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Preservation Alliance

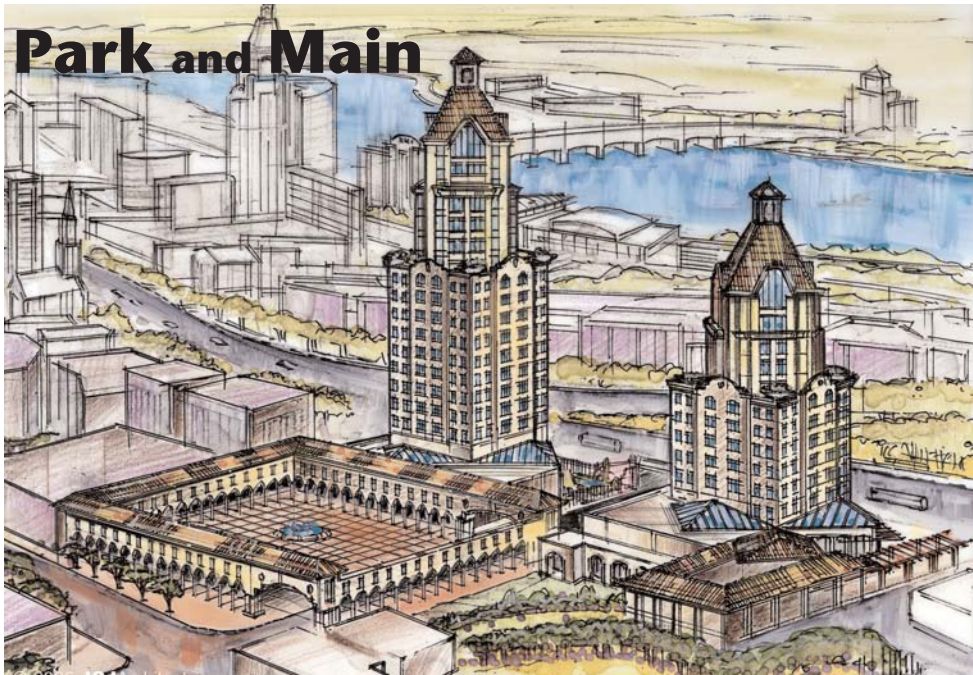
Further Review Urged for Design of Park and Main

HPA is urging the Hartford Redevelopment Agency (HRA) to make sure that the new development planned for the corner of Park and Main streets in the South Green neighborhood will be compatible with the adjacent historic district. Although the redevelopment agency has not formally adopted a design for the site, on October 13 it selected as site developer an applicant whose proposed plan includes two tall towers — one 10 stories high and the other 17 stories high — as well as a large 40,000 square foot public square which gives the development its name — Plaza Mayor (“main plaza”).

The monumental nature of the proposed buildings, however, raises serious questions about their interface with historic Barnard Park, to which they are adjacent. A portion of the development will be in the South Green National Register Historic District.

Barnard Park, also known as South Green, is a Colonial-era green, triangular in shape, surrounded since the late 1800s by churches and three- to four-story buildings. It is one of only two downtown public spaces which survive from Hartford’s earliest years. Originally used for cattle grazing and military drill, it was fenced in the early 1800s. In the 1860s it was redesigned in accordance with a plan by landscape architect Jacob Wiedenmann, who also designed Bushnell Park, with criss-crossing paths, a central fountain, and a border of ornamental trees. Portions of the cast-iron fence still remain from Wiedenmann’s plan.

The Plaza Mayor plan, which the developer describes as “celebrat[ing] the core values of Hispanic cultural history as expressed in the American experience,” includes a boutique hotel (the “Mission Inn”), a small chapel-like



The design for Plaza Mayor, illustrating the proposed plaza and the two high-rises. Main Street is shown beyond the towers, with South Green behind the tower on the right. Illustration ©2005 JcJ Architecture

building, banquet facilities, residential condominiums, retail space, and below-ground parking. The Spanish-style plaza is viewed by the developer as the centerpiece of the proposal.

Park Street is the principal commercial street of Frog Hollow’s Hispanic community, and the redevelopment of Park and Main as a gateway to Hispanic Frog Hollow has long been a goal of the city. Several previous redevelopment proposals for the site have failed for lack of funding. There may be a tension, however, between a design which completes the low-rise border encircling historic Barnard Park and one which creates a dominating, high-rise gateway facing away from the park toward Frog Hollow to the west.

