual commission members.

Chabad sued in 2009 after the HDC denied its application for an addition to the Deming house, in the Litchfield local historic district. The principal issue was the size of the addition, which commission members determined would be out of scale with the house and its surroundings. The HDC invited the organization to come back with a proposal for a smaller addition.

Rather than revise its plans, Chabad sued under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), claiming that the commission put an undue burden on its members' free

B. Schide



Stamford preservationists convinced the city and the Stamford Golf Authority not to demolish the farmhouse at Sterling Farms golf course.

cost nearly as much as a new building.

Because the farmhouse is a city-owned building, demolition must be approved by the Board of Finance, the Planning Board, and the Board of Representatives. At a two-night hearing in February, the Planning Board pressed the authority on the finances of the proposal and how thoroughly the authority had investigated renovation as an option. At the same time, members of the Stamford Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program dissected the demolition proposal and reminded the city of its commitment to preservation under its recently-acquired status as a Certified Local Government under the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service.

Shortly after the hearing, Mayor Pavia announced that he was withdrawing the request to demolish the house. A developer with preservation experience, he will work with the golf authority to explore alternatives for renovating the house. ❖

Stamford. Mayor Michael Pavia and the Stamford Golf Authority withdrew plans to demolish the Sterling Farms farmhouse in March. The city bought the former dairy farm in 1968 and opened it as a public golf course in 1972, with a restaurant in the former farmhouse, parts of which date to the early 19th century. The course and restaurant are operated by the golf authority under a lease from the city.

Last summer, the authority announced plans to demolish the farmhouse and construct a new restaurant/clubhouse. The house was deteriorated and not functional, authority officials said; repairs would

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Grants Fund Preservation Planning

Avon Old Farms School

In April, the Connecticut Trust awarded Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants to ten municipalities and nonprofit organizations, totaling \$95,055. The grants will make possible a minimum initial investment of \$190,110 in these historic sites.

The grants, intended to encourage and support community efforts in planning for the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic buildings and places, are part of the Trust's historic preservation technical assistance program, in collaboration with and with generous funding from the Connecticut General Assembly, the Connecticut Humanities Council, and the State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, through the Community Investment Act. The recipients are:

Avon, Avon Old Farms School:

\$13,375 for conditions assessment and contract documents detailing urgent remedial restoration of the school's Water Tower and Chapel (1927; SR).

Farmington, Farmington

Historical Society: \$5,000 for a facilities management plan for the Gridley-Case Cottages (c.1787, c.1797; NR).

Hartford, Friends of Elizabeth

Park, Inc.: \$20,000 for conditions assessment, schematic design and cost estimates for the restoration of historic farmstead buildings in the park (NR).

Old Saybrook, Old Saybrook

Historical Society: \$3,180 for structural analysis, appraisal, and strategic plan for the possible acquisition of the John Whittlesey house (1693/1740-50; NR).

Southport, Trinity Episcopal

Church: \$10,000 for architectural and engineering services for the preservation of the bell tower and compatible reuse of the undercroft (1863; NR, HABS).



A grant will support needed repairs to the Water Tower, Forge, Chapel, and Smithy at Avon Old Farms School, designed by Theodate Pope Riddle to emulate a Cotswold village.

Stonington, Stonington Historical

Society: \$7,500 for architectural and engineering services to improve safety and accessibility to the Old Lighthouse Museum (1840; NR).

Voluntown, Voluntown Economic

Development Commission: \$3,000 for a feasibility study and cost analysis for restoration and reuse of the Voluntown New Methodist Episcopal Meetinghouse (c.1830-41; SR pending).

Westport, Saugatuck Congregational Church (1835):

\$16,000 for plans and specifications for repair and reconstruction of the meetinghouse and fellowship room after fire damage (SR pending).

Windsor, First Church in

Windsor: \$14,000 for plans and specifications for rehabilitation of the Rev. William Russell House (1753-1755; NR) for commercial office use.

