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Preservation Alliance
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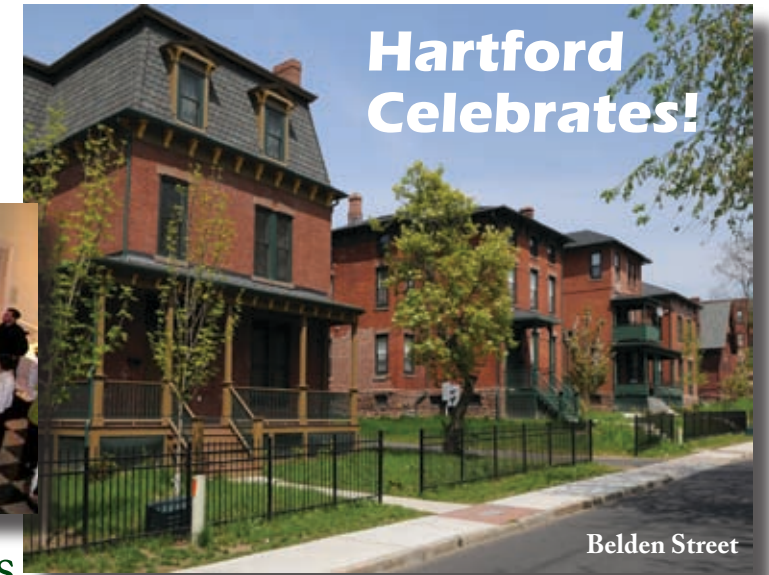
**2008 Hartford
 Preservation Alliance
 Awards**

This year's HPA Awards took place on May 29th at The Old State House. We celebrated multiple historic preservation and revitalization projects as well as individuals dedicated to the city's revival.



Building Rehabilitation:
 20-44 Belden Street
 Belden Development LLC

**Congratulations
 Hartford!**



Belden Street

**Connecticut Main Street Center
 2008 Awards of Excellence**

The mission of the Connecticut Main Street Center is to help build economically vibrant, traditional main streets, through historic preservation, as a foundation for healthy communities by providing training to its network of public and private partners and by advocating for positive change. CT Main Street Center's headquarters is in Hartford as well as one of its partners, located in Upper Albany.

Upper Albany Main Street received three Awards of Excellence from Connecticut Main Street Center at CMSC's annual awards presentation at The Wauregan in downtown Norwich in June. UAMS and the City of Hartford Police Department received the

-Continued on Page 7



Seated from left: Natalie Sweeney, Board of Directors, Hartford Preservation Alliance; John Huhtala; Marilyn Risi, Executive Director, Upper Albany Main Street; Spring Raymond, University of Hartford; Denise Best, Board of Directors, Upper Albany Main Street; Herman Todd, President, Living Word Imprints. Standing from left: Tomas J. Nenortas, Historic Resources Advisor, Hartford Preservation Alliance; Phillip Salfity, Progra Administrator, Upper Albany Main Street.

The six long-vacant buildings on the north side of Belden Street in Clay-Arsenal, built between 1875 and 1890, represent some of the best examples of post-Civil War architecture in Hartford. They include Second Empire-style homes with Mansard roofs, Italianates with decorative porches and bracketing, and the extraordinary Gothic-style Samuel F. Cadwell House, which has been called the little Mark Twain House of the North. In 2005, rehabilitation funding finally fell into place. Belden Development LLC, a consortium of the Corporation for Independent Living (CIL), Broad-Park Development Corporation, Greater Hartford Realty Management, Milano Corporation, and the Hopgood Group, began work. The Cadwell House was rehabilitated separately by CIL. All six buildings required complete gut rehabs, including extensive structural work, with special efforts made to keep or replicate as many of the interior elements of the Cadwell House as possible. All six buildings have now been sold to owner-occupants as part of an effort to stabilize the block.

-Continued on Page 8



Lost Hartford

Can you identify the location of this house? It may have possibly been on Maple Avenue. The first respondent to correctly identify the location will choose from a selection of prizes. If you would like to share/donate images to HPA's Archive please contact the office.



Lost has been Found!!!

Research by HPA's Tomas Nenortas has uncovered the location of a Lost Hartford image from the Fall 2006 HPA Newsletter edition. With only "742" as a visible clue, it has been verified to be 742 Asylum Avenue. The second-empire house was the home of P. Henry and Mary Woodward. The Woodward family occupied the stately home from at least 1896-1920. Mr. Woodward (d.1917) was the Vice-President of Connecticut General Life Insurance Company and President of Dime Savings Bank. At the time the photograph was taken the front façade had been altered, side-porches removed, and the grounds smothered in asphalt. Unfortunately it did not survive The Hartford's expansion as the property is now part of the entrance to the insurance company, near the corner with Sumner Street. Ironically, it was a meeting with The Hartford, to discuss demolition of the Connecticut Mutual Building and 34-36-38 Fraser Place, that lead to the discovery of additional clues to its location!

Then



& Now



This was once the home and office of Doctor Charles E. Jones at 116 Ann Street, now 490 Ann Uccello Street. Over time the stable and grounds were lost to development, but the house today, though missing decorative elements, still provides a glimpse into Hartford's Victorian era.

Inside This Issue:

From the Office	2	Membership Application	5	Northwest School	11
CT Preservation Awards	3	Preservation Opportunities	6	Amos Bull House	14
Supporting HPA	4	Old North Cemetery in Distress	7	Demolished & Threatened	15
HPA News	5	Summer Vacation at HPA	10	Then & Now	16

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Mission Statement

The mission of the
Hartford Preservation Alliance
is to preserve and revitalize
Hartford's unique architectural heritage
and neighborhood character.



From The Office

Laura Knott-Twine, Executive Director



I often like to think about what historic preservation is and what it can do for our communities. Now, over three years after I joined HPA, I know even more about Hartford's buildings, homes and neighborhoods than when I grew up here. I remember the 1960s when Hartford was named an "All-American City" and Constitution Plaza and the Phoenix's "Boat Building" sprung up; I was 15 at the time. I was excited, yet sad, all at the same time. My Dad pined for the old neighborhoods and thought the city would be less interesting with fewer people living in the core; he grew up on Front Street. While we celebrate the 2008 HPA Awardees in this edition of our newsletter, we need to keep in mind there is still much to do.

Historic preservation is a viable solution to the demise of our city neighborhoods. Hartford has over 4,000 buildings on National, State and Local Historic District Registries. There are thousands more that qualify for nomination. By protecting the housing stock within the city we create an atmosphere for reclaiming neighborhoods, making Hartford an even more vibrant place to live and work. The historic nature of the residential buildings found throughout the city reflects the housing boom of the turn of the 19th century. Factories such as: Colt Manufacturing; U. S. Rubber; Pope Automobile; the various typewriter makers; major American insurance companies and others, called for thousands of workers and their families. Today, we still find a large number of multi-family worker houses lining the streets in many sections of the city.