The Hartford Preservation Alliance, in conjunction with several neighborhood revitalization zone committees (“NRZs”), had asked HRA to postpone designation of a developer until the neighborhoods could meet with the competing developers. HRA chose not to wait but did require the designated developer to meet with HPA and the neighborhood groups within 120 days. In addition to HPA, the groups which will sponsor an open community presentation are the NRZs for South Green (in which the development will be located), South Downtown (SoDo), the Coalition to Save the Sheldon-Charter Oak Neighborhood (CSSCON) and Frog Hollow North, all of which will be impacted by the development.

The designated developer, Plaza Mayor LLC, is a partnership of developer Theodore Amenta of A & Co. LLC and the Solaris Group LLC, which is made up of local Hispanic Hartford businessmen. Its managing partner is Carlos Lopez, owner of the Luis of Hartford furniture store in Frog Hollow and head of Connecticut Parking Services. Its project team includes both the Spanish American Merchants Association as a community relations advisor and Miguel Matos, a former member of the Capitol City Economic Development Authority (CCEDA), as a financial and development

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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

by Laura Knott-Twine, Executive Director



I am looking forward to 2006 and the many projects we will undertake to continue our mission. Before moving on, there are some customs that are best kept. Pausing to thank those who have contributed to the Hartford Preservation Alliance's mission is at the top of my list. We all know that it takes thoughtful people who are willing to volunteer their time to support the ideas and ideals of any organization. It takes like-minded people to join us in memberships that help us to continue our work and expand our goals and objectives. It also takes the monetary support from funders who acknowledge our efforts by supporting our programs.

I am honored to say, "Thank you" to all of our members and volunteers and to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Surdna Foundation, The Melville Charitable Trust, the Ensworth Foundation, the Phoenix Foundation, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, United Way and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

I would like to also thank the Career Counseling Center's Crecer Program and the Department of Labor's John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency's Senior Aides Program and the four women who have contributed so greatly towards establishing the HPA Library and Resource Center. And thanks to Advest, Inc., Phoenix Insurance Company and Windham Graphics for helping HPA furnish the offices.

In the new year, we hope to continue our good works and to expand on our services to those in the community. Technical services, advocacy for historic buildings and neighborhoods, workshops, walking tours and working with the residents of Hartford are all on our agenda. Please keep us in mind and join us in our efforts. ✿

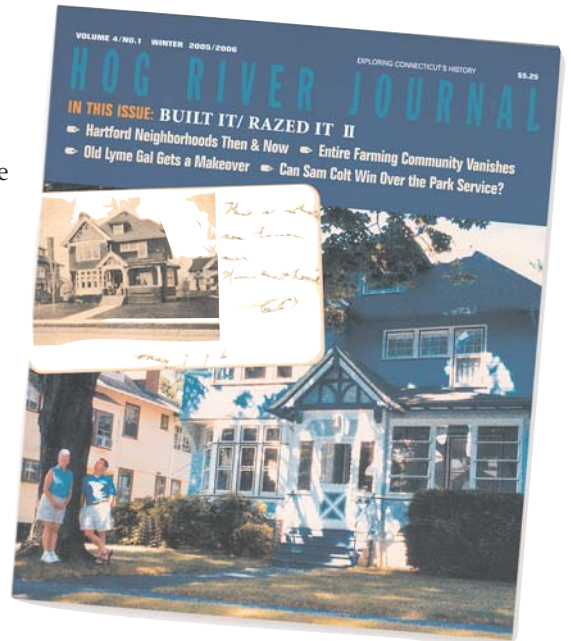
Built It/Razed It

The home at 39 North Beacon Street — as it appeared in 1906 as well as today — graces the cover of the Winter 2005/2006 issue of the *Hog River Journal* to illustrate the feature story, "Hartford Then & Now," by Nancy O. Albert, Tomas J. Nenortas and Karen O'Maxfield. The photo essay takes a look at vintage photographs of various locations around Hartford as they appeared in days past, alongside contemporary photographs of how those locations appear today from the same vantage point.