For more information, contact Jane Montanaro, at (203) 562-6312 or visit www.cttrust.org



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Key:
HABS – Historic American Buildings Survey
NR – National Register of Historic Places
SR – State Register of Historic Places

Wintonbury Historical Society

Trust Awards Barns Grants

In March, the Connecticut Trust awarded a total of \$40,700 in Barn Grants to nine nonprofit organizations and municipalities from across the state. The purpose of the grant is to support efforts to preserve the historic barns of Connecticut. The Trust's Barns Grants are funded by the Connecticut General Assembly. With matching funds, the grants will make possible a total investment of at least \$99,660. The recipients are:

Avon, Avon Historical Society:

\$5,000 for stabilization of the Horse Guard barn.

Town of Bolton: \$5,000 for stabilization of the Bolton Heritage Farm barn milk shed (NR).

Coventry, Coventry Historical Society: \$1,200 for stabilization and conditions assessment of the Strong-Porter barn (NR).

Fairfield, Fairfield Conservation Commission: \$5,000 for stabilization and conditions assessment of the Hoydens Hill Open Space barn.

Guilford, Guilford Keeping Society: \$5,000 for stabilization of the barn at the Medad Stone tavern (NR).

Ledyard, Ledyard Congregational Ecclesiastical Society: \$3,000 for stabilization of the Bill carriage barn (NR).

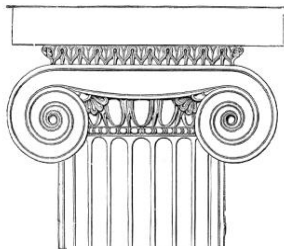
Stonington, The Denison Society: \$6,500 for stabilization and conditions assessment for the Denison Homestead barn (NR).



A Barns Grant to will help stabilize the Thrall potato barn, in Windsor, which appeared in the film "Parrish," in 1961.

Wilton Congregational Church: \$5,000 for stabilization of the Comstock barns (NR, LHD).

Windsor, Wintonbury Land Trust: \$5,000 for stabilization of the Thrall potato barn.



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Hartford, cont'd from page 16

Fairfield Avenue has long been home to a diverse array of people, ranging from working, middle, and upper classes, along with significant figures in the city's history. This blend of varied architectural beauty and historic social diversity in one district is an important addition to the National Register.

Closer to the city center, the boundary of the **Sigourney Square Historic District** has been increased to add a building from 1926 to the predominantly 19th-century historic district. The three-story, mixed-use brick building represents new developments in Hartford's social makeup and residential architecture during the 1920s.

The building reflects the increased demand for rental housing during the 1920s due to the growth of large insurance firms such as Aetna Insurance Company, Hartford Fire Insurance Company, and Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. Middle-class tenants could afford the apartments in the building, and commercial enterprises on the first floor catered to the growing population.

The structure's yellow-brick exterior stands out in the neighborhood, where red brick is more common. Designed by George A. Zunner, one of early 20th-century Hartford's most prolific architects, it shows how Zunner used the Collegiate Gothic



Persons buried in Spring Grove Cemetery include African-Americans, veterans, and indigent women, as well as prominent Hartford citizens, such as the poet Lydia Sigourney and the painter Frederick Edwin Church, in the family plot seen here.

style in residential buildings rather than just institutional structures. The largely intact interior includes original hardwood and subway tile floors, lath and plaster walls, wood trim, and windows.

A final resting place for African Americans, Civil War veterans, and prominent citizens, **Spring Grove Cemetery** is another recent addition to the National Register. Its 33 acres, in the city's North End, are covered with various styles of memorial stones and monuments.

Spring Grove is one of the oldest cemeteries in Hartford and one of only two that are not managed by a religious or government body. It began as land owned by Stephen Page, who used it for occasional burials in the early nine-

teenth century as an unofficial privately operated burial ground. He opened it to the public in 1845 and after his death, in 1846, his sons continued as administrators. For unknown reasons, they did not merely sell burial rights, but rather sold plots outright—unusual in the burial business. In 1864 a group of lot owners formed an association to purchase the entire cemetery. At some point, the Association implemented the more common arrangement of selling burial rights, rather than selling lots in fee simple.