What is important to note is the variety of socio-economic levels of the housing stock. There are various neighborhoods that are graced with mansions, others with single family middle class homes and many with multi-family houses. There are apartment blocks and upscale high rise apartments. Through the promotion and action of historic preservation all of these neighborhood homes become a solid cornerstone of economic development. It takes a tapestry of unique streets and buildings to make a city feel "human sized." Soaring sky scrappers, award winning modern architecture and historic buildings, both public and private, all contribute to the atmosphere of the community.

Hartford is home to the oldest State House in the nation (1796); the oldest fine art museum, the Wadsworth Atheneum (1842) and the historic homes of Mark Twain, Sam and Elizabeth Colt, Harriet Beecher-Stowe and many other American notables. It is home to houses of worship whose roots date back to the founding of the new nation. A great example of adaptive-reuse is the first Jewish Temple in Connecticut, Beth Israel; now the Charter Oak Cultural Center. Without the acts of preservationists these and other notable buildings would have been lost to history. This is borne out by the fact that, although founded in 1636, Hartford has only 43 buildings standing that were built prior to 1851, none from the 1600s and only 4 from the 1700s. Preservation is an ongoing activity and to sustain it we must ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to live and work where historic buildings are appreciated and saved.

Is your home on the National Register of Historic Places? Then you are eligible to purchase and display a stylish National Register plaque featuring the landmark Charter Oak. Individually listed buildings are also eligible for a similar plaque. If you are unsure of your homes status please contact HPA for additional information. Send your name and address with a check or money order for \$35.00 payable to Treasurer, State of Connecticut to:

**Stacey Vairo
State and National Register Coordinator
Historic Preservation and Museum Division
Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06103**

From our Readers: Update on one of our Featured Properties

Dear Sir or Madam:

Recently I was reading the spring issue of Hartford Preservation Alliance newsletter (2008) and saw that the building at 461 Farmington Ave was named the "Solomon Youngman House." My family worked and lived in that house for a number of years and I had never heard that name. Since it was interesting to me, I called to ask about the name, during the conversation, I was asked to write up what I knew, not much, but here it is.

My parents, Bion and Alma Smith bought the house in about 1953. Our family lived upstairs, my parents ran their business, The Hartford Academy of Hairdressing, downstairs. They extended the parking area in the rear during that time. Somewhere around 1960 my parents moved to another location and did some rather extensive renovations to the building which then became entirely their school. The walnut staircase was taken out and replaced with the glass enclosed stairs at the back of the house, partitions were removed on the second floor to make one large room, a stained glass window that separated a sleeping porch from the interior stairway was removed, and the basement was improved so that the space could be used for the school.

My parents bought the house from Frank and Helene Gorski. Helene Gorski was a hat maker. At that time women wore hats to match about every occasion. Mrs. Gorski designed and made hats. I understood that she had an exclusive clientele.

I was told that the Gorski's had purchased the house from the Newtons. According to the story I was told, Capt. Newton built the house early in the 1900's. I think around 1903 or 1904, I don't remember exactly what I was told. I was told that he was a ship captain and brought things like the marble in the bathrooms from Italy as the house was being built. During the depression, the family was forced to sell the lot next to their house, which was then a gas station. My understanding was that the Newtons continued to hold the house until the Gorski's bought it, I don't know when that was. I suppose it is in the land records.

Anyway, that is the story as I heard it. I will remain interested in what history shows us about the house. I remember it as a very comfortable and well-built house. I am very glad that it has been saved and is being used for good purposes.

By the way, another interesting tidbit is that shortly after WWII, displaced refugees were coming to this county. My father rented the third floor bedroom and bath to two men who were displaced from refugee camps. One man, George, had lost his wife and four children, the other man, younger, had lost his parents and what-ever family he had. As I remember it, they lived with us for quite some time, maybe a year or more. I think that at least George spoke German, but also English to me. I'm not sure that either man was German, I think from some other nearby country that Germany had occupied.

Hope that this is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Patricia (Patti) Smith Beckett
Patricia (Patti) Smith Beckett



Editor's Note:

HPA staff will further research the ownership history and let you know the results in our next issue. Thanks to Patricia for providing such valuable information. We encourage others to do so as well.

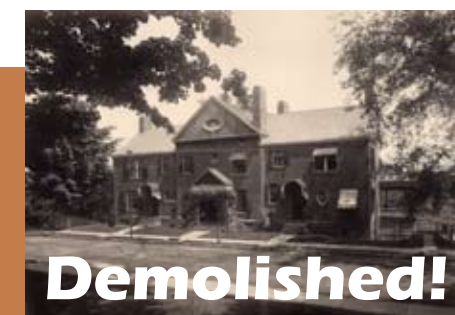
SEND US YOUR STORIES!!!



Threatened!

The iconic Lyric Theater, located in Frog Hollow on the corner of Broad and Park Streets has sat vacant for decades and is quickly deteriorating. Currently owned by the City of Hartford's Redevelopment Agency, the 1921 theater at 585 Park Street, designed by Edward T. Wiley, is one

of the last surviving theaters from Hartford's heyday as an entertainment destination. The city once housed opulent and ornate entertainment venues but through "urban renewal" all but two, The Bushnell (still operational) and The Lyric have survived.



Fraser Place,
1892

Demolished!

On September 22, 2008, the last remaining row house at 34-36-38 Fraser Place in Asylum Hill was demolished. The extremely unique and rare 1892 building, designed by Cook, Hapgood and Co. and recently listed on the State Register of Historic Places, was taken down by The Hartford for expansion of their campus.

Supporting HPA

The Hartford Preservation Alliance has been financed in part by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the City of Hartford, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council and New Alliance Bank Foundation. Many others, including businesses and our members, have contributed to the operation of our organization, and we wish to thank them for their continued support.



Connecticut Commission
on Culture & Tourism



EXPERIENCE THAT COUNTS.



New England Management, Corp.
56 Arbor Street office rentals



Bi-Glass Windows



Materials Handling Systems, Inc.

2008 Hartford Preservation Alliance Awards -Continued from Page 12



Community Education and Stewardship:
Jacob Weidenmann: Pioneer Landscape Architect and Stewardship of Cedar Hill Cemetery,
453 Fairfield Avenue
Rudy J. Favretti and the Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation

The pastoral Cedar Hill Cemetery at Fairfield and Maple Avenues in the South-West neighborhood is one of Hartford's most historic cemeteries. It was designed by Jacob Wiedenmann, who also designed Bushnell Park. Its innovative 1866 layout and landscaping have given Cedar Hill a significant role in the history of American cemetery design. Over the years, many of Hartford's most prominent residents have been buried in Cedar Hill, including Samuel and Elizabeth Colt, J.P. Morgan, Wallace Stevens, Morgan Bulkeley, Horace Wells, Katharine Hepburn, and Wiedenmann himself. The Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation was established in 1999 to preserve and protect in perpetuity the art, history, and natural resources of the cemetery. The Foundation, among its many activities, commissioned and published the book, *Jacob Weidenmann: Pioneer Landscape Architect*, which was authored by Rudy J. Favretti, professor emeritus of landscape architecture at the University of Connecticut. Reflecting more than 40 years of research by Prof. Favretti, the book, which traces Wiedenmann's life and work in landscape architecture, includes extensive material on Wiedenmann's landscape work in 19th century Hartford.