The piece is part of the *Hog River Journal's* "Built It/Razed It" series. It includes a message from HPA executive director Laura Knott-Twine.

The *Hog River Journal*, a quarterly publication, is available by subscription and at local retail outlets. Members of the Hartford Preservation Alliance receive the discounted subscription rate of \$18 per year, or \$3 off the normal rate. Individual copies may be ordered by mail for \$6.75 each.

To subscribe, or for more information, contact the *Hog River Journal* at P.O. Box 271561, West Hartford, CT 06127-1561; by email at HogRiverJrnl@aol.com or by visiting its website, www.hogriver.org. ✿



Carmichael's Demolished Update

CVS and developer reject HPA efforts to save building

In spite of the strong urging of the *Hartford Courant* editorial board, HPA's efforts to save the Carmichael's building at the corner of Wethersfield Avenue and Airport Road has failed.

The 1890s Italianate building, which had long dominated the entrance from the east into the "Little Italy" portion of Hartford's South End, was demolished by developer Frank Colaccino of Windsor as part of the construction of a two-building shopping center, to be anchored by a CVS pharmacy. In the 1890's, the building was the Industrial Home for the Connecticut Institute for the Blind. Used continuously as a restaurant since the 1930s, the building had been occupied by some of Hartford's best-known Italian restaurants, including Casa Loma, Pippie's and Carmichael's. The building, however, was not on any historic register and would therefore not have been protected, even if Hartford's preservation ordinance were in effect (the ordinance will not take effect until sometime in 2006).

HPA, drawing on assistance from architects, prepared and presented to the developer and to CVS a proposed redesign of the site which would have preserved the Carmichael's building, retained the two new buildings planned by the developer, and still provided as many parking spaces as were contained in the developer's plan. It would also have followed well-accepted design principles for urban areas by "holding" the corner of Wethersfield Avenue and Airport Road with a building (the Carmichael's building) and placing one side of the CVS building along Wethersfield Avenue. The developer's plan, in contrast, will have parking facing Wethersfield Avenue. Modern urban planning stresses the importance of buildings (rather than empty space) lining urban streets, with buildings particularly important to give shape to street intersections and corners.

The events surrounding this demolition suggest two lessons. First, it is important for both property owners and the city to understand that not all



The partially demolished Carmichael's Restaurant at Wethersfield Avenue and Airport Road. Photo: Rafie Podolsky.



682 Wethersfield Avenue in 1899 when it housed the Industrial Home of the Connecticut Institute for the Blind. Photo: Collection of Tomas J. Nenortas

buildings of architectural or historic value are listed on the national register. Many buildings that are critical for the preservation of Hartford's historic streetscapes or that carry significant Hartford history are not listed, and the absence of a listing should not preclude an effort to retain the building. The recent forced dismantling of the 1740s house at 1805 Broad Street and the demolition of the Faith Congregational Church parsonage, as well as the 2001 destruction by the Massachusetts Mutual Life

Insurance Co. of a row of six buildings on Fraser Place in Asylum Hill are all examples of this type of demolition.

Second, it is important that both the city and property owners involve HPA at an early stage of the process. HPA learned of the Carmichael's demolition only from an article in the *Hartford News* and only after all decisions had already been finalized. If HPA had known earlier that demolition was under consideration, there is a reasonable possibility that it could successfully have worked with the city and neighborhood groups to convince the developer and CVS to modify their plans in a way which would have preserved the Carmichael's building and with it a significant piece of Hartford history 🌸.

South Downtown

On Saturday, October 8, HPA sponsored a walking tour of South Downtown (SoDo). The tour was led by HPA President Tomas Nenortas. SoDo is both physically compact and architecturally diverse. The tour took in only ten or twelve blocks, but in those blocks is represented every major period from the late 18th century to early 20th century.

The earliest building on the tour is the Butler-McCook House on Main Street. Built in 1782, it is Hartford's oldest house. The house and gardens are currently operated by the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society.

The Butler-McCook House is notable also because it was occupied by the same family for almost 200 years.

On Cedar Street there is a row of buildings from the 1850s, including two adjacent modest sized Greek Revival houses. Some of these buildings have been significantly altered,



80 Cedar Street Photo: Rafie Podolsky

but if one looks closely, their original forms can be discerned.