In 1904, Spring Grove set aside portions of two sections for the sale to African Americans, an appropriate act since the minority population of northern Hartford had grown dramatically. William Henry Jacklyn, the city's first black fire fighter, and Frederick D. Oates, the first black man to build a church in the North End, are both buried at Spring Grove.

With its intact original layout, the cemetery displays changes in styles and materials of grave markers and monuments throughout time. Furthermore, nationally renowned men and women such as

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Frederick Edwin Church, a leader in the Hudson River School of painting, and the well-known poet Lydia Sigourney, in addition to the wealthy and minorities, are all buried there, creating a diverse landscape of graves. 

Jordan Sorensen, a graduate student in Public History at Central Connecticut State University, has been serving an internship at the Connecticut Trust.



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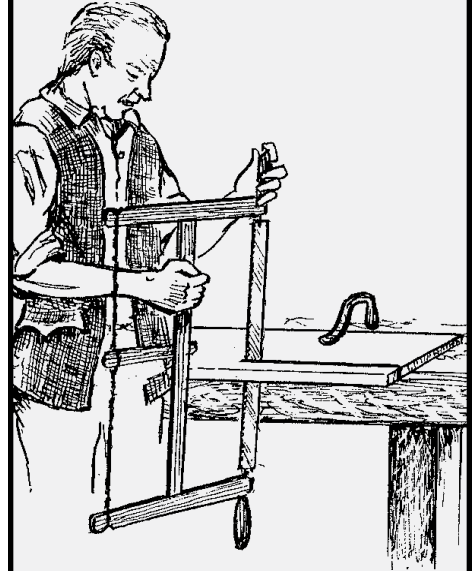
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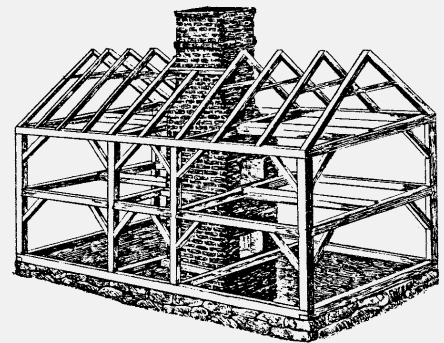
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Lucas Karmazinas

Prominent Hartford industrialist George A. Fairfield built this splendid Second Empire house in 1865 along the street that eventually came to bear his name.



Lucas Karmazinas

The growth of Hartford's insurance industry in the early 20th century created a demand for housing, partly met by this apartment house, built in 1926 in the Sigourney Square neighborhood, which had been an area of mostly one- and two-family houses.

Historic Places in Hartford

By Jordan Sorensen

Three recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places—a new historic district, addition to an established historic district, and a cemetery—demonstrate the rich history and architecture of Hartford.

The **Fairfield Avenue Historic District** is a significant example of architecture, community development, and social history beginning in the middle of the 19th century. While many of the district's buildings are Colonial Revival in design, examples of

Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Shingle, Tudor, Craftsman, Prairie, and Neoclassical Revival styles create a diverse collection of both single- and multi-family dwellings.

The district also represents the development in Hartford between 1870 and 1930. As the city's wealth grew during and after the Civil War, the elite began building elaborate homes on the outskirts of the city. One of these was George A. Fairfield, president of the Weed Sewing Machine

Company and the Hartford Machine Screw Company. In 1866 he constructed a magnificent Second Empire house on what was called Ridge Road. By 1870, the street's name had been changed to Fairfield Avenue in his honor.

In 1895, a trolley line began operation. This quick and inexpensive commuter service stimulated the construction of middle-class and working-class residences. Over 95 percent of the district's existing structures were built after trolley service began.

continued on page 14