It's Official!

The Colt Industrial National Historic District in the Sheldon/Charter Oak neighborhood has finally been designated a National Historic Landmark! On Tuesday October 14, 2008, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne made it official, announcing that Coltsville has been included among the country's national treasures. The neighborhood where Sam and Elizabeth Colt made industrial history manufacturing firearms has been elevated to a status granted only to sites of national and international importance. Anchored by the iconic blue, onion-domed Colt Factory, Coltsville is historically significant for its role in the development of the American economy from 1855-1945. This new designation will hopefully bring tax and rehabilitation benefits and move it closer to becoming a National Park.



Connecticut Preservation Awards -Continued from Page 3

Rep. John B. Larson Receives Harlan H. Griswold Award

Remarks by Karen Senich, Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism

Annually, in recognition of Harlan H. Griswold's outstanding contributions to historic preservation over his lifetime, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation confer the Harlan H. Griswold Award. The award recognizes those individuals whose activities exemplify Harlan's leadership, vision and selfless dedication to preserving Connecticut's heritage and who by deed or example have made our state a better place to live for all of its citizens.

We are proud to recognize Congressman John B. Larson, United States Representative for the First District, for his unwavering dedication to the preservation and restoration of the Coltsville Historic District and its designation as a National Historic Landmark. Congressman Larson introduced the legislation in the House of Representatives directing the National Park Service to explore the possibility of making the Coltsville area of Hartford a part of the National Park system.

In 2003, Jack Davis, then publisher of the Hartford Courant, and Elliot Ginsberg of Congressman Larson's staff convened the Ad Hoc Committee on the Coltsville National Park Project to provide planning, communication and coordination for efforts to assist the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior in the analysis, evaluation and future development of Coltsville's heritage resources. A broad spectrum of stakeholders began to meet regularly.

Congressman Larson recognized that the Coltsville Historic District is an invaluable historic resource, not only to the State of Connecticut, but to the nation as a whole. Samuel Colt, founder of the Colt Armory and the Coltsville manufacturing village, became an internationally-known industrialist. Elizabeth Jarvis Colt, made a widow in 1862, oversaw the rebuilding of the signature buildings of the Colt manufacturing complex after a devastating fire in 1864. A tangible legacy, the district illustrates how entrepreneurship, ingenuity in invention, and a diverse workforce collectively came together to build a state's and a nation's economy.

Congressman Larson is passionately committed to making Coltsville work as not only an architectural treasure but as an important economic asset. When the first nomination for Coltsville was presented to the National Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee of the National Park Service, it was denied. Congressman Larson worked with the Governor's Office, the Commission on Culture and Tourism and the full membership of the Ad Hoc Committee to request a second hearing, at which he supported the nomination. This time, the Advisory Board voted to send the nomination onward.

What benefits have resulted from the Ad Hoc Committee's continuing work? First and foremost, it drew together property owners, scholars, city planners, developers, neighborhood activists and elected officials to share a vision to preserve our past and protect our future. The National Park Service stressed the importance of deep community support for the revitalization of Coltsville. The members of the Ad Hoc Committee have demonstrated this. The National Park Service is currently examining the area for inclusion in the National Park system and will report its findings this summer. Without Congressman Larson, this vision could have faltered or failed.

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2008 Hartford Preservation Alliance Awards

-Continued from Page 1



Building Rehabilitation:
30 Lewis Street, Lewis Street Partners LLC

The character of Lewis Street, a short one-block street near Bushnell Park, is set by its six small pre-Civil War residences – the only group of such surviving residential structures downtown. 30 Lewis Street is one of three adjacent brick houses built around 1840 by Austin Daniels in the Late Federal and Early Greek Revival styles. In 1906, the University Club, a distinguished gentlemen’s social club, bought the building and occupied it for almost 75 years, adding a rear four-story addition in 1928. In the decade after the Club closed around 1980, the building went through several reincarnations before it became vacant in 1991. Bought in 2005 by Lewis Street Partners LLC, it was completely rehabilitated, including restoration of the main entry portico, the lobby, the original elevator, the interior trim, and the exterior cast iron fence. With the help of Auctor Verno LLC, the rehabilitation was done as a “green” project, using environmentally friendly systems and products. Now back in use as active office space, the building houses the Hartford office of United States Senator Christopher Dodd.

Adaptive Reuse: St. Michael’s School, 35 Clark Street Community Renewal Team and Elizabeth Horton Sheff

The rehabilitation and reuse of St. Michael’s School at 35 Clark Street, in the Northeast neighborhood, brought to fruition the vision of former City Council member Elizabeth Horton Sheff, who urged the development of specialized “generation-skipping” housing for grandparents struggling to raise their grandchildren. The two-story brick Colonial Revival school was built in 1927 for St. Michael’s Church next door. After the school closed in 1964, the building housed various community programs and then, from 1974 to 1999, the Artists Collective. In 2005, the Community Renewal Team (CRT) became the developer, with Paul Bailey of New Haven as architect. Eight new three-family houses were built on empty lots on Barbour and Capen Streets to provide 24 apartments for grandparents and their grandchildren. St. Michael’s School was rehabilitated as housing for seniors, with community space for a police substation, computer training, and medical screening, which can be used by children and adults living in the nearby grandparent housing as well. As the grandchildren grow up and leave home, the grandparents will have priority for admission to St. Michael’s.



Porch Restoration: 34-36 Ashley Street Jennifer Cassidy

34-36 Ashley Street in Asylum Hill is one of over 250 houses built in Hartford by Frederick P. Mahl, one of the most prolific Hartford builders during the Victorian period, for whom Mahl Avenue is named. One of the ten Mahl houses on Ashley Street, 34-36 Ashley Street, built in 1890, displays Mahl’s unique design trademark – a triangular recess in the masonry wall below the front gable. Jennifer Cassidy, who bought the house in 1983, was especially drawn by its beautiful and decorative two-story front porch. Over the years, however, the porch suffered from growing deterioration. Two years ago, with the help of architect Allen Ambrose, she took on the task of reconstructing it, drawing on the State Historic Homeownership Tax Credit to help cover costs. Nearly everything, including the porch floors, had to be replaced; but all replacement pieces, including railings and spindles, were custom-made to preserve the porch’s architectural character. With the completion of this project, the original beauty of the porch is again clearly visible.