On Wadsworth there are a number of houses dating from the 1860s representing several major styles of the period — Italianate, Gothic

(much modified) and Second Empire. Most notable among them is 11 Wadsworth Street, a Second Empire building with a side tower, built in 1860. This house appears largely intact and still features its decorative iron cresting around the roof and tower.

Many of the remaining Hartford brownstone row houses are to be found on both sides of Capitol Avenue between Hudson and Main Streets. Built between 1870 and 1875, those on the south side form a continuous block with the Hotel Capitol, which was constructed at

the same time on the corner of Capitol and Main. The rowhouses include examples of the Second Empire and Renaissance Revival styles, while the Hotel Capitol is a hybrid Second Empire and Neo-Grec style.

Also from this period, and located on Capitol



11 Wadsworth Street Photo: Rafie Podolsky

October Walking Tours

Continued on Page 6

Parkville

On October 10, HPA Executive Director Laura Knott-Twine led about 40 people on a walking tour of Parkville, one of Hartford's most unique neighborhoods. Assisting her was former Parkville resident Dante Galvez and Joe Langlois, president of the Parkville Revitalization Association.

Parkville, whose name comes from the adjacent Park River, occupies the triangular area bordered by I-84 and the south branch of the Park River on the east, West Hartford on the west and the West End neighborhood on the north. From the beginning, the area was much like a mill town — a complete community, with worker housing, churches, and stores — that grew up in the late 19th and early 20th centuries around the factories in which its residents worked. Today, most of those factories are gone, but most of the buildings remain, often converted to non-factory uses. The community itself retains its working class character and has become an international mixture of ethnic groups. It is

particularly central to Hartford's Portuguese and Vietnamese communities. The Parkville Community School, at the corner of Park Street, Sisson Avenue and New Park Avenue, is known for the wide diversity of the ethnic backgrounds of the children who attend it.

Industrial Growth

The most historic industrial neighborhood in the city, the area developed largely in the late 1800s when it became home to numerous factories, including Royal Typewriter Co., whose spectacular building on New Park Avenue was destroyed by fire 13 years ago. A non-descript Stop & Shop supermarket now stands on the site.

The first portion of the tour — which started at the HPA offices at 56 Arbor Street — showcased much of this factory development. Arbor Street contains two massive industrial buildings. The Gray Telephone Pay Station Co. building at 30 Arbor Street (1913) was among the first in Hartford to be built of steel and reinforced concrete, a then-revolutionary technique that made large expanses of glass possible. The adjacent Hartford Industrial Development Co. building at 56 Arbor St. (1917) — the rear portion of which now houses the



Stepped gables, shown here on the Park Plumbing Supply building, are a predominant architectural element in the Parkville neighborhood. Photo: Rafie Podolsky

Real Art Ways movie theater and art gallery — was built in a traditional New England factory style (a long, four-story red brick structure framed by towers at either end). An Art Deco entrance was added in 1927 when the building was bought by the Underwood Computing Machine Co.

The heart of industrial Parkville, however, is Bartholomew Avenue, where the stepped gables of buildings such as the Pope Tube Co. building at 81-99 Bartholomew Avenue (ca. 1895) have become the architectural symbol of the neighborhood. Steel tubing for Pope's famous Columbia bicycles was once made there.

A half dozen other major industrial buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s line the sides of Bartholomew Avenue, most having been built for either the Pope Manufacturing Co. or the Hartford Rubber Works. At the corner of Park Street are the Park Plumbing Supply Co. building (ca. 1890) and the Hartford Rubber Works building (1920), both of which have recently been renovated by developer Carlos Mouta for artist, design and other small business occupancy.

Down the block at 30-50 Bartholomew Avenue is a cluster of additional Hartford Rubber Works buildings, constructed between about 1890 and 1905, some facing the street and some in the rear, linked by walkways. Most impressive is the main building at 30 Bartholomew (1903), now occupied by the R.L. Fisher Co., on whose central red brick tower the words "The Hartford Rubber Works" are still visible. The corbelled Italian Renaissance cornice is typical of industrial buildings of the period.