Building Restoration: The Kitchen Wing of the Mark Twain House 351 Farmington Avenue The Mark Twain House and Museum

The kitchen wing of Asylum Hill’s Mark Twain House, also known as the servants’ wing, was the last remaining public space in the house that had not been renovated since the house opened as a museum. For the past 30 years, it had been the Museum’s administrative offices. Under a restoration project undertaken by the Mark Twain House and Museum, walls, cabinets, sinks, a dumb-waiter, and other Victorian kitchen necessities were reconstructed and furnishings were collected and placed in the restored wing, allowing visitors to experience the rooms as Clemens’ servants did. Today, the kitchen wing looks very much as it did in the 1880s. www.MarkTwainHouse.org

Community Education: Annual Holiday House Tours Friends of the Mark Twain House and Museum

Since 1979, the Friends of the Mark Twain House and Museum and its predecessors have organized and sponsored a tour of Hartford area houses decorated for the holiday season. In 1981 it became a “walk to music” when arrangements were made for musicians to play in some of the houses on the tour. In addition to the Mark Twain House, five or six homeowners each year graciously open their private homes so that guests can observe the beauty of these historic houses. For the most recent tour in 2007, the 27th annual one, more than 150 people volunteered to help, musicians still play, and local florists still donate decorations for each house. These annual holiday tours have proven to be a wonderful way to showcase the beauty of homes in Hartford.

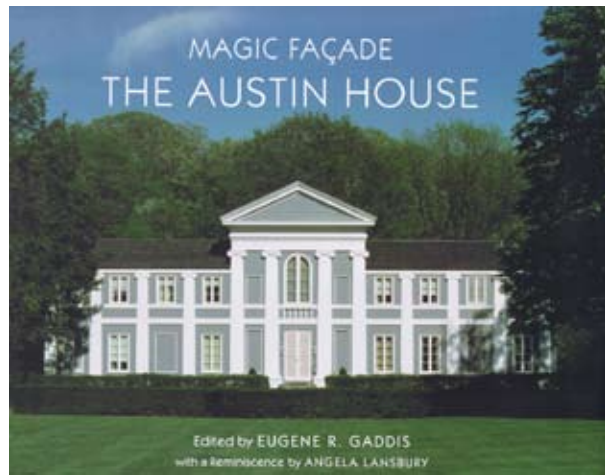


Architecturally Sensitive In-Fill: The Garage at 191 Elizabeth Street Jerry and Gail Powell

Jerry and Gail Powell have lived at 191 Elizabeth Street in the West End since 1977. Their large Queen Anne-style house across the street from the Elizabeth Park playground at Elizabeth and North Beacon Streets was built around 1900. In 1998, the original two-car garage collapsed. Working with architect and former West Ender Michael Concannon of West Hartford, Jerry and Gail created a new garage that blends perfectly with the existing house. The attention to detail is evident in the final product: the stucco exterior finish, the roofing shingles, the period-looking garage doors, and the detailing on the windows and doors. The addition of dormers in the back of the second floor of the garage now offers the owners a view of downtown Hartford. What was intended to be a storage area at the rear of the first floor will instead become a recreation room for the family that can also be a covered entertaining area. With imagination and creativity, the result is a new structure that enhances the historic character of both the house and the streetscape.

Community Education: The Website, “Historic Buildings of Connecticut” Daniel Sterner

Daniel Sterner of West Hartford, who is now a guide at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford’s “Nook Farm” neighborhood, started taking pictures of historic buildings while working at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield. This led him to courses at Trinity College on Hartford architecture and on blogging, which in turn helped generate the idea of organizing his pictures and information in a way that could be a resource for others. In April 2007, he created a website at www.HistoricBuildingsCT.com. Visitors to the website can sort the pictures by town, architectural style, or type of building. Sterner committed himself to adding one new picture to the website each day. Using this novel approach, he has located pictures and descriptions to date of 539 historic buildings throughout Connecticut, of which 104 are in Hartford.

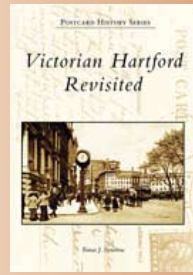


Building Restoration and Community Education: The Restoration of the Austin House, 130 Scarborough Street and Magic Façade: The Austin House Eugene R. Gaddis and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

In 1927, 26-year-old A. Everett (Chick) Austin came to Hartford to become director of The Wadsworth Atheneum, a position he held for 17 years. In 1930, he and his wife, Helen Goodwin Austin, built the remarkable two-dimensional house at 130 Scarborough Street in the West End, based on a 16th century Palladian villa near Venice. It had an 86-foot long facade set far back from the street, but the house was so thin – only 18 feet deep – that it appeared from a distance to be all facade. In the 1930s, thanks to Austin’s creative work at The Atheneum, the Austins’ house became a gathering place for leading figures in the international art world, making Hartford an international center of modern art and culture. The house, which was donated to The Atheneum in 1985, became a National Historic Landmark in 1994. In 1998, The Atheneum, with Krystyn Hastings-Silver as project director, began a meticulous restoration of the house, using photographs, letters, scraps of material, the memories of the Austin children, and other sources. The result is a stunningly accurate restoration to the way the house actually looked in the 1930s. In conjunction with the restoration, Eugene R. Gaddis, Atheneum archivist and Austin House curator, edited *Magic Façade: The Austin House*. This magnificent book, a celebration of both the house and Chick Austin himself, is anchored by Gaddis’ own essay on Austin. The book includes nearly 200 illustrations that Gaddis assembled including historic photographs, works of art from the Atheneum’s collections, and Austin family archival material. www.WadsworthAtheneum.org

— Continued on Page 12

2008 Hartford Preservation Alliance Awards -Continued from Page 9



Community Education: *Victorian Hartford Revisited* Tomas J. Nenortas

Tomas Nenortas, past president of the Hartford Preservation Alliance and currently its Historic Resources Advisor, is the premier collector of Victorian postcards of Hartford. He compiled more than 200 of those cards into his first book, *Victorian Hartford*, for which he received a Hartford Preservation Award in 2005. His recently-published second book, *Victorian Hartford Revisited*, is an assemblage of another 200 mostly never-before-seen images of Hartford's Victorian society and architecture. The 128-page book is part of the "Postcard History Series" published by Arcadia Publishing, which describes itself as "America's leading publisher of local and regional history." The photographs reveal the city's economic, cultural, and architectural growth after the Civil War, reflected in extensive estates, public buildings, grand hotels, magnificent parks, schools, churches, theaters, and restaurants.

Building Rehabilitation: 15 Imlay Street Ruth Harvey



At the foot of Imlay Street, which runs from Hawthorn Street to Farmington Avenue in Asylum Hill, is the classic Hartford Perfect Six at 15 Imlay Street, built about 1890. By 2006, it was vacant, boarded, and subdivided into 12 small apartments when Ruth Harvey, the owner of Ametis Construction LLC, drove by, saw it, and felt that it was her mission to bring the building back to life. She had previously renovated 101-103 Shultas Place, and she felt that she could make a success of this building. Without seeking governmental subsidy, she completely gutted the building and produced housing that was all new on the inside, restoring it to six units. She also arranged with Prince Technical High School to use its students to rebuild a brick wall behind the building that marks the dividing line between 15 Imlay and the neighboring property. She has now converted the building into six condominium units.

HPA News

Introducing HPA's Program Assistant



Mary A. Falvey, of Unionville, CT, joined the staff of HPA on July 7th, 2008 and has already proven to be a wonderful asset. She earned a B.A. in Political Science and a Certificate in Public Administration from Providence College ('82). A part-time staffer, her duties include assisting in developing and publicizing workshops and walking tour programs, managing membership services, and providing administrative and technical support. In the fall of 2007, after attending HPA's Member Day Coltsville Tour, Mary became a regular volunteer, coming in one morning a week. Soon after volunteering, she began work on our Hartford Architects Directory, an extensive (4,000 entries to date!) database of Hartford buildings and homes, the architects who designed them, dates built, original uses and original owner names. HPA is building on existing source work, especially David Ransom's Biographical Dictionary of Hartford Architects and the Hartford Architecture Conservancy's three volume series, *Hartford Architecture*. She has spent countless hours pouring through city directories, newspaper articles and census records to identify as many structures as possible, pinpointing their exact location, especially for buildings lost to demolition. This information will someday be readily available to members, residents, students and researchers through HPA's website, www.HartfordPreservation.org.

Her interest in preservation also extends to serving on the Board of Directors of the Deming-Young Foundation. The foundation consists of dedicated volunteers who are renovating and restoring a farmhouse on Church Street in

Newington. The ultimate goal is to provide educational programs that will afford Newington and local area schoolchildren a "hands on" understanding and appreciation of the everyday life of children on an 18th century farm.

A full-time Realtor® with ERA-Sargis Breen Real Estate, Mary is one of the very few Hartford-area Realtors® to be trained in historic real estate issues by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Working with property owners living in historic neighborhoods and homes, including Congress Street, The Linden, and the George Fairfield mansion, has deepened her appreciation of Hartford's rich architectural history and helped her hone her research skills.

Mary is also a professionally trained vocalist. She served as Cantor and Director of Music at St. Augustine's Church at Barry Square from 1995 to 2005 and is a regular featured soloist for the Immaculate Conception Shelter's annual Messiah benefit concert. While at St. Augustine's, she worked as a lead organizer for the St. Augustine/Barry Square Block Party, an annual event showcasing and celebrating the cultural wealth and diversity of the Barry Square neighborhood. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Farmington Valley Chorale where she is responsible for contracting and scheduling rehearsal and performance venues as well as community outreach concerts including their annual Messiah sing-in.

Community Reinvestment: The Center for Community at Billings Forge, 559 Broad Street and the Firebox Restaurant, 539 Broad Street Melville Charitable Trust



Billings Forge, a huge complex of red brick buildings on Russ, Lawrence, and Broad Streets in Frog Hollow, is an example of Hartford's industrial growth in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The oldest part of the existing complex was built in 1893, with additions in 1911, 1926, 1937, and 1945. The original occupant, the Billings & Spencer Company, was a manufacturer of drop-forged tools. The building was converted to apartments in the 1970s and is now home to 98 households. In 2005, the complex was purchased by the Melville Charitable Trust, a foundation based in Boston with a commitment to fighting

the causes of homelessness through the development of affordable and supportive housing and the creation of vibrant communities. The Trust has made Frog Hollow a target neighborhood. To help accomplish its goals, the Trust created a community center within Billings Forge and renovated and reestablished a portion of the complex as a restaurant. The Center for Community is an exquisitely restored carriage house that provides area for dance, play, group activities, individual assistance, and classes, including computer training. The restaurant, called the Firebox, draws investment and jobs into the Frog Hollow neighborhood.

www.CenterforCommunity.org www.FireboxRestaurant.com

-Continued Page 13

Welcome Aboard!

David Bahlman, former CEO & President of Illinois Landmarks, has joined the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism as the new Director of the Historic Preservation and Museum Division. Mr. Bahlman served as the Chair of the National Association for Olmsted Parks, the Executive Director of the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage and the Executive Director of the Society of Architectural Historians.

Visit our Internet Site!

HPA's web site attracts a lot of interest! We want to remind you that you can log on to our web site any time and check out the many resources offered. Past newsletters, publications, stories on buildings saved and lost, current preservation activities and more can be found on the site. Please visit us at www.hartfordpreservation.org.

Membership Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 25
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$ 40
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Friend	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Ally	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Advocate	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000

Join the Hartford Preservation Alliance!

Name:

Street:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

Email:

Mail to: Hartford Preservation Alliance,
56 Arbor Street, Suite 406, Hartford, CT 06106
All contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Connecticut Landmarks Acquires Amos Bull House

by Beverly J. Lucas

On February 26, 2008, Connecticut Landmarks acquired the Amos Bull House on South Prospect Street in Hartford from the State of Connecticut. The former home of the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the Bull House is attached to the Butler-McCook House & Garden's 1865

Carriage House. The buildings are the future home of Connecticut Landmarks' headquarters and archives center. The Bull House, which will accommodate office space, requires extensive mechanical upgrades, along with cosmetic improvements including paint and new carpeting. The Carriage House will be utilized for archival storage, providing much-needed climate-controlled space for important photograph and document collections.

The Amos Bull House was built in 1788-89 as a town house, a form of architecture at that time more often found in Philadelphia, Boston or New York. Made of brick, this architectural style would not become popular in Hartford until the 19th century. The Bull House was originally located on Main Street, just north of Charter Oak Avenue. The house has been moved twice, enabling the building to survive into the 21st century.

Amos Bull (1744- 1825) was born in Enfield and grew up there and in Farmington. Little is known about his early years. During his lifetime, Bull had five wives, two died while married to him, two he divorced, and his last wife outlived him. His first wife, Lucy Norton died during the American Revolution. He married Catherine Lush in 1783, divorcing her in 1787. He then married his neighbor Abigail Webb. Bull divorced her in 1801 and immediately married Charlotte Tryon of Hartford. She died in 1809. He married his final wife, Elizabeth Spencer in 1810.