Across the street is the Champlin Box Co. building, renovated and reopened in 1993 as Spaghetti Warehouse (and subsequently operated by a brewery and a dance club), a warehouse with characteristic stepped gables (ca. 1890), and the Pope Tube Co. building. At the southwest corner of Bartholomew Avenue and Hamilton Street is the Whitney Manufacturing Co. building (1919), once home to a factory that made high-grade drive chains and milling machines.

There is no other part of Hartford in which the architecture of historic factories is so visible and so well-preserved.

Religious Structures

The tour also passed three of the many churches in the neighborhood. Most spectacular

is the Gothic Revival Our Lady of Sorrows Church at 71 New Park Avenue (1922), whose arched windows, elaborate tracery and soaring spire dominate the corner at Grace Street. It has long been the center of the area's Roman Catholic community. Across the street at 55 New Park Avenue is the community's oldest church, Grace Episcopal Church, founded in 1863 as a mission and Sunday school of Trinity Episcopal Church. The chapel was built in 1868 and the adjacent Gothic Revival parish house in 1898. Also on the tour was St. Paul's Methodist Church at 1886 Park Street (1900), a low, sturdy brownstone Richardsonian Romanesque structure that is now the home of Templo Sion Pentecostal church.



Our Lady of Sorrows Church Photo: Karen O'Maxfield

Commercial Parkville

Park Street, the main commercial thoroughfare, enters from Frog Hollow to the east and runs through the neighborhood to the West Hartford city line. Buildings lining the street display a variety of Italianate, Victorian and 1920s apartment building styles. Many have been altered to create storefronts at the ground level. One lesson of the tour, however, was the importance of looking above the first floor. Upward glances often revealed Queen Anne decorative features and Italianate cornices at the second and third floor levels, reflecting the transformation of some of these buildings from the residences that they once were.

Residential Parkville

Residences along the streets reflect the working class population for which they were built. Unlike the more affluent West End neighborhood to the north, Parkville from the beginning was home to many of the people who worked in its factories. This is reflected in a predominance of two- and three-family houses and apartment buildings of modest size.

The tour took participants to several residential areas of special note. On the west side of South Whitney, for example, is an unusual row of ten almost identical small wood-frame



Worker housing along Capitol Avenue (left) and South Whitney Street.

two-story houses which were built between 1890 and 1894 as worker housing. Their uniform design contributes to the mill town atmosphere of the block.

Across the street is a row of somewhat larger vernacular Queen Anne style houses, including a building at 46 South Whitney Street built by Habitat for Humanity in 1999 to replace a building that had been demolished. What is interesting about this building is that, at the insistence of the city's Planning Department, Habitat was forced to redesign its roof and front porch so that it is now difficult for passersby to tell that it was not one of the original

buildings on the street.

A second example of worker housing, but in a different style, can be found on the north side of Capitol Avenue east of Sisson Avenue and west of the I-84 overpass. It includes a row of seven similar three-family brick triple-deckers, with front bays and large porches on all three floors, built in 1910 and 1911.

Scattered through the neighborhood are a number of substantial brick apartment buildings, most of which were constructed between 1910 and 1930. A particularly stylish example is the building at the southeast corner of Sisson and Capitol Avenues (1915). Three-story pilasters organize the facade into four parts and support a classical cornice.

Parkville also contains one of the first buildings saved from demolition by the Hartford Preservation Alliance. The Perfect Six at 90 Chadwick Avenue (1911) was at the top of the city's demolition list in 1997. Working with the Parkville Revitalization Association, HPA helped convince the neighborhood that the building was worth preserving. It was ultimately purchased and rehabilitated by developer Carlos Mouta. 🌸

Sources: *Structures and Styles*, Gregory E. Andrews and David F. Ransom (1988), and *Hartford Architecture*, Hartford Architecture Conservancy (1980).



Photos: Rafie Podolsky

City Receives Federal Grant

Update

On November 14, Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez announced Hartford's receipt of a federal grant of \$1.7 million toward the rehabilitation of the vacant Second North District school at 249 High Street, most recently used as central offices for the city's Board of Education. The building is to become part of a new public safety complex serving the police and fire departments. The grant will help solidify the city's plan to preserve the building and incorporate it into the complex.

The most recent design for the site, prepared by the Hartford architectural firm of Jeter, Cook & Jepson Architects, Inc., places fire department headquarters in the historic building and police department

headquarters in a new complementary building nearby.