In March of 1788, while married to his third wife Abigail Webb, Bull purchased property on Hartford's Main Street from his uncle, Aaron Bull. The 45 x 200 foot lot size required Bull to build a house with a small base. The house, which would also be used as a store, was completed in late 1789 and Bull first advertised that he was open for business on December 21, 1789. The front portion of the first floor was a store where Bull sold linens, hardware and household items. In 1791, Bull discontinued his dry goods business and focused on hardware. He opened a second store on North Main Street in 1806, which he operated until 1809. Financial difficulties led Bull to mortgage his property several times between 1809 and 1821. In 1804, Bull advertised that he was opening a school "for Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, with other learning, useful and necessary in common life." He opened a night school in 1812 and operated both until 1821. Bull was also the choir director at South Congregational Church, although he was a member of Christ Episcopal Church of Hartford. He published a hymnbook, *The Respon-sary*, in 1795.

Bull sold his home in 1821, and the property was subsequently sold several times in the next six years. In 1828, Isaac Spencer,

treasurer of the State of Connecticut, purchased the house. In 1866, William F. J. Boardman purchased the house from Spencer's heirs and rented it as a store and apartment. Grocer Alvin Squires rented the property, making the first known structural changes to the house. Squires removed the first floor's front door and windows, which were replaced by a center door flanked by large plate glass windows.

In 1887, John C. McManus, a local tinsmith, leased the first floor and opened a stove store. McManus' business occupied the house for over a half a century, closing in the late 1930s. In 1940, Capitol Motors bought the property. The automobile dealer discovered it was less expensive to move the Bull House to the rear of the property than to tear it down and build a new structure. Capitol Motors altered the store front and made the first floor one room. They used this floor for their office and rented the second floor to the Resolute Insurance Company. By the mid-1950s, Capitol Motors had closed and ownership of the building passed through several hands. The last business to occupy the building was a Greek restaurant called The Apollo.

By the early 1960s, the Bull House was vacant and deteriorating. The City of Hartford purchased the property in 1966 as part of an urban renewal plan, which included demolishing the house. Several groups fought to prevent this by moving the building to a new location. The Connecticut Historical Commission took on the Bull House as one of its first projects. In 1967, the Commission provided \$50,000 and technical assistance in moving and restoring the house. Costs, however escalated, and despite an \$85,000 federal grant, another \$65,000 was needed to complete the project. Former Hartford Mayor Ann Uccello and the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society (now Connecticut Landmarks) spearheaded a "Save the Bull House" campaign, which raised the additional funds needed. In addition, Frances McCook gave a portion of her home lot as the new site for the Bull House.

In the winter of 1971-72, the house was moved to the back of the Butler-McCook House's property by the Lupachino and Salvatore Company. The Connecticut Historical Commission occupied the building since restoring it in the early 1970s. In 1991, the Historical Commission oversaw the renovation of the Butler-McCook Carriage House and the construction of a connector between the Carriage House and the Bull House. The Historical Commission, now the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, vacated the building in December 2007 as part of the State's process of consolidating office space. Connecticut Landmarks looks forward to bringing the building up to code and preparing the interior for office and archival space.

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The Ambassador, a 1919 Asylum Hill apartment house located at 206-210 Farmington Avenue, has made it through the review board process and will soon be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by the firm of Berenson & Moses, the Renaissance Revival building will be a handsome addition to the Asylum Hill Historic District.

Connecticut Preservation Awards 2008

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation announced the winners of this year's Connecticut Preservation Awards. The awards recognize outstanding preservation efforts across the state and are intended to highlight the depth and scope of the impact that the preservation of historic resources can have on our communities. The awards were presented at the Trust's Annual Meeting, held on Monday, April 28th at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington. Two Hartford projects were awarded in the *Built Environment* category:



Sage-Allen Building, Hartford – Award of Merit

Originally constructed in 1898 and located within downtown Hartford's Department Store National Register district, the Sage-Allen Building has been restored and converted into 78 luxury apartments and 12,000 square feet of retail space. As part of the restoration, the developer, 18

Temple Street LLC, removed an adjoining structure which had been built in the 1960s and which masked much of the original façade. Other surrounding buildings on the block which had fallen into severe disrepair were demolished, but in their place, new infill structures, containing apartments and affordable student housing, were constructed on either side of Sage-Allen. Finally, Temple Street was reopened to pedestrian and vehicular traffic after having been closed off for many years. The finished mixed-use development represents the culmination of ten years of work and a dynamic, historically significant addition to Hartford's burgeoning downtown scene. Though the development efforts encountered numerous obstacles in the form of legal negotiations, tenant relocations, and environmental complications, this project is proof that historic preservation can play a central role in reviving our state's urban centers.

Saint Michael's School, Hartford – Award of Merit

This Colonial Revival building, constructed in 1927, was renovated into 16 units of senior housing and associated common spaces for Grandfamilies Development, which provides affordable housing for grandparents raising their grandchildren. The rehabilitation was approved by the National Park Service, thereby allowing the project to utilize historic tax credits contingent upon its compliance with federal restoration/preservation guidelines. The preservation of the interior masonry, walls, and openings demanded great creativity in producing comfortable apartment layouts that were both completely handicapped accessible and fitted with



up-to-date HVAC equipment. Through the implementation of an innovative housing scheme which serves a previously unidentified needy population, an historic building which had sat vacant for over a decade has been given a new life and a humanitarian purpose.

Rudy Favretti Receives Jainschigg Award

The Janet Jainschigg Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for 2008 was presented to Rudy J. Favretti, FASLA, a leading authority in the field of historic landscape preservation whose work restoring some of the country's most well known gardens and landscapes have set the standard for accurately recreating these tangible links to the past. The presentation took place at the Connecticut Trust's annual meeting.

A native of Mystic, Favretti holds degrees in horticulture, landscape architecture, and regional planning from the University of Connecticut, the University of Massachusetts, and Cornell University. In 1955, he joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut where he served for 33 years as professor of landscape architecture, and founded the nationally accredited landscape architecture program, the first academic program in the country devoted to historic landscapes.

He also conducted a private practice specializing in landscape preservation. Connecticut commissions include Roseland Cottage, in Woodstock; the Jonathan Trumbull house, in Lebanon; the Governor's Mansion, in Hartford; the Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer house, in Stonington; and numerous private properties around the state.

Outside of Connecticut, Favretti has worked on nationally significant historic landscapes at Old Sturbridge Village, Monticello, Mount Vernon, Montpelier, Strawberry Banke, the Emily Dickinson house, Bartram's Garden, the Nathaniel Russell house, Shelburne Farms, and Spanish Point (the Potter Palmer estate), in Osprey, Florida.

Favretti has written numerous books and articles for both professional and general audiences, ranging from *New England Colonial Gardens (1964)*, *Colonial Gardens (1972)*, *Highlights of Connecticut Agriculture (1976)*, *For Every House a Garden (1977)*, and *Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings (1979)* to his most recent publication, *Jacob Weidenmann: Pioneer Landscape Architect (2007)*.

Presenting the award, Executive Director Helen Higgins said, "Beginning at a time when preservationists concerned themselves principally with buildings, you helped expand our concept of what is significant to include landscapes. As a practicing landscape architect you have studied and restored historic landscapes, including some of our nation's most valued landmarks. As an author you have created an awareness of historic landscapes in homeowners as well as professionals. And as an educator you have helped ensure the continuation of your work through the careers of your students at the University of Connecticut."

The Jainschigg award commemorates Janet G. Jainschigg, a founder and benefactor 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. Rudy Favretti exemplifies the professional excellence that the Janet Jainschigg Award celebrates.

-Continued on Page 13

Summer Vacation at HPA!!!

HPA was provided with three wonderfully talented, young and energetic interns from Trinity College this past summer as part of the Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship program. We thank Trinity for this great opportunity and look forward to developing stronger ties to one of Hartford's landmark institutions. Please read the students' project abstracts below.

We also gratefully acknowledge the tremendous assistance this summer of Veronica Matta (daughter of former HPA Board Member Antonio Matta) and Rachel Hunnicutt who provided additional support for HPA's activities.



The Conundrum of the Urban University

Molly Fitzgerald '10

Faculty Sponsor: Andrew Walsh

Mentor: Laura Knott-Twine and Tomas Nenortas

Organization: The Hartford Preservation Alliance

The Hartford Preservation Alliance has been in existence since 1997. In the past eleven years, the staff of this non-profit organization has never exceeded two individuals, but the work carried out by HPA in the city of Hartford is extensive and widely varied in nature.

The addition of three AV Davis Fellows to the staff of HPA for ten weeks, made the summer months exciting and productive in the Parkville office. Survey work in the city, mapping, and updating the files held by the organization were primary responsibilities of the interns, with personal research carried out to support fieldwork.

Laura Knott-Twine and Tomas Nenortas, the highly qualified and enthusiastic staff of HPA supervised our work and encouraged our full-participation in the current activities of decreasing the number of blighted properties in Hartford, and making the Colt Factory neighborhood a recognized National Park. My ten-week placement at HPA culminated in the writing of a research paper on the particular situations faced by colleges and universities in urban regions.

Trinity College, located in the center of the residential Hartford neighborhood of Barry Square, is an ideal case study for the difficulties that face both the people involved with these institutions and those who live in the communities in which they are located. Through readings, interviews with Trinity faculty and staff, local community organizers and residents of Hartford, I conducted research on how the school reacts and responds on occurrences in the city, and makes an effort to decrease the disparities that exist between the immense wealth floating around campus and the poverty that can be seen outside of the campus border.

House Styles of Hartford

Yuwei Xie '11

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Kathleen Curran (Art History)

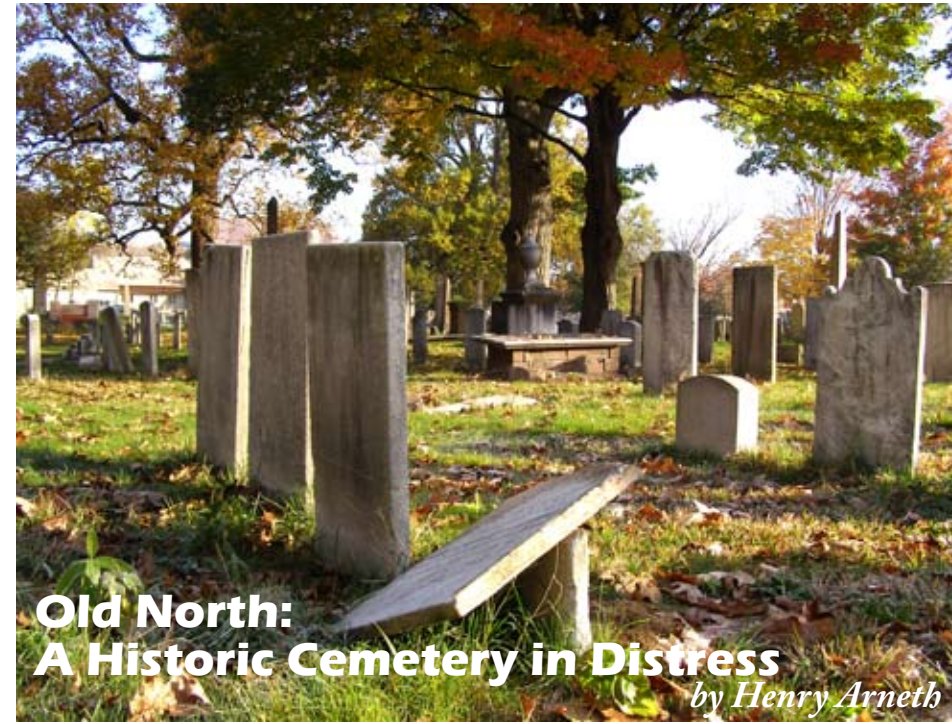
Mentor: Ms. Laura Knott-Twine, Mr. Tom Nenortas

Organization: Hartford Preservation Alliance

This summer I worked for Hartford Preservation Alliance, a non-profit organization that is devoted to the preservation of historically significant buildings inside the city of Hartford. My internship was a ten-week long one and my job mainly consisted of doing surveys of houses in Hartford, archival work, map coloring, assistance in event planning and setting up, and other office work.

To conduct surveys of the houses, we traveled to the streets of Hartford and gave each house a rating and marked down its material. Afterwards, we entered them into the database and colored the houses on the map to specify the material it's made of. Archive work required us to read through the materials and then categorize them. Occasionally we went on tours of the city of Hartford and our mentors would give us extensive information on the city.

Through interning for HPA, I acquired a substantial knowledge of house styles in Hartford, familiarized myself with the streets and neighborhoods of Hartford, gained experience in archival work, and also improved my understanding of the history of Hartford. My final project included a paper on the house styles of Hartford and a poster of my project.



Old North Cemetery, founded in 1807 is the third of Hartford's early burial grounds; it is the resting place for some of Connecticut's early politicians, Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans, African-Americans and home to Hartford's first Catholic burial ground.

Some people resting in this cemetery are: Frederick Law Olmstead, The Reverend Horace Bushnell, Daniel Watkinson, Daniel Wadsworth, John Colt, Mason Fitch, Alice Cogswell, William Wolcott Ellsworth and Samuel Bowles. In addition to the above mentioned, there are veterans from every war from the Revolutionary War to World War II—with many black Civil War soldiers and veterans (most from the 29th Connecticut Volunteers).

When I arrived at the cemetery to begin my work, it was completely overgrown and in a very distressed condition. Historic stones were beginning to crumble. The future looked bleak for this cemetery.

During my time at the cemetery I saw accidental destruction of stones by the city of Hartford while mowing the overgrown grass, vandalism by parties unknown at this time, and littering by neighbors of the cemetery.