The federal funds will be used to set up a regional command center that will serve as a communications hub for major emergencies. The \$40 million cost of the project is about \$7 million more than the bond authorization approved by city voters. The city is expected to seek state and federal assistance to cover the balance.

The federal grant is "a great down payment and investment in safety for the city and region," Mayor Perez said in a press release. "This is also a way to integrate the historic architecture of the old Board of Education building into the future, and a centrally-located home for our police and fire departments." ❁



Architectural rendering of the public safety complex. The Second North District School is the building on the right. Illustration ©2004 JCI Architecture



New Board Member

Dante Galvez is the newest member of the board of

HPA. Born in Peru, he came to Hartford at the age of ten with his family and grew up in the Parkville neighborhood. Interested in historic architecture and neighborhood revitalization, he recently participated in the Historic Parkville Walking Tour, where he shared his childhood memories. Now a resident of East Hartford, Dante is the owner of Galvez Financial Resources, providing mortgage services to commercial and residential owners. He previously worked as Vice President of Business Development for Fleet Bank, and has served on the boards of Mi Casa Family Services and the Hispanic Professional Network. He has volunteered for many organizations in Hartford. ❁

Perez Receives Award

On November 16, 2005 Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez received the Distinguished Advocate Award from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The award recognizes the mayor's role in the adoption of Hartford's Historic Preservation Ordinance, a broad-based local law that, when it takes effect, will provide protection to more than 4,000 Hartford buildings located in National and State Register historic districts.

Adopted last year, the ordinance will become effective 30 days after design guidelines are approved by the city council. A consultant has completed a draft of the guidelines, and it is hoped that they will receive council approval by spring.

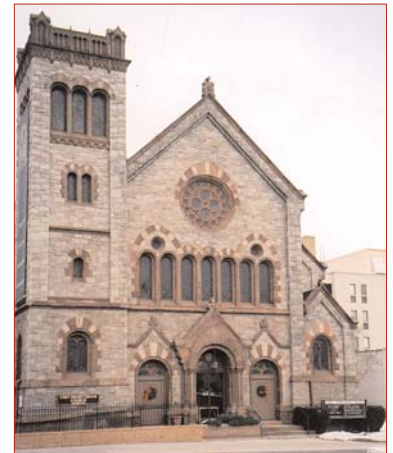
SoDo Continued from Page 4

Avenue, is the First Presbyterian Church. The style of the church, High Victorian Romanesque, is unusual in Hartford. The building was designed by James Renwick, architect of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, and built in 1870.

Continuing the urban house form in a later style are the Linden townhouses, constructed in 1891. They are adjacent to The Linden, a late 19th century apartment house. The Linden features a rounded corner tower and a façade that curves around the corner of Linden Place.

In the 1920s, several large insurance companies built rather imposing headquarters along the south edge of Bushnell Park. The Connecticut General Life Insurance Company building was built in 1926. Its style, Renaissance Revival, was inspired by the Medici-Riccardi Palace in Florence, Italy. Close by is the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company building, a Georgian Revival structure built in 1913.

Since the early 20th century, there has been some infill in SoDo and a considerable amount of demolition. There are a number of other wonderful buildings, but there is also extensive open space. Tours like this one show us not only what has been preserved but also what has been lost. The task of preservation in an area like this must consist not only in preserving the buildings that remain but also in developing new buildings that restore the context of the remaining original buildings where it has been lost to the forces of decay and urban renewal. ❁



First Presbyterian Church
Photo: Rafie Podolsky

consultant. The architect is the firm of Jeter Cook & Jepson, Architects.

The park and the surrounding neighborhood are within the South Green National Register Historic District. Until 2002, the park was bordered on its west side by a row of four-story brick commercial/apartment buildings, which had been largely vacant for some time. An effort in the late 1980s to demolish them was successfully blocked through litigation by the Connecticut Historical Commission (now known as the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism). Unfortunately, those buildings were demolished in 2002 after they were damaged in a fire. The city then combined the site with land on the north side of Park Street (on which the city had demolished other turn-of-the-century buildings) to create a large empty plot of land for redevelopment.