Some of that changed, however, when CREC (Capitol Region Education Council) sent eight local teens to help with our projects in the cemetery. I specifically worked with one teen and with her assistance I have identified nearly two thousand graves. This identification includes inscriptions, photographs, condition issues, and any manufacturer's information that could be found on the stones themselves. I also worked on tracking down plot numbers for all of the identified graves.

As part of my work at the cemetery, I worked with the city of Hartford's newly formed Cemetery Revitalization Group. This is a council of representatives from the historic cemeteries and concerned citizens in Hartford as well as working under the auspices of the Hartford Preservation Alliance.

Connecticut Main Street Center 2008 Awards of Excellence

Continued from Page 1

Main Street Partnership award for the Upper Albany Community Policing Program. Herman Todd, President of Living Word Imprints, received the Main Street Business Owner of the Year award and Marilyn Risi was named 2008 Connecticut Main Street Executive of the Year. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!



Linda Osten was posthumously honored with The CL&P Award for Outstanding Contributions to Main Street Revitalization. It is in recognition of individuals and organizations dedicated to promoting an awareness of the necessity of a comprehensive management approach to the revitalization of Connecticut's historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. Linda was a tireless advocate for the revitalization of her Sheldon/Charter Oak neighborhood as well as the rejuvenation of the capital city.

The Holiday Season is approaching.

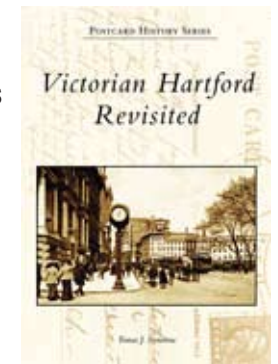
Consider purchasing copies of *Victorian Hartford* and *Victorian Hartford Revisited* -



Two great volumes on Hartford's incredible architectural heritage. They can be

purchased directly through HPA's

office. Help promote the preservation and revitalization of the capital city with a holiday purchase today.



News from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation: Great Preservation Opportunities

The flip side of a threat is often an opportunity. This year, the Connecticut Trust has tried to transform its annual list of threatened places to point out the opportunities presented in a number of preservation cases from around the state. Some cases offer the possibility of exciting innovations, while others just as importantly reinforce basic lessons.

Hartford, Old North Cemetery

Opened in 1807, Old North Cemetery is the burial site of many important Hartford citizens, including Daniel Wadsworth, Frederick Law Olmstead, members of the Colt Family, and African-American Civil War veterans. Old North is a stop on the Connecticut Freedom Trail and is listed on the National Register.

Many of the gravestones are in need of restoration — vandals have broken or toppled nearly half of them, and many are rapidly eroding. In addition, rampant plant growth threatens gravestones, as well as the overall landscape of the cemetery.

The Connecticut chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is issuing a Request for Qualifications for a cultural landscape report to gauge the amount and cost of work needed. Funding for restoration work and ongoing maintenance will be the next need. The Face of Connecticut legislation, passed but not funded by the General Assembly this year, includes money for historic landscapes.



Other sites listed are:

- Bridgeport, urban revitalization (including the Freeman houses, Palace and Majestic theaters, Wheeler Memorial Fountain, Remington Arms factory, and Pleasure Beach)
- Derby, Osbornedale Park house
- Ellington, Eleazer Pinney house
- Litchfield, Litchfield Farms
- Manchester, George W. Cheney house
- New Haven, Sacred Heart Church
- New Haven, Crown Street buildings
- Stamford, Lord & Taylor store
- Stonington, Stanton-Davis farm
- Suffield, Kent Memorial Library



Reprinted with permission from *Connecticut Preservation News*, September/October 2008. For more information visit www.cttrust.org.



The CT Trust for Historic Preservation has a new booklet called *An Owner's Manual for Antique Houses*. It is a great resource for homeowners interested in properly maintaining their historic homes. Information includes, house styles, researching house histories, tips for repairing and maintenance, painting, energy conservation, as well as renovations and additions. For a copy send \$5.00 to cover shipping & handling, to Hartford Preservation Alliance, 56 Arbor Street, Suite 406, Hartford, CT 06106.

The following Hartford residents are on the Board of Trustees for the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, one of HPA's great preservation partners: Sara C. Bronin (recently reappointed to the Hartford Properties/Preservation Commissions), Glenn Geathers, Rebekah MacFarlane, Donald Poland, the Hon. Kelvin Roldan, and Jeanne Webb, as well as Gubernatorial Appointee Edith Pestana.



Vision Gives Second Life to a Vacant Educational Facility

by Katherine Harris

Northwest District School, the future home of the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, occupies a pivotal place in the history of Hartford and the Upper Albany neighborhood. The Center will feature interactive historical exhibits and research areas. Special collections will feature African American legislators, physicians, Civil War soldiers in the 29th, 30th, and 31st Regiments, Tuskegee Airmen and many others whose efforts positively transformed the lives of citizens in Connecticut and the nation.

Constructed circa 1885, the Northwest District School is the oldest surviving school building in the city of Hartford, a 19th century survivor amid middle and late 20th century construction. Built of brick with brownstone trim, the Northwest District School is a typical, vernacular school building of the period, with the traditional symmetrical plan and simplified classical detailing. It is a well preserved example, interior as well as exterior, of an up-to-date school building of the late 19th century, embodying many facets of turn-of-the-century educational theory and practice.

The school faces the main thoroughfare in a community that was developed primarily by two real-estate companies catering to the clerks, bookkeepers, and skilled industrial workers who earned their living in the city's thriving manufacturing, financial and commercial sectors. The city's population growth in the 19th century, and the fact that many people held comparatively well-paying jobs, created a demand for housing that was more commodious and stylish than the typical tenement dwelling. The extension of the electric street railway service along Albany Avenue opened up this land as a site for residential development by 1899.

Residents of the area reflected the ethnic make-up of the city: the families of Yankee and Irish heritage, who predominated initially, were soon followed by Jewish, Italian, and other more recent immigrants. During and following World War II, the number of Black families living in Hartford increased dramatically, more than tripling as a percentage of the city's population between 1940 and 1960. Upper Albany continued to reflect the ethnic make-up of Hartford, as Black families bought homes in the neighborhood. Today, many Caribbean and Hispanic families reside in the area.

Dedicated to a mission to preserve and disseminate information about Connecticut's African American community, John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center's vision is to give a second life to the vacant educational facility.

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Welcome!

David B. Panagore has been selected to serve as the Director of Development Services for the City of Hartford. He comes from Springfield, MA and was the Chief Development Officer for that city. Mr. Panagore has experience with mixed-used redevelopment projects, housing & neighborhood development, planning, permitting and zoning.

Rebuilding Together Hartford has announced its next Rebuilding Day which will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2009. RTH also offers emergency home repair services for qualified home owners and "It's My House" workshops. All of their programs are free for qualified applicants. Go to www.RebuildingTogetherHartford.org or call (860) 757-9425 for more information or if you would like to volunteer.