Because of its high-rise nature, the proposal submitted by Plaza Mayor LLC conflicts with all prior plans for the site, including HRA's own redevelopment plan. The present Redevelopment Agency plan, for example, limits building heights to five stories and mandates that new construction conform to the Secretary of the Interior's standards for new construction in historic districts. Those standards provide that new construction "shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment." The HRA plan can, however, be amended with the approval of the City Council; and HRA is likely to propose such an amendment.

Similar language appears in both the strategic plan for the South Green neighborhood (which was prepared by the South Green NRZ Committee) and the city-funded Greenberg Plan. The South Green plan recommends that any development at Park and Main Streets be no more than four stories high and generally retain the traditional town green focus around Barnard Park. The Greenberg plan calls for an "intimate pedestrian environment," recommends that new development "make appropriate transitions with adjacent uses, in scale and use," and urges that "large development initiatives should be broken down into city-scale elements rather than treated as internalized superblocks."

At press time, HPA and the nearby NRZs had arranged a presentation by Plaza Mayor LLC at an open community meeting. City officials have indicated that changes are expected to be made in the Plaza Mayor plan, but it remains unclear how significant they will be. The timetable for approval by HRA of a development plan is not yet known. ❁

New HPA Mailing Address

We would like to be certain that, if you take the time to send mail to us, we will be sure to receive it.

Please be sure to use HPA's street address – shown below – for all mail, including correspondence, donations and membership forms.

Our former post office box has been discontinued and mail is no longer forwarded from the p.o. box.

Hartford Preservation Alliance
56 Arbor Street, Suite 406
Hartford, CT 06106

Parsonage Demolished Update



The effort by HPA to prevent the demolition of the former parsonage to Faith Congregational Church on Main Street in north Hartford was unsuccessful — it came down late last summer to create more parking for the church.

As reported in the March 2005 HPA newsletter, the structure was built about 1890 as a single-family house and was given to the church in 1896. Until its demolition, it had been used continuously since the 1930s as an African-American funeral parlor.

Hunt for Historic Architecture



This impressive Victorian home was built around 1890 for the president of a major insurance company in Hartford. Can you identify it? One winner, drawn from entries received by March 1, 2006, will receive a copy of *Victorian Hartford*, by HPA president Tomas J. Nenortas. Email your entry to lktwine@hartfordpreservation.org.

Unboarded Building Hotline

Have you driven past vacant buildings in Hartford that are partially unboarded and open to vandals and the elements? Please help us get these buildings secured.

Any time you see a vacant Hartford building that is not properly mothballed, please contact HPA's Unboarded Building Hotline at alerts@hartfordpreservation.org or call the office at 860-570-0331. We will contact the appropriate city agency to request boarding of the building.

HPA Reaches Out to Youth at Artists Collective

by Melonaé McLean, Marketing/Communications Coordinator of the Artists Collective and HPA board member



Synfoni Bailey-Green

Photo: Christopher Speeg

This past summer, HPA board member Synfoni Bailey-Green was a guest speaker at the Artists Collective's Summer Youth Employment and Camp Culture Program. The aim of this program is to expose city youth to a wide variety of interesting and challenging career possibilities. Ms. Bailey-Green, a former Artists Collective student who is now an architect with Bianco Giolitto Weston Architects LLC in Middletown, spoke to about 200 youth between the ages of 8 and 21 about careers in architecture and architectural preservation.

Ms. Bailey-Green stressed the importance of a college education and answered many questions from the curious and engaged audience. Her visit demonstrated another career path (which many of the audience members had never thought about), with limitless possibilities and a new way to look at structures, old and new.

More urban youth-oriented community outreach by HPA can open a whole new world to youth by sensitizing them to their surroundings and to the buildings they move through and live in during their lives. Since many historic structures are located in blighted urban neighborhoods, such educational initiatives can help grow the next generation of preservation advocates, stem the tide of vandalism, and inspire new career paths for inner-city youngsters who need as much inspiration and as many positive options as possible.

The Artists Collective would like to incorporate HPA into its Summer Youth Employment and Camp Culture Program next year. We were fortunate to start with the perfect guest speaker — one who grew up not far from the Artists Collective, went to the Vine Street School, studied at the Artists Collective when it was located in the historic Clark Street School, graduated from Hampton University, attends Saint Monica's Church on Mather Street, and now sits on HPA's board of directors. Bravo Synfoni! 🌟

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